

Established 1959

Australian

May 2021



TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

Reg No A2511Y

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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FIRST REAL CHILDREN’S DANCE IN AGES



Photo by Naomi Voake

ATTENTION ALL VFMC MEMBERS:

Please note that the VFMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is planned for Sunday 4th June at 2.30 pm. See details, page 6

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER

BY: FRIDAY 14TH MAY TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

NOTE: MOST LIVE EVENTS ARE NOW COMING BACK—HYBRID!

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
30th	31st					1st May Family Bush Dance
2nd	3rd	4th Club Session ZOOM	5th	6th	7th	8th
9th	10th	11th Concert Night ZOOM EVE Guest artist/s	12th	13th	14th	15th Children's Dance
16th	17th	18th Club Session LIVE & ZOOM	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th	25th Club Session LIVE & ZOOM (all-in)	26th	27th	28th	29th



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

presents

The Jam Tarts

with Support act **The Men**



The Jam Tarts celebrate the unique role of older women in the music scene, singing 50's and 60's covers to bring a sense of theatre, fun and flair.

TUESDAY 11th MAY

7:45 - 10:00pm Admission \$14 to \$8, kids no charge

Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, and Online

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-may2021-concert>

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 8th June - Enda Kenny

ONLINE CONCERT NIGHT REPORT

Our April concert marked the end (we hope) of concerts conducted solely by Zoom as we prepare to return to live events in our new venue at the Uniting Church hall in Ringwood. Our MC for the evening was Steve Bullock, who demonstrated great dexterity by being both MC and fleeting performer with a fine rendition of Uncle Tom Cobley.

Spot Acts:



First up was **Trevor and Margie Voake** who blended their vocal and instrumental skills with two songs featuring Margie doing vocals and Trev accompanying on firstly, mandolin and for the second song, banjo. Their first song was 'Outcast - Half Caste', a song they heard at the 2019 national folk festival. They followed up with the Scottish favourite, 'Road to the Isles'.

Pleasant and Delightful in the persons of Don Fraser, Ken McGregor, Kristin McFarlane and Robyn Hammond followed, demonstrating their versatile instrumental and harmonising skills with two great songs, one about love: 'The Seeds of Love' - "...given time it will rise again" and the other about drinking: 'Come Me Lads', sung beautifully a cappella.



Support Act:

Our first support act since we were last performing live was presented by our friend and well known musician, **Bruce Watson** supported by wife **Jill**. Bruce presented a diverse mix of his own songs, poignant, humorous, and historical. Not only did he perform the songs but provided us with fascinating, sometimes moving and always informative backgrounds to each song. The opening song entitled 'This Golden Bracelet' told the story of the mother of a close friend who managed to survive Nazi occupation of Warsaw during WW2, with the protection of a courageous woman. They eventually found their way to Melbourne but always remembered their protector by wearing a golden bracelet bearing her name. A brighter note followed with a humorous song lamenting the sins of butchering the English language with the unpardonable sin of splitting an infinitive. A history lesson followed with 'Captain Moonlight' - a Love Story, an account of Andrew George Scott aka Captain Moonlight who met and fell in love with a fellow convict while in gaol. Eventually having been sentenced to hang for killing a policeman, he wrote to his companion: 'may we lay together'. Some words from these letters form part of the song.

A song followed no doubt inspired by the coronavirus and the possibility that it crossed to humans from the animal world, specifically the Pangolin. The song was - you guessed it 'What do you know about the Pangolin?' Bruce concluded with a song dedicated to, he thought, the 40th anniversary of his first date with Jill, only to be corrected that it was in fact their 45th anniversary. Jill joined him on flute with 'These Old Bones', a song also pertinent to more than a few VFMC members—not least your reviewer.

ONLINE CONCERT NIGHT REPORT**Main Act:**

Dan McKinnon was our main act this month. Dan joined us from Nova Scotia, Canada at the unearthly hour (for him) of 7.30am. He opened with a lovely song encapsulating his life journey and his friendships and travails: 'Til My Walking Days Are Done'. In a similar vein, his second song recalled childhood memories "...when our feet had wings and hearts could fly". We were treated to a fascinating history lesson in Dan's next song 'Kith and Kin' which he had written to mark the 60th anniversary of the arrival of some 43,000 women as "the war brides", with some 21,000 children, through Pier 21 of the Port of Halifax from 1943 to 1947. He asked some women from that time, whether in hindsight they would do the same think again. All confirmed they would. A change of guitar to a superb 12 string with a beautiful 'ring' accompanied Dan's next song. This was prefaced by a story about song writing workshops that are 'safe places' in that if somebody contributes a few words for a song they don't expect a cut of the royalties (in contrast to the norms 'further south'). A novel approach to one songwriting workshop where ideas had dried up was to take a dictionary, open it up at random and pick a word. That word would be the theme for a song. The next song is based on having selected the word 'just and, following a chance meeting with a friend, inspired Dan to write 'Just Another Day'. Another fascinating piece of history followed commemorating the now lost trade of sail-making around Nova Scotia, which his father pursued for sixty years. Sailmakers would take sails out onto the ice to allow them to be stretched out enough to work on. The song tells of nostalgic visits to the old workshops where old broken needles may still be found. The six string guitar was retrieved for the next song 'The Captain and The Queen' which makes reference to ships called 'Blue Nose'. Blue nose is a colloquial name given to Nova Scotians possibly because of the freezing temperatures turning their noses blue or maybe because they just wipe their noses with their navy blue sweaters. The next song 'Remember Me' commemorates a tragic explosion in Halifax in 1917 when two ships, one departing the harbour and the other arriving, collided. One of the ships was laden with explosives. Dan's grandmother, a young girl at the time, was kept home from school with whooping cough, the day of the explosion. This probably saved her life as over 2000 people were killed, many of them school children. One family had their house collapse killing the mother and a son. In the rubble of the house was a broken cup inscribed with the words 'Remember Me'. A lovely melody followed with a song telling of Aesop's Fables and then a tribute: 'Absent Friends' to late musician friends, one of whom is John Thompson of Cloudstreet. The twelve string made a comeback for a song about musicians' lives on the road. The hour having expired, would usually have meant the end of the concert. However so impressed were the audience with cries (in the chat) for an encore, that Dan gave us one more song, which graciously, was a song of appreciation of the audience, written just a year ago, titled 'For You'. This concert is without doubt among the best we have had for a long time. Good songs invariably tell a story. Dan's songs certainly do this. He is not only a superb musician but a great storyteller as well.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Sunday 4th July 2021 at 2.30pm has been nominated as the date and time for the Annual General Meeting of the V.F.M.C.

The location will be the East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood (Melway 50B8).

However, it can on request be made available via Zoom for those who cannot make the meeting in person.

FROM THE PRESIDENT: Goodbye to Harry's Hall - see also page 12

We have received notice from Maroondah Council that the hall we have enjoyed for a number of years in East Ringwood is to be demolished. The hall had great acoustics for our unamplified concerts and sessions. It is also sad as our friend Harry Gardner played a significant role in financing and getting the hall built. So now we are preparing to resume our sessions and concerts at the Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, just across the road from Ringwood railway station.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of most of the main committee and the concerts sub-committee in the daunting task of finding a new venue for our Tuesday night concerts and sessions. There will be more effort required as we adapt to the new venue at the same time as we emerge from the pandemic restrictions and return to face-to-face events. There may also be the need to revise our pricing structure because of the increased cost of the venue.

Also, as we emerge from Covid restrictions, we need to consider the future of our Zoom audience. The decision to continue with Zoom in parallel with live events requires further technical support and will incur some costs. I thank the team who have trialled the new venue and will make the technology work for the immediate future while we assess the ongoing requirements.

I also remind everyone (including myself) that membership renewals came due at the end of March.

- by *Steve Bullock*



Diary dates for May:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DUE TO	COVID-19	EASING	WE NOW	HAVE	A REAL	DANCE
ON THE	FIRST	AND	THIRD	SATURDAY	OF EACH	MONTH



Photo by Naomi Voake

Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc
Saturday 1st May. 2021
with Comhaltas

Restrictions allowing we will be at:-

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

B.Y.O. mug for a cuppa

VFMC's COVID-19 safe plan see website.

via Zoom at your house if restrictions change

Hall dance - 8.00 - 11.00pm



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)



Bush Dance for school children

Saturday 15th May
2.00pm - 3.00pm

**Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East**

Band: Borderline Kaylee



**Cost: \$5 per child or \$10 a family and adults free
when accompanied by a child**

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





Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)

Woolshed Ball

Saturday 22nd May 2021

7:30pm - 11pm

Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East



Music by Billabong Band

COVID safe procedures will be in place and numbers are limited.
BYO drink, food and mask.

Book early so as not to miss out!
Alcohol Not Permitted

Admission \$20 - \$25 non-members prepaid at: <https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-may2021-woolshed-ball>
\$25 at the door

Enquiries:

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

VFMC's New Tune Finder

The VFMC website now has a new function called "Tune Finder". It can be found in the main menu, immediately below the Fireside Fiddlers link. It is intended to help you to quickly find any song, tune or bracket of dance music anywhere on our website or externally.

The Tune Finder will be able to search for and then link to PDF scores, MP3 music files and MIDI files anywhere in the VFMC web site or externally.

Please have a play with it. Currently, the finder is able to access all of the Joy Durst songs, all of the dance music scores that are currently loaded (about 150 scores representing almost 400 tunes), and (to prove concept) a few items from Fireside Fiddlers and a few external links. Over time, this will be extended to include all of Fireside Fiddlers, the remaining and future dance music scores, any of the session night collections that we choose to scan (as individual page PDFs), any of our publications that we choose to make available on-line (as individual page PDFs), pages from past newsletters with music, and external collections (with agreement) such as the settlers sessions music.

The system is also able to record synonyms when we identify tunes that are known by multiple names.

- *by Steve Bullock*

SOME FOLKIE JOKES

What is the fastest way to tune a banjo? With wire cutters.

CONVERSATION BETWEEN A TREBLE CLEF AND A BASS CLEF:

Bass Clef: You're nothing but treble!

Treble Clef: All you do is bring us down...

OUR UPCOMING NEW VENUE

Hello all VFMC people. After a break of well over a year the Club is getting back to meeting live, face-to-face and in person again. From **Tuesday 20th April** sessions will be held at the new venue, the **Ringwood Uniting Church Hall in Station St. Ringwood**. It is virtually next to the Ringwood Railway Station and within easy access of the freeway from both directions.

Concerts will commence there as well on **Tuesday 11th May, with The Jam Tarts**, supported by The Men. See poster on page 3.

Besides the dreadful Covid situation turning the world on its head, the Club has also been obliged to change premises due to the old Community Hall in Ringwood East being slated for demolition. After considerable effort, we believe the Ringwood Uniting Church Hall will represent an improvement in space, location and access.

Since the pandemic struck we have been making do with online Zoom access, and this has kept the Club together as well as revealing a few advantages of this type of access. So our **Sessions and Concerts can still be accessed online** if you are travelling or are disadvantaged by distance. Check out the details on the Club website at www.vfmc.org.au

The Club's monthly Family Bush Dances are moving away from Zoom only at the present time, so see the posters and website for details.

The Club has also put a lot of work into improving payment options for membership, concert attendances etc. by using the Humanitix ticketing facility. It is very easy to use and very convenient. Concert tickets get sent to your email address, and the link on the tickets can take you directly to the Zoom session.

If you do attend the hall in person be aware we are still under Covid management restrictions imposed by both the Government and the building owners. The following few points will help us all get through the door quicker and without any issues:

- At the moment there's an upper limit of 36 attendees for Sessions and 66 for Concerts.

(continued over...)

- Try not to be late, the door may need to be locked later (there's a doorbell top left if necessary).
- Upon entry please register your attendance with the QR code.
- Bring a mask plus your own coffee cup and nibbles for supper.
- For sessions we need to collect admissions to pay the rent: \$5 for members, \$6 for others. Have the right money if you can.
- Online Zoomers can make a voluntary donation if they wish as it all helps us meet the expenses. There's a Donate button on the Sessions page of the website: www.vfmc.org.au/sessions.php
- If you can preselect your choices it will be helpful; both hard and soft copies can be projected.
- For Concerts see the Humanitix link or the website for tickets and information.
- Be patient while we sort out technical glitches, the new facilities, the Covid situation etc. I'm sure it will all be a great experience to get back together again.

Here are a few extra notes about Covid management:

1. Do not attend if you:
 - are unwell;
 - have been in any COVID Red Zone in the last 14 days;
 - have recently returned from overseas;
 - have been in contact with anyone currently infected with COVID.
2. Sanitise your hands on entry.
3. Sign in using QR code.
4. Maintain physical distancing when conversing or wear a face mask.
5. Maintain 2 square metre rule for singers and musicians.
6. Use your own music stand and music book.
7. Maintain a distance of 5 metres from audience when playing or singing as part of a presented performance.
8. Bring your own drink bottle and your own snacks if required.
9. The kitchen is not available for use by participants under current restrictions.
10. If the toilet is required, please wipe taps and door handles with disinfectant wipes and place wipe in bin provided.
11. Leave chairs out when session is over, ready to be sanitized.
12. Put a red card on your chair if you leave early (to avoid others using it).
13. If you develop COVID symptoms after a session, follow the government instructions and also please report it to the convener.

The Committee is very grateful to: Bill Buttler for his work in getting the online technology going so well, for Mike Hassett for setting up the ticketing system, and Steve Bullock for the vast amount of work on the website. - *Don Fraser*

PETE SEEGER—QUIZ

1) What year was Pete Seeger born? 2) Besides a folksinger, what was he? 3) What band was he a member of in the 1950s? 4) Why was the band blacklisted? 5) What famous anti-war song did Seeger write? 6) What instrument did he mostly play? 7) What year did he die?

Answers to last quiz:-

1) 17th March 2) Patron saint of Ireland 3) 5th century 4) Roman Britain but was taken to Ireland to be a slave 5) He escaped then returned to Ireland as a missionary, bringing Christianity 6) Northern Ireland, Newfoundland, Labrador, Montserrat.

Billabong Band report – April 2021

Band members had a **get-together at Stewart's place on March 26th** which was a very pleasant social evening full of music & chat.

Children's Dance – 17th April. This was a most successful afternoon. There were 23 people in attendance, including 11 children. Jane had arranged/modified a number of dances to suit the age group but which the adults were able to join in and enjoy themselves. We had 11 musicians playing. It's so great to be able to play together in a live atmosphere and see people enjoying themselves.

Two upcoming gigs are the **Woolshed Ball on Sat May 22nd & Regis Blackburn Aged Care on Friday June 4th.** Unfortunately, due to space limitations the band for the Ball will be limited to 7 people; however, we had more for the children's dance because some of the musicians were able to sit on the floor in front of the stage.

Practices for the Ball will start shortly (April 23rd).

'We are also in the throes of approaching Regis Inala in Blackburn South.

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

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES (CHECK IF ON)**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)

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: