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FOLK SONG & DANCE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Dear members,

This is the first of what is to be a regular Society newsletter. Unfortunately it's something we've fallen down on over the last couple of years, through several reasons not all the fault of the committee.

If any of you have articles that you wish to appear in the newsletter, please pass them on to any committee member. If articles are not forthcoming, we will still continue to print a newsletter, if only to let you know what's going on in the world of folk music, especially in Victoria.

We have a new committee as from our A.G.M. on 31st. May. Our new President is Mick Crichton. Other office bearers will be appointed at our next committee meeting on Tuesday 15th, June at the Tankerville Arms Hotel in Fitzroy. Members may attend committee meetings but are not entitled to vote, or move or second motions. They may however take part in any discussion, with the chairman's permission.

We will be calling on our President from time to time to write a few words for the Newsletter.

We will be discreet in what we write, but we will also be honest, which may mean controversial from time to time! Copies of our newsletter will be posted each month to all members of the FSDSV, and also to all folk clubs in Victoria that we know of, and to all interstate federations and societies.

We would appreciate it if folk club organisers and interstate bodies could display a copy of the newsletter in a prominent position so that as many of their members as possible may see and hopefully, ready it.

Finally, let's all try and work together -- committee members, singers, folk club organisers and people who just come along to listen -- through the next twelve months so that we may get some of the way back on our feet again.

RICHARD LEITCH
on behalf of the Committee

WONTHAGGI DANCE

The Wonthaggi Arts Council conducted a successful and most enjoyable dance on Saturday 5th June at Wonthaggi Town Hall. Music was played by the Higgins Municipal Bush Band from Canberra and parts several and various; dances were demonstrated by our own -- if I may call them that -- Colonial Dancers; and the famous Skreitch did a poem or two.

Many thanks to Jo Stone and the local people for organising things, and also to Higgins for playing at yet another Victorian function.

The trip to Wonthaggi was well worth the effort for those of us who got there!

R.L.L.

Below is a list of the names and addresses of the council elected at the Annual General Meeting, May 31st, 1976.

PRESIDENT

Mick Crichton
26 Metung Street
Balwyn. 3103.
Ph. 80 2868

292660.
(Daytime)

COUNCIL

Shirley Andrews
38 Sheil Street
North Melbourne. 3051.

Jess Dunnadge
62 McMahon Road
Reservoir. 3073.
Ph. 464078

Cliff Gilbert-Purssey & Mal Robertson
749 Heidelberg Road
Alphington. 3078.
Ph. 492793

Richard Leitch
18 Sturt Street
Flemington. 3031.
Ph. 331991

Steve Nethercote
8a Golding Street
Canterbury. 3126.
Ph. 833857

Keryn Randall
26 Metung Street
Balwyn. 3103.
Ph. 802868

Four others may be co-opted.

SOCIETY ADDRESS:

The Secretary
F.S.D.S.V.
Box 114
CARLTON. 3053.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- Thursdays:** FSDSV Folk Club, Dan O'Connell Hotel, cnr Princes & Canning Sts. Carlton. \$1.00 (FSDSV members 80¢)
8.00 - 10.00pm
- Three Drunken Maidens, Tankerville Arms Hotel,
cnr Nicholson & Johnston Sts. Fitzroy. 60¢ for
club members, 80¢ for others. 8.00 - 11.00pm
- Coffee Shop, 121 Lt. Lonsdale St. City. (near
Traynors old haunt) Admission free 8.30pm.
All welcome. Blues & folk.
- Fridays:** The Tankard Folk Club, Tankerville Arms Hotel,
cnr Nicholson & Johnston Sts. Fitzroy. Club members
\$1.00, others \$1.20
- The Keeper Folk Club, Lord of the Isles Hotel,
Fyans St, Geelong. 8.00 - 11.30pm
- Saturdays:** Dan O'Connell Hotel, cnr Princes & Canning Sts.
Carlton. Come-all-ye. Free, from 3.00pm
- The Commune, 183 St. Georges Rd. Nth Fitzroy, from 8pm
- The Tankerville Arms Hotel, 8.00 - 12.00pm
\$1.50 Admission.
- Sundays:** FSDSV/Carlton Community Centre Dance, first Sunday
in the month. The Next one is July 4th, at 2.30pm
Adults \$1.00 Kids 30¢
- Butler's, 749 Heidelberg Rd. Alphington.
\$1.00 Admission and free coffee.
- The Jolly Jumbuck Folk Club, LaTrobe University Union
Building. Not on in University vacations.
- Mondays:** The Colonial Dancers have an open practice on the
Monday after each FSDSV dance (first Sunday in month)
at the Neill St. State School (Palmerston St entrance)
at 8.00pm
- Tuesdays:** The Commune, 183 St. Georges Road, Nth Fitzroy.
Folk music night.
- VFMC Dance Workshops, second Tuesday of each month
at Royal Park Hall, off Elliot Ave, 8.00 - 11.00pm
- Wednesdays:** Cobbers, at Polaris Inn Hotel, cnr Nicholson &
MacPherson Sts. Nth Carlton. 8.00 - 11.30pm \$2.00
- The Bushwackers, Dan O'Connell Hotel, cnr Princes
& Canning Sts. Carlton 8.00 - 11.30pm \$2.00
- The Commune is open with different activities each night of the week.
Mon - theatre Tues - folk music Wed -- chess, records,
taped music Thurs - craftwork Fri - classical
Sat - folk music Sun - jazz. For further details ring
489 9860. 183 St. Georges Rd, Nth Fitzroy.
- The Melbourne Morris Men practise at 151 Smith St Thornbury each
Wednesday night from 8.00pm. New members welcome.

INTERSTATE NEWS

CANBERRA.....

The Monaro Folk Music Society are moving their winter woolshed dances once again to Albert Hall. It's not nearly as cold as Yarralumla Wool shed at this time of year. (At the last woolshed dance it was so cold that when someone spilled some water on the floor, it turned into ice!) The Canberra dances are always popular and a lot of fun, so people travelling from Melbourne, be warned and arrive early -- you may not get in! The dances are held, by the way, on the last Saturday of the month at Albert Hall, in Canberra.

Festival tapes -- Several requests have been received for copies of material which was taped over the Easter weekend. While the tapes will be available as soon as possible, the way in which it can be done can only be decided after the massive job of listening and editing is done. This has just been started. As soon as is feasible, the availability of tapes will be well advertised.

A bit of advance notice -- the Festival in 1977 will be held in South Australia!

W.A.

Catalpa books and T-shirts -- As you may be aware, this is the 100th anniversary of the famous Catalpa incident when the Fenian prisoners were sprung from Fremantle gaol. The W.A.F.F. produced a pageant of Australian folk songs etc over the Easter weekend. T-shirts were available at the Festival and a few of these remain -- for sale at \$3.50 each. John Watson of the W.A.F.F. also produced a very good little book to remember the Catalpa incident. The book is well worth reading. It includes sections on Irish nationalism in the nineteenth century, the Fenian movement, Fremantle in the 1870's, John Boyle O'Reilly and more. A very few copies are left for sale at \$2.50 from the Secretary.

CANBERRA

NOTES FROM THE CENTRE FOR ORAL TRADITION

Available on loan: 'Time Out of Mind - Simon Mac Donald of Creswick' by Hugh Anderson 1974.

From time to time one is confronted with the suggestion that Australia has no folk music, because Australia has never had a class of person comparable with the European peasant. This book tells of such a man, in his own words, recorded, transcribed and edited by Hugh Anderson. Simon MacDonald, 1907 - 1968, farm worker and gold fossicker from Creswick near Ballarat in Victoria, shared with the classical 'folk' an excellent memory for fact, story and song, often near grinding poverty and 'almost total inexperience of modern media'.

The book includes 30 of his songs and 7 recitations and a 'Witch's Tale' of probably Celtic origin. Many songs are from Ireland and Scotland while others are pure Australian. Perhaps the only failing of this book from the folk song student's point of view is the lack of notes on the songs, a small price to pay for a very readable book.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks to all those who have capably assisted the society during the last council's term of office. A special thanks to the retiring council members (i.e. Jamie Johnston, Mazza Spence, Dan Morgan and John Stack.)

Welcome to the new council members Mel Robertson and Keryn Randall. I hope they can stand the strain.

A word of encouragement for those who have decided to allow themselves to be re-elected. I hope that they do not suffer too much from bumps on the head caused by banging them against brick walls. I commend them for their patient support.

I would be most remiss if I did not make mention of the premature retirement of our past President, Cliff Gilbert-Purssey. Cliff, over the last twelve to eighteen months has given his all for the society. He was, and I hope still will be, a ferocious and untiring worker. And, despite many handicaps (mostly beyond his control) has achieved a considerable amount. I am very pleased to see that he has decided to remain on the council. Cliff, I dips me lid to you.

I draw your attention to the fact that the society is known as the Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria, or by the initials F.S.D.S.V.

A reminder to all that memberships are due as from the 30th. of June. A membership form is included with this Newsletter, with a list of the price it costs to 're-enlist'. Please renew your membership as soon as possible so that you can take full advantage of the society's activities. (e.g. Country festivals - Yinnar, Chiltern Monthly dances - workshops.)

For the benefit of those not present at the A.G.M. I would like to take this opportunity to outline my approach to the coming year. Please bear in mind that this is my approach and that as President I am only one member of the council.

I wish to encourage the development of workshops, especially those related to musical instruments e.g. whistle, concertina, fiddle etc. I would also like to see the re-establishment of our regular Access Radio programmes. (A questionnaire is enclosed in the Newsletter regarding both these aims and I would appreciate it if all those interested would fill it in and return it.)

I re-affirm my promise of a regular monthly Newsletter. Perhaps it will not be as ambitious as last year's, but it will be something you will want to receive.

I will expect regular reports from all persons and sub-committees delegated authority by the council as they fall due. These reports must be submitted on time for everybody's welfare.

As in the past we shall continue our policy of organising activities and Festivals throughout Victoria, in keeping with the concept that we are the Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria. In this role we are somewhat unique in Australia.

I propose to extend the type and variety of activities available for members and would like to see the development of regular, free, simple get togethers.

I would like to encourage the recording of folk music, and would like to see more use being made of the recording fund.

I place myself in a position of responsibility, and ask that any and all criticisms of the society be brought to my attention.

Investigation and consideration will be given to our participation in next year's Moomba festival.

Generally I will encourage the expansion and development of all aspects of folk music, song, dance, poetry and any other related activities.

To all council members a reminder that the next council meeting will be held on Tuesday June 15th. at the Tankerville Arms Hotel, Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, at 8.00pm. As far as is possible, Council meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month. This will assist all and sundry to plan their future social life.

MICHAEL CRICHTON

BUTLER'S

A folk club running in Melbourne worthy of special mention, is that run by Mel Robertson on a Sunday night. Butler's, as it is known, is open at 8.00pm and runs till midnight. Operating at a small shop at 749 Heidelberg Road, Alphington, it has proved a fine place to go at the end of the week to sit down, relax and enjoy some beautiful music and some 'home-made' coffee. For the small price of \$1 Admission, with coffee being free, there probably isn't a better night's Sunday entertainment to be had in Melbourne. So get yourself along there and soak up the atmosphere -- and of course, the coffee!

The F.S.D.S.V. is giving consideration to organising a series of workshops to assist those people who play, or wish to learn to play, instruments. e.g. whistle, concertina, fiddle.

We would also like to put on some more access radio programmes, and are looking for interested people.

You can assist us by filling in the following questionnaires.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE _____

PHONE: home _____

bus. _____

WORKSHOPS:---

I would be interested in participating/conducting a
_____ workshop.

(INSERT INSTRUMENT NAME)

I am available on _____ nights.

COMMENTS _____

ACCESS RADIO:--

I am interested in the production of access radio programmes and can help in the following way/ways.

- *Recording
- *Production
- *Taping
- *Scripting
- *Research
- *Talent
- *Other (indicate how) _____

Please indicate any experience, talent or equipment that you possess and can make available.

I would be available to assist _____ nights.

Forward all replies to the above Questionnaire to:
Questionnaire, F.S.D.S.V., P.O. Box 96, Carlton, 3053.
Or hand them to a council member by June 30th.