



# Folk Song & Dance Society of Victoria Inc.

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

## Newsletter May 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),

### Greetings All

Yes it has been a while since I've written those words to you. Since January my time and my thoughts have been chiefly involved with my dear 88-year old mum who finally passed away in March after breaking her hip in a fall. I know many of you have shared that experience of losing a parent and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee and all my friends in Folk Victoria for their love, kindness and expressions of condolence.

### Folk Victoria Events

The music continues to "power on" at the Clifton Hill Hotel, though we took an Easter break in April.

**February 2nd** was our first night for the year, and I was honoured to be able to perform on the same bill as singer **Gavin Moore** from Ireland, and the wonderful Melbourne singer **Monica Weightman**.

On **March 2nd Marni Sheehan and many friends** launched Marni's latest CD "Inside Stories" in front of a large crowd.

Folk Victoria once again this year sponsored a concert for the **Brunswick Music Festival**, this time in the Mechanics Institute on Thursday **March 22nd**. It was a wonderful night with the **Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club** small orchestra presenting an exciting bracket to warm us up for the magic and musical wizardry of **Nancy Kerr and James Fagan**.

We'd like to congratulate **John McAuslan** and his team for yet another great **Brunswick Music Festival** - it must be unique to have a city festival running for a month or so presenting such a huge array of quality music.

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**Friday May 4th** sees a quartet of terrific Melbourne singers and songwriters take to the stage in the Emerald Room of the Clifton Hill Hotel. **Wendy Ealey, Neil Robertson, Leticia Maher and Moira Tyers** are collectively "**UNSUNG**". Individually, they are all talented and award winning musicians, singers and songwriters with their own style and influences ranging

from folk, blues and jazz through to rock, pop and country. They come together as **Unsung** to produce powerful and intelligent contemporary music that will make you think, laugh, cry, and dance. With four unique voices, four acoustic guitars, a bit of fiddle, their treasured percussive egg, great songs and huge vocal harmonies, **Unsung** will lift you up and carry you away with them.

On **Friday June 1st**, our featured artists will be **Rebecca Rigby**, a young Melbourne singer with an exquisite voice, accompanied by guitarist **Dale Packard**, and the trio "**The Beggars**", on tour all the way from Adelaide.

### Vale Billy Moran

*We were saddened earlier this year to hear of the passing of one of the most generous-hearted men and talented musicians the Melbourne folk scene has had the privilege to know. The following tributes come from **David O'Brien (VFMC "Tradition" magazine), the Blarney Bulletin, and musician Wendy Reed.***

"Although only a small man in stature, Billy Moran was a giant in the field of Irish traditional music in his adoptive home of Australia. He was a well-known fixture at many festivals, at the Lake School in Koroit, and at the Quiet Man Hotel in Flemington.

Billy was born in Co Galway in 1928. At the age of five he was given a single row melodeon and never stopped playing (although he did advance to more sophisticated boxes). I have known Billy to play all day and well into the night and if his wife Eileen wasn't around he would just keep on playing through mealtimes as long as he had a pint nearby. I met Billy at the Lake School and was immediately struck by his kindness and friendliness. As Felix Meagher said, "he was one of the most generous men around".

Billy came to Australia as an L10 immigrant and worked on the Snowy River Scheme, Maralinga, Altona and Eildon Weir. He married Eileen in 1963 and they had three children - Micky, Annette and Sean.

Billy won many awards - the Graham Sqaunce Award, Legend of the Lake, a certificate from the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri and the Australian Folk Federation award for his contribution to Irish music. Goodbye Billy and thanks for that cheeky Irish grin and enjoy the craic up there." **David O'Brien with info from the Blarney Bulletin.**

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"I want to convey mine and my son Nic's deepest sympathy to Eileen, Michael, Anet, Sean and family on the passing of Billy Moran my dear friend, fellow muso and mentor and indeed friend and mentor to so many. Your tribute to Billy brought tears to my eyes as I recalled those agile fingers pressing and squeezing out a tune on one of his many beloved boxes. I will never forget the first night I heard him play a slow air while we sat beside the campfire in the Gardens Caravan Park at one of the early Port Fairy Folk Festivals back in the late seventies. It was a beautiful Scottish tune, "The Mist over the Mountain", for although Billy was a proud Irish man from Oranmore out from Galway city, he loved to play the Scottish airs and reels, the likes of which Jimmy Shand made famous. Maybe the reel the "Bucks of Oranmore" could have been his signature tune, but then he had so many favourites.

My memory of Billy goes back 3 decades, many sessions, late night gigs in darkened pub corners, house sessions, folk festivals especially recalling Sydney Festival washed out and with our tents saturated we found shelter in a room full of the International guests including Aelish O'Connor, Cooney and the Greeks, the Band from Brunswick for the many festival memories, while stumbling through the ruins of Port Arthur, while relaxing in the Timboon and Brucknell bush. When he played with his regular session mates Simon Meillor dec, Tony O'Rourke, Sean Keane and his late brother, Joe Fitzgerald and family, Helen O'Shea, Pat Tannerhill, Sean McLernan, Paddy McKusker (dec), sons Michael and Sean, Beth Knight, the country Warrnambool lads, Tony, Lex, and co, Felix Meagher, Irish lads and lasses who happened to be in town, for the Morans have an open house, full of fun, merriment, dogs barking, birds whistling and his budgie calling "get out your box Billy", for his little dog that gave an incredible howl while diving head first off his kitchen table into my handbag while trying to route out the source of the sound from my wooden flute. We all remember Billy's fond love of Bobby his dog that he buried in his back garden erecting the little wooden cross over his body and I believe this to be spot where he often stood not talking to the fence but talking to his beloved Bobby. Billy was a thinker and staunch labour, intrepid worker and never afraid to offer a hand in moving furniture or some other task, and an Irish man who loved, life and a party. I hear that his final weeks were no exception, a continual session at the house - I was with him in spirit if not in flesh.

He played at so many festivals and gatherings that I recall and so many too numerous to mention recalling but a few Canberra National, Melbourne Folk at LaTrobe Uni, early Port Fairy's when we all felt like one big family, in the session pubs at 'Victoria's oldest, "the Stump", the Vic and the Caledonian, Dan O'Connell Pub, Maldon, Kilmore, Geelong, and finally returning to his native shores of Ireland after a 35 year absence to meet family and old friends who came back from all parts of the world to meet up with him. He is so fondly remembered playing for the many young and not so young Irish lads in the Normanby Hotel on a Saturday night with them calling to him, "Play us another Billy", for the nights with Tara and the lads in the Band from London, Maria Forde as she began her singing career and more recently his stoic Quiet Man sessions. For the many Paddy's Day marches for Phyllis McGrath, the South Melbourne Irish, down at Garvoc Pub and the Irish/Aus Welfare Bureau, Paddy O'Neil at Comhaltas and for the Royal Children's Hospital Appeals, his band



"The Gaels" with Felix and Tony O'Rourke to name a few but unfortunately to leave out many. He is sorely missed by those who were touched by Billy and his interest in giving you a tune and sharing his music.

I admired Billy for his amazing musical agility with or without a glass of stout, for his tenacity and drive that one can only pray for in this life even up to his last months, for being a great family man and constant companion to his wife Eileen and family and as well as his Irish and Aussie mates in his adopted home Australia. The man who's eyes lit up when one of his young students managed a few accordion notes on the tricky B/C row.

I was privileged to know the man, to learn some of his tunes and to witness a metamorphosis from the larrikin we loved to the upstanding citizen whom we admired, whose mantelpiece with it's countless trophies bears witness to the fact that he became one of Ireland's great emigrants, the man who not only built the roads but walked the mile on them, and enticed us to go with him on that journey.

May we remember our great friend Billy, mentor, companion for his memory will live on each time we hear and play his music.

Wendy Reed

## *Mick Flanagan (Tas) CD Launch*

**Mick Flanagan** and his family have lived in Georgetown, northern Tasmania for many years and you often of late only hear his velvety Irish voice in the bar at the National Festival - or the Tassie festivals if you make the trip. Mick is not only a fine singer in the quintessential Irish style, but he is also a marvellous songwriter and it's great that finally many of his songs have now been preserved on CD. He's honouring Melbourne with a shindig of a CD Launch! It's on **Sunday May 20th**, at the **Corkman Hotel** in Carlton, from **2pm till 6pm**. You'll hear Mick of course, but in typical self-effacing style he's presenting a host of **other artists** as well to help him celebrate - Trouble in the Kitchen, Christy Cooney and band, John McAuslan, Ken Maher, Kieran O'Connell, Louise Morgan, Tim Gleeson, Barbara Scott, Hugh McEwan, and myself.

## *Community Music Victoria.*

CMV are 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](mailto:cmv@netspace.net.au)

**Website:** <http://cmv.customer.netspace.net.au>

### **About Community Music Victoria's AGM**

Just a note to invite you to a very pleasurable afternoon in Clifton Hill for CMV's AGM.

**Saturday 5th May; 2007; 2.30 - 4pm**

The Community Church of Christ

100 Hodgkinson Street

Clifton Hill (Opposite the Darling Gardens)

Please bring a contribution to afternoon tea and / or a song to share.

Please RSVP by email or telephone to Nimity and the contacts above if you would like to come.

Never been to a pleasurable AGM? Well THIS will be because there will be song and food and convivial company surrounding the mundane necessities that we have to do to be incorporated and stay afloat. We can even make them fun we reckon.

But mainly we are on about the joy of making music and would love you to join us in celebrating a great year of doing just that. We might skite a little as we're proud of our work, but we will certainly sing! So please bring your voice - or a listening ear if you prefer to be an appreciator.

And, as well as coming (and singing and eating) you might also like to VOTE (we elect our Board at the AGM). As well as good times, we're keen to build membership knowing we're not alone is such a powerful confidence-builder. And we need all the chutzpah we can accumulate if we're going to transform Victoria into a State of Singing.

If you would like to join up, please give Nimity James a call on 03 9662 1162 or email: [cmv@netspace.net.au](mailto:cmv@netspace.net.au) and have a chat about it.

## *For More Folk News and Views:*

- **Join the Folk Alliance Australia**, Australia's umbrella folk organisation. Go to [www.folkalliance.org.au](http://www.folkalliance.org.au) for further details and heaps of information about folk music around Australia.
- **Subscribe to Trad&Now Magazine**. A letter explaining the new format and a subscription form is enclosed if you are snail mail recipient. If you an email recipient, log onto: [www.tradandnow.com](http://www.tradandnow.com) for all the news on how you can subscribe.
- **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](mailto:macca@blarneybulletin.com)

Cheers all - Jeanette Gillespie

## Festivals

**8th - 11th June: National Celtic Festival, Portarlington, Vic.** Over 300 artists. Music, song, dance, drama, poetry, displays, exhibitions, workshops, marketplace and more. Tickets @ GPAC:

Phone: 03 5225 1200. Info: 03 5241 2499.

Email: [mail@nationalcelticfestival.com](mailto:mail@nationalcelticfestival.com)

Website: [www.nationalcelticfestival.com](http://www.nationalcelticfestival.com)

**9th - 10th June: Guildford Folk Gathering, Guildford, Vic.**

Saturday night pub dinner and session; Sunday BBQ lunch and more sessioning. Camping or own accommodation.

For more info phone Duncan Brown: 03 5473 4201 or 0425 811 579. For Guildford Pub Saturday dinner bookings phone: 03 5473 4215.

**29th June - 1st July: Kilmore Celtic Festival, Kilmore, Vic.**

A great line-up of top Australian Celtic artists and a grand Sunday Celtic Banquet. For bookings phone: 03 5781 1711 or log onto: [www.kilmorecelticfestival@yahoo.com](http://www.kilmorecelticfestival@yahoo.com)

## Diary Dates

### *Regular Events*

- **Folk Victoria Music Night:**

**First Friday of the month.** 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](http://www.folkvictoria.org.au)

Next Concerts for 2007 will be on **May 4th** and **June 1st**.

- **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](http://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. Commencing again in Feb or March 2007. Phone: 03 9417 1983. Email: [boite@boite.asn.au](mailto:boite@boite.asn.au) or website at: [www.boite.asn.au](http://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 onwards. Email: admin@peninsulafolkclub.asn.au
- **Whole Gamut Acoustic Music Club:**  
**Second Sunday of the month.** 3 pm. Brunswick Hotel, 140 Sydney Road, Brunswick. Three featured acts plus poetry. \$5 / gold coin. Enq: Peter Pentland: 9392 4817.  
Email: ppent@museum.vic.gov.au
- **Victorian Folk Music Club (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. Website for this night and all other VFMC activities mentioned below: <http://users.bigpond.net.au/VFMC/>  
**Third Tuesday of the month is Singabout!**, a regular group singing session. Singabout runs from 8:00 pm until 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) on all nights except Guest Night.
- **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](http://www.cliftonhillhotel.com)  
**December 20th** - Jimi Hocking, Nick Charles Band, Enda Kenny.
- **The Quiet Man Singers Sessions:**  
**Second Wednesday of the month.** Singers and musicians welcome. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.badfolk.org) and/or [www.badfolk.websyte.com.au](http://www.badfolk.websyte.com.au)

- **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.
- **Harmony Row Vineyard, Albert Park Yacht Club Concerts and Mango Café Sessions**  
**Various concert and session dates.** Two great concert venues - one at a winery in the country near Kyneton, the other close to Melbourne city. Session venue at the Mango Café at 21 Bond Street in the city - next one Tuesday May 8th. For details on Harmony Row, phone 0407 343074 or 03 54235286. Email Cliff for Albert Park and Mango Café: taxman@bigpond.net.au or Dennis at Harmony Row: harmony-rowvineyard@bigpond.com  
Website for all details: [www.harmonyrow.com.au](http://www.harmonyrow.com.au)

## Melbourne Session Calendar

*(Please let us know if there should be amendments or additions to this list, as I gained the info from 'Trad and Now' magazine.)*

### SATURDAYS:

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

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

### 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.

### 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.

