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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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Wattle Day - if a picture paints a thousand words ...

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 VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
2nd	3rd Fiddles	4th Sing Session Club Session	5th	6th Ear Session	7th	8th Woolshed Ball
9th	10th Fiddles	11th Guest Night	12th	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th Fiddles	18th Club Session	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th Fiddles	25th Sing Session Club Session	26th	27th	28th	29th
30th	31st Fiddles	1st Sing Session Club Session	2nd	3rd Ear Session	4th	5th VFMC Dance The Brumbies

Ringwood Folk Guest Performer Night

Fred Smith - 11th of October

Fred Smith is one of Australia's most remarkable artists. A prolific and dynamic song-writer he presents his material with an engaging humour and a wry smile that has won hearts at all the major Australian festivals

VFMC Publications

There are a number of VFMC publications which are available for purchase. More detail can be found on our website at:

http://www.vfmc.org.au/publications.htm

The publications include:

Collectors Choice Volumes 1, 2 , and 3; - Peter Ellis.
These three volumes contain tunes for bush dancing, quadrilles, old time sets, folk style couple dances, and dances for special occasions.

Vol 1 $20.00; Vol 2 $25.00; Vol 3 $30.00

Take Your Partners; - Shirley Andrews.
This volume is a hard cover book providing a history of dancing in Australia together with instructions for 68 dances.

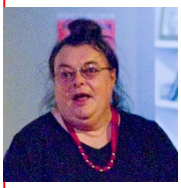
$10.00

Music Makes Me Smile; - Peter Ellis and Harry Gardner.
This book is a tribute to Con Klippel and the music of Nariel Valley, providing history, dance music and instructions.

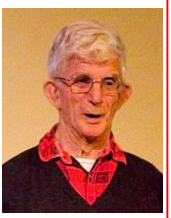
$20.00

Guest Artist Night, September 2011

The September concert has traditionally become the night for voices and what a fabulous night this one was. Unfortunately one of our invited choirs could not make it but the programme never-the-less was well filled out with much variety in the spot acts and the two choirs featured. Alex was MC and Steve Bullock opened proceedings with two unaccompanied songs, Turkey Rhubarb and The Weary Whaling Grounds.



Lynette from Sweet Sassafrass then did Peace In The Valley.



Bert Gibson followed with Old Black Billy and Jindabyne.

Then the ladies from the Holy Spirit Church Choir sang the traditional song The Water Is Wide, and a nice Bill Douglas song called Deep Peace took the audience on an ethereal meditative journey.

It's good to see talented club members coming together to make great music. Greg and gang, Trevor, Margaret, Duncan, Jim and Mick, told a nice story from Henry Lawson, before Mick's dramatic self-composed tale of the rescue attempts at the sinking of the Noongah in 1969, an incident in which he took part. A powerful version of Jim Jones At Botany Bay

followed, this is one of the most vivid and chilling of all convict songs. A rollicking Wooloomooloo completed their bracket.

Everyone's feet were jumping as Kelvin tickled the ivories on the old goanna with the Maple Leaf Rag, and The Entertainer as an encore.

A short sing-a-long of three songs from the Joy Durst Memorial Songbook, led by Steve and Maree, took us up to the supper break and got everyone involved.

Guest Artist Night, September 2011

The first feature choir was Entity, Pat, Jane, Thelma and Margaret, four local ladies who have been together for about 15 years. From the first note of their first song Sylvie it was clear we were in for a thrilling experience. What amazing power, superb harmonies and tightness these girls posses. They made immediate connection with the audience who were invited to join them in many of their songs, not that much coaxing was needed. House Of Love followed then Thelma led Gonna Shout All Over God's Heaven. I See The Light was a nice tribute to a mutual friend of theirs and mine, the late Peter Tucker who started the Three Corner Jack band. Jane and Margaret accompany with 12 string guitars on Never Turnin' Back. Their last song was a very inspiring version of I Am Australian which had everyone singing most heartily. An encore was called for and Thelma led this with Walk With Me.

Sweet Sassafrass need no introduction as they have appeared at our concerts in previous years, but what a terrific range of genres they cover with their wonderful harmonies and intricate layers of voicing. There was 18 of them so the full voice range was well covered. They started with a lovely Aboriginal inspired song called Eenanay or similar before moving across the waters for an equally beautiful Fijiian song which people would recognise as the sort of national song of Fiji. Then the traditional slave song Follow The Drinking Gourd, coupled with another slave lament called I'm Going Home. Sweet Sass are a versatile bunch of people, no matter where their songs take the audience it is easy to imagine you are right there on a beach in Fiji with the sun going down, or harvesting coffee in South America, or looking over the Bay Of Naples as they did a rousing version of Amore. Occasionally they accompany with ukeleles and bass. They finished their concert with Summertime but yet another encore was requested so an African song with all the vibrancy and harmonies you would expect from that continent completed this evening devoted to the voice.

Thanks to all who helped bring the a'cappella concert to fruition. Thanks also to the spot acts for sharing your songs.

Don Fraser
Trevor & Naomi Voake (photographs).

The Dance Page

Diary Dates for October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1st V.F.M.C. Borderline Kaylee
2nd VDA AGM	3rd Irish	4th English	5th Irish or Colonial	6th	7th	8th V.F.M.C Woolshed Ball Blackberry Jam
9th	10th Irish	11th English	12th Irish or Colonial	13th	14th	15th
16th Claddagh	17th Irish	18th English	19th Irish or Colonial	20th Colonial	21st Claddagh	22nd
23rd Welsh	24th Irish	25th English	26th Irish or Colonial	27th	28th	29th
30th Claddagh	31st					

Diary Dates for November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1st English	2nd Irish or Colonial	3rd	4th	5th V.F.M.C. Brumbies Bush Band
6th	7th Irish	8th English	9th Irish or Colonial	10th	11th	12th

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 **St Brigid's Hall, 378 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy North**, 8-12:30am
Contact Jane 9762 1389

Irish Monday	dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Flemington, 8-10pm. Contact Marie 9471 0690
Irish Wednesday	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
Colonial Thursday	Australian Colonial Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburton Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm Contact Coral 9885 6109
Welsh	Dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30pm. Contact Ian 9878 2414.
VDA	The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy Contact Norm Ellis 9888 5332.

Wattle Day Celebration, September 2011

The Victorian Folk Music Club and the Traditional Social Dance Association of Victoria came together on Saturday September 3rd to celebrate Wattle Day. Wattle Day celebrates all things Australian and was instigated as far back as 1910.

VFMC and TSDAV members brought music and dance to the public's notice with a demonstration at the street market in Ringwood East in the morning. TSDAV ran two afternoon workshops on dancing, one dedicated to traditional dances with a floral theme and the other to exploring some of the dances penned by Sydney traditional dancer Mike Waters. Then later in the afternoon the VFMC ran two workshops, one on singing and another on guitar accompaniment, convened by Maree and Bill Butler. Guitarists and singers later met in the hall with the dancers for a combined try-out of their newly acquired skills. Later in the evening the regular monthly VFMC bushdance was held with Blackberry Jam providing the music.

Norm Ellis, Jane Bullock and Coral Eden put together a terrific programme of Mike Waters dances plus others for everyone to enjoy. I found these dances interesting and inventive, a pleasure to try out something new, and most were not too daunting or difficult for the average person to pick up.

I hope the TSDAV and the VFMC can join forces again in future to develop Wattle Day into a popular local activity as we seem to have support from the local traders.

Don Fraser

Wattle Day Celebration, September 2011

Wattle Day – singing workshop

Saturday was a lovely day (even if a little windy). I only arrived towards the end of the morning markets festivities, but thoroughly enjoyed playing and singing with dances around in the market area with lots of people singing as they passed.

On Wattle Day there were music workshops, held in the afternoon from 3.30 till about 5.

We had eight people at the singing workshop. After warming up our vocal cords we sang "Old man kangaroo " in a 3 part round. We then spent most of our time trying to master "The Codfish Shanty" in 3-part harmony and completed the afternoon with the lovely song "A Gum Tree Canoe".

I very much enjoyed our get together at 5.30 in the Elderly Citizens hall with the dancers and the guitarists.

Each group shared what they had done in their workshops with those present. We sang Old Man Kangaroo. Then with the guitarists playing we sang A Gum Tree Canoe while the dancers danced a waltz.

… Maree Buttler

Wattle Day Celebration, September 2011

Wattle Day – guitar workshop

This year is the first time the Club has tried to build a number of different events around a theme day – in this case "Wattle Day". I must admit I wasn't really aware of Wattle Day until now, but I think it should become a regular annual event for the Club.

The aim of the guitar workshop was to introduce some standard traditional guitar techniques that will help newcomers to the guitar quickly develop their right hand skills. Most guitarists learn a few chords reasonably quickly, but the right hand is where a lot of the most interesting sounds can be developed.

We worked on a basic right-hand "bass-chord" style that can be further developed into Carter style and flat pick techniques. Along the way, we played a couple of Australian songs (Muddy Old Yarra and Gum Tree Canoe) using these techniques, and started adding some bass runs.

Thanks very much to those who attended, and I hope you all found it useful. I would encourage you to keep working on the material we handed out. If the demand is there, we may run another session on a Tuesday night.

Thanks also to Dennis O'Leary who helped coach individuals and provided some good tips on hand position etc.

… Bill Buttler

Wattle Day Celebration, September 2011

When Norm Ellis first broached a joint venture between our two clubs, (the T.S.D.A.V. and the V.F.M.C.), I thought it was a good idea. In reality it was a brilliant idea. The day was a lovely Spring day and some dancers gathered at 11.00am in the Market place at Ringwood East to entertain the crowds and of course to publicize our special Wattle Day activities. The Club musicians still a sterling job of playing feet tapping music so that we could strut our stuff!

Norm was lucky enough to get onto the ABC radio show and so we were on air and we actually got some dancers from that plug.

After a quick lunch the first of the two dance workshops started. We had a respectable group of dancers and eagerly we listened to the instructions of the dances from the pen of Mike Waters. The two hours flew by, the dances were interesting and not too hard so easy to grasp. Had a quick drink an even shorter rest (my poor feet) and then we launched into the second dance workshop. This one was all about Australian flora, all the dances having names to do with native shrubs and flowers. These were a little more challenging but where they would have been too hard, Norm changed them! Again the time just flew by and all of a sudden it was time to be joined by the people from the other two workshops, the singers and guitarists. There followed a short but entertaining show of what everyone had been doing in the afternoon. We danced a waltz circle dance whilst the singers sang us a waltz song and the guitarists played the tune. I thought that was a great way to wind up the afternoon.

We had a sausage sizzle and many thanks go to Carey Cox and Peter (Maree's brother) for providing the BBQ's. More thanks to Carey and Frances for cooking said sizzle and clearing up afterwards. Sometime during the afternoon Stephen and I had managed to decorate the hall with balloons and streamers and Norm had managed to find a little bit of real Wattle so the hall looked quite festive.

Blackberry Jam arrived and they were set up in no time and the dancing began again. It was a truly wonderful night my feet did get a little rest whilst I called a couple of dances for which they were truly thankful but otherwise I danced every dance.

More thanks go to Norm for thinking of the day and putting the dance workshops (which Norm called) and the dance programme together for the evening.

Jane Bullock

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@iinet.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

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

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

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

Melbourne Folk Club

Promoting Live Acoustic Music,

Contact Mel Robertson: 0413 587 490

Each Friday evening at The Lord Newry Hotel, 543 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy North VIC 3068

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

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

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

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	☐
Family	$30	☐
Junior	$15	☐
Student	$20	☐
Single Pensioner	$20	☐
Pensioner Family	$25	☐

Country -

Single	$20	☐
Family	$25	☐

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

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Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk Club

Don Fraser
Telephone 0407 737 202
Email: donfraseris@gmail.com

Family Bush Dance

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

Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
Telephone -
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER BY

FRIDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2011.

TO:

EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

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