

Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria Inc



“Folk Victoria”

PO Box 1096, Carlton, Victoria, 3053 Phone: 0414 732 667

Newsletter December 2007



Committee: Jeanette Gillespie (President and Folk Club manager), Rick Sidgwick (Secretary), Chris Bigby (Treasurer), Rebecca Marshall (Membership Secretary), Denise Hibbs (Folk Club door manager), Jamie Johnston (PA Manager), Wendy Ealey (Webmistress), John O’Leary (Public Officer), Ray Hare and Rick Osborn (General Committee).

Christmas Greetings to All

On behalf of all of us on the committee, I’d like to wish you a **very happy and safe Christmas season**. We hope you can get to a Festival or two – there are some great ones coming up. Thanks for staying with us at Folk Victoria – we hope you’ve enjoyed what we have had to offer.

Who knows what’s ahead in 2008?! It’s important to us to keep on with our mission of preserving, promoting and presenting the wonderful diversity of this country’s folk music, song, dance, and oral tradition but we need the **workers** to carry it on. So read on!

The Last Hurrah?

Well, dear members, I did try! In our last little newsletter I encouraged you all to come along to our AGM or at least let us know if you could assist in the future, as the Folk Club has to leave the Clifton Hill Hotel and I will be moving to the country.

We held the AGM on **November 8th** and only the committee and **two** additional people turned up. Two people have rung me with suggestions about Folk Club venues, but no-one else has offered person-power assistance. **Does that mean that no-one else values what our Society has built up over 35 or more years and that no-one else really cares if it continues or not??**

The meeting decided to **continue** the Society for another year (see under the banner above for the new committee’s names and positions). Thanks to new members **Ray Hare** and **Rick Osborn** for offering their services. Wendy Ealey and Rick Sidgwick have offered to start looking for a new Folk Club venue, I have offered to keep on publishing the newsletter and remain as President, and other members have continued in the positions they occupied on the previous committee.

In **May** of next year we will review the situation, and if no extra assistance or support has been offered by then, we will be giving a last plea to members. If no change by **July**, we will call a **Special General Meeting** to consider winding up the Society.

**** Please let us know your thoughts!! ****

Thanks

As **President** I would like to acknowledge the work of all the committee members over the past year. **Thanks to:**

* **Retiring** committee member **Malcolm Turnbull** for his cheerful readiness to help in any way he could, often at short notice. Malcolm is also a folk historian and his articles in the “Trad and Now” magazine on the early days of the folk revival in Australia have made fascinating reading. Malcolm feels he cannot devote time to the committee during the coming year but is still willing to help out – we thank him for his service.

* **Rick** for keeping the administrative cogs turning as secretary. He’s also always available to set up, clean up, and help in any way he can.

* **Chris** for keeping our financial cogs in order. It’s a big job to keep that side of things together and tidy it all up for the AGM each year!

* **Rebecca** for her role as membership secretary – a steady ongoing workload – and for helping out at the Folk Club door and with mail-outs and sundry other jobs.

* **Denise** for being a cheerful presence at the Folk Club door table – and for organising replacements if needed. Denise also liaises with the dance organisations in Melbourne and helps to organise the annual Tea Dance and other dance events.

* **Jamie** for being our wonderful talented PA manager for so many years. He has been given a reprieve most nights since the Folk Club migrated to the Clifton Hill Hotel, but is still often there to keep a watchful ear on things!

* **Wendy** for setting up and maintaining our Folk Victoria website and for being readily and cheerfully available for numerous other jobs. Also to Wendy’s mum, **Mary** for her cheerful assistance with mail-outs!

* **John** for his role as Public Officer, for his assistance with the Brunswick Music Festival Folk Vic concerts, and his readiness to assist as a door person, with manual labour and numerous other bits and pieces.

At the AGM we celebrated the ongoing role of the society, and the achievements of the 2006/2007 year.

- The **Folk Club** had a successful year of presenting wonderful live music at the Emerald Lounge of the Clifton Hill Hotel. We feel sad that we must leave there due to renovations they are about to undertake.

- Our beautiful **website** has continued to be well-managed by Wendy and has frequent visitors.

- We participated again in the **Brunswick Music Festival** and will be doing so again in 2008 (its 30th Anniversary!) with **three concerts**.

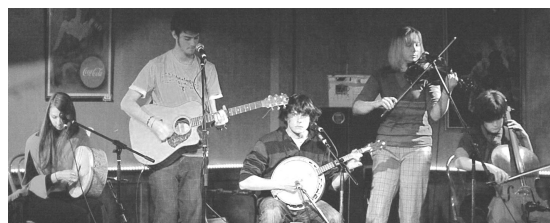
- Our **financial** state is secure, allowing for the ongoing administration of the Society, the Folk Club and our other folk events, for the costs involved in the Graham Squance Memorial Award certificate and book, and for some contributions to other worthy folk projects.

Last Folk Club at the Clifton Hill This Friday December 7th - Christmas Night

Come along **this Friday night** bedecked in your best and most colourful Christmas gear to celebrate good friends and good music and singing – and partake of a yummy Christmas treat or two.

Most of our committee – along with one of our favourite Christmas singers **Duncan Brown** - will be on stage at some point or other playing or singing and there will be **lots of opportunity to sing along!**

For the last hour or so we will be treated to a spirited bracket of Celtic-style traditional and original songs and tunes from hot young local band, **Celtaclysmic**:



CELTACLYSMIC

The members of “Celtaclysmic” are young, energetic and highly skilled multi-instrumentalists. The line-up includes: acoustic guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, whistle, cello, bodhran and vocals.

“Celtaclysmic” has performed at a wide range of venues. Having recorded a demo in 2007, plans are underway for a full-scale Celtaclysmic recording in the very near future.

Graham Squance Memorial Award

Part of the ongoing tradition of the FSDSV involves honouring those who have made longstanding and valuable contributions to the folklife of our country. The Society's presentation of the annual Graham Squance Award aims to do just that.

The range of areas of service for which the award has been made has been enormous – from performance of music, song and the spoken word to involvement in dance, folk radio, folk festival organisation and general involvement and 'leg work'.

The award for **2007** was presented this year on **Friday October 5th** to Clifton Hill Hotel Acoustic Night organiserr **Rodney Claringbould**. His citation reads:



"In recognition of the time, energy and enthusiasm Rodney has contributed and the fine musical judgement he has exercised in the running of weekly acoustic music concerts in Melbourne venues over the past fifteen years. His dedication has been greatly appreciated by a huge variety of performers in the folk, blues and contemporary acoustic music styles."

For More Folk News and Views:

- **Join the Folk Alliance Australia**, Australia's umbrella folk organisation. Go to www.folkalliance.org.au for further details and heaps of information about folk music around Australia.

- **Subscribe to Trad&Now Magazine**. Log onto: www.tradandnow.com for all the news on how you can subscribe.

- **Join Community Music Victoria**. CMV is a wonderful source of information about all manner of community music and arts events. Their publication is full of news about opportunities for participation in all sorts of song, dance and music workshops in Melbourne and right across Victoria. For information and membership: Phone: 03 9662 1162. Fax: 03 9662 1197. Email: cmv@netspace.net.au Website: <http://cmv.customer.netspace.net.au>

- **Subscribe to the Blarney Bulletin**, a great source of news and views particularly concerning the Celtic connections in Victoria and around the country. Phone Kevin McCarthy on 0411 135 418 or email him at macca@blarneybulletin.com

- Two more interesting and informative Australian folk websites are: www.newssouthfolk.com.au/festivals.html and <http://folkaustralia.com>

Cheers all – Jeanette Gillespie (President)

Diary Dates

Special Events

- **Folk Victoria Music Night:**
Friday December 7th: Christmas Special. Final night at the Clifton Hill featuring **Celtaclysmic** and a host of other performers. Emerald Lounge, Clifton Hill Hotel, cnr Wellington St and Queen's Parade, Clifton Hill, Melbourne. **8pm.** \$12/\$8. Enq: Jeanette: 0414 732 667. Website: www.folkvictoria.org.au

- **The Boite Year's End Extravaganza:**
Saturday December 8th: Featuring a host of performers from the 2007 season. **6.30pm.** Uniting Church Hall, 251 High Street, Northcote. \$16/\$11. Phone: 9417 1983. Website: www.folkvictoria.org.au

- **Gypsy Extravaganza:**
Saturday December 8th: Featuring **The Counterfeit Gypsies, Arabesk and The Crooked Fiddle Band.** East Brunswick Club, 280 Lygon St, E. Brunswick. \$15. Doors open 8.30pm. Bookings: 9388 9794 or online at www.eastbrunswickclub.com

- **Whole Gamut Acoustic Music Club:**
Final Concert on Sunday December 9th. 3pm. Brunswick Hotel, 140 Sydney Road, Brunswick. Featuring: **Bruce Watson, Lyndal Chambers, Brian Strating, Tom Bolton and Nyssa Bradsworth.** \$5 / gold coin. Enq: Peter Pentland: 9392 4817(ah) Email: ppent@museum.vic.gov.au

- **Shaking the Tree CD Launch:**
Sunday December 9th. 7pm. "Don't Tell Tom" Bar and Cafe, 420 Sydney Road, Brunswick. Entry: \$15/\$10 or by purchase of CD. Kids free. Great meals avail. Bookings: 03 9380 8667

- **Shooglenifty (Scotland):**
Thursday January 10th: East Brunswick Club, 280 Lygon St, E. Brunswick. \$32. Doors open 8.30pm. Bookings: 9388 9794 or online at www.eastbrunswickclub.com

Regular Events

Many of these events will not recommence until February or March, so if you intend to go, please check the contacts first.

- **Wax Lyrical:**
Free showcase for **songwriters** of all ages and levels of experience. Two great venues.

Hardimans in Kensington (Hardiman's Hotel is located 521 Macaulay Rd, Kensington) on **Wednesday 5th December**, kicking off at 7.30pm.

Old Hepburn Hotel in Hepburn (236 Main Road, Hepburn Springs near Daylesford) on **Wednesday 12th December** at 7.30pm.

If you're interested in **performing** on either night there are 15 minute slots available - call Trevor Shard on 0404 069 019.

www.asai.org.au

- **Selby Folk Club:**
First Friday of the month. Selby Community House, Wombalana Road, Selby (Dandenong Ranges, Vic). Open stage plus guest artists. 8.00 pm. \$10/\$8. Phone: David Miller: 03 9751 1218. www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub/index.htm

- **The Boite World Music Café:**
Every Saturday and some Friday nights. 1 Mark Street, Fitzroy. 8.00 pm. \$15/\$10. Phone: 03 9417 1983. Email: boite@boite.asn.au or website at: www.boite.asn.au

- **The Boite – Other Events:**
A variety of venues and times, including the Box Hill Community Arts Centre, the BMW Edge at Federation Square, and the Northcote Uniting Church. Contact details as above.

- **Peninsula Folk Club:**
First Sunday of the month. Shakespeare's Bar and Restaurant, 101 Young St, Frankston. Session: 7–7.45 pm. Performances: 8.00 Email: admin@peninsulafolkclub.asn.au

- **Victorian Folk Music Club (VFMC):**
** **Website** for all VFMC activities mentioned below: <http://users.bigpond.net.au/VFMC/>

** **Second Tuesday of the month: Ringwood Folk Club Guest Artist Night.** 8.00 pm. \$10/\$6. Guest artist plus floor spots. Enq: Maree: 03 9733 0802. **December 11th: "The Horny Toads".**

** **Third Tuesday of the month** is **Singabout!**, a regular group singing session. Singabout runs from 8:00 til 9:30 pm.

** **Fourth Tuesday: Billabong Band** practice from 8:00 pm. The Billabong Band is the Club's band for Concert Party events. All musicians are welcome to join in for some relaxed playing of traditional Australian music.

** **Other Tuesdays** feature session playing, singalong, poetry and yarns.

** **All events** at the **East Ringwood Community Hall** ("Red Cross Hall", enter into driveway from Knaith Road). Tea and coffee provided, small cover charge (\$4.00)

- **Clifton Hill Hotel Acoustic Music Nights**
Every Wednesday night, 9:00 pm till 11.45pm. Clifton Hill Hotel, cnr Wellington St & Queens Pde, Clifton Hill. Phone: 03 9489 8705. Website: www.cliftonhillhotel.com

** **5th December:** Liz Frencham, Dev'lish Mary, Heidi Hibberd.

** **12th December:** Tiffany Eckhardt, Tracey McNeil, Oriel Glennen.

** **19th December:** Jimi Hocking, Nick Charles, Enda Kenny.

- **The Quiet Man Singers Sessions:**

First and Third Wednesdays of the month. Singers and musicians welcome. Very popular event, so arrive early! 8 pm at the Quiet Man Hotel, 271 Racecourse Road, Flemington. Enquiries: Kathryn Clements: 9497 3227.

- **Ringwood Colonial Dances (VFMC)**

First Saturday of every month (except January), 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Club Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East (Melway 50 B8). Live bands, all dances explained and called. Members \$8.00, non-members \$10.00, children under 16 free. Light supper provided. Contact details as above.

- **Melbourne Colonial Dancers**

Numerous activities on various nights of the week and month. Very informative website at: www.melbournecolonialdancers.org.au
Contact Robin Simpson on 03 9723 2543 or Coral Eden on 03 9885 6109.

- **TSDSAV (dancing)**

The Traditional Social Dance Association of Victoria also presents a variety of dance-related activities throughout the year. Contact Marion Stabb on 03 9439 7100 or Heather Larsen on 03 9808 4869. Website: www.tsdav.asn.au

- **Fathers in the Chapel:**

Second Friday of the month. Mainly bluegrass, old-timey, etc, acoustic music and voices, sessions and performances, unplugged. St John's Anglican Church, Childers St, Cranbourne. Enq: 03 5996 8461 or 5996 9544.

- **Berwick and District Folk Club:**

Third Friday of the month. The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick. 7.30 – 11.15 pm. \$10/\$7. Guest artists plus floor spots. Enq: 03 9702 1223. Email: badfolk@optusnet.com.au Website: www.badfolk.org and/or www.badfolk.websyte.com.au
December 21st: Christmas and Open Stage Night

- **Pickin' at the Piggery:**

Third Saturday of the month except Feb and Nov. Bluegrass, blues, old-timey jams and performances. Footscray Community House, Moreland St, Footscray. Enq: Janet Dear: 03 5368 6888, 53681213 (bh).

- **Newport Fiddle and Folk Club:**

Fourth Friday of the month. Newport Community Hall, 15 Mason St, Newport, 7.30 pm. BYO instruments, voices, listening ears. \$5 / gold coin. <http://nffc.org.au/>

- **Harmony Row Vineyard, Albert Park Yacht Club Concerts and Tuesday Night "Don't Tell Tom" Sessions**

Various concert and session dates.

**** Two great concert venues** – one at Harmony Row Vineyard in the country near Kyneton, the other the Albert Park Yacht Club, close to Melbourne city.

**** Session venue** for both **singers and musicians** on the second Tuesday of the month at "Don't Tell Tom" bar and café, 420 Sydney Rd, Brunswick.

- **The Ranges Burrinja Folk Club**

Last Friday of the month, featuring great acoustic music in the relaxed and friendly, intimate atmosphere of the Burrinja Café, Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre, 351 Glenfern Rd Upwey - Melway map ref : 75 B12. \$10, \$7.

- **Melbourne Session Calendar**

(Please let us know if there should be alterations to this list.)

SATURDAYS:

Irish: Dan O'Connell Hotel, Princes St, Carlton. 5pm.

Old-Timey: Homestead Inn, Queens Pde, Clifton Hill. 5-8.30

SUNDAYS:

Irish: Normanby Hotel, Queens Pde, Clifton Hill. 3pm.

Irish: Quiet Man Hotel, 271 Racecourse Rd, Flemington. 5pm.

MONDAYS:

Irish: Lomond Hotel, Nicholson St, Brunswick. 9pm.

TUESDAYS:

Irish Slow Sessions: Father Flanagan's Irish Pub, 484 Smith St, cnr Alexandra Pde, Collingwood. 7.30 till 11.00 pm. Singers and musicians welcome.

Irish Session: Clifton Hill Hotel, 89 Queens Parade.

WEDNESDAYS:

Irish: The Comhaltas Session – music, song and dance – St Philips Church Hall, 150 Hoddle St, Collingwood. 03 9337 3639. 8pm.

Old-Timey: Railway Hotel, Nicholson St, Fitzroy. 9pm.

THURSDAYS:

Irish: The Corkman Hotel, Leicester Place, Carlton. 6.30pm.

FRIDAYS:

Irish: The Celtic Club, 316 Queen St, City. 5.30pm.

Old-Timey: "Headbelly Buzzard" gigs, Railway Hotel, Nicholson St, Fitzroy.

Festivals

Christmas to New Year and beyond: Black and White Folk Festival - Nariel Creek, near Corryong, Vic:

As of publication date, we have been assured by Ian Simpson that Nariel **IS ON**, despite the drought situation. A laid-back gathering of people of all ages who flock to camp on the banks of Nariel Creek near Corryong in north-eastern Victoria to relax, socialise, sing, play and dance. Enquiries: Linton on 02 6077 4332 or Ian on 02 6077 1273. Email: poetfarm@corryongccc.net.au
Website: www.narielcreekfestival.org.au

December 27 – Jan 1 - Woodford Festival, QLD.

The largest folk festival in Australia – music, song, dance, the spoken word, food, celebrations, folk culture, etc, etc. Phone: 07 5496 1066. Visit: www.woodfordfolkfestival.com

2nd – 7th January 2008: The Lake School of Celtic Music, Koroit, Victoria. A summer holiday in an "Irish" village, with music, song and dance classes all day and sessions and ceilidhs all night! Top class tutors. Email: felix@bushwahzee.com. Phone: 03 98791654(w) or 0413 801 294 or visit: www.bushwahzee.com

11th – 13th January: Cygnet Folk Festival, Huon Valley, Tas.

Fantastic folk festival in a beautiful setting. Advance ticket bookings: Phone: 03 6295 1708 or 6324 5998 or online at www.centertainment.com.au
Website: www.cygnetfolkfestival.org/index.htm

10th – 13th January: The Boite Singers' Festival, Daylesford, Victoria. A fantastic weekend of singing and songwriting workshops and concerts in the heart of Central Victoria. Phone: 03 9417 1983. Email: singers@boite.asn.au or log onto: www.boite.asn.au

17th – 20th January: 23rd Illawarra Folk Festival, Bulli, NSW.

500 performers, 12 venues. Phone: 1300 887 034.
Email: info@illawarrafolkclub.org.au
Website: www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au

18th – 20th January: Tamar Valley Folk Festival, George Town, Tas.

Phone: 03 6382 1311. Email: tickets@tamarvalleyfolkfestival.com
Website: www.tamarvalleyfolkfestival.com

18th – 27th January: Tamworth Country Music Festival, NSW.

Contact: Tourism Tamworth Ltd, PO Box 552, Tamworth NSW 2340. Ph: 02 6767 5300, Fax: 02 6767 5312.
Email: tourism@tamworth.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.visittamworth.com

20th – 25th January: Celtic Southern Cross Music Under the Mountains. Campaspe Downs, Kyneton, Victoria.

This fabulous week of music workshops was formerly held in Tasmania. Contact: music@celt.com.au or phone: 03 6397 3427
Website: www.celt.com.au/summer.html

25th – 28th January: Newstead Folk Festival, Newstead, Central Victoria. Many fabulous local, national and international performers. Weekend: \$68. Youth and day tickets available. Phone: 03 5425 5400 or 03 9801 2114 or log on to www.wineandmusic.net

15th – 18th February: Fiddlers' Convention, Yarra Junction, Victoria. Old-Timey, bluegrass, Cajun, blues, folk, swing, hillbilly, Hawaiian, jug band, etc. Camp Eureka, Tarrango Road, Wesburn. Enquiries: Ken McMaster: 03 9481 7662

22nd – 24th February: Cobargo Folk Festival, NSW. Music, song, dance, poetry, comedy, etc. Enquiries: 02 6493 6758 or email: cobargofolkfestival@bigpond.com
Website: www.cobargofolkfestival.com

22nd – 24th February: Frances Folk Gathering, SA. Just over the border from Victoria. Friendly, do-it-yourself folk festival, with sessions, blackboard concerts, competitions, prizes. Free, with small fee for camping. Phone: 08 8765 1093.
Email: folk@francesfolkgathering.com.au
Website: www.francesfolkgathering.com.au

24th February – 16th March: Brunswick Music Festival.
Fabulous feast of music right here in our own city.
Folk Victoria is running three concerts for the festival, for which our members receive concessions – book early.
Programs available soon.
For updates: Phone: 03 9387 3376
Log on to: www.brunswickmusicfestival.com.au
Email: johnbmf@vicnet.net.au.

29th February – 3rd March: Nannup Music Festival, WA.
Music from around the globe in picturesque Nannup, near Margaret River.
Enq: 08 9756 1511. Website: www.nannupmusicfestival.org

Saturday 1st March: Boolarra Folk Festival, Vic. 10am till 9pm.
Railway Park and Centenary Park, Boolarra. Free entry. Music, markets, kids tent.
www.boolarra.gippsland.com/FolkFestival/Default.asp

7th – 10th March: Port Fairy Folk Festival, Port Fairy, Vic.
Tickets officially sold out in a couple of days but there are some floating around and there is a “sell and buy” section on the website at www.portfairyfolkfestival.com Phone: 03 5225 1232 or 5568 2227 for further info. If you miss out and wish to go there is still music galore happening in the streets and some other free venues.

7th – 10th March: Burke and Wills Folk Gathering, Victoria.
A more intimate alternative to Port Fairy, at the Burke and Wills Winery, near Lancefield in central Victoria. One stage running all weekend, concerts, plenty of sessions, food, on-site camping.
Phone: 03 5425 5400. www.wineandmusic.net

7th – 9th March: Womadelaide Festival, Botanic Park, Adelaide. Fabulous festival of the sounds of the planet! Hundreds of artists, six stages. 1300 30 40 72. www.womadelaide.com.au

14th – 16th March: Blue Mountains Folk Music Festival, NSW. Enquiries: 1800 651 322. Email: info@bmff.org.au
Website: www.bmff.org.au

14th – 16th March: Yackandandah Folk Festival, Victoria.
Friendly music festival in a historic village, featuring international, national and local artists. Email: folkfestival@yackandandah.com
Website: www.folkfestival.yackandandah.com

20th – 24th March: National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra. Arguably the best folk festival in Australia! Hundreds of performers, great atmosphere, on-site camping. Pre-bookings are now open. Phone: 02 6249 7755, email: info@folkfestival.asn.au or check out: www.folkfestival.asn.au

12th – 13th April: The Basin Music Festival, Dandenong Ranges, Vic. A grass roots folksy and community festival in a beautiful area. See their website for photos of last year’s festival.
Contact: PO Box 230, The Basin, Vic, 3154. President: John: 0402 138 834. Programmer: Ray: 0408 314 778.
Website: www.thebasinmusic.org.au

24th – 27th April: Fairbridge Festival, WA.
Phone: 08 9246 3311
Email: admin@fairbridgefestival.com.au
Website: www.fairbridgefestival.com.au

25th – 27th April: Apollo Bay Music Festival, Vic.
Phone: 03 5237 6761.
Email: info@apollobaymusicfestival.com
Website: www.apollobaymusicfestival.com