Established 1959

April 2013

Australian TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012 *Reg No A2511Y*

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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OUR LAST BUSH DANCE

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 MAY NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY, 22ND APRIL 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 April	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th** By-Ear Session	**5th**	**6th** VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
7th	**8th** Fiddles	**9th** Club Session	**10th**	**11th**	**12th**	**13th**
14th	**15th** Fiddles	**16th** Guest Night	**17th**	**18th**	**19th**	**20th**
21st	**22ns** Fiddles	**23rd** Club Session	**24th**	**25th**	**26th**	**27th**
28th	**29th** Fiddles	**30th** Club Session	**1st May**	**2nd** **By-Ear Session**	**3rd**	**4th** VFMC Dance Billabong Band
5th	**6th** Fiddles	**7th** Club session	**8th**	**9th**	**10th**	**11th**

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Ringwood East Folk

EMERGING PERFORMERS

Tolka features four vibrant musicians and two energetic dancers who perform a mix of traditional Celtic and original tunes and songs, combined with impressive Irish dancing.

Miss Lizzy - Elizabeth McFarlane and Liam Hopkins from Miss Lizzy and The Night Owls play their spine tingling rhythm and blues music for today's audiences.

Dream Legacy are three young ladies with an abundance of instrumental and vocal talent to carry their sweet harmonies and original presentation.

TUESDAY 9th APRIL

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

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)

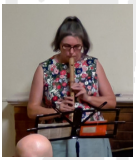
Supported by Spot Acts

MAY 14TH - RECITER'S NIGHT

Guest Artist Night, March 2013

Every promoter must rear the gig where The Fates conspire to test their resolve to continue in the business. Well, such was our March concert where not since the dreadful 'Night of the Difficult Flush' have we experienced such trying and embarrassing circumstances. As the day was a very warm one, the needs of the public to air condition themselves no doubt caused the power to fail, which meant limited lighting and no fans in the hall. Attendance was down somewhat and the hall fairly stuffy, but our main act, Chris Aronsten, being such a lovely gentleman, made light of it and our audience persevered and enjoyed a good concert nevertheless.

I was MC and introduced the first spot act, Chris Healy, who played 'Sally Gardens' and a medley of jigs and reels on his button box. Jan followed with a superb medley on recorder of tunes of Jacob van Eyck (died 1657). Alex then exercised the audience's imagination with a rather poignant poem about the fate of a crow, then sang the slave song 'Follow the Drinking Gourd'. 'Scarborough Fair and 'Donna Donna' were then presented by Frances, and to fill a few minutes 'Henry's Waltz' was my contribution.



Ringwood Folk likes to encourage and promote emerging talent, in fact the theme for next month's concert if Emerging Performers where we will feature three highly talented young and emerging performing groups that I know you will be impressed with. But this night we featured some of our own members who have tamed up to form a combo with the intention of performing at a St Patrick's Day concert later in the week. Don Gingrich, Maree, Bill, and Maggie presented a support act of Irish songs and tunes: 'Planxty Irwin' and the Irish Gaelic song 'Eamonn An Chnoic' (= Ned of the Hills) and the lovely song 'Fields of Athenry'. Bill followed with a spirited 'Whiskey in the Jar' then Don with 'Grace'. Maree sang Mary Black's beautiful 'Song for Ireland' before all four sang the 'The Parting Glass' a'cappella.

Tea and coffee was not a popular choice for supper on such a warm night. Just as well as there was no power to make it with, but foresight ensured we had plenty of iced water and cordial available.

Guest Artist Night, March 2013

Our guest performer was Chris Aronsten, a multi-instrumentalist from northern NSW who spends time each year travelling in Central Australia where he gets some of the inspiration for his music. Chris has played support with the likes of Maddy Prior, Bert Janch, Lunasa, Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick, Christy Moore, Seamus Begley, and Fairport Convention while on the touring circuit. He plays a number of instruments and in varying styles, and has also appeared at many of the major folk festivals in Australia and in the U.K. and in Ireland.

His opening tune was 'The Graveyard Waltz', and the audience was immediately impressed by the striking clarity of his Australian-made Mills guitar. The volume and clear tone of this instrument is amazing and hearing it played so expertly by Chris was a unique experience. 'Wildwood Flower' again on the guitar followed. Chris has an easy-going and effortless style and sang of the stars at night in the desert in 'Big Wide Stormy Sky. A medley was next, 'Christmas Eve Blues' and included 'Freight Train' in a nice country blues style. 'Windy and Warm' was also a moving country blues tune.

Chris has managed to expertly pair his Mills guitar with a well-worn but equally impressive sounding 92 year old mandolin, so moving from guitar to mandolin is an easy transition musically as both instruments have a very similar and remarkable clarity. Well, maybe it's the way he plays them! A song inspired after visiting John Bonham's grave followed, then an Appalachian song with foot tapping syncopated playing. 'The Blacksmith' was next and a lovely 6/8 song 'the Shadow of Skiddaw', inspired by the Lake District of England, closed this concert of great music.

At about 10.45 p.m. the lights came on, the fans started whirring the spot lights looked lovely, street lights flickered on, alas too late…. Hope to see you next month for a trio of superb Emerging Performers plus spot acts as usual. It's a 7.45 p.m. start.

- *by Don Fraser (photographs by Trevor Voake)*

The Dance Page

Diary Dates for April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1st Irish or Scottish	**2nd** English	**3rd** Irish or Colonials	**4th**	**5th**	**6th** VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
7th TSDAV Dance Workshop	**8th** Irish or Scottish	**9th** English	**10th** Irish or Colonials	**11th** Scottish	**12th**	**13th** Scottish
14th	**15th** Irish or Scottish	**16th** English	**17th** Irish or Colonials	**18th** Colonials	**19th**	**20th**
21st Welsh	**22nd** Irish or Scottish	**23rd** English	**24th** Irish or Colonials	**25th** Colonial Beginners or Scottish	**26th**	**27th**
28th Contra	**29th** Irish or Scottish	**30th** English				

Diary Dates for May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1st Irish or Colonials	**2nd** Colonial Beginners	**3rd**	**4th** VFMC Billabong Band
5th TSDAV Dance Workshop	**6th** Irish or Scottish	**7th** English	**8th** Irish or Colonials	**9th** Colonial Beginners or Scottish	**10th**	**11th** Scottish

The Dance Page

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
Colonial Beginners	Dancing 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
Scottish Monday	Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8 pm Contact: Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com
Scottish Thursday	Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thornton Road, 7-9pm Contact Di Gaylard 5964 3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au
Scottish Saturday	Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8pm. Contact Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com

FRANCES FOLK GATHERING

For some months now the VFMC Committee has been conferring with the Adelaide based committee who organise and run the Frances Folk Gathering with a view to offering assistance in the conducting of this annual event, since a reasonable number of Victorians usually make the trip over to South Australia to attend this great little festival.

After some discussion, the VFMC offered to present a number of workshops, sessions and dances. And so over the weekend of 22nd-24th February our people not only enjoyed what the festival had to offer but were actively involved in running a number of events which made quite an important contribution to the success of the 2013 Frances Gathering.

Some of our early arrivals helped clean up the hall ready for the coming events, and others ran workshops and sessions. But our major effort was in the area of promoting old time and heritage dancing. On Saturday the Victorian visitors ran a workshop to introduce people to some of the dances that were on the program for a traditional dance that evening. Then a traditional and old time dance was held on Saturday night, and was followed on the Sunday evening by another lively dance. The warm weather unfortunately reduced overall attendance at the festival and made physical activity such as dancing in the hall somewhat uncomfortable, so numbers at the Saturday night Traditional Dance were adversely affected by this. Nevertheless our people did a terrific job over the weekend and ran some great workshops and singing sessions.

- *by Don Fraser (photos by Stan Alexander)*

ANOTHER LETTER FROM JANE BULLOCK

We are now very much part of the Essex country dance scene. I was given an opportunity to call some dances at one of the local dances, and I was lucky enough to do three dances, two of which were of my own composing. All three went down very well and I have been asked for the instructions—feel chuffed!

We have now found another venue to dance and this one too is local. We went there for the first time last week and I hope to go each week as it was so much fun. They call it a Grand Ceilidh Club here and the dancing is to a different band each week and of course a different caller. The band were terrific; in between the dances they played constantly—Stephen was itching to join them as he knew so many of the tunes but alas, he had not taken his recorder so just had to sit and enjoy like everyone else. The caller had trouble with the microphone and was difficult to hear at times over the music which wasn't amplified as only a small venue. Like every other dance club, very friendly people and they welcomed us warmly.

We have been to another 'Playford Ball' and this time Stephen was all togged up in fancy dress (something he would rather not do!). The place was Cheltenham and the caller was Nicholas Broadbridge with his brother Aidan playing the violin and Brian Prentice on the grand piano. It was in a really old building with a very high ceiling with a gallery just under the roof. The caller kept us on our toes with nary a break until the supper break. As we were in a private building whose owners need to make the building pay for itself, we had to buy our food and drink—none allowed to be taken inside. We met up with friends of friends from the other two balls we have attended so had someone to talk to in the break.

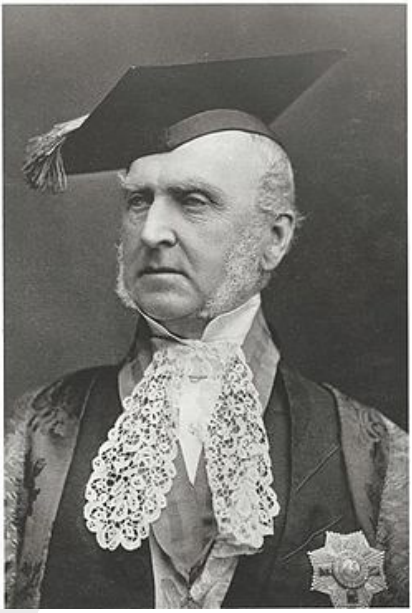
The next morning we attended a dance workshop in a local community hall with the same caller and band members from last night, the only difference being the piano player had an electronic piano instead of the Steinway this time. We were taught how to be better dancers, using up all the music with little tricks that looked just right (I am hoping to be able to remember them all so as to stun everyone with my expertise!). The pace was much slower and we went through each dance two or three times depending on how soon we got it perfect!

This last month has also seen us going to folk clubs that sing and play music as Stephen was running out of steam—I am going to learn that song 'Never Wed an Old Man'!

Until next time, keep your feet moving.

NED KELLY'S JUDGE—SIR REDMOND BARRY

Redmond Barry was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1813 and had five brothers and six sisters. He was educated at a military school in Kent, England, but returned to university in Ireland to study law.



He emigrated to Australia in 1837 and after a short stay in Sydney moved to Melbourne in 1839 where he became Victoria's first Solicitor-General and then in 1852 a Supreme Court judge. He became noted for his community work, especially education, and was instrumental in establishing The Royal Melbourne Hospital, The University of Melbourne and the State Library of Victoria.

Barry was the judge in the Eureka Stockade treason trials in the Supreme Court in 1855 in which all thirteen miners were acquitted.

In 1878 he presided over the case of Ned Kelly's mother (Ellen) and two men in aiding and abetting the attempted murder of a Victorian policeman. Then in 1880 he presided at the final trial of Ned Kelly, who was tried and convicted of murdering three other Victorian policemen. When he sentenced Ned Kelly to be hanged, Barry uttered the customary words, "May God have mercy on your soul" to which Kelly apparently replied, "I will go a little further than that, and say that I will see you there when I go". And only twelve days after Kelly's execution, Sir Redmond Barry died from what doctors called 'congestion of the lungs and a carbuncle in the neck'!!! (The latter was caused by his diabetes.)

As we all know, many songs have been written about Ned Kelly, e.g. 'Poor Ned', 'Farewell to Greta' & 'The Kellys, Byrne and Hart'. The State Library of Victoria has named a reading room after Redmond Barry and the University of Melbourne has named a whole building after him. Although primarily known as the judge who sentenced Ned Kelly to death, Sir Redmond Barry was extremely significant for many other things, including being the first lawyer to fight for aboriginal people's rights.

- by Maggie Somerville

BUSKING AT THE RINGWOOD EAST COMMUNITY MARKET

Once again in perfect weather, we of the Ringwood East Folk venue of the Victorian Folk Music Club took up our positions at 10.30 am on Saturday 2nd March alongside of the Ringwood East bush shelter at the monthly first—Saturday Market and played 'Botany Bay', 'Bound for South Australia' and 'Waltzing Matilda' to the passing parade.

Indeed, the parade was more responsive than in February. There were a couple of groups of children, about the age that we desired, and the 'Kanding Love Song' worked well with Chinese people. Furthermore, an athletic man demanded that we play 'Click go the Shears', whereupon he did some step-dancing as we obliged. He also led us by tapping on our mounted side drum. It's about time that we learned the national anthem and most popular song from each of a migrant's home nations. We are surely getting ourselves known and hopefully respected thereby even if one of us wears a stupid clown costume. But there is a long way to go before we attract young children into folk dancing, music and singing.

My thanks go to my colleagues: Stan Alexander, Don Gingrich and Cameron Hibbs. For other Club members, please try us out at 10.15 am next time on Saturday 6th April. This is now demanding stuff. Just leave your music dots behind and play along. In a few minutes you'll sound expert because you know it all even if you think that you don't. And the company is superb! Don's powerful singing voice attracts them from miles away. Moreover, you'll probably earn your petrol money.

Oh, and we could use some good photographers to show us in the best light for neighbourhood publicity! Perhaps a few posters around the site would help. We are of course working up to the best Wattle Day Festival ever or Saturday 7th September……

- 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 the word BUSHRANGER originally referred to runaway convicts or bush rangers in the early years of the British settlement of Australia who had the survival skills necessary to use the Australian bush as a refuge to hide from the authorities? The term then evolved to refer to those who took to "robbery under arms" in the bush.

ANSWERS TO OUR FOLKIE QUIZ (LAST MONTH):

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

2) In which FOUR parts of the world is St Patrick's Day actually a public holiday? **The Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Montserrat**

3) What century was St Patrick born in? **4th century AD**

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

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

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.

The Foggy Dew (verse 3)

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: .....