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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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Kinglake National Park

Come and help us celebrate

“Wattle Day”

Wattle Day is the day to celebrate all things Australian.

Saturday 3rd September 2011

Program

A morning ‘dance-out’ from 11am

Afternoon

- *Two great dance workshops*
- *A Guitar workshop*
- *A Singing Workshop*

Evening

*6.15pm - free sausage sizzle.
& BYO communal picnic tea*

*7.30pm - A Family Bush Dance
with Blackberry Jam
and an “AUSTRALIANA” program
(including the Blackwattle Reel
& The Golden Wattle Waltz.)*

*East Ringwood Community Hall
precinct.
Knaith Road
East Ringwood*

A joint initiative of the TSDAV & VFMC

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

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. Contact Don (0407-737-202)

Ringwood Folk Guest Night

Second Tuesday of the month. 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.

Singing Sessions

First and last Tuesday every month. 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.

By-Ear Sessions

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

- First Thursday, 8:00 pm (at Harry's place)
- Second Tuesday, 10:15 pm (after the Ringwood Folk Guest Night)
- Every Monday, 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

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.

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)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1st August Fiddles	2nd Sing Session Club Session	3rd	4th	5th	6th VFMC Dance Melb Col Band
7th	8th Fiddles	9th Guest Night	10th	11th	12th	13th
14th	15th Fiddles	16th Club Session	17th	18th	19th	20th
21st	22nd Fiddles	23rd Club Session	24th	25th	26th	27th
28th	29th Fiddles	30th Sing Session Club Session	31st	1st September Ear Session	2nd	3rd VFMC/TSDAV Wattle Day
4th	5th Fiddles	6th Sing Session Club Session	7th	8th Ear Session	9th	10th

Guest Artist Night, July 2011, Youth Concert

The club committee is mindful of the need to make a space for the younger generations to express themselves through music-making and to develop their own style. Some time ago it was decided to dedicate a concert just to show off the talents of juniors and young adults and the July concert was the result.

Encouragement and guidance from mums and dads and teachers is a vitally important start in music-making; remember the terrific performance from String-A-Me-Jig last month? Well you could not miss the parental support behind the young performers this night, even though some have already reached a high level of stage skill.

Greg Woodruff was MC and guided the night along to finish bang on the knocker.

The spot acts were opened by four ladies who go by the name Invisible Pulse and who sing with lovely harmonies; a gentle This Is The Sound Of All Of Us, a spirited Tracy Chapman song, then a Joni Mitchell song done a cappella followed.



Kage then introduced his daughter Lilly who was the first youngster for the night and who did a nice job at keeping her dad on track as they sang Will Ye Go Lassie Go.



Next followed Alice And Her Band Of Cats. A hasty change of name was called for (to Alice And Her Trained Cat) as one cat retired early so Alice and seven year old Rune entertained us with South Australia, Lonely As A Tree, and We're Hunting For Dinosaurs.



Violet and her dad Ron from Frankston were the first of the four main acts and entertained the audience with a bracket of songs which included The Fox, It's A Sin To Tell A Lie, Puff, and Everything Is Beautiful. Violet is eight and has recently become a member of the Australian Youth Choir. I

reckon this gal's going places.

We then moved from the juniors to the teens with Christine and Rowen, two capable young ladies with nice harmonies and good guitar work who sang Awake My Soul by Mumford and Sons who



Guest Artist Night, July 2011, Youth Concert

are a contemporary Irish folk band; Don't Think Twice its Alright, Other Side of the World, and Many the Miles.

Nick Anderson is a young local singer of contemporary and roots music. He has a strong confident style and certainly knows his chords. You'll often see him busking around the district, and he plays regularly at local venues, pubs and clubs. Nick's bracket included Galaxy, Burn, Living On A Prayer and Rocket Man. Thanks for stepping in at short notice too Nick.



* * *

Borderline Kaylee are a dozen or so multi-talented young people who have been together for six or seven years. They have performed at many festivals, dances and other gigs including at the National Folk Festival no less than six times. Some of them have played with Harry's Fireside Fiddlers and the highly acclaimed Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, while others have a background in Irish dancing. Several also sing so the BK pro-



gramme is ever-changing and variable as they mix lively jigs and reels with hauntingly beautiful songs like Dream and She Moved Through The Fair, plus some pretty spirited and high-stepping Irish dancing.



Congratulations to all the performers (and their mentors of course) for a night of varied entertainment. Thanks to Steve for lighting up the stage, Trev for the photos, and everyone else who helped make the night happen.

The next concert should not to be missed. Unsung Heroes of Australian History is more like a show than a concert. This highly acclaimed production has appeared at a number of festivals and venues over the last couple of years and will be coming to Ringwood on Tuesday August 9th. It stars the very talented Moira Tyers, Bruce Watson, Neil Robertson and Wendy Ealy. Still only \$12 and kids of course are admitted free. Hope to see you and your friends then.

Don Fraser
Trevor Voake (photographs).



The Dance Page

Diary Dates for August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1st Irish	2nd English	3rd Irish or Colonial	4th	5th Claddagh	6th V.F.M.C. Melb Col Band
7th VDA	8th Irish	9th English	10th Irish or Colonials	11th	12th	13th
14th Claddagh AGM	15th Irish	16th English	17th Irish or Colonial	18th Colonial	19th Claddagh	20th
21st Welsh	22nd Irish	23rd English	24th Irish or Colonial	25th	26th	27th
28th	29th Irish	30th English	31st Irish or Colonial			

Diary Dates for September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1st	2nd Claddagh	3rd VFMC / TSDAV Wattle Day Blackberry Jam
4th	5th Irish	6th English	7th Irish or Colonial	8th	9th	10th

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

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

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|---------------------------|--|---|
| 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 Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm
Contact Robin 9723 2453 | |
| Colonial Thursday | Australian Colonial Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburton 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. | |
| VDA | The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy
Contact Norm Ellis 9888 5332. | |

A Bush dance at Margaret River

At Christmas in Corryong I was introduced to Kieran and she invited me to call at one of her dances should I go across to WA. As luck would have it I have some relatives over in WA and they live the right side of Perth for Margaret River. Once home from Corryong I got busy organizing a trip to WA to visit the relatives and to go to Margaret River.

Ray (my kind brother-in-law) drove us down to Margaret River on a cool grey day and we arrived seconds before Kieran and all together we went inside the hall. It was a country hall with one part of the floor definitely sloping. The band members 'Fiddleinquents' arrived one by one and so did our dancers. The hall might have been compact but the atmosphere was full of expectation and laughter. The dance Kieran said would start at Margaret River time (late) but once we got going it was difficult to stop. The band tuned up and the dance was under way. Kieran and I shared the calling with me teaching them a couple of new ones from Victoria which all enjoyed; all too soon it was time for a drink as everyone was thirsty. With the pub opposite the hall we were soon all satisfied (there was tea and coffee as well). More dancing followed and although the dances were the usual ones found at a bush dance the tunes were new to my ears. The tunes to the Virginia Reel in particular stand out as the band put in a slight pause as they went from the jig to the march and again from the march to the jig, a surprise the first time but it actually gave a lift to the start of the dance so I rather liked it. The bush dance did finally come to an end but then there was a country supper to follow which most people stayed for. As the country supper was being set up people were asking when the next one will be. The enthusiasm of the crowd was such that Kieran is determined to run another bush dance sooner rather than later.

I am glad I met Kieran and got the opportunity to call for her in Witchcliffe I thoroughly enjoyed myself and so did brother-in-law Ray.

Jane Bullock

Reclaiming Space

My host in Salvador in north east Brazil was Colin McLean who grew up in Bentleigh and Brighton, Melbourne. He has spent the past 26 years in poor barrios and Catholic parishes of Salvador, where he has done his best to work in solidarity with Afro-Brazilians who continue to be discriminated against in many not so subtle ways.

One night, Colin with a few local friends took me to the historic centre of the city.

We sat at a table in the main square, listened to music and drank beer. The square used to fill every Tuesday night. It was an Afro-Brazilian cultural event to which anyone was welcome and the fun went on until the early hours of the morning.

The present mayor of the city decided to implement reforms, supposedly to make it safe for tourists and clean up the vice. He has effectively destroyed a joyous, maybe even wild, Afro-Brazilian gathering in which these people claimed this as their space in a non-exclusive way. They had learned to celebrate precisely in the places where their ancestors were bought, sold and whipped.

That night, despite the musical contribution of a local band we were soon bored and decided to walk around the streets near the main square to see if anything was happening elsewhere, and for a

while that was even more boring. We went into a beer hall where there was another band playing and a few young people dancing, but one could hardly say that the place was alive, so once again we went walking.

We heard the noise of drums long before we saw the drummers. There were about 12 young men walking six abreast up a narrow cob-



bled street, each with a drum of some kind. The beat of the drums was deafening. I have never heard such musical volume that was not in any way amplified. They played with such verve and energy. I was not sure who was leading the band but they played as a unit and obviously revelled in what they were doing.

A few young people, mostly tourists, followed them vainly attempting to imitate the vigour of the dance that was led by a young Afro-Brazilian dressed in half-mast white trousers and naked from the waist up. His skin glistened with sweat in cool humidity of the night. Most of us stood on the footpath as they slowly moved past.

Colin and one of the drummers, known as Tonhaõ to his friends, sighted and recognised each other. The young lad's face lit up and he seemed to beat his drum with even more enthusiasm. I stood and watched, totally rapt by the sight and the music; it was deafening and magnificent. Once again these young men seemed to be gradually reclaiming a space that had been taken from them through the dictatorial decree of a city mayor, a man for whom Colin's Afro Brazilian friends might pray, "Forgive him, Father, for he knows not what he does".

Peter Woodruff

A July Tuesday Night Session with Fiddlers from the North!

Photographs: Trevor Voake



You never know what you are going to get at a Tuesday night session in Ringwood. On the 5th of July the little hall resonated to the sounds of a bunch of fiddlers who were passing through from the north!! In addition we were lucky enough to have some of our colleagues come across the river from Williamstown way and join us for the evening.



... Reflections ...
... Reflections ...

Stephen and I arrived in Australia in October 1976 with our young family. The following year we read an advert in the newspaper about a folk club in Blackburn. We rang the number listed and spoke to Anne Slykhuis and were told where to go. We went along the next week travelling up on the train, as at this time we did not have a car. The club was in the back room of a motor repair garage. We introduced ourselves to Dolph and there started a lifelong friendship. It was a very pleasant evening; we sang lots of songs we didn't know but also some familiar ones. We continued to go to Dolph's garage and then one night Dolph asked us whether we would be interested in going along to a dance/singabout evening at Ringwood East, the children would be welcome. We said we would give it a go and so our first time at a VFMC function was born.

Amazingly Alan and Elma were not sitting on the door when we arrived (as they were so often in later years). Geoff Coles seemed to be running the evening and Ina Bertram taught a new dance called the Haymakers Jig. From that time on our family were regular attendees at the singabout/dance evenings. Over a period of time the evenings changed their format from the first half of singing and or listening to very talented performers, with dancing after supper to more and more dancing.

By the time the club moved to the Mitcham hall Stephen and I were involved in the club in various guises and to this day still are.

Jane Bullock

Would you like to be able to play the piano, the guitar, the Appalachian dulcimer, the concertina and the banjo? What about listening to someone who can? Apparently this person writes songs too; must be alright, because they wrote a song called Gonna be an Engineer. So, just in case you don't know, it is rumoured that a young American girl is coming out to Australia between December 2011 and January 2012, going by the name of Peggy Seeger. (possibly trying to make use of Australia's love of the Seeker's, and hoping we won't notice the difference in spelling 😊)



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@inet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au) 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

Due to changes that are happening in the Melbourne Folk Club, we do not have any current details regarding regular functions at this stage.

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"/>

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Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
 Telephone -
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER BY

FRIDAY, 19 AUGUST 2011.

TO:

EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

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