Established 1959

March 2013

Australian TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012 *Reg No A2511Y*

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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AUSTRALIA DAY - 2013

THE SATURDAY DANCE ENTRY FEE HAS GONE UP TO $12.00 FOR NON-MEMBERS AND $10.00 FOR MEMBERS

This is still a reasonable price for the amount of dancing done to quality live music and of course not forgetting the free supper

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH 2013

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 Maree Buttler (03 9733-0802) or Robin Simpson (0447106841).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st March	**2nd** VFMC Dance Clandestiny
3rd	**4th** Fiddles	**5th** Club Session	**6th**	**7th** By-Ear Session	**8th**	**9th**
10th	**11th** Fiddles	**12th** Guest Night	**13th**	**14th**	**15th**	**16th**
17th	**18th** Fiddles	**19th** Club Session	**20th**	**21st**	**22nd**	**23rd**
24th	**25th** Fiddles	**26th** Club Session	**27th**	**28th**	**29th**	**30th**
31st	**1st April** Fiddles	**2nd** Club Session	**3rd**	**4th** By-Ear Session	**5th**	**6th** Borderline Kaylee

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Ringwood East Folk

TUESDAY 12th MARCH

Chris is a singer and multi-instrumentalist playing guitar, mandolin, fiddle, harmonica, spoons and stompbox, including original songs and selected covers, fiddle tunes, bluegrass flatpicking and instrumentals in a dynamic and exciting performance. Chris has performed with quite a few touring folk musicians from England and Ireland, done two Australian tours with Maddy Prior and supported artists including Lunasa and Fairport Convention as well as performing at numerous festivals in Australia and the U.K.

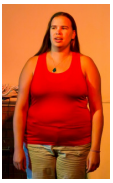
Admission: $12.00 Members: $10.00 Children Free
Open Stage from 8.00pm

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

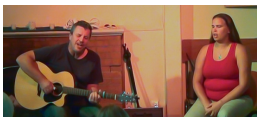
Contact Don 0407 737 202
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au
VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au
Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. (Reg. No A2511Y)

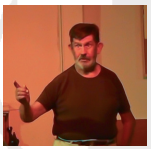
Supported by Spot Acts

Guest Artist Night, February 2013



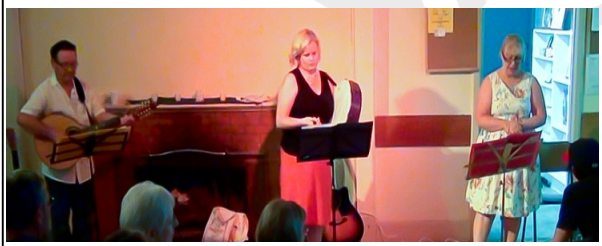
It was a packed house for this particular session, and the evening started with several great spot acts:- Marilla with her beautiful voice singing 'Factory Girl', 'Johnny Be Fine' and 'Keep', and accompanying Graham in 'Dance with my Own Shadow' and 'Oedipus Rex'. Bill Butter followed with some Yeats poems including 'The Lake Isle of Inisfree' and sang 'The Stolen Child'. We then enjoyed the travelling bearded pair Dingoes Breakfast performing 'North-West' and 'Time to Go Find Arbthilola'. Mick sang another of his own great songs, 'Fisherman Song' before multi-instrumental Rudi sang an original song from the band Folk Train then had us all singing along with 'Gypsy Rover'. More poetry added to the night's entertainment with Jim Smith performing another recitation as well as Alex flawless whacky poem about reciting a cougars.





THE MAIN ACT: VINCE BROPHY'S 'FAMINE TO FEAST':

A musical journey from Ireland to Australia including an illuminating slide show! The main focus was the Irish potato famine and the Earl Grey Scheme whereby a group of Irish orphan girls came out from the workhouses to NSW in the mid 19th century. Interestingly we learned that Vince's and his family also emigrated to NSW about 100 years later, in the 1950s, and Cora Browne later in 1989. Appropriate music and songs accompanied the explanatory information, and of course the audience sang along to 'The Leaving of Liverpool'. 23 girls aged 14-20 came out on one boat, mostly from counties Clare, Kerry & Galway, all severely affected by the famine. Charles Strutt organised their trip, including a special dispensation so they could eat meat on Fridays!! Props added to overall effect, such as a Bible and calico. There was an attempt back then to manage the gender imbalance, with far less women than men and most of the women being convicts. In 1850 Victoria wasn't even a state, and when the Gold Rush began Governor Latrobe was delighted with the dropping population. Even the Governor had to polish his own boots with no servants.



Guest Artist Night, February 2013

The musical accompaniment was excellent—great voices plus superb guitar, mandola and bodhran, along with occasional violin. Cora Browne sang a very moving rendition of 'Our Father' in Irish Gaelic, and told us a little of her upbringing in Ireland, e.g. having a champion Irish dancer in her school, which led to a super-typical Irish jig helped by Mark & Lisa Mcdonnell on fiddle and concertina. 'The Minstrel Boy' was also sung unaccompanied by Cora. We learned of the strict routine on board ship, e.g. how school was held for the girls, Mass on Sundays, etc. One girl even gave birth on board although then struggled to cope with her new baby.

Each member of the audience had a replica boarding pass on their seats e.g. on one side: 'Thomas Arbuthnot, Plymouth to Botany Bay 1849' and on the other 'HARTIGAN, Bridget' before listing her father & mother's names, her date of birth, religion, age, education & known relations in Colony, which made us feel closer to it all. One song written & sung by Vince was inspired by women left on their own with large families in Ireland. Most of the orphan girls were from rural areas of Ireland & were traumatized refugees, some arriving pregnant. Overall they arrived alive & ready to work, although the Melbourne Argus described them as "most useless". Once they arrived in Sydney they had 2 days of prayer then were sent to Yass & Goulbourn etc. in a horse & dray. Today there are a million and a half descendants from those orphan girls.

The evening ended with encores 'Caledonia' and 'The Water is Wide' with enthusiastic audience participation. Overall, an enlightening and enjoyable performance! *- by Jan Heskes & Maggie Somerville, photos by Trevor Voake*

The Dance Page

Diary Dates for March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31st NATIONAL IN CANBERRA					**1st**	**2nd** VFMC Clandestiny
3rd TSDAV Dance Workshop	**4th** Irish	**5th** English	**6th** Irish or Colonials	**7th**	**8th**	**9th**
10th Claddagh with Welsh	**11th** Irish	**12th** English	**13th** Irish or Colonials	**14th**	**15th**	**16th**
17th Welsh	**18th** Irish	**19th** English	**20th** Irish or Colonials	**21st** Colonials	**22nd**	**23rd**
24th Contra	**25th**	**26th**	**27th**	**28th**	**29th** EASTER NATIONAL	**30th** FOLK FESTIVAL

Diary Dates for April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st	**2nd VFMC Borderline Kaylee**
3rd	**4th Irish**	**5th** English	**6th Irish or Colonials**	**7th**	**8th**	**9th**

The Dance Page

Claddagh	Joined with Welsh—Irish set dance at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe, Friday 8-10 pm, Sunday 2-5pm. Contact Rod: 9497-1793
VFMC Colonial	Dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 8-11 pm Contact Maree: 9733-0802
Irish Monday	Dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Flemington, 8-10 p.m.. Contact Marie 9471-0690
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 Coral: 9885 6109
Colonial Thursday	Australian Colonial Bush/Dance**:** at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn 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
TSDAV	Sunday: 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 9890-5650/Gary 9481-3386

A LETTER FROM JANE BULLOCK IN ENGLAND

Here we are in sunny England! Seriously though, the sun has been shining so far much of our visit (10 days!).

After trying the modern way of looking on the world wide net and coming to grief as the information on it was 8 years out of date, Stephen and I reverted to the old tried and tested way of looking up folk dance clubs in a book! At a visit to Cecil Sharp House in London (headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society) we looked in their Essex magazine and came away with a page of contacts for in and around the Basildon area.

The very first one I rang had a dance 2 nights later and we duly found our way to an old Nissan hut revamped with skylights and heating. A very friendly bunch of people greeted us and made us welcome. They meet twice a month and have a guest caller each time. The dances were new to us except the Circle Waltz but were so much fun that we enjoyed them very much. I asked the caller if I might make a note of them and he very kindly gave me his call cards. When we get back home quite a few of these dances will come to light. I have been offered a chance to call some dances there next month. My dilemma now is which of my favourite dances will I call, umm….life is so tricky!

At the end of the evening, we were invited to attend a 'Playford Ball' the very next night. A coach had been hired to take everyone to Woodford (outskirts of London). We decided to go and fortunately I had squeezed my ball dress into my luggage. The ball venue was an old girls' High School with beautiful architecture which complemented the ball. The caller John Turner was very amusing and there was a 3 piece band, 'Masquerade'. There were lots of people there, and quite a few of them had dressed up in period costumes. We danced lots of dances which were new to us, but all from the 16th to 18th centuries. There was supper half-way through the evening, which was demolished rapidly as the dancing had started at 7 pm sharp and we had had to leave home at 4.15 pm. About half-way through the second half there was a raffle and we were lucky enough to win one of the prizes. The only dance we did know was the 'Newcastle' and even that was a variation on the old dance. I did wonder whether the variation (fewer movements) was made to accommodate the age of most of the patrons! The dance finished and very quickly the hall was emptied and there ended a most unforgettable evening.

Until next time, keep your feet moving.

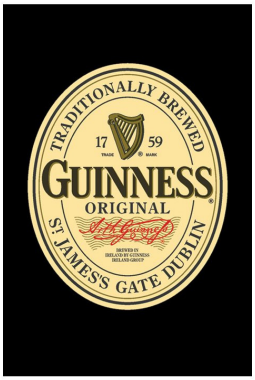
THE GUINNESS HARP

The harp, which serves as the Guinness emblem, is based on the 14th century Irish harp known as the 'O'Neill' or 'Brian Boru' harp which is now preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin.

The harp device has been synonymous with Guinness since 1862 when it was used as a symbol on the first GUINNESS bottle label. It was registered as a Guinness company trademark in 1876. It is because of the harp trademark that Guinness named its first lager 'Harp' in 1960. The harp is one of three elements that make up the GUINNESS livery. The other two elements are the GUINNESS word and Arthur Guinness's famous signature.

There have been a number of changes to the design of the harp device over the years including a reduction in the number of strings shown. In 1974 the label was changed and the less decorated version of the harp was introduced. In 1997 Ireland changed to an updated version of the harp on GUINNESS Draught packaging and point of sale advertising.

The harp is also the official national emblem of the Republic of Ireland and can be found on the Republic's coinage. The distinguishing features between the two harps is that the Guinness Harp always appeared with the straight edge (the sound board) to the left, and the government harp is always shown with its straight edge to the right. (Courtesy of Guinness Archives)



- by Joe Arnold

CONCERT PARTY REPORT

(Billabong Band)

December to February 2013

The Billabong Band was very busy in the run up to Christmas and also during January.

On 1st December we had the East Ringwood Elderly Citizens' concert at 2 pm in the afternoon. There was good participation from VFMC musicians who made up the Billabong Band—Harry, Graeme, Kathryn, Stan, Don F, Don G, Ted, Frances and Maree. The audience very much enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment. There was an interesting variety of items including songs by Don F, Don G, Margie V, Frances and Maree, Jane and Kathryn, Waltzing Matilda puppet show by Harry, piano item by Ted, a bracket of English tunes by the recorder group of 6 people, as well as demonstration dances. The Colonial Dancers performed a variety of demonstration dances including waltzes, quadrilles, set dances and join -in community dances. Thank you to Cathy and Jane for organizing the dancing part of the program. Thank you to MC Frances and all the musicians & dancers!

On the same evening (1st Dec.) the East Ringwood VFMC Christmas Dance was held in the Elderly Citizens' hall. It was a great night with a great crowd (lots of families) and 14 participants in the Billabong band. It was a fun evening for all and a terrific way to finish off the last dance for the year. Thank you to Steve, Bill, Terry, Don G, Don F, Maree, Maggie, Trevor Stan, Graeme, Kathryn, Frances, Harry, Prue and Jane and all the guest callers. Also thanks to Santa who of course made a guest appearance to the delight of our younger dancers.

On 9th December the Billabong Band entertained the residents at Lilydale Lodge at their Christmas part. This was the third year in a row that we have been the entertainment. It was great fun! Entertainment included singing lots of Christmas carols, folk songs (including Harry's Waltzing Matilda puppet show), participation songs and dances. To cap off the afternoon we were provided with a three course Christmas lunch! Thank you to all who contributed—Harry, Katy, Steve, Jane, Frances, Maree, Don F and Don G. Thank you also to Rebecca and Steve who are the proprietors at Lilydale Lodge.

Monkami women's entertainment afternoon was held on the 19th January. A group of 10 musicians from VFMC joined Barry Murnane for a house concert at Croydon. Ten of us squashed into a smallish room to entertain about 50 very enthusiastic people. It was a really happy and lively hour's concert. We enjoyed lots of participation from the audience and we are looking forward to going back there again soon. Thank you to Barry, Don F, Janice, Harry, Don G, Maggie, Trevor & Margie, Frances and Maree.

On Australia Day (26th January) at Ringwood Lake, audience numbers appeared down this year despite the lovely cool to warm weather. There were still lots of people there to get dancing which Jane achieved in her usual friendly, efficient manner. 14 musicians on stage proved a challenge for the sound guys too…. They did get us miked up pretty quickly (which was our request) but the lack of foldback and limited microphones proved challenging at times. The hour went by very quickly. The audience seemed to enjoy al the Australian songs that we sang. Thank you to Don F (MC and co-ordinator for this function), Jane (dance caller), Bill, Gary, Don G, Trevor, Margie, Frances, Maggie, Sophie, Maree, Kelvin, Harry and Stan. For practical reasons we may have to in future set a maximum number of musicians to participate on stage at some of these high-profile gigs!

Upcoming Billabong Band Events:

May 4th VFMC Bush Dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizen's Hall

May 25th VFMC Ball at St David's Uniting Church Hall, Canterbury

- *by Maree Buttler, photographs by Trevor Voake*

- *by Maree Buttler, photoraphs by Trevor Voake*

RINGWOOD EAST COMMMUNITY MARKET

CLUB PERFORMANCE

On Saturday 2nd February 2013 several brave Club players met at 10 am in the Ringwood East railway station carpark to take advantage of the cool but sunny summer weather to attract little children into the Club environment with songs/tunes such as 'Baa Baa Black Sheep', 'The Black Cat Piddled in the White Cat's Eye', 'Black Velvet Band', 'Botany Bay', 'Bound for South Australia', 'Click Go the Shears', 'Eucalyptus' (Frere Jacques tune), 'Humpty Dumpty', 'Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree', 'Mudgee Waltz', 'Roddy McCorley' and 'Waltzing Matilda'.

One of us had been at the Market since opening at 8 am to secure a spot and to parade in clown costume with sandwich boards, kindly provided by our president, Balloonologist Michael Crichton. The venture had the enthusiastic backing of the Market manager who happily waved us good will. (Our early start proved more expensive than planned because a circular saw and a set of car mats were purchased and moreover the saw works!)

Saturday's venture was experimental to the extent that we wanted to learn when most children arrived and whether they could be induced to join in a procession. In the event two children were brought by their mum at 8.15 am and there were about 12 dispersed throughout by 10 am. However, there was an influx around 10.45 am, which perhaps doubled the number at that time. Occasionally parents could be induced to hand rattles or tambourines to their kids, but mostly they helped them sing along with 'Humpty Dumpty'. The 'Kanding Love Song' worked very well with a Chinese family who sang it in Mandarin.

From 11 am to noon the playing gradually developed into a regular song session.

We have now maintained a Club busking presence in Railway Avenue for six and a half years, and a photo of us appears in the book on the history of Ringwood East on sale in the newsagency. Occasionally we have moved across the street to the Market, including the beginning of our Wattle Day Festivals.

Thanks to Bill and Maree Buttler, Don Fraser, Don Gingrich, Sopie Krop, Frances Lester and Denis O'Leary for their support. The next Market is on Saturday 2nd March and Maree has promised some grandchildren to lead the Parade. See you all there!

- *by Harry Gardner*

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Reg. No. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

WOOLSHED BALL

Saturday 25th May 2013

8:00pm - 12:30am

St David's Uniting Church Hall
Cnr Mont Albert Rd & Burke Rd
Canterbury

Billabong Band

BYO mug & supper
Tea & Coffee provided
Alcohol Not Permitted

Tickets: $20 Pre-paid, $25 at the door

Enquiries:

Coral Eden: Telephone: 03 9885 6109 Mobile: 046873 9761
Email: ceden@oneseniors.com.au or enquiries@vfmc.org.au
Website: www.vfmc.org.au

FOLK TRIVIA

DID YOU KNOW that one of our convicts Francis McNamara, known as Frankie the poet, was flogged for composing original ballads with lines critical of his captors? However, this did not stop him or other convicts from composing these sad poems/songs. Our famous song 'Moreton Bay' is attributed to McNamara though clearly based on the Irish 'Boolavogue'.

ANOTHER FOLKIE QUIZ!

With **St Patrick's Day** looming, it seems appropriate to test your knowledge related to this all-important day!

1) Does St Patrick's Day on 17th March commemorate the birth or the death of St Patrick?

2) In which FOUR parts of the world is St Patrick's Day actually a public holiday?

3) What century was St Patrick born in?

4) Originally what colour was associated with St Patrick? (clue: this is not what you think)

5) What plant is St Patrick said to have used to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish?

6) In which Irish song do the following lines belong:-

'Twas England bade our wild geese go

That small nations might be free;

Their lonely graves are by Suvla's waves

On the fringe of the grey North Sea.

ANSWERS WILL BE IN NEXT MONTH'S 'TRADITION'

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

Ade Kelly (03)5241-3749, adenmyra@bigpond.com.au, Pete Fogarty (03)5339-7887. Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at Hotel Max, 2 Gheringhap St, Geelong. Open Mic. Performance events first Tuesday at Irish Murphy's, 30 Aberdeen St & 3rd Tuesdays at Hotel Max. Bookings: Paula Grembka 0401 671 1310. 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

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

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.

Ballarat Folk Gathering

1st Sunday of the month 2PM(Except January)
At Ballarat East Community House
507 Eyre St, Ballarat.

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 events
- 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

Acting Secretary

Harry Gardner
Telephone: 9870 8998
Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk Club

Don Fraser
Telephone 0407 737 202
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

Family Bush Dance

Maree Buttler
Telephone 9733 0802
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: .....

Phone Contact: .....

Email: .....