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TRADITION

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A VERY HAPPY &
MUSICAL NEW YEAR
TO ALL MEMBERS
OF THE VICTORIAN
FOLK MUSIC CLUB!**

**Members with “Expiry 2012” printed on their newsletter wrapper
will cease to receive their copy of Tradition after December!!!
See back page for membership renewal details.....**

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

BY: FRIDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2013.

TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

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 VFMC Dance
2nd	3rd Fiddles	4th Club Session	5th	6th By-Ear Session	7th	8th
9th	10th Fiddles	11th Guest Night	12th	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th Fiddles	18th Club Session	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th
30th	31st	1st January	2nd	3rd	4th	5th

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. Ringwood East Folk



THE SIMPSON THREE

The Simpson Three are a trio of Celtic musicians performing a wide range of genres including Irish, Old Time, Scottish and Australian music.

These 3 siblings promise an explosive blend of traditional, contemporary and original tunes and songs.

They are all highly talented multi-instrumentalists with tight and refined arrangements and winners of the National Folk Festival's Declan Affley Award for Excellence in Traditional Music and the 2011 Folk Alliance Australia Youth Award.

These dedicated musicians promise to 'Crank It Up!'

TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER

Admission: \$12.00 Members: \$10.00 Children Free
Open Stage from 8.00pm

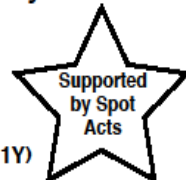
East Ringwood Community Hall
Knaith Road Ringwood East Melway: 50 B8

Contact Don 0407 737 202

Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. (Reg. No A2511Y)



FEBRUARY 12th 2013 - Vince Brophy's Famine To Feast Show

Guest Artist Night, November 2012

A good-sized audience enjoyed a great concert of varied styles, topped off with an exceptional performance by AJ Leonard and Jenny Rowlands. The concert was MCD by Alex.



John Maddock opened the spot acts with two songs including 'The Times They Are a-Changing', and then Jim Smith gave a faultless recitation of 'The Man from Snowy River' - well done Jim! It is good to have a bit of eye candy



occasionally and The Jam Tarts are three glamorous gals who sang 'Walk on By', 'All I Needed', 'I Wanna Marry a Lighthouse Keeper' and 'Please Mr Postman'. Ray and Joan Mundy followed this with the tale of Mickety Mulga Jim, then a couple of Joan's favourite waltzes, the lovely Belgarth Waltz, and some good Irish polkas.



Karen MacKay heads a ukulele group, Kalulu, which meets every second Sunday at Kallista. They play a range of songs and many of their members are also in other musical groups such as the Sweet Sassafras Choir, the Upwey Country Music Club, and the Jam Tarts. The uke is an excellent instrument to learn the basics of chord progressions and rhythm, and Ringwood Folk is a great place to gain performing experience as the audience sang along with 'You Are My Sunshine', the beautiful Maori song 'Pokare Kare Ana', 'There's a Kind of Hush', and the rousing gospel, 'I'll Fly Away'.



Guest Artist Night, November 2012

It has been said that a ukulele is about the most benign use that a lump of wood can be put to. Even sad songs sound bright when played on the uke. They are light, cheap, transportable, and not too hard to learn, perfect for introducing new players to music-making, so no wonder there has been such a keen interest in the uke in recent years. Yet in the hands of **AJ Leonard** the little uke's possibilities are extended to levels previously unthought of. AJ is an exceptional exponent of the instrument, having played it for some decades and given it a modern depth of integrity and scope that has to be seen to be

believed He overcome the strings by sounds of inspiring cello repertoire of classics and modern day was taken on Between them rich and they cover in-the-palms



has cleverly obvious lack of long teaming it with the **Jenny Rowlands'** playing, and with a wonderful old vibrant versions of songs, the audience an exciting ride. they produce a full, evocative sound as those gentle breezes-songs like 'Meet Me

in Hawaii', 'The Legend of Seaweed Sally' and 'Under a Maui Moon', classic songs from shows and musicals such as 'Tea for Two' and a medley of movie themes, to The Beatles and Stones songs 'Eleanor Rigby' and 'She's Like a Rainbow'. Due to the nature of the uke's sound, amplification was appropriate to balance out the performance on this night.

AJ and Jenny are an act in themselves but are also one half of AJ Leonard and the Tropical Lounge outfit which I first saw at last year's Newstead Festival and was highly impressed. They appear all over the country and have a number of fine cd's available. Anyone with an interest in playing the uke may like to check out AJ's Ukulele Café nights on the first(?) Thursday of the month in Warrandyte, where you get tuition, an open mic bracket, plus a performance by AJ and Jenny for \$15. See Gigs at <http://www.ajleonard.com/> Kalulu can be contacted: kazmackay@yahoo.com.au

The last concert for the year on December 11th will feature The Simpson Three, an exceptionally talented local trio who play Celtic style music.

- by Don Fraser



The Dance Page

Diary Dates for December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1st		1st VFMC Dance Billabong Band
2nd TSDAV Dance Workshop	3rd Irish Scottish	4th English Christmas Dance	5th Irish or Colonials	6th	7th International	8th TSDAV Christmas Hoedown or Scottish
9th	10th Irish Scottish	11th	12th Irish or Colonials U3A	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th Irish	18th	19th	20th Colonials	21st	22nd
23rd	24th MERRY	25th XMAS	26th AND A	27th HAPPY	28th NEW YEAR	29th

Diary Dates for January and February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		15th January English	16th	17th Colonials	18th	19th
20th	21st	22nd English	23rd	24th	25th	26th
27th Irish	28th	29th	30th Irish	31st	1st February	2nd VFMC Brumbies Bush Band

The Dance Page

- TSDAV Christmas Hoedown** Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 8-11 pm Contact Marion: 9439 7100
- VFMC Colonial** Dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood, 8-11 pm Contact Jane: 9762 1389
- Irish Monday** Dancing at The Quiet Man pub, Racecourse Road, Flemington, 8-10 p.m.. Contact Marie 9471-0690
- Irish Wednesday** Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle St, Collingwood, 8-10pm. Contact Marie: 9471-0690
- English** Dancing at Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, 7 Greenwood Street, Burwood, 8-10pm. Contact George: 9890-5650
- English Christmas Dance** Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 7.45-10.15pm. Contact George: 9890-5650
- Colonial Wednesday** Social dance classes: at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm Contact Coral: 9885 6109
- Colonial Thursday** Australian Colonial Bush/Dance: at Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7:30-10pm Contact Coral 9885-6109 17th January Starts at 7.00 pm for Dutch Crossing
- U3A** Hawthorn at East Kew Uniting Church Hall (Normanby Rd. East Kew), 1.00-3.00pm Contact Norm 9888-5332
- TSDAV** The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr. Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy Contact Norm Ellis 9888 5332
- Scottish Monday & Saturday** Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8pm Contact Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com
- International Friday** Box Hill Senior Citizens, 780 Carrington Rd. Box Hill, 7.30-9.30 pm Contact jant@alphalink.com.au
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BOOK REVIEW - by Eamonn Spillane OF 'THE SESSION' by Joe Arnold

As a musician I have been to various sessions over the years and haven't given much thought to what they are about. I regularly attend the Newport Folk and Fiddle Club's monthly Club Night where a leader tries to draw out representative contributions from those present and we join in if we feel we can add to the music. It is a relaxed impromptu style of session and has a minimum air of formality about it.

There is another kind of session I've not had much experience with though and this is essentially what 'The Session' sets out to explain. It is very detailed and on first reading appears to be a very formal guide to the expectations attached to such gatherings and a bit like a rule book.

Joe's book though is more of a serious guide to understanding the traditional session as a vehicle for musicians to show respect for each other and the body of music they share. It seeks to remind us that these gatherings are not about showing how good we are or that we can play better than everyone else. The tradition has rules and etiquette generally assumed to be understood by those taking part. Newcomers can easily make mistakes here if they are not careful to take notice of how the regulars conduct themselves.

'The Session' sets out a vast array of considerations in relation to participation, repertoire, ownership of the music, standard sets, playing method, hidden features, to name just a few areas. It includes many extras like an interview with Kevin Burke, poems, MC and Venue Manager tips and description of a Dublin Singing House. Joe has certainly drawn on a wide and varied experience to share his insights with us.

On the cover of his book is a picture of the great John Fitzgerald playing tin whistle at a table probably in the Celtic Club. He is not playing to an audience but playing to keep the musical tradition of his family alive, the music he loves. A traditional session gives others the opportunity to join in this celebration of musical heritage and carry it forward into the future.

After reading Joe's book I found myself with a better appreciation of the session and what it is about. When I go to one next I will see it in a new light and will have a better idea of my place there.

Eamonn Spillane, September 2012

Irish Traditional Music



"The Session"

**By
Joe Arnold**

Note: Copies of this new book are available through Joan Mundy and the VFMC

THE WOOLSHED BALL

This was our second ball at St David's Uniting Church in Canterbury, and it is a lovely venue with a diamond-shaped hall and floor and lots of windows and a separate supper room. There is one problem though - the hall is used as a storage place so there are many chairs and tables to be removed before any decorations can be attempted. I must thank Jane Bullock for requesting VFMC committee members to come and help remove all this heavy furniture. So thank you to the two Dons and Trevor for their assistance in the heavy work.



To achieve a 1930s dance program, we had the Celebration of the Opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as the theme, as 1932 was the year of the opening. Sue Harriage made a transparency and Jill Pollock painted a picture of the Sydney Harbour Bridge from the transparency. It was a feature of the evening, especially as it only had the arch.

The table decorations were a talking point. Coat hangers supported on glass on blue cloths with boats!! The Sydney Harbour Bridge is known as the Coat hanger.



Marion supplied her laptop and during supper participants watched a power point production of the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Thank you to Harry Gardner for bringing the stand donated to the VFMC by Graeme Higman, as we were able to show pictures of the building and Opening Ceremony for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Steve Barham looked after the entrance door table looking fantastic in his dad's hat and long grey overcoat.

The 1930s dance program came from one of the Peter Ellis Collections and it had mostly couples dances and many schottisches. The schottisches were not so popular on the night, the feeling being that one or two is okay. The Alberts and the Lancers with a Grand March were enjoyed by the crowd.. Most of the dancers who attended were from the latest Beginner Dance classes and they had fun dancing to some wonderful music. The band Blackberry Jam lived up to its usual high standard and had prepared many 1930 tunes.

The next Woolshed Ball will be at the same venue, with the VFMC Billabong Band, on 25th May 2013.

- Coral Eden



CREATIVITY THROUGH ORNAMENTATION

In what way can traditional musicians express themselves through their music?

- 1) Ornamentation of the melodic line can be used as a vehicle of self-expression and creativity where the performer can showcase his/her talent.
- 2) Creativity by applying appropriate ornamentation to a tune.
- 3) Mastery within the tradition by keeping within the parameters of the music showing good taste.
- 4) Technical skill on his/her chosen instrument.
- 5) The melody is only a framework or skeleton which the musician puts flesh on by adding ornamentation. Some musicians state the bare melody as a starting point of a performance and introduce ornamentation gradually. A tune should be played differently when played the second or more times through.
- 6) Traditional Irish music is essentially monophonic (single sound) and depends on decoration of the melodic line.
- 7) Ornamentation should never be used to the point where the tune is no longer recognisable.
- 8) The grace note is a small note in comparison to other notations. The difference is a slash mark, e.g. it is played with a “flick” of the finger on the whistle.
- 9) The best way to deliver a grace note:-
 - played solo by a competent player
 - play the tune 3-4 times
 - introduce new forms of ornamentation each time the tune is played over
 - introduce melodic variations where appropriate to the player’s taste
 - introduce rhythmic variations as appropriate to the player’s taste.

- by *Joe Arnold*

* *See more on GRACE NOTES in a future issue of ‘Tradition’.*

CONCERT PARY REPORT (Billabong Band)

This seems to be a busy time of the year, with Christmas concerts starting early.

On October 12th the Billabong Band played for a Christmas concert at Monkami - Harry, Steve, Don F., Don G., Sophie, Kelvin and Maree joined Barry Murnane for a fun-filled hour of songs and action dances for the very exuberant audience.. Great fun had by all. Thanks to all participants!

On October 22nd we performed at Donwood Dementia Care facility at Burnbridge. Very appreciative audience and lots of interaction with the residents. Many dances and activity songs. Thanks to Jane, Frances, Don F., Don G., Maree, and Harry whose puppet show was a huge success.

On 11th November we performed at the Maroondah Festival in Croydon. Although the scheduled time was late in the day, the exceptionally pleasant weather ensured there was still a good crowd enjoying the activities. Thanks to Don G., Bill, Gary, Harry, Maggie, Frances, Maree and Don F. who co-ordinated the programme really well. A polished performance due largely to the practice run through a night or so before. A great effort by all!



Some of the songs we performed included Lachlan Tigers, Gum Tree Canoe, The Catalpa, Give Me a Home Among the Gumtrees (with Frances doing hand movements), Pretty White Lilies sung by Harry, and Gary doing a fantastic job with vocals in 'I Am Australian' with the audience joining in enthusiastically.....



Thanks to Alex for the pictures!

- by Maree (& Don F. & Maggie)

HARRY'S SESSION

On Sunday 18th November, a group of folkies descended upon Harry's garden wielding various instruments. The weather obliged, and VFMC members were honoured by the presence of other great musicians, including Ray Mulligan and Dave Johnson down from the country. The wonderful back lawn session was all by-ear followed by a learning new tunes (folders) session then a shared meal. *MS*

A FOLKIE QUIZ.....????!!

What are the titles of the songs containing the following lines?

- 1) *Across the fields of bounding heather
Dunbarton sounds the hour of pleasure
A song of love that knows no measure
When Johnny kneels and kisses me.*

- 2) *To the bobby on his beat at the corner of the street
To him I went, to him I told my tale
He asked, as if in doubt, "Does your mother know you're out?"
But agreed the lady ought to be in jail.
To the hock-shop I applied, but no trousers there I spied
So the bobbies came and took that girl away
The jury guilty found her of robbing a homeward-bounder
And paid her passage out to Botany Bay.*

- 3) *The wool upon his back, sir, it grew so mighty high
The eagles built their nest there, for I heard the young ones cry.*

SEE NEXT ISSUE OF 'TRADITION' FOR ANSWERS

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzz@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

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

Yea Acoustic Jam Session is on the first Friday of the month at the Yea Community House (part of the Library Complex) 7.30 p.m. All levels of musicians and singers most welcome—\$2.00 entry. It is run by Rick and Lee Vengeance, phone 5772 0357 during business hours or see Fairly Folk facebook page for more details.

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

VFMC Postal Address

GPO Box 2025, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

VFMC Website

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

CONTACTS

Acting Secretary

Harry Gardner
 Telephone: 9870-8998
 Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk Club

Don Fraser
 Telephone 0407 737 202
 Email: donfraseris@gmail.com

Family Bush Dance

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

Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
 Telephone: 9733 0802
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

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

VFMC Secretary,
 GPO Box 2025,
 Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Newsletter Delivery: (select)
 (both may be selected if desired)
 By Email
 and / or
 By Post

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (select)

City/Suburban -
 Single \$25
 Family \$30
 Junior \$15
 Student \$20
 Single Pensioner \$20
 Pensioner Family \$25

Country -
 Single \$20
 Family \$25

Name:

Address:

Email: