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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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FROM ZOOM AUDIENCES BACK TO LIVE AUDIENCES IN THE NEAR FUTURE?!



Photos by Trevor Voake

ATTENTION ALL VFMC MEMBERS:

Please note that the VFMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is planned for Sunday 27th June at 2.30 pm. See details, p.6.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAY NEWSLETTER

BY: FRIDAY 16TH APRIL TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

NOTE: MOST LIVE EVENTS ARE CANCELLED DURING PANDEMIC!

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1st April	2nd	3rd No Dance— EASTER
4th	5th	6th Club Session ZOOM	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th	13th Concert Night ZOOM EVE Guest artist/s	14th	15th	16th	17th Zoom Dance
18th	19th	20th Club Session ZOOM	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
25th	26th	27th Club Session ZOOM (all-in)	28th	29th	30th	



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

presents an Online Concert

Dan McKinnon

with Support Act
Bruce Watson

Folk enthusiasts cannot mistake this native Nova Scotian's deep baritone voice, the flowing liquidity of his guitar, and larger-than-life personality that keeps audiences transfixed

TUESDAY 13th APRIL 7:30 - 9:30pm

\$10, \$8 concession, kids no charge

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-april2021-concert>

Spot acts please apply to concerts@vfmc.org.au

www.vfmc.org.au / Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club / 0427.784.296.

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

Next concert 11th May - The Jam Tarts

ONLINE CONCERT NIGHT REPORT

The March Concert was another Zoom event, with Michael Hassett as MC.

SPOT ACTS: Peter Reid opened the program with two songs of his own composition. His first song 'I've Never Been a Cowboy' lamented a great missed opportunity in Peter's life. He followed up with 'I Am a Coal Miner's Daughter', a story of the hard life of the daughter as her father died in the mine, and she finally moved away to the city.



Ed Robbins followed, again with two of his own songs. Firstly, 'Ash Wednesday' about his experience back in 1983 when going for a drive from Port Fairy and being caught up in one of the tragic fires that day. His second song was about a redwood forest in the Ayr River Valley when bush was cleared in 1938 to create a redwood forest, which contrasted markedly with the surrounding Australian bush.

Stephen Whiteside provided a change of genre from music to poetry, beginning with a nautical scene-setting about the current America's Cup yacht races in New Zealand this year. The first poem recited was John Masefield's 'Sea Fever', followed by a reply to Masefield's poem by Australian poet Charles Souter: 'Sea Fear'. Then came a poem, 'Block City', by Robert Louis Stevenson inspired by Stevenson's connections to civil engineering, followed by three of Stephen's own poems, again with a nautical theme: 'The Bilge of a Ship', 'If I were a Sailor' and 'A Perfect Ship'.



Maree and Bill gave us two lovely traditional Celtic songs: 'Come by the hills' and 'Caledonia'. The first was sung by Maree who accompanied herself on harp with Bill on guitar. Bill sang and played the second on guitar with Maree harmonising with vocals and accompanying on accordion. An excellent performance!

Finally, **Rudy** entertained us with 'A Home Among the Gum Trees', after first instructing the audience on the actions and gestures they should perform while joining in with the singing. Unusually for Rudy, he only had two instruments for accompaniment: a resonator ukulele and harmonica. Rudy's second song, his own composition, was dedicated to a friend who died recently entitled 'Goodbye Goodbye', incorporating quotes from Dr Suess and James Dean.



(continued over...)

ONLINE CONCERT NIGHT REPORT**Main Act:**

Our main act performer was **KHRISTIAN MIZZI**, well-known to many of us after performing a support act at the club in December 2018.



He opened with a Bob Dylan favourite, '**Crooked Highway**'. Then came the first of Kristian's own songs: '**Call Your Mother**' - a song about a young man estranged from his family and struggling with addiction. We were privileged to be the first audience to hear this new song.

Then followed '**A Little Space**' that celebrates the suburb Bend of Islands, discovered when Kristian went to collect some new harmonicas. A haven for people 'looking for a little space to breathe again' and escape the soulless suburbs with their McMansions.

The next song was '**The old Lomond Hotel**' where Kristian shared a drink and friendship with Enda Kenny and where, he reveals, "the truth came to find me". A song of hope for empty nesters followed assuring them that despite the children grown and gone, there was a '**Good Moon**' on the rise and then an up tempo number telling how we "gotta love" those '**Old Songs**'. Then came a sentimental song by Greg Champion of Could-a-been fame, a long time friend of Kristian's.



Back to Kristian's songs, we had a sentimental song recollecting childhood days of '**Saturdays with Dad**', and recollections of fishing and enjoying an ice-cream but also observing troubles on his mind. Then came a sentimental love song, '**If I Were Free**', followed by a brand new song inspired by observing his **two daughters** growing to adulthood and observing the struggles for identity and purpose in life.

Next month: Dan McKinnon, with support act by Bruce Watson.

Report by Michael Hassett ; photos by Trevor Voake & Don Fraser



MEMBERSHIP FEES—A REMINDER

Members are reminded that their membership fees are now due at the end of March, which is fast approaching.

Any membership that was due in June 2020 has to be renewed by March 2021. Please check your membership card to see the expiry date.

Memberships can now be paid online at vfmc.org.au Please include your surname in the descriptor. Otherwise they can be paid via cheque posted to VFMC, PO Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135

- *Trevor Voake (Membership Officer)*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Sunday 27th June 2021 at 2.30pm has been nominated as the date for the Annual General Meeting.

At this point in time the location is yet to be decided. However, it should also be held via Zoom.

The closing date for Special Resolutions (if any) is 6th June and the closing date for other business is 13th June.

PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE FOR VENUE DETAILS...

- *VFMC Committee*

The Dance Page



Diary dates for April:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DUE TO	COVID-19	EASING	WE NOW	PLAN	A REAL	DANCE
ON THE	FIRST	SATURDAY	OF EACH	MONTH	BUT NOT	THIS APRIL
DUE TO	EASTER					
HOWEVER	THERE	WILL BE	A ZOOM	DANCE	ON THE	THIRD
SATURDAY	IN APRIL					

Photo by

Trevor

Voake

Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

Saturday 17th April, 2021.

Special Theme Night
Place Name Dances

Your house

Zoom ID 757 492 753
Password: VFMC2020

dance - 7.30-9.30pm



As it's AFL season once again and as it's nearing the centenary of Henry Lawson's death next year (he died in September 1922), here is a whimsical flight of fancy that relates to both - by VFMC member, Stephen Whiteside.

Henry's Final

I took Henry Lawson to the footy over the weekend.

It wasn't my idea. I got a phone call from Archibald.

"Henry's in town," he says. "We want him to write about Melbourne, and you can't write about Melbourne without writing about the footy – especially during finals time."

"But you know Henry," I protest. "He's not interested in competitive sport. It bores him witless."

"Please?"

He's a hard man to say no to, Archibald. I roll my eyes, and mutter acquiescence down the line.

Things started bad, and got worse.

He insisted on having his face painted before we'd even entered the arena. I always think it's a bad look, a grown man with his face painted. Great for kids. Even certain type of women can get away with it. But men? No. Then he caught the eye of somebody handing out those stupid signs designed for the TV cameras – "Great mark!", or something like that. He thought it was an enormous hoot. He wouldn't even know what a mark was! Before I knew it, he was carting one of them in as well!

I wanted to get a seat up on the balcony, where you get a good view of the whole field, but Henry insisted on sitting down near the boundary rail.

(continued over...)

Henry's Final (continued)

"You won't get to see anything there!" I protested.

But he just shrugged his shoulders.

"Looks like more fun," was all he could come up with.

I tried to explain some of the rules, but I could tell he wasn't interested. There was a little girl on the other side of him, and they started giggling together. When they started playing 'rock paper scissors', I knew the game was up.

Of course, when people around started waving their signs in the air to try to catch the attention of the TV, he had to be in that too.

There was one saving grace. I was sure I'd lose him to the bar at half time and never see him again, but the Little League came on, and he was entranced! He didn't have a drink all day – except for a few slugs of the girl next door's Fanta.

Ah well, I suppose I should be grateful. I got him home in one piece, and stone cold sober. No mean achievement, and Archibald was amazed.

Of course, Henry told me later that he had forgotten to wash his face paint off that night, and had woken up with it smeared all over his pillow. But I figured that was his problem. I'm not a friggin' baby sitter.

© Stephen Whiteside 10.09.2012

Note: This piece has previously been published in 'The Lawsonian' - Vol. 1, No. 11 (Sept/Oct 2012)



Melbourne Comhaltas Irish Weekend in Queenscliff Anzac Day weekend 23rd-26th April 2021



Join us for a weekend of traditional Irish music, song and dance.

Workshops will be at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels in many instruments such as fiddle, banjo, accordion, whistle and harp. Singing and set dancing, too!

Workshops & sessions led by renowned professionals including Andy Rigby, Jodie Moran, Joan Mundy, Marie Brouder and others.

Music sessions will be held each night with a ceili on Saturday night in Queenscliff Town Hall.

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

<https://forms.gle/eVe6v6jToMd5cZyv9>

Cost: Just \$60 covers all weekend activities or pay for individual activities @ \$20 each.

Time: Starting from 4:30 p.m. Friday 23rd April

Venue: Queenscliff Town Hall & Whitehall Guesthouse, on Learmonth Street

Accommodation can be arranged on a house share basis..

Prior booking & payment are necessary!
Contact Jo O'Reilly

With thanks to



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



For more info: Mary McBride: 03 9435 4435, marymcbride01@yahoo.com.au

Jo O'Reilly: 0428 564 266, goreilly@inet.net.au

<https://www.facebook.com/ComhaltasMelbourne>

https://twitter.com/Comhaltas_Melb

<http://melbournecomhaltas.org>



Sat 9.30/ 10.30am	Sat 11am/ 12 noon	Sat 2pm/ 3pm	Sat 3.30/ 4.30pm	Sun 2pm/ 3pm	Sun 3.30/ 4.30pm	Mon 9.30/ 10.30am	Mon 11am/ 12 noon
Jody Moran Group Session Easy/ Beginner	Jody Moran Group Session Moderate	Joan Mundy Playing for Dancers Advanced	Jody Moran Group Session Advanced	Jody Moran Concertina & Accordion Workshop	Jody Moran Whistle Workshop	Eamon Spillane Low Whistles	Eamon Spillane iPads, tablets, PDFs & Apps
Andy Rigby Harp Basics	Andy Rigby Flute Basics	Andy Rigby Harp Moderate	Chris Logue (& Grace Kelly) Unaccomp singing	Andy Rigby Group Session Mixed instruments	Andy Rigby Group Session Mixed instruments	Jackie Prendergast Tin Whistle Basic	Jackie Prendergast Tin Whistle Basic
Tutor Fiddle Basics	Joan Mundy Playing for Dancers Basics	Tutor Fiddle Moderate	Tutor Fiddle Advanced	Tutor Fiddle Group Session	Chris Logue (& Grace Kelly) Unaccomp singing Basics	Tutor Fiddle Group Session	Joan Mundy Playing for Dancers General

This is a true story—an account of a recent summer holiday event:

THE LANDING AT STOCKYARD CREEK

The Stockyard Creek was beckoning, its waters drew us near,
Our yellow kayak on the roof, our car would soon appear
At the Stockyard Landing, here we come, anticipation high;
We turned the corner, slowing down, and then - a gasp, a sigh.

For standing there in front of us the strangest trio grazed
As we oohed and aahed and oohed again, both startled and amazed.
We saw a horse – a chestnut dream, so stately, strong and tall,
It stared at us and moved aside, our car began to crawl

As we studied its companion, an alpaca – what a treat,
With its fine clipped coat and slender neck, expression o so sweet!
They made a handsome pair they did, the alpaca and horse,
Yet a trio means that there were three – of course, of course, of course.

But sadly the third party with this most unlikely pair
Was nothing like the duo – for it lacked both fur and hair,
And where they were sleek and cared for, this poor creature screamed neglect
With its dreadlocks and long, knotted wool we longed to disinfect.

For a shaggy sheep is what we saw, bedraggled with black face,
It clearly was no favoured pet, 'twas just a waste of space.
O the contrast between it and them was truly hard to take,
We talked of RSPCA reporting for its sake

As we paddled off for hours on end, with eagle overhead,
We gawked at crabs in hundreds, on each mangrove bank they spread.
Some massive eels we frightened, with one leaping high and dry
Out of the muddy water near our boat as I let forth a cry.

And so we journeyed to the mouth as in the days of yore
When gold was near and boats were sailing in from every shore,
When men and women came to make their fortune if they could
And dreams were born and lives were lost and fate was bad or good.

(continued over...)

The Landing at Stockyard Creek (continued)

At last we paddled back again, no humans had we seen,
So we shared our trip with water birds, we told them where we'd been.
We reached the landing, tide now low, in fact we went aground
And trudged through mud those last few yards and this is what we found:

Our loyal trio waiting there – alpaca, horse and sheep,
They seemed to even welcome us as we began to creep
Up from the murky, slimy water's edge, our kayak caked in mud
And one of us now groaning while the other's leg dripped blood.

I gave the horse an apple and it seemed to smile at us,
But the alpaca just stared, and the poor sheep made no fuss.
Yet Pete the Shearer later told us it would be okay:
“The alpaca and horse protect it - that is just their way.”



ST PATRICK'S DAY—QUIZ

1) What day of the year is St Patrick's Day? 2) Who is St Patrick? 3) What century was he born in? 4) Where was he born and why was he taken to Ireland? 5) Why did he leave Ireland and why did he return? 6) Besides Ireland, where is St Patrick's Day also a public holiday?

Answers to last quiz:-

1) Dustyesky 2) New South Wales 3) 28 men 4) No 5) Vodka 6) During the pandemic in 2020

Billabong Band report – March 2021

There was only one Billabong Band gig during the past month, as follows.

Family Bush Dance, 6th March - report by Jane Bullock:

Our first Family Bush Dance for 2021 held in a hall. After working on a COVID safety plan, it was with some trepidation that I opened the hall doors and with the help of Jenny, Lyn and Maree we set up the hall - spacing the chairs out, putting up signs and placing the sanitizing bottles around. The dancers arrived and were all wearing masks, and happily danced the night away. Bill Buttler was busy setting up cameras so that we could Zoom at the same time, which enabled dancers from ACT, NSW, USA, and UK to join us. The Billabong Band provided the music, which was good. Norm gave me a hand with the calling, thus enabling me to do some dancing. I struggled to call with the mask on but found dancing no problem with it on.

(Many thanks to all Billabong Band members who played at this dance.)

There will be no dance in April as it is Easter Saturday, so our next dance will be on Saturday 1st May, back in the hall with hopefully restrictions eased some more.

Proposed upcoming gigs are:

Children's dance – 17th April

Woolshed Ball - 22nd May 2021 at Ringwood East Senior Citizens hall

- Billabong Band Convenors – Maree Butler, Stan Ciuchak, Trevor Voake

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES (ON HOLD NOW)**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. Marce: 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)

Please post completed form to:

The Secretary
 VFMC
 PO Box 215
 Ringwood East 3135 Victoria

Membership Type (please circle)

Metro 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

*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18

Name:

Address:

Email

Phone/s: