Established 1959

Australian TRADITION

August 2021

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012 *Reg No A2511Y*

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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VFMC COMMITTEE 2021-22

From top left to bottom right:- Don, Stan, Steve, Michael, Maggie, Maree, Jane, Trevor

Photo by Bill Buttler

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS, VFMC CANNOT PRODUCE THE PRINTED VEERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER AT PRESENT. THE PRINT VERSION WILL BE PRODUCED AND MAILED OUT AS SOON AS RESTRICTIONS EASE SUFFICIENTLY.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY 20TH AUGUST 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

NOTE: PLEASE CHECK IF EVENTS ARE ZOOM, LIVE OR HYBRID!

Club Weekly Sessions

Weekly Sessions

Every Tuesday of the month except the 2nd (Concert night), **Ringwood Uniting Church Hall**, Station St. plus **online access.** From 7.15 Australian Folk Songs; 7.45 - 9.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. The 4th Tuesday is for all-in round robin playing of tunes, dance sets & group singing. $5 members, $6 non members. 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 Uniting Church Hall plus online. Concerts start with open stage acts at 7.45pm, finishing 10.00pm. $14, $12 conces and $10 members, kids free.

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

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

presents

Next concert 14th September - The Velvetones

CONCERT NIGHT REPORT

Once more, we were pleased to be back in the hall for our July concert, having had our June concert disrupted by an unexpected Covid lockdown. Our MC for the evening was Robyn Hammond.

SPOT ACTS:

Mick Kearon opened the program with a fine rendition of 'It's Cold in the Doorway Tonight', a moving song written by a deceased friend about homelessness as a result of domestic violence. He followed up with the late Stan Rogers song 'Northwest Passage', sung mostly unaccompanied. He concluded with a nicely contrasting quieter rendition of the Irish song, 'Carrickfergus'.

Ruth, one of our regular poets, followed with two of her poems parodying the Covid world we all now inhabit. The first titled 'We're all in this together' poked fun at the political rivalry and the hardships of border closures. The second looked at the far more pressing crisis of toilet paper panic buying and the seeming lack of imagination in coping with shortages of this evidently essential commodity.

Gary Caulfield treated us to a song about jogging, 'The Joggers Song'- "jogging makes you fit and strong' despite the beer and junk food. Then a tale about the Irish triplets: Paddy, Mick and Pat, two of whom grew tall and strong on breast milk, but the third was small and weedy as there was "no tit for Pat". Lastly, a poem: 'Home Alone' told of grown-up children who were happy they were well brought up.

Maree and Bill followed, firstly with a lovely rendition of Eriskay Love Lilt solo by Maree on harp. Bill then joined Maree for a lively version of La Paloma with Maree on harp and Bill on ukulele.

Steve Bullock gave us two rousing songs. The first was 'Byker Hill and Walker Shore', a traditional song from the mining towns of Northern England. He followed with traditional Aussie song 'Billy of Tea', though pointed out that the tune - 'Bonnie Dundee' has a long and diverse history and is far from unique and original.

Maggie and Stephen rounded out the spot acts with firstly 'Under the Bridge Tonight' a poem by Stephen, put to music by Maggie, very much in the same vein as Mick Kearon's opening song, in portraying the ordeal of homeless people especially when the weather is cold and wet. Then followed the Mary Gilmore poem 'No Foe Shall Gather Our Harvest', set to music and sung by Maggie and with a dramatic portrayal mid-song by Stephen of the wartime prime minister, John Curtin.

Robyn then announced a 15 minute break for a cuppa and bikkies.

(continued over…)

ONLINE CONCERT NIGHT REPORT

THE MAIN ACT:

Our main act featured the Celtic trio Bhan Tre, comprising Sue Foley, Geraldine Davis and special guest fiddler, Kat Mear. The concert started with an uptempo *Raggle Taggle Gypsy* that soon had the audience foot tapping, clapping and singing along. A lovely rendition of Furey's favourite, *Belfast Mill,* followed, incorporating a lovely instrumental break.

Being folkies of course, we love to join in and sing along, which we did to *Whisky in the Jar* and *Fields of Athenry.* Both were distinctively presented with a great fiddle break by Kat in the first and a lovely guitar and fiddle interlude in the second.

By contrast, we had the famous '*She Moves Through The Fair*' sung beautifully unaccompanied by Sue followed by an instrumental set of dance tunes with Sue on bodhran. Then came the love song 'Siúil a Rúin' and 'One Voice', the latter a song celebrating how communities support each other in times of adversity - in this case, bushfire. Back to dance tunes with what many would recognise as Begged, Borrowed & Stolen 7, 8 and 9.

No Irish concert is complete without a story of misfortune, and in this case we had the story of how a bottle of wine, left to cool off dangling in a canal lock on the end of a rope, slipped its moorings and sank. Our spirits were revived however with a foot tapping composition by Geraldine: 'By the Liffey'. The performance concluded fittingly with 'The Parting Glass' with a fiddle solo to begin and then beautifully sung a cappella, concluding with a lively finale from Sue and Geraldine on bodhrans and Kat on fiddle.

Well done all spot acts, Robyn as MC, Bhan Tre and our all our technical experts and stage designers for running a very professional Zoom webcast and concert.

Next month: Honeyfields.

Review by Michael Hassett ; photos by Trevor Voake

The Dance Page

Diary dates for August:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th**	**5th**	**6th**	**7th** **VFMC Dance** **Colonial Dancers**
8th TSDAV Contra	**9th** Scottish	**10th** English	**11th** Irish or Colonials	**12th** Scottish	**13th**	**14th** Scottish
15th Claddagh	**16th** Scottish	**17th** English	**18th** Irish or Colonials	**19th** Colonials	**20th**	**21st** **VFMC Children's Dance** **VFMC Zoom Evening Dance** Bendigo East Hop
22nd Welsh	**23rd** Scottish	**24th** English	**25th** Irish or Colonials	**26th**	**27th**	**28th**
29th Claddagh	**30th** Scottish	**31st** English				
Diary Dates	**September:**					
			1st	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th** **VFMC Dance** **WATTLE DAY** **Blackberry Jam**
5th **Contra**	**6th** **Scottish**	**7th** **English**	**8th** **Irish or Colonials**	**9th** Scottish	**10th**	**11th** **Scottish**

COVID-19 restrictions will apply for all dances listed.
So please check before attending a dance.

Claddagh - Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd. Ivanhoe**,** Sunday 2-5pm. Contact Rod: 9497-1793

VFMC Family dance East Ringwood Senior Citizens Hall Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 8-11pm. Contact Jane: 9762-1389

VFMC Children's dance East Ringwood Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 2-3pm. Contact Jane: 9762-1389

VFMC ZOOM DANCE—Your house to calling by Jane and Norm. See flyer for details

Irish Wednesday Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, 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 Crt. Abbotsford. 8-10pm. Contact Coral: 9885-6109

Colonial Thursday Australian Colonial/Bush Dance, Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Contact Coral: 9885-6109

Welsh Sunday at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30pm. Contact Ian: 9878-2414

Contra Sunday at Beckett Uniting Church, 72 Highfield Rd, Canterbury. Info: 0422932532

Scottish Monday and **Saturday** Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene. 8pm. Contact: Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com

Scottish Thursday at Taggerty Hll, Maroondah Highay at Taggerty, corner of Thornton Rd, 7-9pm. Contact Di Gaylard 5963-3277 of musicman@virtual.net.au

Bendigo East Hop at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. 8pm. Enquiries: 5442-1153

UPCOMING EVENT: WOOLSHED BALL—Friday 24th September

- *by Jane Bullock*

Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

Saturday 7th August 2021
with
Melbourne Colonial Dancers Band

Restrictions allowing we will be at:-

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

Please BYO Mask
tea and coffee provided

Please check website for current details

VFMC's COVID-19 safe plan see website.

Hall dance - 8.00 - 11.00pm

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)

Covid Restrictions allowing we will run a

Bush Dance for school children

BYO drink

Saturday 21st August

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East

Band: **Billabong Band**

Please check website for current details

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**

Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

Saturday 21st August 2021.

Special Theme Night

Lords and Ladies

Your house

Zoom ID 757 492 753
Password: VFMC2020

dance - 7.30-9.30pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

The Club AGM was attended by 20 members, which also included those members who joined us via Zoom. Our quorum is 15 so thank you to you all for attending as this meant we didn't have to convene another AGM meeting.

The old committee was basically re-elected - see photo on page one just in case you have forgotten who we are.

As there was no other business after the formal reports etc., the AGM finished with a cuppa.

Wattle Day 2021

The Club is intending to run a day of interesting workshops and sessions on music-related subjects on **Saturday 4th September**.

Starting around 10.00am and concluding in the evening with the monthly Family Bush Dance, two streams will be held side by side at the **Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall in Laurence Grove**.

Stream 1 will be held in the main hall and will generally be sing-along and dance workshop in nature; **Stream 2** will be in the meeting room and will concentrate on instrumental and talk sessions. Stream 2 will also be webcast, so you can join in from home or wherever you happen to be. If you are in-hall you can come and go, or swap, to whichever stream takes your fancy.

It's all free, except for the evening Family Bush Dance where a very modest admission is charged.

Keep your eye on the website, where further information and a timetable will be posted shortly. www.vfmc.org.au SEE ALSO FLYER….

- by Jane Bullock

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

Reg. no. A2511Y ANB 28 668 156 704

Wattle Day

Celebrate Wattle Day with the Victorian Folk Music Club inc

and The Traditional Song And Dance Society Of Victoria

Saturday 4th September 2021

Ringwood East Senior Citizens Centre

A range of singing, instrumental, music and dance workshops throughout the day to celebrate Wattle Day. From 10.00am to 5.30pm. Workshops will be online and you can attend as few or as many as you wish. A small fee will apply to cover costs.

Plus the monthly Family Bush Dance with Blackberry Jam Bush Band 7.30 - 9.30pm

Admission applies

All details at www.vfmc.org.au

NATIONAL FOLK FELLOWSHIP—OPPORTUNITY!

NOTE: Applications close 16th August, 2021.

Attention all established and emerging folk practitioners: musicians, singers, dancers, poets, performance artists and collector/performers. The National Folk Fellowship offers a singular opportunity to explore original folk material at the National Library for use in their own artistic work. Supported with an $8,000 stipend, 30 hours access to the National Library sound recording studios, a master tape of any work generated, and a guaranteed performance at the National Folk Festival 2022, this is an incredible opportunity not to be missed.

To find out more visit: **https://www.nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/national-folk-fellowship**

Rebekka Ambroz

National Folk Festival

(Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Phone: 02 6262 4792

THE AUDIENCE AT OUR VFMC JULY CONCERT—COVID STYLE

- photo by Trevor Voake

ROBERT SERVICE—QUIZ

1) Who was Robert Service? 2) Where was he born? 3) What two countries did he spend many years in? 4) What famous person influenced his work? 5) Who put many of his poems to music? 6) What is the name of the long poem about Elorado? 7) Which well-known Service poem was made into a children's picture storybook?

Answers to last quiz:-

1) Bagpipes 2) 17th century 3) The fiddle 4) Ewan McColl 5) The Shoals of Herring, Sweet Thames Flow Softly, Freeborn Man of the Travelling People 6) The Corries

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Billabong Band Report – July 2021:

Just when it looked like we could start playing at some local residential homes Covid reared its ugly head again. However, we are still preparing for Maldon Folk Festival and had a zoom meeting last week to discuss a potential program.

There have been a couple of dates where the Ringwood Highland Games organizing committee have asked us if we would like to join them and participate:

October 3: RHG at Eastfield Park. Billabong Band asked to perform in the folk tent.
November 20: Maritime precinct in Williamstown. Billabong Band has been asked to perform in the "folk tent".

November 7: Maroondah Festival. Alistair has just asked if VFMC would like to share RHG marquee.

Re the Maroondah Festival – I (Trev) normally get contacted by the organisers but I haven't heard anything this year, although Alistair from the RHG has noted that organising is going ahead. I will follow that up.

Hurstbridge Wattle Day Festival – again Maree is usually contacted by their organising committee but hasn't heard anything. According to their website (which has our photo on it) they have been given permission to proceed again this year. Maree to follow that up.

- Billabong Band Convenors: Maree Butler, Trevor Voake & Stan Ciuchak _

Regular Functions at Other Venues CHECK IF ON

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, 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 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
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

Session Co-ordinator

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

Billabong Band Engagements

Maree Buttler
Telephone: 9733 0802
Email:
billabongband@vfmc.org.au

I ……..……..….wish 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
Country	Single	$20
	Family*	$25

*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18

Name: ……
Address……
……
Email ……..
Phone/s……