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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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INTRODUCING



YOUR EDITOR (see p.9)

**ATTENTION ALL VFMC MEMBERS:
YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE
AT THE END OF JULY—PLEASE PAY ASAP**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 19TH AUGUST, 2016 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 playing, singing, reciting, performing, workshops etc. \$5.members, \$6 non-members. Contact Don (0407-737-202)/ 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

By-Ear Sessions

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

- 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

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1st August	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th VFMC dance Melbourne Colonial Band
7th	8th Fiddles	9th Club Session	10th	11th By-Ear session	12th	13th
14th	15th Fiddles	16th Guest Night	17th	18th	19th	20th
21st	22nd Fiddles	23rd Club Session	24th	25th	26th	27th
28th	29th Fiddles	30th Club Session	31st	1sr September	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Blackberry Jam Bush Band



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK



TUESDAY 9th AUGUST

7:45 - 10:15pm

Superb musicianship and stunning vocals from this young innovative quartet, inspired by music from Ireland, Spain, France, Cape Breton and other traditions.

**Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve, Melway 50 B8**

\$12; \$10 memb / conc; kids free

For info 0411.750.462 or www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704



13th September a double treat - David Campbell, Shearers Tally

Guest Artist Night, July 2016



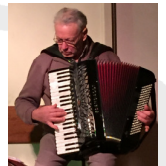
. Our MC for the evening was Bette Martin

Garry, our first act of the night, began the concert with a popular old Irish song The Rattlin' Bog . He followed with a few self-penned poems about everyday subjects as diverse as headaches and road rage. Then finished with the Song of a Shearer and asked: What is everyone looking for when you're out there on your own?



Frances sang an old folk song: Bring me Water Sylvie then encouraged the audience to join in singing Bound for Botany Bay.

Lawrie performed two very popular tunes on his piano accordion. La Golondrina (popularly known as She wears my Ring), and La Spagnola (The Spanish Woman).



Robyn and Dominic sang: I never will Marry then the Irish ballad The Fields of Athenry with the audience joining in the chorus of this firm favourite.



Then an Observation Poem from Alex about the parade of people through Bunnings on Sundays. Followed by his own version of a Willie Nelson classic Red Eyes Crying Down the Drain.

Maggie accompanied herself on guitar singing a poem she had set to music which she had sung recently at a wedding: Love's Coming by Shaw Neilson. Her second offering was The Waiting Game.



Our final act before the supper break was Felix. He reminded the audience about his production being presented in this hall on Saturday 6th August. Barry versus Kelly is about the Justice Sir Redmond Barry and his dealings with the infamous Ned Kelly. Then Felix performed on the keyboard an Irish Jig - The Frieze Britches.

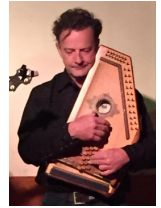
Guest Artist Night, July 2016

We were fortunate to have Appalachian Heaven as our feature act this month. This quartet plays music from Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama Georgia and other southern states of the USA. Sometimes called bluegrass, this type of music evolved from a mixture of western style tunes, white gospel and dance rhythms favoured by the slaves from Senegal Africa.



The first tune was Eldies Farewell, made popular by the legendary Ole Belle Read. Ian played claw hammer banjo, Sally on fiddle, Kim on base and Graeme on guitar. Then a lament by Benton Flippin wishin to the Lord that he'd never been born. From North Carolina a song by Tommy Jerrel - Police come this mornin'. Ian played three different banjos during the night and explained that one, a fretless banjo, had different tuning for every key.

They sang a sad song called Evangeline about a woman whose gambler lover drowns in the Mississippi River.



There followed a livelier song by Tom Waits about a man who doesn't go to church on Sundays, but to the candy store where he buys a Chocolate Jesus. It keeps him warm inside and satisfies his soul.

Ian, Kim, Sally and Graeme travel to the southern states of America each year to take part in festivals, workshops and to ensure that their representation of the music remains true to its roots. The fiddle and banjo were the traditional instruments for the people for square dances and ballads long before guitars came along. Graeme told the audience that the guitar he was playing was a 1935 Gibson and he also played the autoharp. This instrument was made popular by the Carter family from Virginia and Tennessee. Then he played Storms are on the Ocean.

An Art Stamper fiddle tune followed - Johnny don't come home drunk. Then the foursome played a very lively tune which has no name.

The audience sang along with the next tune, the old favourite Big Rock Candy Mountain and Sally featured with Black-eyed Susie. Their final offering was Northern White Cloud. We thank Appalachian Heaven for providing a great night of lively and enjoyable entertainment .



Next month : Anatole Road

The VFMC wishes to thank all of the volunteers who made the evening a success.

- Report: Better Martin ; Photographs: Stephen Whiteside



The Dance Page

Diary dates for July:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1st Irish Scottish	2nd English	3rd Irish or Colonials	4th	5th	6th VFMC Dance Melbourne Colonial Band
7th TSDAV	8th Irish Scottish	9th English	10th Irish or Colonials	11th Scottish	12th	13th Scottish
14th Claddagh Contra Malvern	15th Irish Scottish	16th English	17th Irish or Colonials	18th Colonials	19th	20th Bendigo East dance
21st Welsh	22nd Irish Scottish	23rd English	24th Irish or Colonials	25th Colonials Beginners	26th	27th Tea Dance
28th Claddagh Contra Northcote	29th Irish Scottish	30th English	31st Irish or Colonials			
Diary Dates for early Sept 2016:						
				1st Colonials Beginners	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Wattle Day Blackberry Jam
4th TSDAV	5th Irish Scottish	6th English	7th Irish Colonials	8th Scottish Colonials Beginners	9th	10th Scottish

The Dance Page



TEA DANCE 27th August, 4.30-9.30pm, St David's Uniting Church, 74 Melville Rd, Brunswick West. Contact: Norm 9888-5332 or www.tsdav.asn.au

- Claddagh** Irish set dancing at St Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. 2-5pm. Contact: Rod 9497-1793
- VFMC Colonial Dance** at Ringwood East Elderly 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 & Colonial Beginners** Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Contact: Coral 9885-6109
- Welsh** Dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 2-4.30pm. Contact: George 9890 5650
- 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: John 0422 932 532 / Gary 0425 707 980
- Contra Dance** Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke Rd, Malvern East. Contact: 0422 932 532 / Gary 0425 707 980
- 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
- Bendigo East, third Saturday every month. Contact Dianne Pearse (dpearse@inet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au)

Here is a poem penned by one of our members about our Tuesday night sessions.

Tuesday Poem

There's a place each week that I like to go
Through heat, through cold, rain, hail or snow
Knaith Road – Ringwood East is my destination
From my house a drive of short duration.
The half-empty car park is filling up fast
I slip into a spot as the Riever hurtles past
There's Dieter's Holden - Don's flash van
Frances's yellow ute - Harry's little sedan
Inside, Harry and Stan play a welcoming tune
While others place seats in a circle round the room.
I see accordions, violins, mandolins and guitars
Recorders, tin whistles and some harmonicas
There's a hush, as we settle with obedient demeanour
To follow the guidance of Don, our esteemed convenor
The Waltz Polka Book page two hundred and four
Colin calls quietly from his spot near the door
Okay folks, convenor calls, let us commence
Instruments at the ready, faces intense
Legs pumping, feet tapping to keep all in time
Music fills the hall – a symphony sublime.
Taking turns, one by one around the room
Each person presents, performs or requests a tune
Joan and Ray start us off with a sweet melody
Mick entertains with a song of the sea
Jim Smith, the reciter - offers a poem by Lawson
All listen enthralled - it's totally awesome

Dieter our resident harmonica virtuoso
Plays poignant songs both dramatic and doloroso
Colin McLaren plays -The Dark Island - version twenty-two
I'm sure we've heard it before - Ach aye the noo!
Sofie puts a light in a couple of country windows
Maggie sings her own composition, that girl's no bimbo
Stephen chooses a poem from his book of children's verse
Of a guy called Ned Kelly, whose life seemed to be cursed
Robyn from the Joy Durst book chooses a song
Dominic plays and sings a folk song as the evening moves along
Before you know it, it's time for our supper
So most of us adjourn to the kitchen for a cuppa
Wal, Ken, Tony, Graham, Andy, and the rest
Sip their drinks, nibble a biscuit, share an occasional jest
Many continue playing, grouped in threes and twos
Greg plays solo, sings quietly about Lima - that's in Peru.
After the break all settle down into their seats
Instruments ready, toes a'tappin we all resume the beat
Is it the music, the songs or the friendly conversation
That make Tuesday night such a pleasurable sensation
I'm not really sure, but I'll tell you my friend
We'll be back again next week to do it all again.

- *Bette Martin July 2016*

INTRODUCING YOUR EDITOR: In case anybody is curious about who keeps somehow, often miraculously, putting out this newsletter each month, your Editor is Maggie Somerville—a current schoolteacher and singer-songwriter, who has held this dubious position for about 4 years. Thanks to my wonderful proofreader Jane and apologies for all errors or oversights in any issues—we do our best! And do please keep those articles, anecdotes and photos etc. rolling in. It is YOUR newsletter!

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. presents

A House Concert

with

Martyn

Wyndham-Read

2.00pm Sunday 18th September, Park Orchards
\$20, refreshments provided

For details and bookings call 0438.049.557

THE AUTOHARP

As one of our Guest Artists this month in the band Appalachian Heaven plays the autoharp, it seems timely to publish some information about this relatively unknown instrument.

The Autoharp is a musical string instrument with a series of chord bars attached to dampers, which, when depressed, mute all the other strings other than those that form the desired chord. However, despite its name, the autoharp is NOT a harp at all but a chorded zither.

Debate exists over the origin of the autoharp—possibly a German immigrant to the USA named Zimmermann or else another German named Gutter of Markneukirchen in Germany who built what he called a Volkszither, which most resembles the autoharp played today.

Modern autoharps have 36 or 37 strings, although some have 47 or, more rarely, 48 strings. Although often regarded as a rhythm instrument for playing chordal accompaniment, modern players can also play melodies on the instrument.

Until the 1960s no pickups were available to amplify the autoharp other than a rudimentary contact microphone with a weak, tinny sound. Eventually magnetic pickups were designed in the mid 1960s and early 1970s.

Autoharps have been used in the United States as bluegrass and folk instruments—perhaps most famously by Maybelle Carter, Sara Carter, Helen Carter and June Carter, all of the Carter Family. However, autoharps have also been used in other styles of music, e.g. Rolling Stones' Brian Jones in 'Ride On, Baby' in 1967 and 'You Got the Silver' in 1969, and Judith Durham of the Seekers in 'A World of Our Own.'



-- report by Maggie Somerville (based on Wikipedia)

CONCERT PARTY REPORT—JULY 2016

The Billabong band has been kept busy with 2 gigs in June and more coming up.

RECENT NEWS:

On the 17th of June we played at **Lionsbrae Aged Care** residence, this was the third time we have played there and every time it has been great fun. One of their employees is a regular attendee at our Tuesday concert nights. A sing-a-long program was chosen which received a lot of enthusiastic support from our audience. Many thanks to Margie, Frances, Sophie, Robyn, Don G. Stan C, Harry, Rob, Tony & Trev. As we were packing up their activities coordinator asked us quite seriously if we could come back the next week – a compliment in itself.

On Sat 16th July we played for **Crossway's Baptist Church** intellectually handicapped support group. Again this was a repeat performance as we have played for them a number of times. And again we chose a program to suit our audience rather than playing purely Australian Folk music. This may seem contrary to the clubs aims but it does ensure that our audiences enjoy themselves and we received a lot of very positive feedback from the audience . Many thanks to Margie, Frances, Sophie, Don G. Stan C, Harry, Rob, Stewart & Trev.

Our repertoire for these gigs varies from traditional Australian Folk to more general folk, The Beatles, The Seekers, Johnny Farnham etc.

UPCOMING GIGS:

Upcoming gigs are :-

Lionsbrae (29th July), Hurstbridge Wattle Day (27th August),

Woolshed Ball (8th October), and

Ringwood Senior Citizens (3rd December).

Remember that these gigs are open to any club member who feels confident enough to get up on stage and play their instruments as long as they are prepared to commit themselves to attend the bands practices.

- *Report by Trevor Voake (see photos over....)*

OUR BILLABONG BAND IN ACTION:-



- Photos by Trevor Voake

AUSTRALIAN FOLKLORE QUIZ

1) Name a mythical creature in Aussie folklore. 2) What is the most well-known Aboriginal mythical creature? 3) Name an extinct famous Australian animal. 4) What Aussie convict lived with Aborigines? 5) What saying did he lead to?

Answers to last quiz: 1) Music of Appalachian region in east US 2) European & African influences 3) Old-time, country, bluegrass, folk 4) Banjo, fiddle, dulcimer, guitar 5) Carter Family, Loretta Lynn, Doc Watson, Bob Dylan,.

**DEMOCRACY AND DISCUSSION
AT WORK IN OUR FOLK CLUB
REGARDING OUR TUESDAY NIGHT SESSIONS**

Recently the VFMC Committee held a Special meeting to discuss the ongoing progress of our Tuesday night sessions.

An outcome of this productive meeting was that a Sessions sub-committee be formed to plan and run Sessions to their full potential.

Recent issues, such as managing the gradual increase in numbers, and changes in the evolution of Tuesdays, will be high on the agenda for such a sub-committee to address.

Anyone with an interest in Tuesdays may like to nominate for consideration, although we only need a couple to start with. Contact the chairperson, Don Fraser.

We are looking forward to an active and vibrant future for Tuesday sessions and welcome your ideas. The Terms of Reference for the sub-committee are available for perusal if interested.

- report by Don Fraser

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/>

Comhaltas (Collingwood)

Joan and Ray Mundy run a session on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, starts 7.30pm. Supper. Maree: 9471-0690

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

Ballarat Folk and Acoustic Music Group

First Sunday Every Month from 2 pm,
 Venue: Carman Welsh Church Hall,
 261 Albert Street,
 Sebastopol.
 Enquiries: Arthur: 0438 323 923
 Graeme: 03 5334 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 organizations

VFMC Postal Address

P.O. Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135

VFMC Website

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

CONTACTS

Secretary

Robyn Hammond
 Telephone:
 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 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:

Email: