



Established 1959

February 2017

Australian

TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

Reg No A2511Y

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARRY!



photo by Trevor Voake

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS!

See note inside on page 11 regarding the slight increase in door prices for our special Concert Nights

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2017 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Tuesdays, 7.30—10.15 pm, East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8). Supportive round-robin sessions where all are welcome for playing, singing, reciting, performing, workshops etc. \$5.members, \$6 non-members. Contact Don (0407-737-202)/ www.vfmc.org.au

Guest Performer Concert

On the second Tuesday of the month (instead of the weekly session) a concert is held featuring top acoustic performers. Ringwood East Community Hall. Concerts start with open stage acts at 7.45pm, finishing 10.15pm. \$12. \$10 conces and members, kids no charge. Contact 0407 737 202 / www.vfmc.org.au

By-Ear Sessions

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

- first Thursday, 8.00pm (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 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month except January 8-11pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. A different band is featured each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids no charge. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

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



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK



Nick

Charles

“An awesome talent” –
Australian Guitar Magazine
“Plays guitar like an angel” –
Sydney Morning Herald

TUESDAY 14th FEBRUARY
7:45 - 10:15pm

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve

\$14; \$12 conc; \$10 members; kids free
For info 0438.049.557 or www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

Photo Barry Gittins

14th March - Enda Kenny

Guest Artist Night, December 2016

Our MC for the evening was Bette Martin. Jim Smith opened the evening with a recitation of the spooky poem, Sweeney Todd the Barber. Then a lighter politically flavoured poem about the Dead Fairies Society.



Then CRUG played their ukuleles singing about the Fields of Athenry and invited the audience to join them singing the Beatles Let it Be.

Tina, who had recently performed at Maldon Folk Festival played the ukulele and sang two of her own songs: Plimsolls in Antarctica & There's Nothing here for You.



Then the two D's - Dieter on harmonica and Dominic on guitar entertained. Firstly with a beautiful German folk song, then with a very moving rendition of the Nini Rosso 1960's hit- Il Silenzio.



Frances lightened the mood singing You are my Sunshine, then read her poem about a little family of birds. Finally she sang a Christmas Song. The Little Drummer Boy. Frances played the bodhran (Irish Drum) in accompaniment as the crowd joined in enthusiastically.

Bill Buttler then captivated the crowd with two Bob Dylan songs. Firstly he played guitar and sang Seven Curses then sang a very popular song written about 1983 by Dylan dedicated to an American blues singer, Blind Willie McTell.



Then Pleasant and Delightful, a trio comprising Robyn, Don and Ken, treated the audience to two traditional English Christmas Carols. Playing autoharp, guitar and accordion, their voices blended harmoniously to tell us that Christ was born in Bethlehem in a Manger. They then followed with a carol sung in Latin which dates back hundreds of years to Queens College in Oxford.

Our final spot act for the evening was Joan and Ray Mundy who entertained with an Aussie Yarn, then a short tune playing guitar and accordion. Joan then asked Dominic to join her on stage to sing Four Strong Winds, a song written by Ian Tyson in the early 1960's.



Guest Artist Night, December 2016

Our main act for December was **Saoirse** - a vibrant Celtic vocal and instrumental group comprising Bernadette and Anthony O'Neil, Kerry McManus, Sila Coleman and Damien Neill. They sing traditional Irish ballads and between them this very talented group play guitar, accordion, fiddle, mandolin, tin whistle and bodhran. The name Saoirse is taken from the Gaelic and means freedom. Saoirse is Melbourne based and they perform at clubs and folk festivals throughout Australia. Earlier this year they toured Ireland and attended an international festival in Brittany, France.



The audience was enthralled from the very beginning of the evening. The heavenly harmonies of the female voices combined with the expert performances on the various instruments, not to mention a lively gig by Bernadette and Kerry, had people eager for more.

The first song told of a young maid who was not happy with the choice presented to her by the matchmaker. Then a ballad about the Irish patriot Michael Collins singing: If they shut me up, who will take my place? Then Peg of my Heart. The group then featured a Paul Kelly song released in 2005: Don't Stand So Close to the Window. A traditional Irish lament Siuil a Run followed. A young maid sings of her soldier lover gone off to fight in France. Anthony and Damien displayed their expertise on the mandolin and guitar playing Japanese Wall. Bernadette performed her own song written about local young people hanging out, singing and dancing. Damien sang and played Walk Beside Me. A song by Tim O'Brian and Darrel Scott. Bernadette introduced the next song as an Irish/Spanish ballad, I know My Love.



Sila, Bernadette and Kerry performed the final haunting tune about Coola, the ghost who comes tapping at the window. The audience paid homage to Saoirse with a great round of applause. The club was fortunate to experience once again such a fine professional performance of Celtic music. Let's hope we see them back soon.

Thanks to all volunteers whether on door duties, in the kitchen, or helping with the set-up, who worked together to make the evening such a success.

February Concert: Nick Charles, well-known guitarist.

- report by *Bette Martin* ; photos by *Trevor Voake*



The Dance Page

Diary dates for February:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1st Irish or Colonials	2nd	3rd	4th VFMC Dance Brumbies Bush Band
5th TSDAV Dance Workshop Contra	6th	7th English	8th Irish or Colonials	9th	10th	11th Scottish
12th Claddagh	13th Scottish	14th English	15th Colonials	16th Colonials Bush Dance	17th	18th
19th Welsh	20th Scottish	21st English	22nd Colonials	23rd	24th	25th Sadie Hawkins Day Hoedown
26th	27th Scottish	28th English				
			1st March Irish or Colonials	2nd	3rd	4th VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
5th TSDAV Workshop Contra	6th Scottish	7th English	8th Irish or Colonials	9th Scottish	10th	11th Scottish

Sadie Hawkins Hoedown: 8-11 pm, Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton. Info: 888 5332.

The Dance Page


Claddagh	Irish set dancing at St Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. Sunday 2-5pm . Contact: Rod 9497-1793
VFMC Colonial Dance	at Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, 8-11 pm. Contact: Jane 9762-1389
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 TBA. Please check before going www.melbournecolonialdancers.org.au or contact Coral 9885 6109 or Peter 9848 5852
Colonial Thursday	Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: 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, 2-4.30 pm. Contact Ian 9878 2414
TSDAV	Sunday: The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy. Contact: Norm Ellis 9888-5332
Contra Dance	Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke Rd, Malvern East, 7.30-10.15pm. Info: 0422 932 532
Scottish Mon. & Sat.	Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8 pm Contact: deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com
Scottish Thursday	Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thornton Rd. 7-9pm. Contact: Di Gaylard 5963-3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au

JOKE TIME — MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

- 1) What do a vacuum cleaner and an electric guitar have in common?
When you plug them in, they suck.
- 2) Why are harps like elderly parents?
They are both unforgiving and hard to get in and out of cars.

NARIEL FOLK FESTIVAL

We arrived on the Tuesday 27th December and had to queue up to get into the caravan park, it was so busy. After settling into our cabin, we got ready to go to the dance at the Cudegwa Hall. As we greeted old friends the band started to arrive and settled into their seats. Jenny Simpson was the MC for the night with guest callers, the night ran very smoothly. The Monte Carlo had a little boy on a bicycle wind up toy to make the important decisions of which corner was out. The dance finished at midnight and we wearily drove back to base for a well deserved sleep. The next day dawned lovely and sunny and I went to play tunes with Sandra, Gerard, Marion, John, Cecilia, Lynn and Catherine, half of us on recorders with 2 mandolins, a harp and a guitar. Stephen watched the cricket after going into Corryong for much needed supplies as we forgot to bring our breakfast food up with us! The dance on this day was the Contra and it started at 5pm, I got to call a dance and Coral was our MC. Stephen played in the band, which was made up of musician volunteers from the caravan park and the festival site. Despite just getting together that afternoon, they played great music. *Ray with a wind-up toy-*



Unfortunately it rained the next day Thursday the 29th and this was the day that the musicians staying at the caravan park were going to play for a bush dance in the caravan park. It rained on and off and in the end Stephen decided it was too wet so instead the musicians set up in the BBQ rotunda and played tunes. I went along to listen as did a whole load of others and discovered they were actually playing dance music so I grabbed some dancers and we gave an impromptu display of dancing round the pole which held up the rotunda. In between the display dances I got the people



watching and listening up to do some easy dances – a great evening. John and Marion did the Killarney Waltz which most of us other dancers didn't know well enough to join them so a New Year's resolution is to learn the Killarney Waltz this year.

Friday the 30th and still wet so I and the others played recorder tunes on our cabin verandah which proved very successful. An impromptu lunch following the session. That night we went back to the Cudegwa Hall and it was packed. A really good night. Jenny



Simpson again was MC with guests callers. This time the Monte Carlo was judged by 1 person from each corner rolling a spud towards a pumpkin, the furthest away corner being out. A lot of laughter as the spuds rolled whichever way. The band melting on the stage as so hot.

New Year's Eve and it was dry and sunny. Managed to get in a Happy Hour at Ray and Joan's caravan before heading out to the festival green for the dance. It was a great buzz for me to call to hundreds of people from the stage and another buzz to be down there amongst them dancing. I was part of a tag caller team with Maggie and Pete. Jenny Simpson was the MC. At midnight the bell was rung and we all went round hugging and kissing friends and strangers alike before Stephen and I left to put the mulled wine on back at the caravan park. We finished the year out by sharing mulled wine, good conversation and nibbles with friends.



New Year's Day and we joined in the champagne and chicken breakfast at the caravan park and listened to jokes some new and lots old but still funny ending with a set of the Lancers before going over to the festival green to listen to the New Year's Day concert. The weather was sunny and dry and after a few hours of listening to the many talented performers we left to get ready for the caravan park bush dance.



We had a young lad called Tom join the musicians this year and he sat next to Don Gingrich as he played guitar. He was thrilled to bits to be playing with real musicians and he is hoping to come back next year. The dance was a success as all the children with their parents came from all over the caravan park to have fun at the bush dance. A big Thank you to the musicians who gave their time and talents to make such a success of the evening, Joan and Ray Mundy, Graham and Catherine Higman, Katie and Bryce, Don G., Stephen Bullock, Stuart Sims and of course Tom our youngest musician. We have been asked to do another bush dance next year.

the Cudgewa dance:—————



Monday 2nd January and time for the last dance at the Cudegwa Hall. A little thin of company but plenty there to dance the night away. There was an item half way through on the piano, John played a tune and Judy went up to play the fun bits at his request. The Monte Carlo this time was done with playing cards. At the end of the dance it was time to pack away the sound system and sweep the floor one last time and to put away the cups and wipe the benches clean until next year.

Once again a very successful Nariel Folk Festival. A big Thank you to the organisers who put so much effort and time into making it the success that it is.

- report by Jane Bullock ; and thanks to various folkie photographers

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY, HARRY!

Long time member, life member and former President, Harry Gardner recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Such a momentous occasion couldn't be allowed to pass unnoticed by the club. So on the first session night back in the New Year approximately 28 club members made sure that the night was a special occasion for Harry.

Many thanks go to Robyn for organizing a delicious cake and to Maree for baking a special cake just for Harry. Thanks also go to those other club members who brought along extra supper to give the night a party atmosphere. See front cover photo of a very happy Harry.

- by Trevor Voake

RIISING COSTS FOR CONCERT NIGHT

Recently the VFMC Committee after some discussion reviewed the admission charges for entry to our concerts and have decided that from the February concert next year there will be a small increase in door prices.

This is in part due to a recent review of the steadily rising cost of overheads over the last couple of years, for as overheads go up we have less for our wonderful performers.

Prices will increase to \$14 for normal admission, \$12 for concession and seniors, and \$10 for members. Kids are still free of course. This still represents exceptionally good value for the standard of performers we consistently get here.

- by Don Fraser on behalf of the VFMC Committee

TUESDAY SESSIONS NEWS

You may know our Tuesday session nights are now planned and run by a sessions sub-committee, the SSC. With ever-increasing numbers and complex issues arising, this has become necessary.

To get the best out of the limited time available, the SSC has recommended trialling a re-arrangement of Tuesday nights to give some extra space for all-in instrumental playing and singing to take place.

There's a need among a good portion of the membership for this type of playing, to complement all the other things we do. We want to trial devoting the fourth Tuesday of the month just to all-in round robin playing and singing. The other weeks stay the same - tune playing, singing, recitation, soloing, Hot Spots (third week), tunes session from 6.30, Joy Durst singing session from 7.30, and so on. Just when you come along on the fourth week, have a few good tunes or songs in mind for everyone to join in with. And be prepared to pick up new material for your own repertoire – there are some tremendous resources available in our music books.

We want to give this re-arrangement a try-out for six months to see how it goes and have a major review around August. Of course we will monitor progress over the months and want your feedback and ideas. We think this plan will broaden the Club's appeal even further and go a long way to getting people familiar with all those great foot-tapping tunes hidden away in the music books.

If there's a fifth Tuesday in a month we may have something special planned - workshops, mentoring, theme or tryout night, party? Stay tuned.

Cheers— Don Fraser.

Billabong Band Concert Party Report, November 2016 (continued)

Recent Events:

On **Saturday 3rd December** the VFMC Billabong band entertained the East Ringwood Senior Citizens after their Christmas lunch. A good program of Christmas and folk songs sung by individuals and the Billabong band, with five demonstration dances from the Dance group led by Jane. We also did community dancing and community singing.

Thank you to all those who participated: Don Gingrich, Stan Ciuchak, Stan Alexander, Steve and Jane Bullock, Maree Buttler, Harry Gardner, Sofie Krop, Graeme and Cathryn, Frances Lester, Trevor and Margie, Tony O'Neil, Stewart Boundy, Rob Leereveld and the Colonial Dancers.

Saturday 3rd December: Ringwood Christmas Bush dance. A great night. Lots of musicians participating.

Wednesday 14th December: Carols at Eastland.

This year we applied to be one of the many groups to play Christmas carols at Eastland shopping centre. Following a couple of good practices at Harry's we put on a good hour performance outside the Target shop in Eastland. Singing was well led by Steve Bullock. The only accompaniment was a guitar, mandolin, accordion and fiddle. All the voices were great. We even sounded like a choir!

There were lots of people sitting around watching or joining in with the folk flavoured Christmas songs and carols. I think people were pleased to have a distraction from their Christmas shopping.

The participants were Steve and Jane, Trevor and Margie, Maree, Harry, Katy, Regina, Francesca, Sofie, Frances, Denis, Don, Stan C, Stewart, Rob, Tony and Ken.

Friday 16th December: Lions Brae Christmas concert. 2pm -3pm.

This was our 6th visit to Lionsbrae this year. It was lovely to celebrate Christmas with this enthusiastic audience that we are getting to know. We did an hour program of Traditional and Australian Christmas carols and songs. Great participation from the residents. Thank you to those who participated: Stan C, Don G, Tony, Frances, Denis, Sofie, Frances, Stewart, Rob, Trev, Margie, Maree and Harry.

FOLK MUSIC QUIZ

1) How many members are in the band 'The Pigram Brothers'? 2) What ethnic factor distinguishes this band? 3) What part of Australia are they from? 4) What acclaimed 2011 film did they perform the soundtrack for?

Answers to last quiz: 1) Redgum 2) 1990 3) Henry Lawson 4) John Shumann.

Billabong Band Concert Party Report – December 2016 (continued)

Monday 19th December: Carols at Eastland

A small Club group, Pleasant and Delightful (Don F, Robin, Ken and Kristin) performed an hour of Folk songs and Christmas carols outside Myers in Eastland a few days before Christmas. Well done guys.

Saturday 21st January: Wesley Home Concert

This was a "Harry & Barry" concert and was enthusiastically received. The theme was "Rock 'n Roll" and Billabong Band members altered their repertoire accordingly. Many of the audience got up & danced even though there was only limited space. When the band launched into "Sadie – The Cleaning Lady" the house manager grabbed a broom and started sweeping across in front of the band which all added to a fun afternoon.

Thanks to Rob, Frances, Stan C, Don G, Tony, Harry, Barry, Sophie, Stewart & Margie. (Report by Margie Voake)

Future Events:

Wednesday 25th January: Australia Day concert at Donwood Aged Care, 1.30 – 2.30.

Wednesday 27th January: Australia Day concert at Lionsbrae. 2pm -3pm.

Thursday 17th March: Donwood Aged Care Saint Patrick's Day concert. 1.30-2.30pm

Saturday 25th March: Cherry Tree Retirement Village Croydon. 2pm -3pm.

- by Maree Buttler (Concert Party Convenor)

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES**Bendigo Folk Club**

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzz@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

Ade Kelly (03)5241-3749,
 adenmyra@bigpond.com.au, Pete Fogarty (03)5339-7887. Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at Hotel Max, 2 Gheringhap St, Geelong. Open Mic. Performance events first Tuesday at Irish Murphy's, 30 Aberdeen St & 3rd Tuesdays at Hotel Max. Bookings: Paula Grembka 0401 671 1310.
<http://www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com/>

Comhaltas (Collingwood)

Joan and Ray Mundy run a session on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, starts 7.30pm. Supper. Maree: 9471-0690

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

Ballarat Folk and Acoustic Music Group

First Sunday Every Month from 2 pm,
 Venue: Carman Welsh Church Hall,
 261 Albert Street,
 Sebastopol.
 Enquiries: Arthur: 0438 323 923
 Graeme: 03 5334 5551

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 organizations

VFMC Postal Address

P.O. Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135

VFMC Website

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

CONTACTS

Secretary
 Robyn Hammond
 Telephone:
 Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club
 Don Fraser
 Telephone: 0407 737 202
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

Family Bush Dance
 Jane Bullock
 Telephone: 9762 1389
 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 with cheque to:

VFMC Secretary,
 P.O. Box 215,
 Ringwood East, Victoria 3135

Newsletter Delivery: (select <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) (both may be selected if desired) By Email <input type="checkbox"/> and / or By Post <input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERSHIP TYPE (select <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) 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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Name:

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Email: