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**Australian**

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

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June is Juno's month and Juno is the principle goddess of the Roman Pantheon. She is the goddess of marriage and the well-being of women. She is the wife and sister of Jupiter. She is identified with the Greek goddess Hera!!

June is almost finished.

July is Julius Caesar's month. When he reformed the Roman calendar, he renamed this month after himself !!

... And the significance of all this ...  
Hmmm. No idea.

**BUT**

Eddy Tor

14

**Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday afternoon the 24th JUNE**

**Senior Citizens Centre - Laurence Grove, Ringwood East**

**If you would like to help out it would be much appreciated**

**- come along and join in**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER**

**BY: FRIDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2012.**

**TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

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

## 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

(suspended until further notice)

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 June	2nd VFMC Dance
3rd	4th Fiddles	5th Club Session	6th	7th Ear Session	8th	9th
10th	11th Fiddles	12th Guest Night	13th	14th	15th	16th
17th	18th Fiddles	19th Club Session	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
<b>24th AGM</b>	25th Fiddles	26th Club Session	27th	28th	29th	30th
1st July	2nd Fiddles	3rd Club Session	4th	5th Ear Session	6th	7th VFMC Dance

## RINGWOOD FOLK GUEST PERFORMER NIGHT

### DELIA'S FRIENDS

12th of June

Delia's Friends formed in 2005 and specialise in English country dance music, where they have become a key part of Melbourne's traditional dance scene, and also perform the rousing traditional songs of England. The band consists of Jane Bullock – piano, Margaret Crichton – harp, Marilla Cooper – recorders and Steve Bullock – recorder. Between regular dance music performances for the VFMC and Melbourne's English Country Dancing group Delia's Friends perform at concerts across Melbourne's suburbs. Their first CD "Dancers' Banquet" was launched at last year's National Folk Festival



## Guest Artist Night, May 2012

The May Guest Artist night was MC'd by Maree and started off with spot acts by Bert Gibson, Heath, Don Gingrich, Vince Brophy, Ted Koenig and Alex. Of special note was Heath's act in which he accompanied himself on guitar, and Don Gingrich's act in which he performed a piece he had written based on his experience in the US army as a young man.

After supper, John Munro, Mike O'Callaghan and Pete Titchener took the stage. Starting with "Journeyman" they played, talked, sang and totally captivated their audience for over an hour. Song after song was shared with beautiful harmonies and wonderful guitar and mandolin work.

Towards the end of the evening they played "When an Angel Appears" - a truly beautiful and moving song, crafted with care, and delivered with deceptive ease. For me, it was the highlight of the evening. We really were privileged to have these three great musicians on our doorstep for the night.

*Greg Woodruff*

### Dance Book and CD review

A new dance instruction booklet with a companion CD of music for the dances has just been released covering original dances in traditional English styles. It has been produced by 'Delia's Friends and is titled 'Dancers Banquet' - 'A Feast for the Feet'.

This is an extremely innovative and clever production in which the composed dances have banquet course names and the authors have even included recipes as a bonus to suit the theme and palate.

It covers 18 different dances in English country dance style and with enticing titles such as Plaice and Chips with Dressing Longways for 3, Champagne Waltz, Vol-Au-Vents and Pinwheels Quadrille, Roast Beef Circle, Chocolate Cake Longways Duple Minor, Cup of Tea Longways for 4 and Red Wine Reel.

These dances include a nice selection from easy to medium and challenging and one that is 'moderately confusing' and have been variously arranged by Margaret Crichton and Jane Bullock with one from Steve and one from George Ansell.

The booklet of 40 pages is clear and clean in production with straight forward dance instructions, melody line and chords for the matching dance tune as well as the recipes and ephemera from Mandy Testaz. Kath's White Bean and Broccoli Soup is one of many I'm about to try.

Additional input has been sourced from George Ansell and Melbourne's Whitehorse English Dancers and the music for 'Invitations' composed by Andy Rigby. Acknowledgment by the authors includes thanks to the Dorset County Museum, Trustees of the Thomas Hardy Memorial Collection and to Joan Brocklebank, publisher of the 'Dorset Horn-

pipe' for preserving, and bringing to their attention the lovely old tunes; The Spirit of the Dance, Dribbles of Brandy and Laura.

The music expertly recorded by Steve Bullock at JeeveS Audio Services has the charming old English nuance associated with the Country Dance of Regency and Playford periods and performed variously on Recorders, Harp, Piano, Cuattro, Bodhran, Whistle and Guitar by Margaret, Steve,

Jane and Marilla Cooper.

In the introductory jacket information the conception of the project is outlined:-

"This series of dances was started when Jane quite innocently wrote a dance which she called 'Chocolate Cake' with movements designed to represent the mixing, baking, and eating of the cake. My comment (Margaret) was that you can't have a Chocolate Cake dance without a Cup of Tea dance to which some-

Delia's  
Friends  
**DANCER'S BANQUET**  
A Feast for the Feet



Jane Bullock and Margaret Crichton

one replied "You'd better write one then!" Thus a banquet was born. We hope you will enjoy the gastronomic experience ahead of you as much we enjoyed creating it. Margaret (with Jane looking over her shoulder).

This dance booklet and companion CD is a must for the enthusiastic dancer, dance teacher and should also be a wonderful resource for schools.

Prices: book \$10, CD \$15, both for \$20 and can be currently ordered by phone or email 03 9762 1389 or [enquiries@deliasfriends.com](mailto:enquiries@deliasfriends.com)

*Peter Ellis.*

### Tuning and Balancing Uilleann pipes

*Joe Arnold*



Ancient Uilleann Piper -  
National Gallery of Ireland

There is no doubt that the pipes, when properly tuned and balanced, do produce a most bewitching effect. Once smitten by their sound one finds the disease difficult to shake off. Too often, however, their beauty is spoiled by lack of attention to proper tuning. This is something that every piper must be able to carry out himself. He may have someone to repair his pipes and to make reeds, but he must be able to tune his own pipes.

To do this properly requires a lot of time and patience and is really, a good introduction to reed making itself.

Tuning means that the pitch of all the notes is correct. Balancing is more complicated. Since the pipes contain seven reeds, it should be obvious that they must all speak at the proper volumes. Since the melody is played on the chanter it must be the brightest and loudest part of the pipes. The drones should give a balanced drone to the chanter, not too loud and not too soft. The higher the note the more penetrating it can be. The three drones must therefore be balanced to compliment each other. The regulators normally act as an accompaniment to the chanter, often three notes being played against one on the chanter. It thus follows that they be much quieter than the chanter, and again no one regulator should sound louder or softer than the others.

*(editor's note: Uilleann is pronounced ill'-in)*



Uilleann Pipes



## The Dance Page

### Diary Dates for June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st Claddagh International	2nd VFMC Brumbies
3rd	4th Irish Scottish	5th English	6th Irish or Colonial U3A	7th Colonial Beginners	8th Celtic Bundanoon	9th National Dance Scottish
10th Festival	11th Irish Scottish	12th English	13th Irish or Colonial U3A	14th Colonial Scottish	15th Claddagh International	16th
17th Welsh	18th Irish Scottish	19th English	20th Irish or Colonial U3A	21st Colonial Scottish	22nd	23rd Colonials Ball
<b>24th</b> <b>VFMC AGM</b>	25th Irish Scottish	26th English	27th Irish or Colonial U3A	28th Scottish	29th	30th

### Diary Dates for July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st TSDAV	2nd Irish Scottish	3rd English	4th	5th	6th Claddagh International	7th VFMC 3 Corner Jack
8th	9th Irish Scottish	10th English	11th Irish or Colonial U3A	12th	13th	14th Scottish

#### Claddagh

Irish set dancing at St. Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd 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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**The Dance Page**

- 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: at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7:30-10pm  
Contact Coral 9885 6109
- Colonial Beginners** Dancing at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton 7.30-10pm  
Contact Coral 9885 6109
- U3A** Hawthorn at East Kew Uniting Church Hall (Normanby Rd. E.Kew), 1.00-3.00pm  
Contact Norm 9888 5332
- Welsh Dancing** Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4:30pm  
Contact Ian 9878 2414
- TSDAV** The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr. Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy  
Contact Norm Ellis 9888 5332
- Contra Dance** Northcote Uniting Church Hall, 251 High St, Northcote, 7:30-10:30pm  
Contact Gary 9481 3386
- M.C.D.'s Titantic Ball** Fitzroy Town Hall, 201 Napier St. Fitzroy 8pm start  
Contact Robin 9723 2453
- Scottish Monday** Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8pm  
Contact [Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto:musicman@virtual.net.au).
- Scottish Saturday** Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8pm  
Contact [Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com](mailto:Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com)
- International Friday** Box Hill Senior Citizens, 780 Carrington Rd. Box Hill, 7.30-9.30 pm  
Contact [jant@alphalink.com.au](mailto:jant@alphalink.com.au)

## The Last of the Grand MCs - Part III

**THE ROLE OF A MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** by Colin Silk

*This article, at the request of Lorraine Ogilvy, was written by Colin Silk, an MC of the weekly Lockwood South dance and MC of dances in Central Victoria over much of his lifetime. It was prepared for the Victorian Folk Music Club's newsletter, Australian Tradition of March, 1983.*

In recent times the role of an MC seems to have been taken over by a member of the particular band that might be engaged to play for a night's dancing.

This is not always in the best interests of the night entertainment, as naturally the least number of dances that are danced for the night; the easier the band earns its money.

But there are other factors too which make this practice non-workable and this is where I consider the role of an MC is essential.

Firstly, his role is to see that the maximum number of dances are danced during the night, without overworking the band.

Secondly, through his experience, and knowledge of dancing, he is able to start the particular dance that he puts on the programme and start it at the correct timing (that is, after the introduction by the band), so that the whole of the dancers are dancing the dance in the same sequence. (This function of course cannot be done by members of a band)

Thirdly, his role is to see that the evening is carried out with propriety, and good order, this he can do by mixing with the patrons, and in the event of anyone stepping out of line to interfere with the well-being of the patrons, it is his duty to see that this person or persons are restrained (or in the extreme to have them removed from the hall).

It is also necessary for him to know his patrons and their capability of dancing so that he can arrange his programme for the night in accordance with the capabilities of his patrons. For this reason whenever I am asked to MC a dance, or a Ball, I like to have the right to choose the programme that is to be arranged for the night, and this I do as the night progresses, because I know the patrons and their dancing capabilities, and make the programme accordingly.

Sometimes it is necessary to make a programme of un-complicated dances, and other times more of the complicated ones.

Either way there is always enough variety of dances that you don't have to include the same dance twice in the same night's program.

I also like to mix with the patrons for the sole purpose of making them feel wanted, and a part of the evening, and this I feel is a very important part of being an MC, and one that a member of a band cannot properly do, for his function is to supply the music for the night and this is a full time job if he or she is going to fulfil their role in the evening's proceedings.



So, finally, a Master of Ceremonies must first of all give a full night's dancing; secondly, promote through his experience as a dancer, the dances he chooses to include in his programme; thirdly to keep order within the hall; fourthly to be a good public relations officer so that people feel they are wanted. If he follows these rules he will not only find favour with his patrons, but will also receive self-satisfaction, and the confidence of the dancing public who after all are the most important. Without their support no dance is successful.

At one time in my career as MC my Committee wanted to bring in a rule with regards a standard of dress. This I opposed, because it has always been my belief that one cannot judge a person's character by the clothes he/she wears. I have found that sometimes a person has come to our dances rather sloppy in dress, but after they see they have been received and not criticised, next time they come tidily dressed. One night a person who was well dressed, got out of hand through misbehaving, and the first to come to my aid was one my committee would have excluded under the dress rule.

One of the funny things that happened one night was when two young men got up to dance together (there were still plenty of young girls sitting down). I approached them and told them it wasn't etiquette for two men to dance together and to go and ask a young lady. The reply was: "Well look over there, there are two girls dancing together." I was taken back, but on gaining my composure I had to explain that it was the boys' place to ask the girls to dance with them, and for this reason, it was acceptable for two girls to dance together.

Finally, I am not being critical of the person in a band trying to be MC, but I am convinced that for the well-being of dancing in general the dancing MC is still very important for a successful night, and for the future of Ballroom dancing.

*Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot – And The Days Of Auld Syne!*

*Peter Ellis*

Dear Editor,

At the National last Easter I chaperoned - I hesitate to say organised - a lagerphone workshop which eventually produced so many that we took the world record. It had been my intention to then record all the participants and publish a credit list in my lagerphone pages (see URL below). Sadly the clipboard in which I had all my papers went walkabout after the event and only some have since turned up. I am thus deficient in my list of names. Might you be able to find an odd corner in Australian Tradition to ask that any of your readers who took part send me an email with their name and lagerphone number - as also any photographs they took and comments on the event - and I will do what I can to reconstruct? Thank you!

Keith Sayers

[keiths@apex.net.au](mailto:keiths@apex.net.au)

6 Clambe Place

CHARNWOOD, ACT 2615,

Australia

<http://www.apex.net.au/~keiths>

*Phyllis Macdonald passed away on the 21 May 2012 aged 97.*

*When I joined the VFMC in the mid 70's Phyllis was among the first people I met. She took me under her wing and helped me to learn many of the dances. Unbeknown to me her husband, Basil, had not long before passed away of a heart attack whilst dancing at a club night.*



*Phyllis was an active member of the VFMC doing many of the little tasks that are taken for granted but without which clubs won't function smoothly. In 1972 she and Basil generously opened their property at Gladysdale (near Yarra Junction) for a club picnic; I believe that some members camped there.*

*In 1982 she was presented with her life membership and no one could have been prouder. In later years when she moved into a retirement unit her life membership certificate was framed and hung on a wall so that it was clearly visible to anyone entering her unit.*

*In 1987 Phyllis retired as the Supper preparer at the Carlton dance, having already stood down in the same capacity at the Eastern suburbs dance a few years before. She served on the general committee in 1976/77 and then continuously from 1980 to 1987. She will be remembered by many of our members who were around in the 70's and 80's.*

*Farewell Phyllis*

*Trevor Voake*

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.musicclub.org)

### Melbourne Folk Club

Promoting Live Acoustic Music,

Contact Mel Robertson: 0413 587 490

Each Friday evening at The Lord Newry Hotel, 543 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy North VIC 3068

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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

**VFMC Postal Address**

GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

**VFMC Website**

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

**CONTACTS**

**Secretary**

Greg Woodruff  
 Telephone (03) 9874 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**

Maree Buttler  
 Telephone -  
 Email: [enquiries@vfmc.org.au](mailto:enquiries@vfmc.org.au)

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

VFMC Secretary,  
 GPO Box 2025,  
 Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Newsletter Delivery: (select )  
 (both may be selected if desired)  
 By Email   
 and / or  
 By Post

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (select )

City/Suburban -  
 Single \$25   
 Family \$30   
 Junior \$15   
 Student \$20   
 Single Pensioner \$20   
 Pensioner Family \$25

Country -  
 Single \$20   
 Family \$25

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....