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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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ONE OF THE MANY BANDS THAT OUR MEMBERS ARE IN—DELIA’S FRIENDS



Photo by Trevor Voake

VFMC MEMBERS—PLEASE NOTE: Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, all our normal upcoming musical and dance events have been cancelled until further notice. Items for the newsletter are most welcome!

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAY NEWSLETTER

BY: FRIDAY 17TH APRIL TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Every Tuesday except the 2nd (concert night), Ringwood East Community Hall, Knaith Rd Reserve. 7.30 Australian Folk Songs; 8.00-10.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. Supper. \$5 members, \$6 non members. 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, 8.00 pm (venue TBA)

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 each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids free. No charge. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Children's Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January. 2-3.30pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. Live band each month. All school age children welcome. \$5 a child, \$10 a family. Adults free.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1st April	2nd	3rd	4th VFMC Dance cancelled
5th	6th	7th Club Session cancelled	8th	9th	10th	11th
12th	13th	14th Concert Night cancelled	15th	16th	17th	18th
19th	20th	21st Club Session cancelled	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
26th	27th	28th Club Session cancelled	29th	30th		



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

presents

Khristian Mizzi

**Due to the Corona Virus issue
regrettably live Concerts will be
suspended until further notice.
Check the website for the latest info.**

Folky lyrics, meandering melodies, a voice like a big warm hug, Khristian Mizzi is renowned for his intimate performances and thoughtful songs. With Support act Rudy van den Bovencamp.

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

\$14, \$12 concession, \$10 members, children no charge
Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve

For info call 0427.784.296 or www.vfmc.org.au
Find us on Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club

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

Next concert 12th May - AJ Leonard, with Support act The Men

Concert Night, March 2020

Bill Buttler was our humorous MC for the evening

Club favourite Mick Kearon began the night with a bracket of three wistful songs. First a song of regret—*Northwest Passage* by Canadian Stan Rogers about a man who left a settled life and wandered like olden day explorers. Then *Dreaming my Dreams with You* written by Allan Reynolds and made popular in Australia in the mid-seventies by Colleen Hewitt. He finished with *I Remember You Singing this Song* written by Finbar Furey.



Pete, a singer/songwriter, was next on stage with two of his own creations. He played guitar and harmonica as he sang a song about change with Nariel Creek in mind. Some of the lyrics—You cannot step twice into the same waters—reflective of a quote from ancient Greek Heraclitus to remind us that life is always about change. Then a very poignant song inspired by the words of a friend who had lost her home in the Cobargo fires: *Hold me in your arms don't ask me to explain.*

Janet and Frank entertained the audience with the very popular Tom Paxton song—*The Last Thing on My Mind*. The beautiful harmonies of their two voices and Frank's guitar playing added an extra touch to the next well-known modern song – *Fields of Gold* written by Sting.



Peter, a singer/songwriter, also played guitar and harmonica as he sang of his ancestors. The first was about a chap who travelled about for work doing different jobs but not doing well at any of them. Then, to the tune of Lachlan Tigers, he regaled us with the story of the old bullock drays and a handsome chap in red shirt, moleskin trousers and hat who drove *The Great Northern Line.*

(continued over...)

Concert Night, March 2020



Wal sang *Four Green Fields*, written by Tommy Makem in 1967. The words of the old woman in the song are direct quotes from a W B Yeats play and the woman represents Mother Ireland mourning the turmoil and loss of identity suffered by her people. Then he performed the sentimental love ballad *I'll Give You a Daisy a Day*. This wonderful song of lifelong devotion was written in 1972 by Jud Strunk and the Mike Curb Congregation. As popular as ever today.

Our own Maggie came on stage to recite her own poem entitled *A Deadly Weapon* about the dangers of attempting to pass through security metal detectors whilst carrying deadly weapons such as an Irish penny whistle and a kazoo. Imagine the damage she could have done! Then carrying on the theme, she sang from her latest CD a Mary Gilmore poem set to music about *The Whistling Man*. The audience happily joined in all the whistling sections of the song—especially the women.



The final spot act for the night was guitarist and folk singer Dominic Martin. He sang a modern folk song written by English folksinger/songwriter Stan Graham. It tells of the ambitions of a young sailor navigator, James Cook, who learned his trade in the place where his famous ship *The Endeavour* was constructed—*Old Whitby Harbour*.

It was a night of strings and songs as all spot acts were performed by guitarists and vocalists and presented a perfect prelude to the eagerly awaited main act.

(continued on page 7...)

The Dance Pages



Diary dates for April:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ALL	EVENTS	CANCELLED	AT	PRESENT	DUE TO	THE GLOBAL
PANDEMIC	CRISIS					



		<i>Photo by</i>	<i>Trevor</i>	<i>Voake</i>		
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MAIN ACT: Barbara Jeffrey and Jose Garcia are multi-talented individuals who perform together as **Tidal Moon**. The unique pairing of their musical and vocal skills results in a genre defying performance of mystical proportions.

Without hesitation they moved straight into their own arrangement of a traditional ballad—*The Water is Wide*. Barbara's pure high soprano voice combined with Jose's rich baritone vocals as the harp and guitar blended together to fill the hall with magical music. They quickly followed with a song written by Barbara about those who had gone before who had left their footprints in the sand. Many of Barbara's songs have a water/ocean theme and she shared the fact that she lives on Coochiemudlo Island, which is in Moreton Bay near Brisbane.

Then the pair performed the very first duet that she wrote for Tidal Moon: *If I were a Creature of the Sea*. - a fantasy song about running away to a phantom world beneath the sea, riding seahorses through seaweed. The harp and guitar are a great pairing and add to the ethereal atmosphere of imaginary world. A sad song with a slight Spanish feel to it was set in a big city. It tells of loss—there are no stars in the sky tonight since you went away.

Then a move to the past with an old American Civil War song revived by Peter, Paul and Mary called *The Cruel War*—another song of lost love. Then as a demonstration of the versatility of this very talented duo, Barbara and Jose presented a very modern song. *Anak* (child) is an internationally renowned song by Phillipino Freddy Aguila which he wrote as a song of remorse and apology to his parents for his youthful waywardness. Jose sang verses in the original Tagalog (one of the main languages in the Philippines) and Barbara sang in English. Barbara and Jose have a deeply individual style containing an eclectic mix of folksongs, traditional, old and new as well as an amazing offering of beautifully written songs of their own.

Their concert contained songs from varied genres presented in a seamless flow of entertainment which was refreshing and highly appealing to the music lovers who make up the club's loyal audiences.

Thanks to the volunteers at the door, in the kitchen and everyone else who assisted on the night.

PLEASE NOTE:-

Due to the Coronavirus crisis, the Tuesday evening monthly concerts have now been suspended until further notice.

Report by Bette Martin ; Photos by Trevor Voake





It is scary...

It is scary hearing all the news of deaths around the world,
Not knowing how it will unfold down here.
The numbers rise and rise
Right before our very eyes,
And it saps us of all merriment and cheer,

But a gentle breeze still rustles all the leaves upon the trees,
And nature flows around us with its customary ease.

It's depressing as the restaurants and cafes all shut down,
And the AFL is crowdless, then postponed.
Social isolation
Is the cry across the nation
As our soulless cyber skills are sharply honed,

But the lorikeets keep racing in great flocks across the skies,
Reminding us that all around us utmost beauty lies.

It's disturbing having not a clue how long it all will last.
It might be just two months, or two full years.
All we love is stopping.
Only supermarket shopping
Can continue, and our minds are filled with fears,

But the cycle of the sunrise and the sunset keeps on going,
And the cloud puffs keep on moving and the breezes keep on
blowing
And the stars still shine at night-time and the tide moves in and out
And the possums and the foxes and the bats still move about,

And the world is full of wonder, and I lie in bed at night
With a sense that, somehow, things are still all right.

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511V)



Family Bush Dance

Saturday 4th April

All dances are called and everyone is welcome

\$12, kids free, 8:00pm - 11:00pm

members \$10
Light supper

Music by **Delia's Friends**



Due to the Corona Virus issue
regrettably Dances will be
suspended until further notice.
Check the website for the latest info.

Music by **Brumbies Bush Band**

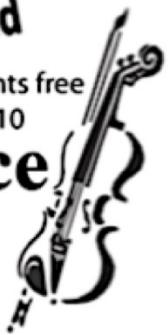
\$5 Kids, parents free
Family \$10

Children's Bush Dance

Saturday 18th April

All dances are taught, parents are welcome

2.00pm - 3.30pm



Bushfire Benefit Concert

A Concert Of Australian Folk Songs

The Victorian Folk Music Club inc presents a concert of Australian Folk Songs, featuring **The Billabong Band** supported by spot acts. Proceeds from this concert to be donated to bushfire relief in the Corryong / Nariel Valley area of NE Victoria.

See <http://www.vfmc.org.au/BushfireConcert.htm>

*Due to the Corona Virus issue
regrettably live Concerts will be
suspended until further notice.
Check the website for the latest info.*



The Billabong Band

TUESDAY 31st March 7:45pm - 10:15pm

\$14, \$12 concession, \$10 members, children no charge

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve

For info call 0427.784.296 or www.vfmc.org.au
Find us on Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club

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

The following is an extract from an early edition of 'Tradition':

The Club suffered a very great loss in April, 1964, with the sudden and unexpected death of Joy Durst who had acted since 1961 as our Musical Director. Merle Lamb, a leading member of the newly formed Bush Band, took over as Musical Director, and put in a lot of work building up the concert party activities to a very high level.

A highlight of 1965 was the very successful concert held at the Assembly Hall and greatly enjoyed by a capacity audience. Part of the Bush Band's performance was later televised. We also had one of our biggest ever excursions up to Corryong where we took with us most of Melbourne's well-known folk singers for the picnic concert and Oldtime dance.

In 1966 the Club started convivial folksongs evenings on Friday night at the Pink Pussy Cat bistro in Carlton. These were very popular although conducted in rather cramped surroundings. A large group of our members appeared in a revival of Reedy River staged by the New Theatre later in the year.

Ever since our very successful Festival in 1963, we had from time to time discussed the possibility of holding further festivals. After the semi-commercial folk festivals held in Newport, N.S.W. petered out, we found that many other folk singers were also interested.

In company with Glen Tomasetti and Martin Wyndham-Read, we took the initiative in calling a meeting of interested people to consider running a festival in Victoria. In February, 1966 the Port Phillip Folk Festival Committee was launched for this purpose and started off financially by a grant of \$100 from the V.F.M.C.

The Port Phillip Folk Festival Committee benefited greatly from having among its members in the early stages, a group of people used to working together, 9 of that first committee of 14 being members of the V.F.M.C. The Club assisted the running of the festival in many ways including publicity through the columns of our newsletter, and there is no doubt that this assistance played a big part in ensuring that this first festival in February 1967 was a resounding success.

You may remember that the interstate articles in Tradition gave high praise to the Singabout-type concert we organised on the Saturday night.

The same situation applied to the Moomba concert "The Songs They Used to Sing in Old Melbourne Town" organised by the P.P.F. Committee with Glen Tomasetti as producer. Club members were well represented in the program by our singers in the Bush Band, and our group of traditional dancers, and we also provided most of the front of house staff.

(continued over...)

Extracts from an early edition of 'Tradition' (continued):

The amalgamation of the Folklore Society of Victoria with the Victorian Folk Music Club was completed during the year so that one subscription entitles the holder to membership of both organisations. The committee of the Folklore society now functions in the same way as one of the sub-committees of the V.F.M.C.

In 1968, the Club again gave active assistance to the 2nd Port Phillip Folk Festival and eight of the separate sessions were conducted by our members.

Later in the year our dancers had the opportunity to demonstrate some traditional Australian dances to Mr. Moiseyev, Dance Director of the visiting Moiseyev Folk Dance Company and an international authority on the theatrical treatment of folk art.

Frank Pitt published the Joy Durst Memorial Song Collection No. 1 for the V.F.M.C. This is the first of a series of songsheet collections to be published as a memorial to Joy's work in the Club. It is based on the songs in our repertoire and it is intended to continue to publish these collections at least until all our present repertoire has been included.

The concert party has continued to be very active and has participated in many local festivals such as the Maldon Easter festival and the Eltham Arts festival.

We have just concluded a course in Australian Folklore for the Council of Adult Education using both club members and others as lecturers and performers. One of our advantages has been that we have maintained good relationships with others interested in Australian folklore including academic and other authorities (Australian Tradition has been of considerable value here), and with professional folk singers. We have also kept friendly contacts with similar organisations in other states and have exchanged visits wherever possible. We hope that there be much more opportunity for similar friendly co-operation with all those interested in Australian folk music and folklore in our next 10 years.

June 1969

PLEASE NOTE: There was a black & white photo with this page with the caption: "Several V.F.M.C members were in the Bush Band—hit performers at the 1968 Port Phillip Festival." Unfortunately it would not print out so could not be included with this page.

Thanks to Ray Mundy for sending these extracts for the newsletter.

PETER, PAUL AND MARY—QUIZ

1) Who were Peter, Paul and Mary? 2) What year did they get together? 3) What city did they start out in? 4) Name 2 of their best hits. 5) Which one of them died in 2009? 6) What were they inducted into in 1999?

Answers to last quiz: 1) A work song sung on board a ship 2) Unaccompanied 3) Pushing & pulling, e.g. anchor 4) England & America 5) Queensland Whalers

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—MARCH 2020

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation we have had to cancel a number of engagements.

This is disappointing but necessary as we can see how much enjoyment we provide at the nursing homes. It is really moving when you see a 103 year old woman trying to clap along to Waltzing Matilda. Hopefully in a few months time we will be able to be back to providing entertainment at the nursing homes.

Following Cancelled:

March 2nd – Dance at Wyreena Croydon 10 am – 12noon
 March 20th – St Patrick’s Day concert – Lionsbrae
 March 29th – Ringwood Highland Games
 April 10th – Canberra, National Folk Festival Joy Durst Concert
 April 13th – Canberra, National Folk Festival farewell dance
 April 18th – Children’s dance

Upcoming gigs (which may or may not be cancelled):

May 23rd - Woolshed Ball
 June 5th - Lionsbrae
 July 22nd - Mooroolbark Residential Care
 Aug 28th - Lionsbrae
 Sept 19th - Children’s Dance
 Oct 7th - Donwood
 Oct 23rd - Lionsbrae
 Dec 2nd - Yarrunga Retirees Christmas party
 Dec 5th - VFMC dance
 Dec 18th - Lionsbrae

..... - *Billabong Band coordinators: Maree and Trevor*

PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL 2020

Stephen Whiteside and I were fortunate enough to be invited to be part of the Writers Program this year at the festival, with our duties including: my doing a CD launch ('The Forest Prayed') - karaoke style, Stephen being in 'The Magic of Children's Literature' workshop, and both of us also participating in The Aussie Morning Show each day plus the Pat Glover Storytelling competition. All of this was great fun and on top of this we were given amazing accommodation in an air b'n'b with a glorious view of the ocean...sunrise over the sea!

Overall, it was a terrific festival with mostly beautiful weather throughout the long weekend. Lots of stalls with yummy food, clothes, jewellery, etc near the various marquees, with some interesting outdoor performers and buskers. Also, an impressive tent with handmade instruments for sale—ukuleles, guitars, and more. Although we were mostly involved with the spoken word program, we still managed to see Archie Roach perform on the first evening—as charismatic as ever but sad to see him taken on and off stage in a wheelchair. We also saw Shane Howard on the last morning perform before a huge crowd—'Solid Rock' plus other oldies & newies. A highlight of the weekend for me was 'The Seeger Session' with John McCutcheon and other musicians (including The Maes & Nick Charles), though it did necessitate a preceding nap as it started at 10.30 pm!



— a giant Scot (on hidden stilts)



*Winner of the Pat Glover Award —
Scottish comedian Eric Purdy
for his hilarious kilt story*

- article and photos by Maggie Somerville

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzzza@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, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. Contact Mary Smith 5442-1153 or email secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

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
 admin@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

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/

Fireside Fiddlers

For fiddles plus other string melody instruments, such as mandolins.
 Every Monday evening at various venues. For further information, contact Denise Hibbs: 0402 050 524

Newport Folk Club

Certain Friday nights at 7.30 pm plus other evenings, e.g. Tues Blues and Sunday 2 pm singalongs etc.
 See website for up-to-date calendar.

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
- Affiliation with other organizations

VFMC Postal Address

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

VFMC Website

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

CONTACTS

Secretary

Jane Bullock
Telephone: 9762 1389
Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club

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

Family/Children's 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: