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

VFMC Postal Address

GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

VFMC Website

http://www.vfmc.org.au

CONTACTS

Secretary

TBA
Telephone
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 - 9733 0802
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post to:

VFMC Secretary,
GPO Box 2025,
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Newsletter Delivery: (select ☑)
(both may be selected if desired)
By Email ☐
and / or
By Post ☐

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (select ☑)

City/Suburban -		
Single	$25	☐
Family	$30	☐
Junior	$15	☐
Student	$20	☐
Single Pensioner	$20	☐
Pensioner Family	$25	☐
Country -		
Single	$20	☐
Family	$25	☐

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Email: .....

Established 1959

August 2012

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW!

After Greg Woodruffs sterling effort for the last couple of years as editor of this newsletter, I am about to embark on the difficult task of replacing him. Already many thanks for swapover help must go to Greg himself, to Trevor Voake, to Bill Buttler, and especially to Michael Crichton, who spent a LONG Friday the 13th(!!) labouring over my computer (a Mac!) with Tim Tams and prayers. Hopefully readers will tolerate any teething problems over the next few months as I commence this new and challenging adventure….

Maggie Somerville

WATTLE DAY IS FAST APPROACHING!

Saturday 1st September 2012

A day to celebrate all things Australian - see inside page 10

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2012. TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

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

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

(suspended until further notice)

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

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

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

Yea Acoustic Jam Session is on the first Friday of the month at the Yea Community House (part of the Library Complex) 7.30 p.m. All levels of musicians and singers most welcome—$2.00 entry. It is run by Rick and Lee Vengeance, phone 5772 0357 during business hours or see Fairly Folk facebook page for more details.

VFMC in conjunction with TSDAV

presents Wattle Day at Ringwood East

Come and help us celebrate

'Wattle Day'

Wattle Day is the day to celebrate all things Australian

Saturday 1st September 2012

Morning

A morning 'dance-out' from 11 am

East Ringwood Shopping Centre Railway Avenue

Afternoon

Two Great Aussie Dance Workshops
A "PA for Acoustic Music" Workshop
A Singing Workshop
A "Music for Dancing" Workshop
A slow session for children

Evening

7.30 pm - Family Bush Dance
with 'Blackberry Jam'

With an all 'AUSTRALIANA' program (including the workshop dances)

A day of music & dancing at the
East Ringwood Community Hall precinct
Knaith Road East Ringwood Melways Ref: 50 B8

Enquiries: Dance workshops: **Norm** 98885332 Evening Dance: **Jane** 97621389
Other Workshops: **Maree** 9733 0802 **enquiries@vfmc.org**

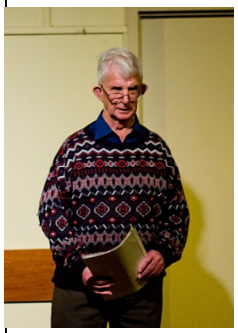
RINGWOOD FOLK GUEST PERFORMER NIGHT

TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST

KLEZMERITIS is a world music festival & concert band, inspired by Eastern European Jewish traditional celebration and dance music. The band also creates infectious and soulful fusions of klezmer with gypsy, jazz and eastern music. They have played around Australia including Port Fairy, Woodford, National Folk & Fairbridge festivals and appeared on national television program "Spicks and Specks"

Supported by **FOLKTRAIN:** In a relatively short space of time FolkTrain have evolved from an acoustic duo showcasing fine musicianship and great harmonies to become a good time, rockin' band that will have the audience up and dancing, enjoying a great gig.

Guest Artist Night, July 2012



Alex was mc for the July concert which was opened by a couple of songs from Bert Gibson, including Where The Pineapples Grow. Harry presented a short dialogue on the origins of My Grandfather's Clock before playing it accompanied by Maree on harp, and then Andy Rigby's Breakfast Creek. A fine rendition of Doug Ashdown's Winter In America was sung by Greg, and then a story about Lima.

Maggie Somerville has been associated with the Club for a short while but in that time has brought a few good tunes along, Faniglen being one, and she played it on mandolin accompanied by Steve and myself. She writes good tunes too and Dreamy Peter followed. Another fine writer of songs in the Club is Mick Kearon who sang his own song The Men Of Steel, about an apprentice's first day of work at the ship-yards, followed by Australia Found. Ken Newham then sang Mongrel Red and recollected his early days growing up in Kerang with The Fireman's Ball.

Many thanks to all the spot acts as usual, and to all who helped make it a successful night. The August 14th concert will surely be a lively night of East European/ Jewish oriented music featuring Klezmeritis, one of a number of outfits with the talented Ernie Gruner on fiddle. We also have a support act on this night, local group FolkTrain from Dandenong Ranges area.

Don Fraser

ORIGIN OF THE BALLAD

What is a ballad?

It is a narrative poem put to music.

What is the origin of the word ballad?

It comes from the Latin “ballore” meaning to dance. With the passage of time it came to be a solo song. The singer of ballads came to be known as a “ballad singer”.

Where did ballad singers get their songs?

In many cases they wrote and sang their own songs.

What are common topics of ballads?

They sing about historical events, drinking songs, love songs, social issues, to name a few.

Who writes the ballads?

New ballads are composed all the time, e.g. Pete St John’s ‘Fields of Athenry’ was recently composed and has gained acceptance nationally at sporting events and other places.

What is a common opening line to a ballad?

“As I roved out….”

What does the word ‘roved’ mean?

It means to “wander about without definite destination”.

Joe Arnold

NEW CLUB PA SYSTEM

For many years the club has had a public address system (PA), which has been available to members when not in use for club functions. This option has not been taken up for many years, and the system has sat, mostly unused, in my garage. The primary reason for its lack of use has been the very poor (read: "just about un-useable") quality of the rather aged equipment.

For some years, the committee have endorsed the idea of replacing the system. At long last, we have made progress on this. This was prompted, early this year, when the club's microphone stands (which have been dodgy for some time) began to fall apart.

We began by buying six new microphone stands. To this we have added two powered foldback speakers. This month we took delivery of a new mixer and powered speakers. We are awaiting delivery stands. Our microphone cables need to be upgraded (new plugs) and some new speaker leads are required. The result will be an excellent system which will cope with any foreseeable club event, including our regular dances and balls.

Members are invited to inspect the new gear at the Ringwood dance on the 4th of August.

Note too that as part of the club's Wattle Day celebration workshops, we plan to run a workshop on setup and operation of PA systems for acoustic musicians. I would encourage anyone who would like to use the club's system to attend this workshop.

Steve Bullock

Guest Artist Night, July 2012

Our special guest artist tonight was the veteran musician and member of various iconic bands **Hugh MacDonald**. He and Rebecca Harris entertained the audience with a great programme of mainly self composed songs and a number of songs of Lawson's works. The Spirit Of The Land from the album of the same name opened their set. Some nice guitar accompanied Andy's Gone With Cattle, and was followed by another Lawson song The Slip Rails And The Spurs. Hugh also comes from Kerang and described his growing up there in Moon Over Water. Some interesting early history of folk establishments in Melbourne like Traynor's, The Green Man etc. brought back memories to some in the audience and led to the Trevor Lucas song Poor Ned.

Naturally Hugh is a singer who has a strong social conscience and his observations on the not so glamorous outcomes of the mining boom in the north-west in Red Rocks was inciteful. Black Is The Colour is a Christy Moore song and featured some nice guitar. Hugh is a talented guitarist as well as singer and a fine Chet Atkins Time On My Hands followed, and I'll See You In My Dreams. Any who can remember Traynor's will be of an age where the Vietnam war will be to the fore in our memories and so I Was Only 19 was particularly poignant and had a special meaning, whether or not one was were conscripted at the time. An encore was requested and Hugh and Rebecca obliged with Diamantina Drover.

Don Fraser.

The Dance Page

Diary Dates for August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					3rd Claddagh International	4th Melbourne Colonial Band
5th	6th Irish Scottish	7th English	8th Irish or Colonials U3A	9th	10th	11h Scottish
12th Claddagh	13th Irish Scottish	14th English	15th Irish or Colonials U3A	16th Colonial Scottish	17th Claddagh International	18th
19th Welsh	20th Irish Scottish	21st English	22nd Irish or Colonials U3A	23rd Colonial Introductory Classes	24th	25th
26th Contra	27th Irish Scottish	28th English	29th Irish or Colonial U3A	30th Scottish	31st	

Diary Dates for September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1st VFMC Blackberry Jam
2nd	3rd Irish Scottish	4th English	5th Irish or Colonial U3A	6th Colonial Introductory Classes	7th Claddagh International	8th Scottish

Claddagh Irish set dancing at St. Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd 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

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 St, Collingwood, 8-10pm. Contact Marie 9471 0690

The Dance Page

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**:** at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7:30-10pm
Contact Coral 9885 6109

Colonial Beginners Dancing at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton 7.30-10pm
Contact Coral 9885 6109

U3A Hawthorn at East Kew Uniting Church Hall (Normanby Rd. E.Kew), 1.00-3.00pm
Contact Norm 9888 5332

Welsh Dancing Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4:30pm
Contact Ian 9878 2414

TSDAV The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr. Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy
Contact Norm Ellis 9888 5332

Contra Dance Northcote Uniting Church Hall, 251 High St, Northcote, 7:30-10:30pm
Contact George 890 5650/Gary 9481 3386

Scottish Monday Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8pm
Contact Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com

Scottish Thursday Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thornton Road, 7-9pm
Contact Di Gaylard 5963 3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au.

Scottish Saturday Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8pm
Contact Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com

International Friday Box Hill Senior Citizens, 780 Carrington Rd. Box Hill, 7.30-9.30 pm
Contact jant@alphalink.com.au

Jane's Big Birthday Bash East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood 2-5pm