

April 2018

Established 1959

Australian

TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

Reg No A2511Y



NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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HARRY GARDNER

Photo by Trevor Voake

***ALL VFMC MEMBERS—HAVE A WONDERFUL EASTER HOLIDAY,
AND IF YOU ARE DRIVING UP TO CANBERRA FOR THE NATIONAL FOLK
FESTIVAL, TAKE CARE ON THE ROADS AND HAVE REGULAR BREAKS
AS IT IS A LONG, LONG JOURNEY THERE AND BACK!***

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAY NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 20TH APRIL, 2018 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Every Tuesday except the 2nd (concert night), Ringwood East Community Hall, Knaith Rd Reserve. 6.30 Australian Folk Tunes playing; 7.30 Australian Folk Songs; 8.00-10.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. Supper. \$5 memb. \$6 non memb. Currently 4th Tues is for all-in round robin tunes, dance sets & group singing. All welcome. www.vfmc.org.au

- First Thursday, 8.00 pm (venue TBC)
- Second Tuesday, 10:15 pm (after the Ringwood Folk Guest Night)
- Every Monday, 8:00 pm, (fiddles and mandolins—venue TBC)
- Most Saturdays, 11:00am, all instruments and singing, busking opposite the railway station in Ringwood East

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 7.45pm, finishing 10.15pm. \$14, \$12 conces and \$10 members, kids no charge. All welcome. www.vfmc.org.au

Contact: 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

By-Ear Sessions

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st April	2nd	3rd Club Session	4th	5th	6th	7th VFMC Dance Brumbies Bush Band
8th	9th	10th Guest Night	11th	12th	13th	14th
15th	16th	17th Club Session	18th	19th	20th	21st
22nd	23rd	24th Club Session All in	25th	26th	27th	28th
29th	30th					



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK



The Good Lovelies

Tuesday 10th April

The Good Lovelies, for 11 years one of Canada's top touring bands, will be making their second visit to Ringwood Folk. Powerful and pure, organic and inspiring, three superbly intertwined voices.

**Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve**

Open stage from 7:45pm

\$14; \$12 concession; \$10 members; kids no charge

For info 0438.049.557 or www.vfmc.org.au

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 158 704

8th May - Bill Jackson and Pete Fidler

Guest Artist Night, March 2018

The MC for the night was Bette Martin. After welcoming the audience to the March Concert, there was a short announcement of the passing of our beloved past president and life member Harry Gardner. He will be sorely missed. The first spot act for the night was Bryce on guitar accompanying Katy, appropriately dressed in tartan, who sang *The Skye Boat Song* and followed by *Donald Where's ya Troosers!*



Croydon Recreational Ukulele Club, led by Alex, played and sang *Wagon Wheel* and then had everyone singing along with *Wahine from Wangaratta*.

John took the stage and accompanied himself on guitar as he sang two antiwar songs. The Dillon classic *Blowin in the Wind* then *Sounds of Silence* by Simon and Garfunkle



Heather & Nick Safstrom and Bill Tyrrel performed a special song. A poem written by Nick's mother, Peggy Safstrom has been set to music by Bill Tyrrell. With Bill on guitar and Nick on the bongo drum, they presented the story of *Possum*, a New Zealander, who arrived in Australia in the early 1900's but due to a series of unfortunate circumstances, shunned community life and set about living the life of a recluse in the bush. He endured for over forty years in this manner, known to all as just *Possum*. The group followed with a song about a train *The L & N Don't Stop Here Anymore*.



Then Ray with concertina and Bill on guitar played a lively jig for our entertainment.



Next up was popular Bruce Watson singing his amusing song of the famous *Trim the Circumnavigating Cat* and his owner Matthew Flinders. Then a political parody featuring the latest antics of a high profile politician.



Jane Bullock and her dancing troupe then took to the floor to perform *The Bread and Whiskers Dance*. Both tunes written by Maggie Somerville and the dances choreographed by Jane, they represented a mishap one time when Steve Bullock caught his whiskers in his recorder and the Heavenly Bread Harry would always bake when he invited members over for rehearsals.



Guest Artist Night, March 2018

Main act: Maggie Somerville, a Melbourne singer/songwriter and member of the Victorian Folk Music Club. She has been writing her own music and songs as well as performing in various musical groups for over thirty years. The concert tonight was an opportunity for Maggie to showcase her latest CD – *Baloney*. Joining Maggie on stage were many of the musicians who feature on the CD plus others: Sam Lemann, James Clark, Ray Simpson, Michael Parker, Catherine Leslie, Trevor Voake, Bryce Russell, Maree & Bill Buttler, Jill Watson, Katy Cottrill.



Between them they played a variety of instruments including: guitar, keyboard, tin whistle, violin, bass, didgeridoo, ukulele, glockenspiel and uilleann pipes. First, *A Dog's Life* - a delightful ditty expressing the ups and downs of being a dog owner. Then *A Little of your Time*, one of Maggie's older songs written as a tribute to her ex-partner and father of her children. Then Maggie, with Katy and Maree, sang the hilarious *Breastfeeding Blues* with appropriate props. *Hugh McDonald's Lament* is an instrumental Maggie wrote in tribute to the passing of one of

Australia's finest musicians and sound recordists who assisted her with the production of this CD. Then *Koori Spirit* with didgeridoo, written for a close friend who discovered her aboriginal heritage when in her teens. Next Maggie's feisty advice to young women: *Don't Give Up Your Name*. The uilleann pipes played by Michael added a haunting touch to *Dunlewey*



Dream, a tune which Maggie affirms wrote itself in County Donegal, Ireland. Next an amusing look at ourselves: tradition dies hard and some of us find ourselves baking huge turkey roasts and boiling rich puddings while the sun beats down on a hot *Aussie Christmas Day*. Then Maggie, Katy and Maree, draped in dressing gowns and clasping hot water bottles, sang *How I love my Hottie* with audience help. On a more serious note was *Heroes of Guadalcanal*, a tribute to Martin Clemens and Vouza who were coast-watchers left behind when British Forces fled before Japanese invasion of the Solomon Islands during WW11. *The Creeper's Curse*



was the first song Maggie ever wrote due to her anger at her wicked landlord, who kept ripping down her vines. September 1st is *Wattle Day* and inspired this next song. The final song was a tribute to Maggie's famous cousin, Edith Oenone Somerville (1858-1949), an Irish novelist and feminist. The title of the CD, *Baloney*, was chosen partly because it rhymes with Oenone. Born on the island of Corfu, Edith was raised in County Cork Ireland. She rode, hunted, travelled, lived an adventurous life compared to the restricted life of most women of her era. It was a wonderful night of entertainment and the VFMC wishes Maggie the greatest success with 'Baloney'. A big vote of thanks to the members of the club who volunteered to set up the hall, prepare supper, attend the entrance, etc.



Next month: from Canada -The Good Lovelies.

Report by Bette Matin ; Photographs by Louise Blake & Wal Tiedemann



The Dance Page

Diary dates for April:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st April Easter	2nd Weekend	3rd No English	4th Irish or Colonials	5th	6th	7th VFMC Dance Brumbies Bush Band
8th Claddagh	9th Scottish	10th English	11th Irish or Colonials	12th Scottish	13th	14th Scottish
15th Welsh	16th Scottish	17th English	18th Irish or Colonials	19th Colonial Bush Dance	20th	21st Bendigo East Hop
22nd Claddagh	23rd Scottish	24th English	25th Irish or Colonials	26th	27th	28th
29th	30th Scottish					
		1st May English	2nd Irish or Colonials	3rd	4th	5th VFMC Dance Comhaltas
6th	7th Scottish	8th English	9th Irish or Colonials	10th Scottish	11th	12th Scottish

The Dance Page

Claddagh	Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. Sunday 2-5 pm . Contact: Rod: 9497-1793
VFMC Colonial Dance	Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, Sat. 8-11 pm . Contact: Jane 9762-1389
Irish Dancing	Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle St, Collingwood, 8-10pm . Contact: Marie 9471 0690
English Dancing	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, 8-10 pm . Contact Coral: 9885-6109
Colonial Thursday	Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton. 7.30-10pm . Contact Coral: 9885 6109
Contra Dance	Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke Rd, Malvern East. 7.30-10.15pm . Info: 0422 932 532
Bendigo East	Bendigo East Progress Hall Lansell. Contact Dianne Pearse: 5442-1715
Welsh Dancing	Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30 pm . Contact Ian: 9878-2414
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

COMING UP SOON: THE WOOLSHED BALL

**This will be held on Saturday 26th May at the Kilsyth Memorial Hall,
Mount Dandenong Road, Kilsyth, from 7.30 pm until midnight.**

**Please bring along a mug and a plate to share at supper. Tea and
coffee provided.**

The following is taken from Harry Gardner's eulogy on Saturday, 24th February.

Harry John Gardner
1927 - 2018
Celebrating a life well lived

“The purpose of life ... is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived, and lived well.” Anon

Scientist, Family Man

Harry excelled in chemistry. His PhD was the first in chemistry for the University of Western Australia. In 1957, Harry joined the CSIRO (Division of Mineral Chemistry) in Melbourne where he enjoyed a career in industrial chemistry that spanned 30 years.

Harry met his future wife, Lorrie Niedeck whilst on a Fulbright Fellowship in the USA. They married in 1956 and headed ‘downundah’ where they built a ‘home among the gumtrees’. They were devoted to their children, Henry, Jenny and Gayle and, later, their grandchildren Katrina, Oliver, James and Andrew. Lorrie ran the Gardner Puppet Theatre for some 40 years. They were regulars at the theatre and music performances, and travelled extensively, here and abroad.

Musician, Composer

Harry loved music, first the classics - he conducted a youth orchestra in the 1970's - and later, Australian folk music. He was a life member and past president of the Victorian Folk Music Club, and held weekly sessions at ‘Harry’s Place’, along with his own group, the Fireside Fiddlers.

Harry and Lorrie regularly attended folk festivals. Harry’s composition *For the Love of Lorrie* won the Tim Whelan Memorial Tune Writing Competition, Port Fairy Folk Festival 1996.



Harry recorded Australian folk tunes while travelling, and later transcribed these together with many collected by others. *Music Makes Me Smile*, a collaboration with the late Peter Ellis, is one result of this. Harry also kept up a website for these tunes:- www.australianfolkmusic.org

—with Ted Konig at the folk club

Humanist

Harry is past president of the Humanist Society of Victoria. He worked tirelessly to promote secular ethics education in schools and he delivered his own ethics workshops to children. In 2017, Harry was a devoted contributor and public face of the debate leading to Victoria’s assisted dying legislation.

MC Ralph Baker

Harry’s early life
 When Harry met Lorrie
For The Love of Lorrie
 Dr Harry, Scientist
 Harry the humanist
Ashokan Farewell
 Ethics Education
 Busking tune
 A Folk Musician
Pretty White Lillies
 My musical mate
 The Fireside Fiddlers

Gayle Gardner
 Jenny Gardner
 Performed by Steve Bullock & The Billabong Band
 Henry Gardner
 Senator Janet Rice
 Performed by The Billabong Band
 Linda Hibbs
 Performed by fellow busker, Cameron Hibbs
 Steve Bullock
 Performed by The Billabong Band
 Greg O’Leary
 Introduction: Jennifer Cheong & Richard Ayling

(Note: Jenny, Harry’s daughter, also asked Maggie Somerville to briefly introduce her tune, *Harry’s Baking Bread*, before it was played at the service by the Billabong Band.)

Guests are invited to mingle afterwards, share stories and play music.

A sincerely **BIG** thank you to all who assisted in setting up this special memorial celebration, and to those that cared for Harry in recent years, including attending his weekly sessions, helping him at home, and just listening to his need to talk! *You made a world of difference!*

Farewell Harry. It’s your time to rest.



Photographs by Trevor Voake—not part of the memorial service booklet

FRANCES FOLK GATHERING 2018

The small town of Frances on the SA/Victorian border recently held its 19th successful Frances Folk Gathering. A number of VFMC members and other Victorian players contributed to the program by forming a dance band.

The Gathering organisers arranged a number of music-related activities for school children who were bussed into town on the Friday from as far away as Narracoort. Our dance band did an excellent job running an introduction to traditional dancing as the five groups of kids and their teachers were rotated through the activity. The children were given the opportunity to ask the band members about their instruments also.

Later that day the kids put on a demonstration of what they had learned in front of their parents and the crowd, again accompanied by the band.



The band also ran two dances for The Gathering on the Saturday and Sunday nights. A number of workshops were on offer over the weekend which are always interesting. The Gathering officially ends Sunday afternoon with the Mixed Grill competition, a hilarious event where three or four knock-together bands compete for the trophy. One of the rules of the competition is that at least one member must be a local and a junior at that. The winning band probably had the youngest star ever when nine week old Frank appeared, admittedly in his mother's arms. The rules also say that 'Judges can be swayed with bribery, flattery and other acts of imaginative sycophancy'. A lot of fun!



Frances is a long trip over for some of us Victorians but always an enjoyable weekend of playing, socialising and interesting workshops to be had.



- report and photos by Don Fraser

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)



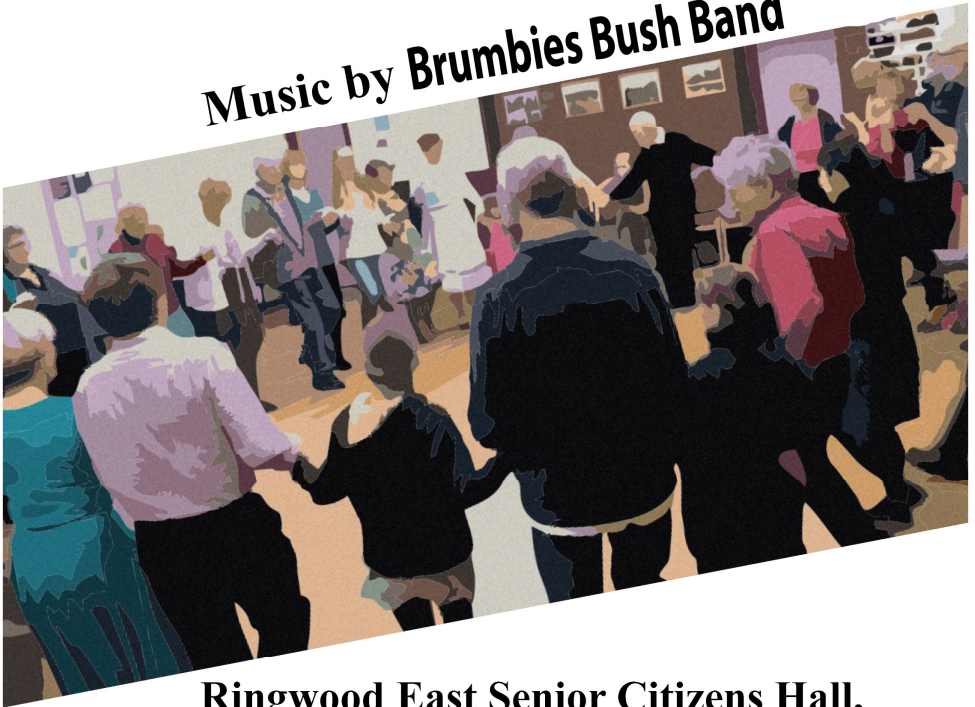
Family Bush Dance

Saturday 7th April

All dances are called and everyone is welcome

8:00pm - 11:00pm

Music by **Brumbies Bush Band**



**Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East
(Melways P50 B8)**

Cost: \$12 - Kids free with adult, \$10 - VFMC members door

Tea & Coffee provided

Enquiries:

Phone: Jane 9762 1389
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au
VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au

Yarra Bend Park

Well, it isn't the dawn, and it isn't the dusk, and it isn't the day at its prime.
It is just some daggy old time of the day which it is, of course, most of the time.

The sun isn't shining up high in the sky, nor is it terribly low.
It's not beating fiercely down on my head, nor will it hail or snow.

The track that I'm taking's not winding and steep. Nor is it barren and flat.
There are no great perils I need to report, and it's hard to complain about that.

The bush all around me is quiet and still. Birds softly chirp at both sides.
People on bicycles move back and forth, and they're clearly enjoying their rides.

Out on the river the kayakers move with their practised yet casual grace.
Fallen limbs lie on the ground by their trees, and everything's in its right place.

It is just one more day in this great urban park, where the bush has a tenuous hold

In the heart of my town, and I'm glad for one hour it has taken me into its fold.

© Stephen Whiteside 11.02.2018

APOLOGY

Humble apologies for accidentally leaving out two lines in Stephen's poem, 'Your Trusty Old Tent' in the last issue (March) of 'Tradition'.
Verse 5 should read:-

*Then, when you awake, all the Earth will feel new,
Under its layer of fresh morning dew.
The sound of the birdsong will gladden your heart
As it tells the sweet world of another day's start.*

FOLK QUIZ

1) Who are The Good Lovelies? 2) What country are they from? 3) When did they first get together? 4) What was their first album called? 5) What year was it released and what did it win?

Answers to last quiz: 1) 1959 2) Victorian Folk Music Club 3) The Ringwood Folk Club 4) Harry Gardner & Peter Ellis(?) 5) Weekly sessions, is inclusive.

CONCERT PARTY REPORT: MARCH 2018

Recent Events:

March 15th – Donwood Aged Care (Saint Patrick's day theme). We all arrived in our green attire. Trevor definitely needed a haircut under that hat. In typical Irish fashion we had a fun hour of Irish songs and lots of foot tapping tunes. Thanks to all our musicians – Trevor, Tony, Margie, Sofie, Frances, Stewart, Stan C and Tony O'Neill.

March 25th—Ringwood Highland Games. In our Scottish attire (Don G and Katy in kilts), we jammed ourselves onto the stage and performed lots of great Scottish favourites but, sadly, had to leave some out due to lack of time. A challenge to sing against blasting bagpipes nearby, but we did it! Thanks to all our musicians: Bill, Maree, Katy, Bryce, Maggie, Don G, Trevor, Stewart, Tony.

Upcoming events:

March 30th National Folk Festival - Heritage Ball
March 30th National Folk Festival - Goldfields in Victoria concert
April 19th Mooroolbark Residential
April 28th Disability Services house concert
May 19th Buddhist Light Festival
May 26th Colonial Ball
June 22nd Mansfield Primary School bush dance
July 8th Cherry Tree Retirement village

Concert Party Co-ordinators: Maree Buttler and Trevor Voake

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@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/>

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.rangesburrinjiafolk.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

Creswick Folk Club

Second Friday, from 7.30 pm at the American Hotel in Creswick; and Fourth Friday, from 7.30 pm at the Old Station in Creswick.
 Enquiries: Graeme: 03 5334 5551
www.facebook.com/creswickfolkclub/

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

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
- 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: sessions@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:
billabongband@vfmc.org.au

Iwish to become a member of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. and will

- (a) Support the aims of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc and
 - (b) Abide by the rules of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
- (For details see: - <http://www.vfmc.org.au/Constitution.pdf>)

Signed

I wish to receive my Newsletter by:

- (a) Email or/and
 - (b) Post
- (Cross out whichever is not applicable)

Membership Type (please circle)

<u>Metro</u> Single	\$25
Family*	\$30
Junior (u 18)	\$15
Student (full time)	\$20
Single Concession	\$20
Family Concession*	\$25
<u>Country</u> Single	\$20
Family*	\$25

Please post completed form to:

The Secretary
VFMC
PO Box 215
Ringwood East 3135 Victoria

*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18

Name:

Address:

Email

Phone/s: