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 ☑)

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

Country -

Single	$20	☐
Family	$25	☐

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Email: .....

Established 1959

September 2012

Australian TRADITION

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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GOING GLOBAL!!!

'TWINNING' WITH DUNBLANE SCOTTISH FOLK CLUB

Late last year Richard Moore, an accomplished folk musician, visited Ringwood folk club during a brief work-related visit to Melbourne. Like many, he plays only by ear and knows over 200 tunes by heart, so entertained us with some superb mandolin renditions of Scottish/Irish music. Once back home in Scotland, he realised that one of his local folk clubs—Dunblane—is strikingly similar to ours (circle, tea-break, warm vibes, etc.) and suggested 'twinning' the two clubs: "swapping songs, sound files & photos….also visitors….[and maybe] a folk night by video." Both clubs have welcomed the idea wholeheartedly — so watch out for further news…….

V.F.M.C. - WOOLSHED BALL

Saturday 13th October 2012, 8 pm till 12.30 am

Blackberry Jam Band $20 pre-paid or $25 at door

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2012.
TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

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

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

A community day to 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**

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Ringwood East Folk

a cappella night

THREE GREAT VOCAL GROUPS

TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

Balladry
A new ladies quartet from Healesville

VOICEBOX
The long established eight piece male choir

The Barberries
Another new group led by Barb McFarlane

Admission: $12.00 Members: $10.00 Children Free
Open Stage from 7.45pm

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road East Ringwood Melway: 50 B8

Contact Don 0407 737 202
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au
VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au
Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. (Reg. No A2511Y)

Supported by Spot Acts

October 9th - DANNY SPOONER

Guest Artist Night, August 2012

.Gail was the MC and the concert was opened by Chris Healy on his button box who played The Wist Tramping Song, a tune from the western isles of Scotland, and a fine hornpipe The Showman's Fancy. Jim Clements then sang a nice version of Paul Kelly's song Let Me Start Today Again, and Let It Be Me, the Everly Brothers song. Two stirring pieces followed from Ted Konig on accordion, including Petit Waltz. Alex then did his own 'mixed media' piece Live Together, a recitation on modern moral inconsistencies interspersed with some iconic songs of hope. A little pantomime piece from Maggie Somerville followed this as she got the audience involved in her tale of the joys of having a good hot water bottle on these cold winter nights. Well, until the thing should spring a leak, that is.... Anyway this evolved into a round and we all had a lot of fun. Many thanks to all who contributed to the spot acts part of the evening.

The VFMC recognises all the good talent and aspiring musicians out there in the community, so we like to encourage and promote local talent from time to time. Our support act this night was FolkTrain, a five piece rockabilly band from the Dandenongs. A foot-tapping It Takes A Worried Man was their opening song and featured some good blues harp playing by Rudy. These guys write a lot of their own material and do quite a commendable job at it too. The Slacko Gang? was written by Chris. The Time Of Our Lives is a nice reflective song by Matthew, penned after a 30th anniversary school reunion. Chris's I'm Not The Shrovesby Bomber is a stirring song with some good harmonies, and Toe The Line was another good-rockin' song you can easily dance to.

groups live and on cd as well as at traditional music sessions. It is modelled on the most common structure of our greatest songs: AABA, the sonata form. - *Joe Arnold*

DANNY BOY

O Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling

From glen to glen, and down the mountainside

The summer's gone and all the flowers are dying

'Tis you, 'tis you must go and I must bide.

But come ye back when summer's in the meadow

Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow

'Tis I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow

O Danny boy, O Danny boy, I love you so.

And if you come, when all the flowers are dying/

And I am dead, as dead I well may be

You'll come and find the place where I am lying

And kneel and say an 'Ave' there for me.

And I shall hear, tho' soft you tread above me

And all my dreams will warm and sweeter be

If you'll not fail to tell me that you love me

I'll simply sleep in peace until you come to me.

HOT SPOTS SESSION

Once again, from 9.45 pm till home-time on Tuesday **28th August** (the last session of the month) we'll have another HOT SPOTS session to add a bit of fun and interest to the night.

Want to be in on it? Here's the low-down:-

- The portable stage will be out as on concert nights
- There'll be 4 x 8 minute slots to fill the 30 minutes, maybe 5
- Firrst in will get a slot. (You can book a slot prior if you like)
- No solo acts; you need to get a combo together with one or more others
- You can be in more than one act if someone else wants you to back them.

DANNY BOY—HISTORY

Denis Hempson (1695-1807), one of the last of the great harpers, was born in Country Derry, Ireland. He attended the Belfast Festival of 1792 and is said to be "the only performer to pluck the strings of his harp with long curving fingernails". He was blind from the age of three. When he was nine he started to learn to play the harp. **Rory Dall O'Cahan**, another blind harper, composed a 'Lament' as a consequence of the confiscation of the O'Cahans' lands by the Crown in the early 17th century. It has been suggested that Hempson learned 'O'Cahan's Lament' from his tutors. This lament became the melody for the song 'Danny Boy'. In his later years Hempson lived at Magilligan, County Derry. Len Graham (Treoir date unknown) gives us some background information on the Magilligan area of Country Derry. **James McCurry** (circa 1800-1880) by local tradition is said to have been the 'itinerant' fiddler from whom Miss Jane Rose, in 1851 collected in Limaady the famous 'Derry Air' ('Danny Boy'). James McCurry is remembered locally as "the blind McCurry". It was around 1912 that English lyrics were written for the tune by **Fred Weatherly**. The song became known as 'Danny Boy'. It has become the most well-known song to be identified with Ireland and its people worldwide. It still has great appeal to the Irish at home and can be heard regularly sung by folk

Guest Artist Night, August 2012

Jugularity, Gypsy Nights, Yalla, Klezmeritis, just a few projects the irrepressible Ernie Gruner is involved with, and the main act this night was the latter, Klezmeritis, who provided the audience with a feast of powerful and pensive and fiery and sublime gypsy / Jewish / East European / Middle Eastern / jazz flavoured music. Some energetic fiddling from Ernie and syncopated accordion and bass from Phil and Ron on the theme from the Radio National Music Deli show set the scene. Then three Jewish wedding pieces, the first a listening tune with some wistful fiddling and emotive accordion over a growling bass; a walking tune; and the third a fast and lively dance. Accordionist Phil Carroll sang a jazz influenced song To Your Health. Ernie Gruner has studied Klezmer music in the US, and presented a slow circle dance learnt while there. This was followed by the Flatbush Waltz, played on mandolin, a slow and masterful play between mandolin and bass which developed into quite a pretty tune.
Phil also plays the ney which is a kind of bamboo whistle or flute-like instrument with a rather indistinct sound, apparently played in Turkey and Middle Eastern countries around Ramadan. At Jewish weddings it is believed that all will be well in the marriage if you can get the mothers-in-law up to dance so this dance starts slow before the tempo revs up a bit. Next a Romanian wordless song got the audience in for a rousing chorus of 'ya da da die'. A Russian song with Greek influences followed, beginning with a slow bass and ney line and a fiddle drone, developing into another lively foot-tapping piece. Following this was another circle dance popular with Hasidic Jews called It's Good Like That, with a powerful and driving rhythm. A Klezmer and jazz/folk tune mix then displayed this group's undeniable energy and virtuosity.

Though we went a little over time an encore was well worth it, a Russian influenced song with Ernie simulating a balalaika on mandolin started slow and again reached a lively tempo and sent the audience home very contented. What a fabulous night of passionate foot-tapping music from these masterful musicians.

September's concert will be highlighting just a single instrument, the original instrument - in fact, the human voice. Three local choirs will present a night of a'cappella music. Don't miss it.!

Don Fraser

The Dance Page

Diary Dates for September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1st Wattle Day V.F.M.C. Blackberry Jam
2nd TSDAV	3rd Irish Scottish	4th English	5th Irish or Colonial U3A	6th Colonial Introductory	7th Claddagh International	8th Scottish
9th Claddagh	10th Irish Scottish	11th English	12th Irish or Colonials U3A	13th Scottish Colonial Introductory	14th International	15th Dinki Di Ball
16th Welsh	17th Irish Scottish	18th English	19th Irish or Colonials U3A	20th Colonial	21sr International	22nd
23rd Claddagh Contra	24th Irish Scottish	25th English	26th Irish or Colonial U3A	27th Colonial Introductory	28th	29th

Diary Dates for October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1st	2nd	3rs	4th Colonial Introductory	5th Claddagh	6th VFMC Borderline Kaylee
7th	8th Irish Scottish	9th English	10th Irish or Colonial U3A	11th	12h International	13th V.F.M.C. Woolshed Ball 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

JANE'S BIRTHDAY BASH!

What a glorious afternoon of dancing with friends to terrific music!

Thank you to everyone of you who came and made my 60th birthday so memorable and those of you who couldn't make it in person but sent me their best wishes for a happy day.

The music provided by the three bands 'Brumbies'; 'Delia's Friends' and 'The Billabong Band' was great and my feet couldn't stand still. The only complaint I heard was that the afternoon was too short!

I had a really lovely birthday amongst so many friends and family that I shall always treasure this gift you all gave me; it was the best.

Many many thanks to you all.—Jane

The Dance Page

Irish Wednesday	Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle St, 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**:** 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
Dinki Di Ball	Contact Mary Smith 5442 1153/ secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

BOOK REVIEW: "Waltzing Matilda – The Secret History of Australia's Favourite Song"

by Dennis O'Keeffe Publisher: Allen & Unwin

This year saw the publication of a truly wonderful book by Dennis O'Keeffe. He has done us all a great service by writing "Waltzing Matilda – The Secret History of Australia's Favourite Song". Why the history of this song has remained rather obscure is not well known, but this book makes it all very clear and so interesting.

Dennis includes many fascinating stories about the song's connection with social history, politics, scandal, World War I, romance, crime and even horse racing; all of which are linked to the song we love so much. The 1894 shearers' strike was vital to the creation of the song and Banjo Patterson's troublesome love affair with Christina Macpherson was of critical importance. The swagman at the centre of the saga really existed. He met a violent death and was more likely a murder victim rather than a case of suicide as most Australians believe.

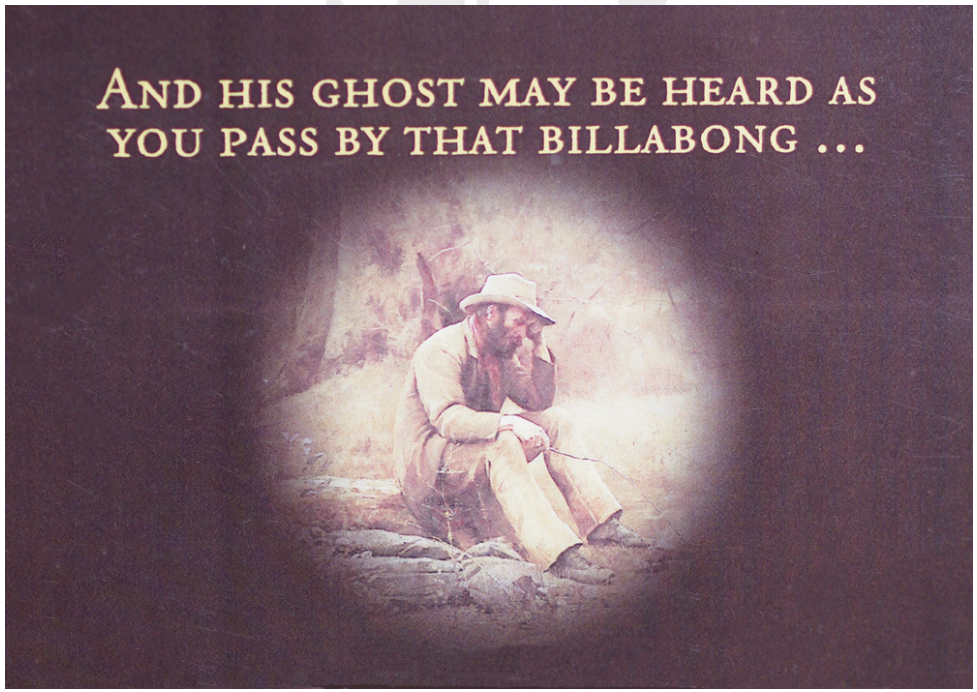
Many of us are aware that the song originated in Queensland, but I was surprised to learn of the Warrnambool, Victoria connection. The origin of the phrase "Waltzing Matilda" is also explored and Dennis presents to a perfectly plausible and logical explanation. He also examines the various versions of the song. A photo of the original music manuscript with lyrics is included, along with other interesting pictures of people and events associated with the song.

The book discusses the rivalry between Henry Lawson and Banjo Patterson, and Lawson's role in some of the events was a real surprise. These two men are so important to our culture and it is good to see this link with "Waltzing Matilda" brought to out attention so vividly.

Some of the most interesting parts of the book relate to how we lived in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The role of trade unions, squatters and our shameful treatment of Kanaka workers are aspects of our past that we rarely hear about. History, good and bad should not be ignored.

This book is full of surprises and I have tried not to give them away; I don't want to be a spoiler. Our favourite song has many unexpected connections. There are links to Ted Baillieu (the Premier of Victoria), Germany, the old Scots folk song "Macpherson's Farewell" and many more. I'm tempted to say I could not put this book down, but that is a hackneyed cliché, so I'll just say I keep picking it up and reading it again.

You may be interested to hear Dennis O'Keeffe discuss his book and sing the song. He was interviewed on "Late Night Live" in March this year and the show can be heard at http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/the-secret-history-of-waltzing-matilda/3913444#comments

I have an Australian-born teenaged niece living in California, and at Christmas time I always try to buy something Australian for her. I usually struggle to think of a present … not this Christmas.

Reviewer: Denis O'Leary