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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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THE BILLABONG BAND

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL 2017



WELCOME DANCE

Photo by James Gardner

**IT IS GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO:
THE ANNUAL WOOLSHED BALL
SATURDAY 27TH MAY 2017 (see p.13)**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 19TH MAY 2017 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Every Tuesday except the 2nd (concert night), Ringwood East Community Hall, Knaith Rd Reserve. 6.30 Australian Folk Tunes playing; 7.30 Australian Folk Songs; 8.00-10.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. Supper. \$5 memb. \$6 non memb. Currently 4th Tues is for all-in round robin tunes, dance sets & group singing. All welcome. 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. \$14, \$12 conces and \$10 members, kids no charge. All welcome. 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
	1st May Fiddles	2nd Club Session	3rd	4th	5th	6th VFMC Dance Comhaltas
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 Club Session	31st	1st June	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc

RINGWOOD FOLK

presents AJ LEONARD and JENNY ROWLANDS



The little ukulele and the big full cello form a beautiful partnership when AJ Leonard and Jenny Rowlands apply their superb musicianship to these instruments.

TUESDAY 9th MAY

Open stage from 7:45pm

\$14; \$12 concession; \$10 members; kids no charge

Ringwood East Community Hall

Knaith Road Reserve

For info **0438.049.557** or www.vfmc.org.au

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

13th JUNE - The Pie Eaters, Alan Musgrove and Rob Stephens

Guest Artist Night, April 2017

Our MC for the evening was Maree Buttler.

Alan Wright presented the first spot act of the evening on the theme of old age. He sang a Seeger song/poem *Get up and Go* followed by another about Kelly's Bar.



The second spot act also featured a poem set to music. Dominic sang *The Shearer's Dream* by Henry Lawson and then the audience joined in as he sang *The Skye Boat Song*.

The Hebridian legend of the *Selkie Bride* was presented by Jim as narrator and Maggie singing a chorus with music which she had composed herself. This charming performance was well received by the audience.



Harry Gardner on fiddle accompanied by Dennis O'Leary on guitar, presented *MacPherson's Lament*. Then Harry stunned the crowd by smashing his fiddle at the end of the song. Dennis then sang unaccompanied *The Lag's Song* with people joining in the chorus of Jingle Jangle.

Jesse McCormack, a troubadour from Tasmania, was our **Support Act**. Jesse played the bouzouki and guitar, showcasing his versatility by performing a wide variety of musical styles. He has produced CDs of his work and is at present crowd funding his latest album. He sang one of his original songs *Bonny Actress* about meeting and travelling with a young woman who stole his heart. He followed this with his own interpretation of an April Levigne song, *Keep Holding On*. A visit to the past with a beautiful song, *She Moved Through the Fair*. Then a traditional seafaring song made famous by the English folk group Steeleye Span: a saucy nautical song about sailors who prefer South American ladies who are not like those Plymouth girls who'll steal and pawn your clothes!



For his final song Jesse demonstrated his beautiful voice as he sang without accompaniment an old Swedish Parting Hymn. He sang it in the native language telling us that the words said: Farewell friends, great and small. Jesse is a musician, singer and songwriter whose talents encompass many different styles. The club wishes him success and hopes to see him again in the future.

Guest Artist Night, April 2017

Main Act: **Men in Suits** - an à capella choir, has been surprising and enthralling their audiences for over ten years. This group of suavely suited gents loves to sing but do it in their own odd, quirky style. One moment seated sedately in the audience, as the MC introduced the group, they inelegantly began to elbow and shove their way past each other in order to take their places on the stage—all the time singing in



harmony *Let me through, let me through. Nobody knows how important I am.* The audience was still laughing when the men launched into the sorry tale of the man who woke up late for work, left his tie at home and was presented with the dreaded *Loaner Tie*. The next song was another pointed comment on the wearing of a Tie. Then the deadpan story continues with the suited man returning home for the evening meal. This song was entitled *Pass the Tongs*. Then a rousing encouragement to all men to go for the dreaded health check: *Be a Man*. Then a more sober lullaby sung in Georgian followed by a song in Spanish with one of the singers proudly holding a banner showing Che Guevara, wearing of course – A Tie! The suited man can be a romantic too as demonstrated by the hauntingly beautiful version of the Beatles song, *And I Love Her*. The vocal harmonies wove their magic again with Leonard Cohen's classic *Hallelujah*. The audience hummed quietly along and felt warm and fuzzy. But not for long. The suited singers delivered a deadpan version of Metro cancellation announcements all ending with an insincere apology: We're sorry about that. The train from Hurstbridge is running late – We're sorry about that too. Then what sounded like a native chant: Manni Wanna! Manni Wanna! Turned into a fractured version of Cindy Lauper's hit *Men Just Wanna Have Fun*. Suddenly the men are shuffling and moving around the stage and some pull their favourite furry friends from pockets and inform the audience that this is indeed a special day: *Today's the day the Teddy Bears have their Picnic*. The audience was invited to join with the melodic men in the final offering for the night, The Beach Boys hit, the *Sloop John B*. The polished performers accepted rousing applause from an appreciative crowd. Suddenly they began pushing each other, shoving and elbowing their way off stage, wending their way down the hall and out of the door all the while singing, *Let me through, let me through*. The stage stood stark and empty but the body of the hall echoed to the sound of laughter and sustained applause.

An entertaining and uplifting concert! Thank you to the volunteers at the door, in the kitchen and assisting in so many other ways to ensure that the night was a success.

Next month: A J Leonard & Jenny Rowlands.

- Report by Bette Martin ; Photographs by Trevor Voake & Louise Blake



The Dance Page

Diary dates for May:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1st May Scottish	2nd English	3rd Irish or Colonials	4th Colonial Beginners	5th	6th VFMC Dance Comhaltas
7th TSDAV Contra - Malvern	8th Scottish	9th English	10th Irish or Colonials	11th Scottish Colonial Beginners	12th	13th Scottish
14th Claddagh	15th Scottish	16th English	17th Irish or Colonials	18th Colonial Bush Dance	19th	20th Contra - Malvern
21st Welsh	22nd Scottish	23rd English	24th Irish or Colonials	25th Colonial Beginners	26th	27th VFMC WOOLSHED BALL
28th Claddagh	29th Scottish	30th English	31st Irish or Colonials			
				1st June Colonial Beginners	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
4th TSDAV Contra - Malvern	12th Scottish	13th English	14th Irish or Colonials	15th Scottish	9th Portarling- ton Celtic weekend or Bundanoon	10th Scottish

V.F.M.C. WOOLSHED BALL - Saturday 27th May 2017

Kilsyth Hall, Mount Dandenong Road, Kilsyth

Contact: Jane 9762-1389

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 Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall. Eddy Court, Abbotsford. 8-10 pm. Contact Coral: 9885 6109
Colonial Thursday	Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Contact: Coral 9885-6109
Colonial Beginners	Australian Colonial: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, 7.30-10 pm. 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 Sun. & Sat.	Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke R, Malvern East, 7.45-10.15 pm. Info: 0422932532
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

V.F.M.C. SHIRTS

Brand new club shirts are now available in both polo or T styles for a very reasonable price. Any members interested in purchasing a club shirt may do so either by seeing Trevor Voake personally on a club night or else via the following:- enquiries@vfmc.org.au using the subject heading "VFMC SHIRTS".

Australian 51st National Folk Festival in Canberra at Easter (2017)

This year we went to the folk festival with my Maypole and Margaret Monkhouse's to run a Maypole Workshop. We were a trifle squashed in the car as the Maypoles took up a bit of room, however we got Harry, ourselves, luggage, musical instruments and 2 Maypoles into the car and off we went. We chose to go up on the Wednesday before Easter so as to attend the Folklore conference at the National Library and to get settled before our first workshop.

We (Margaret and I) hadn't actually run a workshop before so I certainly was a mite nervous as to how it would all go. Thoughts of - would anybody come? would they like it and was the music I chose alright? - were running round my head. We were very lucky with the weather as it was beautiful; each day the sun shone and although there was some wind, it was not too much. Our Maypole workshop was in the 'Fringe World' on the 'Village Green' – most appropriate. Our musicians were Ray and Joan Mundy, Stephen (hubby), Harry Gardner, Katy Cotrill and Bryce. Catherine Speck also helped out a couple of times. A big thank you to you all for playing so well despite the sun, wind and other distractions.

Each day dancers turned up to have a go and lots of fun ensued. Margaret and I took it in turns to teach a plait either 'open' or 'closed' and the joy we all got when the plait unwound successfully was visible in everyone's face.



(photos by Steve Bullock)

The guys manning the instrument lock up got to know when we were coming to collect our Maypoles, ribbons and stands and would have at first a trolley but later a buggy to take it all down to the Village Green and again to collect it all afterwards. A great service for which we were very grateful. Thank you.

Running a workshop was certainly an eye opener and my hat goes off to all workshop leaders for their commitment, for without these people a festival is not nearly as interesting or as exciting.

Besides the Maypole workshops, Stephen and I joined the Bush Orchestra and got to play some really lovely tunes one of which was 'For the Love of Lori' composed by Harry Gardner for his late wife. I played my bass recorder and we 3 bass players (Bassoon, Cello and Recorder) had a solo of 3 notes at the end of the last tune, we felt very proud of these 3 notes!

I managed to do a fair bit of dancing but missed out on the Swing workshop as I got there too late to find space on the dance floor – next time. Stephen got to some of the concerts.

The food and drink at the National is always good and this year was no exception. One day, we were lucky enough to get a roast lamb and veg. from the Stockman's Camp, cooked over the fire – amazingly tasty.



Greg dancing?!!!



Terry Goonan on banjo



Various VFMC members having fun up at the National Folk Festival



- Report by Jane Bullock

(photos by Trevor Voake)

Master of Ceremonies at a Ball:

Until he passed away about a year ago, the late Garry Clarke was always happy to be the MC for the Melbourne Colonial Balls. Looking back, that also made it easier to find an MC for the two VFMC Woolshed Balls each year.

After being the MC for two of the last three Woolshed Balls as well as the last Colonial Ball, the author of this document exclaimed that “we have an MC shortage”.

Garry realised that being the MC could be both rewarding and enjoyable. This document lists the jobs that are done by the MC. You will notice that while there are quite a few of these jobs, none of them take very long, and it is still possible to join in and enjoy the dancing as well.

You can also be the MC without needing to call a single dance. A free ticket is always provided to the MC, and sometimes the partner of the MC gets a free ticket too.

Planning beforehand:

The person that compiles the program would need to estimate the starting times for each dance. It would be helpful to provide these estimated times to a new MC. These times would not have to appear on the flyers.

On the way to the ball:

Have the mobile phone number of at least one of the organisers. An accident on a freeway, or any other mishap, could hold you up for at least half an hour. An arrangement could be made to “get the show on the road” until you arrive.

Bring a pen!



Before the ball begins:

Arrive at least 20 minutes before starting time.

Check that all callers have arrived and are ready to call.

See that the band will be ready to start on time.

Find out if any lucky spot type prizes are to be distributed, and during which dance.

Are there any special announcements that the committee/ organisers want to have made, or make themselves? Do they also want to issue the welcome early in the evening and the thanks at the end of it? Work out who does the announcing, and find out the names of those who are doing the jobs listed at the end of this document so that they can be thanked later.

Look to see if any cards with the dance names on them are going to be used, or if programs listing the dances are just left around the hall.



During the ball:

One of the committee might intend to welcome those who are there at the start of the Ball as well as introducing the MC. Keep your eye on the time and keep the program up with the scheduled time. If a dance needs to be dropped then the callers, and the band, need to know. If it is possible, it is also preferable that a dance be shortened rather than dropped as people do book up dances.

If cards are being used, then keep them up to date. Distribute any prizes that may be provided for a particular dance, when it is held.

If there is a Grand March, arrange for someone to lead it.

The name of each dance needs to be announced just before the band starts playing the music for it. If it is a set dance that someone else is going to call, then the more recent custom is for the MC to leave it to the caller. Unless there is a guest caller that is not known to a lot of the dancers, there is usually no need for an introduction. If there is a bracket of two dances (such as the Swing Waltz and the Maxina) then announce that there will be one round of each. Announce the second dance (Maxina) just before it begins. This is helpful not only for the dancers but also for the band, as it eliminates any confusion as to what stage the program is at.

When supper-time is approaching, check that it will be ready on time before announcing it.



ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE! You could do this MC job over decades, as the author has done, without ever coming across an unpleasant encounter. The closest that you might come to is where safety is an issue, but this is usually set right before you even have a chance to mention it.

The MC is in charge and is entitled to stop the show if (in the most unlikely event) it is needed.

At the end of the evening:

Arrange for a special thank-you for:-

The band members;

Each of the callers;

People who have prepared supper or cleaned up afterwards;

People who have prepared the hall and thank them in anticipation of cleaning up afterwards. Any special requirement such as the time that we have to be out by.

Those who have sat on the door collecting the revenue.

Anyone who has operated the sound equipment.

Anyone else who has obviously put in a large amount of work prior to the ball.

- report by Michael Treacy ; photos by Trevor Voake





Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)

Woolshed Ball

Saturday 27th May 2017

7:30pm - Midnight

Music by

Billabong Band

**Kilsyth Hall,
Mount Dandenong Road,
Kilsyth
(Melways P51 F5)**

Cost: \$20 - Prepaid Members, \$25 - Non members or \$30 - At the door

**BYO mug and plate of supper to share
Tea & Coffee provided**

Enquiries:

**Phone: Jane 9762 1389
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au
VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au**

FOLK INSTRUMENT - QUIZ

1) How many strings can a banjo have? 2) Besides folk, what music genres is a banjo used in? 3) What country is it mostly associated with? 4) What famous deceased singer used it constantly? 5) What relative of our VFMC editor is a top banjo player in Australia?

Answers to last quiz: 1) Iain Campbell Smith 2) Melanesian pidgin 3) Diplomat 4) Soapbox 5) Spooky Men's Chorale

Concert Party Report— March/April 2017

Recent Events: We are having a very busy year for the Billabong Band!

On Friday 24th March at 11 am the Billabong band presented a mostly Irish Flavored concert (Saint Patrick's month) at Mooroolbark Residential Care. This was our first concert at this facility that caters for Mental Health patients. It was very well received by Staff and Residents. Good participation from all. Thanks to all who played and sang: Trev, Margie, Maree, Harry, Frances, Sofie, Carol, Stan, Don Gingrich, Tony and Stewart .

On Saturday 25th March the Billabong Band entertained the Cherry Tree Retirement Village residents with lots of songs, tunes and participation dances. It was a happy and vibrant afternoon. Following the concert we had afternoon tea with some of the residents. Thanks to all who came: Trev (called a dance too), Margie, Maree, Don G, Stan, Stewart, Tony, Sofie, Frances and Harry.

On Thursday 13th April the Billabong Band played for the Welcome dance at the National Folk festival, Canberra. I was surprised to see so many people at the festival on the first night—an amazing site from the stage to see the large Coorong hall filled with dancers having a great time! Thanks Jane for organizing such an interesting program. Thanks to the members of the Billabong Band who put in so many weeks of work to master the music. They were: Steve, Trevor, Harry, Bill, Maree, Katy, Bryce, Stan C, Don G and Maggie. See cover photo.

Future Events:

Sunday 7th May, 2.30 pm	Wild Colonial Boy exhibition
Friday 12th May, 2 pm	Lionsbrae concert
Friday 12th May, 4 pm	Ringwood Station Program gig
Monday 22nd May, 2 pm	Willowbrae (Bert Gibson's residence)
Saturday 27th May, 7.30 pm	Woolshed Ball
Monday 26th June, 1.30 pm	Donwood concert
Wednesday 28th June, 11 am	Mooroolbark Residential

- Maree Buttler (Concert Party Convenor)

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

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/

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.rangesburrinjiafolk.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

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

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)
 (both may be selected if desired)
 By Email
 and / or
 By Post

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"/>

Name:

Address: