



TRADITION

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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VALE: GREG WOODRUFF



Photo by Trevor Voake

**PLEASE NOTE: WATTLE DAY IN EARLY SEPTEMBER
 CELEBRATING EVERYTHING AUSTRALIAN
 THIS YEAR WILL BE VIA ZOOM—SEE INSIDE, PAGE 7**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
 BY: FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Every Tuesday except the 2nd (concert night), Ringwood East Community Hall, Knaith Rd Reserve. 7.30 Australian Folk Songs; 8.00-10.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. Supper. \$5 members, \$6 non members. The 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

To be organised at a future date hopefully.

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 each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids free. No charge. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Children's Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January. 2-3.30pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. Live band each month. All school age children welcome. \$5 a child, \$10 a family. Adults free.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
30th	31st					1st VFMC Dance CANCELLED
2nd	3rd	4th Club Session ZOOM	5th	6th	7th	8th
9th	10th	11th Concert Night ZOOM EVE (with guest/s)	12th	13th	14th	15th Children's Dance CANCELLED
16th	17th	18th Club Session ZOOM	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th	25th Club Session ZOOM (ALL IN)	26th	27th	28th	29th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020—REPORT

The A.G.M. was held on Sunday, 28th June 2020 at 2.30pm—held via 'Zoom' in VFMC members' homes.

This year due to the Covid-19 restrictions our club decided to go ahead with our A.G.M. via 'Zoom', which proved to be a success as we had members signing in near 2.30pm and were able to start the meeting on time. Another innovation this year was that all the reports were put up on the club's website for all members to read before the meeting. Note: All reports are still accessible at <http://www.vfmc.org.au/AGM2020.php> No time was lost and also more importantly no trees were cut down either.

Election of Office Bearers were undertaken by Tony Kelly who did a sterling job and was most efficient. This year our Office Bearers are:

President: Steve Bullock
Vice President: Michael Hassett
Secretary: Jane Bullock
Treasurer: Don Fraser

Congratulations to all three of you – Steve, Jane and Don were in these positions last year so obviously the jobs are not too difficult (remember that for next year in case you are needed).

The ordinary committee members are:

Maree Buttler: also a Billabong Band convener; and
on Wattle Day sub-committee
Maggie Somerville: also our 'Tradition' Editor
Stan Cuichak: also a Billabong Band convener
Trevor Voake: also our Membership Secretary; a Concert
Night convener & Billabong Band convener
Tony Kelly: also on the Concert Night sub-committee
Kathy Cox: also on the Dance sub-committee

Congratulations to all of you—may we all work in harmony.

The Treasurer reported a small loss for the year which was the result of our donation to Bush Fire Relief, and he also predicted a further small loss in the current financial year due to disruptions by the virus pandemic. It was decided in these Covid-19 times, the club will not increase membership fees and of course all memberships are not due until end of March 2021.

- Report by Jane Bullock

IN PLACE OF CONCERT NIGHT REPORT—



ON THE BEACH

No Ava Gardner here.... No Gregory Peck nor Fred Astaire
 The players now are Nature's own... A starfish, crab and gull.
 And humans too, the fools they are... Who toil and sweat, grab and hoard
 No conscience or fair creed... They hope and wish upon a star.



In modern times, not too far back... A tale was told of nuclear war
 Red phones, alarms and buttons struck... Mushroom clouds and desolation.
 And Humandom was blown away.In distant realms, those not whacked
 Would go below in submarines... Or waste away from radiation.



Now.. the small's become the mighty... The miniscule in Nature's world
 Have risen up, the stage unfurled.... And Humandom is under threat.
 A virus warped by acts unclean... Has swept across the world
 Striking down the humans.... A ruthless plague is now the scene.

Humandom resists and fights... Calls to arms, to organise
 Leaders tighten reins and rule... Medics now... heroic Knights.
 The populace, Warriors all... Comply with strict directions
 Defending kin and personal space..... They hunker down.. below the
 deadly race.



IN PLACE OF CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (cont.)

On the beach a Warrior walks... With weapons of a different kind...
Space.. and pause.. and thoughtful mind...
.....He contemplates the ways of Nature.
He sees tides turning,... Clouds looming... storms brewing
Moon shining... Sun blazing...
He feels the wind... and hears the roar of waves.

On the beach a starfish trapped.....Upended by the tide
Awaits the next to seal its fate....Chance and Nature will decide...

A crab lies low inside some kelp....Instinct says it's best to hide
Safety lies in deeper water....Chance and Nature will decide....

A gull.. stands.. upon the sand....And gives a look, wary-eyed
Is that beast a threat to me?...Chance and Nature will decide

The Warrior walks and sees these creatures...
Admires their forms.. and their features... ..And ponders....
In the breadth of Nature's Story... Is Humandom.. just transitory?
And after all, if we're not there... Will Nature's creatures really care?

♦

*Post Script: Nature's kind and Nature's cruel... Nature's kind to give this warning...
The Biggest Storm is yet to come... Heed the threats of Global Warming.*

V3.1 © Ian Young, 21st April 2020. Big thanks to Graeme Johanson for the photos and 'other images', and to my friends and family for their encouragement. ...For The World.





Diary dates for August:

Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

Saturday August 1st 2020

Your house via Zoom

**see
vfmc.org.au
or
victorian folk music club facebook**

dance - 7.30-9.00pm



Wattle Day Celebration

A day to celebrate all things Australian

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

Saturday September 5th 2020

Your house via Zoom

workshops 10am - 5.30pm

A range of kids activities plus
singing, poetry and musical workshops.

We will also be running a Creative Arts competition for children,
on the theme of Wattle Day, in the weeks leading up to this event,
with prizes being awarded on the day.

Keep an eye on the [VFMC website](#), [Facebook Page](#)
and your email for details.

and in the evening also [via Zoom](#) a **Family Bush Dance**

dance - 7.30-9.00pm



THE IMPERIAL FLUTE—by Jane Bullock

Whilst in Covid-19 mode I have been tidying up some papers and I came across the following sheet:

Australian Tradition April 1996

The Imperial Flute, an article by **Bill Buttler**, the then Editor of the VFMC newsletter, 'Tradition'.

A little background is necessary. Over the last year or so (1995ish) I have been working my way through a book called "Composing Music – A New Approach"

(by William Russo, University of Chicago Press). The book is simple enough so that a complete beginner can make progress easily, but even an expert will find plenty of useful ideas.

One of the central ideas of the book is that it is much easier to get started on a composition by severely limiting your resources, e.g. the allowable notes and rhythm values.

The book has a very practical approach, requiring the reader to start composing right from chapter one. In fact, on the first page of chapter one, we get the first exercise, entitled "The Imperial Flue".

Briefly, the Imperial Flute can play only four notes – E, G, A and B. You are required to compose a tune which will please the emperor (who owns the flute) – or die! Ok, a bit fanciful, but the idea is clear.

As well as only having four notes, you are limited to a single rhythm throughout; four quarter notes followed by a half note (see above, a tune with 3 quarter notes followed by a half note) (so Bill didn't quite get it right and neither have I now that I have properly read the instructions!)

Now, here's a challenge. Why don't you have a go and send in YOUR composition for the Imperial Flute? If you do, I am prepared to publish the best efforts in next month's newsletter. I would be happy with any kind of contribution, so long as it obeys the rules. (I hope you will be happy with mine, Bill, even though like you I haven't quite obeyed the rules!)

(continued over...)

THE IMPERIAL FLUTE (continued):

Flute

The Imperial Flute

Jane Bullock

June 2020

I have actually also written a harmony to go with this tune.

- by Jane Bullock

ONLINE KLEZMER FESTIVAL— LATE JULY

For anyone interested in a virtual online Klezmer festival, The London International Klezmer Experience will take place online, 26-29 July 2020.

Google ‘London International Klezmer Experience’ to find the appropriate link.

VALE: GREG WOODRUFF

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of club member, musician and friend Greg Woodruff. Greg's brief battle with a very aggressive cancer ended on Sunday 5th July with his family in attendance.

In his 11 years membership of the VFMC, Greg left his mark in many and varied ways.

Probably best known through the club as a highly skilled guitarist and recorder player, Greg was always there to help his fellow musicians, and was able to apply his knowledge of music theory to help resolve the perennial VFMC issue of chord selection; he inspired many of us in our musical journeys. He also loved to sing, and formed and led a choral group "The Men", which he brought to our concert stage. Rather than just accommodating less skilled performers, Greg sought to develop and enhance the skills of those with whom he performed. His various appearances in spot acts and main acts on concert nights showed the high expectations and standards he set for himself in performing his music. He composed a number of very fine songs in the Australian tradition which show a high standard of emotional connection to his compositions and a similar talent in expressing them.

Greg's support for the club extended to a period on the committee, where he served as Secretary for a couple of years, a role he carried out with his usual meticulous care. He also edited the VFMC newsletter for a period of time.



(continued over...)

VALE GREG WOODRUFF (continued)

More recently, Greg played a pivotal role in the recently completed revision of the "Joy Durst Memorial Australian Songbook". Many club members contributed, at the start of the project, by transcribing the 100 songs into the Musescore, score editing program. It was Greg who took on the task of massaging these scores into a consistent style and format, drawing on both his music and technical skills to provide a first class result. And then he did it all again to provide those 100 scores in a second style. As the review and revision process proceeded, Greg researched every town, river, mountain and pastoral station mentioned in those songs and defined them in an extension file to the Google Earth mapping program. At the end of the project, it was Greg who took on the task of combining the 200 scores, the indexes, the notes, glossary of terms and gazeteer into three PDF documents with hyperlinks to navigate between the sections. It was a vast amount of work, but one which his family assure us he truly relished and of which he was rightfully proud. We all missed the planned launch of the 3rd edition at the National Folk Festival at Easter, but Greg was delighted to see his work accessible around the world from our website, where it has been accessed 162 times in just a couple of weeks.

Many of our club members are now proficient in the use of Musescore after Greg's presentation on the use of the software, given as a part of last year's Wattle Day celebrations. Moreover, many of our concert audiences really enjoyed the nights when Greg mc'd, dressed up for the part of course.

We will miss his smiling face and personality. His legacy will live on in the memory of those who knew him.

A celebration of Greg's life will be held next Wednesday the 22nd of July, at 12:30pm and is available to watch at the following link:

<https://tobinbrothers.com.au/tribute/all-services/index.html?orderBy=date-of-death&search=Gregory%20John%20Woodruff>

- *Steve Bullock, with assistance of Maree Buttler, Trevor Voake and Donald Fraser*

OSCAR BRAND

Stephen Whiteside made a passing reference to Oscar Brand in his Burl Ives article in the June Tradition. If an individual was worthy of canonisation for service to folk music then Brand would be high on the list of worthies, his cv of achievements is breathtaking. He was a Canadian and died in 2016 at the age of 96.

Pete Seeger was better known in this country but I don't recall knowing of Oscar Brand other than having bought an LP of sea shanties of his many decades ago. I always thought Pete Seeger's voice had a mellow and engaging quality but I would describe Oscar Brand's as more like Pete Seeger than Pete Seeger himself. It was very pleasantly suited to the presentation of folk music, whether he was singing or hosting a TV show.

Like Pete Seeger and anyone else who queried the direction the herd was being led towards in those days he was labelled a Communist. Folk music was the natural medium for social commentary in those days or to project a questioning view of the status quo. Take Little Boxes, or Where Have All The Flowers Gone, or Universal Soldier. Take much of the music of Bob Dylan.



Oscar Brand hosted the popular university folk music show Let's Sing Out on TV in the early sixties, and these make inspiring viewing on YouTube today. It's fascinating to see fresh faced uni-aged people like Joni Mitchell just before they hit the big time. There's no mistaking she was headed for fame. Other programs with the fresh faced Simon and Garfunkel, the future Maria Muldau in Jim Kweskin's Jug Band, Joan Baez, Carly Simon etc. all got a break on their way to further fame on Brand's Let's Sing Out.

(continued over...)

OSCAR BRAND (continued)

Wikipedia says Oscar Brand was born in 1920 and died in 2016. He composed at least 300 songs and released nearly 100 albums, among them Canadian and American patriotic songs, bawdy barrack-room songs, children's stories, novelty songs and many major productions and festivals. He also wrote short stories. For 70 years he hosted a weekly folk music show on WNYC Radio in New York which is credited as the longest running radio show in broadcasting history with only one host. What an amazing achievement!

Here are a few links of interest:-

Joni Mitchel compilation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abtBjHVAe08>

Jim Kweskin's Jug Band and others

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcUAD3qSQd4>

Johnny Come Down To Hilo, Oscar Brand

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzDJtDCOfEo>

Report by Don Fraser ; photo—Internet (public domain)

APOLOGY

In last month's newsletter it was stated that the article as well as the photographs of Don Gingrich's "unofficial" session were provided by Don Fraser.

In fact, the photos were taken by **Barbara Kowalski**.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

- The Editor

‘THE MEN’—QUIZ

1) What sort of group was/is 'The Men'? 2) When did it start? 3) Who founded it? 4) How many members belonged to it initially? 5) Name some songs that the group performed. 6) Name at least one VFMC member who was/is in 'The Men'.

Answers to last quiz: 1) A wind instrument 2) It is reedless or an aerophone that produces sound from a flow of air across its opening 3) A flautist, flutist, fluter, flutenist 4) About 40,000 years 5) Europe 6) Krishna; Pan 7) James Galway.

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—JULY 2020

There are unfortunately no gigs to report on due to the current health crisis and subsequent forced cancellation of large gatherings. We are, however, hoping that this latest lockdown in Victoria will soon pass and the restrictions will again be eased so that we can eventually go back to the real world of song and dance.

Upcoming gigs (most of which will probably be cancelled):

Aug 28th - Lionsbrae
 Sept 19th - Children's Dance
 Oct 7th - Donwood
 Oct 23rd - Lionsbrae
 Dec 2nd - Yarrunga Retirees Christmas party
 Dec 5th - VFMC dance
 Dec 18th - Lionsbrae

- Billabong Band coordinators: Maree and Trevor



- 'The Men'

(photo by Trevor Voake)

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzzza@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, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. Contact Mary Smith 5442-1153 or email secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

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
 admin@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

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/

Fireside Fiddlers

For fiddles plus other string melody instruments, such as mandolins.
 Every Monday evening at various venues. For further information, contact Denise Hibbs: 0402 050 524

Newport Folk Club

Certain Friday nights at 7.30 pm plus other evenings, e.g. Tues Blues and Sunday 2 pm singalongs etc.
 See website for up-to-date calendar.

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
- Affiliation with other organizations

VFMC Postal Address

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

VFMC Website

<http://www.vfmc.org.au>

CONTACTS

Secretary

Jane Bullock
Telephone: 9762 1389
Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club

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

Family/Children's 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: