

VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB  
INCORPORATED

*40 YEARS OF*

*AUSTRALIAN*

*FOLK MUSIC*

*AND DANCING*

Updated and enlarged by Paul Harsant  
from the 20th Anniversary History  
compiled by Shirley Andrews  
and printed as Australian Tradition, June 1979

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# *INTRODUCTION*

The last thirty-five years have seen a tremendous change in the popularity of Australian folk music, song and dance. The Victorian Folk Music Club has played quite a significant part in bringing about this change, particularly in its early years.

This 35th Anniversary History is largely based on Shirley Andrews 20th Anniversary History compiled in 1979, and the 10th Anniversary History, published in June 1969. However, it has been vastly expanded, with more detail added. Like Shirley's History, it takes the form of a time line, with the most important events of each year summarised.

My main information sources have been the Club's publications, these being Gumsuckers' Gazette and the Australian Tradition magazines and newsletters. I am fortunate in having access to almost complete sets of these, dating back to issue one published in August 1960. Information for events before August 1960, when the first Newsletter was published, came from the Club's first Minute Book, which records the events, in 1959, leading up to the official declaration of the Club, and ends at the March 1961 Committee Meeting.

At the end of this History are a number of appendices, giving details of V.F.M.C. Committees and Newsletter Editors; Life Members; a history of "Auld Lang Syne" rehashed from that printed in Australian Tradition (April 1988), and a poem written by the late Con Klippel of Nariel, giving a brief history of the early Nariel Creek Festivals, which have been closely intertwined with the Club.

Special thanks must go to Shirley Andrews, not only for her 20th Anniversary History (much of which is incorporated here in a greatly rehashed form), but also for the article "Dancing with the Victorian Folk Music Club", which she wrote especially for this History. It appears in Appendix A.

Thanks also to our hard working Club Secretary, Elma Gardner, and her husband Alan, for supplying me with, not only the Club's first Minute Book, but also those copies of Australian Tradition magazine missing from my own collection.

Finally, thanks must go to Club member Nancy Upson, for passing on to me all copies of Gumsuckers' Gazette and Australian Tradition Newsletters which belonged to her late husband Geoff. (He, in turn, obtained most of the early issues of these through Jane Durst, daughter of Joy Durst). As already mentioned, these go back to the very first issue, and without them it would have been impossible to produce this History in a more complete form.

Though it is fairly long, I felt the added detail given in this 35th Anniversary History was necessary to make it more complete. I hope you, the reader, find it informative and interesting.

**PAUL HARSANT**

# *1950 to 1959*

## **PROLOGUE — 1950-54**

In 1951 a group of young Victorians went to an international festival in Europe at which they were expected to present a program of national folk material. Apart from *Waltzing Matilda*, they knew only two other traditional Australian songs to include in their program — “The Overlander” and “The Banks of the Condamine”. These days, any school child would have a better repertoire of Australian folk songs than that.

One of the important landmarks of this change was the production, in March 1953, of the musical play “Reedy River” by the Melbourne New Theatre. This included eight of the old bush ballads and some dances based on the old style quadrilles and other dances from last century (done by the Unity Dancers). Later productions of “Reedy River” introduced the style of bush bands now so familiar to us all, the first being the original Bushwackers Band in Sydney.

The full story of the action since then would need a book-length account to do it full justice. The course of events leading up to the formation of the Victorian Bush Music Club (later the Victorian Folk Music Club), is summarised below by a time line. Following chapters extend this to 1994, detailing important events and activities in the V.F.M.C.’s forty year history.

## **1955**

The Folk Lore Society of Victoria was founded on the initiative of Wendy Lowenstein and the late Professor Ian Turner.

Early in 1955, following the formation of the Sydney Bushwackers Band, a Bushwackers Band was started in Melbourne by Frank Nickels and Joy Durst.

## **1956**

The Melbourne Bushwackers Band, with some new members, became the Billabong Band. It appeared, with great success, in the second production of “Reedy River”.

The first public function of the Folk Lore Society was held at the Athenaeum Gallery in June. Guest performers included traditional musicians from Gippsland, and the Unity Dancers with a demonstration of some Australian dances.

In November, the Folk Lore Society, with members of the Unity Dancers and the Billabong Band, put on a Woolshed Dance at the Richmond Town Hall for overseas visitors to the 1956 Olympic Games.

## **1957**

The Folk Lore Society started their collecting trips to country areas in Victoria. Norm

O’Connor, Pat O’Connor and Maryjean Officer were the main activists in this collecting, and were assisted by other members on some of their trips. From 1957-63 they collected many songs, poems and stories.

## 1958

Singabout nights in private homes were organised by the Billabong Band, its friends and supporters. During this period, the group running these Singabouts included Joy Durst, Margaret Downing, Beryl Hill, Stella Lees, Robin Baily, Frank Nickels and Keith Watson.

## 1959

On 11th March, 1959, the first formal minutes of the “Committee of the Melbourne Bush Music Club” were kept. The purpose of this meeting, and future ones, was to arrange Singabouts programmes, discuss problems arising from past Singabouts, appoint comperes, and so on.

About this time, the venue for Singabout nights moved away from private homes to the National Fitness Council building in Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Programmes usually included all Australian folk songs, some items and free choices. Song sheets were handed out and collected at the end of the night. The Billabong Band led the music, and any moneys collected used to further the Melbourne Bush Music Club (or “Bush Music Club”). Mailing lists were built up, and attendances, including children, reached in the vicinity of 45.

On 29th May, 1959, a meeting, called to inaugurate the “Bush Music Club”, saw only ten people attending, so it was decided to postpone the inauguration. At this meeting it was decided to hold a Clubnight, as distinct from a Singabout Night, and at the first one of these (on 26/6/59) to formerly adopt a Constitution. A tentative program and possible locations were discussed, and the meeting closed with some tape recordings of singers, collected by the Folk Lore Society.

On Friday, 26th June 1959, the Victorian Bush Music Club was officially founded. Major items on the programme included two songs, a tape recording of Bill Harney yarning to Alan Marshal, the adoption of a Constitution, the election of office bearers, general business and supper. The Club’s first elected committee was Margaret Downing (President), Margaret Reid, Bert Gibson, Ed Hogben, Keith Watson (Secretary), Robin Bailey and Jean Officer. Its finances totalled £11 2s 4d.

On Saturday, 25th July, a theatre night, held in lieu of the Singabout, saw members attending the production of “Reedy River”. The Club presented cast members with a bouquet of flowers.

From August, Singabouts were moved to the Scout Hall, 39 Fairbairn Road, Toorak. Held one Saturday night a month, the Scout Hall was to be their home for many years. The “Austral Singers” and the “Billabong Band” were regular guest artists, providing items. As well as singing, the programme included two or three dances, items, free choices, recitations and supper, always ending with “Auld Lang Syne”. Different people compered each night. Programmes were determined well before each night and passed by the Club Committee. Early programmes were very detailed, showing not only the programme for the night, but often the key for each song, tunes for each dance, who was to lead each song, item or dance, and pointers for discussion of songs or other items.

In August an offer by the Sydney Bush Music Club to a ten percent share in their “Singabout” magazine was accepted. An example of the Club’s contribution to this magazine can be seen in “Singabout” Vol. 3, No. 4, which included the words, music, notes and drawing for the “Dying Shearer”, and an article by Frank Nickels.

A working bee was arranged in August to duplicate the existing song sheets and put then in manilla folders for sale at Club functions.

The Australian-Indonesian Association asked the Club to run a Singabout style evening in October. One hundred song books, each containing seventeen songs in a manilla folder, with cord binding, were produced for sale to the Association for use at this function.

The Club was invited to attend a picnic in November, arranged by the Richmond Regional Committee of the A.N.Z. Congress for Disarmament and International Cooperation. The Billabong Band and other artists performed at this.

In November a Publishing Sub-Committee (Keith Watson, Ed Hogben and Marion Price) and a Singabout Sub-Committee (Robin Bailey, Jean Officer, Les Harsant and Anne Horsfall) were formed. These two sub-committees were the only ones in operation for a number of years.

The first Club function, a Club Night, was held in December.

# 1960 to 1969

## 1960

The Club's activities greatly expanded. As well as regular Toorak Singabouts, a Children's Singabout began in May at the Scout Hall in Prospect Road, Pascoe Vale. After the June Pascoe Vale Singabout, it was recommended that organization of regular Children's Singabouts should cease as it was felt the Club's limited resources could be better spent in other fields, such as the Trade Unions and Bushwalking Clubs. The new Committee in July decided on a six month trial period at Pascoe Vale and further Singabouts were held there in September and November. However, after review at the end of 1960, Pascoe Vale was closed down.

Publicity was an area of prime concern to the Committee. After an article about the Club appeared in the Melbourne Herald in January, the resulting inquiries about the Club prompted the Committee to seek further publicity. Letters containing Club information and invitations to attend Singabouts were sent to various organizations. Letters were also sent to the "Pahran News" and Bill Wannan of "Australia Post" asking whether they would like to write articles about the Club.

A number of new dances were introduced at Singabouts. Many of these, such as the Barn Dance, Virginia Reel and Armatree Polka, are still done today. Others, such as the Swaggie's Stroll" (tune Waltzing Matilda) and Quaker's Wife, were two very popular dances done regularly at Singabouts during this period, but are no longer done at Club functions.

A number of Club Nights were held throughout the year. February saw an informal gathering at a private home, with singing and discussion of Club activities combined with a barbeque. April Club Night included singing and the teaching of dancing by Shirley Andrews. October took the form of a discussion night on "How Our Songs Should be Sung".

At the second Annual General Meeting, held on 2nd July, a tape recording of the Australian Folk Lore Society's 1955/56 Festivals and the supper which wound up the meeting, helped celebrate the First Anniversary of the Club. The new Committee comprised Frank Nickels (President), Robin Bailey (Secretary), Bert Gibson, Margaret Reid, Carmen Findlay, Mrs Maxwell and Mrs Keane.

A major Club activity, then as now, is sales. Besides the song sheets already being sold, other publications for sale were those of the Sydney Bush Music Club, and included items such as "Singabout" magazine. Other publications included the "Queensland Pocket Song Books" and the publication, "Songs from the Bush".

Singabouts and speakers were arranged for various organizations. A Singabout was held in March, for the Ringwood and Box Hill branches of the Amalgamated Electricians Union ??? in Ringwood. A speaker was arranged for the Eastern Suburbs Young Labour Group meeting in May.

In early August, moves were made for the Club to publish a periodical to be known as "The Victorian Bush Music Club Monthly". The first issue of eight pages was released that same month, was edited by Club Secretary Robin Bailey. However, its name was not considered satisfactory, and after some deliberation by the Committee, it was changed, in October (issue 3), to *Gumsuckers' Gazette* (in earlier times Victorians had been known as "gumsuckers").

On 24th August, a meeting with the Committee of the Folk Lore Society of Victoria was arranged to discuss the operations of each organization and to see whether each could benefit from the other's activities. Though the two organizations had had some contact for several years, this meeting was to provide the basis for a mutual sharing of ideas that was to last for many years, and would eventually result in the amalgamation of the Folk Lore Society with the Club.

From August Concertina nights were held at the home of Frank Pitt in Box Hill. These continued as Musicians' Nights from October and into 1961.

In October a songbook for the Melbourne Bushwalkers was printed by the Club.

In November, the V.B.M.C. and the Folk Lore Society combined to jointly produce *Gumsuckers' Gazette*. Co-edited by Robin Bailey for the Club and Wendy Lowenstein for the Folk Lore Society, it presented regular articles on Folk Lore collecting, together with songs, poems and articles on all aspects of Australian folklore and music. Details of functions for the two organizations were also included. Though a number of Club members were editors, Wendy Lowenstein was to remain co-editor for the Folk Lore Society for many years.

In November, the Billabong Band, founders of the V.B.M.C., released a record titled "Songs of Early Victoria". It contained four songs — The Gum Tree Canoe, The Stockman's Last Bed, Codfish Shanty, and The Kellys Byrne and Hart.

Over the years, the Club has held many picnics in various locations. The first Bush Picnic was held at Toorourrong Reservoir, near Whittlesea, in November 1960.

Membership at the end of 1960 was 81 single and 8 family. A number of non-members were subscribers to *Gumsuckers' Gazette*.

## 1961

In February, a very successful Woolshed Dance was held at the property of Breadalbane, near Castlemaine. "Bags of oats were used as seats, the band played from a shearing stand, and a businesslike woolpress dominated the scene." (*Gumsuckers' Gazette*, April 1961). In other words, it was a real "woolshed ball".

Singabouts were arranged for the Scouts at Gilwell Park in January (Australia Day) and for the Amalgamated Electricians Union ??? in Ringwood during March.

In March, Robin Bailey stepped down as Secretary to go overseas. Carmen Findley stood in as Acting Secretary till the Annual General Meeting. Margaret Ashburner took over Robin's position as the Club's editor of the *Gumsuckers' Gazette*.

In June the Club's A.G.M. and second Birthday Party was held. Membership by this time had increased to over 100.

In August, at the quarterly General Meeting, held at the Toorak Scout Hall to discuss Club affairs, the President announced that Joy Durst had been appointed the Club's first Musical Director, that two extra people had been co-opted to the Committee, and that Committee member Rose Sayers had been appointed Assistant Secretary and Official Hostess.

From September, regular monthly Practice Nights for singers and musicians were held at the Toorak Scout Hall. These nights were used to practice the programme for the following Singabout.

In September, as well as the regular Singabout night, a Club Dance was held. Admittance was free to all members.



The Billabong Band Record, along with that produced by the Austral Singers (“Australian Songs”) was played on the A.B.C.’s Breakfast Session during September.

In October, upon his return from overseas, Robin Bailey was co-opted to the Committee.

At the end of October, another combined meeting was held of the Committees of the Folk Lore Society and the V.B.M.C.

During the year, a shortage of seating at Singabouts prompted a note in the *Gumsuckers’ Gazette*, asking people attending to bring their own stools. This was a continuing problem at the Toorak Scout Hall.

## 1962

The Singabout practice nights, started in September 1961, became a regular monthly event at the Toorak Scout Hall. These nights had a somewhat similar format to our later Workshop Nights, held at Fairfield until 1990.

Many contributions from Club members appeared in *Gumsuckers’ Gazette*. Lively discussions on such topics as “Should we change the words of folk songs” were to continue for many months. Other articles appeared on the history of the Concertina, and a look at the pioneering days of Mildura. Articles appeared regularly from the Folk Lore Society, describing folk lore collecting trips and other interesting folkloric events.

In the September *Gumsuckers’ Gazette*, the editors reported that Australian folk songs were making headlines in the newspapers. There was a renewed interest in Australian song and tradition. Folk songs were breaking into the hit parades, displacing the standard pop tunes; trade unions were using folk songs to back their campaigns; similar organizations to the V.B.M.C. and the Folk Lore Society were springing up all over the place. It was the beginning of the “folk-boom”.

In November a Club Picnic was held in Castlemaine, at the home of Mrs Barker.

On December 31st, the first contact with the Nariel musicians and dancers was made at their New Year’s Eve dance in the Nariel Hall. The full story of the Club’s involvement with the good people of Nariel would itself require a book, and so won’t be attempted. Suffice it to say that this first contact was the beginning of strong ties with the Nariel area, which still exist today (32 years later).

## 1963

A peak year for the Club. Following the initial visits, late in 1962, to Nariel and Eskdale with the Folk Lore Society, collecting dances and dance music, the first combined weekend of folk music and dancing was held at Nariel in February. This was the first Nariel Folk Festival.

The poem, “A Brief History of Nariel Creek’s Folk Festivals in Verse” written by Con Klippel, the driving force behind Nariel’s Black and White Festivals, is reproduced in Appendix E of this History. These festivals are still held today, over the Christmas-New Year period and the Labour Day Weekend. Though he has since passed on, the legacy Con left behind still continues to flourish.

## ADD SONG, “BALL AT NARIEL CREEK” ??

From February, *Gumsuckers' Gazette* became a properly printed publication and included words and music to songs, as well as sketches and the occasional photograph. Though it had always been eight pages, the *Gazettes'* new format was to be four pages, with every third issue enlarged to sixteen pages.

The Club provided a major part of the program for an "Australian Folk Song Night", held in the Myer Music Bowl during March as part of Moomba.

In May, the Club, together with the Folk Lore Society and the Council of Adult Education, organised a highly successful Australian Folk Festival. The week-long programme included concerts, an all-day seminar, lectures, films, concluding with a special Singabout-type concert in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall. The organizers were somewhat overwhelmed by the success of this concert, with the ticket queue extending right round the corner into Collins Street.

Several special Singabouts were held late in the year. On 31st August, in lieu of the September Singabout, a special Singabout was held at the Church of England Hall, Ringwood, in conjunction with the Ringwood branch of the Australian Labour Party (known as "Ringabouts", they were an annual event, also being held in 1964, 1965 and 1986). In October this was followed by another in the City, its aim, to interest teachers in teaching Australian songs and dances in schools. Finally, in December, a combined Festive Singabout/General Meeting was held at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs' Hall in East Melbourne (formerly the National Theatre opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral).

In September, through the efforts of Joy Durst, the V.B.M.C. and Folk Lore Society had an afternoon with Pete Seeger, who was visiting Melbourne as part of a world-wide concert tour. He gave a fascinating talk on developments in folk music in America, liberally illustrated with his own singing; and presented the two organizations with valuable microfilm of every Singout and Broadside Magazine. This microfilm was eventually placed at the Bailleiu Library at the University of Melbourne.

At this time, a big folk "boom" was in full swing and many people were beginning to take more interest in Australian folk music. In December, at the combined Festive Singabout/General Meeting, the Club's name was changed to "Victorian Folk Music Club" to make it clearer that the Club's interests covered contemporary as well as traditional Australian music.

## 1964

In February 1964, to coincide with the Club's change of name, *Gumsuckers' Gazette* was renamed *Australian Tradition*, the name it still bears. Edited by Wendy Lowenstein and Shirley Hick, the regular newsletter format of four pages alternated every second month with a proper 16 page magazine, also called *Australian Tradition*, which was aimed at a more academic treatment of folk lore. From July the magazine was extended to 24 pages to cope with the amount of material being received. The Newsletter was published monthly.

In March, the Club was invited to take part in a big Moomba folk concert at the Melbourne Town Hall on the Saturday of the Labour Day Weekend. As this clashed with the weekend festival at Nariel, Joy Durst got together another group of singers and musicians for the concert. The concert was so popular, hundreds had to be turned away. The programme featured most of Melbourne's leading folk singers, but the show stopper was the Club band, which was cheered and recalled for an

encore. They were such a big hit, they were continue, with a few additions, to become well-known and very popular as “The Bush Band”. They often performed in conjunction with V.F.M.C. activities.

ABC TV produced an interesting short on Australian folk song in March, which featured the V.F.M.C. Bush Band and interviews with Joy Durst, Dr. Percy Jones of the Melbourne Conservatorium and recording artist, Dennis Gibbons. It was later repeated and shown all over Australia.

The Club produced a 7-inch, 45 rpm record (DELTA label), called “Folk Songs of Australia”, which featured four songs sung by individual V.F.M.C. singers. The songs and singers were: The Swagman’s Song (Arthur Grieg), Farewell to the Ladies of Brisbane (Don Hurst/Douglas Davidson), Bold Jack Donahue (Martyn Wyndham-Read), and Flash Jack from Gundagai (David Lumsden). Like the Billabong Band and Austral Singers records, it is no longer available.

In April, a Folk Song Concert was organized by the V.F.M.C. at the Moonee Ponds Town Hall. Sponsored by the Australian Meat Industry Employee’s Union, to raise funds for a Trade Union Medical Centre, it was quite successful.

April also saw the Singabouts moved from the Toorak Scout Hall in Fairbairn Road, where they had been held since the beginning of the Club, to the much larger Armadale Scout Hall at the corner of Malvern and Orrong Roads.

The Club suffered a very great loss in April, with the sudden and unexpected death of Joy Durst, its Musical Director since 1961. An appreciation of Joy’s importance in the folk lore scene was shown by the tributes paid to her over the national TV and radio networks.

Merle Gubbins (later Merle Lamb), a leading member of the newly formed Bush Band, took over as Musical Director. She put in a lot of work building up the concert party activities to a very high level.

Throughout the year, Club/Workshop nights were held at irregular intervals in various venues.

The Club band was kept very busy with numerous engagements throughout the latter half of the year, and engagements booked church groups, mothers’ clubs and trade union groups.

In November, Alan Scott, a prominent member of the Sydney Bush Music Club, and noted folk-song collector, gave an illustrated talk at the Camberwell Town Hall. This was the Sydney Bush Music Club’s 10th Anniversary and also 10 years since Reedy River, the play which inspired the folk lore movement.

## 1965

Judith Tenenbaum replaced Shirley Hick as editor of Australian Tradition, with Wendy Lowenstein remaining as co-editor. The magazine was released in a new format in May, with a two-colour cover. It was to remain in this format until its demise in December 1975. The Australian Tradition Newsletter was now printed monthly, separately of the magazine.

In March, Club/Workshop nights were moved to the Loyal Orange Lodge Hall in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. They were held on the third Friday each month. Programmes were published in the Newsletter.

The Club held one of the biggest excursions to Corryong over the Labour Day weekend, taking most of Melbourne’s well-known folk singers for the picnic concert and Oldtime dance.

A highlight of the year was the very successful concert held in April at the Melbourne Assembly Hall. This was enjoyed by a capacity audience. Part of the Bush Band's performance was later televised on Channel 7's "Night Watch".

Members of the Club's Bush Band were awarded an annual Club membership (about June) in recognition of their contribution to the musical work of the Club. Its members at this time were Merle Gubbins (guitar), Bert Cameron (harmonica), Jim Buchanan (lagarphone), Peter Dickie (guitar), Ian White (banjo), and David Taylor (accordion and bush bass). A recent newcomer to the Club, Don Hall, had at this time also assisted the band on several occasions.

The Folk Lore Society celebrated its 10th Anniversary in October.

The Bush Band and Concert Party had many engagements for the year, included the annual Ringabout, held in October at the Church of England Hall. This event had been held every year since 1963. A Folk Song Concert, also featuring the Bush Band, was also held in October, It was sponsored by the Trade Union Clinic and Research Centre, to help raise funds for its activities.

## 1966

The Concert Party again had many engagements during the year. The Bush Band televised a session for the A.B.C. in January, which was included in a folk music series later in the year.

One project of special interest to the Club, since its successful Australian Folk Festival in 1963, was the holding of further festivals. Early in 1965, in company with Glen Tomasetti and Martin Wyndham-Read, the V.F.M.C. took the initiative in calling a meeting to plan a festival in Victoria. The Port Phillip and District Folk Festival Committee was set up early in 1966 to carry this project through, and started off financially by a grant of \$100 from the Club. This Committee was to be quite active in organising not only the first and second National Folk Festivals, but also many other folk related events.

A function was held in July to officially launch the Festival, planned for February 1967. It featured talks by well-known folklorists, and singing by the Lumsden family, Glen Tomasetti, Martin Wyndham-Read, Danny Spooner and Gordon McIntyre.

Club members again travelled to Nariel for the Festival over the Labour Day weekend. Also, on the Queen's Birthday long weekend, members went to Nariel to attend an Old Time Dance specially organised for that date so Club members could attend. Club members were again invited by the Corryong people to attend their Oldtime Dance at Nariel on New Years Eve.

In May, a large group of V.F.M.C. members appeared in a revival of the musical play "Reedy River", staged by the New Theatre.

In June, Shirley Andrews took over as editor of the Newsletter while Wendy Lowenstein became sole editor of Australian Tradition magazine, now published quarterly. This was the first time the two publications were edited by separate people, and it stayed this way permanently. A redesigned Newsletter logo also appeared with the July issue and was to remain in use for over twenty years.

From September, the Club Nights were held weekly, on Monday nights, at the Toorak Scout Hall in Fairbairn Road, Toorak.

The annual Ringabout was held in September. This was to be the last year it was held. From October, the Club started weekly convivial folksong evenings on Friday nights at the Pink Pussy Cat Bistro in Carlton. Though conditions were cramped, the evenings were very popular.

A Special General Meeting was held in November to discuss a proposal to amalgamate the Victorian Folk Music Club and the Folk Lore Society of Victoria.

## 1967

The first national folk festival, the Port Phillip District Folk Music Festival, was held at the Melbourne Teachers' College, Parkville, Melbourne, in February. Originally it was planned to hold the Festival activities at Kilmore, but this had to be changed due to the huge number of people expected to attend. The Club played a major part in its planning and organisation, with nine of the fourteen members of the festival committee being V.F.M.C. members. The Festival itself was a resounding success with overflow audiences at some functions and performers dashing between audiences.

In March, V.F.M.C. singers, musicians and dancers were well represented at a big Moomba Folk Concert in the Melbourne Town Hall organized by the Port Phillip District Folk Music Festival Committee (which included many V.F.M.C. members). Its theme was "The Songs They Used to Sing in Old Melbourne Town". By special request, the Concert programme was repeated in July at the Ringwood High School.

In co-operation with the Adult Education Centre, Wangatatta, and Con Klippel's Old Time Dance Band from Nariel, the V.F.M.C. organised a weekend folk festival at Wangaratta in April.

Club member Dick Evans died in May 1967. Dick was often featured at the early Club Singabout nights, and held the distinction of being the first singer to be made a Life Member of both the V.F.M.C. and the Folk Lore Society of Victoria (however, it is not known when he was made a Life Member). Besides being a singer, he also played the accordian, was a teller of yarns, and was an M.C. for old-time dancing. He presented the accordian he had played for so many dances to the V.F.M.C. just before he died. In July, Club Nights were renamed Workshop Nights and, led by Jim Buchanan, proved to be very useful for developing new singers and musicians for the Concert Party. They had a slow start, but soon built up a steady following. Some Workshop Nights became performers nights, where participants were encouraged to provide their own items. The Folk Lore Society of Victoria amalgamated with the Victorian Folk Music Club in July, this being formally agreed to at properly constituted meetings of both organizations. As was proposed at the Special Meeting held in November 1966, each organization retained their own names and constitutions, but the Folk Lore Society now operated as a sub-committee of the V.F.M.C. and was delegated certain, specified duties. One subscription entitled holders to membership of both organizations. The Society still held annual elections and had their own committee. The reason for the amalgamation was that the most active members of the F.L.S.V., who had done most of the collecting, were no longer able to continue and it was important to preserve their valuable archives and continue some of their work.

**NOTE: SEPTEMBER TO FEBRUARY NEWSLETTERS MISSING — TRY TO GET MINUTE BOOK**

## 1968

The Club was again active in organising and participating in the 2nd Port Phillip Folk Festival, held at the Pharmacy College, Royal Parade, Parkville, Melbourne in January. Eight of the sessions at the Festival were conducted by V.F.M.C. members.

The Port Phillip Festival Committee was to continue organising concerts and functions for some years to raise money for what were to be known as the National Folk Festivals, in future to be held in other states.

A list of the collected material in the possession of the Folk Lore Society was published in six parts, as supplements to the March to August Newsletters.

The Club participated in several local festivals such as the Maldon Easter Festival and the Eltham Arts Festival. The Club's Concert Party also provided the Australian section at an Irish-Australian Concert organised by the Connelly Society in May.

In October, a Club Night was started at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Power Street, West Hawthorn, on the third Friday of each month. Not to be confused with the Workshop Nights (which formerly had been called Club Nights), these nights included lectures, talks, dancing, Executive Committee reports, etc. They were to continue until May 1969. V.F.M.C. dancers demonstrated some Australian dances to the famous Moiseyev Folk Dance Company which was on an Australian tour. Dances included were the Manchester Galop, Varsoviana, Berlin and Princes Polkas, Brown Jug Polka, Soldiers Joy, a potted version of the Alberts and a Barn Dance. They especially liked the Varsoviana and notebooks quickly appeared to record the steps. However, the real stars of the show were the bush bass and lagarphone, played with vim and vigour by Geoff Upson and Jim Buchanan.

## 1969

Wendy and Werner Lowenstein spent the year touring around Australia and collected a wide range of folklore material in many places. Progress reports of their trip were published in the Tradition magazine.

The Club took part in several festivals including a one day Port Phillip Folk Festival and Moomba Concert in March, held to promote the 3rd National Folk Festival, which was planned for Morton Bay, Brisbane over the Easter period. Other festivals the Club was involved with were the Maldon Easter Festival (Folk Concert) in April, the Eltham Arts Festival (Folk Concert) in May, the Benalla Rose Festival in November, and the Back-to- Walhalla festivities, also in November. Club members also attended the Ballarat Eureka Stockade Anniversary in December.

Frank Pitt published the first volume of the Joy Durst Memorial Australian Song Collection for the V.F.M.C. This, the first of an intended series of collections in loose-leaf form, was released in March.

Frank also put together another collection of songs which were published in Australian Tradition magazine, number 19 (March 1969). Together with the first Joy Durst collection of 25 songs, a total of 33 songs, with word and music were now readily available.

At the A.G.M. in June, a new sub-committee, called the Club Activities Committee, was formed. Its role was to organise social functions and other related activities for the Club. Some of its activities were to organise a Picnic Expedition to the old gold mining town of Steiglitz in September, and in November, a picnic barbeque in the You Yangs.

It was noted that the position of Assistant Secretary, which had been passed at the 1968 A.G.M., had not been formally ratified at a General Meeting. This motion was to be passed at the next General Meeting after the 1969 A.G.M. In the meantime, Jan McLean took on the job of Minute Secretary and was to become Assistant Secretary as from the A.G.M. in June 1970. However, this was still an unofficial position, as it was not, in fact, officially ratified until the 1971 A.G.M. ???????

Dance Practice Nights were started in October at the Toorak Scout Hall, Fairbairn Road. They were held monthly on the second Thursday.

A landmark was reached for the Club when it celebrated its tenth anniversary in fine style with a big Woolshed Dance and Ceilidh on 13th December. This was held at the Anzac Hall, Women's Recreation Centre, Royal Park.

**ADD PHOTOS HERE**



# *1970 to 1979*

## **1970**

During the year the Club took part in various country festivals and folklore excursions. These included the Walhalla Gold Fever Weekend in February, and the two weekends at Echuca (including a trip on a paddle steamer) in April and June. V.F.M.C. members also assisted with a dance workshop at the 4th National Folk Festival in Sydney during January (Port Jackson Folk Festival).

Because of the popularity of the first course of lectures on Australian Folklore included in the Council of Adult Education Syllabus in 1969, the V.F.M.C. and the FolkLore Society of Victoria ran a second ten-week course in Australian Folklore for the C.A.E.'s Autumn term, commencing in March and ending in May.

The monthly Second Thursday Dance Practice Nights, held in October and November 1969, were restarted in March at the Anzac Hall, Women's Recreation Centre, Royal Park. They were to be held at this venue for many years.

The Workshop Nights were moved to the small hall at the Women's Recreation Centre, Royal Park in May, still on Monday nights. In July, they were moved to the Alphington and Fairfield Anglers' Hall in Fairfield, where they were held until October 1990. They were renamed "Singabout Nights" some years before their demise.

Monthly Eastern Suburbs Singabouts were held on the first Saturday, starting in August. The first convenor was Frank Nickels, and the original venue was the South Blackburn Public Hall. In September, they were moved to the Presbyterian Church Hall, Ringwood.

The (first ???) Club's Concert Party group held its first Sunday performance at Emu Bottom in September. This became a regular monthly event.

V.F.M.C. members went to Hill End in October to view one of the last working bullock teams, owned by Mr Albert Kent.

In October, the first annual V.F.M.C. Woolshed Ball was held at the Anzac Hall, Womens' Recreation Centre, Royal Park. Proceeds were used for the financial support of the Australian Tradition magazine. The Club musicians and Dave Brannigan's "Colonials" provided the music.

The V.F.M.C. assisted at a "Folk Prom", held at the Melbourne Town Hall in October. Put on by the Australian Council for Salaried and Professional Associations (A.C.S.P.A.), the V.F.M.C. was responsible for the second half of the programme, which was Traditional Dancing with audience participation.

In November, Maurice Deniston, one of the Club's staunchest members and supporters, and a Concert Party member, was killed in a freak accident while working on some gear on his ship, the Mandoora, at Freemantle. He was the ship's engineer.

The fourth and final volume of the Joy Durst Memorial Australian Song Collection was published in November. The whole collection of 100 songs was then put out in strong covers, with an index, for general sale.



In December, a combined Christmas Singabout, for both Armadale And Eastern Suburbs was held at the Royal Park Hall, Women's Recreation Centre.

## 1971

The V.F.M.C. made a grant towards the cost of indexing Wendy Lowenstein's collection of tapes from her Australian Folklore Expedition. The collection and catalogue were presented to the Latrobe Library early in the year.

A group of Club members took part in the most successful workshop held so far, on Australian traditional dancing. This occurred at the 5th National Folk Festival held at Flinders University, Adelaide, in January.

The Concert Party had another extremely busy year with many performances. Two activities were the Walhalla weekend in February and performances at Emu Bottom on the first Sunday afternoon each month.

In February, the Eastern Suburbs Singabout moved to the Anglican Church Hall in East Ringwood. It was to remain at this venue till July 1984.

Hellen Cowley took over as Acting Secretary when Marion Sparrow resigned, in late February, to take up a new job.

Many V.F.M.C. members attended the 9th annual Nariel Folk Festival in March, which the A.B.C. filmed for their T.V. series, "It's a Big Country". This film was shown twice on Channel 2 in July, and later won the Australian National "Jedda" award.

The Club held a picnic at the Eureka Youth Camp, near Yarra Junction, in April.

Another excursion was held in May to see Mr Albert Kent's Bullock Team in action at Hill End. A dance was held afterwards at the Willow Grove Hall.

V.F.M.C. membership stood at 149 in June.

A small number of Club members again went to Echuca for the popular Steam Rally, held there over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June. Though not an official V.F.M.C. function, a large contingent of Corryong people attended. Con Klippel and his band played for an Old Time Dance, and V.F.M.C. members held an impromptu concert at the caravan park, which attracted well over 100 caravanners and campers.

Bert Thompson took over as Newsletter Editor from Shirley Andrews, who had done the job for five years. Geoff Upson was to join him as dual editor in January 1972.

Ever since its beginning, the V.F.M.C. had been interested in having its own Club premises, but had not been successful in finding anything suitable. In June V.F.M.C. members, Wendy Lowenstein and Merle Lamb, started an Australian Folk Club at the Pram Factory under the name of the "Boree Log". Regular functions were held there every Saturday afternoon, with talks, songs, yarns, music and dancing. From August the Boree Log operated on Sundays instead of Saturdays.

The second V.F.M.C. Annual Woolshed Ball was held at Royal Park in September. Due to overcrowding at the first Ball in 1970, tickets numbers this year were limited and went on sale in June. There were no door sales and all tickets were sold out by early August. Again the Ball was extremely successful.

In addition to the Annual General Meeting it was decided that three Open General Meetings be held each year to discuss management matters. The first of these was held in September at the Boree Log.

The V.F.M.C. held a picnic bus trip to Sovereign Hill, Ballarat, in October. In November, a weekend camp and Sunday picnic were held at the Eureka Camp near Yarra Junction. In December a Christmas barbeque was held at Emu Bottom.

## 1972

The Dance Nights, previously held on the second Thursday of the month, were changed to the second Tuesday from January. These were originally called "Dance Practice" nights.

Dr Csaba Palfi, Hungarian ethnographer and world authority on folk dancing, who was in Australia early in 1969, returned for a lecture tour. In March, he gave demonstrations and participation dancing in the Alexandra Gardens as part of the Moomba Festival over the Labour Day weekend. As this was also the Nariel Festival weekend, he agreed to meet Club members at an earlier date for a special afternoon of dance demonstration and participation.

This year marked the 10th Anniversary of V.F.M.C. members first visiting and participating in the activities at Nariel, which had been renamed the Black and White Folk Lore Festival.

A list of all books in the Club library was published in the March and April Newsletters. This library, from which members could borrow books, had been in existence for most of the life of the Club.

The Concert Party performed regularly each month at Emu Bottom. V.F.M.C. members took part in country festivals including the Wedderburn Gold Dig and the Queen's Birthday weekend festival at Echuca. It was reported at the A.G.M., that, over the previous twelve months, the Concert Party, drawn from approximately fourteen performers, had thirty engagements and raised \$750.

In June, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held to discuss all aspects the Club's "Tradition" magazine. As a quorum was not achieved, the meeting was conducted informally.

At the A.G.M., no one was prepared to take on the job of Secretary. Betty Davis volunteered her services a few days later and became Acting Secretary. At the Open Quarterly Meeting in October, she was made Honorary Secretary.

One of the motions passed at the A.G.M. was that the Editor and Business Manager of Tradition be elected at A.G.M. These respectively were Wendy Lowenstein and Jan McLean.

In July, Club members had an excursion on the Puffing Billy to Menzies Creek. Other social activities during the year were a visit to the Bendigo Pottery on Cup Day (November), a weekend, in November, at Phyllis and Basil Macdonald's property in Gladysdale, near Yarra Junction and, in early December, an end of year party was held at Audrey and Wally Porter's home in Woori Yallock.

Members of the visiting Mexican Folklorico group were guests of the V.F.M.C. at the regular function at Emu Bottom in September.

In September, the V.F.M.C. "Tradition" Woolshed Ball was again held and, as in 1971, tickets were again sold out early, in July.

In October, a dance demonstration team was organised to demonstrate dances at concert party engagements, dances, Singabouts, etc.

Reports at the October Quarterly General Meeting showed that the Club's membership stood at 140. Also, it was decided to make a donation of \$200 to Stan Davey and Jan Richardson on behalf of members of the Oombalgari Tribe, who were trying to re-establish themselves at the old Forest River

Mission site. This donation, and another of \$250 made earlier to Ron Edwards, to assist him in publishing a complete index of Australian Folk Songs, were to cause some mutterings of dissent from a few members.

Also the suggestion, originally made in November 1971, that the Nariel Creek Festival weekends be made official Club functions, was ratified at the October General Meeting. The Festivals were to become official Concert Party engagements (along with the Labour Day function at Emu Bottom). The first of the "official" New Year Nariel Festivals was held over four days from 30th December, 1972.

\*\*\*\*\* EDITED TO THIS POINT \*\*\*\*\*

## 1973

In February, a barbeque and picnic was held at the home of Ray Rancie in Seaford. Other social functions for the year included a evening at Ferguson's Winery, Yarra Glen in March, complete with spit roast and all the trimmings; a barbeque, and rides on the Diamond Valley Miniture Railway at Lower Eltham Park in May;

The V.F.M.C. put on a concert in the Fitzroy Gardens, in March, for the Melbourne City Council.

Basil Macdonald, a member of the Club, produced a Folk Calendar showing the most important Australian folk music addresses.

The Labour Day Weekend again saw Club members heading to Nariel for the Nariel Creek Festival. The yearly Labour Day event at Emu Bottom was also held over two days of this weekend.

A very successful dance workshop was given at the 7th National Folk Festival at Melbourne with the assistance of the V.F.M.C. dance demonstration group and Frank Pitt's Port Phillip Band.

The Club donated \$100 to the Australian Folk Lore Unit - a field collecting trip organised by Warren Fahey.

## 1974

The V.F.M.C. published the first edition of "Take Your Partners" on traditional Australian dancing in two versions, one as a double issue of Australian Tradition and also as a separate publication.

Wendy Lowenstein spent three months on a collecting trip in N.S.W. and northern Queensland.

## 1975

A combined Colonial Ball was held in May, in co-operation with the Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria. This was the first V.F.M.C. Colonial Ball to be held at the Central Hall in Fitzroy. All others had previously been held at Royal Park. It was also the first May Ball. Con Klippel of Nariel was presented with the Graham Squance Award.

The Eastern Suburbs Singabout had by now built up a good following among people living in the eastern suburbs. Some of their performers also took part in the V.F.M.C. concert party and finally formed a second concert party.

For the first time Life Memberships were introduced as a way of honouring the contribution made to the Club by its longstanding members. Those presented with Life Memberships in this first year were Shirley Andrews, Wendy Lowenstein and Bert Thompson. Frank Nickels and Frank Pitt were also nominated for Life Membership, but declined for personal reasons.

The V.F.M.C. and its friends at Nariel lost a very good friend when Con Klippel passed away in October, while playing for a dance in the Nariel district.

## 1976

The V.F.M.C. Singabouts, which had been held at Armadale for many years, were transferred to the Carlton Community Centre in August, and renamed "Central" Singabouts.

The Eastern Suburbs Group started running regular Workshop Nights.

Our magazine Australian Tradition ceased publication due to the many other commitments of Wendy Lowenstein who had edited it during its 13 years of publication. Compared with other Australian magazines on cultural subjects, this was a very long run and was a really marathon task for the editor who did the lion's share of the work.

Bert Cameron, Bert Gibson and Beatrice Klippel were made Life Members of the Club.

The monthly Tuesday dance workshop nights were transferred to the Carlton Community Centre in October.

A second edition of "Take Your Partners" was published.

## 1977

Another combined Colonial Ball was held in co-operation with the Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria.

The Club took part in a mini-festival at Echuca and the Warrandyte Community Festival. Both the Central and Eastern Suburbs concert parties had a busy year.

An Eastern Suburbs Workshop was started at the Old Trades Museum, Blackburn. It was closed down in November 1978.

Geoff Upson was made a Life Member of the Club, in recognition of his many years of service.

Bill Scott, editor of "The Complete Book of Australian Folklore" included many extracts from Australian Tradition, and the V.F.M.C. was the only folk organisation mentioned in this book.

The Central Singabouts were transferred to St. Michael's Church Hall, Carlton in September, as the Carlton Community Centre was not a success. They were moved from the third to second Saturday of the month, and remained at this venue till 1980, when the function was restructured (see 1980).

## 1978

V.F.M.C. membership increased considerably this year.

A very successful Festival Benefit Ball was held to raise money for the 13th National Festival. Tickets both for this Ball and for our annual Woolshed Ball were completely sold out.

V.F.M.C. T-Shirts were available in June.

Another 1000 copies of the 2nd edition of "Take Your Partners" were printed and the Club handled many orders for the cassette of dance music produced by Bob McInnes and Frank Canty. There had been a steady build up in orders from schools for the dance book and cassette.

## 1979

The V.F.M.C. assisted with the organising of the 13th National Folk Festival held in Melbourne at Easter. A small group of members who worked particularly hard during the actual festival included Jess Dunnadge, Elma, Jenny and Allan Gardner, Bert Gibson, Geoff Coles and Terry Hunter.

The V.F.M.C. Committee approached various Government authorities on behalf of the Nariel Festival organisation. Recent moves to enforce strict camping regulations posed a threat to the Nariel Folk Festivals.

The V.F.M.C. undertook a major role in the sale and promotion of the enlarged version of Shirley Andrew's hard edition of "Take Your Partners". This was released in April, and published by Hyland House Publishing Co.

Arthur Turnbull, a V.F.M.C. member for many years, choreographed the first Australian folk ballet for the Kolobok Folk Dance Co. This ballet was done to Australian folk music and including many favourite song tunes. The music was recorded by the Dogwood Itch Band, which included V.F.M.C. members - the Dow family and Geoff Coles.

The 20th Anniversary of the Club was celebrated with a Woolshed Ball and Ceilidh at the Central Hall, which is many times larger than the small but historic Toorak Scout Hall in which the V.F.M.C. started in 1959.

# *1980 to 1989*

## **1980**

Central Singabout, which had been held at St. Michael's Church Hall, was closed in February. It was replaced by a dance on the third Saturday of the month and a coffee shop style folk night on the fourth Friday of the month. Both were initially held at the Carlton Community Centre. The Fourth Friday Folk Club was moved to the Curtin Square Annex, Carlton in March, as the Community Centre was found to be unsuitable.

Nariel's camping ground problems were resolved early in the year.

The Traditional Social Dance Association of Victoria was formed, with the aim of furthering correct dance. The V.F.M.C. was to have some association with this group over the coming years.

Dance Musicians Jam Sessions began in April at the Curtin Square Annex, and were held throughout the year on the first Sunday of the month. Poor attendances forced their closure in September 1980.

A single cassette tape, "Music for Colonial Dancing", was released in June. Music was provided by Brown Jug Bush Band, whose members belonged to the V.F.M.C.

Geoff Coles was nominated a Life Member at the June A.G.M., and presented with his certificate at the October Woolshed Ball.

Shirley Cameron (nee Hick), a foundation member of the V.F.M.C., passed away on 12th July.

The Port Phillip Band and Brown Jug Band played for the September Woolshed Ball.

The New Theatre "Reedy River" production played for 18 nights over six weeks at the Organ Factory from September. The V.F.M.C. assisted with the colonial dancing rehearsals for this production.

Concern over the lack of new musicians coming from the Monday Night Workshops, playing with the Concert Party and at Club dances, prompted the acceptance of Chris Wendt's offer to run a dance workshop on alternate Monday nights, and to advise and instruct on playing of music for dancing. They were held from October, at the Fairfield Angler's Hall.

Frank and Russell Pitt, who played for the Tuesday Dance Workshops for many years, retired from this position in November. Taped music was then provided for this night.

## **1981**

The V.F.M.C. played at an Ethnic Day early in February.

A new, updated, spiral bound edition of the Joy Durst Memorial Australian Song Collection was released in March. This replaced the spring clip cover containing the original four volumes. Dance programmes for the Carlton Dance were published in the Newsletter from June. They appeared, with few exceptions, until April 1988. Eastern Suburbs Dance programmes were also published from March 1986 to the same date.

Despite Chris Wendt's workshops, there were still problems finding new musicians for Concert Party engagements and Club dances. Requests for the Concert Party had fallen over a period of 3-4 years, due to an increasing number of new bush bands appearing on the folk scene, some members of which had past associations with the Club. Chris Wendt resigned as Musical Director in March, due to his own band commitments, and Monday Workshops reverted back to their old format of one hall only.

Allan Gardner was co-opted onto the Committee as Assistant Treasurer and Workshop Convenor.

Fears were expressed that the Club was slowly dying. Morale was low due to poor attendances at some functions. However, despite the gloom, some functions were doing quite well, especially the Carlton Dance and Fourth Friday Folk.

Falling attendances at the second Tuesday Dance Workshops prompted its closure in October. After an outcry at this decision, it was decided to try again in 1982.

## 1982

The Dance Workshops recommenced in February, on the third Tuesday. Attendances started to pick up.

The 20th Anniversary of the Nariel Creek Folk Festivals was celebrated in March. Neville Simpson of Nariel, who was nominated a Life Member of the Club in June 1981, was presented with his certificate at the Nariel celebrations (at the concert).

In July, the Fourth Friday Folk Night was moved from Curtin Square Annex to the Spotted Dog in North Fitzroy (formerly "The Commune"). In November it was again moved, this time to the upstairs room at the Carlton Community Centre.

At the May Woolshed Ball, Neville Simpson of Nariel was presented with the Graham Squence Award for his contribution to the preservation of folk music and dancing in northern Victoria.

The third Saturday Carlton Dance had very high attendances throughout the year. In May, the hall was so packed, people had to be turned away as we had a "full house". Music was provided by the Club's "Billabong Band", with the occasional guest band.

The October Ball saw Phyllis Macdonald and Elma Gardner presented with Life Memberships.

Membership numbers this year were down on previous years. Attributed to general gloom expressed in Newsletters.

## 1983

A Special General Meeting was held in March to discuss seven amendments to the V.F.M.C. present Constitution.

In August, preliminary moves were made to alter the V.F.M.C. Constitution, in light of the proposal that the Club become an incorporated body in line with new Government regulations.

Betty Davis and Paul Harsant were nominated for Life Memberships at the A.G.M. These were presented at the September Woolshed Ball.

Attendances at Tuesday Dance Workshops declines again towards September, despite the initial increases in 1982. Eastern Suburbs attendances also showed a fluctuation in attendance numbers, generally on the smaller side.

Fourth Friday Folk Night attendances showed a drop towards August. In September, this function was moved, for the eighth time in its varied existence, to the "Living Room" in Richmond.

Club picnics, which had not been held for many years, were re-introduced. The first, held at Huber's Farm in Selby in November, had about sixty in attendance. Since then, one or two picnics a year have been successfully held at different locations in the Melbourne metropolitan area, or the nearby country regions.

A regular poetry spot was introduced in the Newsletter, with a number over the years written by Club members.

In December, a new set of five cassette tapes were released, also recorded by Brown Jug Band, and called "Music for Colonial Dancing". Included with this set was an instruction booklet, edited by Shirley Andrew and Robyn Millard.

## 1984

The Club's 25th year.

Questionnaires sent to members in order to gather their ideas for the Club, met with very little response.

A new dance, on the third Sunday afternoon each month, started in May at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. Music was provided by "Crackajack", a band made up from several Club members, including Ian, Ray and Brenda Simpson, formerly of Nariel. The dance was discontinued in April 1985, due to water damage to the hall and the unavailability of another in the area.

Fourth Friday Folk was temporarily discontinued in June due to the closure of "Living Room". It was not to start up again for fifteen months.

For the first time in the Club's history, the A.G.M. could not be completed, when numbers fell below the stipulated quorum during the meeting. This was due to some people leaving early. Terry Goonan and Nancy Upson were made Life Members.

In July, the Eastern Suburbs Singabout, recently renamed Eastern Suburbs Dance, after many years at the East Ringwood Anglican Church Hall, was moved to the Mitcham Memorial Hall. It was renamed the "Mitcham Dance".

Further legal work was done towards a new constitution for the V.F.M.C. An initial draft was drawn up in May. Much of this work was done by Club member Paul Harsant. On 12th August — after a unanimous postal vote in favour of Incorporation had been received — seventeen members attended a Special General Meeting at the Angler's Hall in Fairfield to discuss this draft. After much discussion, and with minor amendments, the new constitution was adopted, 16 to 1 in favour. The Club's name was altered to "Victorian Folk Music Club Incorporated".

From the October issue, the Club's Newsletter sported a new header and featured the Club's new name. The old header had been in use for over twenty years.

A 25th Anniversary "Colonial Fancy Dress Ball" was held in October. Music was provided by the Nariel Band and the Club's Billabong Band. A number of ex-members from the Club's early years came to help us celebrate. Nancy Upson and Terry Goonan were presented with their Life Membership certificates.

The 1st National Folklore Conference, presented by the Australian Folk Trust, was held in Melbourne in November. Life members Shirley Andrews and Wendy Lowenstein were among the speakers at the Conference.

The Club's 25th Anniversary Picnic was held at Camp Eureka, Yarra Junction, on 11th November.



## 1985

Steve Bullock replaced Geoff Upson as Concert Party Convenor in June. Geoff, who was seriously ill, had held the position for many years.

Video night held at Betty Davis's home in July. A good attendance.

Quadrille Workshops began in July and were held on the first and third Tuesdays each month, overlapping with the third Tuesday Dance Workshop. They were run by Shirley Andrews.

Alastair Wilson became regular Master of Ceremonies at the Carlton Dance from August, replacing Geoff Upson, the usual MC.

Fourth Friday Folk Club restarted in September after a fifteen month break. Renamed "Singabout Club", it was held at the Alphington Angler's Hall in Fairfield, on the second Thursday each month. Convenor was Margaret Stevens.

## 1986

Club member Graeme Higman started up the Australian Traditional Dance Club in February, initially on the fourth Friday of each month at the Nunawading Recreational Hall. In September it was moved to the East Ringwood Community Hall and held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. It has remained at this venue, though the format and name have changed several times (read on).

February also saw the Singabout Club night moved to the fourth Monday of each month, in lieu of the Monday Workshop. It is still being held on this night each month at the Alphington Anglers Hall.

Life member Bert Cameron, who was a member of the Austral Singers, and the Club's longest serving Treasurer, passed away in March.

From February to March, Shirley Andrews conducted a monthly Quadrille Workshop at the Carlton Community Centre, in place of the usual Tuesday Dance Workshop, to prepare a dance demonstration team for her dance workshop at the National Folk Festival at Easter. The Tuesday Dance Workshop, a part of the Club since March 1970, resumed after Easter and continued until December when, due to lack of interest, it was wound up permanently.

A number of Club members assisted at the 20th National Folk Festival, held in Melbourne at Latrobe University over Easter. Shirley Andrews conducted a workshop on Quadrilles for Advanced Dancers.

In May the first volume of "Collector's Choice", compiled by Peter Ellis of Bendigo, was released. The V.F.M.C. funded the printing of this work, planned as a three volume set.

Dance programmes for both Mitcham and Carlton dances were published in the Newsletter as from the March issue. Mitcham had become an all dance night by this time.

Peter Ellis of Bendigo was nominated a Life Member of the Club at the A.G.M. He was presented with his certificate at the September Woolshed Ball, at which Bendigo band, Emu Creek, played.

Another video night in July, again at Betty Davis's home, was poorly attended.

Due to the imminent demolition of the Mitcham venue, the Mitcham Dance moved to the Ringwood Uniting Church Hall in August, and was renamed "Ringwood Dance". The first night at the new venue saw over 140 in attendance.

In October Peter Ellis ran dance/dance music workshops, plus a Ceilidh, at the Surry Hills Uniting Church Hall. He, Harry McQueen and other Bendigo musicians, plus Club members, provided the music.

An Activities Meeting in October, held to discuss problems facing the various Club activities, was poorly attended.

Life Member, Geoff Upson, passed away in October after a long battle with leukemia. Geoff had held many positions within the Club, including several terms as President and Vice-President. He was Concert Party Convenor for many years, as well as regular MC, singer and bush bass player with the Concert Party and at other Club functions. With his death, the Club lost a very dynamic, loyal member, with twenty years Club experience behind him.

The Second Folklore Conference was held in October in Sydney. Again, Shirley Andrews was once again one of the speakers.

## 1987

The Concert Party group had a four engagements at the Box Hill Mall in December 1986 and January and February 1987. Demonstrations of folk dancing, plus dance music and singing, were held, and it was a good promotional exercise for the V.F.M.C.

Alastair Anderson, our regular Carlton Dance MC since August 1985, stood down from the position due to work commitments. Several people, including Lorraine Ogilvie, Robyn Campbell, and people from the bands playing for the night, carried on this job.

In February the Australian Traditional Dance Club held dance and dance music nights on three Wednesdays a month. In June its name was changed to the "Bush Dance Club". A separate "Dance Music Night" also began in February, and was held on the remaining Wednesday at private homes in the Eastern suburbs.

In March, Phyllis Macdonald, retired as supper preparer at the Carlton dance, having stood down in the same capacity at the Eastern suburbs dance a few years before.

Club members helped life member Bert Thompson celebrate his 80th birthday in May. Along with family and friends, it was a ripper of a night.

The A.G.M. in June was held at the Surry Hills Uniting Church Hall, in order to be in a more central location. A large percentage of members were now living in the Eastern suburbs.

Margaret Stevens, instrumental in starting the Singabout Club in Fairfield, stood down as its convenor in June. Betty Davis took over the reins and held the position until October 1990, when "Singabout Folk Club", as this function was renamed, was closed down.

July saw the appearance of a new band — "Dead River Bush Band" — at the Ringwood Dance. The group was made up of Club members who attended the Bush Dance Club in East Ringwood. They are now known as "Bush Remedy".

Peter Ellis's second volume of "Collector's Choice" was officially launched at the 21st National Folk Festival in Alice Springs. It was released for sale in July.

Randal Pound was nominated as Victorian Folk Arts Co-ordinator. The V.F.M.C. was represented on a steering committee, reporting to the Co-ordinator, along with the F.S.D.S.V. and The Australian Folk Trust.

Club membership stood at 111 in May.

After a boom period, 1987 saw a gradual falling off in attendances at Carlton (as low as 20 at times), while Ringwood, which had had a slump for a while, saw increased attendances. The cause was probably partly due to general population movement away from the city centre to the suburbs.

## 1988

Lorraine Ogilvie started up a Quadrille Assembly (workshop) in February, which alternated monthly with workshops on dances from the British Isles. This was held on the fourth Friday each month in Richmond.

Graham Higman organized an eight week Bush Dance Course, held on Tuesdays in February/March. Dance Music Nights were held every Wednesday during the same period. In March the Bush Dance Club resumed, but on every Tuesday of the month, with one night of the month a dance, and the others dance music nights. The function was renamed "East Ringwood Folk Club" in June and remains unchanged today in name and meeting time. Its venue is still the East Ringwood Community Hall.

The Nariel Creek Black and White Festival celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

The V.F.M.C. supported the Colonial Dancers in their Edinburgh Military Tattoo fund-raising efforts throughout the year. This group represented Australia at the Tattoo in August, presenting a medley of Australian Folk Dances. It was met with great success.

In February, to help promote folk music and dancing to the public, Club members, along with other folk groups, manned a stall at the "Melbourne Music Show", a Bi-Centennial event held at the Melbourne Show Grounds, and also organized a dance at the same Show.

In April, at the Exhibition Buildings, V.F.M.C. dancers joined with the Colonial Dancers to help demonstrate the Lancers, Colonial Quadrille and Circassian Circle Part 1. They were part of the programme of the Geneological Society of Victoria Colonial Ball, for which the Wedderburn Oldtimers provided the music. It was a very successful event.

Third National Folklore Conference was held in Canberra.

Membership numbers still continued to fall, standing at 95 as at the A.G.M. in June. Just managed to make the required quorum at this A.G.M.

Throughout the year, V.F.M.C. publications were used as prizes on the ABC's Saturday programme "That's Australia". Warren Fahey is the Talent Co-ordinator for this programme.

Barbara Garmson was co-opted to the Committee in August.

The third and last volume of Peter Ellis's "Collector's Choice" was released in September, and officially launched at the National Trust Chambers in Bendigo in early December.

October saw name changes for several Club functions. Monday Workshop became Monday Folk Workshop, Ringwood Dance became Ringwood Colonial Bush Dance, Carlton Dance became Carlton Colonial Bush Dance and Quadrille Assembly became Friday Night Dance. Singabout Folk Club and East Ringwood Folk Club remained unaltered. However, early in 1989, Friday Night Dance reverted back to its original name of Quadrille Assembly.

In December, as part of the Club's picnic at Sugarloaf Dam near Yarra Glen, a Special General Meeting was held to approve an alteration to the Club's Constitution. The resolution, to enable A.G.M.'s to be held later than June, but before July 31st, was passed.

The Carlton Colonial Bush Dance, held at the Carlton Community Centre since February 1980, was closed permanently in December due to continuing very poor attendances. Dead River Bush Band, who had provided music for the dance for several months, played for the last night, held as a wake, black armbands and all (but no grog).

As a replacement for Carlton, a new bi-monthly dance was started at Chisholm Institute of Technology in October on a trial basis.

The Concert Party group, which had been in decline for several years, had a marked increase in engagements this year, particularly in the second half when there was more work than it could cope with. This trend continues today. One engagement that the Concert Party still does on a regular basis was begun about this time. This is at Gulf Station near Yarra Glen.

## 1989

The Club's 30th Anniversary year. It was celebrated at a special Anniversary Woolshed Ball on 27th May. This was also the Sydney Bush Music Club's 35 Anniversary year.

In February, after only its second night, the Dance at Chisholm Institute was dropped due to very poor attendances.

Club members contributed to "The Folk Club Stage" on the Sunday of the Port Fairy Folk Festival in March and also participated in the Performers Procession on the Saturday.

April saw another attempt at starting a new monthly dance, this time in the Western suburbs at Footscray. This was not particularly successful, though a respectable number of Club members did turn up.

In August, Concert Party Practice Nights were begun and were held several times a month in the Surrey Hills Uniting Church Hall. This was in response for the need to provide more performers at Concert Party engagements.

In October, the Newsletter reported the death of former Club member Jim Buchanan at Armidale, N.S.W. Jim was a superb largerphone and 5-string banjo player., and was a core member of the Concert Party for many years. He also served on the Central Committee of the Club on a number of occasions.

In November, the Quadrille Assembly was closed due to insufficient numbers. Most other Club functions reported reasonable to very good attendances throughout the year.

In early April, due to lack of accommodation caused by the Motorcycle Grand Prix at Phillip Island, the Club Picnic planned for the same weekend at Inverloch had to be cancelled. It was to be held there later in the year, in September, at the home of Club members Les and Betty Dow. However, another Club Picnic was held in December at Wattle Park, Burwood.

# *1990 to 1998*

## **1990**

Long time Club member, Don Stephens, passed away in March.

In May, Beryl and Alan Powell, who had served supper at the Ringwood dances for many years, stood down from that position.

The Woolshed Ball was held on 29th May. The band was Gay Charmers.

In September the Club suffered a great loss with the death of Bert Thompson on the 21st.

Bert was one of three Club members to receive the first Life Memberships offered by the Club and was well known for his mandolin and piano playing at Monday Singabout (formerly Workshop) nights, Concert Party engagements and at the Club's many outings. Many would say he was the driving force at Singabout Nights, as he was the one who usually helped the others learn unfamiliar tunes for songs and dance music.

October saw the Singabout nights on Mondays being wound up due to insufficient support. Bert Thompson's death was also a contributing factor in making this decision.

The 4th Folklore Conference was held at Armidale, N.S.W. in November.

The Club Picnic was held at Jell's Park in November.

During the year, the Concert Party Group became known as the Folk Performing Group. It was kept extremely busy throughout the year. As well as several performances at Gulf Station for their "Old Crafts Days", another included Elizabeth Gardens Hostel which was to be done on a semi-regular basis over the coming years.

Printed copies of the Club's Constitution were made available in November.

## **1991**

## **1992**

## **1993**

## **1994**

The 35th Anniversary year of the V.F.M.C.

\_\_\_\_\_ saw the end of an era, when the Folk Lore Society was wound up. This society, founded in 1955, operated in its own right until it was amalgamated with the Victorian Folk Music Club in July 1967. Until its recent demise, it has operated as a sub-committee of the V.F.M.C.

The highlight of 1994 occurred on 13th June, when Shirley Andrews, a founding member of the Club, and one of its first three Life Members (three were awarded in 1975), received a Medal of the Order of Australia (O.A.M.) in the Queen's Birthday Honours — "For service to folklore through the study of Australian Traditional Social Dancing."

Those who know Shirley — and very few in folk music and dancing circles don't — know of the many years she has devoted to the study and presentaion of Australian Traditional Social Dancing, of the books she has written, and of the time she has given to the various folk music activities within the Club and elsewhere. There are probably few in folk circles as deserving of such an award as she is. Congratulations Shirley from all your friends in the folk movement.

**1995**

**1996**

**1997**

**1998**

## 1999 — THE FUTURE

The V.F.M.C. can look back on thirty-five years of fairly consistent activity, in which it has played a major role in the preservation of Australia's folk heritage, particularly Australian folk song and traditional dancing. Though the last fifteen years has seen a falling off in Club membership, a number of dedicated people are determined to see it survives.

Though the "folk boom" of the early years has now passed, a fair bit of activity, though not on the scale of the early years, is still evident. Though a few of the older folk bands still survive, most have disbanded. Many new folk bands have appeared in recent years, and several have their roots in the Club, particularly the Eastern suburbs activities. Several still perform at the Ringwood dance and other Club activities.

The emphasis of the Club's work has shifted strongly towards dancing over the years, especially in the late 1970's. Dancing is still more strongly favoured today than folk singing, although its popularity has fluctuated in certain areas. Whereas today, dancing is more popular in the outer suburban areas (such as Ringwood) than in the inner city area, not too many years ago the reverse was the case. The cause of these fluctuations is not clear, but probably are linked to the movement of Melbourne's population from the city to outer suburbs and vice-versa.

Few inner suburban functions are held today. Singabout Folk Club, Monday Folk Workshop, and others have been forced to close down due to very poor attendances. Attendances at the outer suburban functions, such as Ringwood, seem to be fairly stable, due partly to the greater interest in folk activities in these areas.

Other Club activities have been in the area of publications, particularly the production and selling of Peter Ellis's three volume "Collector's Choice". A two-cassette set featuring Harry McQueen of Bendigo and his band has been released. The Club's Concert Party has also showed a strong revival after several years in decline.

Over the years many members served on the committees and held positions such as Newsletter Editor, Concert Party Organiser, Workshop organisers, Singabout Programmers and many other functions for short and long terms. There are far too many to list them all. A list of Newsletter Editors, and those people who held positions on the central committee are listed in the appendices. Looking through the records we find several people who joined in the Club's first year are still active members today.

It is fitting to wind up the main part of this history with the words Shirley Andrews used to finish her 20th Anniversary history. They are still quite relevant today.

"It is always difficult for any organisation to keep up the level of its most active period and, in our case with the greater general knowledge of Australian folk music, some of our earlier styles of work are no longer necessary.

There are also difficulties and dangers inherent in the popularisation of folk music and dance which are always likely to be under-rated. Sixty years ago, Cecil Sharp fought hard for these to be recognised, stressing that enthusiasm for the English folk song and dance was not enough. He believed that those entrusted with their revival and popularisation must aim for a high standard of performance otherwise any shortcomings on their part would be attributed not to themselves but to the folk material they were presenting.

This concept of the primary importance of the folk material is a very important one, and contributed greatly to the Club's very good work in its early days. The Gumsuckers' Gazettes in the early 1960's show a remarkably good balance in our activities and in the interweaving of the collecting and research work with the Singabouts and performances. I can recommend these and Australian Tradition as ideal reading for anyone interested in what could be done by the V.F.M.C. and its enthusiastic supporters in future years that will contribute to our further promotion of Australian folk music and dance."



# Appendix A

## DANCING WITH THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB

by Shirley Andrews

*(Editors Note: This article was originally written for inclusion in this history on the occasion of the Club's 25th Anniversary, and revised for its 30th Anniversary five years ago. Events since then have seen several changes to Club functions. This has necessitated a few slight revisions to the following text to reflect those changes.)*

Dancing has been included in the activities of the Victorian Folk Music Club since its earliest days (when it was known as the Victorian Bush Music Club). At that time, unfortunately, none of our members had grown up in any of the country areas where dancing still played a part in the community's social life and some of the dance traditions still lived on. This meant that we had to depend on those members who had had some experience in other styles of dancing.

Frank Nickels, one of the Club's founding members, had done some international folk dancing, mainly with National Fitness. Folk dances from many countries had been included in my classes at the Borovansky Ballet School and later with the Unity Dance Group. This group had a small repertoire of dances known to have been done in Australia in earlier days, some of which had been collected by pioneer collectors such as John Meredith (ie. the Armatree Brown Jug Polka and the Four Sisters' Barn Dance). The group performed some of these dances at the Folk Lore Society of Victoria's first public function in 1956. These dances, along with such well-known ones as Virginia Reel and Circassian Circle, plus couples dances such as the Barn Dance and the Pride of Erin, were the mainstay of our earlier functions.

In 1959, during our first year, the Victorian Bush Music Club committee asked me to help with some research in order to expand our repertoire. At first I was on the wrong track in looking for other dances in the folk style, until my investigations revealed the fact that by 1850 the quadrilles and couples dances had taken over as our main social dances in Australia, with only the occasional folk style dance surviving. But this style of dancing was not so easy to revive among a city population, most of whom had not learnt to dance as a normal part of growing up, as their ancestors did.

I remember one occasion when our lack of these dance traditions caught up with us in a somewhat dramatic fashion. The Folk Lore Society had made contact with a very elderly informant who had been a M.C. at dances in a remote area of Gippsland. He was invited to "call" the Alberts and the Waltz Cotillion at one of our Singabouts, and our musicians had rehearsed the music he suggested. But disaster struck as soon as the dance started, because none of us understood his calls. The poor man was quite confused as he had never before been asked to call for people who didn't know what he meant and our faces were very red. It was very obvious that we needed a lot more knowledge of this basic part of our dance traditions.

A most important break came for us at New Year 1963, when I went with other members of the Folk Lore Society of Victoria to Nariel and met Beat and Con Klippel, Charlie Farden, who was a well-known M.C. in that district, and the other musicians and dancers there. From them we learnt a great deal about the quadrilles and couples dances of earlier days. Many of these dances were still being done there, and the music and dance instructions had been handed on in an unbroken line.

In February of that year, the Nariel people organised a special dance for us and a big party of Club members and friends travelled up for it. At that time the Club was preparing a program for a big concert of Australian folklore that was being held at the Myer Music Bowl as part of Moomba. We incorporated some of the Nariel dances, such as the Princess Polka and Manchester Galop, into the dances we had arranged for stage presentation at this concert. Rae Dowdle, Shirley Cameron, Ila Buchanan and I danced in this performance, along with Len Dowdle, Frank Nickels, Jim Buchanan and Bert Gibson.

Later that year we also took part in a concert in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, which was part of the very successful festival the VFMC organised on cooperation with the Folk Lore Society and the C.A.E. This concert was almost too successful, as we found ourselves overwhelmed by the queue of people wanting to get in, which extended right round the corner into Collins Street.

In the following year our friends at Nariel again invited us to a dance, this time at the Labour Day weekend. This dance, with its picnic concert on the Sunday, became a regular yearly function as the Nariel Black and White festivals, later to be extended with the addition of the New Year festivals. These festivals have introduced many people to traditional Australian dancing.

At this time, the VFMC had a very active Concert Party which often included dancing, with audience participation, in the shows that were done for outside organisations. At last the VFMC had started on its work of spreading an awareness of Australian dancing, as well as Australian music and song, but this was rather a slow process at first.

The VFMC played a big part in organising the first National Folk Festival, with nine of the thirteen members of that first committee being VFMC members. Our dance demonstration group was featured in the Saturday evening program at that 1967 festival. This group also appeared at a big Moomba concert held at the Melbourne Town Hall. However, it was not until the second festival in 1968 that we conducted the first dance workshop. On that occasion we had more people in our dance demonstration group than in our audience, but it did launch dancing as an official part of the folk festival scene. As anyone who has been to recent festivals will know, dancing has now become a big feature of the program at these festivals.

By this time our repertoire of dances done at Club Nights, Singabouts and other functions had increased considerably to include more of the traditional couples dances and sets, such as the Lancers, Alberts and Waltz Cotillion, along with the folk style dances. In October 1968, some VFMC members demonstrated (rather to the embarrassment of the more modest ones) some of these Australian dances to members of the famous Moiseyev Russian Folk Dance Company that was then touring Australia. They especially liked the Varsoviana and notebooks quickly appeared to record the steps.

Dance practice nights started first in October, 1969 as a run-up to our 10th Anniversary Party. These were continued on a regular monthly basis shortly afterwards at the Royal Park Hall and, having been transferred to the Carlton Community Centre in 1976, remained at that venue till November 1986 when they were discontinued.

Seeing such enthusiasm being shown for dancing, Wendy Lowenstein suggested that we should organise a Woolshed Ball to raise funds needed urgently to keep our magazine, Australian Tradition, going. The first of these was held in the Royal Park Hall on 31st October, 1970. It proved to be embarrassingly successful, with some late arrivals having to be turned away as we couldn't fit another person on the dance floor.

Just prior to this, some members of the VFMC, who lived in the eastern suburbs, launched a regular monthly Singabout at Ringwood. This included dancing as a minor feature at first, but later developing to a major part of their program. The dancing has been under the direction of Frank Nickels, Geoff Coles and Frank Pitt on different occasions and more recently various bands have played a big part in the continued success of the dancing. Others who have helped with dance calling at Ringwood include Ina Bertrand, Joan Martin, Bert Gibson and Lorraine Ogilvie

The early 1970's was an active time for dancing, with participation in the Walhalla Gold Fever Weekends, the Echuca Steam Rally and other country festivals. A group of VFMC members took part in my dance workshop at the 5th National Folk Festival in Adelaide in 1971. Judging by the larger number attending this, and the interest shown, it was clear that dancing had really arrived on the festival scene. Following this, the A.B.C.'s "It's a Big Country" team made a film of the Black and White Festival at Nariel and many VFMC members took part in the dancing. After this film was shown on television, and won the Australian National "Jedda" award, the Nariel festivals were almost swamped under the press of extra visitors.

We also organised a series of dances during that year at the Pram Factory in cooperation with the Australian Performing Group. Our Concert Party, among its many activities, performed on one Sunday afternoon a month at Emu Bottom and included dancing on the lawn for audience participation. The Woolshed Balls became so popular that a system of advance bookings by post, with preference for members, had to be instituted and, even with this, all tickets were sold out two months in advance.

As many of our earlier team were no longer available, a new demonstration team was organised from among the younger members by Ken Farrow. This made its first public appearance at the Woolshed Ball in 1972 and also did the demonstrations that were part of the Australian dance workshop that we organised for the 7th National Folk Festival, held in Melbourne in 1973.

From its first year our magazine, Australian Tradition, had always included dance instructions and tunes, such as those for the dances collected at Nariel, as well as articles about dancing. The December 1972 issue was devoted mainly to dancing and then, in December 1974, a double-size, sixty page dance issue was published. Extra copies, with a different cover, were printed for general sale and this version, with its several reprints, has been widely circulated by the Club under the title of "Take Your Partners".

We combined with the Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria to run a big Folk Ball in May 1975 and again in 1976. Later on this continued as our own second Woolshed Ball, which retained this regular time slot in late May. I also helped the F.S.D.S.V. as a caller for the first couple of years of their monthly Sunday afternoon dances.

During the whole of the 1970's, there are many records in our Newsletter of the numerous engagements accepted by our Concert Party. These often entailed running a dance for some other organisation, with Club musicians playing for the dance and Geoff Upton and other Concert Party members calling and demonstrating the dances.

Some Club members were active in assisting the work of organising the 1979 National Folk Festival in Melbourne. The VFMC also assisted the publication of the greatly enlarged hard cover edition of my book "Take Your Partners" by buying 1000 copies of this direct from the publishers, Hyland House. This enabled the Club to launch this book at the festival at a special discount price.

The Club's regular functions were reorganised in 1980, with the Central Singabout being replaced by a monthly dance on the third Saturday night at the Carlton Community Centre, and a Friday Night Folk Club. The Carlton Dance, with music supplied by the Club's musicians, enabled us to extend our repertoire of dances considerably. Falling attendances in the late 1980's caused Carlton to be closed down in December 1988. However, the Friday Night Folk Club, now Singabout Folk Club, still operates one Monday a month at Fairfield. (UNTIL CLOSED)

In 1980 the Club put out a single cassette, "Music for Colonial Dancing", with music for twelve of the simpler folk style dances. Music was provided by a group of Club members who also performed under the name "Brown Jug Band". In 1983 this band recorded a set of five cassettes for the Club, also called "Music for Colonial Dancing", which included ten simple folk style dances with an instruction book suitable for beginners. Robyn Millard (now Robyn Campbell) and I did much of the work of making the instructions as clear as possible, assisted by the excellent drawings done by Alison Ross.

The following year it was a great pleasure for the Club to work with some of the younger musicians from Nariel, in developing a new band with them called "Crackajack", and starting a new monthly dance with them at Mooroolbark. Their band later became firmly established as an independent entity. Although no longer in existence, members of the original group still play in bands which perform at VFMC functions.

A shortage of dance musicians around the general folk scene, who can play for dances such as quadrilles and couples dances, continues to be one of the limiting factors in the progress towards reviving the authentic Australian dance styles. Because much of the work that Club members do is voluntary, we find that many musicians have their first introduction to this sort of dance music with the VFMC and then depart to more lucrative fields. This means that we often have to start from scratch again and train new musicians.

The formation, in March 1986, of the Australian Traditional Dance Club in the Eastern Suburbs has helped alleviate this problem. This weekly function, now known as the East Ringwood Folk Club, (CHECK CURRENT NAME) is run by Graeme Higman. It concentrates on the performance of traditional and old time dance music, and also holds a monthly dance. It is also the main source of musicians for the VFMC Concert Party which, in 1988 and 1989, (TO CURRENT DAY) has shown a revival after several years of decline.

Over the last three or four years, (PUT IN ACTUAL YEARS) the Club has assisted Peter Ellis (a recent life member of the Club) in the publication of his "Collector's Choice", a three volume set of dance music books containing historical notes and over 730 tunes for many Australian traditional dances. They cover over 180 years of popular social dancing. The last volume was completed in late 1988, and the whole forms a companion to "Take Your Partners".

Musicians who provided exceptional support with dance music in our early days included Keith Watson, who was also the Club's first Secretary, Don Hall, and of course Frank and Russell Pitt. Frank played for many years right up to 1980, at first alone and later with Russell, and Jim Mills for

the monthly workshops on an entirely honorary basis. Club members who helped with the teaching at these dance workshops included Rae Dowdle, who took them over for two periods of six months each in 1971 and 1977. The Colonial Dancers conducted them for several months during 1979.

The dance workshops were discontinued late in 1981 and revived again in February 1982 with a new format. This featured a series of classes catering both for beginners and for more advanced dancers. Robyn Campbell and Lorraine Ogilvie took over much of the teaching with Peter Ellis as guest instructor, and I assisted when needed. Peter Ellis has also given us valuable assistance with our regular dances and Woolshed Balls.

We have always had good cooperation from the Colonial Dancers and some help with our regular workshops and with calling at dances. I would like to express my personal thanks to Lucy Stockdale and other members of the Colonial Dancers who have provided so much valuable assistance with demonstrations at many of the dance workshops I have given at National Folk Festivals. Thanks are also due to Peter Ellis for similar assistance.

Club members and supporters will see from this account of our dance activities since 1959 that the VFMC can claim to have played a very supportive role in the work of making Australians aware of their dance heritage and of reviving and popularising that tradition, and that this work is still being carried on.

# *Appendix B*

## **V.F.M.C. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES MEMBERS 1959-1994**

Many people have served on the Club's central Committee over the last thirty-five years. They are listed in the following pages. From the list we see many members who have served long continuous terms of office — Shirley Andrews who was President for eight years from 1962 to 1970; the late Bert Cameron, who served nine years as Treasurer from 1964 to 1973 and Elma Gardner our current Secretary, who has held this position since 1976 (18 years).

Bert Gibson is another long standing member who has been involved with the Club since its very beginning. He has held various positions on the Committee, including four years as President, four years as Vice-President, two years as Secretary and four years as general committee member.

Betty Davis, who served in the now defunct position of Assistant Secretary for three terms (total seven years), has served continuously on the Committee since 1972 (22 years). Others who have given outstanding service include the late Geoff Upson, who was President on three separate occasions (total of 6 years) and Vice-President on two occasions (total of 5 years); Nancy Upson who served as President on two occasions (total of 4 years); Allan Gardner (total of 15 years), and Steve Bullock (total of 8 years).

It would be nice to be able to list all those who have served on the many sub-committees of the V.F.M.C., as well as those who made supper, manned the door at functions, acted as convenors, or helped in the general running of functions. To list all these hard working people is impossible, so won't be attempted.

### **PRESIDENTS**

1959-60	.Margaret Downing
1960-61	.Frank Nickels
1961-62	.William Sayers
1962-70	.Shirley Andrews
1970-74	.Geoff Upson
1974-77	.Bert Gibson
1977-78	.Geoff Upson
1978-79	.Duncan Dunnadge
1979-80	.Nancy Upson
1980-81	.John Riordan
1981-82	.Geoff Upson
1982-83	.Robyn Millard
1983-86	.Nancy Upson
1986-88	.Jane Bullock

1988-90 .....Graeme Higman  
1990-91 .....Bert Gibson  
1991-92 .....Graeme Higman  
1992-94 .....Steve Bullock

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

1959-60	.Bert Gibson
1960-61	.Bert Gibson ??
1961-62	.Shirley Andrews
1962-63	.Frank Nickels
1963-64	.Bert Cameron
1964-66	.Judith Tenenbaum
1966-68	.Merle Lamb
1968-70	.Geoff Upson
1970-71	.Shirley Andrews
1971-73	.Bert Gibson
1973-74	.Ken Farrow
1974-75	.David Thiessen
1975-78	.Geoff Coles
1978-79	.Bert Gibson
1979-81	.Sue Harriage
1981-82	.Betty Davis
1982-85	.Geoff Upson
1985-86	.Paul Harsant
1986-88	.Allan Gardner
1988-90	.Betty Davis
1990-91	.Margaret Stephens
1991-92	.Ken Gellatly
1992-94	.Betty Davis



## SECRETARIES

1959-60	Keith Watson
1960-61	Robin Bailey/Carmen Finlay (from March 1961)
1961-63	Bert Gibson
1963-64	Judith Tenenbaum
1964-65	Shirley Hick
1965-67	Lorna Cameron
1967-68	Lorna Cameron/Janet McLean (from March 1968)
1968-69	Frank Pitt
1969-70	Marian Sparrow
1970-7	Marian Sparrow and Hellen Cowley (from March 1971)
1971-72	Hellen Cowley
1972-76	Betty Davis
1976-99	Elma Gardner

Note     Marion Sparrow resigned on 28th February, 1971 and Hellen Cowley became Acting Secretary. She was officially elected Secretary at the following A.G.M.

## ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

1959-61	.....—
1961-62	.....Rose Sayers (August 1961) *
1962-69	.....—
1969-70	.....Jan McLean (Minute Secretary) **
1970-71	.....Jan McLean **
1971-73	.....Basil Macdonald
1973-74	.....—
1974-75	.....Jess Dunnadge
1975-76	.....David Anderson
1976-77	.....Jess Dunnadge
1977-79	.....Betty Davis
1979-80	.....Allan Gardner
1980-81	.....Betty Davis
1981-82	.....Anne Wilson
1982-86	.....Betty Davis
1986-94	.....— ***

\* Though not officially a Committee position at this time, Mrs Rose Sayers was appointed Assistant Secretary and Official Hostess in August 1961.

\*\* The office of Assistant Secretary was created at the A.G.M. in June 1968. The motion was overlooked after that meeting and the mistake realised at the 1969 A.G.M. According to the rules of the Club's Constitution, it was to be dealt with at the next General Meeting after the 1969 A.G.M. It was, in fact, not officially ratified until the A.G.M. in June 1971. In the meantime Committee member Jan McLean acted as Minute Secretary and was elected Assistant Secretary at the 1970 A.G.M. This was still an unofficial position until the 1971 A.G.M. (See May 1971 Newsletter, Notice of Proposed Amendments to Constitution.)????????

\*\*\* With the introduction of the new Constitution in 1986, the office of Assistant Secretary was abolished.

## TREASURERS

1959-60	Robin Bailey
1960-61	Margaret Reid ??
1961-62	Margaret Reid
1962-64	Shirley Hick
1964-73	Bert Cameron
1973-74	Kevin Hadingham
1974-76	Ken Farrow
1976-77	Duncan Dunnadge **
1977-81	Lesley Taskis
1981-82	Paul Harsant
1982-83	Jan Horderm
1983-84	Mick Sandiford
1984-87	Graeme Higman
1987-92	Steve Bullock
1992-94	Ken Gellatly

\*\* Duncan Dunnadge resigned in November 1976. Don't know who successor was??

## V.F.M.C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following is a full list of all committee members, including officers.

- 1959-60 Margaret Downing (President), Bert Gibson (Vice-President), Keith Watson (Secretary), Robin Bailey (Treasurer), Margaret Reid, Ed Hogben, Jean Officer
- 1960-61 Frank Nickels (President), Bert Gibson (Vice-President ??), Robin Bailey (Secretary), Carmen Finlay (Secretary from March 1961), Margaret Reid (Treasurer ??), Mrs Maxwell, Mrs Keane
- 1961-62 William Sayers (President), Shirley Andrews (Vice-President), Bert Gibson (Secretary), Rose Sayers (Co-opted as Assistant Secretary in August 1961), Margaret Reid (Treasurer), Frank Nickels, Francis Ashburner, Mrs Keane (co-opted August 1961), Rae Clarke (co-opted August 1961), Robin Bailey (co-opted October)
- 1962-63 Shirley Andrews (President), Frank Nickels (Vice-President), Bert Gibson (Secretary), Shirley Hick (Treasurer), Tony St. Lawrence, John Brunning, Bert Cameron
- 1963-64 Shirley Andrews (President), Bert Cameron (Vice-President), Judith Tenenbaum (Secretary), Shirley Hick (Treasurer), Margaret Smith, Lorna Harding, Bert Gibson
- 1964-65 Shirley Andrews (President), Judith Tenenbaum (Vice-President), Shirley Hick (Secretary), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Lorna Harding, Merle Gubbins, Bert Gibson
- 1965-66 Shirley Andrews (President), Judith Tenenbaum (Vice-President), Lorna Cameron (Secretary), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Merle Gubbins, Jim Buchanan, Don Hall
- 1966-67 Shirley Andrews (President), Merle Lamb (Vice-President), Lorna Cameron (Secretary), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Cliff Ball, Jim Buchanan, Don Hall
- 1967-68 Shirley Andrews (President), Merle Lamb (Vice-President), Lorna Cameron (Secretary), Janet McLean (acting Secretary from March 1968), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Shirley Hick, Frank Nickels, Alf Cameron, Bert Thompson
- 1968-69 Shirley Andrews (President), Geoff Upson (Vice-President), Frank Pitt (Secretary), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Jan McLean, Sue Serle, Noel Nickels, Malcolm Caldwell
- 1969-70 Shirley Andrews (President), Geoff Upson (Vice-President), Marian Sparrow (Secretary), Jan McLean (Minute Secretary), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Merle Lamb (nee Gubbins), Margaret Smith, Frank Nickels, Lyell Sayer
- 1970-71 Geoff Upson (President), Shirley Andrews (Vice-President), Marian Sparrow (Secretary), Hellen Cowley (Secretary from March 1971), Jan McLean (Assistant Secretary), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Shirley Cameron (nee Hicks), Alf Cameron, Wendy Lowenstein, Bert Gibson
- 1971-72 Geoff Upson (President), Bert Gibson (Vice-President), Hellen Cowley (Secretary), Basil Macdonald (Assistant Secretary), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Bert Thompson, George Levick, Jim Buchanan, Judith Cowley (resigned in October 1971)
- 1972-73 Geoff Upson (President), Bert Gibson (Vice-President), Betty Davis (Secretary), Basil Macdonald (Assistant Secretary), Bert Cameron (Treasurer), Shirley Lewis, Ken Farrow, Ben Hall, Eric Youens
- 1973-74 Geoff Upson (President), Ken Farrow (Vice-President), Betty Davis (Secretary), Kevin Hadingham (Treasurer), Nancy Upson, Wendy Lowenstein, Andrew Orr, Ian Marks

- 1974-75 Bert Gibson (President), David Thiessen (Vice-President), Betty Davis (Secretary), Jess Dunnadge (Assistant Secretary), Ken Farrow (Treasurer), Suzette Watkins, Robbie Dalton, David Anderson, Nyall Williams, Anne Farrow, Geoff Coles
- 1975-76 Bert Gibson (President), Geoff Coles (Vice-President), Betty Davis (Secretary), David Anderson (Assistant Secretary), Ken Farrow (Treasurer), Paul Harsant, Nyall Williams, Jess Dunnadge, Ray Mundy
- 1976-77 Bert Gibson (President), Geoff Coles (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Jess Dunnadge (Assistant Secretary), Duncan Dunnadge (Treasurer), Betty Davis, Nancy Upson, Phyllis Macdonald, Alan Schafer, Carol Skinner
- 1977-78 Geoff Upson (President), Geoff Coles (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Betty Davis (Assistant Secretary), Lesley Taskis (Treasurer), Nancy Upson, Allan Gardner, Ray Mundy, David Thiessen
- 1978-79 Duncan Dunnadge (President), Bert Gibson (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Betty Davis (Assistant Secretary), Lesley Taskis (Treasurer), Nancy Upson, Bill Blanksby, Geoff Coles, Allan Gardner
- 1979-80 Nancy Upson (President), Sue Harriage (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Allan Gardner (Assistant Secretary), Lesley Taskis (Treasurer), Betty Davis, Bill Blanksby, John Riordan, Bert Gibson
- 1980-81 John Riordan (President), Sue Harriage (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Betty Davis (Assistant Secretary), Lesley Taskis (Treasurer), Phyllis Macdonald, Jess Dunnadge, Allan Gardner, Paul Tonti-Fillipini
- 1981-82 Geoff Upson (President), Betty Davis (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Anne Wilson (Assistant Secretary), Paul Harsant (Treasurer), Trevor Voake, Peter Dunn, Nancy Upson, Geoff Coles
- 1982-83 Robyn Millard (President), Geoff Upson (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Betty Davis (Assistant Secretary), Jan Hordern (Treasurer), Anne Wilson, Nancy Upson, Geoff Coles, Peter Watling
- 1983-84 Nancy Upson (President), Geoff Upson (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Betty Davis (Assistant Secretary), Mick Sandiford (Treasurer), Allan Gardner, Phyllis Macdonald, Graeme Higman, Mick Dwyer, Paul Harsant
- 1984-85 Nancy Upson (President), Geoff Upson (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Betty Davis (Assistant Secretary), Graeme Higman (Treasurer), Jane Bullock, Allan Gardner, Paul Harsant, Phyllis Macdonald
- 1985-86 Nancy Upson (President), Paul Harsant (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Betty Davis (Assistant Secretary), Graeme Higman (Treasurer), Allan Gardner, Alan Powell, Ewan Kenner, Jane Bullock, Margaret Stephens
- 1986-87 Jane Bullock (President), Allan Gardner (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Graeme Higman (Treasurer), Margaret Stevens, Steven Bullock, Paul Harsant, Phyllis Macdonald, Betty Davis, Alan Powell
- 1987-88 Jane Bullock (President), Allan Gardner (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Steve Bullock (Treasurer), Graeme Higman, Beryl Powell, Alan Powell, Betty Davis, Jo Tierney, Cedric Garrick

- 1988-89 Graeme Higman (President), Betty Davis (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Steve Bullock (Treasurer), Cedric Garrick, Allan Gardner, Paul Harsant, Jim Smith, Barbara Garmston (co-opted)
- 1989-90 Graeme Higman (President), Betty Davis (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Steve Bullock (Treasurer), Allan Gardner, Barbara Garmston, Margot Hitchcock, Cedric Garrick, Richard Brown, Helen Brown
- 1990-91 Bert Gibson (President), Margaret Stephens (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Steve Bullock (Treasurer), Betty Davis, Barbara Garmston, Richard Brown, Allan Gardner, Graeme Higman, Garry Porter
- 1991-92 Graeme Higman (President), Ken Gellatly (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Steve Bullock (Treasurer), Allan Gardner, Barbara Garmston, Betty Davis, Vicky Trembath, Richard Brown, Marita Gellatly
- 1992-93 Steve Bullock (President), Betty Davis (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Ken Gellatly (Treasurer), Allan Gardner, Bill Buttler, Marita Gellatly, Graeme Higman, Ron Morgan, Vicky Trembath
- 1993-94 Steve Bullock (President), Betty Davis (Vice-President), Elma Gardner (Secretary), Ken Gellatly (Treasurer), Allan Gardner, Bill Buttler, Marita Gellatly, Ron Morgan, Bernie Heinze

# Appendix C

## NEWSLETTER EDITORS

August 1960 - February 1961	Wendy Lowenstein/Robin Bailey *
March - December 1961 . . .	Wendy Lowenstein/Margaret Ashburner *
February 1962 - June 1963	Wendy Lowenstein/Shirley Hick *
1963-64 . . . . .	Wendy Lowenstein/ Shirley Hick *
1964-65 . . . . .	Wendy Lowenstein/ Judith Tenenbaum *
1965-66 . . . . .	Wendy Lowenstein/ Judith Tenenbaum *
1966-67 . . . . .	Shirley Andrews
1967-68 . . . . .	Shirley Andrews
1968-69 . . . . .	Shirley Andrews
1969-70 . . . . .	Shirley Andrews
1970-71 . . . . .	Shirley Andrews
1971-72 . . . . .	Geoff Upton/Bert Thompson **
1972-73 . . . . .	Hellen Cowley ***
1973-74 . . . . .	Ian Marks
1974-75 . . . . .	David Anderson
1975-76 . . . . .	David Anderson
1976-77 . . . . .	David Anderson
1977-78 . . . . .	David Anderson
1978-79 . . . . .	David Anderson
1979-80 . . . . .	Betty Davis
1980-81 . . . . .	Betty Davis
1981-82 . . . . .	Betty Davis
1982-83 . . . . .	Peter Zegenhagen
1983-84 . . . . .	Paul Harsant
1984-85 . . . . .	Paul Harsant
1985-86 . . . . .	Paul Harsant
1986-87 . . . . .	Paul Harsant
1987-88 . . . . .	Betty Davis
1988-89 . . . . .	Betty Davis/Paul Harsant
1989-90 . . . . .	David and Wilma Gibbs
1990-91 . . . . .	David and Wilma Gibbs
1991-92 . . . . .	David and Wilma Gibbs
1992-93 . . . . .	Bill Buttler
1993-94 . . . . .	Bill Buttler

- \* With the amalgamation of the V.F.M.C. and the Folk Lore Society of Victoria in November 1960, the Newsletter, (then called *Gumsuckers' Gazette*) had two editors, one from each organization. Wendy Lowenstein represented the Folk Lore Society and the people indicated with an asterisk represented the V.F.M.C. This arrangement continued till July 1966 when Shirley Andrews became sole Newsletter editor, and Wendy continued as editor of the larger Australian Tradition magazine, which was published from March 1964 till December 1975.
- \*\* Bert Thompson was sole editor from July 1971 till January 1972, then Geoff Upson and he were joint editors.
- \*\*\* Hellen Cowley was editor from June 1972 till April 1973. Geoff Upson, Wendy Lowenstein and Shirley Andrews jointly edited the May and June 1973 Newsletters. ??



# Appendix D

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Honorary Life Memberships were officially created in 1975 ?? to honour those members who have given many years of service to the Club. To date, only seventeen people, listed below, have been awarded this honour. All Life Membership Certificates but one were designed and drawn by Geoff Coles, the exception being his own.

Shirley Andrews . . . . .1975

Wendy Lowenstein . . . . .1975

Bert Thompson . . . . .1975 *Deceased*

Bert Cameron . . . . .1976 *Deceased*

Bert Cameron officially received his certificate at the May 1977 Woolshed Ball as he was not present at the October 1976 Ball when the other certificates were presented.

Bert Gibson . . . . .1976

Beatrice Klippel . . . . .1976 *Deceased*

Beat Klippel received Life Membership in lieu of her husband Con, who passed away in 1975.

Geoff Upson . . . . .1977 *Deceased*

Geoff Coles . . . . .1980

Elma Gardner . . . . .1982

Phillis Macdonald . . . . .1982

Neville Simpson . . . . .1982

Neville Simpson was presented with his Life Membership in March 1982 at the 20th Nariel Anniversary. He was nominated for Life Membership at the 1981 AGM.

Betty Davis . . . . .1983

Paul Harsant . . . . .1983

Terry Goonan . . . . .1984

Nancy Upson . . . . .1984

Peter Ellis . . . . .1986

Allan Gardner . . . . .1993

### Dick Evans

It is recorded (July 1967 Australian Tradition) that Dick Evans, who died in May 1967, was also a Life Member of the V.F.M.C. The exact date when this occurred is not known, but it is known that Dick had the distinction of being the first singer to be made a life member of both the V.F.M.C. and the Folk Lore Society of Victoria. He often featured at the early Club Singabout nights. In the May

1963 Gumsuckers' Gazette, there is a note that Dick Evans and his wife were keen supporters of both societies and all their activities, and that along with Simon McDonald, Dick Evans was the only singer to be made a life member of the Folk Lore Society of Victoria (at that time), for his varied contributions to Australian Folklore. [It is interesting to note that the late Alan Marshall, author, was the first president of the Folk Lore Society, and was also a Life Member of that Society (Gumsuckers' Gazette, July 1963).]

# *Appendix E*

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF NARIEL CREEK'S FOLK FESTIVALS IN VERSE**

**by Con A. Klippel**

Way back in nineteen sixty-two  
The weather hot and dry  
The sun shone down to 105  
Beneath a cloudless sky.  
Across Mt. Gibbo's winding road  
Three Folk Lore members came  
'Cause Max and Barby Dyer  
Gave them Con Klippels name.  
They came on to the Nariel Creek  
And followed it right down  
And called in on the Klippels  
Some twelve miles out of town.  
One said, my name is Maryjean  
And this is Norm and Pat  
And spoke of old time dances  
Old songs and this and that.  
They said they were collecting  
Songs of the days gone by  
With other old material  
That otherwise would die.  
We wish to learn your dances  
And record your music too  
Preserve those great traditions  
Some peculiar to you.  
We know we've found a gold mine  
In music, dance and song  
And if you hold an old time dance  
Our group will come along.  
So in the year of sixty-three  
An old time dance was run  
Some thirty members of that group  
Came up and joined the fun.  
The dancing started early

And ran till four a.m.  
You should have seen these people  
What fun it was to them.  
They danced all the set dances  
Some fell down upon the floor  
With perspiration flowing  
They kept calling out for more.  
This happy crowd kept dancing  
And made so many friends  
They said they would be sorry  
When this old time dancing ends.  
An announcement from that Nariel Stage  
A welcome to all was made  
To join the Folk Lore members  
With music in the shade.  
Next morning on the Nariel Creek  
The silence broke with song  
With music singing in the hills  
As people came along.  
They all joined in the singing  
And played their music too  
They danced upon the grass so green  
And the time it really flew.  
All voted it a great weekend  
And said we must have more  
This was our first Folk Festival  
Since then there's been eight more.  
The A.B.C. thought it was grand  
Their camera men came down  
They took two miles of film  
Which was shown in every town.  
The letters then came rolling in  
The secretary's pen ran hot  
And now today at Nariel Creek  
We seem to have the lot.  
This is our tenth anniversary  
With people from every state  
This goes to show what friendship does  
And what it can create.  
God bless all you good people  
May your pleasures never end  
And keep all these traditions  
For Australia's sake and friend.

*Con Klippel was the driving force behind Nariel's Black and White Festivals. Though he has since passed on, the legacy he left behind still continues to flourish. The above poem was written by Con on 25th February, 1972, on the tenth anniversary of the Nariel Black and White Festivals.*

# *Appendix F*

## AULD LANG SYNE

Much has happened to Australian folk music in the thirty-five years since the Club's formation in 1959. From its earliest days, when most functions revolved around the collecting, preservation and performing of our traditional folk songs, to the present, where traditional Australian dancing mostly holds sway, one song was, and still is, used to wind up Club functions. This song is, of course, "Auld Lang Syne".

In the words of Arthur Mee:

"The most popular song in the English-speaking world is a Scottish Ballad, Auld Lang Syne, and it is evergreen because it extols human friendship. We all ascribe it to Burns, but he gave a modernised form to a song that was centuries old. He saw the beauty and pathos of the thought and, preserving the mould and some of the substance, he filled in the gaps with the pure gold of his genius. We owe thanks for the original to an earlier author whom we do not know."

Former Club member, Rose L. Sayers, wrote in the *Gumsuckers' Gazette*, in February 1962:

"The song most often sung by English speaking people is, probably, "Auld Lang Syne". It is also, probably, the most ill-used of all our songs!

The first and [fourth] verses and the chorus are the ones usually "sung", but not one person in a hundred has ever bothered to learn the correct words. They are included in the V.B.M.C. song folder (page 16)<sup>1</sup> because of the fact that this song has always been such an integral part of the social life of the people. In its own special and particular field, it has so far remained unchallenged.

This being so, could we not learn to sing it properly? (And please note, the letter S in "Syne" is pronounced as in "snake", not in "zoo").

Her words still ring true today. The much abbreviated form, often sung at our fuctions, is a far cry from Robert Burns' original version, which very few people have seen, much less sung. Though attempts were made to introduce members of the Club to the original version, they were unsuccessful.

The version given here is that published in "The Oxford Song Book". It is similar to that printed in the "National Song Book", though some words differ in their spellings.

# AULD LANG SYNE

## Robert Burns

- 1 Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to min’?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And days o’ lang syne?

### CHORUS

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne;  
We’ll tak’ a cup o’ kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

- 2 We twa hae run about the braes,  
And pu’d the gowans fine;  
But we’ve wander’d mony a weary foot,  
Sin’ auld lang syne.

- 3 We twa hae paidl’t i’ the burn,  
Frae morning sun till dine;  
But seas between us braid hae roar’d  
Sin’ auld lang syne.

- 4 And there’s a hand, my trusty fiere,  
And gie’s a hand o’ thine;  
And we’ll tak’ a right guid willy-waught  
For auld lang syne.

- 5 And surely ye’ll be your pint-stowp,  
As surely I’ll be mine!  
And we’ll tak’ a cup o’ kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

**Notes:** “stowp” (also spelt “stoup”) is a long handled measure.  
“willy-waught” is a copious draught.  
“fiere” means friend (also spelt “frien’ “).  
“guid” is spelt “gude” in some versions.

The following, written by former Club member John White, was printed in the *Gumsuckers' Gazette* in October and November 1962. As it gives an insight to the history of “Auld Lang Syne”, it is reprinted here. Slight alterations to punctuation have been made.

Although this valedictory song is widely used throughout the English speaking world, it has been aptly described as “The Song That Nobody Knows”. Even in Scotland, hardly a gathering sings it correctly, many introducing the spurious line “We’ll meet again some ither nicht” in place of the line “We’ll tak’ a cup o’ kindness yet” and/or adding the words “The days of” to the line “For Auld Lang Syne”. The stanzas are frequently sung in the wrong order and more frequently misquoted. There is also an extra stanza occasionally added, which I have never seen in print. It runs:

“Then ye’ll gae home wi’ your sweetheart,  
An’ I’ll gae hame wi’ mine, -  
We’ll tak’ a kiss afore we pairt  
For Auld Lang Syne.”

I have been unable to trace this stanza to Burns. I heard it first in Scotland in 1917 and have since heard it at various times and places in Australia. I mention it as a matter of interest.

Although the version we use was written by [Robert] Burns about 1796, the song itself is far older. The tune, as we know it, was first published in Playford’s *Original Scotch Tunes* in 1700 and the “germ-phrase” has been traced back to an anonymous ballad in the Bannatyne Manuscript of 1568, entitled “Auld Kindness Foryett”. A later ballad on the same theme, written about 1630, has been attributed alternatively to Sir Francis Aytoun and Francis Sempill of Belltrees. It was first collected in Watson’s *Scots Poems*, and begins:

“Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never thocht upon”,

and the stanzas end with: “On Auld Lang Syne”.

Allan Ramsay wrote a ballad to the same tune, beginning with the same opening line and using a similar refrain, which was published in his *Scots Songs* in 1726; and several political ballads and street songs of the period used the same turn of phrase. “Tullochgorum” Skinner wrote the “Old Minister’s Song” on the same theme and very close to the present version of “Auld Lang Syne”.

Burns was certainly aware of these earlier poems. In December 1788 he wrote to his literary correspondent, Mrs Dunlop...”is not the Scotch phrase “Old Lang Syne” exceedingly expressive? There is an old song and tune which have often thrilled through my soul...light be the turf on the breast of the heaven-inspired poet who composed this glorious fragment...”. Accompanying this letter was the first version of “Auld Lang Syne”. This was later published in *Scots Musical Museum*. The later version, that which we sing today, he gave to George Thomson, who published it in *Scottish Airs* in 1799; describing it as “An old song of the olden times... I took it down from an old man’s singing”.

Burns later admitted to Johnson, editor of the *Scots Musical Museum* that actually only three of the stanzas were old, the other two being his own work. The probability is that Burns took the tune and the theme from one or other of the older variants — even possibly from an unpublished one “of an old man singing”, rewrote them to suit his own ideas and added two more, obviously those which refer to the joys of his childhood days — the second and third — to complete the song.



This is, in itself, in no way derogatory to his reputation, as most writers of the time did much the same thing. Burns certainly revived and rewrote a number of old Scots folk songs which were in danger of extinction, and made no secret of it. As Kipling aptly put it in his introductory poem to the Barrack Room Ballads, in “The Seven Seas”:

“When -Omer smote ‘is bloomin’ Lyre  
He’d ‘eard men sing by land an’ sea;  
An’ wot ‘e thought ‘e might require -  
‘E went an’ took — the same as me!”

As the majority of our bush songs have been written to old English, Irish or Scotch tunes, and as many of them are actually parodies on, or local varieties of, “Old Country” songs, “Auld Lang Syne” has a rightful place in our collection<sup>2</sup> as a folk song in its own right, quite apart from its value as a “dismissory” song, but in all fairness to Burns, let us sing the CORRECT version. I regret to state that in our song sheets<sup>3</sup> the stanzas, two and five, have been transposed.

1-3      *The Victorian Bush Music Club (V.B.M.C.) song folders were the forerunner of the Joy Durst Memorial Australian Song Collection. They were in use at the time Rose Sayer’s and John White’s articles were written. “Auld Lang Syne” was not included in the Joy Durst Collection.*

**Editor’s Note:** *Most of the above article appeared in the May 1989 edition of Australian Tradition Newsletter. It has however been revamped and added to for this history.*

# *Appendix F*

## *Associations Incorporation Act 1981 — Schedule 3*

### **RULES OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED**

#### **NAME**

- 1 The name of the incorporated association is Victorian Folk Music Club Incorporated (in these rules called “the Association”).

#### **AIMS**

- 2 The aims of the Association are:
  - (a) to preserve, research and popularise our Australian Folklore Heritage of traditional songs, music, poetry, prose and dance.
  - (b) to encourage the creation of contemporary songs, music, poetry, prose and dance in the traditional style.
  - (c) to maintain forums where singers, musicians, reciters, dancers, and interested organisations may exchange information, receive help and guidance for the understanding and promotion of Australian Folklore.

#### **INTERPRETATION**

- 3 (1) In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears: “Committee” means the Committee of Management of the Association.  
“Financial Year” means the year ending on 31st March.  
“General Meeting” means a general meeting of members convened in accordance with Rule 11.  
“Member” means a member of the Association and includes Family, Single, Student, Pensioner, and Life members.  
“Ordinary Member of the Committee” means a member of the Committee who is not an officer of the Association under Rule 21.  
“The Act” means the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.  
“The Regulations” means regulations under the Act.
- (2) In these rules, a reference to the secretary of an Association is a reference:
  - (a) where a person holds office under these rules as secretary of the Association - to that person; and
  - (b) in any other case, to the public officer of the Association.
- (3) Words or expressions contained in these rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Acts Interpretation Act 1958 as in force from time to time.

## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- 4 (1) A natural person is eligible to be a member of the Association on payment of the annual subscription payable under these rules.
- (2) Family membership shall consist of parents and their dependent children under the age of eighteen years.
- (3) The secretary shall, upon payment of the annual subscription, enter the persons name in the register of members kept by him and, upon the name being so entered, the person becomes a member of the Association.
- (4) A right, privilege, or obligation of a person by reason of his membership of the Association:
- (a) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person;
  - (b) terminates upon the cessation of his membership whether by death or resignation or otherwise.

## **ENTRANCE FEE AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

- 5 The annual subscription for each 12 month period shall be fixed at the preceding annual general meeting.

## **REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

- 6 The secretary shall keep and maintain a register of members in which shall be entered the full name, address and date of entry of the name of each member and the register shall be available for inspection by members at the address of the Public Officer.

## **RESIGNATION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBER**

- 7 (1) A member of the Association who has paid all moneys due and payable by him to the Association may resign from the Association by first giving one months notice in writing to the secretary of his intention to resign and upon the expiration of that period of notice, the member shall cease to be a member.
- (2) Upon the expiration of a notice given under sub-clause (1), the secretary shall make in the register of members an entry recording the date on which the member by whom the notice was given, ceased to be a member.
- (3) Membership shall lapse if annual subscription is not renewed within 2 months of end of membership year.
- 8 (1) Subject to these rules, the Committee may by resolution:
- (a) expel a member from the Association; or
  - (b) suspend a member from membership of the Association for a specified period; if the Committee is of the opinion that the member —
    - (i) has refused or neglected to comply with these rules; or
    - (ii) has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- (2) A resolution of the Committee under sub-clause (1):

- (a) does not take effect unless the Committee, at a meeting held not earlier than 14 and not later than 28 days after the service on the member of a notice under sub-clause (3) confirms the resolution in accordance with this clause; and
  - (b) where the member exercises a right of appeal to the Association under this clause does not take effect unless the Association confirms the resolution in accordance with this clause.
- (3) Where the Committee passes a resolution under sub-clause (1), the secretary shall, as soon as practicable, cause to be served on the member a notice in writing:
- (a) setting out the resolution of the Committee and the grounds on which it is based;
  - (b) stating that the member may address the Committee at a meeting to be held not earlier than 14 and not later than 28 days after service of the notice;
  - (c) stating the date, place and time of that meeting;
- informing the member that he may do one or more of the following -
- (i) Attend that meeting;
  - (ii) Give to the Committee before the date of that meeting a written statement seeking the revocation of the resolution;
  - (iii) Not later than 24 hours before the date of the meeting, lodge with the secretary a notice to the effect that he wishes to appeal to the Association in general meeting against the resolution.
- (4) At a meeting of the Committee held in accordance with sub-clause (2), the Committee:
- (a) shall give to the member an opportunity to be heard;
  - (b) shall give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member; and
  - (c) shall by resolution determine whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution.
- (5) Where the secretary receives a notice under sub-clause (3), he shall notify the Committee and the Committee shall convene a general meeting of the Association to be held within 21 days after the date on which the secretary received the notice.
- (6) At a general meeting of the Association convened under sub-clause (5):
- (a) no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted;
  - (b) the Committee may place before the meeting details of the grounds for the resolution and the reasons for the passing of the resolution;
  - (c) the member shall be given an opportunity to be heard; and
  - (d) the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- (7) If at the general meeting:
- (a) two-thirds of the attending members vote in person in favour of the confirmation of the resolution, the resolution is confirmed; and
  - (b) in any other case, the resolution is revoked.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 9 (1) The Association shall in each calendar year convene an annual general meeting of its members.
- (2) The annual general meeting shall be held on such day as the Committee determines, but before 31st July.

- (3) The annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.
- (4) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be:
  - (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting;
  - (b) to receive from the Committee reports upon the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year;
  - (c) to elect officers of the Association and the ordinary members of the Committee; and
  - (d) to receive and consider the statement submitted by the Association in accordance with section 30(3) of the Act.
- (5) The annual general meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
- (6) The annual general meeting shall be in addition to any other general meetings that may be held in the same year.

## **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 10 All general meetings other than the annual general meeting shall be called special general meetings.
- 11 (1) The Committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the Association and where, but for this sub-clause, more than 15 months would lapse between annual general meetings, shall convene a special general meeting before the expiration of that period.
- (2) The Committee shall, on the requisition in writing of members representing not less than 5% of the total number of members, convene a special general meeting of the Association.
- (3) The requisition for a special general meeting shall state the objects of the meeting and shall be signed by the members making the requisition and be sent to the address of the secretary and may consist of several documents in a like form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.
- (4) If the Committee does not cause a special general meeting to be held within one month after the date on which the requisition is sent to the address of the secretary, the members making the requisition, or any of them, may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than 3 months after that date.
- (5) A special general meeting convened by members in pursuance of these rules shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which those meetings are convened by the Committee and all reasonable expenses incurred in convening the meeting shall be refunded by the Association to the persons incurring the expenses.

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

- 12 (1) The secretary of the Association shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for holding a general meeting of the Association, cause to be sent to each member of the Association at his address appearing in the register of members, a notice by pre-paid post stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

- (2) No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at the meeting.
- (3) A member desiring to bring any business before a meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the secretary, who shall include that business in the notice calling the next general meeting after the receipt of the notice.

## **PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS**

- 13 (1) All business that is transacted at a special general meeting and all business that is transacted at the annual general meeting with the exception of that specially referred to in these rules as being the ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be deemed to be special business.
- (2) No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.
- (3) 15 members personally present (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
- (4) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and (unless another place is specified by the Chairman at the time of the adjournment or by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place and if at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than 9) shall be a quorum.
- 14 (1) The President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside as Chairman at each general meeting of the Association.
- (2) If the President and the Vice-President are absent from a general meeting, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside as Chairman at the meeting.
- 15 (1) The Chairman of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- (2) Where a meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, a like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the general meeting.
- (3) Except as provided in sub-clauses (1) and (2), it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- 16 A question arising at a general meeting of the Association shall be determined on a show of hands and unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book of the Association is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of, or against, that resolution.

- 17 (1) Upon any question arising at a general meeting of the Association, Family members have two votes. All other members have one vote only.
- (2) All votes shall be given personally.
- (3) In the case of an equality of voting on a question, the Chairman of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- 18 (1) If at a meeting a poll on any question is demanded by not less than five members, it shall be taken at that meeting in such manner as the Chairman may direct and the resolution of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting on that question.
- (2) A poll that is demanded on the election of a Chairman or on a question of an adjournment shall be taken forthwith and a poll that is demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time before the close of the meeting as the Chairman may direct.
- 19 A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting unless all moneys due and payable by him to the Association have been paid.

## **COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

- 20 (1) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Committee of Management constituted as provided in Rule 21.
- (2) The Committee:
  - (a) shall control and manage the business and affairs of the Association;
  - (b) may, subject to these rules, the regulations and the Act, exercise all such powers and functions as may be exercised by the Association other than those powers and functions that are required by these rules to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association; and
  - (c) subject to these rules, the regulations and the Act, has power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Committee to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association.
- 21 (1) The officers of the Association shall be:
  - (a) a President;
  - (b) a Vice-President;
  - (c) a Treasurer; and
  - (d) a Secretary.
- (2) The provisions of Rule 23 so far as they are applicable and with the necessary modifications, apply to and in relation to the election of persons to any of the offices mentioned in sub-clause (1).
- (3) Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the annual general meeting next after the date of his election but is eligible for re-election.
- (4) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office referred to in sub-clause (1), the Committee may appoint one of its members to the vacant office and the member so appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of his appointment.
- 22 (1) Subject to section 23 of the Act, the Committee shall consist of:
  - (a) the officers of the Association; and
  - (b) up to 6 ordinary members -

each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Association in each year.

- (2) Each ordinary member of the Committee shall, subject to these rules, hold office until the annual general meeting next after the date of his election but is eligible for re-election.
- (3) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of an ordinary member of the Committee, the Committee may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of his appointment.
- (4) The Committee shall have the power to appoint to the Committee between annual general meetings such additional ordinary members as the Committee shall deem necessary.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VACANCY**

- 23 (1) Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the Association or as ordinary members of the Committee:
- (a) may be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination);
  - (b) may be made at the annual general meeting and seconded by a member present at the meeting. The consent of the candidate nominated must be obtained before nomination is approved.
- (2) Written nominations must be delivered to the secretary of the Association not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting.
  - (3) If the number of nominations received is less than or equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.
  - (4) If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.
  - (5) The ballot for the election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee shall be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the Committee may direct.
  - (6)
    - (a) If no nomination is received for President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer, the position/s may be left unfilled; and
    - (b) The incoming Committee must select someone to fill the vacant position/s at the earliest possible date after the annual general meeting;
    - (c) A special general meeting must be called on one months notice to ratify the Committee's selection.
  - (7) A nomination of a candidate for election under this clause is not valid if that candidate has been elected to another office at the same election.
- 24 For the purposes of these rules, the office of an officer of the Association or of an ordinary member of the Committee becomes vacant if the officer or member:
- (a) ceases to be a member of the Association;
  - (b) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Companies (Victoria) Code; or
  - (c) resigns his office by notice in writing given to the secretary.



## **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE**

- 25 (1) The Committee shall meet at least 3 times in each year at such place and such times as the Committee may determine.
- (2) Special meetings of the Committee may be convened by the President or by any 5 of the members of the Committee.
- (3) Notice shall be given to members of the Committee of any special meeting specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.
- (4) Any 5 members of the Committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Committee.
- (5) No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week unless the meeting was a special meeting in which case it lapses.
- (6) At meetings of the Committee:
- (a) the President or in his absence the Vice-President shall preside; or
  - (b) if the President and the Vice-President are absent, such one of the remaining members of the Committee as may be chosen by the members present shall preside.
- (7) Questions arising at a meeting of the Committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the Committee shall be determined on a show of hands or, if demanded by a member, by a poll taken in such manner as the person presiding at the meeting may determine.
- (8) Each member present at a meeting of the Committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the Committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote and, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- (9) Two members of the Folk Lore Society of Victoria committee have automatic right to attend committee meetings of the Association with full voting rights.
- (10) Written notice of each committee meeting shall be served on each member of the Committee by delivering it to him at a reasonable time before the meeting or by sending it by pre-paid post addressed to him at his usual or last known place of abode at least two business days before the date of the meeting.
- (11) Subject to sub-clause (4) the Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the Committee.

## **SECRETARY**

- 26 The secretary of the Association shall keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of each general meeting and each committee meeting in books provided for that purpose together with a record of the names of persons present at committee meetings.

## **TREASURER**

- 27 (1) The Treasurer of the Association:
- (a) shall collect and receive all moneys due to the Association and make all payments authorized by the Association; and

- (b) shall keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Association with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Association.
- (2) The accounts and books referred to in sub-clause (1) shall be available for inspection by members.

## **REMOVAL OF MEMBER OF COMMITTEE**

- 28 (1) The Association in general meeting may by resolution remove any member of the Committee before the expiration of his term of office and appoint another member in his stead to hold office until the expiration of the term of the first-mentioned member.
- (2) If any Committee member is absent from three successive Committee meetings without leave of absence (which may be granted by the Committee) he may be removed from office as outlined in sub-clause (1).
- (3) Where the member to whom a proposed resolution referred to in sub-clause (1) makes representations in writing to the secretary or President of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that they be notified to the members of the Association, the secretary or the President may send a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so sent, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting.

## **CHEQUES**

- 29 (1) Three office bearers shall be deemed signatories to the accounts of the Association.
- (2) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by two of the signatories.

## **SEAL**

- 30 (1) The Common Seal of the Association shall be kept in the custody of the secretary.
- (2) The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Committee and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Committee or of one member of the Committee and of the Public Officer of the Association.

## **ALTERATION OF RULES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- 31 These rules and the statement of purposes of the Association shall not be altered except by Special Resolution in accordance with Sections 22 and 29 of the Act.

## **NOTICES**

- 32 (1) A notice may be served by or on behalf of the Association upon any member either personally or by sending it by post to the member at his address shown in the Register of Members.

- (2) Where a document is properly addressed pre-paid and posted to a person as a letter, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been given to the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

## **WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION**

- 33 (1) If the Association is to be wound up:
  - (a) a general meeting is to be held, members being duly notified one month in advance.
  - (b) a special resolution that the Association be “wound up” must be passed by two-thirds majority of the attending members.
  - (c) a liquidator must be appointed, and this person shall be the treasurer, unless otherwise determined by the functioning Committee prior to the “winding up”.
  - (d) an auditor must be appointed, after which the Committee shall cease to function and all authorities held by them will be transferred to the liquidator.
- (2) The liquidator will pay all outstanding debts, and offer remaining funds to the Latrobe Library with the stipulation that such funds be used to further folk-lore collecting.
- (3) The library of books, tapes, sound recordings, together with all collected materials and Association records, is to be offered free of charge to the Latrobe Library.
- (4) A time limit of six months is to be placed on the liquidator, then a further three months for the auditor to effect completion.

## **CUSTODY OF RECORDS**

- 34 Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the secretary shall keep in his custody or under his control all books, documents and securities of the Association.

## **FUNDS**

- 35 The funds of the Association shall be derived from entrance fees, annual subscriptions, donations and such other sources as the Committee determines.