

Minutes of VFMC A.G.M. Sunday July 4th 2021

Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall
and
Members home via 'Zoom' 2.30pm

Present: Maree and Bill Buttler; Stephen and Jane Bullock; Stan Cuichak; Jenny Ferguson; Donald Fraser; Trevor Voake; Michael Hassett; Colin McLaren; Jim Smith; Mary Fraser; Maria Barker; Gary Caulfield; Norm Ellis; Paul Harsent; Sofie Krop; Peter Read; Maggie Somerville; Franciska Toubale

Apologies: Tony Kelly, Wal Tiedman; Stan Alexander;

Meeting opened: 2.30 pm

- President Steve Bullock welcomed everyone

1. Minutes of the 2020 AGM - Moved Trev Voake

- **Seconded** Stan Cuichak
- **Carried**

2. Reports:

1. **Presidents report tabled** –question: **Michael Hassett** – change of financial year is 2021 a short year or the year before – answer: committee made the decision to extend membership from 2019 June to 2021 March

2. **Billabong report, Stan Cuichak; Concert Night Report, Trev Voake; Dance Report, Jane Bullock; Membership Report, Trev Voake; Newsletter Report, Maggie Somerville; Publications Report, Stephen Bullock** – question: **Michael Hassett** – Treasurer's report, notes that we have sold doubled the quantity – Stephen Bullock answered: I must have made more trips to the Post Office than I thought.; **Sessions Report, Don Fraser;**

Gary Caulfield mentioned reports muffled due to masks;

Webmasters Report, Stephen Bullock – **Michael Hassett**, just a comment with the migration of the website changing from Jeeves to the new host – Thanks to Stephen Bullock as he did it all by himself.

3. As all the reports were up on the webpage the President did all reports together **tabled** – questions and comments listed as above.

4. **Treasurers report tabled** – The Treasurer Don Fraser, said that the auditors in their report say in all respects the financial report is in accordance with the rules . The following points were highlighted: **a)** Operating total for year \$63,313.00 and \$64,805 assets total **b)** In sound order, all bills paid.

The treasurer doesn't recommend any increase in membership this year.

Question – none

- **Moved** Don Fraser
- **Seconded** Michael Hassett and a big commendation for doing such a great job.
- **Carried**
- **Colin McLaren voted all reports be accepted Michael Hassett seconded.**

5.

Election of Office Bearers:

It was determined that we do not need to set a number for ordinary committee members, as the Constitution states 6.

Steve Bullock said all positions were vacant and left the chair, Colin McLaren then took his place and called for nominations for President

Before started Colin chose this opportunity to thank the club committee and members for their sterling help in particular Bill Buttler and Wal. Tiedman. Jim Smith and Mary Fraser seconded this

Name	Nominates	Seconded	Reply
Michael Hassett	Steve Bullock	Stan Cuichak	Yes

The members welcome Steve Bullock as their President

Colin McLaren calls for nominations for Vice President

Name	Nominates	Seconded	Reply
Stephen Bullock	Michael Hassett	Maggie Somerville	Yes

Colin McLaren called for nominations for Secretary

Name	Nominates	Seconded	Reply
Maree Buttler	Jane Bullock	Don Fraser	Yes

The members welcome Jane Bullock as Secretary

Colin McLaren called for nominations for Treasurer

Name	Nominates	Seconded	Reply
Don Fraser	Don Fraser	Michael Hassett	Yes

The members welcome Don Fraser as Treasurer

President	Steve Bullock
Vice President	Michael Hassett
Secretary	Jane Bullock
Treasurer	Don Fraser

Colin McLaren calls for nominations for ordinary committee members – 6

Name	Nominates	Seconded	Reply
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Trev Voake	Maree Buttler	Stephen Bullock	Yes
Maree Buttler	Trev Voake	Stan Cuichak	Yes
Jane Bullock	Maggie Somerville	Stephen Bullock	Yes
Stephen Bullock	Stan Cuichak	Maree Buttler	Yes
Trev Voake	Francesca	Declined	No
Stan Cuichak	Bill Buttler	Declined	No
Maree Buttler	Sofie Krop	Declined	No
Trev Voake	Norm Ellis	Declined	No
Maggie Somerville	Colin McLaren	Declined	No

The new committee is welcomed by all

Steve Bullock thanks Colin McLaren and takes the chair and calls for nominations for the other club roles

Steve Bullock then asked if the people doing the club roles now were prepared to stay on so did away with nominees and seconds.

Job	Name	Nominates	Seconded	Reply
Auditor	Keep the same as last year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved Don Fraser • Seconded Steve Bullock 		
Dance convener	Maree Buttler	Jane Bullock	Colin McClaren	Yes
Billabong Band convener	Jane Bullock	Maree Buttler, Trevor Voake and Stan Cuichak	Stephen Bullock	Yes Yes Yes
Concert night convener	Jane Bullock Colin McClaren	Trevor Voake Maree Buttler Michael Hassett		No Yes Yes
Membership officer	Stephen Bullock	Trevor Voake	Maggie Somerville	Yes
Newsletter Editor	Jane Bullock	Maggie Somerville	Stan Cuichak	Yes
Publications officer	Jane Bullock	Steve Bullock		Yes
Publicity conveners	Maree Buttler Maree Buttler	Don Fraser Jane Bullock		Yes Yes

Session convener + session sub committee	Jane Bullock Maree Buttler	Don Fraser	Maree Buttler	Yes Yes
Web master	Jane Bullock	Steve Bullock Michael Hassett	Maggie Somerville	Yes Yes
Wattle Day		Jane Bullock Don Fraser Maree Buttler		Yes Yes Yes
Librarian	Jane Bullock	Wal Tiedman	Colin McLaren	Yes
Youth involvement officer			Committee to find someone.	

4. Review of Membership Fees: - Treasurer's recommendation needn't be increased.

- Single \$25
- Family \$30
- Country Single \$20
- Country Family \$25
- Junior \$15
- Student \$20
- Single Pensioner \$20
- Family Pensioner \$25

The President Stephen Bullock put the following motion:-

- **Motion** that fees not be changed
- **Seconded** Jane Bullock
- Carried
- Colin McLaren requested that the club - Set the membership fee and a date for the renewal which is 1st April 2022

5. Submission to Consumer Affairs Victoria:

Steve Bullock advised that the Secretary submits an online statement to Consumer Affairs Victoria following the A.G.M.

6. Other business: None

Meeting closed at 3.35 pm

Social talking followed before zoom was closed down.

Dance Report 2021

This year has been unusual in that we had no live dances due to Covid-19 in 2020 but in August we started to have Zoom dances. These proved quite successful and we started doing 2 Zoom dances a month from September onwards.

From the beginning we tried very hard to have a band play on Zoom for the first Saturday dances and this worked really well, unfortunately due to the Covid-19 restrictions it wasn't until November that we could do this in reality. We had Blackberry Jam in November, followed by Billabong Band with 4 callers in December, Coral, Norm, Nathaniel and myself as the callers. Unfortunately still in lockdown in February so we had Brumbies on Zoom as well. We still ran our third Saturday Zoom dance as usual.

In March we were back in the hall wearing masks and using Humanitix for tickets. Worked well we also Zoomed this dance. We did our Zoom dance on the third Saturday.

April due to Easter we didn't have a dance on the first Saturday but still did our third Saturday Zoom dance. We have been using the third Saturday Zoom dance as a Theme dance which is working quite well. Norm and I being the callers and Stephen running the sound. We also ran our first Children's dance for the year in April, which was a big success. We were able to pay the band!

In May we were still in the hall for the first Saturday. Again in the hall for the Children's dance again another success.

We were also able to run our first Woolshed Ball for 2 years in the hall, with the talented club musicians playing. We even had a BYO supper.

June has not been so kind to us we had the June first Saturday dance via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions and we had to cancel the Children's dance for the same reason but we didn't Zoom it.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped with the Saturday dances and the Woolshed ball. These include: being on the door, helping in the kitchen, decorating the hall and the callers and musicians who have made each event a success.

I have been very fortunate in having a core of people who have been very willing to do their bit to make the dances happen; thank you and I sincerely hope you are happy to continue doing your contribution as it has made my task so much easier.

We had amazingly a very good Wattle day on Zoom in 2020 having quite a variety of workshops for musicians, singers, dancers and computer geeks. Our thanks go to the Wattle Day committee, workshop conveners and to all the patrons who attended as without your attendance we would not have had such a successful Wattle Day.

Jane Bullock

Concert Night Report for 2021 AGM

The last 12 months has not been an easy one for the club when it has come to running our concerts. The concerts restarted in Sept 2020 with the duo Drop o' Scotch. This was our first attempt at running a virtual concert & despite some minor teething issues it was quite successful due in no small way to the technical expertise of some of our members. We continued with virtual concerts up until May this year when we had the lively trio (+ two extras) The Jam Tarts. This was our first concert in our new hall (Ringwood Uniting Church hall) which presented a couple of problems none which were

insurmountable. As well as being a live performance we also presented it as a virtual concert for people who lived interstate or didn't feel comfortable in meeting in a crowd. As the new hall is very different to our old one we are still experimenting with different layouts to see which one will give the best audience experience.

Due to Covid restrictions on numbers of people attending an event we have had to make it "tickets by on-line booking only" so we can control the numbers attending.

Just when we thought we were ready for our June live concert we were thrown into confusion by another snap lockdown. The artist we had booked wasn't able to perform via Zoom due to technical issues but very fortunately Bruce Watson stepped in with only a few days notice. Due to Bruce's popularity both in Australia & the United Kingdom we sold over 90 tickets. As a result of that concert we have had a regular attendee from the UK at each of our Tuesday session nights since.

Following the snap lockdown in June we have had to be mindful of the possibility that partial lockdowns can happen at short notice so we have had to factor that into our decisions on who our guest artists are and if we would need to change artists at short notice,

Following is a list of artists from the last 12 months & the next couple of months

July 2020	Cancelled	
August	Cancelled	
Sept	Drop o' Scotch	Zoom
Oct	Dodsworth & Dodsworth	Zoom
Nov	Brumbies	Zoom
Dec	Dixie Chooks	Zoom
Feb 2021	Dominic Martin	Zoom
March	Khristian Mizzi	Zoom
April	Dan McKinnon (Canada)	Zoom
May	Jam Tarts	Live (new hall)
June	Bruce Watson	Zoom
July	Bhan Tre	Live (hopefully)
August	Honey Fields	Live (hopefully)

Special thanks have to go to Don Fraser for his publicity work, Bill Buttler for his technical expertise, Michael Hassett for his ticketing expertise, Tony Kelly for his contacts in the music scene, Maree Buttler for keeping us under control & Colin McLaren for continuing to sit on the door & brave the cold

winds. Normally I would thank others for helping with supper & arranging chairs etc but there has been very little of that so far. Hopefully the next 12 months will see a lot more live concerts.

Concert Night Committee: Maree Buttler, Michael Hassett, Tony Kelly & Trevor Voake (convenor)

NEWSLETTER REPORT FOR AGM 4/7/2021

This past year has been probably the weirdest of all since I took over as editor of the VFMC newsletter in about 2012 – due obviously to the coronavirus pandemic.

Since early 2020 until the present time, I have had to constantly adjust most upcoming events with the ever-changing government restrictions. For many months there could be no monthly concerts or dancing due to the social distancing rules. Hence, the lovely concert posters and dance posters for the monthly VFMC concert, dance and the VFMC children's dance could not be included, though gradually some of these were replaced by Zoom Concert and Zoom Dance posters. I also replaced the main Dance Page with simply a note about non-existent or Zoom dances plus a photo of dancers, thanks to Trevor.

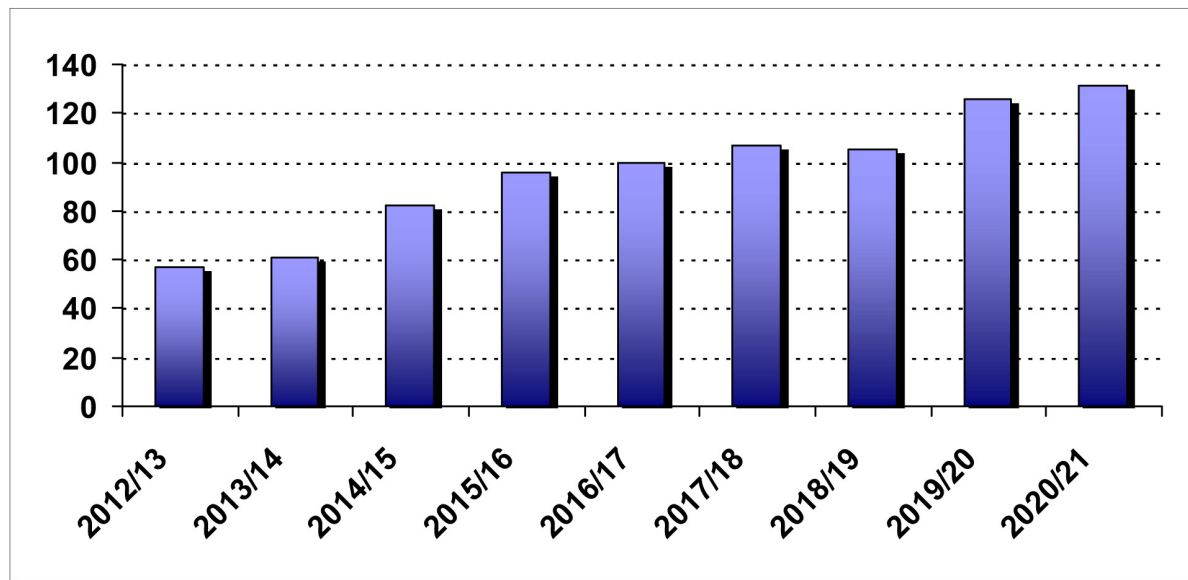
However, one interesting and positive result of suddenly more blank pages to fill was that several VFMC members became inspired to write terrific articles about various items of interest. Many thanks to Stephen Whiteside for his pieces on Burl Ives, 'A Nautical Yarn' and Bill Clausen, to Trevor Voake for his article on Carolan, to Don Fraser, Ray Mundy, Jane Bullock and other members who also contributed some great stuff during those long months of lockdown in Melbourne.

As we now settle more comfortably (or resignedly?) into a sort of hybrid folk lifestyle – with sessions, meetings, dances, etc. mostly run simultaneously both live and via Zoom, the newsletter has had to make similar adjustments and to keep up-to-date with the current state of play each month when sending out the electronic copy and hard copy of 'Tradition'. Apologies for the times I have sadly failed to get it right and have inadvertently confused readers by mixing up Zoom with live or vice versa or neither; this is such a new ball game for us all!

Many thanks to all contributors over the past year and to those who have assisted in various ways – proofreading when possible, notifying me of errors or omissions, providing photos, and much more. Let's hope we are completely back to normal in the not too distant future. *Maggie Somerville*
4/7/2021

VFMC annual membership

28-Jun-21



2020 / 2021 Membership - 127 (70 Single 57 Family)
2019 / 2020 Membership - 121 (68 Single 53 Family)
2018 / 2019 Membership - 105 (58 single & 47 family)
2017 / 2018 membership - 107 (63 single & 44 family)
2016 / 2017 membership - 100 (62 single & 38 family)
2015 / 2016 Membership - 96 (63 Single & 33 family)
2014 / 2015 Membership - 82 (53 single & 29 Family)
2013 / 2014 Membership - 66 (42 Single & 24 Family)
2012 / 2013 Membership - 57
2011 / 2012 Membership - 45

Life Members (not included in the above figures) - 4

Total active membership: 127 (current) + 4 (life) = 131

current membership includes members who have renewed their fees for 2021/22 and members whose membership expires in March 2021 and are still to renew.

There were 12 new members this financial year.

Unfortunately we lost another Life Member earlier this year when Nancy Upson passed away.

President's Report 2021

I am pleased to report that despite the impacts of the pandemic, your club remains active and is well positioned to resume "normal operation" whenever that becomes possible.

The response of your committee and its sub committees to the challenges of the last year has been admirable. The team has worked together, showing resourcefulness and adaptability to quickly adjust to the issues that continue to confront us.

Financially, the last year has been difficult. Our financial reserves have kept us going, and prudent management has resulted in a manageable deficit.

Over the past year, our membership has been kept informed, has been entertained, and to a large extent is still engaged with the various activities of our club. Mainly, this has been achieved through the use of Zoom technology.

Zoom is in no way comparable to the pleasure that our face-to-face activities provide, but we have socialised and made music together, we have continued to support the performers who make our concerts possible, while providing quality folk music entertainment, and we have even supported physical activity for those members who like to dance. An unanticipated benefit of our on-line presence has been the expansion of our sphere of influence both nationally and internationally. During the year, we have been joined by folkies in the USA, Canada, UK and Switzerland, and from around Australia.

Even within Melbourne, on-line activities have enabled participation by people who would not normally wish to travel to our live events. We have decided to continue with what we now call 'hybrid' events, face-to-face events backed up by Zoom access for those who cannot, or don't wish to travel. We currently expect to continue with hybrid events after pandemic restrictions ease, as long as there is a reasonable demand.

Early this year, we relocated our web site to a commercial hosting service. See the Webmaster's report for details. We thank Jeeves Audio Services who have made on-line space available to us for several years.

Some of our members have been confused by the change to our membership year. This change was voted in at the 2019 AGM, and after much planning, was implemented over the last 15 months. The cost of this change contributed to this year's deficit. Please note that all memberships are now due for renewal each year at the end of March.

Sadly, we lost two valued members of our club in the last year, both to non-Covid illnesses. Both had served on our committee. Don Gingrich had been a very active member of the Billabong Band, and Greg Woodruff played a major role in the Joy Durst Songbook revision. We miss them both.

Finally, I wish to thank all the committee and sub committee members, and all the other club members who have worked so hard this year to keep us going. Of particular note are Bill Buttler for his work on Zoom, and Wal Tiedman for work with the VFMC Library.

Treasurer's report to AGM 4/7

The past year has been an abnormal and disruptive year for the Club. The Covid19 pandemic caused the Committee to suspend all activity involving face-to-face contact, including meetings. With the uncertainty of how long the initial lock-downs would continue tests were conducted into replacing regular face-to-face activities with weekly on-line meetings, which proved to be beneficial in keeping the continuity of the Club going and the members in contact with each other.

With the cancellation of physical activities rent costs declined, as did surpluses from activities and donations from Concert Party gigs. Concert dates by several previously booked performers were cancelled so the Club paid a cancellation fee. Interest earned from the term deposits is also declining over time.

The finances are being audited by Dainbridge Accounting and their report will be on the website. Shortly I will ask the meeting to accept the Treasurers Report. There no outstanding issues, no un-presented cheques, all bills have been paid in a timely manner, and reports have been presented to the Committee each month.

The EOFY income over expenditure for the year shows a cash deficit of -\$1,603.52. A transfer of \$4,000 from a Term deposit was made on 10th July to bolster the Trading account which was gradually declining due to activities being suspended.

Interest from the two Term deposits returned \$270.73 and \$1,673.30, totalling +\$1,944.03.

Total cash balance (Trading account and the two Term deposits) at EOFY is \$63,314.31. After the auditor applies depreciation to stock and equipment the net assets of the Club should be little more than this.

Due to healthy reserves in the bank before the pandemic arrived the Club has been able to weather the challenges, and I expect a return to some sort of normalcy as things pickup again. I do not recommend any increase in membership fees or admission charges for the coming year.

Don Fraser, Treasurer.

**VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INC
ANNUAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	2020-21	2019-20
Income		
Income from Functions	2,150	22,761
Donations	0	1,850
Other receipts	207	190
Membership subscriptions	1,583	2,462
Publication sales	415	623
Bank interest (term deposits)	1,944	2,107
Total income	6,298	29,993
Expenditure		
Expenses for Functions	-2,224	-18,034
Publication printing, post and storage	-2,951	-2,253
Newsletter printing & post	-710	-1,316
Capital and other expenses	0	-283
Operating expenses (Auditor, Consumer Affairs, Public Liability, postbox, FAA)	-2,017	0
		-576
		-440
		-583
Total expenditure	-7,902	-23,486
Surplus for the year (Income less Expenditure)	-1,604	6,507
Assets		
Cash at bank and term deposits	63,313	64,918
Stock at WRV	1,203	1,267
Capital Equip at WDV	289	564
Property	0	0
Investments	0	0
Total assets	64,805	66,749
Liabilities		
Secured loans	0	0
Unsecured loans	0	0
Other (uncleared cheques)	0	0
Total liabilities	0	0
Association's equity	64,805	66,749

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021		Table 1	
Income			
from events		Income from events	2149.75
Dance door	206.25		
Kid's Dance door	0.00		
Sessions door	0.00		
Guest Night door	1943.50		
Wattle Day door	0.00		
Concert Party donations	0.00	Donations	0.00
Ball door	0.00		
Other event door	0.00		
from elsewhere		Other income	207.05
Other receipt	207.05	Membership fees	1582.65
Subscriptions membership	1582.65	Publication sales	414.90
Publication sales	414.90	Bank interest	1944.03
Bank interest - Trading Acct \$0; Comm Term \$270.73; Bendigo Term \$1673.30	1944.03		
Total Income	6298.38		6298.38
Expenses			
incurred by events		Expenses for functions	-2223.79
Dance band	0.00		
Dance supper	0.00		
Dance printing	0.00		
Dance Hall hire	0.00		
Kid's Dance band	0.00		
Kid's Dance supper	0.00		
Kid's Dance hall hire	0.00		
Sessions supper	0.00		
Sessions printing (Zoom subscr.)	-92.39		
Sessions miscellaneous			
Sessions hall hire (Dec, Jan, Feb.)	-599.20		
Guest Night performer	-1930.00		
Guest Night supper	0.00		
Guest Night printing	0.00		
Guest Night miscellaneous			
Guest Night hall hire	-171.20		
Wattle Day performer	0.00		
Wattle Day printing	0.00		
Wattle Day miscellaneous			
Wattle Day hall hire	0.00		
Concert Party miscellaneous			
Concert Party expense			
Ball band	0.00		
Ball supper	0.00		
Ball printing	0.00		
Ball miscellaneous			
Ball hall hire	569.00		
Other event	0.00		
incurred elsewhere		Publication expenses	-2951.37
Publication printing	-825.67		
Publication postage	46.30	Newsletter expenses	-709.85
Publication storage (Fort Knox)	-2172.00		
Newsletter printing	-247.48	Capital & other expenses	0.00
Newsletter postage	-462.17		
Other expenses	0.00	Operating expenses	-2017.09
Capital expenses	0.00		
Post box hire	-136.00		
APRA fee	-60.74		
Auditor fee	-473.00		
Consumer Affairs fee	-59.50		
Folk Alliance Australia fee	-100.00		
Public Liability Insurance	-583.00		
Trad&Now suscription	0.00		
Other overhead expense	-336.62		
AGM costs	-105.80		
Other expense	-162.43		
Total Expenses	-7901.90		-7901.90
Income less Expenses	-1603.52		-1603.52
Cash Balances			
Trading acct balance	6807.80	SOFY 1/4/20	EDFY 31/3/21
Term Deposits balance	58110.03		
Total cash	64917.83		63314.31
Difference (deficit) over the year			-1603.52

The Billabong Band Report 2021

It has been a frustrating year for the Billabong Band members as bookings were cancelled at the various festivals we usually play at, and our regular Retirement village venues, and also other anticipated bookings at other venues due to Covid rules and restrictions. We expect rescheduled bookings in the coming months.

We played at the VFMC Christmas Dance however the afternoon Senior Citizens Dinner/ Concert was cancelled.

We also played a zoom dance which was well received, and played live at the May Woolshed Ball, which was another very well received event. What was disappointing at these dance gigs was the limitation on the number of musicians due to COVID density rules, both on stage and also at rehearsals.

The best opportunity for most of the musicians to play was at the children's dance in April. We had an eager turn-out of players and a happy lot of young dancers.

We did manage a get-together and a rehearsal for the Billabong Band at Stewart Boundy's house in March. Many thanks to Stewart for his hospitality.

On the plus side, the Billabong Band has been accepted to play a concert at this year's Maldon Folk Festival on the Melbourne Cup weekend. The concert title is "Don's Empty Chair", and is a memorial to Don Gingrich who passed away from an aggressive illness almost a year ago. Don had arranged a concert at last year's festival, which ended up being cancelled, and knowing he probably wouldn't last til the event, asked for an empty chair to be put on stage.

We look forward with fingers crossed to lost and delayed bookings and events being available to us between now and next year's (2022) AGM.

Billabong Band Co-ordinators, Maree Buttler, Trevor Voake, and Stan Ciuchak

Publications Report

Not much to report this year. Two years without a National Folk Festival has seen two years without the usual extra sales.

Occasional sales of Collectors Choice continue.

On-line access to the free Joy Durst Songbook continues with a total of 1456 visits to the download pages, and 118 file downloads.

Steve Bullock

Sessions Report to AGM 4/7/21

Living with the Covid pandemic has been the central theme to everything the Club attempts, but despite the unavoidable upsets Tuesday Sessions have continued to be

weekly highlights of enjoyable music making and social interaction.

Facing the uncertainty of how long the lockdowns and disruption would last the Club early got on to providing an online mechanism to allow Sessions to continue. Using Zoom it has been possible to reach people anywhere, and we soon found 30-40 logging in each week. The continuity of the Club has been maintained throughout and thanks to the technical expertise of our people, and the patience and toleration of everyone else, both live and on-line attendance is now possible with a good degree of success.

Attendances are typically around 20-24 spread over both in-hall and online. The wide range of interests and the expertise of members is very stimulating; the quality of the music and verse and discussion virtually always makes for a high value couple of hours spent each week. That more members are stepping up to do spot acts at Concerts or involvement in the Billabong Band is good to see too.

The technical team recently obtained a laptop and are in the process of installing much of the Club's resources onto it so they can be webcast or projected at will. The importance of this is considerable as it dispenses with the very large amount of messy books and music stands we used to live with, including the storage of all this stuff.

Continuing development of the website has been a great help too, as members can now get easier access to information and resources. The updating of the ever-changing situation caused by the virus can now happen rapidly.

Changing halls halfway through the year has been a good move as well, the Ringwood Uniting Church is more central, roomy and prominent.

On behalf of the Sessions Sub Committee I thank Ray and Joan Mundy, and Kate Cotril, for running the song and tune sessions each week; the technical people for getting the Zoom up and going; the Covid management team for looking after disinfection etc.; the web team for a sterling job there too. Thanks also to the membership who willingly share their talents and musical experiences, making VFMC Tuesday Sessions a stimulating time to look forward to each week.

Don Fraser.

Webmaster's Report

Last winter, the committee decided to move the club web site to a new hosting arrangement on a commercial footing. We thank Jeeves Audio Services who have provided free hosting for the past several years.

The committee also decided, wisely as it turns out, to make the change in January when club activity is at its least. We prepared for the move, then went ahead in January. Perhaps our hosting supplier was short staffed during the holiday period, but their support for the changeover was woeful. There were some outages when either the web site and/or

email services were unavailable. Our web team worked very hard to resolve numerous issues, and everything was brought under control and is now functioning well.

Part of the planning for the move involved standardisation of several technical aspects of the web site which had grown somewhat haphazard over the years. This standardisation has proved valuable in facilitating several enhancements this year. One major part of the web site, the Fireside Fiddlers music collection, built by the late Harry Gardner, remains to be tidied up. This collection consists of thousands of web pages and scores and sound files, built to at least three different design approaches. There are also many obsolete file versions, technical errors and broken links. The web team are working on a conversion and clean-up programme which will take considerable effort to complete. This is all being done with respect to Harry's vast effort in putting Fireside Fiddlers together, and the aim to keep his legacy for the future benefit of VFMC members and the broader folk music community.

Several innovations this year include integration of the Humanities ticketing system into our events, introduction of PayMate as a means of membership payment, and the Tune Finder function which supports the search for tune/song titles and their related score/sound resources both within the VFMC web site and externally.

Visitors to the web site will have noticed recent changes to the menu structures. More enhancements to the useability of the web site are in the pipe line, so watch out for them in coming months.

Web Team: Steve Bullock and Michael Hassett