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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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THE 2014 NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL IN CANBERRA



**VFMC MEMBERS
ENJOYING THEMSELVES
UP THERE!**

**ATTENTION ALL VFMC MEMBERS:
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—SUNDAY 22ND JUNE AT 2.30
AT KNAITH ROAD COMMUNITY HALL, KNAITH ROAD
RESERVE, RINGWOOD EAST (MELWAYS 50B8)**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JULY NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY, 20TH JUNE 2014**

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Tuesdays, 7.30—10.15 pm, East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8). Supportive round-robin sessions where all are welcome for singing, reciting, performing, workshops etc. \$5. Contact Don (0407-737-202)/ www.vfmc.org.au

- 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 / www.vfmc.org.au

Guest Performer Concert

On the second Tuesday of the month (instead of the weekly session) a concert is held featuring top acoustic performers. Ringwood East Community Hall. Concerts start with open stage acts at 8pm, finishing 10.15pm. \$12. \$10 conces and members, kids no charge. Contact 0407 737 202 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month except January 8-11pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. A different band is featured each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids no charge.

Contact: 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

By-Ear Sessions

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

- first Thursday, 8.00pm (at Harry's place)

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



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc

Reg. No. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

Ringwood Folk

Tuesday 10th June 2014

Spot Acts from 8:00pm



Taliska

Playing to sell-out audiences at folk festivals and boutique music venues alike, Taliska captivates audiences with the much loved music of Scotland, weaving musical magic through soaring songs and airs, and then enthusiastically roars to life with sprightly, foot-tapping jigs and reels!

Admission: \$12, Members \$10, Children no charge

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve, Melway 50 B8

Contact: Don on 0407 737 202, Email: enquiries@vfm.org.au
Website: www.vfm.org.au

Supported
by Spot
Acts

**Act for July 8th - Danny Spooner, supported by Emlyn
and Jodie O'Reagan**

Guest Artist Night, May 2014

Another capacity crowd came out on this budget night, no doubt determined to seek some diversion from all the bleak news elsewhere. The fire was lit to take the chill off the night, and the audience's wise decision was rewarded with another great concert featuring Red Cat, with Frances MCing the night.



Stan was a spotties first timer who did two songs accompanied with his guitar. Peter Ellis, visiting from Bendigo, then played a nice Eileen McCoys Waltz on concertina and followed with a scottische on the harmonica.



Recently some of our people entered song and verse writing competitions in the Bush Music Club's 60th Anniversary competitions, and in fact did very well. Stephen Whiteside won the Best Poem Award with his work Australian Dreaming which he recited to the audience.



Steve Bullock followed with two unaccompanied Australian songs Billy Of Tea and Big Poll The Grog Seller. Big Poll was a song composed by the 19th century entertainer Charles Thatcher who produced some wonderfully descriptive songs of the life and times then.



Alex and I presented another colourful Thatcher song of life on the goldfields, Look

Out Below.

At the start of any concert night we never know quite what the spot acts segment might throw up, and Three Herrings was one such act, being a trio from a larger group who sing and play Scandinavian folk music around Melbourne. They presented three tunes on guitar, fiddle and accordion, including a polka. Thanks Herrings for coming over and sharing your music at Ringwood



Guest Artist Night, May 2014

Red Cat consists of Rob Carroll, Mike Daley and Kerry Dawson, a trio with a formidable performance history between them who have been together since 2008.

They opened their bracket with a spirited song with great harmonies, written by Canadian performer Ray Forbes, called *Your Song Is Lifting My Heart*. The audience were well and truly on board with the Peter Paul and Mary classic from 1962 *If I Had A Hammer*. Red Cat in recent years have thrilled audiences with their Peter Paul and Mary Tribute concerts, and rightly so as this trio was such an important part of the folk revival era and in the lives of our now maturing population.



Red Cat went on to charm the crowd with a mix of PP&M standards like *Puff The Magic Dragon*, *Five Hundred Miles*, *Where Have All The Flowers Gone* with some lovely tinkling arpeggios on banjo, *Leaving On A Jet Plane*, all with great audience involvement as would be expected. Other great songs were Gordon Lightfoot's *Early Morning Rain*, *There Is Love*, a moody *Song Of The Gaels*, *Ready For The Storm*, and a gentle tribute song to Kate Lyle, a Clovelly fisherman's wife in the 1720's who lost her husband to the sea, nicely led by Kerry.

It was pleasing to hear Rob's closing comments confirming the unique experience of playing unplugged such as at Ringwood. Playing unplugged I imagine would be a challenging task for most performers, yet many give good feedback to the way it shapes audience response and the attentive atmosphere it seems to create.

- review by Don Fraser; photos by Trevor Voake

(front cover photo also by Trevor Voake)



The Dance Page

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1st June TSDAV Dance Workshop | 2nd Irish Scottish | 3rd English | 4th Irish or Colonials | 5th | 6th | 7th VFMC dance Bones & Bodhran BB |
| 8th | 9th Irish Scottish | 10th English | 11th Irish or Colonials | 12th Scottish | 13th | 14th Scottish |
| 15th Welsh | 16th Irish Scottish | 17th English | 18th Irish | 19th Colonials | 20th | 21st |
| 22nd | 23rd Irish Scottish | 24th English | 25th Irish or Colonials | 26th Scottish | 27th | 28th Melbourne Colonials - The Three Muskateers Ball |
| 29th Claddagh Contra | 30th Irish Scottish | | | | | |

Diary Dates for early July 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| | | 1st English | 2nd Irish or Colonials | 3rd | 4th | 5th VFMC Dance The Jolly Jumbucks |
| 6th TSDAV Dance Workshop | 7th Irish Scottish | 8th English | 9th Irish or Colonials | 10th Scottish | 11th | 12th Scottish |
| | | | | | | |

The Dance Page**Melbourne Colonials****The Three Muskateers Ball (Fitzroy Town Hall)****Contact: Melanie 0468 952 915, Marta (03) 9419 7869**

Claddagh

Irish set dancing at St Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd Ivanhoe. 2-5pm. Contact Rod: 9497-1793

VFMC Colonial

Dance at East Ringwood Scout Hall (Dec. only), Knaith Rd Reserve, East Ringwood, 8-11 pm. Contact Jane: 9762-1389

Irish Monday

Dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Flemington, 8-10 p.m. Contact Marie 9471-0690

Irish Wednesday

Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle St, Collingwood, 8-10pm. Contact Marie: 9471-0690

English

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

Colonial Wednesday

Social dance classes at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm. Contact Coral 9885-6109

Colonial Thursday

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

Welsh DancingChurch of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30pm
Contact Ian: 9878-2414**TSDAV**

Sunday: The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy Contact Norm Ellis 9888-5332

Contra Dance

Northcote Uniting Church Hall, 251 High St, Northcote, 7.30-10.30pm. Contact George 9890-5650/Gary 9481-3386

Scottish Mon. & Sat.Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8 pm Contact:
Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com**Scottish Thursday**Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thornton Rd. 7-9pm. Contact Di Gaylard: 5963-3277 or
musicman@virtual.net.au

WINNING SONG IN BUSH MUSIC CLUB COMPETITION

The Reedy River Still Flows

G D Bm

CHORUS: (And) Time goes by, and the years they fly, And _

6 G D

fash - ions may come and may go, But as

10 G D Bm

long as there's mu - sic, as long as there's dance, The _

14 A G

Reed - y Ri - ver still flows, The _

18 Em G D G D A

Reed - y Ri - ver still flows. VERSE: In the

24 D A D

far dis - tant times of the Dream - ing, When

28 G Em A

peop - le first walked this land, There was

32 D G 1.2.3. D

mu - sic and danc - ing to sing up the spir - its, To

36 G Em G A

bring us to - geth - er, ever - y wo - man and man. (And) -

40 v.4 G Em G A

chor - us, So the Riv - er of mu - sic still flows (And)

Chorus:

Time goes by, how the years they fly
And fashions may come and may go
But as long as there's music, as long as there's dance
The Reedy River still flows
The Reedy River still flows

In the far distant times of the Dreaming
When people first walked this land
There was music and dancing to sing up the spirits
To bring us together, every woman and man

Chorus

And from far distant lands others came
And still come to our bounteous shores
They bring stories and songs that tell who we are
And we dance round the room as did others before

Chorus

In far distant places through the bush of Australia
The song catchers tirelessly roamed
Collecting the stories and tunes of our country
Collecting the dances, the songs and the poems

Chorus

So let's sing songs of those come before us
And let's strike up the fiddle and bow
And let's dance till we drop, and then sing one more chorus
So the River of Music still flows

Chorus

CATCHING UP -**FOLK FESTIVALS EARLIER THIS YEAR....**

Frances Folk Gathering 21-23 February 2014

Just to be in Frances is a soothing experience. It is so quiet. Even the small birds, which play in the grass around the tents, made me feel delivered from the noisy cicadas, that day after day visit our home.

But let's leave this tranquil area and get to where the action is in the centre of the town.

It was very good to start with a ceilidh to the sound of live music thanks to the Comhaltas musicians and see everybody young or not so young, expert or novice, get up and enjoy the experience.

Of course the programme is rich and one has to make choices. So I followed Colin Edwards for a trip to Wales. Welsh culture is not so often mentioned or represented in Celtic festivals, in Australia and Colin tries to change that.

Howard James paid a tribute to Slim Dusty in the morning and was part of the Big Rock'n Roll Jam session in the evening. This was an opportunity to sing together, remembering past days .

I also joined Emlyn and Jodie O'Regan's a'capella choir. I was amazed by the number of songs we covered in a little more than an hour. Most of them were well-known songs but the tricky thing is that they presented them in an unusual way.

I was impressed by all the talented people who played and sang on the main stage. But the best of all is « the Mixed grill » that concludes the gathering. The cheekiness, the humour doesn't exclude imagination and talent. It is a good way to encourage people to collaborate.

This is my experience of Frances as a singer and a dancer. But I bet yours was quite different.

- by *Franciska Toubale*

The 2014 Girgarre Moosic Muster

The little town of Girgarre, between Shepparton and Echuca, is fortunate in having a very active and inventive development group to run the annual Girgarre Moosic Muster. The 2014 Muster attracted a record number of visitors (up 30% on last year) who enjoyed the jamming, the concerts, a great range of over 30 workshops, and an admirable attitude of getting kids and new comers involved in music making. It also attracts some dedicated and skilled musicians who regularly donate their time to running all the fabulous events at the Muster.



Art and crafts on display

A good number of VFMC people attended the recent 2014 Muster, with Alex running three of the poetry workshops and Jan displaying some of her beautiful watercolours at the produce and craft market.

Workshops of various skill levels on banjo, bluegrass guitar, clogging, poetry, fiddle, percussion, mandolin, double bass, chord theory and both harmony and a cappella singing were offered. There was a couple of good concerts and a family dance on Saturday

night on the village green. Running concurrently to all these was Ukulele Mania, a series of well attended sessions devoted to just the ukulele, with some aimed at newcomers and kids. A farmers market on the Sunday was very popular and sold quality produce and craft items to the many visitors who came to town. Campers were welcome to use the adjacent park for a very modest \$50 per head, and this included hot showers, a sausage sizzle on the Friday night, a fabulous two course meal on Saturday night and a breakfast on Sunday. Very impressive I thought, they looked after the visitors exceedingly well.

A gospel singing session on Sunday morning packed the hall and was so popular many had to stand or listen from outside. The Muster encourages a lot of spontaneous jamming, of which there were many opportunities including some late into the night. But it was particularly pleasing to see the opportunities and encouragement it offers kids and those new to music making. Kids are integral to the Muster program. Some workshop facilitators arranged a stage slot for their groups which was a great experience too.

Girgarre does not just come alive for the annual Moosic Muster, they actually have a monthly jam, The Jigarre Jammin', on the fourth Saturday of every month. The Farmers Market is also a regular event, on the second Sundays, plus music camp-overs twice a year. Girgarre is a fine example of a small town that has successfully tapped into the benefits and values that community music making can bring. Check them out at <http://girgarre.vic.au> This was the second Muster I have attended, and not the last I suspect.



Eat Ya Greens from Peninsular FC get the dancers going

REPORT ON BOOK LAUNCH ON SUNDAY 18TH MAY

‘THE BILLY THAT DIED WITH ITS BOOTS ON’

by Stephen Whiteside



This event was held at Readings book shop, Hawthorn, during the afternoon of Sunday 18th May, and was quite clearly an outstanding success. A large crowd of Stephen’s friends, relatives, admirers, fellow poets and authors were in attendance, with the entertaining and eccentric Geoffrey Graham MCing the whole launch. Free wine and cheese added to the festive atmosphere and a great time was had by all!

Stephen’s book of children’s poetry had already been selling well before the launch, but by the length of the queues after the formal part of the launch, business would seem to be booming now for Stephen. Published by Walker Books (Sydney) and the product of many years’ hard work, it was/is clearly a perfect gift—for instance, one of the guests bought 4 copies to give to various grand-children and friends.



Both Stephen and Geoffrey gave interesting and entertaining speeches, as well as the well-known author Edel Wignell. The ups and downs of writing, the highs and lows of dealing with publishers, the twists and turns of the whole book production process and more, were all discussed.

Several poems from the book were recited by both Stephen and Geoffrey, and one of Stephen’s poems—the longest and the winner of the Golden Gumleaf award in 2013, ‘The Sash’, was actually sung at the end, having been recently put to music by Maggie Somerville.. A part of Ned Kelly

folklore, ‘The Sash’ describes the rescue of a little boy from drowning by Ned when just a boy himself, with the last three verses particularly worthy of quoting here—the gratitude of the drowning child’s father and the impact of his gift on Ned are brilliantly expressed in poetic form:



EXTRACT FROM

‘THE SASH’

(by Stephen Whiteside)

“I owe that young Ned Kelly lad a debt I cannot pay.
I’ll be so very grateful to him till my dying day.
I know his struggling family are never far from strife,
But all I know for certain is he saved my dear son’s life!”

Mr Shelton gave young Ned a long green silken sash.
He fingered it with wonder. It was just so bright and flash.
It became a prized possession. He would wear it when he could.
Perhaps it just reminded him that, deep down, he was good!

Well, Ned Kelly had his troubles, and his life a grim turn took,
And some say he’s a hero, and some say he’s a crook.
But this should not surprise: when the troopers stemmed his dash
At Glenrowan, ‘neath his armour lay his bright green silken sash!

- report by Maggie Somerville;

photos by Trevor Voake



AUSSIE SLANG QUIZ

1) What is slang for: to get very upset? 2) What does miffed mean? 3) What are the two Aussie meanings for mob? 4) What is slang for: a noisy party?

*Answers to last quiz: 1) Banjo Paterson 2) Two 3) Marie Cowan 4) 1895
5) Angus & Robertson 6) Carrying a swag*

V.F.M.C.—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held this year at 2.30 pm on Sunday 22nd June, 2014 at The Community Hall, Knaith Road Reserve, Knaith Rd, Ringwood East. (Melways 50 B8)

If you want to have a say in how your Club is run, do come along.

Refreshments will be provided after the meeting.

Please bring along instruments for an informal session afterwards.



- photo by Trevor Voake

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzz@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@iinet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au) for details.

Berwick and District Folk Club

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

Boite World Music Cafe

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

Ade Kelly (03)5241-3749,
 adenmyra@bigpond.com.au, Pete Fogarty (03)5339-7887. Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at Hotel Max, 2 Gheringhap St, Geelong. Open Mic. Performance events first Tuesday at Irish Murphy's, 30 Aberdeen St & 3rd Tuesdays at Hotel Max. Bookings: Paula Grembka 0401 671 1310.
<http://www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com/>

Comholtas (Collingwood)

Joan and Ray Mundy run a session on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, starting at 7.30pm. Supper provided

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

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

Yea Acoustic Jam Session

First Friday of the month at the Yea Community House (part of the Library Complex) 7.30 p.m. All levels of musicians and singers most welcome—\$2.00 entry. It is run by Rick and Lee Vengeance, phone 5772 0357 during business hours or see Fairly Folk facebook page for more details.

Ballarat Folk Gathering

1st Sunday of the month 2PM(except January)
 Held at Ballarat South Community Hub
 11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol
 Contacts for information: Caron: 5331-9776
 Graeme: 5345-5551

THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE CLUB

Members of the VFMC are entitled to -

- The monthly Club Newsletter
- Concessions at Club events
- Discounts on Club publications
- Discounts on Club CD's and cassettes
- Affiliation with other organisations

VFMC Postal Address
 P.O. Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135

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

CONTACTS

Secretary
 Don Gingrich
 Telephone: 9879 8761
 Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club
 Don Fraser
 Telephone 0407 737 202
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

Family Bush Dance
 Jane Bullock
 Telephone 9762 1389
 Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Concert Party Engagements
 Maree Buttler
 Telephone: 9733 0802
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post to:

VFMC Secretary,
 P.O. Box 215,
 Ringwood East, Victoria 3135

Newsletter Delivery: (select)
 (both may be selected if desired)
 By Email
 and / or
 By Post

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| MEMBERSHIP TYPE | (select <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) |
| 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"/> |

Name:

Address:

Phone Contact:

Email: