

February 2018



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Australian

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

In This Issue ...

Item	Page
Club Events	2
Next Guest Artist/s	3
Guest Artist Review	4
Dance Pages	6
Guest Artist (continued)	8
Nariel Folk Festival	9
Family Bush Dance	12
Personal piece / Needed	13
Quiz / Concert Party	14
Other folk clubs & VFMC—news	15

NARIEL FOLK FESTIVAL

2018



(photo by Barry Scott)

ATTENTION ALL WICKED , WAYWARD MEMBERS:

If you haven't paid your overdue membership fees yet, this will be your final newsletter—so please pay up NOW!

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2018 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

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

- 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

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

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

By-Ear Sessions

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14th January	15th	16th Club Session	17th	18th	19th	20th
21st	22nd Fiddles	23rd Club Session	24th	25th	26th	27th
28th	29th Fiddles	30th Club Session	31st	February 1st	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
4th	5th Fiddles	6th Club Session	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th /Fiddles	13th Guest Night	14th	15th	16th	17th



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

presents

Jeanette Gillespie and Duncan Brown



Jeanette Gillespie and Duncan Brown from Central Victoria are two fine interpreters of traditional folk songs. With support act Mick Kearon.

TUESDAY 13th FEBRUARY
Open stage from 7:45pm

\$14; \$12 concession; \$10 members; kids no charge

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve

For info 0438.049.557 or www.vfmc.org.au

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

13th March - Maggie Somerville

Guest Artist Night, December 2017

Our host for the December concert was Bill Buttler. John from Croydon U3A accompanied himself on guitar and sang two songs made popular by Bette Midler, *The Rose* and *Wind beneath my Wings*.



Then club member Jim Smith had the audience chuckling when he recited two poems: *The Cross-eyed Bull* and the second which celebrated that favourite piece of Aussie footwear, *The Thong*.

Frances wrote a poem after a chance encounter with a stranger one day. Her father, who had been in the RAAF, always played the role of Santa each year. This stranger remembered Frances as Father Christmas's Daughter. Then the audience joined Frances in singing *You are My Sunshine*.



Alex took to the stage to recite a poem he had written about a Kyeema plane crash on Mt Dandenong in 1938. The focus of the poem was on an unfortunate pig which had been killed in the accident and was subsequently sectioned by a local butcher.



Niq played ukulele and sang one of his own compositions. It was a humorous tale about the art of wasting time: *The Art of Twiddling the Thumbs*.



The final spot act was the popular group, Pleasant and Delightful. Kristen played the flute, Robyn guitar and lead vocals, Ken and Don played concertina, guitar, and sang harmony as they presented firstly *The Parting*, followed by *The March of the King of Laos*.

APOLOGY

The front page of the last newsletter in December 2017 wrongly stated that the photo of Rob Barratt was taken by Maggie Somerville (who took one or two similar photos of other performers at the same time in Maldon).

The photographer was actually Stephen Whiteside.

Guest Artist Night, December 2017

Main Act:- The first main act for the evening was **Trioc**: a very talented trio of young instrumentalists. Cameron, Alan and Matthew treated the audience to a wonderful array of Celtic music. Alan plays harp, Cameron the fiddle, and Matthew plays the Uilleann pipes while all three play flutes & whistles.

Each set played consisted of either jigs, reels, hornpipes or marches. Most of these tunes are featured on *A Fair Wind*, their first CD launched earlier this year. We heard *The Booley House*, *The Snowy Path*, *The Cloon*; *Kitty in the Lane*, *The Broken Pledge* plus *The Hag in the Blanket*.

Alan explained that his harp was manufactured from three types of Australian wood: Jarrah, Tasmanian Blackwood and King Billy Pine. It had been crafted by Andy Rigby in Malmsbury and Alan himself has assisted in the building of this beautiful instrument.



We heard an air from Donegal which echoed the emotions of loved ones on shore who wait for herring fishermen lost at sea and their hopes of being reunited some day.

Matthew took a few minutes to explain the workings of the Uilleann pipes. Similar to the more well-known bagpipes, the Uilleann pipes differ in a few ways. A small set of bellows is strapped around the waist and right arm and are inflated by the working on the elbow. Thus the name: Uilleann = elbow in Irish. The player does not blow to inflate the bag and usually plays in a seated position. Apart from a chanter and drone, the pipes have a regulator equipped with closed keys which can be opened by the player's wrist action, enabling the piper to play simple chords.

Cameron then led the trio in playing *A Fair Wind* - a tune he had learned from our own Harry Gardner. Then more reels including *The Boys on the Hilltop*. The tempo increased as they played marches – *Fingal's Cave* and *The Pikeman's March*, a flute duet adding to the atmosphere. Then featuring the harp, fiddle and pipes, they performed *O'Carolan's Jig* and *O'Sullivan's March*. The final set of jigs for the evening comprised *Ormond Sound*, *The Connaught Heifers* and *Sean Reid's Favourite*. All of the above music is included on the Trio's CD, *A Fair Wind*.

(Continued on page 8)



The Dance Page

Diary dates for February:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1st Colonial beginners	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
4th Contra	5th	6th English	7th Irish or Colonials	8th Scottish	9th	10th
11th Claddagh	12th	13th English	14th Irish or Colonials	15th Colonial Bush Dance	16th	17th
18th Welsh	19th	20th English	21st Irish or Colonials	22nd Colonial beginners	23rd	24th Sadie Hawkins Day Hoedown
25th Claddagh	26th	27th English	28th Irish or Colonials			
				1st March Colonial beginners	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance - Delia's Friends
4th Contra	5th Scottish	6th English	7th Irish or Colonials	8th Colonial beginners	0th	10th

**Sadie Hawkins Day Hoedown, 8-11 pm, at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3
Ashburn Grove, Ashburton.
Info: 9888-5332.**

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 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
English	End of year dance, Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 7.45-10.15pm. Contact George: 9890-5650
Colonial Wednesday	Social dance classes at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall. 8-10 pm. www.melbournecolonialdancers.org.au or contact Coral: 9885-6109 or Peter: 9848-5852
Colonial Thursday	Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton. 7.30-10pm. Contact Coral: 9885 6109 And Thursday—Beginners class
Welsh Dancing	Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30 pm. Contact Ian: 9878-2414
Contra Dance	Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke Rd, 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

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

Results of the Session Survey held over August/September are now available on our website. Hard copies are available upon request.

Guidelines for the awarding of a Life Membership of the VFMC are now also available on our website. Hard copies are available upon request.

Our website:- www.vfmc.org.au/ or simply: vfmc.org.au

- Trevor Voake

(continued from page 5)

The second main act for the evening was **Peter Vadiveloo**.

Peter's first song was a good match for one sung earlier by our spot act Niq. It was a song for indecisive people, who just decided not to decide. The audience happily joined in the chorus.

Peter then spoke at length about Australia Day and what the significance of the date means to some members of the population.

Next he sang a protest song about the land being invaded, including lines such as – “Don't let nature stand in your way...This is the modern world - Terra Nullius.”

A love song then followed, dedicated to Peter's partner who was in the audience. *Let's Fall in Love for the First Time*. He sang lines such as: “The first time I heard your voice/ the first time I saw your face.”

There followed another protest song which Peter had performed once before at our November Concert. It was called *Manus* and related the sad plight of one particular refugee. “Put your Shoes Where I Am. He then sang *Why can't everyone be more like me?*



Peter then spoke at some length about the inequity of wealth distribution in both the Australian and American economies.

He finished his performance with his sixth song: “I've played my part in the show/On and on and on we go/ The show must go on.”

Sometimes contentious views are expressed by performers. These views do not necessarily reflect the views of the VFMC.

The club offers their thanks to all of the performers who entertained us with their offerings this evening. Also many thanks to the volunteers who helped in many ways to ensure the smooth running of the evening.

Next Concert: February 13th - Traditional folk singers: Jeanette Gillespie and Duncan Brown.

- report by Bette Martin ; photographs by Trevor Voake



NARIEL FOLK FESTIVAL: 2017/2018

This year our best man and his wife (Barry and Hilary) came with us up to Corryong for the Folk Festival and so after the Christmas festivities we packed the car almost to the roof and set off not long after 9am on Wednesday 27th December. The journey took us the usual 6 hours with a rest at Lake Nillacootie for lunch. We had enough time to book in, collect our welcome package (new innovation for this year), unpack and a quick look in at Happy Hour with Joan and Ray and crowd before we went to the first dance.

It was great to greet old friends as we waited for the band to set up and the dance to start. There was so much to catch up on. It had been a long exciting day so, sad to say, we only lasted until after supper and then we needed to sleep.

On the Thursday after breakfast I went across to join the music group with my recorders and played quite happily with them for a couple of hours. Meanwhile Stephen had, had a 15 minute practice on his new violin. Only 15 minutes as he found the concentration very intense. After lunch we went into Corryong and re-acquainted ourselves with the shops, stopping to have a thickshake.



The Contra dance was between 5-7pm. Stephen played with the band as Barry, Hilary and I joined the dancers on the floor. At the end of a highly successful couple of hours 7 of us drove into Corryong to have dinner at the bottom pub. However, although we managed to find an empty table, there were no empty chairs to go with it so we left and ended up at the Courthouse Pub. Here not only an empty table but also chairs so we thankfully sat down and after a decent interval our food arrived and it was delicious.

Friday dawned unfortunately with clouds and the promise of rain to come. As this was the day designated for the Clack Clack Caravan Park dance for which a number of our club members were playing and I was calling, there were many eyes focused on the weather. We started to set up and a few spots came down so Paul the manager at the Caravan Park organized a gazebo to go over the musicians which proved handy as the spots became a drizzle and finally proper rain (see photo on front page). There were, fortunately for me, some hardy souls who took the rain in their stride, so I was able to call a few dances before, about 90 minutes later, the rain came down too heavy to be out in it anymore.

Saturday and once more the sun was out and in fact stayed out for the rest of the festival. This evening, before the evening dance at Cudgewa Hall, there was a communal dinner and so we took our stir fry to share (this finished up our Christmas turkey). Stephen unfortunately had a bad headache and, although Teresa massaged his upper torso and he felt better, he stayed back at the campsite sleeping with Barry watching over him whilst Hilary and I went to the dance.

At the dance before Matt Harriage had won the raffle and was told he had to do the Broom dance for his prize. However, on this night Brenda Simpson won the raffle and she also had to do a Broom dance, which she did with Jennie Simpson.



Sunday and the last day of the old year. The 4 of us after lunch went sightseeing around Corryong itself. There is a quite a bit of history in and around Corryong, all interesting. I was surprised that we hadn't done any sightseeing before. The dance at night was at the festival site and as usual it was a fabulous night. All too soon it seemed to me that Jennie Simpson was counting down from 10 and the year had ended.



We celebrated the New Year by having mulled wine back at the caravan park with our folk friends before bed.

New Year's Day and we joined the champagne and chicken crowd and this year there were quite a few new jokes plus a few of the old ones. We danced the Lancers before all heading over to the festival site to laze the afternoon away listening to the concert.

Stephen and I were not too tired so we went back to the festival site for the New Year's Day dance. Barry and Hilary stayed back at the cabin in the caravan park.

Tuesday 2nd January 2018 and people were packing up and setting off home. Most of the musicians were still there and a few dancers. All of us then got together at the Courthouse Pub for a meal and the pub did us proud by not only cooking delicious meals but also providing, free of charge, a cheesecake dessert for us all. Stewie was lucky as he sat next to John, who doesn't like cheesecake, so Stewie got both pieces!

The last dance of the festival was the Monte Carlo, and the prize was a beautiful Queensland Blue Pumpkin which sadly I didn't win. Jane and Bruce from up that way won it.



The New Year's Eve Dance
2017/2018
at Nariel Folk Festival

- report by Jane Bullock
- photographs by Barry Scott

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)



Family Bush Dance

Saturday 3rd February

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

A PERSONAL OPINION BY A VFMC MEMBER

On Tuesday, December 12th 2017, I went to the concert night at Ringwood Folk Music Club with great expectations. I have known Peter Vadiveloo as an artist for many years. I appreciate his competency in many different styles, his sense of humour and his presence on stage. The spot acts and Trioc's Irish music - although I enjoyed them - were delaying the anticipated pleasure of listening to that night's solo guest performer.

I was pleased to note that Peter was showing great concern about today's problems, like the refugees left on Manus island and the consequences of neo-liberalism in our societies. I wish he could have given in fewer words all the information, which included the government trying to suppress facts by not letting journalists go to those places or earlier, threatening prison terms for those who had worked in detention centres and were telling what had happened there. But this is all important information that we can't ignore. It has to be told. The lyrics of Peter's songs are concise, simple and spot on.

I remember doing a singing master class with Danny Spooner where he showed us how history could be told through songs. How many events of the past are still alive thanks to a song written at the time? We read about kings and emperors in history books, but ordinary people have their lives described in songs. What we call a traditional song today was sung for the first time someday, somewhere.

Thank you to Peter for a night which was not mere entertainment, following the tradition of folk songs.

- *Franciska Toubale*

NEEDED: YOUNGER MEMBERS' CO-ORDINATOR

We are still seeking expressions of interest for this position as we would like to encourage more children, adolescents and young adults to become involved in the folk scene so that it continues to be an ever-evolving tradition.

Any interested members—or even non-members—should contact the VFMC Committee to obtain further details.

GUITARS - QUIZ

1) What are the 4 main parts of a guitar? 2) About how long have guitars existed? 3) Name 2 pre guitar-type instruments. 4) When did electric guitars start being used? 5) Name one great classical guitarist and one great folk guitarist.

Answers to last quiz: 1) 2006 2) Bachelor of Science 3) Chemist 4) Guitar, piano, 5) 30 6) He was not yet an Australian citizen.

CONCERT PARTY REPORT: NOV 2017—FEB 2018

Recent Events:

Nov 25—**Springvale Historical Society**: a new gig (thanks, Stan, for organising). The audience happily joined in with our Aussie songs.

Dec 2—**Ringwood Senior Citizens**: our usual annual concert for the Senior Citizens, who always make us feel very welcome. We combined with Jane's dancers to provide their entertainment. A special mention goes to Harry and Graeme who have played at every concert we have performed for this group since over 30 years ago.

Dec 2—**VFMC Dance**: to have 16 musicians on stage was a spectacular end to our monthly dances for 2017.

Dec 11—**Ringwood East Garden Club**: another first for us. A terrific night where everyone enjoyed themselves (including the band). It was nice to catch up with Heather, a former club member. A highlight was Katy dressed as a convict and sweeping the floor, singing 'The Convict Maid'.

Dec 15—**Lionsbrae**: our regular gig, and this time we made it a Christmas program with lots of carols they could sing along with. Another great afternoon.

Dec 17—**Eastland**: after the success of last year, we were invited back to sing/play at Eastland Shopping Centre. Although not a traditional folk gig, we were able to throw in a couple of Australian carols along with the more traditional ones. Judging by the number of people who stopped to listen, it was just as successful as last year. A fun afternoon!

Upcoming gigs:

Jan 25—Donwood (Australia Day theme)

Feb 18/19—Bonnie Doon Festival (opening family dance, Friday 7 pm)

March 24/25—Ringwood Highland Games

Many thanks go out to all the club members who have come along to any or all of the above gigs. Particular thanks go to those who have helped with the sound on the few occasions that it has been required.

- Concert Party co-ordinators: Trevor Voake & Maree Buttler

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 Trimmell,
 03 9702 1223 /0418 535 264
 badfolk@optusnet.com.au
 Featured artist 3rd Friday February to December, The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick Vic. 3806
www.badfolk.org.au

Boite World Music Cafe

Therese Virtue,, 03 9417 1983
 boite@boite.asn.au
 Friday & Saturday - March to November, 1 Mark St, North Fitzroy, www.boite.asn.au

Geelong Folk Music Club

Ade Kelly (03)5241-3749,
 adenmyra@bigpond.com.au, Pete Fogarty (03)5339-7887. Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at Hotel Max, 2 Gheringhap St, Geelong. Open Mic. Performance events first Tuesday at Irish Murphy's, 30 Aberdeen St & 3rd Tuesdays at Hotel Max. Bookings: Paula Grembka 0401 671 1310.
<http://www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com/>

Gippsland Acoustic Music Club

Barbara Brabets, 03 5174 7403
 Local musicians and concert opportunities.
 1st Sunday at 7:45 pm, Tyers Hall, Tyers
www.musicclub.org

Ranges Burrinja Folk Club

Andrew Jackson, 03 97567398 or 0402 473 897
mail@drfolk.com.au
 Guest artist, last Friday of month
 Burrinja Cultural Centre, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey Vic (Mel Ref 75B12)
www.rangesburrinjiafolk.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/

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

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: sessions@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:
billabongband@vfmc.org.au

Iwish to become a member of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. and will

- (a) Support the aims of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc and
 - (b) Abide by the rules of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
- (For details see: - <http://www.vfmc.org.au/Constitution.pdf>)

Signed

I wish to receive my Newsletter by:

- (a) Email or/and
 - (b) Post
- (Cross out whichever is not applicable)

Membership Type (please circle)

<u>Metro</u> Single	\$25
Family*	\$30
Junior (u 18)	\$15
Student (full time)	\$20
Single Concession	\$20
Family Concession*	\$25
<u>Country</u> Single	\$20
Family*	\$25

Please post completed form to:

The Secretary
 VFMC
 PO Box 215
 Ringwood East 3135 Victoria

*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18

Name:

Address:

Email

Phone/s: