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**Australian**

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

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### **EDITORIAL**

Things are really happening you know!! Each last Sunday of the month there is now a gathering at Bryce's Tavern down in Mooroolbark ... singing, dancing, check it out! The other day there was a one day festival up at Paramoor Farm near Kyneton. In a few weeks there is the Croydon festival where some of our club are putting on a workshop/show focussed on youngsters. Maldon Folk Festival is here and gone for another year. Spring is in the air and the local markets will be alive with people and hopefully music. The Beechworth Celtic Festival, The Harrierville Bluegrass, then Nariel Creek in December, then ... it just goes and goes and goes !! We're pretty lucky aren't we, to have all these opportunities. There are lots of people doing lots of work to make these things happen, and at this time of year a helping hand is especially valuable, because no one has time.

editor@vfmc.org.au

## CLUB EVENTS



### Ringwood Folk Club

Tuesdays, 8.00 pm, East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50 B8). All welcome any or every night as players, singers, dancers, or to tell a yarn.

Nov. 2nd, 9th (Guest Night), 16th, 23rd, 30th

Contact Don (0407-737-202)

### Ringwood Folk Guest Night

Tuesday 9th November, K'crasher

Admission \$12 adults, children with adult free. \$10 members and concessions.

Evening commences 8:00pm and finishes with a short session after the Guest Performer around 10:15 pm.

### By-Ear Sessions

Join us to learn how to play by following someone else rather than reading from written notation, on:

- First Thursday of the month, 8:00 pm (4th Nov, all instruments at Harry's place
- Second Tuesday of the month, 10:15 pm all instruments following the Ringwood Folk Guest Night

- Every Monday, at 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
- Any other time with Harry !!!

Harry Gardner: (03) 9870 8998, 0408 708 998

### Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month at the East Ringwood Senior Citizens Club Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East.

Next dance November the 6th with The Brumbies as the band.

Come along and enjoy dancing to live music with all dances explained and called. Contact Jane Bullock (03 9762-1389) or Robin Simpson (03 9723-2453)

### Singing Sessions

First and last Tuesday every month (2nd and 30th of November).

East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50 B8).

If you are interested in learning some new songs, and would like to sing with others in a friendly relaxed environment, come and join us. We start about 7:00pm and go until the start of the main session at 8:00pm.

## RINGWOOD FOLK GUEST PERFORMER NIGHT

**K'CRASHER - 9TH OF NOVEMBER**

K'crasher has played at many festivals including the National Folk Festival in Canberra where enthusiastic audiences packed the venues of her performances to capacity.

She has done session work with piano, guitar and vocals mostly around NSW and the ACT.

“Her instinctive harmonies make her a joy to sing with. She is a keen judge of a good song. She bristles with good humour. Her smooth guitar work and perfect pitch combine to make her an impressive interpreter of modern song”, said Bruce Cameron, President of the Bathurst Folk Club.



### Guest Artist, October 2010



On the evening of the 12th of October, the spot acts opened with Gail reading some poems for us including one about Will Power. Having got the audience smiling Gail continued on as compare and welcomed Kelvin, who played for us a piece on the piano which he had composed himself just recently. Inspired in part by where he now lives amongst the Yarra Ranges, Kelvin called it “Healesville Rhapsody”.



You can imagine that in amongst the hills the wind comes in fits and starts from all directions, so is not surprising that Kelvin describes that elusive creativity as “blowing in on the wind”.

Bert then sang for us The Drover’s Dream, which may have been one of the first songs he learnt, followed by the Old Black Billy, with the audience joining in on the chorus.





We were lucky to have Lyell Sayer playing his guitar and singing a few songs for us with his warm comfortable style. Amongst other tunes, he sang Goodnight Irene and White Cliffs of Dover.

Raymond then played the guitar and sang some songs for us, including Nancy

Whiskey and a very impressive, fast, and articulate, “The Court of King Caractacus”



Greg finished the spot acts with Sonia Bennet’s song from Henry Lawson’s poem The Watch on the Kerb, followed by a song about the people of Lima in Peru.

\* \* \*

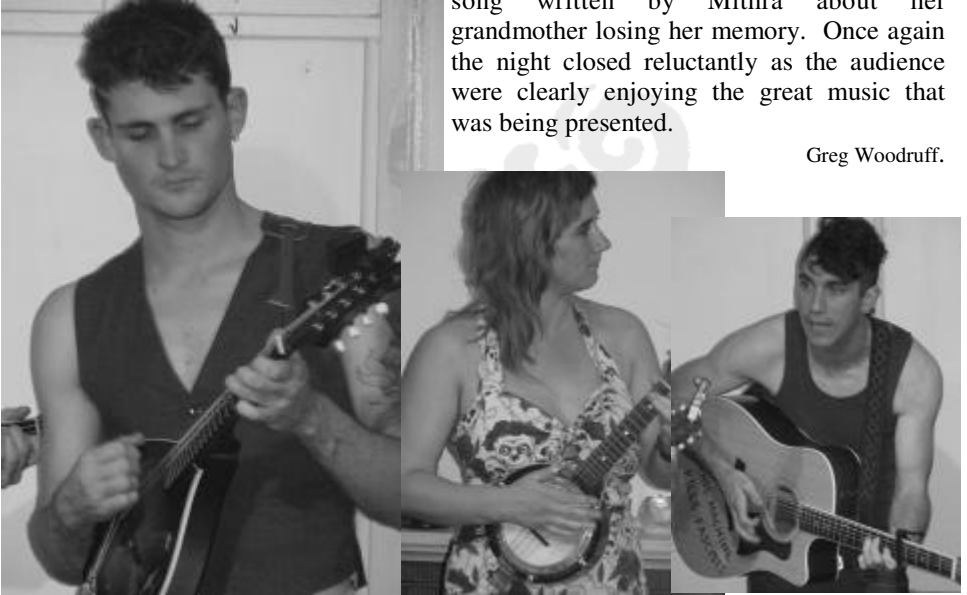
The Lurkers took the stage after a great supper and opened with a song by Paul Kelly. With an easy and confident banter they shared their music, including songs by Pete Seeger and others, as well as many of their own compositions.



Clearly having a strong interest in “music with a message”, the Lurkers easily captured the attention of their audience, with songs inspired by things such as the antics of Rupert Murdoch, to the continued mining of coal to fuel our economy and pump CO2 into the atmosphere.

Their songs are not just political in nature though, as demonstrated perfectly by a great song written by Mithra about her grandmother losing her memory. Once again the night closed reluctantly as the audience were clearly enjoying the great music that was being presented.

Greg Woodruff.



### VFMC Publications

There are a number of VFMC publications which are available for purchase. More detail can be found on our website at:

<http://www.jeevesaudio.com.au/vfmc/Publications.htm>

The publications include:

Collectors Choice Volumes 1, 2, and 3 by Peter Ellis. These three volumes contain tunes for bush dancing, quadrilles, old time sets, folk style couple dances, and dances for special occasions.

Vol 1 \$20.00; Vol 2 \$25.00; Vol 3 \$30.00

Take Your Partners by Shirley Andrews. This volume is a hard cover book providing a history of dancing in Australia together with instructions for 68 dances.

\$10.00

Music Makes Me Smile by Peter Ellis and Harry Gardner. This book is a tribute to Con Klippel and the music of Nariel Valley, providing history, dance music and instructions.

\$20.00

Joy Durst Memorial Song Collection. This book contains 100 songs with music including guitar chords.

\$13.00

Photographs from the recent Ruby Woolshed Ball - (photographer: Trevor)



## By-ear playing (part II)



By-ear playing has become occasional in the classical area. Years ago a Roumanian ensemble visited here with their costumed players standing and playing Ein Kleine Nachtmusik from memory, and delightfully horsing around a little. Now the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has stood on stage at Luther College on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, also playing Mozart without the dots, led by their own Assistant Concert Master, Roy Theaker. An audience member told me that his involvement was very powerful. Wonderful! Please join me in Railway Avenue on most Saturday mornings to prepare for your own futures in the MSO!

In September's Aust Trad I suggested that the first step is to practise humming the standard A = 440 cycles per second (cps) for tuning. This month I tackle the problem of matching a note on one's instrument to what is being played elsewhere. All players need this skill but on some instruments it is easier than others. Firstly one must find the note and secondly one must alter its pitch, where necessary, to remove undesirable dissonance.

Finding the note is probably more difficult on bellows instruments than on say fiddles, flutes and whistles, because the bellows' player may have to change from push to pull. However let's all tackle the task.

(Unfortunately I've only played about 60,000 notes on an accordion, which is not enough to gain competence, and my mouth organ and whistle practice ceased in childhood. Hence I'm limited in advice although that won't stop me.)

The principle must surely be the same for all instruments. A trusted friend is asked to sound a continuous note on their instrument, out of sight, whilst the by-ear player finds it on theirs. The friend moves hands, up or down, until the student has got it correct.

If the player has a sense of pitch (some don't) they should be able to match the notes, even if it initially takes a week or too. (I should like to hear from anyone who finds this impossible, please?)

Harry Gardner





## The Dance Page

### Diary Dates for November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th Beginners Classes	5th	6th VFMC Brumbies Bush Band
7th	8th Irish	9th English	10th Irish or Colonial	11th Beginners Classes	12th	13th
14th Claddagh	15th Irish	16th English	17th Irish or Colonial	18th Australian- Colonial Bush Dance	19th Claddagh	20th Spring Carni- val Ball Bushwahzee
21st Welsh Melbourne Set Dancers	22nd Irish	23rd English	24th Irish or Colonial	25th	26th	27th
28th Claddagh	29th Irish	30th English				

### Diary Dates for December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1st Irish or Colonial	2nd	3rd Claddagh	4th VFMC Billabong Band
5th	6th Irish	7th English Delia's Friends	8th Irish or Colonial	9th	10th	11th

#### Claddagh

Irish set dancing at St. James Anglican Church Hall, Upper Heidelberg Road Ivanhoe, Friday 8-10pm. (Sunday 2-5pm)  
Contact Rod 9497 1793

#### VFMC Colonial

dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 8-11pm  
Contact Jane 9762 1389

#### VDA

at The Eleventh Hour Theatre. Cnr Gore St. & Leicester St. Fitzroy, 2pm.  
Contact Ken Gellatly 9885 5756



**Irish Monday**

dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Flemington, 8-10pm.  
Contact Marie 9471 0690

**Irish Wednesday**

Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, 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 St. Michael's Hall, Cnr MacPherson & McIlwraith Sts. North Carlton. 8-10pm  
Contact Robin 9723 2453

**Colonial Thursday**

Australian Colonial/Bush Dance, **Change of Venue:** Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm.  
Contact Coral 9885 6109

**Beginners Classes**

Australian Colonial/Bush Dance, **Change of Venue:** Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm.  
Contact Coral 9885 6109

**Welsh**

Dancing at St. Thomas's Hall, Cnr Broughton Road and Beech Street, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30pm.  
Contact Ian 9878 2414.

**Spring Carnival Ball**

Preston Town Hall, Cnr. High & Gower Sts. Preston., 8:00 start  
Contact Robin 9723 2453

**Melbourne Set Dancers**

Community Centre, Hawdon St. Heidelberg, 2:00 - 5:30pm  
Contact Marie 9471 0690

**English Delia's Friends**

Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 7:45 - 10:15pm  
Contact George 9890 5650



*A memory from dancing ....*

*For more than fifty years I've been going to country dances, except for a long gap when I was putting all my energy into being a mother and a wife. One of my early dances involved galloping down the hall with a very energetic boy. We ended up sliding down along the well-polished floor in gales of laughter. I felt thrilled to dance with this young man in the following months. He was regarded by all as great fun!*

*Carol Clarke*

I can't tell you anything about the recent VFMC ball, although I was given some great photographs, which, I think Trevor took. Thank you for the photos. Nevertheless, I will tell you about a ball I went to about thirty years ago ... or was it yesterday ...

a warm spring evening, down by the docks, the sun had just gone down, and the most beautiful girl that I'd ever seen came up the street towards me. What a smile she brought to my face, you know one of those grins that you can't control, and it hurts your face. We held hands and walked in off the street and upstairs to the "ballroom". The band was already playing, there were hay bales in the corner, drinks were flowing, swirls of colour, laughter, and an energy of freedom and play that threatened to swallow you up. We were in one of the warehouses on Salamanca Place in Hobart. The details have slipped away, but the sense of magic from the night of my first ball still makes me smile ..

I am sure there are some great little stories of "my first ball" that you could share. Why don't you send in yours, so that I can put it in this newsletter. Simple things are really good for giving someone a smile !!!

editor

### **VFMC COMMITTEE REPORT**

The last meeting was on the 6th of October. The interesting bits included:

- Don Fraser taking on the task of organising the VFMC contribution to the Croydon festival. (he is now looking for help in running a session which will be introducing the audience to different instruments - and that's a hands-on introduction!).
- Discussion about the NFF, and presentation of some ideas from other members of the club in terms of what should be practiced
- The opportunity for contribution at the next Frances Folk Gathering (Feb 25-27, 2011)



Secretary

## 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 5442-1715 or dpearse@iinet.net.au for Mary Smith 5442-1153 for details.

### **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  
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**

Adam Burke, 0409 409 960

hexed@iprimus.com.au or

Peter Fogarty, 03 5229 7887

Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at the Carlton Hotel, Mercer St, Geelong. Open Mic, walk-up performance events at Irish Murphy's, Aberdeen Street

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

### **Melbourne Folk Club**

Every Saturday 3 till 6 pm \$12 / \$8  
Grandview Hotel, 47 Pearson Street, Brunswick West

Mel Robertson, 03 9350 6116 or  
0413 587490

Melbournefolkclub@gmail.com

www.folkvictoria.org.au/melbournefolkclub

### **Ranges Burringa Folk Club**

Andrew Jackson, 03 97567398 or

0402 473 897

mail@drfolk.com.au

Guest artist, last Friday of month  
Burringa Cultural Centre, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey Vic (Mel Ref 75B12)

www.rangesburringafolk.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

**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 dances
- Discounts on Club publications
- Discounts on Club CD's and cassettes
- Affiliation with other organisations
- Access to the Club PA system

**To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post to:**

VFMC Secretary, GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Name: .....

Address: .....

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

City/Suburban -

Single	\$25
Family	\$30
Junior	\$15
Student	\$20
Single Pensioner	\$20
Pensioner Family	\$25

Country -

Single	\$20
Family	\$25

**CONTACTS**

**VFMC Postal Address**

GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

**VFMC Website**

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

**Secretary**

Greg Woodruff  
Telephone (03) 9478 8834  
Email: [secretary@vfmc.org.au](mailto:secretary@vfmc.org.au)

**Ringwood Folk Club**

Don Fraser  
Telephone 0407 737 202  
Email: [donfraseris@gmail.com](mailto:donfraseris@gmail.com)

**Family Bush Dance**

Jane Bullock  
Telephone (03) 9762 1389  
Email: [dance@vfmc.org.au](mailto:dance@vfmc.org.au)

**Concert Party Engagements**

Don Fraser  
Telephone 0407 737 202  
Email: [donfraseris@gmail.com](mailto:donfraseris@gmail.com)

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER BY**

**FRIDAY, 19 NOV 2010.**

**TO:**

**EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

*The Editor reserves the right to alter or to not publish material.*