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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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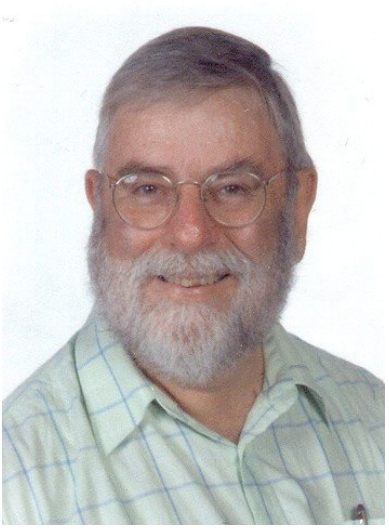
PETER ELLIS—VALE



V.F.M.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 21ST JUNE AT 2.30 PM, AT RINGWOOD EAST COMMUNITY HALL, KNAITH RD PARK (MELWAYS 50 B 8)

Membership fees fall due at end of June so can be paid at the A.G.M.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JULY NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY, 19TH JUNE 2015 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, 7.30—10.15 pm, East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8). Supportive round-robin sessions where all are welcome for singing, reciting, performing, workshops etc. $5. Contact Don (0407-737-202)/ www.vfmc.org.au

Guest Performer Concert

On the second Tuesday of the month (instead of the weekly session) a concert is held featuring top acoustic performers. Ringwood East Community Hall. Concerts start with open stage acts at 8pm, finishing 10.15pm. $12. $10 conces and members, kids no charge. Contact 0407 737 202 / www.vfmc.org.au

By-Ear Sessions

Join us to learn how to play by following someone on:

- first Thursday, 8.00pm (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 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month except January 8-11pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. A different band is featured each month and all ages are welcome. $12, $10 concession and members, kids no charge.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1st June Fiddles	**2nd** Club Session	**3rd**	4th By-ear Session	**5th**	**6th** VFMC Dance Bones & Bodhran BB
7th	**8th** Fiddles	**9th** Club Session	**10th**	**11th**	**12th**	**13th**
14th	**15th** Fiddles	**16th** Guest Night	**17th**	**18th**	**19th**	**20th**
21st	**22nd** Fiddles	**23rd** Club Session	**24th**	**25th**	**26th**	**27th**
28th	**29th** Fiddles	**30th** Club Session	**1st July**	**2nd** By-ear Session	**3rd**	**4th** VFMC Dance Jolly Jumbucks
5th	**6th** Fiddles	**7th** Club Session	**8th**	**9th**	**10th**	**11th** Scottish

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

JUGULARITY

TUESDAY 9th JUNE

Open stage from 8:00pm
$12 admission; $10 members and concession; children free

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve, Melway 50 B8

Supported by Spot Acts

For info 0407.737.202 or www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

JULY 14th - Nick Anderson

Guest Artist Night, May 2015

A cold night did not prevent a packed house this night so the fire was lit and a wonderful concert ensued with Maggie Somerville as the very capable MC, who began the evening with an a cappella rendition of Andy's Gone with Cattle.

The Soopa Doopa Bush Band is Brian, John, Pat, Rob, Colin, Robyn and Andrew who come from the surrounding hills area, and they sang 10,000 miles Away, Belfast Mill and the Slim Dusty song G'day G'day.

Good to see Club stalwart Chris Healy on deck after recent health issues. Chris played a medley of tunes including Maggie, then one of his poems Terror Of The Text assisted by Alex.

The Dying Stockman was performed by Greg Woodruff with the audience joining in on the chorus, then a John Shaw Neilsen poem A Bush Scene put to a very pretty tune of his own composing.

Visitor Ruth followed this with another poem, a social commentary on life today.

With Maree on harp and Dominic on guitar a couple of fine folk songs followed, The Spinning Wheel and The Garton Mother's Lullaby.

Thanks, spot acts, for your fine contribution to the concert.

Guest Artist Night, May 2015

The guest act this night was Melbourne based male a cappella group **Men In Suits** who have hit on the novel idea of exposing to audiences what lies at the core of Mr Average. His trials, tribulations, doubts, desires, darker thoughts and the occasional outbursts of mirth when circumstances permit. All with a dour, solemn, rather serious style offset by the hilarity of the content of their songs. They are a very funny group of well presented chaps.

Let Me Through started the audience on this look into the soul of a bloke in a suit. Just Because, one day I will break free, was next. Then followed thoughts on a man and his things and how does he manage them. At the bottom of his consciousness is a quiet respect for the very foundations that much of urban infrastructure sits upon, namely concrete. Yes, it's been that way since the Romans built the Colosseum.

Metro Regrets was a sober observation of the frustrations a man faces as he tries to get to his place of work on public transport. Mad World was next, where the dreams in which I'm dying are the best I ever had. If a bloke does survive the irregularities of The Met and gets to work his troubles may not necessarily be over, if in his rush to catch the train he forgot his tie. The Loaned Tie describes the consequences of leaving home without this particularly male device.

Then should he find room in his heart for a love song he may end up singing The Beatles song And I Love Her. And when the toils of the world are lifted from his shoulders, well, Men, They Just Wanna Have Fun. An impressive song in the style of the Georgian male choir concerned the meal time song traditions filling the hall with marvelous male harmonies. This was followed by Meet Me In The Middle Of The Air, a lovely modern take on the 23rd psalm. The audience wanted an encore and Men In Suits revealed another aspect we males may suffer from when deprived in childhood of an imaginary friend. Best described with The Teddy Bears Picnic.

What a fabulous concert! And our next on 9th June will be equally interesting with those icons of hilarity and world music, Jugularity. Thanks to all who appeared as spot acts, and to those who helped bring this concert into being. See you next month.

Review Don Fraser, photos Trevor Voake

The Dance Page

Diary dates for June:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1st Irish	**2nd** English	**3rd** Irish or Colonials	**4th**	**5th**	**6th** VFMC Dance The Bones & Bodhran Bush Band
7th	**8th** Irish or Scottish	**9th** English	**10th** Irish or Colonials	**11th** Scottish	**12th**	**13th** Scottish
14th Claddagh	**15th** Irish or Scottish	**16th** English	**17th** Irish or Colonials	**18th** Colonial	**19th**	**20th**
21st Welsh	**22nd** Irish or Scottish	**23rd** English	**24th** Irish or Colonials	**25th**	**26th**	**27th** Colonials Ball Blackberry Jam
28th Claddagh Contra	**29th** Irish or Scottish	**30th** Special English night				

Diary dates for July:

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

The Dance Page

Claddagh	Irish set dancing at St Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. 2-5pm. Contact Rod: 9497-1793
VFMC Colonial	Dance at Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, 8-11 pm. Contact Jane: 9762-1389
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.
Special English night with Delia's Friends at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 7.45—10.30pm (on 30th June).	
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: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Coral: 9885-6109
Colonial Beginners	Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Contact Coral: 9885-6109
Welsh Dancing	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 Mon. & Sat.	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 Rd. 7-9pm. Contact Di Gaylard: 5963-3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au

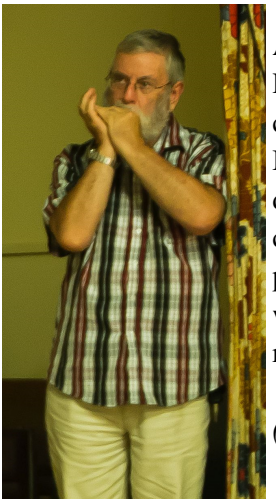
MELBOURNE COLONIAL DANCERS—THE SOUND OF MUSIC BALL WITH BLACKBERRY JAM , ON 27TH JUNE AT 8 PM AT PRESTON TOWN HALL, CNR HIGH & GOWER STREETS, PRESTON (Contact Marta 0400 146 166)

VALE -
Peter Nicolaus Ellis OAM (1946 - 2015)

The committee of the Victorian Folk Music Club are shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Peter Ellis just three weeks after his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Peter was a national treasure with his encyclopaedic knowledge of Australian social dance, its music and historical context.

Fortunately, Peter was a prolific author of books and music recordings, many of which were published by the VFMC, and most of which are still in print. The list includes the 3-volume "Collector's Choice", "Music Makes Me Smile" (edition 1, 1998 and expanded edition 2, 2015) both launched at the Nariel Creek Folk Festival, "The Waltz, the Polka and all Kinds of Dance Music", "200 Dancing Years" (with Shirley Andrews as part of the bicentenary celebrations), "Quadrille Mania" (3 booklet and 6 CD set), "The Merry Country Dance", "Take Me Back To Bendigo". Alas, even with this prolific output, we will miss Peter's seemingly endless knowledge.



Awarded honorary Life Membership of the VFMC in 1986, Peter contributed to the club's activities as an MC, dance instructor, dance musician, conducted workshops on playing for dances, and when possible joined our regular music sessions.

(Photos: Trevor Voake)

Peter also founded the Bush Dance & Music Club of Bendigo, and has been primary MC and dance caller at the Nariel Creek Festival for many years. He played with the Wedderburn Oldtimers, was leader of the Emu Creek Bush Band, played with the Nariel Band and more recently played with the Gay Charmers. Primarily playing concertina and button accordion, Peter also played the whistle, and on occasion was seen to play the fiddle, (his fiddle, had been bequeathed to him by the late "Corry" (Mrs Agnes Corry)). Peter was greatly in demand at festivals (including the National) and dance events across Victoria and interstate. In all these roles he will be sorely missed.

The VFMC web site holds several of Peter's articles on the history of social dance and music in Australia, most of which have also been published in Trad & Now. The National Library of Australia holds an extensive collection of Peter's collected material.

It's hard to imagine the Nariel dances or the Dinki Di Ball without Peter. Without doubt Peter was one of the most cheerful dance musicians ever - always in control and unflappable. On the dance floor a true gentleman. At all times generous with his skills and knowledge. Thanks Peter, you will be sorely missed.

Steve Bullock for the VFMC Committee, with thanks to all those who helped provide details.

Photo attached: Peter Ellis playing for dancers at the National Folk Festival 2015:-

(Photograph by: Steve Bullock)

MUSICAL SOCIAL EVENING FOR CHILDREN COMING UP ON FRIDAY 12TH JUNE

It is quite some time since we've had children in bulk milling around in our folk environment, but hopefully that will change when on Friday, 12 June, 2105 at 7 pm an expected twelve to twenty primary school fiddlers take to the stage in our Community Hall to play for their parents, and us, ourselves, to dance and sing; see http://www.vfmc.org.au/FiresideFiddlers/IndexChildren.html.

At 6:30 pm I would like some of us to play walking-in folk music on the porch outside if the weather is clement, otherwise in the foyer of the Hall itself. At 7 pm the formal singing and dancing begins with:

Click Go The Shears (song),, Brown Jug Polka (dance), Circassian Circle (dance), In South Australia I Was Born (song), Galopede (dance), Lime Juice Tub (song) Ninepins Quadrille (dance), Ryebuck Shearer (song).

The children will be conducted by their own music teachers, Holly and Rosie, who will also call the dances. Their own printed music may be downloaded from the above VFMC website. This music is arranged by the co-ordinating music teacher, Dindy Vaughan, who assisted us so well in our youth work of 2004.

At 8:00 pm there will be session playing with our own musicians including the Foxhunter's Jig and Soldier's Joy.

At 8:30 we serve supper so please engage the three visiting school music teachers in conversation and open up the lines of communication

If the function is successful there will be follow up at our Wattle Day Festival on Saturday 5th September and again during school holidays at the Montrose Town Centre in 2016. Folk music is on the up and up.

Please attend, dance and sing and make this function a return to the good old days with lots of kids around.

- Harry Gardner, President

VALE - KEN GALLATLY

We mourn the passing of Ken (Kenneth Malcolm) Gellatly (1931 - 2015), friend, club member and one time Hon. Treasurer of the VFMC. Ken is survived by his wife Marita, their four sons and families.

Ken came to the folk movement after the VFMC Billabong Band played for a dance at a social event where Ken was an organiser. Ken had been a keen sportsman, playing both footy, cricket and table tennis. He and Marita caught the folk dance bug and joined both the VFMC and the TSDAV, giving up their Tuesday table tennis evenings to help with the dance component of our 4th Tuesday music nights.

After the couple joined the VFMC Committee, Ken became Treasurer. As a retired banker, he was the last of the old school treasurers, carefully maintaining a hand written ledger, and always ready with a summary at each committee meeting. Ken was an active member of the club from 1988 to 2009 when declining health forced him to slow down.

Always cheerful, and always ready to lend a hand, Ken will be greatly missed.

- *Steve Bullock*

WOOLSHED BALL REPORT - 23rd MAY 2015

The Ball got off to a shaky start as we arrived at the hall and it was in darkness, we were a tad early so hung around. As the minutes passed we tried telephoning the caretaker and no reply so we assumed she was on her way. More minutes passed and at last a Martial Arts teacher arrived to look over who was hiring the hall on a Saturday night as his equipment was being damaged. Thankfully we passed muster and he let us in with his key.

At once there was a hive of activity as we moved tables and chairs and set them up as we wanted them, hung up the decorations (I do hope dancers, you noticed them and appreciated them draped artistically as they were? - these were drawn by Bette Davis daughter many decades ago and they still look good as new). Stephen and Don G. were busy on stage with the sound and I got busy in the kitchen putting the urn on for a nice cuppa.

At last it was 8 pm and the ball got underway. It was a really good night as the band sounded good not only due to their skills as musicians but also thanks to Sue Harriage who turned up the right knobs at the right time. The dancers turned up in all their finery and were all set for a good night out and we had it. There was laughter and smiles all evening, my favourite dance was played 10 times so that I got 2 goes at it which made my evening, thank you Robin for allowing it thus!

Thanks go to the VFMC committee, Gail on the door for being so obliging as to take your money, Robin for being our M.C., Pauline, Kathy, Michael and myself for doing the calling so well that all the dancers had fun, the Billabong Band for playing so well, Sue for the sound and everyone who helped before the ball to set up the hall and afterwards putting it back as it was.

- *report by Jane Bullock; photos by Stephen Whiteside*

FOLK QUIZ

1) What country was folk musician/songwriter Stan Rogers born in? 2) What is a major theme in his songs? 3) What are two Stan Rogers songs that Melbourne-based Enda Kenny has recorded and often sung?

Answers to last quiz: 1) 1967 2) At Easter in Canberra. 3) Daniel Ho (U.S.A.), Ted Egan, Shane Howard, Flying Emus, Nuala Kennedy Band, Martin Pearson

CONCERT PARTY REPORT (BILLABONG BAND)

Recent Events:

On May 23rd the Billabong band played for the Woolshed Ball which was held at St David's Uniting Church Hall, Canterbury. What a great night it turned out to be. All that practice paid off. It was great watching the dancers having so much fun swinging and swirling around the room. Thank you to Sue for doing such a great job on the sound system - quite a challenge to balance 15 instruments. Thanks to band members Don Gingrich, Harry, Stan Ciuchak, Stan Alexander, Sophie, Maggie, Steve, Frances, Trevor, Joan, Maree, Tinka, Ray and Bill. A big thank you to Jane who turned up at every practice to give us the right tempos from a dancer's perspective. A great atmosphere prevailed around the hall. Robin did a great job as MC. Thank you to Kathy, Pauline and Jane who also called dances.

Upcoming events:

June 13th – Concert at Cherry Tree Retirement Residence, Maroondah Highway Croydon.

August 22nd – Concert at East Ringwood for some Monkami residents (Harry and Barry Show).

- Maree 9733-0802 (Concert party Convener)

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/

Comholtas (Collingwood)

Joan and Ray Mundy run a session on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, starts 7.30pm. Supper. Maree: 9471-0690

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)
Held at Ballarat South Community Hub
11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol
Contacts for information: Caron: 5331-9776
Graeme: 5345-5551

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

P.O. Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135

VFMC Website

http://www.vfmc.org.au

CONTACTS

Secretary

Don Gingrich
Telephone: 9879 8761
Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club

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

Family Bush Dance

Jane Bullock 9762 1389
Telephone 9733 0802j
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 with cheque to:

VFMC Secretary,
P.O. Box 215,
Ringwood East, Victoria 3135

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: .....