



# FOLKVINE

The Newsletter of the  
Folk Song & Dance Society of Victoria

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### *Hullo Folks*

Life is full of surprises isn't it? This month's issue is a bit of an experiment, and we'd like to know what you think. Last month Coralie Collins explained why Folkvine's content has to be reduced. This format should help the situation, as we only have to work in multiples of two pages instead of the four required for the A5 format. The number of 'fillers' can be reduced in this way, and a more compact content presented.

There is still lots of room, however, for reviews, letters, poems, comments, etc, so keep writing! And keep us informed of coming events which may interest our readers.

Congratulations to all those who have been involved in the presentation of **FSDSV sponsored concerts** during the past month. We've reached a very wide audience with enjoyable and successful Folk Club nights, concerts by overseas artists Vin Garbutt and Fred Small, a great Brunswick Festival Dance, and two concerts for the Brunswick Music Festival.

The **Brunswick Arts Festival** has become a major event on Melbourne's cultural calendar and a credit to its organisers. As one late night Retreat Hotel patron said: "It's great to have all this music, a good rage - and then go home to your own bed!" Do I detect an ageing folkie?! Anyway, the Melbourne Folk Club is very much a part of the Brunswick scene at its present venue, and the FSDSV's sponsorship of the Festival has brought rewards in a number of ways. It's good to be working together to keep the music happening.



Many of you who are reading this are either on your way to or have just returned from the National Folk Festival in Canberra. From a quick perusal of the program it promises to be a fantastic festival. One of the beauties of the National is the choice available to either concert-watch or session as the mood takes you - day or night.

Overseas artists include Martin Hayes and Brian Peters, but once again the organisers have decided to showcase chiefly Australian talent, and what a wealth of talent there is! Victoria is again well-represented, the dance program is extensive and it seems as if there is something for everyone. Hopefully we'll have some reviews for next Folkvine.

*Cheers for now.*

*Jeanette*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

In my March Report I made reference to when *the season is over*, and now it seems I'm trying to compile April's Report in *the height of the season*. The Committee has been busy doing a host of things other than meeting as a committee. The various sub groups within the Committee have in fact been working overtime.

Committee members involved with special functions, who had their work cut out with the pre Port Fairy **Vin Garbutt/Di McNicol concert** were very appreciative of all those *extra bands* assisting with media releases, hauling chairs and with 'personing' doors, sound etc., who helped to make

such a success of the night; and a fantastic night it was!!

Vin, in his inimitable style certainly reinforced his reputation as the funniest and most serious man on the folk scene, his performance incorporating the "wild swings" which underpin the comment from Loudon Wainwright III that "he (Vin) really sticks his neck out and occasionally gets it kicked in, but that doesn't stop him". Believe me, he showed again, that nothing stops him!! Di, of course was her usual fabulous self, proving she had lost none of her special appeal in the time we've not heard her and winning acclaim from everyone, from Vin himself, to the man who came from the Musicians Union to check out the concert and who stayed all night.

Not only has the M.F.C. working party skilfully manoeuvred around Society festival and concert commitments and presented a top class folk club program for March, including its own Big Concert with the dual billing of **Fred Small and Martin Pearson**, this group also has the April folk club program ready to roll right after Easter.

While the profile of the M.F.C. is very much on the upswing, the club must have regular support from members, not only by you turning up on Fridays, but in the form of **feedback** you give the organisers and/or the committee. Members came out in force to the special M.F.C. directions meeting called after the last A.G.M.; we need to know what you think six months later. Are we getting it right? Do you want; more of the same? a different format or style of music, of performer? We don't know if you don't tell us, and if you don't tell us we'll be asking you again!!



Before we even get to Easter the Society has its commitment to the **Brunswick Music Festival** to fulfil. F.S.D.S.V. involvement in the Festival. A weekend of Martin Carthy, Dave Swarbrick, Andy Irvine, John Dengate, Alistair Hulett, Alan Musgrove, Helen O'Shea and Joe Fitzgerald at the East Brunswick Club Hotel has taken many hours and considerable dollars to bring to fruition. When the dust settles we'd like to know how **you** enjoyed it? What's your opinion of F.S.D.S.V. financial sponsorship to this festival? (Remember last year we gave sponsorship to the National)

Our **Festival Dance**, while under the Brunswick banner was the responsibility of the Society. When I put on the President's hat last year I undertook to re-involve the Society in the area of dance and last Saturday, with the massive input of Margot and Brian and the support of John McAuslan we took the first step on this path. We've already been asked "When's the next one?" You guessed it; we're already working on it!

In the giving out of bouquets for Saturday's dance I want particularly to hand them to the **Colonials** from the Wednesday night classes, who not only turned out in force, but who danced a superb display set for free and who assisted with the smooth running of the night. Red roses to Margot and Brian; to Gary Clarke, M.C. for the night, long stemmed yellow ones!! Many thanks also for the inspiring 'Skips' display, to the Eureka Dance Band

for their music and their dance instruction and to dancers who I know came from from as far away as Bendigo, Kyabram and Geelong.



Last month's report dealt with the cuts we have had to make to **Folkvine**. Feedback I have had has been generally understanding of the problems, suggesting that while most members don't want to have to choose where Society dollars are spent, there is a heavy leaning towards the promotion of performers and concerts/events etc. Please let us know your views so we can continue to plan ahead.

This week at the A.G.M. of the **Victorian Folklife Association.**, the state's umbrella organisation, my comments as to our recent decisions regarding **Folkvine** and suggestions that the responsibility for a statewide newsletter belonged with the V.F.A. were very positively received. I requested and it was agreed that the issue be placed on their meeting agenda a.s.a.p. If you have ideas/opinions on this subject please discuss them with me or with Hugh, who is President of the V.F.A. A vote of appreciation for the outstanding contribution the Society has made over the years with the newsletter was moved and carried unanimously. Present and past committees and editors should all take well deserved bows.

In terms of future **Society Directions**, a working party has been set up to meet after Easter to sift and refine the deliberations to date and to prepare a set of recommendations. This will be reported in greater detail in the *May Folkvine*. Again if you have not yet made any representation in this area and wish to do so, please communicate opinions either verbally or in writing to the Society address.

By the time you read this I hope you've enjoyed the Brunswick Music Festival as much as I have. One out of the bag, and one to which the Society can be proud to have lent support. **Well done John and team! Keep 'em coming!** I hope to see many of you at the National to share some time, some music, a song, a dance or a drink and if not to catch up soon one Friday at **'the East'**.

**Have a happy and safe Easter: Coralie**

P.S. Ring me if you're interested in a party booking for the **Steeleye Span concert in May!!!**

## FOLK IN VICTORIA

We've had a feast of good music - some call it the "silly season" - with Port Fairy, Brunswick and the National Festival and a preponderance of overseas and interstate artists. Time for a breather perhaps, but there's no shortage of things to do in April and May either, so keep your eyes peeled.

It's heartening to see so much of our local talent going onto top quality **tapes and CDs**. Some of the Vics to have "launched" into sound recently have been:

- Graham and Claire Dodsworth
- Bruce Watson
- Jugularity
- Moving Harps
- Enda Kenny
- Simpson, Gillespie and Wright



Please don't tape someone else's copy - support the artists and buy your own. They're worth every cent! Read on for some dates for your diary.

## APRIL

### FRIDAY 8

- **The Melbourne Folk Club**, with **Ian Paulin**, **Brendan Sheaston** and **The Heartstarters**. 8.30pm. East Brunswick Club Hotel, 280 Lygon Street. \$6/\$5/\$4. Enquiries: (03) 481 6051.

### SATURDAY 9

- **The Boite World Music Cafe**, with **Klezmania** - energetic Jewish Klezmer music. Mark St Hall, Nth Fitzroy. 8.15pm. \$10/\$6. Enquiries: (03) 417 3550.

### SUNDAY 10

- **Penelope Swales** at the Windsor Castle Hotel - last appearance in Victoria for three months. With **Kirsty Stegwazi** and the **Messenger Sisters**. Albert St, Prahran. 3-7pm. \$6/\$4.

### FRIDAY 15

- **Melbourne Folk Club. Sing/Play/Recite**. One song, tune or poem around the circle then start the round again. Hosted by **Helen Wright**. Quiet listening atmosphere will be encouraged. 8.30pm.

### SATURDAY 16

- **Koorie Music: Ochre, Richard Frankland and Tony Norris**. At the Boite, Mark St Hall, Nth Fitzroy. 8.15pm.

### FRIDAY 22

- **Melbourne Folk Club**. With **Bruce Watson** and **Chloe Hall**. 8.30pm.
- **Northcote Area Family Dance**. 7.00pm. Clyde St Community Centre, 70 Clyde St, Thornbury. \$5 adult. \$4 conc, children free.

### SATURDAY 23

- **The Boite's Singer's Night**, with **Faye White** and the **White Family**. 8.15pm.

### FRIDAY 29

- **Melbourne Folk Club**. The **Guildford Folk Club** often draws a hundred or so people to its once-a-month music nights. They are never short of talented singers and musicians, so we've invited them to showcase that talent at our folk night. Please come along and support them.

### SATURDAY 30

- **Moving Harps CD Launch**. This brilliant harp trio have just produced "*Still Moving*" on tape and CD and will be joined by some friends for a night of great music. Mark Street Hall, Nth Fitzroy. Enquiries: (03) 529 2947.



## MAY

### FRIDAY 6

- **Melbourne Folk Club. Simpson, Gillespie and Wright** will be launching their tape "Nice Noises" joined by many of those who have played on the recording. Also **Alan Musgrove** will be presenting a wide range of his songs, some of which he has also recently recorded.

### SATURDAY 7

- **Faye White, Family and Friends**. Live, retrospective, reunion concert. The best of the past ten years. Lots of audience singing. The whole concert will be recorded to become part of a live album. 8.00pm. Assembly Hall, Collins St, Melbourne. \$15/\$12/\$50family. Cheaper if booked before April 10. Enquiries: (03) 537 1935.

### FRIDAY 13

- **Melbourne Folk Club**. Two brilliant but very different womens harmony groups. **Bindgi** are a moving force in the Qld music scene, combining guitar, saxophone, percussion and vocal harmonies to express their message. **Nude Rain** are well known to Melbourne audiences as an original and exciting a capella foursome.

# FESTIVALS

### March 31 - April 4

#### National Folk Festival, Canberra.

All enquiries to the festival office on (06) 249 7755 or fax (06) 247 7739.

### April 15 - 17

#### Fairbridge Festival, WA.

Enquiries: Fairbridge Festival Co-ordinator, PO Box 198, North Perth.

### June 10 - 13

#### Top Half Folk and Cultural Festival, Katherine, NT.

Contact: Karien Wathen on (089) 721 975 (ah), or write to: Katherine Folk Club, PO Box 1066, Katherine, NT, 0851.

#### Third International Folk Dance and Music Camp, Anglesea, Vic.

Presented by the Folk Dance Working Party of Ausdance Victoria. Anglesea Recreation Camp. Enquiries: (03) 686 0099.

### July 6 - 10

#### Winter School of Performing Arts.

To be held at the University of Melbourne. A mosaic of major approaches to music, dance and drama education. Enquiries: Hilary Bergen, (03) 816 9428.



July 8 - 10

**6th National Folklife Conference,  
Melbourne, Vic.**

"Traditions and Tourism: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly". Presented by the Australian Folk Trust and the Victorian Folklife Association. Contact the Victorian Folklife Association on (03) 417 4684.

July 15 - 17

**Rose's Gap Folk Camp, Victoria.**

A new festival, designed to bring the Vics and the South Aussies together. Rose's Gap is near Hall's Gap in the Grampians. Fully catered bunkhouse accommodation. Adults \$55, Children \$30. Includes food. Enquiries: (03) 529 2947 or (08) 336 4702.

August 5 - 7

**Melbourne A Capella Festival.**

Melbourne Town Hall and nearby venues. Enquiries: The Boite: (03) 417 3550.

September 30 - October 3

**Wagga Wagga Folk Festival, NSW.**

Held each year at the town of Uranquinty. Artists wishing to perform please contact: Jenny McNear, PO Box 240, South Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650. Closing date: June 24.

**SA State Folk & Music Festival.**

This year to be held at Victor Harbour. Performers applications to: The Folk Federation of SA, GPO Box 525, Adelaide, 5001. Closing date: June 1.

**Toodyay Folk Arts Festival, WA.**

Performers applications to: WA Folk Federation, PO Box 198, North Perth, WA, 6006. Applications close May 27.

October 28 - 31

**Maldon Folk Festival, Victoria.**

Performers applications invited now. Contact Fatty: (054) 752230, Mike: (054) 762526 or Linda: (054) 751167

## Dance Dance Dance

### Congratulations

The VFMC-sponsored TSDAV Dance Composers Competition, held on March 17, was won this year by **Brian Hickey**. Brian's dance, "**Once a Gold'n'Time**", was written in the Australian Colonial style, but with some Scottish influences. Well done Brian. We trust many future dancers will enjoy dancing it.

### Brunswick Festival Dance

The "Multicultural" Bush Dance held on Saturday March 17 was certainly enjoyed by all who attended. This was the first dance for some time sponsored by Folk Victoria. Run in conjunction

with the Brunswick Arts Festival, this new venture was a reasonable financial success, and a challenge as a forerunner for future dances.

Held in St Ambrose's Hall in Brunswick, the dance had a multicultural theme. The music, played by the Eureka Dance Band, was a highlight of the evening, and showed what talented musicians we have in **Jim Moir, Graham Witt, Janine Lancaster and Dave Rackham**.

MC was **Garry Clarke** of the Colonial Dancers and all dances were called, making it easier for the many families and newcomers to this style of dance.

**Skips International Dancers** did a wonderful display of a variety of Balkan dances, followed by the teaching of some multicultural dances. Later in the evening the **Colonial Dancers** did a display of early Australian traditional dances and also a medley of dances. Dressed in colonial costume, they presented a very well-rehearsed and colourful display.

Many colonial and international dances were called by experienced callers **Garry Clarke, Brian Hickey, Jim Moir, Graham Witt and Dave Rackham**.

For those members who missed out on a good night, we look forward to seeing you there at our next planned dance, to put more of the *dance* into the Folk Song and *Dance Society!*

Margot Hitchcock.

## Farewell and Thanks

As I mentioned in last month's Folkvine, we have recently said farewell to some of our older and most respected folk musicians and identities. The folk communities of Australia should be sincerely grateful for their contributions to our folk culture, and to those who have documented their work.

### Mrs Agnes Corry

Mrs Corry was a member of the Bendigo Bush Music and Dance Club, the Emu Creek Band and for a number of years headed her own dance band in country Victoria. She was a keen fiddle player, who became interested in folk music after the death of her husband. She often said that her association with the folk movement was the best part of her life. We will miss her and her music.  
*(Australian Tradition Magazine)*

### Mr Harry McQueen

Harry, who passed away on January 12 after a long illness, was born in Daylesford and as a child loved to hear his grandfather play the accordion. He later moved to Castlemaine and bought his own accordion, a Cables International Chromatic, in 1926. Despite being unable to read music, he was determined to master the instrument, and often took to the bush to practise. After playing at his first dance, Harry decided to learn old-time dancing, and to concentrate on the music which goes with it. He was a staunch believer that, in order to play

to a high standard, one needs to also have a good knowledge of dancing.

From 1926, Harry performed regularly, including appearances at the Fryerstown Hall for 28 years, as well as heading the very popular McQueen's Old Time Band from 1940 to 1977. Harry was always willing to help other musicians, for example Peter Ellis when Peter was working on his books. Harry also conducted workshops at National Festivals on dance music and dance etiquette. He was a lovable and giving person and will be sadly missed by all those who knew him. *(Australian Tradition)*

### Lorna Beatrice (Beat) Klippel

Beat and her late husband Con were well known and loved by all who came into contact with them at the Nariel Creek Folk Festival, which they were instrumental in starting over thirty years ago. Beat was born in 1911, and lived most of her life in north-eastern Victoria. She was a warm caring person, who loved to dance and have fun. Even after much suffering in 1993, at the Nariel Festival where most of us saw her last, the twinkle in her eyes and the smile on her face were both still very much in evidence!

Beat spent much of her life caring for and helping both family and friends. She and Con farmed and lived simply in the Nariel Valley, growing and using local produce and materials to build a lovely home and environment which was always open to visitors. They worked hard for their three children and the community, at one stage *both* having a hand in the local school bus run!

The Valley was steeped in music, and while Con taught the local children the accordion, Beat taught the dances, some of which are unique to the Nariel area. After Con's death in 1975, Beat continued her involvement with the Festival, being a loved and familiar face at every dance and concert.

Beat passed away on Tuesday, March 15. Her family, her community and many many festival goers will miss her very much.

*(Jeanette Gillespie, with thanks to Mrs. Maureen Simpson for some of this information.)*

## Australian Folk Trust Funding in Jeopardy

The Australian Folk Trust, the national folk arts body, and organiser of our National Festival, is facing its biggest challenge since the national office was established in 1988. The Australia Council has indicated to the Trust that its administrative funding is to be cut - which could well mean the demise of the Trust by the end of this year.

There are a number of issues involved, and certainly battles to be fought in the coming months. We urge all concerned members to contact both the **Victorian Folklife Association**, (03) 417 4684, which is in constant communication

with the AFT, and the **AFT office** in Canberra, (06) 249 7722, for more information on this important issue. One way we are going to ensure the continued existence of the Trust is by convincing politicians that the community *wants* a national body to represent the interests of Australian Folklife at a national level.

So, members, jump in there and agitate! Find out the issues, find out how to contact the people who count, and start to make a noise.



## History in Rhyme

I've heard folks say occasionally on hearing a song or poem about a particular current issue: "It's too topical - it won't last." I'd have to say if that's the case it wipes out a large proportion of the history of folk song and rhyme! Shall we no more sing the great songs which have emanated from the depressions, mining disasters, strikes, wars and victories of the past?

Some of the most powerful songs and poems written recently by Australians have arisen from the Beijing massacre and the Sarajevo seige. Are these to be forgotten once the major issues have passed into history, or do they speak in broader terms than merely the present? I certainly hope that Graham Dodsworth's 'China' song, Ian Paulin's 'Sarajevo' and Bruce Watson's 'Trenches' will be remembered and sung long into the future.

I would like to publish words and perhaps music of these and other 'topical' songs' in future issues of Folkvine. This issue, however we have a poem sent by Canberra poet and reciter, Keith McKenry, entitled "Brothel". One not for the faint hearted, but it speaks volumes., even though the world has finally begun to take some notice of the tragedy.

*Jeanette*

### Brothel

At least fifty United Nations officers have patronised a brothel organised by Serbian troops, and staffed by captured Muslim and Croation women, in the *Sonja Kon-Tiki* pension-restaurant in the village of Vogosca, north of Sarajevo.

*- News Item*

North of Sarajevo,  
Where the Serbs hold sway,  
The village of Vogosca  
Sees soldiers at their play.

*Sonja Kon-Tiki* pension  
- Where laughter rang before -  
Now Muslim wife, Croation girl,  
Are gang-raped on the floor.

After an initial cull  
They spare the one who begs,  
Has decent tits, a pleasant face,  
And (to live) will spread her legs

And who's this coming down the lane  
 In the weary quest for peace?  
 UN soldiers, on a spree,  
 And needing some release.

They give the Serbs a nod and wink,  
 And then pass through the door:  
 Europe's role in Bosnia  
 In perfect metaphor.

And after taking pleasure on  
 A girl-child white with fear,  
 For the suffering in Bosnia  
 They shed a quiet tear.

The governments of Europe,  
 They play the selfsame game.  
 Call it what you will (*they do*):  
 Call it War - but *Rape's* the name.

Keith McKenry  
 24 December 1993

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\*\*\*\*\* **DEADLINES** \*\*\*\*\*

15th of each month for the following month's edition.

- HANDBILLS FOR INSERTION:** 250 A5 sized copies required by the Wed. prior to the fourth Friday of the month. No A4 size inserts please.
- ADVERTISEMENTS:** Please supply as bromides or CLEAR black white copies.

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<p><b>NON-MEMBERS</b>          \$50 Full Page          \$25 Half Page          \$12 Quarter Page          \$7 Eighth Page          \$30 Inserts (A5 size)</p>	<p><b>MEMBERS</b>          20% DISCOUNT          (\$7 MINIMUM)</p>
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**GENERAL ENQUIRIES TO:-**

Coralie Collins

(President/Public Officer)

(03) 480 1020

(H)

# MELBOURNE FOLK CLUB

## APRIL

Friday nights 8.30 pm. All welcome

### 8th Ian Paulin

We welcome this powerful singer/songwriter back to Melbourne and to the Folk Club stage after a spell overseas. We're sure he'll have a swag of new songs to air.

### The Heartstarters with Brendan Sheaston

Highly respected guitarist Brendan (of Moonee Valley Drifters fame) goes solo - a treat for the ears - and plays some heartstarting country, western swing and original music with bass player Andrew Scott and singer/guitarist Geoff Hollings.

### 15th Sing/Play/Recite - hosted by Helen Wright

Totally acoustic night - one song, tune or poem around the circle, then start the round again. A quiet listening atmosphere will be encouraged - social chat during the breaks!

### 22nd Bruce Watson

Fresh from his "Real World" CD success, Bruce will have you both laughing and crying as he presents his latest songs along with some old favourites.

### Chloe Hall

Young singer/songwriter with a growing reputation for her lovely voice.

### 29th The Guildford Push

A fantastic line-up of very talented Central Victorian performers take the stage tonight.

**Phil Day, Duncan Brown, Simon Sail, Judy Howell, Peter Maloney,**

**Keryn Randall** and more! Don't miss this great night's entertainment.

#### MAY FOLK CLUB EVENTS:

- FRIDAY 6th **Alan Musgrove** sings songs from his latest recording, as well as older favourites.  
**Simpson, Gillespie and Wright** launch their brand new tape, "Nice Noises".
- FRIDAY 13th **Bindgi (Qld)** - superb women's harmony trio, with guitar, saxophone and percussion.  
**Nude Rain** - great songs, powerful harmonies, from this well known local foursome.

EAST BRUNSWICK CLUB  
HOTEL  
280 Lygon Street  
BRUNSWICK EAST  
380 1206  
Tram: 1 or 15  
Enquiries: 481 6051

#### ADMISSION

Prices vary.  
Generally \$6, \$5, \$4.

Special Concerts usually  
\$12, \$10 conc & memb

