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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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Come and help us celebrate

“Wattle Day”

Wattle Day is the day to celebrate all things Australian.

Saturday 3rd September 2011

Program

A morning ‘dance-out’ from 11am

Afternoon

- *Two great dance workshops*
- *A Guitar workshop*
- *A Singing Workshop*

Evening

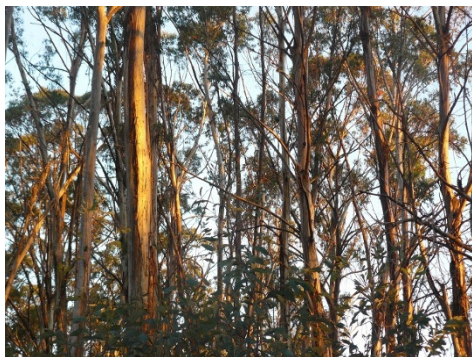
*6.15pm - free sausage sizzle.
& BYO communal picnic tea*

*7.30pm - A Family Bush Dance
with Blackberry Jam
and an “AUSTRALIANA” program
(including the Blackwattle Reel
& The Golden Wattle Waltz.)*

*East Ringwood Community Hall
precinct.*

*Knaith Road
East Ringwood*

A joint initiative of the TSDAV & VFMC



Eucalypts on the Bon Accord Spur

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 September Ear Session	2nd	3rd VFMC/TSDAV Wattle Day
4th	5th Fiddles	6th Sing Session Club Session	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th Fiddles	13th Guest Night	14th	15th	16th	17th
18th	19th Fiddles	20th Club Session	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
25th	26th Fiddles	27th Sing Session Club Session	28th	29th	30th	1st VFMC Dance
2nd	3rd Fiddles	4th Sing Session Club Session	5th	6th Ear Session	7th	8th Woolshed Ball

RINGWOOD FOLK GUEST PERFORMER NIGHT

A CAPELLA NIGHT - 13th of September



Singing For Your Soul's Sake is a community choir from Healesville

Sweet Sassafras is a community choir that sing a mixture of a capella, world music, contemporary and gospel. Based in the Dandenong Ranges, they meet each Monday night.



"Entity" provide three and four part harmonies for music from the forties. They are accompanied with two twelve string guitars and some percussion.

August Committee Report

- Wattle Day preparations are well under way
- Two new club banners have been purchased
- May Ball location under discussion with possible move out east of the city
- Reprinting of Take Your Partners is progressing



Secretary

Generally, on the first Saturday of each month the Kalista market runs. Some of the club members meet up occasionally at the market and play and sing. A crazy balloonologist has also been known to make an appearance, much to the delight of the all !! A beautiful setting and great fun to boot.



Guest Artist Night, August 2011

Under the care of Steve Bullock as MC, the night started as usual with our spot acts.



Peter

Don

Ruth

Mick

Peter Lim opened the spot acts with two songs, I'll Walk Beside You and When We Were Young.

Sincerely Yours followed this with several tunes on button box, Sonny's Mazurka, a pipe tune, and Chris's Waltz.

Visitor Ruth from Warburton then recited a poem, "Short Arm of the Law", telling a quirky tale of small town life when the local cop gets involved with the district's youth, and eventually finds out that a young fellow he is pursuing is his sergeant's son! Wonderfully presented!

Mick Kearon did two fine songs. The first one, which Mick wrote, was called "Long and Final Hours", and was told from the perspective of Ned Kelly on the night before his hanging. The second song was the shanty Leave Her Johnny Leave Her. Thank you spot acts for your contribution to the concert.

* * *

Our guest act for the evening was the group, Unsung, with Wendy Ealy, Moira Tyers, Neil Robertson and Bruce Watson. These four are highly experienced singer / songwriters each in their own right and all have been in the music business for many years and have performed and recorded extensively.



Their unique show Unsung Heroes Of Australian History is a kind of potted history of Australia portrayed through the lives of some of the lesser known identities from our past. Unsung have performed this show at numerous festivals over the past few years to much acclaim. And rightly so as each chapter paints a wonderful vignette of the subject lives.

Guest Artist Night, August 2011

Their songs are all self composed, accompanied by projected photographs, and their tight harmonies and nicely balanced accompaniment are presented with a genuine commitment.

Moira provides the connecting dialogue while the photo show adds a visual reality to the stories. All four compose and each contributes in turn. The scope of their stories range from the First Fleet right up to descriptions of some of their own forebears. As the show is all about honouring the achievements and possibilities of each of us, the audience is invited to contribute their own unsung heroes to the story. It is well paced, each story gives a well rounded biography of the subject before moving on to the next.



Mr Eternity tells of Arthur Stace, a Sydney down-and-out who found salvation and spent the rest of his life writing the word Eternity in chalk on pavements and walls all over town. To make a song and picture presentation about a

seemingly insignificant life is a nice salute to an unsung hero. The story of our passion for Vegemite was a good one too. We not only learnt about how and when it was invented but also what's in it. Jockey Smith was a lively song with a racetrack rhythm which related the life of jockey Bill Smith.

Albert Namatjira is well known to most Aussies for his art, but not so much is known about his somewhat tragic life or the circumstances he lived in. An artist of a different type, Olegas Truchanus, was also given a good presentation and his part in the preservation of the remaining wild places was well illustrated with some of his photographs.



Borneo Nights, Doctor Mangrove, The Man and The Woman and The Edison Phonograph, Eyes For Africa and many more fascinating tales of our unsung heroes made this an entertaining and thought provoking show.

Don Fraser
Trevor Voake (photographs).





The Dance Page

Diary Dates for September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1st	2nd Claddagh	3rd VFMC / TSDAV Wattle Day Blackberry Jam
4th VDA	5th Irish	6th English	7th Irish or Colonial	8th	9th	10th
11th Claddagh	12th Irish	13th English	14th Irish or Colonial	15th Colonial	16th Claddagh	17th
18th Welsh	19th Irish	20th English	21st Irish or Colonial	22nd	23rd	24th
25th Claddagh	26th Irish	27th English	28th Irish or Colonial	29th	30th	

Diary Dates for October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1st V.F.M.C. Borderline Kaylee
2nd VDA	3rd Irish	4th English	5th Irish or Colonial	6th	7th	8th V.F.M.C Woolshed Ball Blackberry Jam

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 | |
| Turning Wave Festival | Contact Rod 9497 1793. | |
| Welsh | Dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30pm.
Contact Ian 9878 2414. | |
| VDA | The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy
Contact Norm Ellis 9888 5332. | |

VFMC Publications

There are a number of VFMC publications which are available for purchase. More detail can be found on our website at:

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

The publications include:

Collectors Choice Volumes 1, 2, and 3; - Peter Ellis.

These three volumes contain tunes for bush dancing, quadrilles, old time sets, folk style couple dances, and dances for special occasions.

Vol 1 \$20.00; Vol 2 \$25.00; Vol 3 \$30.00

Take Your Partners; - Shirley Andrews.

This volume is a hard cover book providing a history of dancing in Australia together with instructions for 68 dances.

\$10.00

Music Makes Me Smile; - Peter Ellis and Harry Gardner.

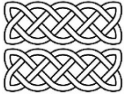
This book is a tribute to Con Klippel and the music of Nariel Valley, providing history, dance music and instructions.

\$20.00

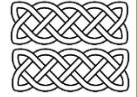
Joy Durst Memorial Song Collection.

This book contains 100 songs with music including guitar chords.

\$13.00



NATIONAL CELTIC FESTIVAL



Portarlington, June, 2011

Do you like the beach in winter? Portarlington is a pretty, beach, holiday town on Corio Bay, near Geelong, where lovers of all things Celtic gathered on Queen's Birthday weekend.

Similar to other years, there were highland pipe bands, resplendent in kilts and full Scottish gear, Irish harpists, violinists and guitarists galore and some very proficient and entertaining bands and artists from Australia and overseas.

My favourite was Jimmy Moore and his band Claddagh. Jimmy's smooth Irish voice and popular evergreen tunes, such as "Maggie", delighted the crowds. Maria Forde, an Irish/Australian folk singer, also performed both her original compositions and well known favourites. Sadly, she was hampered by a dose of laryngitis!

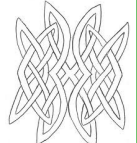


The Celtic church service is always a highlight, held in the Portarlington Uniting Church. It is fascinating how many Christian songs and hymns have Celtic tunes. This year, Colin McLeod inspired us with his violin solos. The congregation enjoyed such rousing Celtic tunes as "All Through the Night" and "The Water is Wide", with Christian lyrics.

Portarlington local businesses did a roaring trade in meals and beverages of all kinds and the accommodation venues were fully booked. We had to stay in nearby Indented Head, another, even smaller beachside town.



Another highlight was the family dance in the Parkes Hall, where dancers of all ages swung their partners round to the music of the hardworking Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, who also performed some gigs separately. It is a lovely cheery club and incorporates violinists of all ages and stages of ability. Former members include Julia König and Colleen Buttler, while Cameron Hobbs is still with them.



One wildcard was Andy Rigby performing South American music on his harp. Still, 'twas a great set of tunes, without a scrap of Celtic influence. An excellent young harp musician from South Australian was there again and she wowed the crowds with her pure angelic singing and harp playing - all in a Celtic vein.

The venues for the festival were scattered around the small town - churches, community halls, pubs and a few marquees. This enabled us to walk around the town and look at the sparkling sea in the winter sunshine and even stop for a cappuccino by the seaside. The cold brisk wind coming off the sea certainly had a Celtic feel. Time was always found for a warm fireside tippie in one of the cute pubs in town.



So, if you would like a weekend away with the Celts, incorporating music, poetry and dance from the Scots, Welsh and Irish, then come to Portarlington next June.

Rosemary Konig



FRANCES FOLK GATHERING

Frances, February 24th - 26th, **2012**

The tiny village of Frances in South Australia's South East opens its hearts to visiting folkies from all parts of South Australia, Victoria and beyond, for a fun-filled weekend of music, merriment, dance, competitions, concerts, workshops and much, much more.



1 km from the SA - Vic border, and 50km south of Bordertown

[A message from the Frances Folk Gathering coordinating group:](#)

Perhaps you might like to consider helping out at the Gathering. We're recruiting volunteers now - well, actually we're recruiting all the time! - but now is the time we really need to get people on board to get next year's Gathering ready to go.

We need all sorts of people from publicity folk, raffle sellers, info people, feedback seekers to chair stackers. In particular we would like to see a small band of people join us on the Monday morning to help take down the signs, flags, bins etc.

Competitions: planning is well advanced for the competitions. We have made some significant changes for next year, mostly in the competition categories. All will be revealed on November 1st on the website.

Workshops: we are also on the lookout for people who would like to run a workshop at Frances next year. We'll be looking for workshops in music, dance and... well, pretty well anything you think our folk might like to get involved with.

But... Don't call now! Not yet. Expressions of interest will open on-line on November 1st - the same day as the competition entries open.

Please give Peter Rooke a call on (08) 8255-0608 or 0401 354 123 if you think you'd like to help.

Email contact: <mailto:info@francesfolkgathering.com.au>

Web site: <http://www.francesfolkgathering.com.au/>

(Michael Crichton can also be contacted for more information: president@vfmc.org.au)

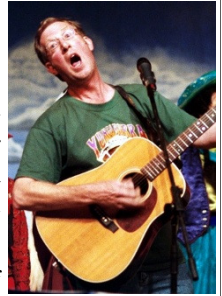


NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

Canberra, Easter 2011

At Easter it was a privilege to organise the two church services at the National.

On Good Friday, Maree Buttler and I planned an inclusive Protestant/Catholic worship service, including gospel singing, led by our impromptu band. Jill Findlay and Maree Buttler played harps. Ted Konig led on piano accordion, while Cameron Hobbs and Raymond Croke played violins/guitar.

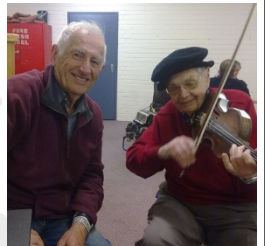


Bruce Watson and Lucy Wise and her sisters performed a bracket of items, each. The themes in the songs were on peace, death, new life, love and family. Jan Lewis, Jill Watson and Carol Reffold read Easter poetry and prayers. The bible reading of the crucifixion story was dramatised Steve Brown, Bruce Watson, Carol Reffold and Raymond Croke.



Maree Buttler and I created a make-shift altar with a cross from gum tree sticks, tied together with string. Participants were given flowers to lay at the foot of the cross, while they prayed silently or meditated.

The Easter Sunday service was at the challenging time of 8. 30 a.m. and so it was heartening to see so many people there, especially as many were staying off site. Our impromptu band, which I dubbed “The Eclectics” was excellent. With such fine musicians as Steve Bullock, Faye White, Dennis Gaylard, Ted Konig, Bruce Watson and Peter Daffy, they made a rousing sound.



Stephen Whiteside wrote a thoughtful Easter poem, especially for the occasion. Michael Darby drove from Sydney on Easter Sunday morning to read the gospel and also a Henry Lawson poem. He also led a special Anzac Day segment. Carol Reffold recited another lovely poem.



Bruce Watson, Fay White and Peter Daffy provided vocal/guitar items and helped lead the inspiring singing. At both services, the singing was deeply moving with old favourites like “Amazing Grace”, “How Great Thou Art” and “The Old Rugged Cross”.

The beautiful Easter service was a blend of the Catholic and Protestant traditions. Thank you to all who took time out from a busy and exciting folk festival to join in.

Rosemary Konig

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

Promoting Live Acoustic Music,

Contact Mel Robertson: 0413 587 490

Each Friday evening at The Lord Newry Hotel, 543 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy North VIC 3068

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>

Secretary

Greg Woodruff
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 Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk Club

Don Fraser
 Telephone 0407 737 202
 Email: donfraseris@gmail.com

Family Bush Dance

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

Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
 Telephone -
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER BY

FRIDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2011.

TO:

EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

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