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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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*Nariel Creek Folk Festival
Celebrating 50 Years!*



1963 - 2013

**SEE INSIDE FOR FULL
REPORT**

**THE SATURDAY DANCE ENTRY FEE HAS GONE UP TO \$12.00
FOR NON-MEMBERS AND \$10.00 FOR MEMBERS**

**This is still a reasonable price for the amount of dancing done to
quality live music and of course not forgetting the free supper**

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

BY: FRIDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 2013

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 Maree Buttler (03 9733-0802) or Robin Simpson (0447106841).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st February	2nd VFMC Dance Brumbies Band
3rd	4th Fiddles	5th Club Session	6th	7th By-Ear Session	8th	9th
10th	11th Fiddles	12th Guest Night	13th	14th	15th	16th
17th	18th Fiddles	19th Club Session	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
24th	25th Fiddles	26th Club Session	27th	28th	1st March	2nd VFMC Dance Clandestiny
3rd	4th Fiddles	5th Club Session	6th	7th By-Ear Session	8th	9th

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
Ringwood East Folk
Vince Brophy's
“Famine to Feast”



Vince and Margie Brophy with Cora Browne
 (With Mark & Lisa McDonnell as the session players
 who play before and after the show.)



An interactive show about the orphan girls that came to Australia from the workhouse in Ireland during the 1850 famine.

Through their own emigration experiences they draw a parallel with these girls and tell their story.

We encourage participants to bring a musical instrument along and join in the session after the show.

TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY

Admission: \$12.00 Members: \$10.00 Children Free
Open Stage from 7.45pm

East Ringwood Community Hall
Knaith Road Ringwood East Melway: 50 B8

Contact Don 0407 737 202
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au
 VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au
 Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. (Reg. No A2511Y)



Guest Artist Night, December 2012

So, the end of another year and what a fabulous night to finish with! Looking back over the past 12 months we have featured a really good selection of main acts plus many commendable spot and support acts from various genres of the folk and acoustic world. Our very capable MC this night was Bill Buttler who made mention of the efforts of many people in the Club who ensure that these concerts happen each month, words I heartily agree with. Thanks to everyone; it is a real buzz at the end of each concert when we reflect on how everything has gone just like clockwork.



Chris Healy started things off with a short discussion on the tin whistle before playing Moran's Return, then a medley of Irish reels on the button box. Francesca followed this with a French song, Petit Papa Noel, about a little boy's observations of all the Christmas goodies on show in a shop.



Next a poem from Mick Kearon called Ambush, a sober and graphic tale of a soldier's experiences in



Afghanistan. the thoughts head, and Thanks, compositions!

den Bovenkamp then led a playing trombone with one hand somebody please lend a hand?



The Old Man on the Pier ponders that go through a fisherman's then The Old Factory Wall. Mick, three excellent Multi-instrumentalist Rudy van medley of singalong tunes while and accordion with the other. Can

Maggie Somerville than sang her own composition about that magic little corner of the country Waratah Bay, followed by another on the exquisite joys...the utter delight...ah the pleasures...um...the pains of giving birth. Thanks to the audience for their assistance in the delivery of this fine little number—mother and child are doing well!



Jane and Jan often play with a recorder group, so with Yours Truly on concertina we made for an unlikely mix on Bransle, a French dance from the 1600s, and followed this with The Dark Isle.

Guest Artist Night, December 2012



Main act The Simpson Three are a trio of young siblings, all very talented multi-instrumentalists from The Dandenong Ranges area. They started their bracket with a lively set of Celtic flavoured jigs on guitar, tenor banjo and bodhran. A very pretty song called Fumeray followed, about leaving home. Apparently Bec has an unhealthy tendency for buying

more shoes than is necessary for one at her stage of life, so New Shoes is a good subject for a song with nice harmonies. Some reels were next which featured a lengthy solo on bodhran by Bec which was quite impressive. Some more Celtic flavoured tunes, then a good bluegrass song called Train on the Island.

Although The Simpson Three are only in their twenties, they have wasted no time in accruing accolades and awards at various festivals around the country and overseas. Celtic music is their main forte and they have travelled and played extensively in Ireland and elsewhere. Folk music runs in the family with earlier generations having had much to do with the musical heritage of the Nariel area near Corryong. Cronin's is another medley of Celtic tunes while South is a clever last song was Pretty traditional style. An with a bit of joined them for a set a fitting end to a



That's What I Like about the honky-tonk style song. Their Fair Maid, a fine song in the encore was requested, and persuasion Mum and Dad of lively foot-tapping polkas, really good concert, and year.

We thank our patrons and visitors over the year; your support for performers, mains and spots is really appreciated. When we engage performers the Club helps promote them, Michael and other radio announcers give them air time, we tell other venues about them and help sell their CDs. It helps to keep the wonderful world of folk music turning. And as I said before, many thanks to the Club members who have helped with all the little tasks that make for such successful nights. Vince Brophy's Famine to Feast show will be on Feb. 12th.

- by Don Fraser, photos by Trevor Voake



The Dance Page

Diary Dates for February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st	2nd VFMC Brumbies Bush Band
3rd TSDAV Dance Workshop	4th Irish	5th English	6th Irish or Colonials	7th	8th	9th
10th	11th Irish	12th English	13th Irish or Colonials	14th	15th	16th
17th Welsh	18th Irish	19th English	20th Irish or Colonials	21st Colonials	22nd	23rd
24th Contra	25th	26th	27th Irish or Colonials	28th		

Diary Dates for March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1st	2nd VFMC Clandestiny
3rd TSDAV Dance Workshop	4th Irish	5th English	6th Irish or Colonials	7th	8th	9th

The Dance Page

- Claddagh** Irish set dance at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe, Friday 8-10 pm, Sunday 2-5pm. Contact Rod: 9497-1793
- VFMC Colonial** Dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 8-11 pm Contact Maree: 9733-0802
- Irish Monday** Dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Flemington, 8-10 p.m.. Contact Marie 9471-0690
- Irish Wednesday** Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle St, 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 Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm
Contact Coral: 9885 6109
- Colonial Thursday** Australian Colonial Bush/Dance: at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn 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
- TSDAV** The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr. Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy Contact Norm Ellis 9888-5332
- International Friday** Box Hill Senior Citizens, 780 Carrington Rd. Box Hill, 7.30-9.30 pm Contact jant@alphalink.com.au
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NARIEL BLACK AND WHITE FOLK FESTIVAL 50th ANNIVERSARY

(held 27 Dec 2012 – 2 Jan 2013)

Who would have predicted that the small group of Nariel music and dance lovers who gathered to play a few tunes 50 years ago on the banks of the picturesque Nariel Creek would be the fore-runner to the longest running festival in Australia? But that is indeed what has happened. What a remarkable achievement!



The format of the gathering changed little over the years, and is still of a simple and leisurely format devoid of paid entertainers and upmarket sophistication, without commercialisation, its main form of advertising is by word of mouth; the festival that began very much as a picnic still retains much of that picnic atmosphere today.

Con Klippel was the driving force behind the establishment of the Nariel band and the development of the festival. He was an extraordinarily skilled man who was often described as being before his time who not only played numerous musical instruments proficiently but was also a skilled writer of tunes and poetry. He was assisted by his wife Beat (Beatrice), a dance instructor of note, and also by his son Keith a skilled accordion player who still gives main support to the band and is its longest serving member. The Simpson families were among those that were also involved over the years with Neville serving as band leader and festival organiser for many years. Neville's son, Ian, now holds these positions.



Tall poppies and pretentiousness are not a normal part of the Nariel scene and consequently, in spite of the fact that this year is such an iconic milestone, the variations due to the 50th celebrations were kept to a minimum so as to not intrude on the already successful festival format;

there was still plenty of time to participate and to leisurely meet and greet friends, make new ones, play sessions and to explore the vast number of attractive features of the area. However, a double CD and a revised edition of the 1998 version of the Nariel book "Music Makes Me Smile" were compiled in recognition of the occasion.



The double CD was produced by Peter Ellis (OAM) and contains tracks from early Nariel performers, some items of which took many hours of prolonged searching to locate and select. The CD is not merely a collection of tunes but a selection of tunes with due regard to the personalities of the time and how well the tunes reflect the true character of Nariel music. All the tunes are played in actual location. It also contains other items that are further important in their own right such as the unique

treatment of the F# used by Nariel concertina players when they change rows on Anglo concertinas. There is also an item by Beat Klippel as she plays the seemingly incorrigible Flutina, an heirloom instrument which came to Australia around the Eureka gold mining times and which by virtue of its reverse push-pull system, is quite a difficult instrument to master. It also contains tracks which demonstrates quite clearly why Con Klippel's musical ability is so well respected as he triplets and flourishes his way through various tunes on a piano. Additional supplies of this CD will be available in early February.

To compliment the above CD the current Nariel Book "Music Makes Me Smile" (pub. 1998) has been revised and expanded to include many new tunes. It also includes additional details about the history of the festival and the people who were part of the process of making it all happen. The stories it contains give an excellent insight and background of the Nariel festival, the people involved, and the tunes that they play, and is compelling reading. And it contains more than one surprise for Nariel history buff. The book is currently with the printer and supplies will be available as soon as printing is complete. The compiling and the publishing of the revised book were in such capable hands as Peter Ellis, Harry Gardner and David De Santi.



In deference to Con Klippel, both the new CD and the revised edition of the book bear the title "Music Makes Me Smile" and will be available from the usual folk supply sources including Victorian Folk Music Club, Trad and Now, and Ian Simpson (Ph 02 6077 1273). Neither the CD nor

the book should be missing from any music aficionado's shelf.

The longest serving member of the Nariel band, Keith Klippel was honoured when he was selected to cut the huge 50 years celebration cake: an honour that he shared with Mark Prosser who was deemed to be the oldest original attendee present (aged 84 years). The cake was indeed a magnificent creation and tasted every bit as good as it looked.



Unfortunately, VFMC member Bert Gibson could not be present. Bert as many will know, has been an integral part of the Nariel festival since its inception and has missed less than a handful of festivals over the years, which is indeed a most commendable effort.

VFMC members were active overall in supporting the festival in various ways including, on this occasion, the support the Billabong band gave to Peter Ellis during his launch of the CD and in performing an accompanying concert item. The VFMC were instrumental in the establishing of the Nariel festival 50 years ago and it was fitting that VFMC President, Michael Crichton, expand upon this aspect of early involvement in his speech. The CD launch was a most moving experience particularly when a sound-track of the CD was played which not only included past band leaders & relatives conversing, but also Con Klippel's very special composition "The Voice I Heard From Charlie", to which Ray and Jenny Simpson provided an accompanying waltz in front of the stage on the historic festival green.



As in past years, the main festival program activities centred around five scheduled dances and a concert on New Year's Day. Some of the dances were held at night in the open air at the festival grounds whilst others were held in the nearby Cudgewa hall, and all dances were played to by the Nariel band (and friends). Many dancers attended both locations.

Children were well catered for with plenty of activities such as the sessions for making all manner of craft items, and they were involved with the dances – particularly at Cudgewa where they took great delight in

scrambling for heaps of distributed sweets at the end of each of the Hokey - Pokey events. The children also had a dedicated one-hour segment on the festival stage at the New Years Day concert to strut their stuff, which they did very well indeed, so there was plenty to entertain the little tackers in between swims in the adjacent Nariel Creek.

Peter Ellis MC'd the dances at Cudgewa and was perhaps as surprised as anyone during the Monte-Carlo events when the Joker was turned up on 4 different occasions. This resulted in all the dancers being returned to the floor on no less than 4 times – quite an unusual occurrence. And at one time we were entertained by the confusion created when he reversed the ladies and the gents' positions during a progressive barn-dance.

The last dance for the Cudgewa and took the form with concert items given by attendees. These enjoyable given by Jane Bullock, and Steve Bullock (Delia's Foun, Chris Beggs, Ray and and Allan Hunter.



festival was held at of dances dispersed talented festival inclusions were Margaret Crichton Friends), Maurie Jennie Simpson,

Further highlights at Cudgewa included an exhibition (plus encore) of the Gypsy Tap dance by itinerant folkies Ian and Claire Sutton who demonstrated how they used to perform an interesting variation of Gypsy Tap in Queensland “many years ago”, and the announcement by David Hornet and Dianne Devers that they had an anniversary to celebrate, also - their 20 years of marriage. And the refurbished stage area of the Cudgewa didn't go entirely un-noticed, nor the robust suppers.



The New Year's Day concert at the festival grounds attracted a large crowd of spectators.

Banjo Paterson's poem “Mulga Bill's Bicycle” captured the audience as a period-clad rider optimistically clad in flying paraphernalia and riding a penny-farthing bicycle circulated in harmony with the reciter. Others to give items on the long list included Ed Scott who gave a polished

presentation of “The Fire at Ross’s Farm”, Michele who recited the Dorothea McKellar iconic “I Love a Sunburned Country”, the Irish oriented group Dysfunction Junction who gave us “Maid Behind the Bar, and Vendula who included in her very professional segment Johnny Cash’s “Folsom Prison”. Among others to entertain were The Simpsons, John Anderson, Mose, Kate Crowley, The Gay Charmers dance band and Ken McMaster who introduced a pang of nostalgia with his 1985 song “The Banks of the Nariel Creek”. With a total of more than 30 items scheduled, the concert went right up to the evening dance.



The dance leading up to the end of 2012 was colourful and included a mix of various ages right down to toddlers, with many dancers specially dressed in an interesting

array of party clothing appropriate to the New Year’s Eve occasion. The year 2012 ended when Emma Gillette (nee Simpson) signalled its demise by ringing a handbell dedicated to organiser and band leader of many years, Neville Simpson.

Among former band members to attend the celebration was Sandra Klippel who brought along her accordion. She took her place on stage to play the very first bracket of tunes for 2013 in the wee hours of New Year’s Day. “My accordion has not been played for more than 30 years” she offered, and although I was a bit rusty at first, it all soon came back”. Sandra was a member of the Mini Band when she was around 6-7 years of age way back in the early 1970’s. It is hoped that this was some sort of New Year’s Resolution by Sandra and that we will see more of her and her accordion at future festivals.



The Mini Band (for 6 year-olds) and the Junior Band (for 11 year-olds) were active in the early 1970’s for the purpose of perpetuating the unique Nariel brand of music. They were, of course, initiated by Con Klippel.

Some may wonder at the significance of the Black and White theme associated with the Nariel festivals. This is in recognition of the local aboriginals who,

well before festivals were ever introduced, held corroborees at the festival site.

Other highlights included the large display boards jam-packed with photographs of the early Nariel days which absorbed hours of perusing, and if anyone thought that the cottonwoods surrounding the serene location of the festival grounds were merely for shade, and if they were quick enough, they may have seen Jeff Wilmott of Warburton pluck off a leaf and use it to play a musical piece or two. Jeff is from the Yarra Ranges and is the reigning Australian Gum Leaf Playing Champion.

Congratulations are in order for such an extraordinary achievement; the Nariel Festival organisers must feel very proud indeed.



- article and photographs by Stan Alexander

ANSWERS TO OUR FOLKIE QUIZ

- 1) Dunbarton's Drums
- 2) Maggie May
- 3) The Albury Ram (English—The Derby Ram)

OPEN AIR SESSION AT HARRY'S PLACE

Keen sessioners gathered together on my back lawn on Sunday 18th November 2012 to play with two visiting musicians, Dave Johnson from NSW and Ray Mulligan from the ACT (see photo). Both musicians should be familiar to Club members through their numerous publications, of which the best known might be *Bush Dance (The Blue Book)* by Dave and the *Settlers Series* by Ray, respectively.



Dave and Ray had been invited by Richard Ayling to play for the Colonial Dancers Spring Ball at the Preston Town Hall on the previous evening. This Ball was possibly unique in its musical commitment to collected Australian tunes. Local players may next meet Dave and Ray at the National Folk Festival at Easter-time, 2013, where, probably with Greg O'Leary, they will lead the workshops on collected Australian tunes in the session area mid mornings daily.

- Harry Gardner

Our last bush dance for the year -
the end-of-year Christmas dance:——

(photo by 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@iinet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au) for details.

Berwick and District Folk Club

Edward Nass / Christine Trimmell,
 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

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

Yea Acoustic Jam Session

first Friday of the month at the Yea Community House (part of the Library Complex) 7.30 p.m. All levels of musicians and singers most welcome—\$2.00 entry. It is run by Rick and Lee Vengeance, phone 5772 0357 during business hours or see Fairly Folk facebook page for more details.

Ballarat Folk Gathering

1st Sunday of the month 2PM(Except January)
 At Ballarat East Community House
 507 Eyre St, Ballarat

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 and cassettes
- Affiliation with other organisations

VFMC Postal Address

GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

VFMC Website

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

CONTACTS

Acting Secretary

Harry Gardner
Telephone: 9870 8998
Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk Club

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

Family Bush Dance

Maree Buttler
Telephone 9733 0802
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
Telephone: 9733 0802
Email: 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	<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"/>

Name:

Address:

Phone Contact:

Email: