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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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Torres del Paine



Once again another year of adventure and discovery draws inexorably to a close!!

A challenging year for many, but also a year where for many of us, we can be very thankful for the music and dance that is a part of our lives.

I would like to say thanks to all those who have made my life a lot easier and contributed to this newsletter with reports, articles and photographs.

I wish for you all a time of replenishment, rejuvenation and peace, over the forthcoming festive season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Eddy Tor

p.s. Remember, that you will need to talk to me early next year if you want some help in preparation for your new role as editor in June/July.

Last Club Session for 2011 on the

20th of December

First Club Session for 2012 on the

17th of January

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Tuesdays, 8.00 pm, East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8). All welcome any or every night as players, singers, dancers, or to tell a yarn. Contact Don (0407-737-202)

Ringwood Folk Guest Night

Second Tuesday of the month. Admission \$12 adults, children with adult free. \$10 members and concessions.

Evening commences 8:00pm and finishes with a short session after the Guest Performer around 10:15 pm.

Singing Sessions

First and last Tuesday every month. East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8).

If you are interested in learning some new songs, and would like to sing with others in a friendly relaxed environment, come and join us. We start about 7:00pm and go until the start of the main session at 8:00pm.

By-Ear Sessions

Join us to learn how to play by following someone on:

- First Thursday, 8:00 pm (at Harry's place)
- Second Tuesday, 10:15 pm (after the Ringwood Folk Guest Night)
- Every Monday, 8:00 pm, (fiddles and mandolins at Harry's place.)
- Most Saturdays, 11:00am, all instruments and singing, busking opposite the railway station in Ringwood East

Harry Gardner: (03) 9870 8998, 0408 708 998

Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month at the East Ringwood Senior Citizens Club Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East.

Come along and enjoy dancing to live music with all dances explained and called. Contact Jane Bullock (03 9762-1389) or Robin Simpson (03 9723-2453)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1st December Ear Session | 2nd | 3rd VFMC Dance Billabong Band |
| 4th | 5th Fiddles | 6th Club Session | 7th | 8th | 9th | 10th |
| 11th | 12th Fiddles | 13th Guest Night | 14th | 15th | 16th | 17th |
| 18th | 19th Fiddles | 20th Club Session | 21st | 22nd | 23rd | 24th |
| 25th | 26th | 27th | 28th | 29th | 30th | 31st |
| 1st January | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | 7th |
| 8th | 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | 13th | 14th |
| 15th | 16th | 17th Club Session | 18th | 19th | 20th | 21st |

RINGWOOD FOLK GUEST PERFORMER NIGHT

THE RAINMAKERS - 13th of December

The Rainmakers are a family band from Castlemaine in Central Victoria, consisting of Jane Thompson and James Rigby, and Elsie, Naomi, and Maggie. They play lots of instruments and create beautiful harmonies that only come from a lifetime of singing together. They have been entertaining audiences since 2006. That was when they travelled as a family around the West and North of Australia and supported themselves for six months working in schools, performing for arts councils and putting on spontaneous concerts in camp grounds. They are now performing regularly around Victoria for arts councils and festivals creating new songs and working in schools with young people discovering just what is possible.

With five glorious voices and exquisite harmony, this family band sing provocative and endearing songs. They present a mixture of

- original compositions which bring their landscape, issues and environment vividly to life;
- a world music repertoire;
- a rich mixture of acapella arrangements to songs accompanied by guitar, fiddle, ukulele, banjo, accordion and maracas.



Guest Artist Night, November 2011

The concert was MC'd by myself, and Chris Healy opened proceedings with a couple of hornpipes on his Irish whistle.

Next a couple of songs from the Joy Durst Memorial Songbook, Little Fishes and The Springtime It Brings On The Shearing, sung by Maree with harp and accompanied by Alex. Peter



Stanley from The Peninsular Folk Club came all the way up to Ringwood and did a James Taylor song called Sweet Baby Jane, then his own composition, a tribute to the long distance truckie called Lights Of Gundagai. Thanks Peter, well done.

All Over Baby Blue, and accompanied himself very capably with guitar and harmonica.

Visitor Owen then did a fine job on a couple of Bob Dylan songs including It's



It's pleasing to see a club member who is at performance standard and Mick Kearon certainly is. Mick has been around the folk scene for quite a while and is not only a good strong singer and guitarist but also has a talent for writing good descriptive words to his songs, so listening to Mick's music is always an educational experience. He opened his bracket with The Storyteller which kind of described his roll of telling stories through song. In The Lost Folk Club he has cleverly strung a couple of dozen familiar folk titles together to tell an entertaining story. The Men Of Steel was a tribute to apprentices, followed by The Sailors Farewell. Then followed an interesting story of his first impressions when he landed on Australia's shores as an immigrant in the '60's, and finally a well rounded history of the clearing of the Scottish Highlands by the British after the Battle of Culloden, called Clearing The Glens. Thanks Mick.

Guest Artist Night, November 2011

At the recent Maldon Folk Festival I had the pleasure of attending a workshop plus a concert by this evening's guest artist, Nick Charles, and could not but be entranced by his easygoing style and his skill on the instruments. (The most basic of these skills have so far eluded me which makes me quietly envious when I see the likes of Nick perform). His music encompasses an eclectic mix of acoustic roots including blues, folk, country picking and early ragtime jazz. He plays 6 and 12 string guitar, slide guitar and also sings.

His music is mostly self-composed, and is melodically and harmonically very rich which Nick presents with quiet competence. A joy in attending such a close-up live acoustic show is that it is also very much a visual event. It's a whole other dimension of seeing as well as hearing as he uses the full bag of specialists techniques to make all these gorgeous sounds before our eyes and ears.

A country picking style tune opened Nick's performance, then Way Past Midnight, a contemporary blues song. Les Crucis is a lovely melodic south-of-the-border piece, and was followed with a Bob Dylan song One More Night.

Nick had the honour of being asked to contribute to a 60th anniversary album of Lieber and Stoller's first song Hound Dog. This was a very nice version of Stand By Me, using lots of distinctive harmonics (lightly touching the string at its halfway point as it is plucked). Mississippi John Hurt's Frankie And Johnny was next. A Lullaby For Hamish was composed for his grandson and perhaps appropriately memories we can all relate to of the travelling ice-cream van with a medley of Greensleeves and Scarborough Fair.

A couple of blues tunes on his metal slide guitar were next, Kelpie Blues and Crossroad Blues, the latter a Robert Johnson song, before a nicely expressive Beatles tune and a tribute to the George Town folk festival finished this concert of wonderful music from a great guitarist.

Next month the final concert for the year will feature the family band The Rainmakers from Castlemaine. I also saw them at the Maldon Folk Festival and their harmonies are just wonderful.



Don Fraser

Alex & Don (photographs).



The Dance Page

Diary Dates for December

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------|-----------------|---|
| | | | | 1st | 2nd Claddagh | 3rd V.F.M.C. Billabong Band |
| 4th | 5th Irish | 6th English Delia's Friends | 7th Irish or Colonial | 8th | 9th | 10th T.S.D.A.V. Christmas Hoe Down |
| 11th Claddagh | 12th Irish | 13th | 14th Irish or Colonial | 15th | 16th | 17th |
| 18th | 19th | 20th | 21st | 22nd | 23rd | 24th |
| 25th | 26th | 27th | 28th | 29th | 30th | 31st |

Diary Dates for February

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd Claddagh | 4th V.F.M.C. Delia's Friends |
| 5th | 6th Irish | 7th English | 8th Irish or Colonial | 9th | 10th | 11th |

Claddagh

Irish set dancing at St. James Anglican Church Hall, Upper Heidelberg Road Ivanhoe, Friday 8-10pm. (Sunday 2-5pm)
Contact Rod 9497 1793

VFMC Colonial

dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 8-11pm
Contact Jane 9762 1389

Irish Monday

dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Fleming-

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ton, 8-10pm.
Contact Marie 9471 0690

Irish Wednesday Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood, 8-10pm.
Contact Marie 9471 0690

English dancing at Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, 7 Greenwood Street, Burwood, 8-10pm.
Contact George 9890 5650

Delia's Friends English English country dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 7:45 - 10:30pm.
Contact George 9890 5650

Colonial Wednesday Social dance classes: at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm
Contact Robin 9723 2453

TSDAV Xmas Hoe Down Contact Norm Ellis 9888 5332.

“What we think of now as folk dancing is only a tiny remnant of the dances done by most people in the past. We are concerned now mainly with recreational dances done for pleasure on social occasions. In much earlier times dancing was an integral part of daily life, often with a serious purpose. It could include hunting dances, dances for the increasing of plants and animals, a vast variety of religious and ritual dances, courtship, marriage and fertility dances, processions, dances connected with agricultural and other sorts of work, war dances and many others. Because of the intense enjoyment that man gets from dancing, dances just for recreation developed out of some of these and remained after the others disappeared with changed social conditions”,

Shirley Andrews; Take Your Partners; 1976



Concert Party Report

Recent Events:

On the weekend of 5th and 6th November we were very busy with Concert party gigs.

On the Saturday we played at North Ringwood Holy Spirit fete. It was a beautiful sunny day and we performed on the back of a truck around lunchtime to an audience enjoying culinary delights. It was a large Billabong band presence with Joan, Ray, Harry, Cameron, Don F, Don G, Kelvin, Francis and me. Everyone performed a song or tune and we played some hornpipes and polkas.



Thanks to all those who attended. Our large contingent did provide the sound guy (Peter Phelps) with quite a challenge though.

Sunday 6th was the Maroondah festival held in Croydon parklands. When we played at 3pm it was nearing the end of the festival but there was still had a good size audience and we just managed to beat the rain.

Don F, Steve, Francis, Harry, Bill and me performed a lovely 40-minute bracket. Lots of Aussie songs and some foot tapping tunes. We had our supporters there too. Alex and Jane and some faces I recognized from club events were in the audience.

Future Events:



December 3rd, 2 pm East Ringwood Senior Citizens' Club Christmas Concert

December 3rd, 8 pm Ringwood Colonial Bush Dance (Christmas Dance)

December 9th, 12.15 pm Lilydale Lodge Christmas Party

December 16th, 11.15 am Monkami Christmas Entertainment

Maree Buttler



The Immigrant

Like an unwilling bride,
Who after all these years
Never knew love in this match
of circumstance and need.

With much wealth and plenty
You have showered me.
With warmth and comfort engulfed
me in your big brown frame.

But my soul has never
quickenened to the naked
limbs of your tall and dusty
tousle-headed gum trees.

Yet we have become fond.
Comfortable with each
other now, you and I, and
the Autumn days are warm.

Joan Bircahall

(Pot Luck;1979;Tasmanian Fellowship of Australian Writers)

Who Am I ?

I was born around 1864, but my dad died four months before I was born. When I was nineteen I went to Queensland and worked there for about fifteen years, although my work took me to New South Wales and South Australia. Life was great, what with some good hard drinking, some women to love, horses to ride, and a stories to tell, what more could a man want? In 1884 I married Daisy, but it didn't work out. I got to know Henry Lawson and Banjo Patterson too, but then in 1899, I decided to make a change. I joined up and headed to South Africa. I never returned from South Africa, dying in 1902, but I left behind a bit of a legacy, and my story has been told with different twists over the years. You might know one of my stories called "Who's Riding Old Harlequin Now? Or maybe "Beyond His Jurisdiction". They made a film about me in 1980.

HM(TB)

VFMC Publications

There are a number of VFMC publications which are available for purchase. More detail can be found on our website at:

<http://www.vfmc.org.au/publications.htm>

The publications include:

Collectors Choice Volumes 1, 2 , and 3; - Peter Ellis.

These three volumes contain tunes for bush dancing, quadrilles, old time sets, folk style couple dances, and dances for special occasions.

Vol 1 \$20.00; Vol 2 \$25.00; Vol 3 \$30.00

Take Your Partners; - Shirley Andrews.

This volume is a hard cover book providing a history of dancing in Australia together with instructions for 68 dances.

\$10.00

Music Makes Me Smile; - Peter Ellis and Harry Gardner.

This book is a tribute to Con Klippel and the music of Nariel Valley, providing history, dance music and instructions.

\$20.00

Joy Durst Memorial Song Collection.

This book contains 100 songs with music including guitar chords.

\$13.00

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzza@bendigo.net.au
 Feature concert on the 3rd Friday of each month 8-11pm, under the grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth oval, Bendigo.

Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo Inc

Monthly bush dance at Bendigo East, third Saturday every month. Contact Dianne Pearse (dpearse@inet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au) for details.

Berwick and District Folk Club

Edward Nass / Christine Trimnell,
 03 9702 1223 /0418 535 264
 badfolk@optusnet.com.au
 Featured artist 3rd Friday February to December, The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick Vic. 3806
www.badfolk.org.au

Boite World Music Cafe

Therese Virtue,, 03 9417 1983
 boite@boite.asn.au
 Friday & Saturday - March to November, 1 Mark St, North Fitzroy,
www.boite.asn.au

Geelong Folk Music Club

Adam Burke, 0409 409 960
 hexed@iprimus.com.au or
 Peter Fogarty, 03 5229 7887
 Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at the Carlton Hotel, Mercer St, Geelong. Open Mic, walk-up performance events at Irish Murphy's, Aberdeen Street
www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com

Gippsland Acoustic Music Club

Barbara Brabets, 03 5174 7403
 Local musicians and concert opportunities. 1st Sunday at 7:45 pm, Tyers Hall, Tyers
www.musicclub.org

Melbourne Folk Club

Promoting Live Acoustic Music,

Contact Mel Robertson: 0413 587 490

Each Friday evening at The Lord Newry Hotel, 543 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy North VIC 3068

Ranges Burrinja Folk Club

Andrew Jackson, 03 97567398 or
 0402 473 897
 mail@drfolk.com.au
 Guest artist, last Friday of month
 Burrinja Cultural Centre, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey Vic (Mel Ref 75B12)
www.rangesburrinjafolk.org/home.html

Selby Folk Club

David Miller, 03 9751 1218
 miller@a1.com.au
 1st Friday every month, at 8:00 pm,
 Selby Community House Minok Reserve
www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub

Peninsula Folk Club

First Sunday of each month, at the Frankston Bowling Club on the corner of Yuille Street and Williams Rd, Frankston, from 6:30 pm on.
 Carparking, great facilities, no stairs.
peninsulafolkclub.org.au

THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE CLUB

Members of the VFMC are entitled to -

- The monthly Club Newsletter
- Concessions at Club dances
- Discounts on Club publications
- Discounts on Club CD's and cassettes
- Affiliation with other organisations

To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post to:

VFMC Secretary, GPO Box 2025,
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Name:

Address:

Email:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (select)

City/Suburban -

| | | |
|------------------|------|--------------------------|
| Single | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Junior | \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Single Pensioner | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pensioner Family | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Country -

| | | |
|--------|------|--------------------------|
| Single | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY:

(both may be selected if desired)

- By Email
- and / or
- By Post

CONTACTS

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Victoria 3001.

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Ringwood Folk Club

Don Fraser
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Family Bush Dance

Jane Bullock
Telephone (03) 9762 1389
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
Telephone -
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

**PLEASE SEND YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER BY**

FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY 2012.

TO:

EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

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or to not publish material.*