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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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NICK CHARLES—WOW!



Photo by Trevor Voake

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: VFMC WATTLE DAY IS ON SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER SO DO KEEP THAT DAY FREE FOR PARTICIPATION IN DANCE, POETRY AND INSTRUMENT WORKSHOPS ETC. SEE PAGE 10 INSIDE.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER BY SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2026 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

WHAT'S ON AT VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB

Session nights: The Club meets **each Tuesday** evening at **Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall, Laurence Grove**. Sessions run from 7.30 pm to 9.15 pm. The format varies each week of the month, and visitors are welcome to attend and join in, or just sit and observe if preferred.

Week 1 & 3 **Round Robin:** singing, playing, reciting, yarns, solo, group, etc.

Week 4 **All-In Session:** group playing of set tunes, dance sets, group singing

Week 5 **Theme Night:** workshops, 'Hot Spots' or open stage nights

Admission for **Round Robin** and **All-in Sessions** is \$6 for members, \$7 non-members. Cash at the door or pay by card. Accompanied children no charge.

Concerts: Tuesday of Week 2, featuring top acoustic performers plus floor spots. The concert is from 7.45 to 10pm with a supper break at 8.45pm. Same hall as the sessions. Admission is \$11 members to \$15 others, cash or card at the door or purchase tickets online from Humanitix. Accompanied children no charge.

Dance Events: **Family Bush Dance** 1st Saturday evening each month except January at Ringwood East Senior Citizen's Hall. Live bands vary and dances called. Admission is \$10 members to \$12.. No charge for accompanied children.

More information: See www.vfmc.org.au for further information about sessions, concerts and dances.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30th	31st					1st August Family dance
2nd	3rd	4th Club Session Round Robin	5th	6th	7th	8th
9th	10th	11th Concert Night Guest Artist/s	12th	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th	18th Club Session Round Robin	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th	25th Club Session All in	26th	27th	28th	29th

Victorian Folk Music Club

presents

Michael Waugh Tuesday 11th August

One of the most original talents in the Australian roots music scene.
Michael's songs and stories are honest and emotionally brave, moving audiences to laugh, cry and sing along where they recognise their own lives in the music.

Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall, Laurence Gve.
7.45 - 10.00pm. \$11, \$13, \$15. Online or cash or card at the door.

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-august-2026-concert>
www.vfmc.org.au

Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club

Spot acts pre-book at concerts@vfmc.org.au

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



8th September - A Cappella Night

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—JULY 2026

We were welcomed by our MC, Don Fraser, who promised us a wonderful musical evening – and it was!

SPOT ACTS:



Wal Tiedemann sang “**It’s Never Too Late to Start Living**”, Liam Clancy’s song about “The Two-Hundred Year Old Alcoholic”. He took to smoking at 80! Drinking at 85, Courtin’ at 90, and Gambling at 95. Lots of laughter from the audience and joining in on the chorus. Thanks Wal—that WAS fun. May ‘your morning’s be just as shiny As the first day the world begun’.

“**The Gasman Cometh**” by Flanders & Swann gave us another singalong chorus. “T’was on a Monday morning the Gasman came”. What a disastrous set of events! Enough to make you try doing it yourself! ☹ This is a “play on” Eugene O’Neill’s “The Iceman Cometh”.

Ed Robins wrote “**The Hearses of Eindhoven**”. This is the 12th anniversary of this plane wreckage among the sunflowers. Flight MH17 was shot down in eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014, and the solemn repatriation of the victims’ remains began at Eindhoven Airport in the Netherlands. The cafilecades of hearses went from the airport to the hospital.

“**The Crossing**” The Princess of Devonport with 40 Harley Davidson riders on board. A “Gut-wrenching crossing”. An Ed original with a great story.



Max and Noel are members of the Croydon U3A group – an overlapping, cross-pollinated group with VFMC.

They shared Johnny McEvoy’s song – “**The Town I Left Behind**”. Such a delightful ballad full of nostalgia and longing for the hometown that has been left behind. “Now I’ve made my home in St.Louis”, away from the comfort of that childhood community. Gorgeous song.

“**Lonesome Valley**” was sung by Pete Seeger and written by Woody Guthrie – a call ‘n’ response song. Great singing opportunity – thankyou Max and Noel.

(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)



Maggie Somerville sang another song full of nostalgia - “**The Weatherboard House**”. A lovely old weatherboard house was torn down and replaced by 5 town houses. Please join in the chorus! A protest song! Reminds me of the year when Manningham tore down our Community **Whitehouse** in Warrandyte while everyone was away over Christmas holidays! Now we have a community centre where we can’t afford to have community events. Gone with its old loquat tree.

“**You Taught Me How to Whistle**” – Maggie’s dad taught her to whistle, and she learned by watching and imitating. The song was written in the last two weeks of her father’s life. “When I whistle, I’m with you”. Great tribute to your dad, Maggie. “Uh oh, every dog in Ringwood East is coming to the hall!” warned Don.

Beyond The Sea is the duo of **Michelle and Belinda**. Sometimes they have a banjo and fiddle player with them.

“**Oh Susannah**” – another sing-along, thankyou. Ukulele and guitar and lovely mellow harmony from Michelle, contrasting with Belinda’s country tones. A gentle, laid-back version of this song. “You gotta walk that lonesome valley by yourself”.



“**Lie Down, Don’t Go to Sleep**” – from “The Good Lovelies” trio, known for their beautiful harmonies. Belinda spent quite some time with this trio. An enjoyable duet style from Belinda and Michelle. Very accomplished and well-rehearsed.



Dominic Martin gave us “**Caledonia**” written by Dougie Maclean. Caledonia was the name given by the Romans to Scotland. Dom has been singing “Caledonia” with his granddaughter. Sung with a lovely feel for this beautiful song. Some audience participation in this song. Then Dom sang “**The Mingulay Boat Song**” – moving on with the Scottish theme. Once again, lots of audience participation.

(continue over ...)

*JULY CONCERT NIGHT (continued):***MAIN ACT: NICK CHARLES**

Nick Charles has a very relaxed style, according to Don.

1. **Anji** - made famous by Paul Simon, etc. Wow! Such fantastic guitar playing. Nick seemed to have 3 guitars and three different rhythms/tunes all going at once on the one guitar!
2. **My Father's Books** – some blues. When Nick's dad passed away, he didn't leave much, except for thousands and thousands of books. A school teacher and a writer. We need to walk in another's shoes. I thought the books were the only thing he left me!
3. **Millows House** – Guy Millman, a guitarist. An instrumental piece with really complicated guitar playing.
4. **Monday Morning Blues** – country blues song by inspired by John Heard, one of the great pickers. Such a versatile voice! Used so cleverly to tell the story. "Get a pick and shovel and head down to the mine!" Very jazzy chord shifts.
5. **Georgia** – Nick's mother's favourite song – a Ray Charles fan. Instrumental, no singing. I would have liked to hear Nick singing Georgia. Instead, an improvisational performance.
6. **Sleeping In A Strange Bed** – The crazy world we wake up in these days, you feel like you've woken up in the wrong bed. Up tempo, and a contrast to the sublime music of Georgia.
7. **Wonderful Tonight** – Nick's version of this song. A very beautiful instrumental tune.
8. **Tingha** – a song about Nick's mother, and their move to Sydney from Tingha, and eventually to Melbourne where things improved. The single log truck was Tingha's idea of a town parade. The houses cram and crash in Sydney. The dusty stars of a Tingha night. The Tingha girl still dreamed and moved to Melbourne where she played piano softly on Sundays and dreamed of a Tingha night. Celebrating a country girl from Tingha in song.

(continued over...)

9. **Penelope** – Nick’s tribute to his partner. Requested by Ed. It’s on his album with some great musicians.

Penelope nodded in time to her piece. 😊 Rich and gentle piece with brilliant guitar picking.

10. **Don’t Think Twice** – a Dylan song. I feel that this may be a better version than Dylan’s own. So dextrous. Nick weaves a magic musical spell.

11. **Los Crucis** – in the Rio Grande. Based on the flavour of the Hispanic section of this community. An instrumental piece – quite contemplative. Suits Nick’s laid-back style. Nick is from the other side of the tracks! He comes from North Ringwood, not Ringwood East.

12. “I walk around the house on tiptoe - **Everybody Sleeps but me**” – “The world’s in slumber, while I go under, and everybody sleeps but me.”

Don is amazed that Nick’s guitar stays in tune all night. !!

Backup songs:

Billy

Steam Engine

Never Going Back

One More Night

Albatross

Hey Hey

Thanks to all those who helped make the night a real success—setting up, doing the lighting, photography, kitchen, supper, etc.

Next month: MICHAEL WAUGH



Report by Kass Mulvany ; photos by Trevor Voake



THE DANCE PAGE

Diary dates for August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26th July Contra	27th Scottish	28th	29th Irish MCD	30th	31st English (Surrey Hills)	1st August VFMC Dance MCD Band
2nd TSDAV	3rd Scottish	4th English (Bennetswood)	5th Irish MCD	6th Scottish	7th	8th Contra
9th	10th Scottish	11th	12th Irish MCD	13th	14th English (Surrey Hills)	15th Bendigo East Hop
16th Welsh	17th Scottish	18th English (Bennetswood)	19th Irish MCD	20th	21st	22nd
23rd Contra	24th Scottish	28th5	26th Irish MCD	27th	28th English (Surrey Hills)	29th
30th TSDAV	31st Scottish	1st September English (Bennetswood)	2nd Irish MCD	3rd Scottish	4th	5th VFMC Dance Comhaltas

VFMC Family Bush dance at East Ringwood Senior Citizens Hall Laurence Grove, East Ringwood 7:30-10:30 pm contact Bill 0417 300 682

Melbourne Colonial Dancers (MCD) - Wednesdays at Deepdene Uniting Church Hall, rear 958 Burke Road, Deepdene. Contact Denise Hibbs secretary.mcd@outlook.com.

Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood 8-10pm. Contact Mary 9435 4435

English Tuesday dancing at Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, 7 Greenwood Street, Burwood 8-10pm. Contact George 9890 5650

English Friday dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue Surrey Hills 8-10pm. Contact George 9890 5650

Welsh Sunday Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills 2-4.30pm. Contact Ian 9878 2414.

Contra Sunday Beckett Hall, 72 Highfield Rd. Canterbury info: 0422-932532

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 Thomson 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 inquiries 5442 1153



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y

Family Bush Dance

Saturday, 1st August 2026

(and the first Saturday of every month except January)

7:30-10:30 pm - light supper included (alcohol-free)

Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall

Laurence Grove, Ringwood East

Featuring live music with:

The Melbourne Colonial Dancers Band



Entry: \$12 members, \$15 non-members, Kids free.

Tickets available at the door or online at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-august2026-dance>

Phone:

Bill 0417 300 682

Email:

dance@vfmc.org.au

Website:

www.vfmc.org.au



IT'S ON AGAIN - VFMC WATTLE DAY

Saturday 5th September 2026

A range of workshops and sessions on music themes that will be of much benefit and interest to all. Come and go as you please or stay the whole day. Just \$12 members / \$15 non members, kids no charge, for one or as many sessions as you wish to attend.

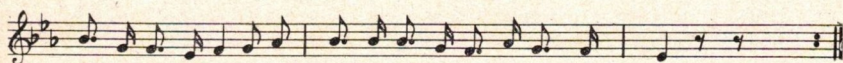
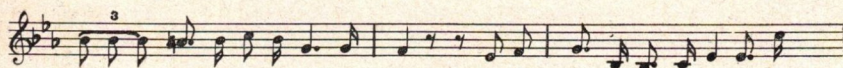
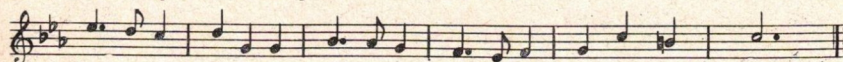
Finish the day with the Family Bush Dance in the evening. Separate normal admission applies for the Dance, \$12 / \$15, or \$10 if also attending the day sessions.

Ringwood East Senior Citizen's Hall, Laurence Grove. See the website www.vfmc.org.au for information

9.30-10.45 1 (concurrent workshops, choose just one)	Instrument Workshops - Grow Your Guitar Skills Dominic Martin	6	Blues Harmonica Workshop Bill Buttler Squeezebox Mysteries Explained Don Fraser
11.00-12.15 2	Basic Harmony in Folk Song Ken McGregor	7	Playing Session with Joan Joan Mundy
12.15-1.15	Lunch Break, byo		
1.15-2.45 3	Premiere Workshop on Song Writing Chris Lazzaro	8	
3.00-4.30 4	'Throw Away Partners' Dance Workshop Norm Ellis	9	Australian Themed Poetry Open Mic Bette Martin
4.45 - 5.45 5	Blackboard Hot Spots Maree Buttler	10	
7.30 - 10.30	Monthly Family Bush Dance with Comhaltas		

'ARD TAC'

Collected by John Lahey from Mr. Jack Davies, Leeton District, N.S.W.
 From *Shanties by the Way: a selection of New Zealand Popular Songs and Ballads*, by Rona Bailey and Herbert Roth.



I'm a shearer, yes I am, and I've shorn 'em sheep and lamb,
 From the Wimmera to the Darling Downs and back.
 And I've rung a shed or two when the fleece was tough as glue,
 But I'll tell you where I struck the 'ardest tac.

I was down round Yenda way, killin' time from day to day,
 Till the big sheds started movin' further out;
 When I struck a bloke by chance that I summed up in a glance
 As a cocky from a vineyard roundabout.

Now it seems he picked me, too; well, it wasn't 'ard to do,
 Cos I had some tongs, a-hangin' at the hip.
 "I got a mob," he said, "a mob about two hundred head,
 And I'd give a ten pun note to have the clip."

I says: "Right—I'll take the stand"; it meant gettin' in me hand;
 And by nine o'clock we'd rounded up the mob
 In a shed in the ground—yeah, with wine casks all around,
 And that was where I started on me job.

I goes easy for a bit while me hand was gettin' fit,
 And by dinner time I'd done some half a score,
 With the cocky pickin' up, and handing me a cup,
 Of pinkie after every sheep I shore.

The cocky had to go away about the seventh day,
 After showin' me the kind of casks to use;
 Then I'd do the pickin' up, and manipulate the cup,
 Strollin' round them wine casks, just to pick and choose.

Then I'd stagger to the pen, grab a sheep and start again,
 With a noise between a hiccup and a sob,
 And sometimes I'd fall asleep with me arms around the sheep,
 Worn and weary from me over-arduous job.

And so, six weeks went by, until one day with a sigh,
 I pushed the dear old cobbler through the door,
 Gathered in the cocky's pay, then staggered on me way,
 From the hardest bloody shed I ever shore.

Australian Tradition, October 1971



Geelong Folk Music Club presents...

The Geelong Folk Festival

Sunday
6th September

The Geelong West Town Hall

153 Pakington Street, Geelong West — Wadawurrung Country

Exciting program:

- Nick Charles • Fiona Ross • Seal Prince and the Roof Rats
- Apolline • Bellarine Banshees • Carl Dickens • The Chōōks
- The Drongo and The Crow • Jacob Boots • Jill Meehan and family
- Mickey & Michelle • Milk • Photojenix • Shona Williams
- Suzette Herft • Velvet Sledgehammer • Wintersong

A fabulous day of music!

*Lively, inclusive session led by
honey voiced Suzette Herft*

*Open Stage MC'd by local mischief
makers Possums on the Porch*

Tickets:



gfff26

Supported by a City of Greater Geelong Community Grant

GEELONG

NEWS ABOUT SOME OF OUR CLUB MEMBERS

Some of our VFMC people have been doing a great job of promoting folk music, not just here locally but to the world at large.

Linn Phipps from the UK was a recent visitor and while here sang the beautiful Fisherman's Night Song, ably accompanied by Maree on harp and Bill on guitar with some nice commentary following. They've made a YouTube clip, have a listen:

Fisherman's Night Song

[youtube.com/watch?v=n8pciCC_gNg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8pciCC_gNg)

And Bruce and Jill Watson are doing what has to be any folkie's dream come true, a grand tour of the folk clubs of England. Check out their itinerary below.

<https://www.brucewatsonmusic.com>



The Jolly Jumbucks at a recent dance—from left to right:

Selina, Katy, Maree, Bryce, Bill

(Photo by Trevor Voake)

PIANO - QUIZ

(1)What is a piano? (2)What are the two types of pianos? (3)How many black & white keys do most modern pianos have? (4)How can notes be sustained on a piano? (5)What kind of music are pianos used in? (6)Which genres of folk music are pianos used in?

Answers to last quiz: (1)A stringed musical instrument with strings running perpendicular to its soundboard (2)No, the 2nd biggest (3)4000 BC in Egypt (4) Folk harp & pedal harp (5)Maree Buttler (6)A harmonica or mouth organ.

JULY BILLABONG BAND REPORT

Nillumbik Shire seniors week concert/dance.

Maree, Bill & I are having a meeting next Wednesday to finalise the arrangements for October.

NFF 2027

After talking with Maree I decided not to put in an application for the National next year in Canberra but rather support the Port Phillip Dance Festival as we did this year.

Maroondah Festival 8th November, 2026

Applications opened yesterday & close 31 August.

Last year we had a community marquee & found this to be far more successful at gaining attention than a stage performance.

Last year we just booked a site & Bill borrowed a marquee from the Highland Games people. Bill & I decided at the end of the day, after waiting to be able to drive into the site & then pack everything up that we would recommend paying the extra fee (\$290) & get a pre setup marquee. We had to arrive early & leave late to be able to bring our cars onto the site.

The site cost is \$50 plus \$290 for the hire of a marquee, leg weights, 1 trestle table & 2 chairs.

What does the committee think?

Upcoming suggestions:

Lionsbrae & Donwood - waiting to hear back from them.

Surrey Hills Community Centre - I have been told that they have regular concerts on a Saturday. I'm waiting to be sent contact details for the concert organiser.

By Trevor Voake (Billabong Band Convenor)

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES (Check if On)

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.
<https://www.nffc.org.au>

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

Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo

Monthly bush dance at Bendigo, third Saturday every month, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. Contact Mary Smith 5442-1153 or email secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

Creswick Folk Club

Second Friday, from 7.30 pm at the American Hotel, Creswick; and Fourth Friday, from 7.30 pm at the Old Station in Creswick. Enquiries: Graeme: 03 5334 5551. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/854634092750935/>

Berwick and District Folk Club

Edward Nass / Christine Trimnell, 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
<https://badfolk.org/>

Geelong Folk Music Club

Phil Lester 0401 992 237 or Marie Goldsworthy 0406 610 858. The club meets on the first Wednesday of most months at the Naval Association, 90 Skene St, Newtown, Vic, 3220.
geelongfolkmusic@gmail.com
geelongfolkclub.au

Boite World Music Cafe

Therese Virtue 03 9417 1983
admin@boite.com.au. Friday & Saturday - March to November, 1 Mark St, North Fitzroy, www.boite.com.au

Selby Folk Club

1st Friday every month, at 8:00 pm, Selby Community House, 1 Minak Rd Selby
<https://selbyfolkclub.com.au/>

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

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

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

Music on the Hill (MOTH)

Mornington Peninsula, First Friday of the month. International and local artists.
[https://musiconthehill.com.au](http://musiconthehill.com.au)

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

Michael Hassett
Telephone: 0407 094 929
Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Session Co-ordinator

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

Family/Children's Bush Dance

Bill Buttler
Telephone: 0417 300 682
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Billabong Band Engagements

Trevor Voake
Telephone: 0427 784 296
Email: billabongband@vfmc.org.au

To join or renew on line, visit <https://vfmc.org.au/Join or Renew>

I..... wish 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 <https://vfmc.org.au/constitution 2023.pdf>)

Signed

Membership Type (Please circle)

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

*Parent/s & children under 18

Name:.....

Address.....

Email..... Phone.....

Post form to: The Secretary VFMC, PO Box 215, Ringwood East 3135 Vic