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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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BEHIND THE SCENES……..

(photo by Stephen Whiteside)

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE AT THE END OF JUNE - SO PLEASE PAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER AS WELL AS TO ACCESS A RANGE OF OTHER VFMC ACTIVITIES ETC…..

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY, 17TH JULY 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 July	**2nd** By-ear Session	**3rd**	**4th** VFMC Dance Jolly Jumbucks
5th	**6th** Fiddles	**7th** Club Session	**8th**	**9th**	**10th**	**11th**
12th	**13th** Fiddles	**14th** Guest Night	**15th**	**16th**	**17th**	**18th**
19th	**20th** Fiddles	**21st** Club Session	**22nd**	**23rd**	**24th**	**25th**
26th	**27th** Fiddles	**28th** Club Session	**29th**	**30th**	**1st August**	**2nd** VFMC Dance Melbourne Colonial Band
3rd	**4th** Fiddles	**5th** Club Session	**6th**	**7th** **By-ear Session**	**8th**	**9th**

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

NICK ANDERSON

TUESDAY 14th JULY

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

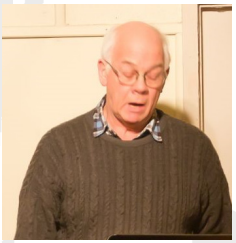
Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

11th AUGUST - Jan Wositzky, Shearers Tally support

Guest Artist Night, June 2015

Our friends at the community radio stations must be doing a stirling job at promoting Ringwood Folk because the June concert was filled to capacity, embarrassingly so in fact. Of course the fabulous Jugularity would have had much to do this situation.

Anyway Frances was MC to a very full house and opened the concert with a verse Compare The Hair, and sang The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face, and The Skye Boat Song. Mick Kearon presented three good solid songs: Cold In The Doorway Tonight, A Tollpuddle Man, and Shoalhaven Man. Brian followed with two WW1 era songs Long Long Trail and Pack Up Your Troubles.



Wal Tiederman's gentle song Funny Way Of Laughing and a tale of a brickie's reasons for non appearance at work were well received. Alex recited Autumn, a parallel on the season and life in general, then a warning tale about crossing paths with an owl, and the song Tell My Ma. Next was The Three D's (Dominic, Dieter and Don) who presented two polkas, Girl With The Blue Dress On and Wooden Heart, and the fine song Working Man. The Road To Gundagai was then sung by Maree and accompanied by Dominic on guitar.

Guest Artist Night, June 2015

Our feature act this night was one of Melbourne's long established cabaret bands Jugularity. For 27 years these guys have been charming audiences with their wacky tongue-in-cheek interpretations of a wide range of music genres, folk, blues, gypsy, cajun, world music, klezmer, even a bit of jug band music. They opened their bracket with a song called Indecision, then an interesting exercise as Bruce offered Free Advice to his son. A novel theory that Waltzing Matilda was derived from a French love song didn't really convince too many of their theory, and One Meat Ball was a great example of Peter's skills at working the audience.

Take A Tour To The Werribee Sewer enlightened all as to the final journey of our number two's. An instrumental medley was next, Bobcat Shuffle and Dancing Bear, and Discourse Participles was a funny take on well... like... you know... whatever... The Jug Rap was another crazy piece of Peter Validavaloo working the audience so skillfully, he is an expert at it. A Latin flavoured Song For Lovers and had the audience on the edge of their seats as Peter did his stuff again. The audience insisted on an encore and they closed with a take on Teenage Dirtbag called Ageing Folkie.

What a terrific night of mayhem and great entertainment! The Concert Committee appreciates all who contribute to the success of these nights, the spot acts for getting up and giving it a go, the audience and friends who are keeping the live music scene healthy, Club members for assisting, and of course the very talented main acts we engage each month. Nick Anderson will be the next guest artist on 14th July, a dynamic young local performer. Hope to see you then.

Review Don Fraser, photos Trevor Voake

The Dance Page

Diary dates for July:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1st Irish or Colonials	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th** VFMC Dance Jolly Jumbucks
5th TSDAV	**6th** Irish	**7th** English	**8th** Irish or Colonials	**9th** Scottish	**10th**	**11th** Scottish
12th Claddagh	**13th** Irish or Scottish	**14th** English	**15th** Irish or Colonials	**16th** Colonial	**17th**	**18th**
19th Welsh	**20th** Irish or Scottish	**21st** English	**22nd** Irish or Colonials	**23rd**	**24th**	**25th**
26th Contra	**27th** Irish or Scottish	**28th** English	**29th** Irish or Colonials	**30th**	**31st**	

Diary dates for August:

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

The Dance Page

Claddagh	Irish set dancing at St Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. 2-5pm. Contact Rod: 9497-1793
VFMC Dance	Colonial dancing 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.
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
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
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

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PLEASE NOTE: THE OCTOBER WOOLSHED BALL WILL BE HELD AS A TRIBUTE TO PETER ELLIS. TO THIS END PLEASE CALL JANE BULLOCK ON 9762-1389 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE AS EITHER A MUSICIAN OR A CALLER.

THE CLUB WEBSITE - A PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATION

The purpose of this Aspiration is to urge readers to search our Club website frequently because it not only promotes forthcoming events, but also contains a growing compilation of the Australian Heritage in folk dance, music, and song. It is our effort to help to fulfil the aims of the Club as set out in our Constitution (Section 2, http://www.vfmc.org.au/FiresideFiddlers/VFMCConstitution.pdf), "(a) to preserve, research and popularise our Australian Folklore Heritage of traditional songs, music, poetry, prose and dance …". To date the compilation is mainly of dance history and music with much to come in the other sections.

When I first attended Club functions in the 1970s we sang from Singabout, published by the Bush Music Club, Sydney, together with our own Joy Durst Memorial Collection, 1970. However our own VFMC journal, Australian Tradition, launched 1964, was also publishing Australian-collected material concurrently. When I began to play for the VFMC band, Theyortabe, in 1982 the VFMC was moving from Music For Australian Folk Dancing, 1979, by Max Klubal to Begged Borrowed And Stolen (BBS), also 1979, by Chris O'Connor and Suzette Watkins. Indeed it's a good question why the change? Max's book not only has a traditional Celtic collection of tunes, but also it has clear dance descriptions. However Chris and Suzette's BBS has big music notes and three of four players could easily fit around and still read clearly.

Today 'Joy Durst' and BBS, respectively, are still reverently used at each VFMC session as the authentic Australian Heritage of song and dance music. Actually the credentials for the 'Joy Durst' compilation of one hundred and thirteen songs are very strong in the sense that Joy herself came from the Bush Music Club, Sydney, which was centred about the pioneering collecting of John Meredith. However the credentials of the ninety-eight tunes in BBS, though important, are not so strong because many of the tunes were introduced from Ireland following the folk music revival of the 1950s. In contrast collectors elsewhere have now identified probably a thousand tunes throughout Australia that were played for dances since British settlement in 1788 to the 1950s. To rectify this disparity between BBS and the older tradition some seven hundred and forty of the older collected tunes are printed on our VFMC website at http://www.vfmc.org.au/FiresideFiddlers/index.html TOGETHER WITH RECORDINGS OF EACH so that readers can hear them.

Listening is vital. As the reader scrolls down the VFMC webpage, the first section entitled Australian-Collected Tunes, has recordings that are mostly computer generated, usually with several recordings at different speeds to assist learning. Such recordings, of course, have their limitations because an exact reproduction of printed notes fails to display the lilt that is required for dancing, let alone aural enjoyment. One needs to play for the dances themselves to get the appropriate feeling of the tunes. Fortunately in the larger second section, Settlers Tunes, most tunes are superbly played by fiddler, Greg O'Leary.

Scrolling further down reveals dance sets, many also with computer-generated recordings, that have been used in recent VFMC gigs. Again further down, new sections display specialised tunes from other traditions and ukulele workshop material.

Examination of the lists in the various sections will show that whilst a significant proportion was imported from overseas the names of most are now displaying Australian composition or modification. But one song stands supreme amongst the Australian-Collected tunes, namely the beautiful Jabbin Jabbin, "All the birds are singing rise!" that was popularised by the late indigenous opera singer, Harold Blair, AM, from Cherbourg Aboriginal Reserve, Murgon, Queensland.

However, the music in the Fireside Fiddlers web section is by no means the end of the Australian-Collections story. In the web section, http://www.vfmc.org.au/FiresideFiddlers/president.html, our Life Member, Peter Ellis, has described Australian Social Dancing And Its origins in uncompromising detail together with important photographs and wonderfully humorous pictures. To these will be added dance descriptions and instructions.

So when VFMC members are now asked, sometimes loftily, "What is this Australian Folk Heritage?" the answer is "http://www.vfmc.org.au/index.php."

- Harry Gardner, President ; photo by Trevor Voake

CHILDREN'S FOLK MUSIC SOCIAL EVENING

On Friday 12 June at 7 pm twenty child violinists, violists and 'cellists and their parents made their way past our welcoming buskers into our Community Hall and under the leadership of their three music teachers, Dindy Vaughan, Holly Cadwell and Rosie Burns, played for us to sing and to dance.

The children's two brackets comprised:

- Brown Jug Polka dance – own tune, Rakes of Mallow
- In South Australia I Was Born - song
- Circassian Circle dance - Tripping Up Stairs, Saddle The Pony
- Click Go The Shears - song, and
- Galopede dance - Herb Gimbert's First Set tune, Pat Horgan's No. 2 tune
- Lime Juice Tub - Song
- Ninepins Quadrille - Garry Owen, Rakes of Kildare
- Ryebuck Shearer - Song.

Around 8:15 pm several Club members played two schottisches, Mudgee Schottische and Australian Jim, and also led singing with the Gum Tree Canoe and Botany Bay.

Whilst supper was being served three of the children joined us in an informal session in the corner of the Hall playing nursery songs.

It's eleven years since we had an active children's group in the Club. For a season in 2004 the master folk fiddler, Greg O'Leary, taught a group from two local schools weekly in our Hall. Playing was by -ear. Two music teachers, Dindy Vaughan of Kalinda Primary School and Janine Lancaster of Ringwood Secondary College kindly encouraged most of the participants. Five are still with us: Jennifer Cheong and Cameron Hibbs, regularly play with our Monday evening Fireside Fiddlers and each has travelled overseas playing their instruments. Cameron is currently a member of the famous band, Tolka, which spent five months in 2014 based in Belfast, Ireland.

Another fiddler, Helen Jonah, is married with two children living in Wales, but she and her family joined us in January this year and are planning to migrate back here later in the year. The remaining two players from 2004 join us when in the area, but one is an engineer in Darwin and the other a psychology student in Melbourne.

Hence we are expecting great things from the present renewed activity. This year there are plans for our Wattle Day Festival on Saturday, 5 September, and in 2016 the Club hopes to be involved in the Yarra Ranges Fine Music Program, Winter 2016, at the Montrose Town Centre.

- *Harry Gardner; photos Trevor Voake*

VALE - MAUREEN SIMPSON

We mourn the passing of Maureen Simpson, long time friend of the VFMC and participant in the Nariel Folk Festival, who has died of complications following an operation.

In earlier years, Maureen was a regular attendee at our Woolshed Balls, and played piano with the Nariel Band with husband Neville. She leaves a dynasty of musicians in her children: Brenda, Ian and Ray, to whom we express our condolences.

- *Steve Bullock*

Regency dancers:-

REGENCY CELEBRATION OF DANCE

This year 2015 not only celebrates 100 years after WWI started but also it is 200 years after the Battle of Waterloo and in the calendars of dancers this is a very important date as the Duchess of Richmond held a Ball on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo. The date 15th of June 1815.

In the English dance classes George is trying out not only the dances likely to have been danced around that time but also the steps insofar as he can find out what they are. To date we have tried out Mozart's Cotillion, The Duchess of Devonshire's Reel, The Equestrian, Madame Bonaparte's Waltz (this one requires good dancing so as to go slow enough to use the music but not too slow that one is then late for the next step) and just recently we had a go at The Strasbourgeoise Cotillion.

There will be no ball here as in Australia this event was not so important as living and surviving in such harsh conditions compared to Ireland and Britain where the majority of the settlers, convicts and soldiers came from. However, George is having a special English dance at the end of June and some of the Regency dances will be given an airing.

A couple of our VFMC members are currently over in England getting ready to attend balls in the UK celebrating this historic event: Kathy Cox and Coral Eden.

- *Jane Bullock*

FOLK QUIZ

1) Who wrote the anti-war song 'I Was Only Nineteen'? 2) What year was this song written? 3) How high did it reach in the singles charts?

Answers to last quiz: 1) Canada 2) The sea / water 3) 'Wild Squall' and 'The Mary Ellen Carter'

CONCERT PARTY REPORT (BILLABONG BAND)

Recent Events:

Concert at Cherry Tree Retirement Residence Maroondah Highway Croydon was held on the 13th June. A great afternoon of good entertainment and fun was had by all the Billabong band participants and audience. Songs sung throughout the afternoon were Waltzing Matilda, Botany Bay, Springtime it brings on the Shearing, Along the road to Gundagai, I am Australian, Wild rover, Wild Colonial Boy, Dying Stockman, Catalpa, Click Goes the Shears, Old Bullock Dray, Drover's Dream and also an old time bracket of Daisy, Rosie O'Grady, Goodnight Irene and If you knew Susie. A Burl Ives song (Little bitty Tear) was sung by Wal and Ken told three funny yarns. An original song that Maggie wrote about Waratah Bay went down very well with the audience. Lavender Blue was played on the harp by Maree following a request for a harp tune. The audience really enjoyed and participated in the singing. They also loved to dance and with Jane's guidance did the Pride of Erin, Barn Dance and the Hokey Pokey. The afternoon concluded with Auld Lang Syne and afternoon tea for those who could stay. Thanks to all the Billabong band participants - Don Gingrich, Trev and Margie Voake, Maree Buttler, Maggie Somerville, Stan Ciuchak, Ken Mc Gregor, Wal Tiedemann, Frances Lester and Jane Bullock . A big thank you to Margot Hitchcock (a resident at the Village) for organizing this musical afternoon. Also thanks to Henny (another VFMC member) who lives at the village and brought her violin along and joined us on all the tunes. It was a very happy and friendly afternoon. They have already offered an invitation for us to come back again.

Upcoming events:

Saturday August 22nd – Concert for Monkami residents.(Harry & Barry Show)

Saturday August 30th 12md – 1pm – Hurstbridge Wattle Day Festival

Sunday November 8th – Maroondah Festival - *Maree Buttler (CP Convenor)*

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/

Comhaltas (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

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

Greg Woodruff
Telephone: 0418406442
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: .....