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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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VFMC MEMBERS IN 1980s



Dave Thiessen & Paul Harsant

Photo by Trevor Voake

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN'S DANCE IN OCTOBER DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS. ALL OTHER DANCES AND CONCERTS ARE AT THIS STAGE VIA ZOOM ONLY. CHECK VFMC WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

NOTE: PLEASE CHECK IF EVENTS ARE ZOOM, LIVE OR HYBRID!

Club Weekly Sessions

Weekly Sessions

Every Tuesday of the month except the 2nd (Concert night), **Ringwood Uniting Church Hall**, Station St. plus **online access**. From 7.15 Australian Folk Songs; 7.45 - 9.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. The 4th Tuesday is for all-in round robin playing of tunes, dance sets & group singing. \$5 members, \$6 non members. All welcome. 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 Uniting Church Hall and/or online. Concerts start with open stage acts at 7.45pm, finishing 10.00pm. \$14, \$12 conces and \$10 members, kids free.

By-Ear Sessions

To be organised at a future date hopefully.

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 each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids free. No charge. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Children's Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January. 2-3.30pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. Live band each month. All school age children welcome. \$5 a child, \$10 a family. Adults free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31st					1st Oct.	2nd Family Bush Dance Zoom
3rd	4th	5th Club Session ZOOM	6th	7th	8th	9th
10th	11th	12th Concert Night ZOOM Guest artist/s	13th	14th	15th	16th Zoom Eve Dance
17th	18th	19th Club Session ZOOM	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
24th	25th	26th Club Session ZOOM (all in)	27th	28th	29th	30th



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.
RINGWOOD FOLK

presents

Enda Kenny

Dublin born Enda Kenny is a true Irish story teller and a regular at some of Australia's best-known festivals. His award winning songs range from witty and quirky to deeply poignant.

TUESDAY 12th OCTOBER

7.30 - 9.30pm Admission \$10 to \$8

This is an Online Concert via Zoom. Pre-purchase tickets at:
<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-october2021-concert>

Spot acts PRE-BOOK at concerts@vfmc.org.au

www.vfmc.org.au / Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club / 0411.750.462

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

Next concert 9th November - Pleasant and Delightful

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—AUGUST

Covid restrictions caused the August Concert to be hurriedly re-arranged (for two weeks later) with a replacement act engaged at short notice. A well attended on-line concert with iconic English folk performer, Martyn Wyndham-Read, was a great success.

Maree was MC for the night and introduced the first spot act Rudy van den Bovenkamp.

Rudy sang 10,000 Miles Away, accompanied by a metallic mandolin and harmonica, and followed this with a blues tune on guitar and harmonica.



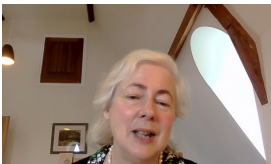
Wal Tiedemann then sang the moving Cyril Tawney song The Oggy Man. He used to sell oggies (pies) to seamen outside Plymouth docks. A lovely song that Martyn Wyndham-Read originally brought to our notice many years ago. Wal finished with I'll Give You A Daisy A Day.

Bill Buttler then played two of O'Carolan's tunes on guitar, Si Beg Si Mor and The Landlady.



Ed Robbins sang about a bloke called Dave who administered some self applied surgery after a farm accident. Sarajevo by John McCutcheon followed, was a very poignant song.

Dominic Martin then sang Fields Of Athenry, and the thoughtful song, What Colour Is The Wind Daddy? by Charlie Landsborough.



Demonstrating the wonders of today's technology, Linn Phipps in the UK sang Blow Gently The Winds Of The Ocean (bring back my Johnny to me), followed by two songs in Gaelic, one a rather fast and jaunty song.

(continued over...)



MAIN ACT: **Martyn Wyndham-Read** opened his bracket with the beautiful Mike O'Connor song *Shining Down On Sennen*, the thoughts of a Cornish copper miner in the Kadina district of SA; he is thinking of the same stars shining down on South Australia as those on his native Cornwall. A pretty song called *Irish Lords* followed, referring to a cattle station near Ivanhoe This was coupled with *Another Fall Of Rain*.

Barbara Allen was a somewhat dark, 'not for the kiddies' version of the old English folk song. Then *Away To Tintinara* is another Mike O'Connor song relating experiences in the outback. The *Never Never Land*, a Henry Lawson poem with music by Ian McDougal of Canberra followed, then *Always Back To You* by Eric Bogle.

The *Colonial* is a poem by David Weston from the Atherton area to which Martyn was inspired to put to music. It is the recollections of a rambler.

Martyn finished his bracket with *Possum Land*, another reminiscence of Australian country life. A great concert with a great performer. Chat and greetings with old friends extended the night by about as much again.

Many thanks to all who brought the concert to fruition under the trying circumstances. Thanks also to the spot acts for sharing your songs and talents. Check the website for details.

Report by Don Fraser ; photos by Trevor Voake

The Dance Page



Diary dates for October:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday



1970s	BUSH	DANCE:	PHOTO	BY	TREVOR	VOAKE
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DANCE PAGE: Note that there are no live dances during October.



See list below for contact details just in case Covid-19 restrictions ease sufficiently for dances to go ahead.

Diary Dates for Early November – Dances that may be on if Covid-19 restrictions are eased:-

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th V.F.M.C. Brumbies Bush Band
7th Contra	8th Scottish	9th English	10th Irish or Colonials	11th Scottish	12th	13th Scottish

Claddagh - Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd. Ivanhoe. **Sunday 2-5pm** Contact Rod 9497 1793

VFMC Colonial dance to be held on Zoom 7.30-9.30pm contact Jane 9762 1389

Irish Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood. 7.30-9.30pm. 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. 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: Ian 9878 2414.

Contra Dance Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke Rd, Malvern East. Info: 0422-932532, www.onlymelbourne.com.au

Scottish Monday and Saturday Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene. 8pm. Contact: Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com

Scottish Thursday Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thornton Road. 7-9pm Contact Di Gaylard: 5963 3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au.

Bendigo East Hop Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St., Flora Hill. 8pm start. Contact Dianne: dpearse@iinet.net.au

Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc
Saturday 2nd October 2021

via Zoom at your house

Contact Jane on
dance@vfmc.org.au

for more details

see
vfmc.org.au

or

victorian folk music club facebook

7.30 - 9.30pm



Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

Saturday 16th October 2021.

Special Theme Night

Contra

dance - 7.30-9.30pm

Your house

Zoom ID 757 492 753
Password: VFMC2020



WATTLE DAY 2021—REPORT

We had left it a bit late for organizing the day but in the end the whole day came together very quickly. Bill Buttler had made a survey from 2020s Wattle day and with the survey results in mind the Wattle Day committee, were able to arrange the events to suit.

In the beginning we had 2 streams of workshops: one supposed to be in the hall and the other via zoom as well as live in another hall. However, the Covid-19 virus and in particular the Delta strain made the hall option useless. As Michael Hassett had already offered his Zoom account, we were able to convert all the workshops in Stream 1 and 2 into Zoom workshops.

One of our arrangements was to get Humanitix on board with tickets and in essence this did not change the fact that we had to do it all by Zoom.

Stream 1 comprised the following Zoom workshops: Tootling with Tin Whistle (Maggie Somerville), Sea Shanty Singalong (Tony O’Neil), Ukulele Beach Party Singalong, Australian Songs Singalong, Festive Frolics and Fancies Dance Workshop (Norm Ellis), and end of day workshops.

Stream 2 comprised the following Zoom workshops: Keyboard Accompaniment (Ellen Hundley), Putting Chords to Tunes (Bill Buttler), Imagine they are all naked: the Art of Performing (Bruce Watson), Tasmanian Tunes Workshop (John & Trish), Playing Melody for Guitarists (Bill Buttler).

Many thanks to all the presenters of the workshops as well as a big thank you to everyone who attended.

The dance was held via Zoom but we were very fortunate in that Blackberry Jam the band were able to do this from their home. Jenny played piano and called, Ray played concertina and their son Clancy played banjo. Chris unfortunately lives near Melbourne and so put in as guest performer singing a couple of songs.

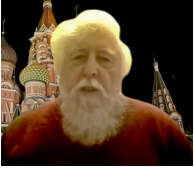
We played Maggie Somerville’s Wattle Day song and that came over on Zoom very well. Stephen highlighted a vase of Wattle as the song was being sung.

We charged for this dance, our first time ever and we not only had interstate people but also overseas. We collected \$315 roughly and paid the band \$300, which was not only for this dance but also a token for last year when they again played for the club on Zoom.

An excellent day of workshops enjoyed by all who took part and. to round off the day. a dance of high energy and great music.

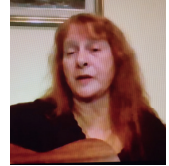
- Report by Maree Buttler, Don Fraser and Jane Bullock

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—SEPTEMBER



Our MC for the evening, Steve Bullock opened the September Zoom Concert with *Acknowledgement of Country*. Then he kicked off the entertainment by singing unaccompanied one of his own favourite songs, *Warwick Goal*. An all too familiar tale of a young man, Henry Abbott, who runs afoul of the law and is sent to prison in Van Diemen's Land.

A poem by John Shaw Nielson, *Stony Town*, expressed the poet's dislike of Melbourne. Maggie set this poem to music and sang it as it seems an appropriate comparison to the locked down city of the present. Then a more thoughtful poem written in 1909 by Henry Lawson, *The Lily and the Bee*, again set to music by Maggie.



Ray Mundy, accompanied by Joan on accordion, sang a song popularized by well-known goldfields entertainer Charles Thatcher, who was based at the Shamrock Hotel in Sandhurst (Bendigo). *Where's your License* tells the story of the constant harassment of the miners by the traps (police). Joan followed with a lovely vocal rendition of a John Dengate song, *Bare Legged Kate*.

Henry Lawson appeared again as Maree accompanied herself on her harp and sang about the famed bullock teams of the olden days. *The Teams*, from 1889, describes the sight of: cloud of dust on a long white road, and the teams go creeping on inch by inch.



Michael Hassett played guitar and sang his interesting choice of two very different songs. First a Lawson poem, *The Slip Rails and the Spur*, arranged by the late Greg Woodruff. A very poignant and touching tale of separation of loved ones in the harsh outback. Then Michael changed pace with an Eric Bogle song. A gift of a candle at a house warming party inspired Eric to write this deceptively serious song about photos, rose cuttings and even souls passing from one to another, marking the continuity of life.

Our spot acts concluded with a long distance duet via by the miracle of Zoom. UK based Gaelic traditional singer Linn Phipps joined our own famed Australian folk singer-songwriter Bruce Watson to perform one of Bruce's compositions. *Amazon* is a lament about the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest for conversion to beef cattle ranches. The haunting chorus stays with you long after the song is over: *In the time it takes to sing this song, there'll be four acres cleared in the Amazon*.



Thanks to all of our spot acts for the variety and quality of their offerings this evening. Special thanks to Linn Phipps for joining us from 10,000 miles away. - Report by Bette Martin ; photos by Trevor Voake

MAIN ACT: The VFMC was honoured to have **Warren Fahey** OA as the guest for September. Warren Fahey is an individual who has spent his life immersed in the Australian Folk Music world. His distinguished career has seen him involved in multiple roles as a performer, broadcaster, actor, songwriter, author, and visual artist to name a few. His life-long pursuit of oral histories has resulted in a vast collection preserved for posterity in the National Library of Australia. A recipient of multiple awards, this acclaimed folklorist maintains a very informative website where a person can explore many aspects of the folk life in Australia as well as purchase books, cd's, videos, etc. Warren is proudly Paddington Sydney born and bred from large families of Irish and English Cockney Jewish backgrounds. This evening's entertainment was less a concert and more in keeping with an intimate chat by the warmth of a campfire listening to stories from a master raconteur. Warren's conversation is peppered with old Aussie words and expressions which have long since disappeared from our everyday language. When it came to religion, his father claimed to be a good Calathumpian. Warren's father diddled or whistled all the time. His Jewish grandmother sang old style English songs including traditional song based on The Old man from Lee. About an old man who came a courting, his old grey noggin a shakin. The young lass refuses him and he finally loses his noggin over her. Warren played the concertina and sang a song about the Victorian bushranger Ned Kelly who, *went off a robbing*, at the age of twenty, partly to avenge wrongs done to his sister Kate. He pointed out that many of the old-time songs were short ditties, developed through hard times. Many had political themes expressing the feelings of the people at the time. Billy Hughes was a prime subject for ridicule and hatred. His rise from trade unionist to prime minister had him painted as a turncoat to his class. Other songs and ballads are seen as signposts to our history. We owe an enormous debt to all who came over to pioneer this country and formed the Australian identity. Once again playing the accordion, he presented one which sarcastically pointed out that through tough times – *they gave us plenty of soop de loop. They gave us a big bowl of soup.* Bawdy songs were very popular and there are plenty of collections available, in a brown paper bag somewhere, Warren assures us. Around the time of federation there was a population drift to the cities. Warren sang a song of the times by A B Patterson (1892 The Bulletin) —A Bushman's Song—about a young man searching for work at Castlereagh and Marthaguy who *saddled up his pony, whistled to his dog and shifted along at the old jiggety-jog jiggety-jog.* Then we heard yarns about fugitive Johnnie Cakes, Chess playing dogs and *The Drinker's Dream* by Bob Taylor. A poem about an old bushman who spent time with outback legends and strange animals when he sat in the heat without his hat. We heard about the shearer going into town with his three spot cheque to drink his earnings away but later to wake in the *Dead House* in some shanty or pub with empty pockets.



It was an entrancing hour of song, stories and yarns from a true Aussie National Treasure. See also Warren's website. www.warrenfahey.com.au

Next month VFMC hope to offer a Zoom concert featuring Enda Kenny.

- report by Bette Martin ; photos by Trevor Voake

THE MAGIC OF THE NIGHT

If I could softly tiptoe down the beam of light that shone
From the lighthouse on the clifftop, and then gently land upon
The wavelets in the ocean as they glinted in the light,
I'd be very well acquainted with the magic of the night.

If I could briskly pluck the stars from out of Heaven's dome,
And then rearrange their order as I punched them all back home,
You could say I was a villain and you might perhaps be right,
But I'd be close to mastering the magic of the night.

If I could dream the sweetest dreams each night inside my bed,
And wake up in the morning feeling warm inside my head,
All this would mean much more to me than waves and stars and light.
I would be a happy servant of the magic of the night.

Stephen Whiteside © 2021



KATE WOLF—QUIZ

1) Who was Kate Wolf? 2) When was she born? 3) When did she die prematurely and why? 4) Name two famous female artists who have recorded her songs. 5) What is one of her best-known songs? 6) What band did she play with? 7) What female guitarist/mandolinist did she play with near the end of her career/life?

Answers to last quiz:-

1) American singer/songwriter 2) 1953 3) 2021 4) John Prine 5) Death of her high school boyfriend 6) Mary Black & The Chieftains 7) From a Distance

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2021

November 20 - Maritime precinct (Williamstown)

December 3 - for Regis Blackburn

December 4 - VFMC family dance

November 7 - Maroondah Festival - TBC

December 1- Yarrunga Retirees - TBC.

National Folk Festival - Easter 2022:-

The club is currently putting together an application for 5 performances:

- 1) Themed Concert - the revised Joy Durst publication
- 2) Farewell Dance
- 3) Children's Dance
- 4) Workshop on history of some of our folk songs
- 5) Workshop on setting poetry to music.

As well as the above the club is looking at assisting other Melbourne dance groups such as the TSDAV, English Country Dance group and the Melbourne Colonial Dancers.

The NFF planning committee have said that they are looking for events that will allow for audience participation as well as straight concerts, hence the number of dances plus the workshops.

- Trevor Voake, Maree Buttler, Stan Ciuchuk (convenors)

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES CHECK IF ON**Bendigo Folk Club**

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzzza@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, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. Contact Mary Smith 5442-1153 or email secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

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
 admin@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. Marce: 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

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/

Fireside Fiddlers

For fiddles plus other string melody instruments, such as mandolins.
 Every Monday evening at various venues. For further information, contact Denise Hibbs: 0402 050 524

Newport Folk Club

Certain Friday nights at 7.30 pm plus other evenings, e.g. Tues Blues and Sunday 2 pm singalongs etc.
 See website for up-to-date calendar.

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

Jane Bullock
Telephone: 9762 1389
Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Session Co-ordinator

Don Fraser
Telephone: 0407 737 202
Email: sessions@vfmc.org.au

Family/Children's Bush Dance

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

Billabong Band 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: