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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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IF you are a member you can now
get the newsletter by email

Details Hidden Inside !!

EDITORIAL

I went to a meeting tonight (bushwalking club), and I was amazed that I was the only “21” year old there! ☺ ... and ...everyone else had hair that was either grey or non-existent ☺... it got me thinking ...

At the small number of folk music gatherings I go to there is quite a range of age groups, but at the Ringwood group it is heavily weighted on the side of maturity.

Why is there this weighting in the VFMC?

Does the purpose / focus of the VFMC resonate predominantly with the mature?

To continue to realise the purpose / focus of the VFMC does this weighting need to change?

Does some of the purpose / focus of the VFMC need to change?

... mmm ...it's all good

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 50B8). All welcome any or every night as players, singers, dancers, or to tell a yarn.

Dec. 7th, 14th (Guest Night), 21st, 28th
Contact Don (0407-737-202)

Ringwood Folk Guest Night

Tuesday 14th December.

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 (2nd Dec, 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 December the 4th with the VFMC Billabong 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 (7th of December– there is no session on the last Tuesday in December).

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

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

COOLGRASS - 14TH OF DECEMBER



Coolgrass win and delight audiences with their hilarious take on bluegrass, and are favourites throughout Australia and New Zealand. They have been featured at Australia's National Folk Festival, the Auckland Folk Festival, Port Fairy, the Harrierville Bluegrass Convention, the Redlands Bluegrass Festival, the Fairbridge Folk Festival, the Tamworth Music Festival and many more, plus many folk clubs, wineries, town halls, arts councils, pubs and so forth across Australia and New Zealand. They have recorded 3 CDs – *Toad Rage* (2004), *Jaguar Breakdown* (2006), and *Never Put The Banjo Down* (2009).

Guest Artist, November 2010



Francis Lester—come on down !!! Francis steered the VFMC ship through another great night as compare!! Chris Healy started us off with a bit of William Buttler Yeats, and gave us a rendition of Sally Gardens.

We were then treated to a piece of Persia! Aref played the Santour (sometimes spelt Santur). The Santour is a trapezoid-shaped hammered zither, which is struck

with light wooden hammers, which are sometimes coated with felt. It has 72 strings, and typically produces 27 different tones covering approximately 3 octaves. The tunes were magical, and Aref was clearly a very accomplished musician.





From Persia, we travelled once again, to France, courtesy of Francesca. Francesca sang two songs including one by Edith Piaf entitled L'homme a La Moto, which is about a guy with a motor bike who treats his girl and all those around him without care, and ends up having a violent accident.

Edward Nass from the Berwick and District Folk Club sang two of his own songs, one about the racehorse Patrobas which won the Melbourne Cup in 1915, and another based around the Chewton Gold protest of December the 15th, 1851, at which there were over 12,000 miners in attendance.



Lucas and Kimberley play guitar and sing as the group "Cecilia". They performed two pieces, with Kimberley providing some great harmonies. The first piece they played was called "Myopia". They won the blackboard ward for the night.

Karen and Allan, provided some laughs with two songs one about the Eastern Banjo Frog and one about gottin no ferduram. Everyone seemed to know exactly what this was about as the whole audience joined in with gusto.



Andrew finished off the pre-supper entertainment with two of his own songs, talking about love and how even though you put your foot in it, time and again, you still love and try to love.

* * *

After supper K'crasher took the stage!! Playing electric piano and singer, the Pheasant Pluckers Wife told us all about it!!! With brilliantly clear articulation and a beautiful true voice we were treated to some truly beautiful music. There were stories and songs based on her life, from moving events associated with her father to funny meetings with salesmen selling vacuum cleaners. There was a song about the deepest depths of the ocean and a giant squid.. There were songs of support written for her friends when they are struggling. Essentially the music was a sharing of parts of the life of K'crasher, but,





the sharing was done with a quietness and a decisive clarity. After playing the piano for most of the night, she finished off with a couple of pieces accompanied on the guitar.

A very full night closed with many people staying back to talk, catch up, and reflect. I promised that I would make mention of the great work that was done on the door by Janet (it continues to open and close very well !). But seriously, thanks to those who continue to provide support for all of us, whether it be by

organising, working in the kitchen, working on the door, providing transport and accommodation to guests , or just doing “stuff”.

Greg Woodruff.

Tamar Valley Folk Festival
TASMANIA
21 – 23 January

Bryce's Tavern Session,
Mooroolbark
2:00 to 6:00 pm Nov 28th

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

The following poem was conceived at Maldon this year, and written by Stephen Whitesde. There are no prizes for guessing who dug the trench !!!

(Eddy Tor)

Digging a trench for the kids

We met in the street by his camper.
The Festival programme was done,
So back to our homes we'd soon scamper.
We agreed that we both had great fun.

“What was the highlight?” I asked him.
He said there were many great bids,
But the answer he gave (it unmasked him)
Was “Digging a trench for the kids”.

He works as a kids' entertainer,
Makes animals out of balloons
For love (and a modest retainer) -
Been at it for many long moons.

Up at the children's marquee a
Reciter was due; a great sport;
A source of good humour and cheer.
He turned up for moral support.

Rain, alas, tumbled in torrents.
Water was starting to flow
Across the tent floor – an abhorrence
It threatened to ruin the show!

“We need a deep trench” cried the poet.
Balloon-man was hatching a plan.
“The site of a shovel, I know it!
I'll fetch it, and do what I can!”

In spite of the rainwater flowing,
The poet got on with his gig.
The man more accustomed to blowing
Grabbed shovel, and started to dig.

At first there was scarcely a divot.
Each clod he unloosed was a wrench.
His best, he continued to give it.
There soon was a long mighty trench.

The water, at last, was diverted;
The flow through the tent a deal less.
Disaster was doubtless averted;
The show, a resounding success.

It's a heartwarming, uplifting story.
The show was so close to the skids.
No question, his festival's glory
Was digging a trench for the kids!

Stephen Whiteside 01/11/10

By-ear playing (part III)

In this final installment, may I draw attention to a new service planned for the Club.



Shortly (ie after the election and assuming that our website owner is not elected to Parliament) printed dots notes and MP3s of tunes will populate cyber space via our VFMC website under a section entitled Fireside Fiddlers. It will comprise mainly Australian collected tunes beginning with Victorian collected ones, most of which are of outstanding beauty.

The idea is that anyone will be able to download both the notes and the sound and replay the sound at slower speeds without changing the pitch, because one website informs the reader that there is much such software available, usually for free. However for those with \$60 to spend, please download Amazing Slow Downer, <http://www.ronimusic.com/slowdown.htm>. I've used it for perhaps fifteen years and only recently has ASD requested another contribution of \$30, which seemed reasonable since the original price has stayed at the same numerical value in all that time.

Please don't look at the notes, but just listen and play as I described earlier. But if one really can't find the note on one's instrument, then take a surreptitious glance at the dots to get over the hurdle.

Please don't rubbish this approach. Hours and hours of sheer pleasure await being able to have a go by listening to folk tunes anywhere.

Harry Gardner





The Dance Page

Diary Dates for December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1st	2nd	3rd Claddagh	4th VFMC Billabong Band
5th VDA	6th Irish	7th English Delia's Friends	8th Irish or Colonial	9th	10th	11th
12th Claddagh	13th Irish	14th	15th Irish or Colonial	16th Australian- Colonial Bush Dance	17th	18th Xmas Hoe Down
19th Welsh Melbourne	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	

Diary Dates for January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1st
2nd	3rd	4th	5th Twelfth Night Dance	6th	7th	8th

The only dance on the calendar in January is the Twelfth Night Dance on the 5th.

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

Welsh

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

English Delia's Friends

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

Xmas Hoe Down

Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton 7.30-11.00pm
Contact Norm Ellis 9888 5332

Twelfth Night Dance

Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills 7.45-10.15pm
Contact George 9890 5650



November Dance





Our final dance for this year is our Christmas theme one, we will have the club musicians joining us specially for the evening and we hope that everyone will dress up in something festive to make the evening colourful.



Santa is hoping to stop off and hand out goodies to all the people who have been very very good this year (which is everyone of course!) All your favourite callers will be calling their favourite dances and the usual Christmassy ones will be out in force as well. Looking forward to seeing one and all there.



Jane

Newsletter by Email for Members Only

We now provide you with the opportunity to have your newsletter delivered by email. By default, you will still receive your hardcopy in the post.

So, if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, send an email to the editor, saying "I wish to receive the newsletter by email" and indicate what email address you wish the newsletter to be sent to.

If you decide you do not want to receive a hardcopy in the post you must send the editor an email saying "I do not wish to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter.")

You will notice that our membership slip on the last page of the newsletter now allows you to specify how you want to receive the newsletter.

editor@vfmc.org.au

VFMC COMMITTEE REPORT

The last meeting was on the 3rd of November.

- The Treasurer showed us that we are still making ends meet with an interim financial statement
- There is going to be a push on increasing the focus on youth involvement, possibly along similar lines to what Harry Gardner was doing a while ago with the fiddlers.
- The Newsletter will be made available for electronic distribution via email
- We are looking at putting a proposal to the Frances Folk Gathering for an activity run by the VFMC.



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 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

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

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

VFMC Secretary, GPO Box 2025,
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Name:

Address:

Email:

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"/>

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY:

(both may be selected if desired)

- By Email
- and / or
- By Post

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

Ringwood Folk Club

Don Fraser
Telephone 0407 737 202
Email: donfraseris@gmail.com

Family Bush Dance

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

Concert Party Engagements

Don Fraser
Telephone 0407 737 202
Email: donfraseris@gmail.com

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

FRIDAY, 21 JAN 2011.

TO:

EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

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