

Established 1959

Australian

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TRADITION

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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**RAY & JOAN MUNDY:
VFMC MEMBERS SINCE
1970 AND STILL GOING
STRONG—PLAYING AND
PERFORMING HEAPS**



Photo by Trevor Voake

MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS!

V.F.M.C. XMAS DANCE—SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

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 and/or 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 Dec.	2nd	3rd Family Bush Dance
4th	5th	6th Club Session HYBRID	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th	13th Concert Night Guest artist/s HYBRID	14th	15th	16th	17th
18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st

Victorian Folk Music Club

Ringwood

Bruce Watson CD launch

Bruce's new album 'Year of Wonders' is chockablock full of beautiful music, stories, humour, wisdom and joy, with 15 wonderful new songs to savour

Tuesday 13th December

Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, also Online via Zoom
7.45 - 10.00pm Admission \$14 to \$8, kids no charge

Pre-purchase all tickets at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-december2022-concert>

Spot acts PRE-BOOK at concerts@vfmc.org.au

www.vfmc.org.au / Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club / 0411.750.462

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

Next concert 14th February - Anita George Trio

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—NOVEMBER

SPOT ACTS: Our host and zoom operator for the evening was Bill Buttler.

Stephen Whiteside opened the evening with a short talk about Hal Gye who is best known for his illustrations of the naked, winged cupids adorning the work of C.J. Dennis. Gye also created illustrations for Henry Lawson and Banjo Patterson. It is less widely known that Gye wrote short stories under the name of James Hackson. Stephen passed around a copy of a collection of C.J. Dennis's politically themed satirical verse, *The Glugs of Gosh*, published in 1917 with illustrations by Hal Gye.



Dominic Martin on guitar and Don Fraser on concertina performed two Irish songs. The first one was *Belfast Mill* (originally Oregon Mill) written by Si Kahn. The song echoes the emptiness of an industrial town where the local mill has closed down. Then *Steal Away*, a story of a young couple fleeing the troubles in Belfast, written by prolific songwriter Phil Coulter. Everyone joined in the haunting chorus.



Maggie Somerville has recently produced an album of John Shaw Neilson's poems that she has set to music, and this evening she performed *When Are the Angels Nearest?* with Maree Buttler accompanying her on the harp. Her second song was *A Bush Lullaby* by Louis Esson and later set to music by Chris Kempster. The audience joined in the chorus: *Daddy's gone a shearing down the Castlereagh...*



Ruth sang a Bill Withers hit, *Somebody to Lean on*, and accompanied herself on guitar. The audience was in fine form tonight and happily joined in the chorus. Ruth followed with *Bushland Rain* - one of her own beautiful poems which she recited as she played classical music on guitar. A very innovative presentation!



Rudy played guitar and sang one of his own songs about friends. The words told us to always cherish our relationships. Then he played a resonator mandolin which gave a distinctive sound to his next song. *The Gypsy Rover* was written by Dublin songwriter Leo Maguire in the 1950's but the song is based on a traditional old folk tune.



The irrepressible audience whistled and sang along with Rudy.

Margie Voake kept the crowd singing with a good old Aussie hit by Slim Dusty: *G'day, G'day, and how are ya goin?* It was written in 1988 by Rob Fairbairn.



Maree Buttler concluded the spot acts playing *Dark Island* on the harp. This evocative piece of Scottish music was written in 1958 by Iain Maclachlan of Benbecula and later used as the theme for a BBC series. Bill accompanied on tin whistle.



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)**MAIN ACT: The Maggie Carty Band**

Maggie Carty is a banjo player and singer from the west of Ireland who is making quite a name for herself in the five years since she arrived on our shores. Tonight she is accompanied by fellow countryman Mairtin Staunton on flute and local musician Declan Simpson on guitar.

Without hesitation the trio went straight into a series of Irish jigs. The three highly accomplished musicians played the jigs at a lively pace and it was fascinating to watch their fingers moving faster and faster as the jigs accelerated in pace. The jig is a form of dance which today is mostly associated with the Irish. In the 16th century it was also popular in mainland Europe and Great Britain as well.

Maggie sang a song which came out of a coal strike of 1902. It tells of a coal miner's wife dreaming about what she will be able to buy once her husband goes back on full time pay.

Then we heard a traditional mazurka from Sligo. Many people associate the mazurka with Poland where it was originally a folk dance. It travelled west over the centuries and today is a popular style of music mainly in Donegal in the west of Ireland.

Maggie then sang *Far Away in Australia* a lovely song written in 1908 by Wilmott/Darewski and made popular by Dolores Keane. A young couple are parted when a man leaves Ireland and promises to make his place there and then one day: I will be ready to welcome at last the girl I left behind. Maggie shared with the audience that this song had special meaning as her grandparents had lived in the inner Melbourne suburb of Richmond and her mother had been born there.

Mairtin, Maggie and Declan then played some jigs which were considered to be slightly different from Irish jigs as these originated in Quebec, Canada.

Maggie sang the *Bantry Girl's Lament*. Young couples parted for a different reason. The young men have gone off to war and there's nobody left to tend the land-*Since Johnny's went a-thrashing the dirty king of Spain*.

(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (continued):

Mairtin introduced some more jigs notably one which was played by his great grandmother one hundred years ago. As the three musicians play the various jigs, the tempo quickens and quickens and the onlooker is amazed at the speed at which their fingers move. The fingers of the flautist are almost a blur as they move at near impossible speeds. Then Maggie sang a traditional song of immigration followed by a polka from Sligo.

The final song for the evening was traditional origin unknown - *What will we do when we have no money?* This haunting song brought to an end a wonderful evening of Irish music.



The club was very fortunate to have such a talented group of young people to perform for us this evening. Thanks also to all of the great spot acts who opened the evening.

The VFMC offers sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who tirelessly work together each month to make every concert night a success.

Next month: Bruce Watson CD Launch.

Report by Bette Martin ; Photos by Trevor Voake



The Dance Page

Diary dates for December : *Please check before going to any of these dances*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1st	2nd	3rd Xmas dance Billabong Band Dress for the season
4th TSDAV Contra	5th Scottish	6th	7th Irish	8th Scottish	9th English	10th Scottish
11th Claddagh	12th	13th	14th Irish	15th	16th	17th-31st
Merry	Christmas And a	to all with Happy	MUSIC New Year	in their for	hearts, 2023	souls & feet
8th January	9th	10th	11th Irish	12th	13th	14th
15th	16th	17th	18th Irish	19th	20th English	21st
22nd	23rd	24th English	25th Irish	26th	27th	28th

THE DANCE PAGE (continued)

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

VFMC Family Dance ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2023 at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood. Family **8-11pm** Contact Jane: 9762-1389

Irish Wednesday Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood **8-10pm**. Contact Mary: 9435-4435

English Tuesday dancing at Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, 7 Greenwood Street, Burwood **8-10pm**. Contact George 9890-5650

English Friday at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 8-10pm.
Contact George: 9890-5650

Contra Dance: Beckett Uniting Church , 72 Highfield Rd, Canterbury. 7.20-10pm.
Info: 0422 932 532

TSDAV Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 1-4pm. Contact Norm
Elis: 9888-5332

Scottish Monday & Saturday: Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church,
958 Burke Road, Deepdene. **8pm**. 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

- by Jane Bullock

FOR SALE

Vintage Hohner Corso G/C Button Accordion

Made in Germany 1950s. \$600

Red - Very good condition. Slight wear. (One sticky button needs adjusting)

Phone: Bette 0438 049 557

Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

**Saturday 3rd December 2022
with Billabong Band**

Wear Christmas Colours

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

Cost: \$10 - Members, \$12 Non Members, Kids free

Dance - 8.00 - 11.00pm - supper - bring a plate

Contact Jane on 97621389



2023 TUESDAY SESSIONS—UPDATE

This is an advance notice that we will be making several changes for the Tuesday Sessions next year.

The first change is that the fourth Tuesday in the month will be a ‘hall only’ Session – no Zoom, no projector screen, just good old-fashioned musicians sitting in a circle and playing.

Zoomers, we are pleased to be able to commit to running the hybrid Zoom-hall Sessions on the other two Tuesdays of the month and for the Concerts on the second Tuesday.

The second change is that Zoom Sessions on weeks 1 and 3 will be ticketed, just like the Concerts. We are exploring ways of making it as easy as possible for Zoomers to buy tickets, and we will provide support for those who haven’t used the ticketing system before. We don’t want to discourage Zoomers from enjoying our VFMC Sessions, but we do need to ensure that the costs of all Club activities are adequately covered.

Sessions will start again in 2023 on Tuesday 24th of January. This will be a fourth Tuesday ‘All-in’ Session at Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, 30 - 32 Station Street, Ringwood. We look forward to another year of wonderful music making.

The fourth Tuesday ‘hall only’ Session has been prompted by member feedback. The Committee feels this arrangement is more compatible with the uninterrupted and spontaneous experience of a true instrumental playing Session, as found at festivals, the back room of an Irish pub on a Sunday afternoon or wherever players gather to make communal music.

As there will be no laptop, projector etc. on these fourth Tuesdays, attendees will need to bring their own music stand and music books. To make this manageable, initially we will restrict ourselves to tunes and songs from the Collectors’ Choice sets (three books), Begged Borrowed & Stolen (BBS) and the Joy Durst Songbook. If you have copies of these books, bring them along. If not, they will be available for purchase at a very reasonable price in the hall.

A reminder will be sent with more information as we get closer to January. In the meantime, feel free to drop an email to sessions@vfmc.org.au if you have any comments or concerns.

For the Sessions Sub-Committee.

Don Fraser

NEEDED—OLD VFMC NEWSLETTERS

I have been scouring the documents stored in the VFMC lockup in search of old editions of the club's newsletters. When I first joined the VFMC it was said that the club held a complete set of "Australian Tradition", but I have been unable to locate the complete set.

Many early issues have been found, and some past members have kindly donated their old issues, but we still have many missing. We are also looking for copies of "Gumsucker's Gazette" which preceded Tradition.

If you have any old issues which you are prepared to donate, or even loan briefly for us to scan, we would appreciate it greatly.

Missing copies are:

"Gumsucker's Gazette"

All issues (roneoed newsletter) pre 1963 Magazine format, 11 issues (Feb to Dec) 1963

"Australian Tradition"

Vol.2 No.1 (March?)

any edition from 1976 until August 1990

November 1991

February to June 1992 and December 1992

April 1993 and August 1993

December 1994

October 1998

September and November 2000

December 2001

June 2002

April to December 2003

June to December 2004

All issues 2005 until October 2010

It is our intention to make all copies accessible on-line through the web site.

Thanks in anticipation,

Steve Bullock

ON THE BENEFITS OF DANCING:

Canon Jehan Tabourot - 1589 publication of *Orchésographie* on the benefits of dancing. (Extracted from the 1925 translation by Cyril W. Beaumont)

“There is even more in it than this, for dancing is practised to make manifest whether lovers are in good health and sound of limbs, after which it is permitted to kiss their mistresses, whereby they may perceive if either has an unpleasant breath or exhales a disagreeable odour as that of bad meat: so that, in addition to divers other merits, it has become essential for the well being of society.”

Further good advice to dancers:

“When you dance in company never look down to examine your steps and ascertain if you are dancing them correctly. Hold your head and body upright with confident mien, and do not spit or blow your nose much. And if necessity obliges you to do so turn your head away and use a fair white handkerchief. Converse pleasantly in a low and modest voice, let your arms fall by your sides neither in a lifeless or restless manner, and be suitably and neatly dressed, your hose well drawn up and your shoes clean.

Of course, one also must be wary of modern dances:

At the present time, dancers have none of these modest considerations in their voltes and other similarly lascivious and wayward dances which have been brought into use, in the dancing of which the damsels are made to jump in such a manner they very often show their bare knees if they do not keep one hand on their dresses to prevent it.

The Waltz: The objections to the waltz on its first introduction were violent. One example from Burney in Rees *Cyclopædia* (about 1805) calls it a riotous German dance of modern invention, and adds:

“The verb walzeen whence this word is derived, implies to roll, wallow, welter, tumble down, or roll in the dirt or mire”.

“What analogy there may be between these acceptations and the dance we pretend not to say; but having seen it performed by a select group of foreigners, we could not help reflect how uneasy an English mother would be to see her daughter so familiarly treated, and still more to witness the obliging manner in which the freedom is returned by the females.”

Above extracts are from The Oxford Companion to Music 1975 edition.

(continued over...)

The sexual connotations and utter impropriety of the new dance were picked up by *The Times* in its issue of 16 June 1816. The editorial is quoted in full in a fascinating article by Cheryl A. Wilson. Here's a taste:

We remark with pain that the indecent foreign dance called the Waltz was introduced (we believe, for the first time) at the English Court on Friday last. This is a circumstance which ought not to be passed over in silence. National morals depend on national habits: and it is quite sufficient to cast one's eyes on the voluptuous intertwining of the limbs, and close compressure of the bodies, in this dance, to see that it is far indeed removed from the modest reserve which has hitherto been considered distinctive of English females.



The above article and illustration were sourced and provided by Trevor Voake.

SOME DANCE JOKES

What do you call someone who dances on cars? A morris dancer.

What is a vampire's favourite dance? The Fang Tango.

DRUMS— QUIZ

- 1) What group of musical instruments are drums part of? 2) What are they classified as? 3) Has the basic design of a drum changed down the years? 4) Why are drums often used in music therapy? 5) What is the most common type of drum used in folk music?

Answers to last quiz:-

- 1) *The violin* 2) *Northern Italy* 3) *Yes, but differ in the way they are played*
4) *Folk or bluegrass* 5) *Ireland, Scotland, France, USA, Australia.*

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—DECEMBER 2022

Since last months report we've had 3 gigs—one unexpected.

At the Maldon Folk Festival we discovered that we were down for 2 spots not 1 as initially informed. The unexpected first one was during the day & the second, that evening in the Progress Hall (main venue). It transpired that the afternoon concert was the better one. Although there were a number of hiccups, the sound & lighting were good and the band was well received by the audience. The second concert still had hiccups but I felt we were let down by the sound people plus there were lighting problems on stage.

Maroondah Festival – I wasn't able to be at this one due to other commitments but I've been told that it went off really well and was very well received by the audience.

Donwood – Another double booking!! When I went to confirm our booking for Tues 15th November, they had no record of us being booked. We have now been booked for Dec 19th & provisionally Jan 25th. I made sure that the Dec 19th booking has been both verbally and via email confirmed. The Australia Day booking will be confirmed when I make sure we have enough people.

Many thanks to everyone who have played – Stewart, Steve, Maree, Bill, Mary, Carol, Michael, Dominic, Stan, Tony O, Maggie & Margie.

UPCOMING GIGS:

Sat. 3rd December—Annual VFMC Christmas Family Bush Dance

Mon. 19th December—Donwood

20th-23rd January—Newstead Folk Festival

25th January 2023: Australia Day—Donwood (to be confirmed)

Easter 2023—National Folk Festival (to be confirmed)

Report by Trevor Voake, convenor

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 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

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

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

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: