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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

In This Issue ...

Item	Page
Club Events	2
Next Guest Night	3
Guest Night Review	3
The Dance Page	6
Busking for the Club	8

EDITORIAL

Sunday the 26th of June 2011 will be a beautiful sunny day in Ringwood East. Apparently there is a very special gathering taking place, namely the VFMC Annual General Meeting.

Come along and join in the merriment as Jane dances and we elect odds and sods to do this and that.

*Hey - u kood be eddy for !!!!!
(lots of perks and prestige !!)*

Have a go

editor@vfmc.org.au

VFMC and Friends at the NFF - 2011



Trevor Voake

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the VFMC

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Tuesdays, 8.00 pm, East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8). All welcome any or every night as players, singers, dancers, or to tell a yarn. Contact Don (0407-737-202)

Ringwood Folk Guest Night

Second Tuesday of the month. Admission \$12 adults, children with adult free. \$10 members and concessions.

Evening commences 8:00pm and finishes with a short session after the Guest Performer around 10:15 pm.

Singing Sessions

First and last Tuesday every month. East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8).

If you are interested in learning some new songs, and would like to sing with others in a friendly relaxed environment, come and join us. We start about 7:00pm and go until the start of the main session at 8:00pm.

By-Ear Sessions

Join us to learn how to play by following someone on:

- First Thursday, 8:00 pm (at Harry's place)
- Second Tuesday, 10:15 pm (after the Ringwood Folk Guest Night)
- Every Monday, 8:00 pm, (fiddles and mandolins at Harry's place.)
- Most Saturdays, 11:00am, all instruments and singing, busking opposite the railway station in Ringwood East

Harry Gardner: (03) 9870 8998, 0408 708 998

Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month at the East Ringwood Senior Citizens Club Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East.

Come along and enjoy dancing to live music with all dances explained and called. Contact Jane Bullock (03 9762-1389) or Robin Simpson (03 9723-2453)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1st June	2nd Ear Session	3rd	4th VFMC Dance Jolly Jumbucks
5th	6th Fiddles	7th Club Session	8th	9th	10th	11th
12th	13th Fiddles	14th Guest Night	15th	16th	17th	18th
19th	20th Fiddles	21st Club Session	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
26th	27th Fiddles	28th Sing Session Club Session	29th	30th Ear Session	1st July	2nd July VFMC Dance 3 Corner Jack

RINGWOOD FOLK GUEST PERFORMER NIGHT

FIDDLESTICKS - 14th of June

Fiddlesticks play fiddle, sometimes together, sometimes separate, mostly acoustic, sometimes electric, mostly with voice, sometimes with feet but always with energy, emotion and fire. Fiddlesticks have been on a musical journey for 20 years, touring extensively throughout Australia and New Zealand, spinning their musical stories, spreading their love of all things "Fiddle" through performance, schools and workshops.

They have won multi awards for their fiddling, reached the finals in the TV series "Show Case" and for the last 5 years, have been exclusively contracted to Queensland Arts Council. They cross the generations, the genres, mix the electronic with the acoustic, and toss it all into the world music melting pot.



Guest Artist Night, May 2011, Dave Clark

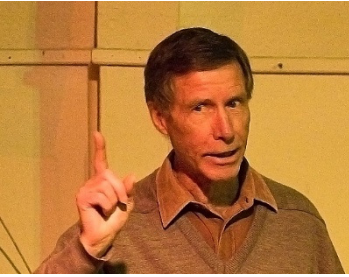
.Mays' concert coincided with an outbreak of blustery weather but a fabulous fire and a cosy night of entertainment was the reward for the brave souls who ventured out. The MC this night was Gail.

Gary started spot acts with All For Me Grog and I Am Australian, then Peter Lim did When I Walk With God from The Student Prince. The old piano was wheeled out for Kevin who did it fine justice with a Brahm's waltz, and his own composition Autumn.



Kaje then did a nice unaccompanied Red Is The Rose and Alex followed this with a poem about the Westgate Bridge. He was then was joined by Mick with The Grey Funnel Line.





A couple of great stories followed from visitor Tony. Rain From Nowhere is a darkish tale of how far human endurance can be pushed by the vagaries of the weather, while The Farmer And The Ewe is basically a cautionary tale about not being seen by the neighbours if you ever need to chase a ewe after losing your duds, for whatever reason. Thanks Tony, great stories.

Visitor Jose finished with two fine songs on the theme of the Northwest Passage, Lady Franklin and a Stan Rogers song North-West Passage, accompanied again by Mick. An encore was rightly called for and Jose sang his own composition Do You Like Me Today.



Thanks to all the spot performers for your contribution to the programme.

* * *

Our guest performers this night were Dave Clark and Kathy Townsend, a long established husband and wife duo from McLaren Vale in South Australia where they run The Singing Gallery, a sort of folk club and cultural performance centre. They will be known to many folkies through appearances at festivals and clubs. They were joined by son Woody Clark who teaches at the Yarra Valley.

Kathy is a kindergarten teacher who plays digital piano, guitar, accordion and sings. She has been musical director and pianist for theatre productions. Dave plays banjo,



guitar, concertina, harmonica and sings. He has worked as a solo artist and also with many bands and has produced six albums and toured widely throughout Australia and overseas. Woody played double bass on this night.

A rollicking instrumental started their bracket. Dave and Kathy write much of their material and their song Onkaparinga tells of the safe haven for aboriginal



women along the rivers' banks. Journey Around Ireland, The Lasses Who Dance In The Morning, and Lazy Harry's were all fine songs too.

Kathy did a wonderful job with a convict transportation song by Ted Egan I think, if I have it right We're A Bunch Of Damn Whores. Very animated and good fun. East-West Truckies relates Dave's experiences as a teacher while based at Penong, and While Shearing At Fowlers Bay was another song from rural SA.

Other numbers included a CJ Dennis poem/song, a plaintive tale about aboriginal life on The Coorong, a rousing version of Maggie May, and Leigh Creek.

As a family they have made many trips to the mountainous areas of northern India and have a connection with the Tibetan refugee centre there. I Fell In Love With A Tibetan Girl relates one such experience. An encore was called for and a song about climbing in Tibet finished the concert.



As usual thanks to all who helped make the concert happen. Check out The Singing Gallery at www.singinggallery.com.au if you are thinking of visiting South Australia. The adventurous may even be interested in another trip to the Himalayas that Dave is organising soon.

Don Fraser (review)

Trevor Voake (photographs).



The Dance Page

Diary Dates for June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1st Irish or Colonial	2nd Beginners Colonial Dance	3rd Claddagh	4th V.F.M.C. The Jolly Jumbucks
5th	6th Irish	7th English	8th Irish or Colonials	9th	10th Portarlinton	11th Celtic
12th Weekend	13th Irish	14th English	15th Irish or Colonial	16th Colonial	17th Claddagh	18th
19th Welsh	20th Irish	21st English	22nd Irish or Colonial	23rd Beginners Colonial Dance	24th	25th
26th Claddagh	27th Irish	28th English	29th Irish or Colonial	30th		

Diary Dates for July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st Claddagh	2nd V.F.M.C. Three Corner Jack
3rd	4th Irish	5th English	6th Irish or Colonial	7th	8th	9th

Claddagh

Irish set dancing at St. James Anglican Church Hall, Upper Heidelberg Road Ivanhoe, Friday 8-10pm. (Sunday 2-5pm)
Contact Rod 9497 1793

VFMC Colonial

dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 8-11pm
Contact Jane 9762 1389

Irish Monday

dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Flemington, 8-10pm.
Contact Marie 9471 0690

Irish Wednesday

Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood, 8-10pm.



Contact Marie 9471 0690

English

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

Colonial Wednesday

Social dance classes: at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm
Contact Robin 9723 2453

Colonial Thursday

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

Beginners Colonial Dance

at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburton Grove, Ashburton, 7.30pm-10pm.
Contact Coral 9885 6109.

Welsh

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

Portarlington Celtic Weekend - contact George 9890 5650

VFMC Dance, 5th May - *photographs: Eddy Tor*



Busking for the Club

Almost every Saturday, 11 am to 12:30 pm, bring your instrument or voice and play or sing out to the passing trade at Railway Avenue, Ringwood East in front of Nick Gordic's, the denture mechanic's premises; it's in between the green grocer's shop and the pizza shop. (The pizza person will open his shop later in the evening and sell a delicious gourmet vegetarian variety.) It's all opposite the railway station.

In three months' time it will be five years since I first attempted the busking, partly driven by loneliness, and partly to play somewhere free of people putting the dots in front of me to read. What better place could there be? Strangers were passing by at about one hundred steps per minute setting a good rhythm for marches, if perhaps a little slow for jigs and reels. So I approached the Ringwood East Traders' Association, spoke to their meeting and we became enthusiastically accredited. The only complaint I've received was from one trader who said that we hadn't played in front of his shop.

Club posters are displayed and literature distributed. A trickle of strangers are thus introduced to the Club and show up at guest artist evenings and Tuesday sessions.



Very quickly I was joined by my constant busking companion, Cameron, then a teenager, and also at times by numerous others from the Club and Club friends. Some come only once or twice, some quite regularly, but months apart. A few have bring their dots, but others have been very brave and tried to play by ear from the start. Once about ten Fire-side Fiddlers showed up and adjourned to Ringwood Lake to play on Australia Day. There have been also accordianists, a cellist, guitarists, mouth organists, recorder players, singers and a viola player. Occasionally I've handed my fiddle to a stranger to play, including once a Club guest artist.

Bill Buttler has photographed us for this newsletter and numerous others for their own records. We've not yet been arrested for playing bum notes.

Otherwise life also has been eventful there has been an arrest. There was young man, of whom I thought well because he put some coins in our open fiddle case, but who later attracted the attention of one of our players as he sought to steal the player's van, which was parked opposite. We rushed over, but the lad struggled free only to be chased by the local atheist on his bicycle (Ross drops by most Saturdays to check out our lack of belief), and then to be intercepted by police in the next block; the coppers were called by the observant greengrocer.)

Also there have been two bingles as drivers, perhaps enchanted by our music, have reversed into vehicles already in the street. And then there was an altercation between two

drivers of invalid's tricycles, one of whom accused the other of driving too fast.

Again there's the aged Scott, formerly the master of an oil tanker and later Harbour-master in Melbourne, "When I came ashore", who invited us home for single malt whisky and to hear several poems, somewhat scandalous, about the English royal family. But is possible to be scandalous about that family. They've continued to live up (or down is it ?) to our Robbie's poems. Yes, there's more than one poetical Robbie from Scotland, and some of our Robbie's poems he writes himself. Our Robbie also came to a Scottish guest artist concert at the Club.

When I was treated with a very personal chemo injection at Ringwood Private Hospital the nurse proved to be a busking client. How embarrassing?

Life continues on. The husband of one of our regular couples has died and the green-grocer couple has married. Their son Jason was born and is now about eighteen months old.

On first monthly Saturdays a market is held in the railway parking area on the other side of Railway Avenue. During our time as buskers, three elections have been called and we've played for the candidates, both federal and state, who have set up stalls and booths. Of course I took the opportunity to correspond with, and lobby them both personally, on my special protests against chaplaincy and religious instruction in schools under federal and state jurisdiction, respectively. The federal candidates said that they disagreed with me, but the incumbent state member said that he agreed. (I've since reminded him of it, but alas he's now been re-elected hasn't he?)

The repertoire has been overwhelmingly of collected Australian songs and tunes. The songs are from Joy Durst edited by my namesakes, Alan and the late Elma Gardner. The tunes are from Music Makes Me Smile by Peter Ellis and myself, and the Australian Settlers compilations, which are edited and produced by Ray Mulligan of the Monaro Folk Club, with the accompanying discs recorded by Greg O'Leary.

But there have also been other songs and tunes. Once a passing singer joined in as we played Amazing Grace, only the first verse. However he was back again next week having learned all six verses. Occasionally he rejoins us to keep them going. An Irish lady has asked us for every song that we know and several that we don't. One Scout mum booked us to perform at a Cubs' meeting in the nearby Ringwood East 3rd hall, which hall we hire occasionally as a Club venue, most recently for Ted Egan's concert. I did my Waltzing Matilda marionette show and Don Fraser demonstrated and dismantled box instruments.

Humpty Dumpty is a must for young children and the Kanding Love Song for passing Chinese. Sometimes clients dance for us, including two expert Scottish dancers.

Last Saturday a roving English lass from Kingston, London, observed that I didn't speak like an Australian. I had to inform her that I came from Perth, half way to Eng-

land.

In keeping with Club policy the proceeds, usually between \$5 and \$90, are handed to beginning players to encourage them. When playing solo my takings are paid into the Club bank account, as also are those from players who decline to accept their share.

So please feel free to join us most Saturdays in the street and also to do your own item, accompanied by ourselves!

Harry Gardner

Folk on Community Radio stations:

NorthWest FM 98.9

- Dave O'Brien The Emu, Fox, Thistle & Shamrock - Tuesday 10pm – 12pm

3WBC 94.1

- Michael Crichton Mostly Folk, Fun & Friends - Wednesday 5pm – 8pm

3MDR 97.1

- Phil Young Folkworks with Dave Miller and Dave Hosking - Wednesday 5pm – 7pm

- Folk On The Fringe with Phil Young - Wednesday 7pm – 9pm

Eastern FM 98.1

- Brian Amos Australian Independent Country - Friday 1pm – 4pm

Yarra Valley FM 99.1

- Dom Troughton Folk And Roots Show - Monday 9pm – 12pm

THE NEWPORT FOLK & FIDDLE FESTIVAL AND THE SUBSTATION PRESENTS

THE BUSHWACKERS & BULLOCKIES BUSH BAND

SATURDAY 2 JULY DOORS OPEN AT 8.00PM

THE SUBSTATION 1 MARKET STREET NEWPORT

The renowned Australian folk band, The Bushwackers, began life in 1971 as The Bushwackers and Bullockies Bush Band. Their first LP, The Shearer's Dream, was recorded and mixed in two days in 1974. Now, thirty-seven years later, the members of that band are getting together to finally launch that album with a one-off show at the Newport Folk Festival, with a line-up featuring original members Dave Isom, Dobe Newton, Tony Hunt, Mick Slocum and Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky.

This will be a great night and a celebration of the music and the original recording of the Original, and Iconic Folk Band – The Bushwackers and Bullockies Bush Band!

TICKETS:

The Bushwackers & Bullockies Bush Band \$27.50
 Tickets online at www.thesubstation.org.au or at the door only.
 Limited seating. Venue enquiries call 03 9391 1110



THE SUBSTATION
 CENTRE FOR ART & CULTURE

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzza@bendigo.net.au
 Feature concert on the 3rd Friday of each month 8-11pm, under the grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth oval, Bendigo.

Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo Inc

Monthly bush dance at Bendigo East, third Saturday every month. Contact Dianne Pearse (dpearse@inet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au) for details.

Berwick and District Folk Club

Edward Nass / Christine Trimnell,
 03 9702 1223 /0418 535 264
 badfolk@optusnet.com.au
 Featured artist 3rd Friday February to December, The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick Vic. 3806
www.badfolk.org.au

Boite World Music Cafe

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

Geelong Folk Music Club

Adam Burke, 0409 409 960
 hexed@iprimus.com.au or
 Peter Fogarty, 03 5229 7887
 Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at the Carlton Hotel, Mercer St, Geelong. Open Mic, walk-up performance events at Irish Murphy's, Aberdeen Street
www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com

Gippsland Acoustic Music Club

Barbara Brabets, 03 5174 7403
 Local musicians and concert opportunities. 1st Sunday at 7:45 pm, Tyers Hall, Tyers
www.musicclub.org

Melbourne Folk Club

Due to changes that are happening in the Melbourne Folk Club, we do not have any current details regarding regular functions at this stage.

Ranges Burrinja Folk Club

Andrew Jackson, 03 97567398 or
 0402 473 897
 mail@drfolk.com.au
 Guest artist, last Friday of month
 Burrinja Cultural Centre, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey Vic (Mel Ref 75B12)
www.rangesburrinjafolk.org/home.html

Selby Folk Club

David Miller, 03 9751 1218
 miller@a1.com.au
 1st Friday every month, at 8:00 pm,
 Selby Community House Minok Reserve
www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub

Peninsula Folk Club

First Sunday of each month, at the Frankston Bowling Club on the corner of Yuille Street and Williams Rd, Frankston, from 6:30 pm on.
 Carparking, great facilities, no stairs.
peninsulafolkclub.org.au

THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE CLUB

- Members of the VFMC are entitled to -
- The monthly Club Newsletter
 - Concessions at Club dances
 - Discounts on Club publications
 - Discounts on Club CD's and cassettes
 - Affiliation with other organisations

To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post to:
 VFMC Secretary, GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Name:

Address:

Email:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (select)

City/Suburban -

Single	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Junior	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single Pensioner	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pensioner Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>

Country -

Single	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY:
 (both may be selected if desired)

By Email

and / or

By Post

CONTACTS

VFMC Postal Address

GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

VFMC Website

<http://www.vfmc.org.au>

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 Email: donfraseris@gmail.com

Family Bush Dance

Jane Bullock
 Telephone (03) 9762 1389
 Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Concert Party Engagements

Don Fraser
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 Email: donfraseris@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER BY

FRIDAY, 17 JUNE 2011.

TO:

EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

The Editor reserves the right to alter or to not publish material.