



Ed.: Jess Dunnadge
469 4078

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Hi Folks. I'm back! Do I hear the sound of groans? Derisive cheers perhaps? From those who carried the bundle while I was away I detect some sighs of relief. My most sincere thanks to the "bundle-carriers" for keeping it rolling. Whether the membership use it or not to communicate their feelings, wishes, etc., having a regular newsletter at least gives them the opportunity to do so. Some do, occasionally, but in the issues for June and July, I feel that they had to do much the same as I have to do - listen to the general comments and from that try to frame a report, on an average opinions AS I HEAR THEM. My own personal feelings tend to come through pretty definitely if I get supportive opinions or if I know I'm in the minority then I think I make it clear that it is my own personal opinion. I really should add the rider to every newsletter that "opinions expressed are not necessarily those of, etc.". You know that's a great idea - it's a way of filling up a bit more space.

Now, to refute that canard that I was studying the Australian idiom at its source to learn new invective. I didn't learn much for the simple reason that in North Queensland there are very very few groups with or without high-powered P.A. Solo performers outnumber groups by a large margin. Duos, trios (frequently combinations/permutations of the occasional group are fairly common). Originality of material is a problem as much of their material is taken from tapes - not slavishly followed, but still recognisably fathered by Southern or overseas groups. There is talent up there - probably lots more than we heard too but the opportunities to learn from other sources, live, are more limited. The other reason I never learned any new invective was that I was treated with the proper respect and care for my tender sensibilities that I have never been able to command from from you mob of degenerates down here.

A point to ponder for us down here. Duncan and I visited the Cairns Folk Club twice. Duncan did a short bracket of recitation which were well received, although obviously recitations are a relatively unusual form of entertainment, except for the occasional introductory short yarn or patter before or during a singer's or musician's bracket. They have a large and attentive audience, which I gather does not fluctuate very much in numbers, although I get the impression they have a lot of visiting performers; BUT that Club has continued for nineteen years in the same venue (back room of I.O.O.F. Hall and IT IS NOT LICENSED. A substantial range of snack foods (Pies, Sausage Rolls, slices of Quiche and fruit cake as well as biscuits with tea, coffee, cocoa, soft drinks) is on sale throughout the evening at prices which are little lower than the ordinary snack-bars but I think more generous serves. Some is home-made but I do not think all. As I say, a point for us to ponder. I was not in a position to ask how much of the Club finance is through supper sales, but admission charges are low and I get the impression that performers payments are low to non-existent. I may get a strong letter from the Cairns Folk Club telling me I inferred too much. Their programmes are a sort of gasbord - Sophie Tucker (performed extremely well), self-composed interversions in blues or country & western styles, Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, Ralph McTell, some old-style pop, excellent instrumentals (some self-composed), singing alsation (accompanied by accordion) some traditional dance music, a little traditional British singing, Blues, Hill-billy. Visiting performers can be sure of an airing if you put your name on the blackboard and wait round till your turn comes up. With so many other things to be done by the organisers, compering is sketchy to say the least. They were both thoroughly enjoyable nights. The people are friendly but not effusive - if you want to talk to them, that's fine. If you don't, they don't push it. The organisers are four ex-Melburnians who went up there for a holiday some years ago and stayed. I am ashamed to say that, after getting names etc. I lost the bit of paper. Does that sound familiar?

I cannot comment on any dances, because unfortunately there were none on where we could get to, while we up there - once again the shortage of bands limits the number of dances.

We also went to the Townsville Folk Club and found it more like the Melbourne style of Folk Club that we have been used to attending. We found it most enjoyable, but we were familiar with the format, and had already met some of the performers, so I cannot truthfully make comparisons between Cairns and Townsville Clubs. They were different. Some of you people would perhaps have met Graham Witt when he was down here towards the end of last year, and some of you may have met Peter Raupling who was down here at our Anzac weekend Festival (which he thought was a beauty). I hope you will have the opportunity to meet Bill Wiseman later the year. At the end of the evening I was introduced to Jeff Corfield from Darwin - he's actually a reader of our Newsletter. Jeff did some inspired salestalk to get us to return to Melbourne via Tennant Creek's Festival during the first weekend of August. We would dearly loved to take him up on it, but we did not think Duncan's employers have the same dedication to folk music as would be needed to excuse an extra week's absence.

"The Miner's Right" Wine Bar in Townsville is a commercial venture where folk music can be heard two nights a week (Tuesday and Friday) in a way similar to the Coffee Lounges here in Melbourne, except that you have the wines and Cider on sale. The management have just finished making a really spectacular outdoor section. Stone-paved with a low stone wall, no roof but a bush timber windbreak wall, small stage, big open fireplace, heavy benches and tables. What makes it so spectacular is that the block backs onto (includes actually) a sheer reddish hillside/cliff face a hundred feet or so in height, upon which two trees (which could have been placed by a landscape specialist, such is the effect of them) are lighted from behind and below making a superb backdrop to this outdoor patio section. It was opened a week before we were there, to a packed audience.

I also had addresses for Herberton people on the Atherton Plateau, but we were running out of time and didn't make contact - better luck next time because if it is humanly possible there will be a next time. We ran out of time at Rockhampton and had to high-tail it for home.

Need I say that coming home was traumatic? IT WAS BLOODY CRUEL. My Bug Colony didn't completely die while I was in that lovely climate, but they did retire with skirmishes, but the further South we got, the more of them returned to the field, clapping their rotten little hands and chortling with glee (I could hear them and so could anyone within a yard of me)! As a result I have only got to one folk function with the concomitant result that I don't know much of what is going on yet.

The reason why you are getting this one so soon after the last one is that school holidays are coming up and the N/letter has to get to the printer before then. However, arising (burgeoning might be a better term) family commitments for me may make the next one a bit "iffy" for timing.

If you look at your Activities Sheet, you will see that some of our entries are incomplete * and I'm fairly certain some of no longer accurate, but no-one seems to have the necessary information. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP US WITH THIS SUPPLEMENT - PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE L*T *S H*V* *T *S S**N *S P*SS*BL* so we can pass it on via the Activities Sheet. Negative information as well as positive information is a help - partial and/or incorrect information isn't any help at all to our readers.

P.S. I have a lovely suntan but it is too bloody cold to show it off. I'm not going to bore you with a travelogue but it was a lovely trip. I was almost too scared to blink in case I missed something so I had to buy some sunglasses before my eyes got sore. I also bought a visored cap so I could pass off as a tourist.

CHEERIO SPOOKS!

REPORT ON "HIGH LEVEL RANTERS" TOUR - From Jamie Johnston

The High Level Ranters have once again triumphed in Melbourne. Those of you who did not get to any of their performances missed out on some great times. Those who did were rewarded with entertainment, fine music and value for money.

The Monday night concert was started in fine fashion by Tim O'Brien and Hugh McDonald, Joe Palacci being too ill to sing with them. (We all hope Joe has fully recovered now - Ed.) Tim just keeps writing and singing very good songs, and Hugh seems to be getting even better on his instruments, hard though that may sound. The new Ranters' line-up, when they started, did not disappoint. By not having a constant rhythm guitar on each tune, there is not so much drive and excitement but they are much tighter than the old band, and have a rounder, more complete sound. Highlights were many, from Johnny's introductions to Jim's piping, not forgetting the new vocalist in the group, Peter Wood, who has one of the finest voices heard here for a long time.

The Saturday afternoon at the Dan O'Connell was exactly what it should have been, a fun afternoon, aided and abetted in no small way by the music of Louis McManus, Mk.I and Mk.II.

The dance was started by some of Melbourne's best-known musicians, Dave Alleway, Dave and Gillian Rackham, Damien Tresize and Simon Leverton, with dances called by Lynne Stone. The Ranters started at 9.00p.m., and there was music until 1.00a.m. Two dances without a break in between followed by a short break for the dancers, during which at least one member of the band kept playing, was the way it went, apart from the times the band came down to the middle of the dance floor for a short concert bracket.

The other memorable night was the night after the concert, at the Rainbow. It was one of the best sessions I have been to for a long time. It has been two years since we last saw the Ranters, and this visit did not detract from my memories - it added to them.

Yes, I know - you were going to get this Newsletter EARLY. Well, you didn't (or haven't) but you got Jamie's report. Sorry spooks. We just didn't have our act together at the right time for the printing. Somewhere along the line I am going to have to slip a "nextra" in this year - doesn't look too hopeful at the moment, but I will eventually get myself organised again. That's if the bugs don't get me first. I WANT TO GO BACK TO NORTH QUEENSLAND!!! There were some damp/wet days but at least I wasn't COLD and wet.

Don't forget the Victorian Folk Music Club's "Woolshed" Ball on 12th September, at Central Hall - Tickets from Alan Gardner.

The Traditional Social Dancing Association of Victoria will be holding a Day School on the same date at Carlton Community Centre - starting at 9.30a.m. Ian Thwaite is presenting Playford English Dance in the morning and Lynne Stone is presenting an Australian Colonial Dance Workshop in the afternoon. The Social part of the day is the afore-mentioned V.F.M.C. Ball. \$6.00 for the day or \$3.00 for each workshop and \$5.00 for the Ball. Contact Bruce McClure (314 0255).

Memberships are coming along nicely but we have not caught up to last year's level yet, although we have a lot of new ones. That really means that a good many people have not yet renewed their subscriptions. All you good people who get this newsletter will just have to remind the laggards - because they won't be getting one.

See you later Folks.

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PERSONAL NOTICES - DEATHS
GARDEN, COMMON passed away peacefully and quietly (apart from Hugh) 4th September 1981 A.D. attended by family and friends. Thanks for last rites from Flying Piepeople. Anyone knowing suitable place for adoption please contact committee.

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J.A.M.M. FOLK



Dear Peoples,

Are you taking us seriously? Our financial position is not only in Dire Straits (to quote John Tallor), but in Dire, Dire Straights. The Benefit Dance, to be held on 25th July and also the two High Level Ranters events are our only hope of financial redemption. If you, as members, care about the Victorian folk scene and want to see a continuation of events currently being held (i.e. Common or Garden Folk Club, Sunday Dances, Newsletter, Activities Sheets and events held in conjunction with the A.F.T. and the Folk Touring Circuit), you must support the three functions being held over the next five or six weeks. Don't say 'someone else can go' or make excuses of other kinds—it won't work!

If we don't get full, and I mean full, membership support, there will be no more problems, and no more FSDSV. Get it!?! How much stronger can we make it?

Yours in hope,

Gail Nicholson.

The above pointed open letter appeared in the current Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria newsletter, stating so very clearly the position this society finds itself in. By their very nature these societies are made up of enthusiastic volunteers who give much of their free time to something which interests them greatly. They do it for themselves, but in doing it, do it for the rest of us also, who may not be as passionately motivated but do share a love for the same activity.

Now it's time for the rest of us to stand up and support these brave enthusiasts who have been working on our behalf. If you'd like to see this Society continue, if you're interested in the future and preservation of Morris Dancing, Colonial Dancing, Bush Dance, Folk Music and everything else which fits in between these headings, please contact the 'Folk Song & Dance Society of Victoria' secretary, Gail Nicholson at P.O. Box 96, Carlton, Victoria.

Become a member! At least ask to see a copy of the Society's newsletter to find out more about their activities and functions. In the end you will be the beneficiary, because you will be on the receiving end of great joy and fun which this branch of entertainment has to offer.

Quote of the Month (Year? Decade?)

Tullamarine Airport 9.8.81

Johnny Handle (from afar across the bar) on seeing Sue go up to Colin Ross and giving him a big c-cuddle:

"Ye lad, watch it - tha'll get charged excess baggage for that!"

Peter Wood same place - 2 hours after they were supposed to leave -

"Stuff British Airways - it took Captain Cook less time than this!"



AUGUST 1981

Ed: Jess Dunnadge, 469 4078 P.O. Box 96 CARLTON 3053

Contact the above address if you would like to know more about the F.S.D.S.V., or obtain the newsletter

PLEASE RING JESS DUNNADGE on 469 4078 IF YOU KNOW OF ANY CHANGE OR ADDITIONS TO FOLK CLUB/DANCE LISTINGS ON THIS SHEET. IF YOUR CLUB IS LISTED HERE PLEASE MAKE SURE THE ENTRIES ARE KEPT UP TO DATE.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES & COMING EVENTS

CITY

COMMON OR GARDEN FOLK CLUB, 163 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. BYO grog & glass. (John Shorter, 481 6379)

SEPTEMBER 4th Flying Pieman 18th To be announced

CONNECTION, 2 Stephenson Street, Richmond Every Saturday night \$2 donation (Sue, 347 1685)

CUPIDS Coffee Shop, 50 Commercial Road, Prahran

DAN O'CONNELL FOLK CLUB, Cnr. Princes & Canning Sts., Carlton Thurs. (Randall Percy 64 0661, ext 847)

FOOTSCRAY ARTS CENTRE 45 Moreland Street Footscray (689 5677) All sorts of interesting music things. Acoustic concerts each month.

GREEN MAN COFFEE LOUNGE, 1221 High Street, Malvern (20 5012)

LANTERN COFFEE LOUNGE, 9 Burwood Highway, Burwood. Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, & Sun.

NEW COMMUNE, 183 St. Georges Road, North Fitzroy.
Wednesday & Saturday, General Folk/Blues/Country; Sunday, Jazz with Brian Brown.

NEW LINCOLN INN, Cnr Rathdowne & Faraday Streets, Carlton. Friday & Saturday (Wayne Robinson, 689 3348)
Groups - Some Dancing.

ONE-C-ONE, Nr. Cnr. McPherson & Arnold Sts., North Carlton - Sunday nights (347 8858 or 550 1756, A.H.)

PANTON HILL UMBRELLA CLUB - Fridays, Club Hotel, Cnr Spencer & LaTrobe Sts., 8pm - 1 am \$3.00
Saturdays, Dan O'Connell Hotel, Cnr Princes & Canning Sts., Carlton, 8-11 pm. (Dan Morgan 527 4652)

RAINBOW HOTEL, 27 St. David Street, Fitzroy (419 4193). Informal Folk Music, Wednesday & Friday nights, Folk Club Thursday nights. (Cliff Gilbert-Purssey, Guest Artists, Floor Singers
Aug. 27th, Tim O'Brien. Sept. 3rd, Duncan & Allison, (10th, ?) 17th, Annie, Philippa, Malcolm & Brian

ROYAL PARK HOTEL, Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. Fri. night - Acoustic. (John Mioovich 480 3695)

SHAKESPEARE COFFEE SHOPPE, 478 Chapel Street, South Yarra

SPAGHETTI THEATRE, 181 Collins Street, Melbourne (63 5787)

TROUBADOUR Coffee Lounge & Restaurant, 4 Bowen Crescent, Albert Park (26 4409)

TWILIGHT COFFEE HOUSE, 234 High Street, Kew. (Wednesday to Sunday)

VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB, (Elma Gardner 497 1628)

* SINGABOUT, Curtain Square Pavilion, Cnr. Canning & Newry Sts., Carlton. 4th Friday each month, 8:00 pm.

* WORKSHOP Mon. nights Anglers Hall Cnr. Rathmines & Clarke Sts. Fairfield, also Dance Music Workshop nearby.

* SINGABOUT (Eastern Suburbs), 1st Saturday each month, C.of E. Hall, 49 Patterson St., East Ringwood.

COUNTRY

BALLARAT, Students' Union Building, College of Advanced Education, 2nd Tuesday each month
(Maureen Jardine, 053 42 8632 AH)

BENALLA FOLK CLUB, Has anyone any information?

BORDER DISTRICT FOLK CLUB, (Albury), Australia Hotel, Cnr. Wilson & David Streets, Every Thursday night
(Mary Anderson 060 25 6535)

CHILTERN FOLK CLUB, 4th Wednesday every month

COROWA FOLK CLUB, Every 2nd Wednesday

GEELONG FOLK CLUB, (Jamie McKew 052 65 6123 AH)

* Golden Age Hotel, Gheringhap Street, Geelong - Singalong/Come-All-Ye, Tuesday nights, 8:00 p.m.

* The Gallery, Geelong Performing Arts Centre, Friday nights 8:00 p.m.

KALLISTA FOLK CLUB, Community House, Kallista (750 1222), Informal Folk Music. 2nd Friday each month.

KYNETON FOLK CLUB, C.Y.S.S. Office, Old Methodist Church, Ebdon Street, Kyneton, Thursday nights
(Dave Sprigg 054 22 2576 or 054 22 2598)

OVERLANDER FOLK CLUB, Every Thursday, Bristol Room, Dandenong High School. (Bill Graham 059 96 3215)

SHEPPARTON FOLK CLUB Thursdays (Delfina Manor, 058 28 9274 or 21 2150)

WANGARATIA FOLK CLUB, Vine Hotel. Last Friday each month (S. Bridges 057 21 2176)

MORRIS DANCING

BALLAARAT MORRIS, Trades Hall, Camp Street, Ballarat, Thursday nights, 7:30 p.m.

BRITANNIA MORRIS MEN, Carlton Community Centre, Princes Street, Carlton, Wednesday nights, 7:30 p.m. enquiries 481 6379 A.H.

PLENTY MORRIS, Lower Plenty Primary School, Practice & Learning every Tuesday 7:30 p.m. (Neil Murray 439 9120 AH)

SHE-OAKS Ladies' Morris, Wednesday nights 7:00 p.m. Melb. Uni. Student's Union Building - Front room (Marg. Slattery, 88 7594)

LEARN COLONIAL DANCING

COLONIAL DANCERS, Carlton Primary School, Palmerston Street, Carlton. Wednesday nights
Beginners Class: 7:30 - 8:30; Intermediate Class: 8:30 - 10:00 (Norm Ellis 62 7197 BH)

VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB, Carlton Community Centre, Dance (with instruction from Shirley Andrews), 2nd Tuesday every month.

BALLARAT CURRENCY DANCERS, Uniting Church Hall, Barkly Street, Ballarat, Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m. (Christine Parkin, 053 34 7486)

SANDHURST DANCE CLUB, Bendigo (Peter Ellis 054 43 2679)

OVERLANDER FOLK CLUB, Dandenong High School - 1st Thurs. each month.

REGULAR DANCES - CITY:

F.S.D.S.V./COLONIAL DANCERS Sunday Afternoon Dance, Carlton Community Centre, Princes Street, Carlton, 1st Sunday each month (Paul Borg 560 1584) - Doors open 2 pm, Dancing Starts 2.30 sharp
NEXT DANCE: SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 1981 with BROWN JUG

PARRADIDDLE, Heidelberg Town Hall, Fri. 21st August & Fri. 25th September. (John Zigimantis, 844 2100)

VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB, Carlton Community Centre, Dance (with instruction), 2nd Tuesday every month.

Y.H.A., Cnr Church Street & Highfield Road, Canterbury. 2nd Wednesday each month - Patterson's Curse.

V.F.M.C. COLONIAL DANCE (with minimum instruction) at Carlton Community Centre, 3rd Saturday each month. (Non-licensed) 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm.

REGULAR DANCES - COUNTRY:

BARANDUDAH BUSH DANCE (6 miles from Wodonga on Kiewa Highway) 2nd Saturday each month (Mary Anderson 060 25 6535)

BENDIGO, Spring Gully Hall, 3rd Friday every month. (Peter Ellis 054 43 2679)

BETHANGA, Old Time, Bethanga Hall, 2nd Saturday each month with "Bush Rats"

NARRE WARREN - Community Centre, Malcolm St., 1st Saturday every 2nd Month (059 96 3215)

TALLANGAITA, Old Time, Church of England Hall, 3rd Saturday each month with Nariel Band

COMING EVENTS

BUSH DANCE, Friday 11th September with Flying Pieman. South Melbourne Town Hall.

V.F.M.C. WOOLDSHED BALL, Saturday 12th September, Central Hall, Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
B.Y.O. Basket Supper and Drinks. (Alan Gardner 497 1628)

MALDON FOLK FESTIVAL ?????? October ??????

* Undemanding jobs for musicians requiring experience in public performance. Good pay, frequent but irregular gigs. Vocal and instrumental (guitar preferred). Clark Laidlaw: 654 1960 (BH) 428 3846 (AH)

* GEOFF WOOFF for Irish & Northumbrian Pipes, Woodwind, Repairs etc.
NOW AT R.M.B. 487, Port Fairy, 3284. (055) 68 1737.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

SUPPORT FOLK MUSIC - JOIN THE F. S. D. S. V.

Single	\$ 8.00	Concession (Country, Pensioner, Student	\$5.00
Family	\$12.50	Group (Clubs & Societies)	\$20.00

Life memberships - Ten times the current applicable membership - not applicable to concession memberships except for certain pensioners.

Membership of the Folk Song & Dance Society gives lower admission prices to all functions run by the F.S.D.S.V. (including Common or Garden Folk Club); Lower admission prices to most functions run by affiliated clubs (such as the V.F.M.C., Dan O'Connell, Geelong Folk Club, Border District Folk Club, Wangaratta Folk Club, Shepparton Folk Club and others at the discretion of the organisers); discounts on records at Fretted Instruments, 333 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. There may be other concessions available later (negotiations under way), but membership can pay for itself well and truly in less than a year.