

Wattle Day 2026 was another very successful event.

1. The Squeezebox workshop just had 4, or 5 if we count Maureen from the Bridge Club. She attended several other sessions too.
Ken, Colin and Marjan all brought their own accordions along, but I had about three others for use.
We could really just scratch the surface, but it was a good intro to the button box and brought us together.
2. Dom Martin ran the Guitar workshop. He was happy to have 5 guitarists. That allowed him to have time to personalise the tuition. He showed techniques slowly and had participants perform them.
He felt the session went really well. He prepared take home material for them to practice the techniques taught.
3. Bill had 6 participants in his Blues harmonica workshop. He covered a range of introductory skills, including how to sound like a train and how to bend notes. Those who stayed on for the Blackboard concert were able to play the theme from 'Petticoat Junction' in the afternoon.
4. Following these three instrument workshops was Ken McGregor's vocal folk harmony workshop supported by Pleasant and Delightful. There were 13 participants which was enough to sing different parts against each other. Ken had us walking around the room while we all sang our individual parts. Very enjoyable workshop.
5. The last morning session was Joan and Ray's dance music workshop. There were 9 participants all with their instruments. When I walked into the workshop Joan had everyone singing the melody of the tunes she was teaching. Everyone had fun. Printed sheets of the tunes were available to take home and practice.
6. After a quick lunch the afternoon started with Chris Lazaro's song writing workshop. There were 17 people at this excellent workshop. Chris was very encouraging. He helped us find a topic to write about by us tapping into our emotions.
7. Next was Norm's "Throw away partners' dance workshop. 8 people participated.
8. At the same time as the dance workshop was the poetry open mic session. Poetry had about 12 -14 people attending with seven different poets reading verse. Most did two rounds each. Participants were Don Fraser, Peter Pentland, Maggie, Stephen Whiteside, Ray Mundy, Dominic and Bette Martin.
Bernard Heinz gave a very interesting talk on wattle. He has many wattles in his garden and is also a bee-keeper. He had brought along a few wattle branches as a display.
9. Blackboard open mic. The afternoon finished with a concert.
Ten items in all, starting with a combined guitar / blues harmonica collaboration.

An estimate of finances has been submitted for the Committee meeting but there may be other costs outstanding

Ken, Chris and Don have submitted Their workshop notes to Mike for inclusion on the website.

Maree for Wattle Day Committee