



Established 1959

May 2015

**Australian**

# **TRADITION**

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

Reg No A2511Y

**NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED**

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## **THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL**



*(photo: Stephen Whiteside)*

## **ATTENTION ALL DANCERS:-**

**The COLONIAL WOOLSHED BALL is coming up on  
Saturday 23rd May—a fun night for all! (see flyer page 11)**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER**

**BY: FRIDAY, 22ND MAY 2015 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

## 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](http://www.vfmc.org.au)

- first Thursday, 8.00pm (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 / [www.vfmc.org.au](http://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](http://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.

### By-Ear Sessions

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st May	2nd VFMC Dance Comhaltas
3rd	4th Fiddles	5th Club Session	6th	7th By-ear Session	8th	9th
10th	11th Fiddles	12th Guest Night	13th	14th	15th	16th
17th	18th Fiddles	19th Club Session	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
24th	25th Fiddles	26th Club Session	27th	28th	29th	30th
31st	1st June Fiddles	2nd Club Session	3rd	4th By-Ear Session	5th	6th VFMC Dance Bones & Bodhran BB



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

# RINGWOOD FOLK

## Men In Suits

Blokes who sing like blokes who can sing, together.

**Men in Suits** has continued to surprise and delight audiences in south-east Australia with its repertoire of deadpan originals, revolutionary anthems, Georgian lullabies and classic pop songs with twist. Its 20-plus members sing unaccompanied and unabashed in a style of their own.



### TUESDAY 12th MAY

Open stage from 8:00pm

\$12; \$10 memb. and conc.; kids no charge

Ringwood East Community Hall  
Knaith Road Reserve, Melway 50 B8

Supported  
by Spot  
Acts

**For info 0407.737.202 or [www.vfmc.org.au](http://www.vfmc.org.au)**

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

**JUNE 9th - Jugularity**

## Guest Artist Night, April 2015

Greg was our MC for the April concert. Poet Stephen Whiteside opened events with a lively, almost rap-like cameo of the Ned Kelly story, his life, history and the whole sociology of Ned and Co., and was followed by a song in French called Choose Your Own Opium(?) by Francesca. Visitor Rob Leerveld and crew took the audience on a cruise of sorts to the Antipodes, a convict ship in fact, with Black Velvet Band, then Lazy Harry's and Flash Jack.

Frances delivered a sobering verse called The Saddest Thing detailing the devastating effects of drugs on a young person's life, in this case that of her own son's. Not only on his life but on all who have borne children, nurtured, raised and educated, befriended or valued a young person and then to have lost them to the wily dealer. She followed this with Ain't No Sunshine and If You're Happy And You Know It.



Two very entertaining poems were delivered faultlessly by Alan Wright, Creamsleeves, anon, about the insidious domination of Greensleeves throughout the poet's life, starting with a music box from grandma that endlessly played only it. Then the fascinating history by 'Blue The Shearer' of The Wingen (NSW town) Wingers Club. The Three D's (Dominic, Dieter, Don)

sang Stan Graham's fine song of the Italian immigrant experience to the Barossa Valley, followed by a rousing Callabrisella Mia with the guest performer adding her spirited voice.



Haiku is a highly refined poetic form of traditional Japanese verse consisting of short subtle observations with all sorts of allusions to the seasons and the natural world, contained in three lines of 17 syllables of 5, 7, 5 each. This has nothing to do with tonight's concert except that Alex has elevated the Hailku form to a uniquely Australian style he calls Rooku, with equally subtle observations though the number of lines and syllables are of no consequence at all. Got all that? For example: Politicians and nappies need changing for the same reasons; Women deny their age. Men refuse to act it; The difference between a Harley and a Hoover is the dirt bag is on top. Etc.

**Guest Artist Night, April 2015**

Kavisha Mazella with Mathew Arnold on fiddle was our main performer and put on a wonderful show of heartfelt songs and interesting dialogue about her life experiences and the beliefs that shape her life and work. Kavisha has a multicultural background and as a consequence has a rich set of experiences to draw from. In her life she has produced six fine cds and was awarded the Order Of Australia in 2011 for her services to singing, songwriting and reflecting the

experiences of Aboriginal, refugee and multicultural communities through her performances. She is also an ARIA Award winner, and is perhaps best known as the founder and conductor of the Italian women's choir in Melbourne, and before that the Joys Of The Women choir in Fremantle 1989-93.

With her pure voice accompanied with guitar and Mathew's sensitive violin, and very personable nature, she charmed the audience with her songs and tales. Fisherman's Daughter was her first song, also the title of one of her cd's, and followed with a song about Melbourne's wonderful Victoria Market. Let Your Troubles Melt Away was a tribute to her philosophically inclined husband, and a joyous Sing For Everyone.



Thanks spot acts for your contributions to the evening, some good clever verse this night. And thanks of course to all who helped with the success of the night. The May concert will feature Melbourne's quirky Men In Suits a' cappella choir, bound to be hit. Hope to see you then.



## The Dance Page

Diary dates for May:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31st					1st May	2nd VFMC Dance Comhaltas
3rd	4th Irish or Scottish	5th English	6th Irish Colonials	7th	8th	9th Scottish
10th Claddagh	11th Irish or Scottish	12th English	13th Irish or Colonials	14th Scottish	15th	16th
17th Welsh	18th Irish or Scottish	19th English	20th Irish or Colonials	21st Colonial Bush Dance	22nd	23rd VFMC Woolshed Ball
24th Contra	25th Irish or Scottish	26th English	27th Irish or Colonials	28th	29th	30th

Diary dates for June:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1st June	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th VFMC Dance Bones & Bodhran Bush Band
7th TSDAV	8th Irish or Scottish	9th English	10th Irish or Colonials	11th	12th	13th Scottish

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**The Dance Page**

- Claddagh** Irish set dancing at St Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. 2-5pm. Contact Rod: 9497-1793
- VFMC Colonial** Dance at Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, 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
- Colonial Beginners** Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Contact Coral: 9885-6109
- Welsh Dancing** Church 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
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## THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL 2015

For me the Festival started on the Thursday at the National Library where the Folk Conference was being held. There were some good speakers presenting papers and a concert over lunch. This year I thought I would give the festival orchestra a go as Stephen joined this last year and learnt some really good tunes. This year was no exception, David Johnson and Wayne Richmond put together some 8 tunes that, with the harmonies they carefully put with them, sounded beautiful. After 4 daily practice sessions, David deemed us worthy of performing to the public. I was nervous but with so many friendly people either side, I loved every minute.



I had a couple more opportunities to play my trusty Tenor recorder and one was in the slow session every morning (I only actually made 2 mornings). These were good for me as I don't normally play these tunes, especially the jigs. When a jig was speeded up I glanced around and noticed a lot of faces concentrating very hard - my fingers had given up so I just sat and listened. The other one was the Advanced recorder

session, which suited me well, as they played tunes I knew with harmonies. I coped much better here.

My dancing time included the English dance display as I was part of the "Well Hall Dancers". For this display we all had new Regency style costumes and we all looked so grand people walked straight past, not recognising us. We did 3 displays on the Piazza and each time we were blessed with an appreciative audience and dry weather. The latter being most important as our hats were not allowed to get wet. I carried a brolly in my bag just in case.



The sound in the Coorong was much improved from last year, so much so that the dancers could hear the music and the caller. I particularly enjoyed the Heritage Ball where Heather Clarke opened the ball with 5 dances from the late 1700s. The contrast from these elegant dances to the modern day bush dances and their music was very marked.

At the Contra I met a chap who had travelled 2000 miles just to come to the Contra dancing at the National – he was certainly a very keen and enthusiastic dancer. Stephen played in the Contra band so I was able to stay right to the end and not worry about meeting up with him later.

I didn't get around to many concerts but I saw “The Hexhamshire Lass” Helen Capes play her Northumbrian small pipes and enjoyed her choice of songs. I also saw Bob Fox by accident and then, later, deliberately. I also saw a couple of groups, 'Senor Cabales' (with whom 'Delia's Friends' shared a concert at Newstead last year) and 'Appalachian Heaven'. Mainly I did dancing and playing.

After excellent weather all weekend, as we ate our dinner on Monday night we saw a huge flash of lightening and then heard the thunder. We managed to buy our dessert (ice-creams) and get into the Budawang for the farewell concert before the rain fell down in earnest.

*- report by Jane Bullock; photos by Steve Bullock*



## ENDA KENNY'S HOUSE CONCERT



Well-known folkie Enda Kenny is about to go on a musical tour of Europe, and to celebrate this event and to help finance it, he hosted a house party at his house in Northcote on Saturday 18th April.

Increasingly, house concerts seem to be a wonderful and fun alternative to the more traditional concert in a hall. And there is much to be said for them—a homely, relaxed atmosphere, with lots of food and drink within reach, catching up with old friends, and a great feeling of closeness to the performers that is often lacking in a more formal environment.

Enda was accompanied by Dave O'Neill, brilliant mandolinist, guitarist and fiddle player from Canberra. His spirited contribution greatly enriched Enda's beautiful songs, and his skill at weaving from one instrument to another and up and down the guitar fretboard in a quasi-classical manner had us all enthralled.

Enda performed a few of his classic old favourites, such as 'The Mary Ellen Carter' and 'Streets of Joyce' as well as some of his more recent songs like 'King Street' and 'Heart Tattoo' plus the amusing 'I Lost an Eye at Nariel Creek'. A great night had by all—well worth the \$25 entry fee!

GOOD LUCK, ENDA! We all wish him well on his upcoming trip.....

*- report by Maggie Somerville; photo by Stephen Whiteside*



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)

# Woolshed Ball

**Saturday 23rd May 2015**

**8:00pm - 12:30am**

St David's Uniting Church  
Corner Burke Rd and Mont Albert St  
Canterbury

## Billabong Band

BYO mug and plate for supper to share  
Tea & Coffee provided  
Alcohol not permitted

**Admission:** \$20 Early or \$25 on the Night

**Enquiries:**

Phone: Jane Bullock 9762 1389

Email: [enquiries@vfmc.org.au](mailto:enquiries@vfmc.org.au)

VFMC Website: [www.vfmc.org.au](http://www.vfmc.org.au)

## THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL

Maggie Somerville and I attended "The Man From Snowy River Festival" in Corryong over the weekend of April 11th and 12th. Corryong is a small town nestled among the hills in the far north east of Victoria, close to the Murray River and the New South Wales border. A former Corryong resident, Jack Riley, is believed by many to be Banjo Paterson's model for "The Man From Snowy River" - hence the title of the festival.



It takes place in two parts - horse events, and poetry events. Maggie and I attended the poetry. I don't believe we saw a horse all weekend, though we did see a few bullocks. Most of the poetry festival is given over to bush poetry competition. This year it hosted the Australian Bush Poets' Association National Championships. Not being active competitors, Maggie and I were confined to the role of spectators most of the time. We did, however, perform at the Poets' Breakfast on the Sunday morning.

The Saturday night performance





We camped in a paddock across the road from the hall where all the action took place. The Corryong Lions Club catered magnificently for the event. The facilities were generally excellent, though Maggie would love to have found a toilet at 5 am on the Sunday morning!

It was a very enjoyable weekend. The festival was very well attended by friendly poets, their supporters and other enthusiasts. The weather held, as opposed to last year when rain ruined many events. The surrounding countryside is so picturesque that the drive to and from Melbourne is an important part of the enjoyment of this festival experience.



- report and photos by Stephen Whiteside

### FOLK QUIZ

1) When did the National Folk Festival first start? 2) When and where is it normally held? 3) Name at least one top performer there this year.

Answers to last quiz: 1) 1977. 2) At Labor Day weekend. 3) Irish traditional music. 4) Buffy Sainte-Marie & Sinead O'Connor.

### VFMC MEMBERS UP AT CANBERRA ENJOYING THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL



Joan Mundy on  
piano accordion

Harry Gardner  
on the fiddle



*(Photos 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@vfmc.org.au)

**Ringwood East Folk Club**

Don Fraser  
 Telephone 0407 737 202  
 Email: [enquiries@vfmc.org.au](mailto:enquiries@vfmc.org.au)

**Family Bush Dance**

Jane Bullock 9762 1389  
 Telephone 9733 0802j  
 Email: [dance@vfmc.org.au](mailto:dance@vfmc.org.au)

**Concert Party Engagements**

Maree Buttler  
 Telephone: 9733 0802  
 Email: [enquiries@vfmc.org.au](mailto:enquiries@vfmc.org.au)

**To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post with cheque 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 )

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: .....