Established 1959

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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NEW YOUNG TALENT:

'THE BUDS'

AT OUR CONCERT NIGHT

(photo by Trevor Voake)

HOW ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER: HARRY'S SMASHING HIS VIOLIN HAS NOW INSPIRED ONE OF OUR POETS: STEPHEN WHITESIDE—SEE PAGE 11…….

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2017 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

Every Tuesday except the 2nd (concert night), Ringwood East Community Hall, Knaith Rd Reserve. 6.30 Australian Folk Tunes playing; 7.30 Australian Folk Songs; 8.00-10.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. Supper. $5 memb. $6 non memb. Currently 4th Tues is for all-in round robin tunes, dance sets & group singing. All welcome. 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 7.45pm, finishing 10.15pm. $14, $12 conces and $10 members, kids no charge. All welcome. 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	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
8th	9th Fiddles	10th Club Session	11th	12th	13th	14th
15th	16th Fiddles	17th Guest Night	18th	19th	20th	21st
22nd	23rd Fiddles	24th Club Session	25th	26th	27th	28th
29th	30th Fiddles	31st Club Session				

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve, Melway 50 B8

Supported by Spot Acts

$14; $12 concession; $10 memb; kids free

For info 0438.049.557 or www.vfmc.org.au

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

14th November - Bruce Watson

Guest Artist Night, September 2017

Our MC for the evening was Maree Buttler.

The evening began as usual with a variety of spot acts:

John sang *Santa Lucia* in Italian as a tribute to his good friend Bruno who had very recently passed away.

Then Ruth recited her ,soon to be published, poem called *Melbourne is a Hip Town* . She followed with a poem written in appreciation of her many attendances at our own Folksy Club Nights.

Vocal Spirits, a group of ten singers, sang a cappella *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Grant us Peace). Then Maree accompanied them on the harp as they sang the popular *The Water is Wide.*

Frances entertained with a Nina & Frederick tune about a love sick worm and the audience joined in the chorus. Then a song about a donkey, *Bring me a Little Water Sylvie.*

Our club's own reciter Jim Smith then gave us a humorous poem which was a favourite of the late Ted Simpson. It was about a farmer's dog named Pete famous for his urinary expertise. Then on a more serious note we heard about: *The Death of Ben Hall.*

The last act was from Gary who gave us *The Jogger's Song.* A chap attempting to get fit went for a run which was more of a pub crawl than a jog.

Guest Artist Night, September 2017

September was our annual a cappella night and the club was pleased to welcome three very different groups to entertain the audience members.

The Buds choir is a group of talented young ladies who work together to create beautiful music. Tonight five members, whose ages range between 12 & 20, entertained us. They presented a variety of melodious and beautiful tunes, many of which were made famous by the Chordettes, while others have featured in musical movies of yesteryear. They began with the lively *Lollipop* and followed with a song from 1938—*Jeepers Creepers*. Then a Doris Day special from 1944—*Sentimental Journey*. Followed by a tango—Hernando's Hideaway from *The Pyjama Game.* Then the favourite of crooners such as Perry Como and Sinatra - *Once Upon a Time* by Strouse & Adams. The bouncy— Mr Sandman had them tapping their toes then singing along with the next song— *I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles* which dates back to 1919. This talented young group finished their performance with a bright and boppy song, the ever popular – Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.

The Chocolate Lilies is a large choir from the Hurstbridge-Warrandyte areas. Members are people who wish to be part of their communities, entertain others and basically just have fun. They must be doing something right as the choir, under the direction of Nerida Kirov, has been performing since 1994. Their name derives from a local purple and black wild flower which actually smells like chocolate. The first song was an American Indian chant about the Winter Moon. The audience joined the choir in the round, with the words Neesa Neesa gai-wee-oh. Then a tune about the Warrandyte area followed by a gospel song from the Soweto Gospel choir, *Sittin' here in Limbo waitin' for the tide to turn*. Next a Robbie Burns poem which has been put to music by a Canadian: *Follow the Heron Home*. Maintaining the Scots flavour, the audience then joined in The Parting Glass. David Bowie's *Starman* featured next, followed by a US gospel style song—*Allellulia*. *Gonna lay my troubles down by the water where the water never runs dry.* On a happier note, the next was a Perry Como song— *Catch a Falling Star.* The final tune was a haunting West African song: *Ise t'Oluwa se o ah—God's work can never be destroyed.* *(continued on Page 9……)*

The Dance Page

Diary dates for October:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st TSDAV Contra	**2nd** Scottish	**3rd** English	**4th** Irish or Colonials	**5th** Colonial Beginners	**6th**	**7th** VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
8th Claddagh	**9th** Scottish	**10th** English	**11th** Irish or Colonials	**12th**	**13th**	**14th** Scottish
15th Welsh	**16th** Scottish	**17th** English	**18th** Irish or Colonials	**19th** Colonials Scottish	**20th**	**21st** **Bendigo** **East Hop**
22nd Claddagh	**23rd** Scottish	**24th** English	**25th** Irish or Colonials	**26th** Colonials Beginners	**27th**	**28th**
29th TSDA	**30th** Scottish	**31st** English				
			1st Irish or Colonials	**2nd** Colonial Beginners	**3rd**	**4th** V.F.M.C. Brumbies Bush Band
5th	**6th** Irish Scottish	**7th** English	**8th** Irish or Colonials	**9th** Colonial Beginners Scottish	**10th** **SPRING** **DANCE**	**11th** Scottish **WEEKEND** **PORTARLING-** **TON**

The Dance Page

Claddagh	Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. Sunday 2-5 pm. Contact: Rod: 9497-1793
VFMC Colonial Dance	Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, Sat. 8-11 pm. Contact: Jane 9762-1389
Irish	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 Court, Abbotsford. 8-10 pm. Contact Coral: 9885 6109
Colonial Thursday & Colonial Beginners	Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: 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, 2-4.30 pm. Contact Ian 9878 2414
TSDAV Sunday	Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 2-5.00pm Contact: Norm Ellis 9888-5332
Contra Dance	Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke R, Malvern East, 7.45-10.15 pm. Info: 0422 932 532
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 Progress Hall, Lansell St, Bendigo. Contact Dianne: dpearse@iinet.net.au

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APOLOGY

Last month's newsletter (September) wrongly stated that Bette Martin had written the report for the Guest Artist night. It should have been DON FRASER. Bette actually briefly performed with Dominic Martin, who was guest artist for the evening concert. The Editor takes full responsibility for this mistake. Apologies for any offence caused.

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)

Family Bush Dance

Saturday 7th October

All dances are called and everyone is welcome

8.00pm - 11.00pm

Music by Borderline Kaylee

Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East (Melways P50 B8)

Cost: $12 - Kids free with adult, $10 - VFMC members door

Tea & Coffee provided

Enquiries:

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

GUEST ARTIST NIGHT (continued from page 5):

VoiceBox is a Melbourne based male a cappella choir formed over twenty -five years ago by a small group of friends. Tonight the club was very fortunate to have five of their members perform for us.

They began with *Carry on Wayward Son* by Kansas from 1975. Then a wonderful version of *Africa* made famous by Toto with the male voices providing the instrumental sounds.

Then *Solsbury Hill* by Peter Gabriele. *Son ,he said Grab your things I've come to take you home*. This was followed by a parody of a TAC Public Service Advertisement –*Greg, The Stop Sign* by Tism.

A change of pace as VoiceBox sang a more serious song, *It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday*.

Humour again as the men sang an hilarious parody of Paul Anka's *My Way*. Written by Weird Al Yankovic *I Bought it on Ebay*. *Comical comments such as Tell me why I need another pet rock , Don't know why, the kind of stuff you'd throw away -They had it on E bay.*

Then for their finale, the men gave us a great rendition of *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen.

The three a cappella groups performed an amazing diversity of tunes, chants and songs between them, to the delight of the audience. The VFMC would like to thank all of the performers and we hope to see them all again in the future.

Next month:- The Willie Wagtails with support act, Slim Dime.

The VFMC wishes to thank all the volunteers who assisted on the night—those who set up the hall, manned the door, organised the kitchen and helped in all of the small ways it takes to make the evening a success.

- *Report by Bette Martin; Photography by Trevor Voake*

U3A CROYDON

Grand Variety Concert & Art/Craft Display/Sale

Melba College Community Theatre
Brentnall Road, Croydon (Melways 50 E 3)

Sunday 15th October 2017
1.15pm – 4.00pm

Featuring - Ballroom Dancers, Croydon U3A Singers, Guitar and Ukulele Group, Italian Singers and Line Dancers

Tickets $5.00 now on sale at U3A Office
Keystone Complex, 1 Civic Square, Croydon
(10.00am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday EXCLUDING School Holidays)

(Door tickets available until house full)

When Harry Smashed his Fiddle

When Harry smashed his fiddle in an act on concert night,
The audience responded with a gasp – they'd got a fright.
They didn't know the fiddle had been built to bust in two,
'Cos fiddles, as a general rule, are built with lots of glue.

He mimicked James MacPherson on that distant, tragic day,
Who, just before they hanged him, threw his violin away,
Roaring, "If it can't be played by me, or members of my clan,
I'm going to make damn sure of it, no other bastards can!"

He dashed his fiddle to the ground. They hanged his body high.
No-one knows the how of it, the who, the where, or why,
But the fiddle he abused, expecting it to tear apart,
as a certain well-known instrument, assembled with the art

Of making it repairable. The answer? I won't tarry.
The fiddle he attempted to destroy belonged to Harry!
So when MacPherson's tortured soul at last received release,
His poor discarded fiddle was put back into one piece.

This meant Burns never wrote his song. There was no sad lament.
Because of Harry's fiddle, ancient history was bent.
This means that Harry didn't sing his song the other night.
This is really quite confusing. Am I sure I've got this right?

We are turning in a circle, but our standing at the end
Is not where we began. Space and time, I'm told, can bend.
I don't get Quantum Physics. I believe it is a diddle.
All I know for certain is that Harry smashed his fiddle!

Stephen Whiteside © 2017

WATTLE DAY—2017

On Saturday 2nd of September, the VFMC celebrated Wattle Day, commemorating all things Australian. This is the seventh year that the club has hosted a day of activities to celebrate Wattle Day.

It was a lovely clear Saturday afternoon. This year we were able to offer six different workshops covering singing, instruments and dance, thanks to the guest tutors and the generosity of club members willingly giving of their time to share their skills with others.

The workshops offered this year were as follows:

Singing Workshop 1 (Sea Shanties): This was hosted by Tony O'Neill and a number of his friends from the Tall Ship Enterprize. In all, 20 attendees enjoyed a rollicking time pretending to be jolly sailors on the high seas, and meanwhile keeping this important part of our legacy alive.

Singing Workshop 2 (Australian songs): Don Gingrich presented a selection of classic Australian folk songs with interesting background research about each one. The 14 attendees sang along with gusto.

Rock 'n Roll Ukulele: Something slightly different - Bill Buttler explained and taught the 12-bar blues progression, linking it with African-American traditional music and showing how early rock music grew out of this musical form. The 11 attendees picked techniques up very quickly and had two of the VFMC committee dancing along in no time at all.

Australian Dance Music Workshop: Guest presenters Alan Musgrove and Rob Stephens introduced a range of collected Australian dance tunes, some familiar, some not so familiar, but all good. Alan also used this session as a follow-up to recap some of the lessons from his previous series of guitar workshops. The 8 attendees all went away with new tunes and improved skills.

Dance Workshop: Once again, Norm Ellis worked through a series of interesting dances with 14 attendees. Here is one attendee's feedback:—

I was very pleased this year to be in Australia at this time of year when all shades of vibrant yellow can be seen in the bush, in the best circumstances, standing out against the blue of the sky, and to have the opportunity to join in the celebration of the coming spring. I chose to attend the two dance workshops. Just after lunch Norm led a small group of usual dancers for simple or more elaborate dances ,on lively or more sedate rhythms, insisting that we should try to let the movements gently flow. Later in the afternoon we danced around the Maypole with Jane. We stuck to simple patterns. which could only lead us to success. After each dance we had the surprise to see what weaving we had been able to achieve. I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, not to mention the decoration of the hall with photos of different species of wattles and hats with wattle sprigs round them.
- by Franciska Toubale.

Maypole Dancing: Less of a workshop and more like a fun session to end the day, with 10 dancers and music provided by Katy and Steve (the Dance Music Workshop group also joined after their session ended).

Family Bush Dance: As usual, the afternoon culminated in a fantastic night of dancing with Blackberry Jam. The evening was kicked off by Maggie Somerville singing her original song, 'Wattle Day', backed by herself on guitar, Jenny Simpson on keyboard, Chris Lazarro on mandolin, and Ray Simpson on amazing didgeridoo.

The Club has now been presenting Wattle Day activities for a number of years, and the day has become a great opportunity to learn new skills and have some fun with other Club members. A big thankyou to all the presenters for their time and dedication to passing on their knowledge and talents.

- by Maree Buttler and Jane Bullock

MUSICAL SINGING GROUP - QUIZ

1) What sort of singing does Chocolate Lilies perform? 2) What year was this choir founded? 3) Is the choir inner or outer city based? 4) Approximately how many members does the choir have? 5) What sort of songs does it sing?

Answers to last quiz: 1) Italy in about 1700. 2) Pianoforte 3) Soft 4) 88 5) Jazz, traditional, pop.

CONCERT PARTY REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2017

Recent Events:

The Billabong Band did 3 gigs over August:-

Lionsbrae on Frid. 18th was Margie's first go at MC'ing one of these concerts. It was a great afternoon of entertainment which ran very smoothly. They really get involved and it is great to see the staff having such fun. It was also Tony Kelly's first gig with us.

Hurstbridge followed on Sun 27th with the annual Wattle Festival, where we were on first, performing in sun, rain & hail—yet somehow attracting a crowd!

Willowbrae followed on Mon 28th. This is Bert Gibson's residence and though he was a bit quiet when we started, by the end of the afternoon he was singing along quite lustily. It was great to see one of the club's founding members joining in and having such a good time. He sang nearly every song we did, all from memory.

Many thanks to all of those club members who take the time to attend regular practices then come along to the gigs. We get a lot of positive feedback from the different places we play at telling us how much enjoyment the audiences get from our performances.

Upcoming Events:

Sep 27th 2017	Mooroolbark residential
Sep 30th 2017	Woolshed Ball
Oct 20th 2017	Lionsbrae
Nov 12th 2017	Croydon Festival
Nov 20th 2017	Lionsbrae
Dec 2nd 2017	Ringwood East Senior Citizens lunch
Dec 2nd 2017	VFMC Christmas dance
Dec 11th 2017	Ringwood East Garden Club

- Trevor Voake

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

Creswick Folk Club

Second Friday, from 7.30 pm at the American Hotel in Creswick; and Fourth Friday, from 7.30 pm at the Old Station in Creswick.
Enquiries: Graeme: 03 5334 5551
www.facebook.com/creswickfolkclub/

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 organizations

VFMC Postal Address

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

VFMC Website

http://www.vfmc.org.au

CONTACTS

Secretary

Robyn Hammond
Telephone:
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: .....