Established 1959

April 2016

Australian TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012 *Reg No A2511Y*

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

In This Issue ...

Item	Page
Club Events	2
Next Guest Night	3
Guest Artist Review	4
Dance Pages	6
Vale: Chris Healy	8
For Sale / Dance photos	12
Woolshed Ball (28/5/16)	13
Quiz / Concert Party	14
Club Information	15

VALE: CHIS HEALY

See inside pages 8-12

NOTE: Shearer's Tally Bush Band are having their next Bush Dance on Saturday 14th May, but if you miss that one you have another chance on Saturday 20th August. Mark them in your diaries now.

Bookings: To book a table, please call Maria on 9727-2423

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAY NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY, 22ND APRIL, 2016 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 playing, 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. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st April	**2nd** VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
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**

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve, Melway 50 B8

Supported by Spot Acts

For info 0411.750.462 or www.vfmc.org.au

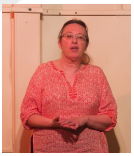
Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

10th May - Shane Howard

Guest Artist Night, March 2016

Our MC for this evening was Maree. First spot act for the evening was the trio Super Dooper Bush Band who sang the ever popular Belfast Mill, followed by the Leaving of Liverpool.

Then Brian, visiting from the UK, entertained with two songs, one about Mason and Dixon- Sailing to Philadelphia by Mark Knopfler, and the other about waiting until yesterday is here.



Ann sang unaccompanied—firstly a traditional Scottish air, then a self-written song inspired by her work as a nurse caring for people suffering from post-traumatic-stress, The Earth Bleeds Poppies.

Julia and Josephine performed a delightful rendition of Song Bird, written by Christine McVie of Fleetwood Mac. Their lovely harmonies blended beautifully with the guitar accompaniment. Their second song was Because I Knew you I Changed for the Better.

In honour of International Women's Day, Frances recited a contemporary poem, Little Red Hen. She then encouraged the audience to join her in an rousing rendition of There's a Hole in the Bucket with male and female voices taking alternate parts; everyone joined in enthusiastically.

Then Alex, one of our resident poets, read a list poem: What I Remember, Memories from his youth: The baker's cart, the ice man, black and white television, TAA, Skipping Girl Vinegar, gumball machines, musk sticks, six o'clock closing…

Francesca sang in French the song Pigalle. This historic area in Paris is a well-known tourist spot, red light district and the home of the famous Moulin Rouge. Then Don, Frances and Maree joined her to sing The Kookaburra Laughs with participation from the audience.

Our eighth and final spot for the evening was presented by Felix Meagher. Playing electric piano he sang Ted Egan's Take me back to Broome Today. Once again the audience joined in singing the chorus.

Guest Artist Night, March 2016

The Main Act for March was Tidal Moon. Barbara Jeffery and Jose Garcia perform individually and have been performing together for around two years as Tidal Moon. They combine a hybrid of Celtic/ Paraguyan styles. Barbara's harp and soaring soprano vocals combine with the timbre of Jose's voice and guitar to present a beautiful blend of traditional, original and contemporary music. Other instruments featured include the harmonica, flute and bodhran. This evening the pair was accompanied by Dave on the base.

Barbara and Jose began their performance began with Amazing Grace, followed by Jose's song about Change. Then followed a song written by Barbara - Wild Mountain. Their versatility impressed with a song in Spanish, The Colours of the World are Wonderful. Another contemplating the mistakes we all have made singing about sixteen steps.

Jose sang Run Boy Run playing harmonica and guitar while Barbara provided backing with the flute.

There followed some more well-known songs. The beautifully harmonious Shenandoah was followed by the rollicking Irish folk song Whiskey in the Jar with enthusiastic input from the audience. Then at a quieter pace the Canadian songwriter Leonard Cohen's classic 'Hallellujah'.

Then once again Barbara's classic voice filled the room with a vibrant performance of the popular Italian ballad - Con Te Partiro (Time to Say Goodbye.) The appreciative audience called for an encore and was rewarded with an original song which said: Whisper to me, let me hear your thoughts.

Barbara, Jose and Dave presented a wonderful hour of entertainment for our audience and we hope that they grace our stage again some time soon.

Guests next month: Hannah Martin and Phillip Henry.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the evening a success.

- *Review: Bette Martin; photos: Trevor Voake*

The Dance Page

Diary dates for March:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1st	**2nd** VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
3rd TSDAV	**4th** Irish	**5th** English	**6th** Irish or Colonials	**7th**	**8th**	**9th** Scottish Anniversary Grand Ball
10th Claddagh Contra - Malvern	**11th** Irish or Scottish	**12th** English	**13th** Irish or Colonials	**14th** Scottish	**15th**	**16th** Bendigo East Hop
17th Welsh	**18th** Irish or Scottish	**19th** English	**20th** Irish or Colonials	**21st** Colonial Bush Dance	**22nd**	**23rd**
24th Claddagh & Contra - Northcote	**25th** Irish or Scottish	**26th** English	**27th** Irish or Colonials	**28th** Colonial Beginners	**29th**	**30th**
Diary Dates for early May:						
1st TSDAV	**2nd** Irish or Scottish	**3rd** English	**4th** Irish or Colonials	**5th**	**6th**	**7th** VFMC Dance Comhaltas
8th	**9th** Irish or Scottish	**10th** English	**11th** Irish or Colonials	**12th** Scottish	**13th**	**14th** Scottish

The Dance Page

COLONIALS SPECIAL : Old Country Dance with Fiddle Pie.
$15.00. Coral: 9885-6109

Claddagh	Irish set dancing at St Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. 2-5pm. Contact: Rod 9497-1793
VFMC Colonial Dance	at Ringwood East Elderly 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. Contact: Coral 9885-6109
Colonial Beginners	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
Contra Dance	Malvern. Contact: George 9890-5650 / Gary 9481-3386
Scottish Anniversary Grand Ball	Hawthorn Arts Centre Ballroom, 360 Burwood Rd, Hawrhorn. Contact: deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com
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
Bendigo East Hop	Bendigo East Prog. Hall, Lansell St. 8pm. Contact: dpearse@iinet.net.au

VALE: CHRIS HEALY

We have all been saddened to learn that Chris Healy, a VFMC club member for 25-30 years, has just passed away (in mid Marrch).

Chris was born in County Galway in Ireland, an area we have come to recognise as having produced some wonderful musicians so, in effect, he got off to a good start in life. It was here that he spent his younger years growing up on the family farm.

However, the prospect of following his family's footsteps into farming offered no great attraction to Chris so at the age of 26, and driven by a lust for adventure, he sailed into Melbourne's Station Dock in June 1960.

As it eventuated, like tens of thousands before him, coming to Australia was a life changing experience and he has been extremely grateful ever since.

He trained as a carpenter in Ireland before embarking, and upon his arrival quickly found employment building homes in various suburbs around Melbourne. During that time he somehow also found enough spare energy to build the home in which he lives.

As with many of Irish descent, music was a treasured pastime in the home and the young Chris, one of eight children in the family, was subject to the influence of his father, a singer, and his mother who "not only encouraged us all to play music but to play it in the 'correct manner'. One sister really excelled on the fiddle and she and I used to play at house parties and dances and the like but sadly this all came to an end when she emigrated to America".

"It was a tradition back home that kids received tin-whistles at Christmas time so we were all able to play a smattering of tunes as youngsters, but it was the very sound of the accordion that had a particular attraction for me and I could hardly wait until I had saved up enough money to purchase one".

The accordion he initially purchased was a single row Hohner 4-poster in the key of G but he soon found that a single-row accordion was too restrictive for his abilities and it was not long before he graduated to a 2-row B/C chromatic accordion, an accordion type that is favoured by the more proficient players of Irish music.

Over the years that followed, Chris developed his accordion playing skills and is now widely regarded as a highly skilled player who specialises in Irish tunes and is a club reference point for Irish music. But his musical interests are not merely limited to those of an Irish flavour, in fact one of the main reasons he joined the Victorian Folk Music Club was because of the attraction of other music types, including early Australian bush music.

He had a long and proud musical history that included conducting workshops at major folk festivals, playing in the VFMC Billabong Band and playing at various other club functions. He also played in various private groups in between visits to the club "just to keep my music sharp", he said with a wry smile. His secret to becoming a good player was simple: practice, practice, practice and when you think you have practiced enough, go and practice some more. Obviously a very successful recipe indeed.

The harsh, mostly subsistence level of farm life in Ireland had taught Chris much in terms of initiative and independence. Thus he developed quite a handyman approach to most things, and in fact evidence of his training in woodwork and his 'do it yourself' attitude could be seen in the wooden end and grille he designed and built for one of his accordions to explore the tonal effects that wood might have on the sound features.

When pressed about favourite tunes, he was quick to respond with a decisive "Music In The Glen without a doubt, and I wouldn't care much if I didn't ever hear Maggie May again", added Chris," it is a great tune but it suffers somewhat just as The Irish Washer-woman does in that they have been played to death over the years and are now quickly passed over in favour of fresher tunes".

Another important aspect to Chris is that he also had a special talent for poetry and seemed to always have a new poem in his bottomless pit of poetic creations to recite. For example, a humorous poem entitled Paddy's Shout which he recited at the May 2013 Guest Artist Reciter's night, one of the highlight nights on the VFMC calendar.

His love of verse first flourished during his schooldays when he was often left spellbound by the works of poets such as Tennyson, Wordsworth and Longfellow. "I like the challenge of poetry and keep a pen and writing pad alongside the bed ready for when the subconscious supplies nocturnal inspiration" admitted Chris, "I quite often wake up at night with a special line or two or an idea which I immediately record".

Most of his poems were of sentimental themes and he regarded Dayout as his best poem to date although the humorous Mass Scavenger won him top prize at the Koroit Lake School eight or nine years ago where he regularly received recommendations from the judges for his efforts.

Most musicians would confess to having been attracted to the social pastime of dancing and Chris was no different; in fact he was a very keen dancer and there were few Melbourne venues that escaped his radar. He frequented Irish step dances and old-time ball-room dances "I went to them all, in fact that is how I met my wife, Kath, which was the best thing ever to have happened to me. That was two years after I had landed in Australia and soon after that we were wed and that was the beginning of an amazing journey", explained Chris with pride. Chris and Kath have four children (two girls and two boys), but none are as devoted to music as Chris was, although between them the two boys both play guitar and a daughter plays fiddle all to a good standard, and two daughters are accomplished Irish dancers.

When queried about the VFMC and directional changes, the former committee member advised that there has been a significant reduction in the numbers of 'ear' players in the club over the years that he had been a member. "While I don't decry the use of written music in any way, it seems to me that an ability to be able to play by ear is more in keeping with the traditions of folk music and therefore is something to be aimed for. Of course other benefits to be had by being able to play by ear include spontaneity and flexibility (including being able to readily play a tune in any key) and I am surprised it is not practised and encouraged more widely."

Perhaps something you didn't know about Chris was an early pipe-dream of his to train as a geologist. "But unfortunately there has always been something more pressing for me to attend to rather than making available years of study-time to realise that ambition. I am still very interested in this field although now only as a casual interest. But I am very happy with my life's experiences and really would not like to change any of them except for a bad patch in the years 2011 and 2012".

They were not great years for Chris health-wise, in fact it was a particular low point for him which involved stints of hospitalisation which temporarily drained him of much motivation and enthusiasm. However, true to his resilient character, he sprang back with a vengeance and we were fortunate in having his company and seeing him regularly performing again at club gatherings until fairly recently.

Quiet yet amiable, good team member, positive outlook, helpful, talented, well-respected, purposeful and reliable are just a few terms that could well be used in describing Chris – we were indeed fortunate in having him as a club member. He will be sadly missed by us all. - *by Stan Alexander*

32nd ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

12 - 15 JANUARY 2017 • BULLI SHOWGROUND, NSW

Expressions of interest to perform at the 32nd Illawarra Folk Festival are now open and will close 30 May 2016.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

The **Illawarra Folk Festival** is presented by volunteers from the **Illawarra Folk Club** is a non-profit incorporated association with the objective to present and encourage folk music and folklore as it exists in Australia and abroad, in all its most genuine, and valuable musical, social, historical, cultural and pleasurable forms.

©2016 Illawarra Folk Club | PO Box 5289, Wollongong, NSW, 2500

INSTRUMENTS FOR SALE

1) Octave Mandolin / Irish Bouzouki—Trinity College brand; in excellent condition, plus hard case, $600
2) Tenor banjo, in fair condition, plus hard case, $150.
If interested, see Trevor Voake on Club nights or call 0427 784 296

Naomi Durston is looking for a good home for her late dad's instruments.
Contact her if interested: n_durston@yahoo.com.au

Dino Baffetti 3 ROW 4 R'D Red. G/C/F bought in 2008. In excellent condition
Hohner Corona II GCF Red also appears to be in excellent condition
Old Hohner Erica. Red. G/C. Worn, but working
Old Hohner Marca Registrada 1140. D Black with gold decoration. Worn but working
Bistari Consertina. Pearly red. G/C
Very old English wooden concertina repaired by Dad, not working so well but looks very pretty!

MARCH VFMC BUSH DANCE

—— some of the dancers

—— the band (Delia's Friends)

(photos by Trevor Voake)

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)

Woolshed Ball

Saturday 28th May 2016

7:45pm - 12:00am

Kilsyth Hall
Mount Dandenong Road
Kilysth
(Melways P51 F5)

Music by
The Billabong Band

Admission: $20 Early or $25 on the Night

BYO mug and plate for supper to share
Tea & Coffee provided

Enquiries:

Phone: Jane 9762 1389
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au
VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au

AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (8/3) FOLK QUIZ:

1) What esteemed Australian woman poet was made a Dame? 2) Name her famous patriotic poem of 1942? 3) How old did she live to be? 4) Which Aussie female singer-songwriter recently became a judge? 5) Name three of her best-known songs.

Answers to last quiz: 1) Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany 2) Alan Stivell 3) Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers 4) The Corries, The Boys of the Lough.

CONCERT PARTY REPORT (BILLABONG BAND)

Recent Events:

Wednesday 16th March Donwood Aged Care Saint Patrick's Day –Concert . A great hour's entertainment of Irish tunes (a set of polkas and a set of jigs) and songs was had by the residents . Three Irish sing-a-long brackets were included in our program . Thanks to Stan Ciuchak (Fields of Athenry), Don Gingrich (Grace), Sophie (Over in Killarney), Harry (Bush Christening), Frances and Maree (Cockles and Mussels and Danny Boy), Margie and Trevor (singing and mandolin) . We finished our concert with us all singing The Parting Glass led in by an Irish whistle solo by Tony O'Neil.

Thursday 17th March – Lions brae Saint Patrick's Day Concert. Another great afternoon to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. This is the third time we have played here in six months. We followed the same program as the previous day. Very enthusiastic audience. They loved all the sing-a-longs. As well as the songs and tunes listed for the previous concert, we also managed to have time for Whiskey in the Jar and Gypsy Rover.

Thanks again to Stan Ciuchack (mc), Stan Alexander , Harry, Don Gingrich, Sofie, Maree, Frances and Tony.

Future Events:

Sunday 27th March – Family Dance at the National folk Festival, Canberra, 5pm
- Heritage Ball at the National folk Festival in Canberra, 8pm

Saturday 16th April – Christmas in July at Burwood Heights Crossroads, 2.30pm

Saturday 30th April—Wesley Home Concert at 2pm.

The programs for all Billabong Band events can be found on the VFMC website (under the heading Fireside Fiddlers). Thank you to Harry who promptly puts the programs, with all the music, on the site as soon as I send it to him.

- by Maree 9733-0802 (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 and Acoustic Music Group

First Sunday Every Month from 2 pm,
Venue: Carman Welsh Church Hall,
261 Albert Street,
Sebastopol.
Enquiries: Arthur: 0438 323 923
Graeme: 03 5334 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
Telephone: 9762 1389
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
Telephone: 9733 0802
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post 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: .....

Email: .....