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**NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED**

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## EDITORIAL

*The National Folk Festival has now come and gone once again, and a number of members of the VFMC were able to take part in a number of different guises, including the Billabong Band.*

*Steve Bullock should be congratulated for his great time-consuming work in making submissions, organising and coordinating the club activities associated with the NFF.*

*There is always behind the scenes work to be done in making a club such as ours function. Our AGM is coming up very soon - and that will provide another opportunity for getting more involved and adding your personal contribution to the club. If you would like to help but don't know how, talk to one of the committee members.*

*Mmm ... Can an editorial be done to music? I can imagine some of the suggestions!! 😊😊*

editor@vfmc.org.au

*If you are a member you can now get the newsletter by email!*

*The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the VFMC*

## CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

### Club Sessions

Tuesdays, 8.00 pm, East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8). All welcome any or every night as players, singers, dancers, or to tell a yarn. Contact Don (0407-737-202)

### Ringwood Folk Guest Night

Second Tuesday of the month. Admission \$12 adults, children with adult free. \$10 members and concessions.

Evening commences 8:00pm and finishes with a short session after the Guest Performer around 10:15 pm.

### Singing Sessions

First and last Tuesday every month. East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8).

If you are interested in learning some new songs, and would like to sing with others in a friendly relaxed environment, come and join us. We start about 7:00pm and go until the start of the main session at 8:00pm.

### By-Ear Sessions

Join us to learn how to play by following someone on:

- First Thursday, 8:00 pm (at Harry's place)
- Second Tuesday, 10:15 pm (after the Ringwood Folk Guest Night)
- Every Monday, 8:00 pm, (fiddles and mandolins at Harry's place.)
- Most Saturdays, 11:00am, all instruments and singing, busking opposite the railway station in Ringwood East

Harry Gardner: (03) 9870 8998, 0408 708 998

### Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month at the East Ringwood Senior Citizens Club Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East.

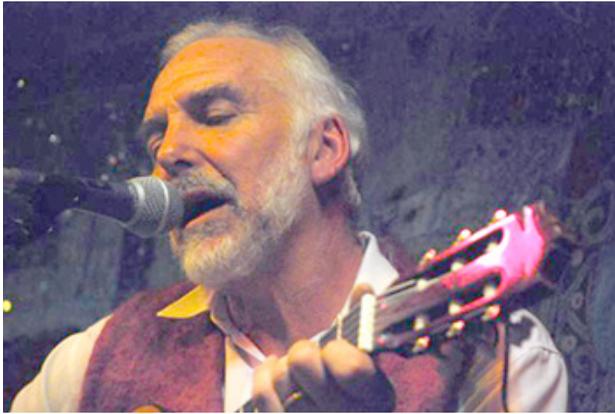
Come along and enjoy dancing to live music with all dances explained and called. Contact Jane Bullock (03 9762-1389) or Robin Simpson (03 9723-2453)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st May	2nd Fiddles	3rd Sing Session Club Session	4th	5th Ear Session	6th	7th VFMC Dance Grey Nomads
8th	9th Fiddles	10th Guest Night	11th	12th	13th	14th
15th	16th Fiddles	17th Club Session	18th	19th	20th	21st
22nd	23rd Fiddles	24th Club Session	25th	26th	27th	28th
29th	30th Fiddles	31st Sing Session Club Session	1st June	2nd June Ear Session	3rd June	4th June VFMC Dance Jolly Jumbucks

## RINGWOOD FOLK GUEST PERFORMER NIGHT

**DAVE CLARK** - 10th of May

Dave Clark plays banjo, guitar, concertina, harmonica and sings. He has worked as a solo artist and also with many bands. He presents concerts in kindergartens and schools, has produced 6 albums and toured widely throughout Australia and overseas



Kathy Townsend plays digital piano, guitar, piano accordion & sings. She has been musical director & pianist for theatre productions. They have appeared at many Festivals in Australia including C J Dennis Festivals, The Cornish Festival, State Folk Festivals at Victor Harbor and The National Folk Festival in Canberra.

Their son Woody Clark will accompany them on double bass. Woody is an accomplished musician & performer & an inspiring teacher at the Little Yarra Steiner School where he has worked with his students to create a musical *Rekindle* following the devastating Victorian Bushfires.

### Guest Artist Night, April 2011, Ted Egan

On the 12th of April Bill Buttler was our very capable MC for a concert where 130 or so people enjoyed great value and entertainment.



Raymond Crooke, ever reliable, started the ball rolling with The Blackleg Miner, and another, the name of which I missed. Thanks Raymond.

A solo of The Convict Maid was next from Joan Mundy, and then playing the piano accordion and singing, together with Ray on guitar, we heard The Black Velvet Band.





Visitors Phillipa and Michael from The Peninsular Folk Club in Frankston then sang their own song which was inspired by a houseboat holiday on the Murray River, and Drive Off All Care, with some very nice guitar accompaniment.

Club regular Mick then related his song of family holidays at Walkerville with a spirited Waratah Bay, followed by Shepherds Of The Ocean.



Maree and Bill Buttlar followed this with Eumeralla Shore and Kookaburra Laughs.

It was good to see a reciter on the board this night and Ed Walker got everyone into the spirit with The Great Australian Greeting, "G'day". Then he told a tale about strained relationships in the bush. We all started getting a bit gooeey I thought, with what seemed like a good romantic tale, but Ed was just talking about his working dog, Ruby.



Bluegrass combo Dave, Blair and Evan appear to have settled on High Grade Grass as a good name for their collective selves. They did some great tunes, Living Like A Fool and the old Manfred Man classic Fox On The Run. Fantastic sound and harmonies, fellas.



Our guest performer Ted Egan needs no introduction. His engaging style immediately connects with his audience. His many roles in life both as a teacher, ranger and government administrator, and his extensive travels throughout the interior has given him plenty of experiences from which he can extract a good tale or an interesting song. This is evidenced by the many cds, dvds and books he has produced over his lifetime.

Ted is as much a raconteur and yarn spinner as a singer. The Goanna Driver started his bracket, then an interesting tale of 1500 head of cattle heading for the Curry. Marsupial Joe was supposedly inspired by an English chocolate salesman passing through Maree. This was followed with another song set in Maree, but this time about the train line that divided the town racially, and two lovers from opposite sides of that line.

We all sound the same when we laugh says The Laughing Game. Other themes related to Toots who fell into a well, the little old Chinese granny in Darwin, a nice verse called The Bush Woman, and some good songs about Broome. Also, an interesting Pitjinja version of Me And Bobby McGee, Arnhem Land Lullaby and We Of The Never Never followed. An encore was called for and Ted finished with a tale of the Katherine to VRD mail called The Fizzer. (*VRD: Victoria River District ed*)

Thanks to all the spot acts for your contribution to the success of the night, and to all the team who assisted with its smooth running. Very special thanks to Brian Amos for publicising on his radio programme on Eastern FM 98.1, and to the Scouts for the use of the hall, which certainly saved our bacon.

Don Fraser (review)

Trevor Voake (photographs).



## The Dance Page

### Diary Dates for May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st	2nd Irish	3rd English	4th Irish or Colonial	5th Beginners Colonial Dance	6th Claddagh	7th The Grey Nomads
8th	9th Irish	10th English	11th Irish or Contra	12th Beginners Colonial Dance	13th	14th
15th Claddagh	16th Irish	17th English	18th Irish or Colonial	19th Colonial	20th Claddagh	21st
22nd Welsh	23rd Irish	24th English	25th Irish or Colonial	26th Beginners Colonial Dance	27th	28th VFMC Woolshed Ball
29th Claddagh	30th Irish	31st				

### Diary Dates for Jun

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1st Irish or Colonial	2nd Beginners Colonial Dance	3rd Claddagh	4th V.F.M.C. Jolly Jum- bucks
5th	6th Irish	7th English	8th Irish or Colonial	9th	10th	11th

#### Claddagh

Irish set dancing at St. James Anglican Church Hall, Upper Heidelberg Road Ivanhoe, Friday 8-10pm. (Sunday 2-5pm)  
Contact Rod 9497 1793

#### VFMC Colonial

dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 8-11pm  
Contact Jane 9762 1389

#### VFMC Woolshed Ball

at the Collingwood Town Hall. 140 Hoddle St Abbotsford, 6pm to 12:30am.  
Contact Jane Bullock 9762 1389

#### Irish Monday

dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Flemington, 8-10pm.



- Irish Wednesday** Contact Marie 9471 0690  
Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood, 8-10pm.  
Contact Marie 9471 0690
- English** dancing at Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, 7 Greenwood Street, Burwood, 8-10pm.  
Contact George 9890 5650
- Colonial Wednesday** Social dance classes: at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm  
Contact Robin 9723 2453
- Contra Dance** Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm  
Contact Coral 9885 6109
- Colonial Thursday** Australian Colonial Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburton Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm  
Contact Coral 9885 6109
- Beginners Colonial Dance** at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburton Grove, Ashburton, 7.30pm-10pm.  
Contact Coral 9885 6109.
- Welsh** Dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30pm.  
Contact Ian 9878 2414.

**VFMC Dance, 2nd April -**

*photographs: Trevor Voake*



### ACCORDIONS - Extensive Modification Results In Huge Benefits

To some musicians the single row accordion is supreme, it is small, and it is light consequently it tends to permit a greater level of mobility when being played. Depending upon the competency level of the player, these factors can result in lively and punchy music, the sort of music that a musician is often measured by.

But the players of single row instruments are limited in that they have only one key to call upon: single row instruments are capable of being played in one key only. If more than one key is required, the single-row tyro needs to carry a separate instrument for each key to be played, which, for session playing, can become quite tedious - although many would argue that this is but a small compensation to pay for the pleasure of playing the single-row.



Geoff Calistro, of Horsham, has taken a major step toward combating this problem by modifying one of the iconic Hohner single row 4-poster accordions to permit it to be played in not just one, but *two* keys, thus reducing the numbers of accordions that he needs to have with him, but it has been no easy task.

Geoff became interested in button accordions, free reeds, and reed tuning some few years ago and has since that time acquired a considerable knowledge of free reed instruments. As he already had a Hohner 4-poster available in the key of G, this instrument was chosen as the one to bear the efforts of his vision or, alternatively, be discarded in the direction of the scrap bin if the modifications were unsuccessful.

For anyone to fully understand the magnitude of the task at hand, one needs to appreciate the basic construction of the original 4-poster accordion. For modification work, disadvantages of the melody end include the fixed location of the reed blocks, the acute angle of the reeds, and the general lack of workspace available particularly for the inner rows. The 4-poster is indeed not the easiest accordion to work on.

One also needs to understand something of its operation. Adjustments can be made to the sound produced by varying the use of the four knobs on top of the melody side. For instance, raising the two centre buttons creates a tremolo effect whilst raising the front button (or piccolo button) introduces a row of reeds that produces a sound that is an octave higher and raising the rear button (bassoon button) introduces the row of reeds that produces a sound that is an octave lower. When all four buttons are in the lowered position, no sound is forthcoming. When all four buttons are raised there is a robust, rich blend of tones produced similar to Cajun Renaissance.

Since there has been a distinct favouring of keys G and D of recent years the choice of what key to add was an easy one to make, it would be D, but any other keys could have

also been chosen. And the fact that there then would be only two reeds available for each note is of small consequence since many players only use the two tremolo rows anyway. Further, many multi-row accordions have only two reeds and they all have heaps of “voice” – so there is no limitation here.

It made good sense to leave the key of G tremolo reeds in their original locations and to modify the rear bassoon and the front piccolo reed locations to accept the tuned reeds in the added key of D. By design, these reeds were of different lengths to the original reeds. Consequently, corresponding changes had to be made to the wooden reed blocks. Of these the piccolo row was the more difficult to make since it required a total rebuild – not the sort of job to be undertaken with bumble-fingers.

To this point the modifications to the melody reeds for the keys of G and D were in-situ and working well but there was still the base end of the instrument to be considered.



This was the most difficult part of the assignment for it was not only necessary to position the 5 extra base reeds, which are quite large in themselves, but it was also necessary to design some means of selectively activating each key, (D or G), on an “as-required” basis. Also, the action needed to be light enough that it could be deployed without unnecessary delay and it needed to be readily accessible. It also needed to have some means of holding the movement stable once a particular key had been selected so that it did not “creep” during playing.

Given Geoff’s experience and penchant for “all things electronic” it was perhaps something of a surprise that he settled for a completely mechanical arrangement for this end of the accordion.

After much deliberation, he finally settled upon an ingenious slide and toggle arrangement that did all of these things and which works a treat. It is operated manually by a separate knob at the top of the base end of the instrument (see pic) which in appearance is completely compatible with the knobs on the melody end.

Fortunately it was possible to effect all of these mods without interfering whatsoever with the two original base spoons. The only external changes detectable in the whole operation is the addition of a single knob to the top of the base end of the instrument. And it all works superbly.

Geoff is now the envy of many single row enthusiasts as he lines up alongside them to play a tune in the key of D and then, without delay, change to playing a tune in the key G, or vice-versa, - all without fuss or bother. Imagine the looks of intrigue from the other session players. Gone are the days when he needs to carry two instruments, for he has, in effect, the equivalent of a 2-row accordion whilst retaining the pleasures of playing a single row. Thus his session playing is far more enjoyable.

Stan Alexander

## Images of the National Folk Festival - 2011

Welcome Dance - Billabong Band



*Photographs: Trevor Voake*

### VFMC COMMITTEE REPORT

The last meeting was on the 6th of April. The most significant points were:

- Financials are ok.
- the May Ball will be held at the Collingwood Town Hall.
- AGM proposed for 10th July (to be confirmed).
- The Web Page Redesign is progressing very well.



Secretary

## REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES

### Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680  
 buzza@bendigo.net.au  
 Feature concert on the 3rd Friday of each month 8-11pm, under the grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth oval, Bendigo.

### Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo Inc

Monthly bush dance at Bendigo East, third Saturday every month. Contact Dianne Pearse (dpearse@inet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au) for details.

### Berwick and District Folk Club

Edward Nass / Christine Trimnell,  
 03 9702 1223 /0418 535 264  
 badfolk@optusnet.com.au  
 Featured artist 3rd Friday February to December, The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick Vic. 3806  
[www.badfolk.org.au](http://www.badfolk.org.au)

### Boite World Music Cafe

Therese Virtue., 03 9417 1983  
 boite@boite.asn.au  
 Friday & Saturday - March to November, 1 Mark St, North Fitzroy,  
[www.boite.asn.au](http://www.boite.asn.au)

### Geelong Folk Music Club

Adam Burke, 0409 409 960  
 hexed@iprimus.com.au or  
 Peter Fogarty, 03 5229 7887  
 Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at the Carlton Hotel, Mercer St, Geelong. Open Mic, walk-up performance events at Irish Murphy's, Aberdeen Street  
[www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com](http://www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com)

### Gippsland Acoustic Music Club

Barbara Brabets, 03 5174 7403  
 Local musicians and concert opportunities. 1st Sunday at 7:45 pm, Tyers Hall, Tyers  
[www.musicclub.org](http://www.musicclub.org)

### Melbourne Folk Club

Due to changes that are happening in the Melbourne Folk Club, we do not have any current details regarding regular functions at this stage.

### Ranges Burrinja Folk Club

Andrew Jackson, 03 97567398 or  
 0402 473 897  
 mail@drfolk.com.au  
 Guest artist, last Friday of month  
 Burrinja Cultural Centre, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey Vic (Mel Ref 75B12)  
[www.rangesburrinjafolk.org/home.html](http://www.rangesburrinjafolk.org/home.html)

### Selby Folk Club

David Miller, 03 9751 1218  
 miller@a1.com.au  
 1st Friday every month, at 8:00 pm,  
 Selby Community House Minok Reserve  
[www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub](http://www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub)

### Peninsula Folk Club

First Sunday of each month, at the Frankston Bowling Club on the corner of Yuille Street and Williams Rd, Frankston, from 6:30 pm on.  
 Carparking, great facilities, no stairs.  
[peninsulafolkclub.org.au](http://peninsulafolkclub.org.au)

**THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED**

**INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE CLUB**

- Members of the VFMC are entitled to -
- The monthly Club Newsletter
  - Concessions at Club dances
  - Discounts on Club publications
  - Discounts on Club CD's and cassettes
  - Affiliation with other organisations

**To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post to:**  
 VFMC Secretary, GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE** (select )

City/Suburban -

Single	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Junior	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single Pensioner	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pensioner Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>

Country -

Single	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERY:**  
 (both may be selected if desired)

By Email

and / or

By Post

**CONTACTS**

**VFMC Postal Address**

GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

**VFMC Website**

<http://www.vfmc.org.au>

**Secretary**

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 Email: [secretary@vfmc.org.au](mailto:secretary@vfmc.org.au)

**Ringwood Folk Club**

Don Fraser  
 Telephone 0407 737 202  
 Email: [donfraseris@gmail.com](mailto:donfraseris@gmail.com)

**Family Bush Dance**

Jane Bullock  
 Telephone (03) 9762 1389  
 Email: [dance@vfmc.org.au](mailto:dance@vfmc.org.au)

**Concert Party Engagements**

Don Fraser  
 Telephone 0407 737 202  
 Email: [donfraseris@gmail.com](mailto:donfraseris@gmail.com)

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER BY**

**FRIDAY, 20 MAY 2011.**

**TO:**

**EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

*The Editor reserves the right to alter or to not publish material.*