

March 2018



Established 1959

Australian

TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

Reg No A2511Y

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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VALE: HARRY GARDNER



Photo by Trevor Voake

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of one of our longstanding life members, Harry Gardner, on Sunday 18th February 2018. A full report on Harry's life and enormous contribution to Australian folk music will follow next issue after his funeral and wake on 24/02/2018.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 23RD MARCH 2018 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

- First Thursday, 8.00 pm (venue TBC)
- Second Tuesday, 10:15 pm (after the Ringwood Folk Guest Night)
- Every Monday, 8:00 pm, (fiddles and mandolins—venue TBC)
- Most Saturdays, 11:00am, all instruments and singing, busking opposite the railway station in Ringwood East

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

Contact: 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

By-Ear Sessions

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1st March	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Delia's Friends
4th	5th Fiddles?	6th Club Session	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th Fiddles?	13th Guest Night	14th	15th	16th	17th
18th	19th Fiddles?	20th Club Session	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
25th	26th /Fiddles?	27th Club Session - all in	28th	29th	30th	31st



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

presents

MAGGIE SOMERVILLE

Maggie Somerville's original songs and tunes range from deeply moving to ridiculous, with themes rocketing from dogs to war, from breastfeeding to death. Engaging and at times involving the audience, her songs can bring laughter or tears.

Maggie will be launching her new CD 'Baloney' and will be joined on stage by top performers - Sam Lemann, James Clark, Ray Simpson, Maree Buttler, Michael Parker, and more...

TUESDAY 13th MARCH 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

10th April - from Canada the fabulous Good Lovelies

Guest Artist Night, February 2018

Tonight our MC and host for the evening was Don Fraser.....



Our first spot act was performed by Steve Bullock who sang unaccompanied a song about a street sellers call, *The Turkey Rhubarb Man*. Then the tale of *Poll the Grog Seller* and Steve finished with a song of the Eureka rebellion, *White Stars of the Cross of the South*.



Wal Tiedemann was up next with a beautiful Irish song- *Long Before Your Time*. The grandfather of Wal's wife Julie, Jack Nadenbousch, was a veteran of the Boer War. Julie still has letters written by Jack at the time, which Wal had passed to Mick Kearon, a VFMC club member. Mick used the material in these to compose a wonderful poignant poem which Wal recited to the appreciative audience.



Maree and Katie, on concertina and harp, performed *Amazing Grace* as a tribute to our esteemed Past President and Life Member, Harry Gardner, who was in poor health at the time.

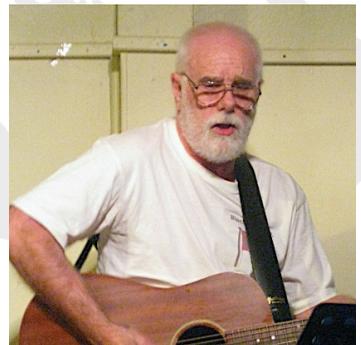
Well-known poet Stephen Whiteside had recently camped out as he attended the recent Newstead Folk Festival. The inclement weather inspired him to compose a humorous poem entitled *Your Trusty Old Tent* (see pages 10-11).



The three D's, Don, Dieter and Dom accompanied themselves on concertina, harmonica and guitar and sang in harmony the American ballad, *Shenandoah*. An instrumental followed: *The Belgarth Waltz*. Then they invited the audience to join them in the old favourite: *Wild Mountain Thyme*.

Our Support Act for February was well-respected club member Mick Kearon.

Mick is a prize-winning songwriter, poet and highly regarded singer of his own and traditional folk songs. His first song was about long-forgotten stories from the sea. Then he sang his favourite song written by a close friend, *It's Cold in the Doorway Tonight*. His third offering, *The Old Girl*, was one he had written about an old Bass Strait schooner. The next song, another of his own, was about a man who returned home from the First World War a completely different man from when he had left. The RSL had asked Mick to perform at their Anzac day memorial and this was his choice. *He Did the Best He Could*. Then on a brighter note, the next song was written by Canadian singer-songwriter Stan Rogers: *North West Passage*. Mick's final song was about a well-known character named Davey from his home town of Liverpool: *Whiskey on a Sunday*. The audience joined in and showed their appreciation of Mick's performance with generous applause.



Guest Artist Night, February 2018

Our Main Act was well known traditional performers Jeanette Gillespie and Duncan Brown. Jeanette is a renowned Australian singer/guitarist who has performed over the years at Ringwood, Selby, Port Fairy, Newstead, the Nationals and countless other folk clubs and festivals throughout Australia. Duncan Brown hails from the Isle of Bute (off Scotland's west coast), arriving in Melbourne in the early 1960's at the time of the folk revival. It wasn't long before he found his way to Traynor's and was soon adding his rich voice to the mix and teaming up for the first time with the iconic Danny Spooner. The two men became life-long friends and fellow performers. Duncan has been involved in the organisation of numerous folk clubs and singing groups over the ensuing years. The two sing individually and at times blend in smooth harmony to sing songs reflecting life on the land - farmers and workers toiling the land and bringing in the harvest. The first rousing song was about *Raising the Rafters*. Then the audience joined in the chorus of the next song with many fa, la, la, la's—not all in the correct order but with great enthusiasm. Songs about the different tasks performed at various times of the year on the land followed: *Seasons of the Year* and *Bringing in the Harvest*. *The Ox Plough* sings the praises of the little ploughboy and his six oxen: Spark, Beauty, Berry, Goodluck, Speedwell and Cherry. A move away from farming to a song by Rowland Harrison, *Geordy Black*, an old miner reminiscing about his experiences. Then *A Man of the Earth*, a man of the soil who in his lonely allotment labours and toils. Jeanette has had a garden since she moved to central Victoria so sang the humorous *Garden Song* by David Mallett. "Inch by inch and row by row, gonna make this garden grow". Then a moving song by Matt Armor *Generations of Change* about how family professions and life styles change throughout the years. Each man has his own way, from farmer, to fisherman, to oil rig worker. Another sea song along the same theme of men now fishing for oil instead of fish: *The Silver Diamond*. Jeanette sang a favourite of hers by Irish/Australian Enda Kenny, *The Long Mile Road*. Then Duncan joined her in *Won't you roll me in your arms*. At the request of our resident Scot, Colin McLaren, Duncan then entertained us with a song of Rossie Bay. A Bonnie Bay, we're told. Then to wind up a wonderful evening of harmony and music, our performers invited the audience to join in one final time with a rousing rendition of a Gospel Song, *When I Die, I'll Live Again*. Jeanette and Duncan host the Guildford Folk Club which meets every 3rd Wednesday evening at the historic Guildford Pub.



Thanks to our support artist Mick Kearon and to all spot act performers, as well as the many volunteers who work quietly behind the scenes to help the concert run on smooth wheels. Next Month: Maggie Somerville - Singer/Songwriter

- Report: Bette Martin Photographs: Wal Tiedeman & Michael Hassett



The Dance Page

Diary dates for March:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1st Colonial beginners	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Delia's Friends
4th TSDAV Dance Workshop?? Contra	5th Scottish	6th English	7th Irish or Colonials	8th Colonial Beginners Scottish	9th	10th Scottish
11th Claddagh	12th Scottish	13th English	14th Irish or Colonials	15th Colonial Bush Dance	16th	17th Bendigo East Bush Dance
18th Welsh	19th Scottish	20th English	21st Irish or Colonials	22nd Colonial beginners	23rd	24th Sadie Hawkins Day Hoedown
25th Claddagh	26th Scottish	27th English	28th Irish or Colonials	29th EASTER	30th NATIONAL	31st FOLK FESTIVAL
1st April Canberra	2nd Victoria & Tasmania year	3rd English??	4th Irish or Colonials	5th Colonial beginners	6th	7th VFMC Dance Brumbies Bush Band
8th TSDAV Dance Workshop??	9th Scottish	10th English	11th Irish or Colonials	12th Scottish	13th	14th Scottish

The Dance Page


Claddagh	Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. Sunday 2-5 pm. Contact: Rod: 9497-1793
VFMC Colonial Dance	Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, Sat. 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	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, 8-10 pm. Contact Coral: 9885-6109
Colonial All Thursdays	Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton. 7.30-10pm. Contact Coral: 9885 6109
Contra Sunday	Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke Rd, Malvern East. Info: 0422 932 532
Bendigo East	Bendigo East Progress Hall Lansell. Contact Dianne Pearse: 5442-1715
Welsh Dancing	Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30 pm. Contact Ian: 9878-2414
TSDAV	Sunday venue to be announced. Contact Norm Ellis: 9888-5332
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

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

Results of the Session Survey held over August/September are now available on our website. Hard copies are available upon request.

Guidelines for the awarding of a Life Membership of the VFMC are now also available on our website. Hard copies are available upon request.

Our website:- www.vfmc.org.au/ or simply: vfmc.org.au

- Trevor Voake

NEWSTEAD FOLK FESTIVAL 2018

This year the annual festival included a difference – the Wild Weather factor. For not only were we all subjected to incredible heat most of the time (thank God for the wonderful local pool) but also to some amazing free light shows and storms! On our way up in the car we practically had to pull over when the sky flashed all around and an unbelievable deluge of rain assaulted us for half an hour or so. Then on the second afternoon we marvelled, in the safety of the Anglican Church during the Grumpy Old Poets session, at another amazing storm outside which was so loud that grumpiness even became hard to sustain. However, this passed and we survived to wander off to other great venues and performances before returning at about 11 pm to our trusty old tent—to find it now almost totally unrecognisable! It had turned into a twisted and mangled mess, with most of our bedding and sleeping bags and even the contents of our esky utterly soaked. After trying to call various motels etc in Castlemaine unsuccessfully as it's all online bookings and no phone numbers, we eventually patched together (with sticky tape) enough tent to crawl in and out of like slugs and get through a very soggy night on almost bare ground. Fortunately, the next day was so hot that all our wet gear dried out and we decided not to go home a day early but to stay till Sunday, managing better in our disabled tent now that its contents were no longer so wet.



continued over

NEWSTEAD FOLK FESTIVAL (continued)

Aside from the Wild Weather factor, we saw and participated in some fun events—the spoken word as well as musical. Stephen and I gave two children’s shows, which seemed to go down well, with kids swinging the billy with gusto and waving fake dinosaurs around. The two Poets’ Breakfasts were both well attended and The Grumpy Old Poets session had better gender representation than previously, which was pleasing. Geoffrey Graham’s poetry & music performance was as unique as ever and involving various audience members when least expected. Carol Reffold gave a moving show about her poetic journey, assisted by Christine Middleton on harp.



Keith McHenry’s show: ‘The Lies that Made Australia’ was quirky and informative, and ex Bushwacker Jan Wositzky’s performance was truly brilliant, with a terrific mix of banjo, song and spoken word. The roving pan flute group Zamponista gave a rousing performance in the Uniting Church, and a surprise



performance on Sunday was a superb Celtic music group with a difference, every member of the band being Asian. The tiny female violinist was out of this world! Once again, a festival not to be missed!



- *report by Maggie Somerville*

- *photos by Stephen Whiteside and Maggie Somerville*

A poem from one of our members:-

Your Trusty Old Tent

*When your mind is a mess and your back, it is bent,
And your heart's full of hurt, and your spirit is spent,
And you can't work out where all your energy went,
It is time to head bush with your trusty old tent!*

For the sounds of the forest will quickly revive
Your sorry sad soul. You will feel so alive
When the chirpings and rustles and cries reach your ear.
They will heal your hurt heart, they will banish your fear.

You will sleep with the sunset and rise with the dawn,
Just as Man did when Mankind was first born,
Or perhaps as you finish your evening meal,
An hour of the dark with a lantern you'll steal.

You will gaze at the stars while you're hid from the sun.
You will drift through its void till you sense you are one
With the great mighty cosmos that sprawls all around.
Where once you felt lost, you will feel you are found.

Then, when you awake, all the Earth will feel new,
Under its layer of fresh morning dew.

You'll fill up your billy and bring it to boil,
At one with the clouds and the trees and the soil,
At one with the wombats and lizards and 'roos...
With your trusty old tent, there's no way you can lose.

Now, there always are cynics, who stoutly maintain
That your trusty old tent, in the wind and the rain,
Becomes much less trusty, and might let you down,
And lead you to shiver, and even to drown.

(continued over.....)

They argue four walls and a stoutly set roof
Are always the best, and they offer as proof
Occasional storms, when your tent poles are bent
And they poke through the roof of your trusty old tent.

Well, it can't be denied that there are sometimes times
When your trusty old tent commits horrible crimes;
When your trusty old tent doesn't do what you need
It to do, and doubt comes with its tough little seed.

But let me remind you that four solid walls
Won't fit in your backpack when yonder ridge calls;
With their likely provision of power and light,
Won't lead you to gaze at the stars in the night;

That four solid walls lead to staying up late,
And sleeping late, too, so you won't keep your date
With the birds as they sing in the hour before dawn,
And will mould you in time as technology's pawn.

So, in spite of those times (and, in truth, they are few)
When your tent leaves you stuck in a fairly firm stew,
I would say it quite clearly, and make it quite plain
By repeating my formerly quoted refrain:

*When your mind is a mess and your back, it is bent,
And your heart's full of hurt, and your spirit is spent,
And you can't work out where all your energy went,
It is time to head bush with your trusty old tent!*

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)



Family Bush Dance

Saturday 3rd March

All dances are called and everyone is welcome

8:00pm - 11:00pm

Music by **Delia's Friends**



**Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East
(Melways P50 B8)**

Cost: \$12 - Kids free with adult, \$10 - VFMC members door

Tea & Coffee provided

Enquiries:

Phone:

Jane 9762 1389

Email:

dance@vfmc.org.au

VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au

FOLK MUSIC IS ONE LONG JOURNEY!

And attending folk festivals is more than just the music and poetry. It's the trip there and back too, plus the unexpected. It's the whole adventure!

So Newstead Folk Festival this year was no exception! Gaggles of geese and rippling streams on our way home, and please look very closely at the bottom right photo to see what we found as we folded up our (wrecked) tent to head home.....



STILL NEEDED: YOUNGER MEMBERS' CO-ORDINATOR

We are still seeking expressions of interest for this position as we would like to encourage more children, adolescents and young adults to become involved in the folk scene so that it continues to be an ever-evolving tradition.

OUR FOLK CLUB - QUIZ

1) What year was the VFMC founded? 2) What does VFMC stand for? 3) What is our club also often called? 4) Name two well-known life members. 5) List some ways our club differs from other folk clubs.

Answers to last quiz: 1) Head, neck, body, fretboard/fingerboard 2) 4,000 years 3) Lute and oud 4) 1930s 5) Andre Segovia; Bob Dylan, Richard Thompson.

CONCERT PARTY REPORT: JAN—FEB 2018

Recent Events:

Jan 25th 2018 – Donwood Aged Care (Australia Day theme)

This concert will always remain in our memories as it was Harry Gardner's last performance with the Billabong Band. We had a great Australian program that was very well received. Lots of participation from the residents with singing and actions (Hokey Pokey and Birdy Dance, and Home Among the Gum Trees). Harry performed his Waltzing Matilda puppet show (with a little help with the puppets from Stewart and myself) to great applause. Harry was in really good form that day. A great Australia Day celebration for all!

Friday Feb 16th – Bonnie Doon Festival (opening family dance).

This is our fourth invitation to play at the Bush Dance at the Bonnie Doon Music Festival. Ten musicians and partners ventured again to this beautiful place on Lake Eildon. A very successful dance with about 50 dancers dancing to Jane's entertaining calling. The dance was preceded by dinner and entertaining singers. Thank you to all who participated - Jane, Steve, Katy, Bryce, Trevor, Stan, Stewart, Sofie, Maggie and Frances. The festival was on a smaller scale this year but was very successful. Our own club members (Bill, Maree, Maggie, Katy and Bryce) had a performer's spot next day as "The Other Band" and succeeded in getting some of the campers out of their beds (10am time slot).



(photos by Bill Buttler)



(photo from Bryce Russell)

Upcoming gigs:

March 15th - Thursday at 1.30pm at Donwood aged care

March 25th – Ringwood Highland Games performance at 11am in the folk tent

March 30th - NFF Colonial dance

March 30th - NNF Goldfields in Victoria concert (NFF, Canberra)

- Concert Party co-ordinators: Trevor Voake & Maree Buttler

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

Creswick Folk Club

Second Friday, from 7.30 pm at the American Hotel in Creswick; and Fourth Friday, from 7.30 pm at the Old Station in Creswick.
 Enquiries: Graeme: 03 5334 5551
www.facebook.com/creswickfolkclub/

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: sessions@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:
billabongband@vfmc.org.au

Iwish to become a member of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. and will

- (a) Support the aims of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc and
 - (b) Abide by the rules of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
- (For details see: - <http://www.vfmc.org.au/Constitution.pdf>)

Signed

I wish to receive my Newsletter by:

- (a) Email or/and
 - (b) Post
- (Cross out whichever is not applicable)

Membership Type (please circle)

<u>Metro</u> Single	\$25
Family*	\$30
Junior (u 18)	\$15
Student (full time)	\$20
Single Concession	\$20
Family Concession*	\$25
<u>Country</u> Single	\$20
Family*	\$25

Please post completed form to:

The Secretary
 VFMC
 PO Box 215
 Ringwood East 3135 Victoria

*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18

Name:

Address:

Email

Phone/s: