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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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OUR OCTOBER BUSH DANCE



As good as ever!

Photo by Trevor Voake

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: On the last Tuesday of every month HOT SPOTS is now a special feature of our session night to enhance performance skills, encourage collaboration and simply have fun—in dimmer lighting!

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2016 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Tuesdays, 7.30—10.15 pm, East Ringwood Community Hall (enter from Knaith Road, off Dublin Road) (Melway 50B8). Supportive round-robin sessions where all are welcome for playing, singing, reciting, performing, workshops etc. \$5.members, \$6 non-members. Contact Don (0407-737-202)/ www.vfmc.org.au

Guest Performer Concert

On the second Tuesday of the month (instead of the weekly session) a concert is held featuring top acoustic performers. Ringwood East Community Hall. Concerts start with open stage acts at 7.45pm, finishing 10.15pm. \$12. \$10 conces and members, kids no charge. Contact 0407 737 202 / www.vfmc.org.au

By-Ear Sessions

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

- first Thursday, 8.00pm (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 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month except January 8-11pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. A different band is featured each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids no charge. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

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

RINGWOOD FOLK

The Simpson Three
TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER
7:45 - 10:15pm

The Simpson Three
Bec, Declan, Clancy -
promise an explosive
blend of traditional Celtic,
Australian, contemporary and
original tunes and songs.
Their lineup includes tenor
banjo, mandolin, fiddle,
bodhran and guitar.

With support group
The BUGSS, ukulele
singalong group from
Bennetswood.

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve

\$12; \$10 memb / conc; kids free

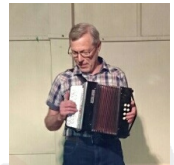
For info 0438.049.557 or www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

Guest act 13th December - Saoirse

Guest Artist Night, October 2016

Our host for the night was Maree Buttler. Don Fraser started off the night playing Meeting Isabella - a tune composed by our own member Maggie Somerville. He followed with Somewhere in France with you - written by South African/British singer/



songwriter, Al Bowly. Then Frances and Charmaine with ukulele and song entertained with Feelin' Groovy and Everybody's Talkin. The audience happily joined in. The Croydon Recreational Ukulele Group, aka Alex and Co presented two American flavoured songs Swanee River and a Gospel song - Angel Band.



Francisca sang in her native French, a song about a woman being held prisoner in a tower by a jealous King. Then she invited the audience to sing along in a tribute to the current electricity outages.



Put a light in every Country Window. Our last spot act for the evening was Dominic who sang a Scottish song -The Trooper and the Maid. Then a request from an audience member - Working Man.

Guest Artists for A capella Evening: The first choir for the evening was **The Buds**: a group of nine young women mostly teenagers, based in Melbourne's eastern suburbs who have been singing together for only one year. A capella is an especially challenging style of musical presentation, and many hours of practice are invested into each work presented. Yet these bright, cheerful young ladies gave the appearance of a few friends

just out to have some casual fun for the evening. Their first song Sampson by Regina Spektor captured the attention of the audience and they followed immediately with Settle Down by a New Zealand writer



then I'll Run to You, a favourite of the American group Pentatonix. A beautifully arranged version of Eleanor Rigby was followed by The Book of Love and then I See Fire by Ed Sheeran. Especially learned for tonight's performance at Ringwood Folk Club, the final song for the evening was the Irish Ballad The Parting Glass. Congratulations to the genius behind the vocal arrangements. Congratulations to all of The Buds; the maturity and professionalism displayed so early in their career augers well for their future.

Guest Artist Night, October 2016

Shift the Table is made up of a variable number of ladies who are neighbours and have been singing together for close to twenty-five years. They have visited the club in the past and the audience was eager to see what they had in store this evening. The group of ten ladies began with a joyous and rousing version of *Now let us Sing!* They followed with a song written by Ruby Hunter, Aboriginal singer-songwriter. With the accompaniment of one ukulele the choir performed *Welcome to Country*. Then another Beatles classic *Here Comes the Sun* invited enthusiastic participation from the audience. This is the sound of one voice by the Canadian group the *Wailin' Jennys* was followed by *Deep River of Love*. Then an indigenous song from Arnhem Land – *Ling marra Ling marra*. The loose translation of the lyrics is: let us all come together. The group presented as their finale the award winning song of Canadian singer/ songwriter Ruth Mooney who is also one of the *Wailin' Jennys* - *Storm Comin*.



Platinum is a foursome who sing as a barbershop quartet. They began with *Tuxedo Junction*, that great old blues tune from Birmingham USA c 1938. Then straight into the upbeat Swedish group ABBA hit *Gimme Gimme Gimme a Man after Midnight*.



Then *At Last*, a song by Norwegian band A-ha. Continuing the travel theme the ladies presented a lovely song about *Eigg Island*, a beautiful spot off the south coast of the Isle of Skye. Back to Scandanavia with *Since You Went Away* - a song written in the African-American style, and then the audience hummed along and joined in the jaunty version of *You can Count on Me like One, Two*

Three. Two members of the quartet were leaving in two days for a trip to Las Vegas to compete as part of the *Sweet Adelines*. The club wishes them well.

For the last item for the group and the entire evening, **Platinum** decided to perform *Parting Glass*. This is an ancient parting song. Some of the lyrics date back to early 1605 while the earliest written music is from the 1770's. Popularised in modern times by the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, you can never hear it too often. All present raised their voices to sing a rousing rendition of this farewell song. Thank you to all of the ladies from each of the three groups who provided such wonderful entertainment for the evening.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted on the night in many capacities to ensure that the evening ran smoothly.

Next month: The Simpson Three, supported by BUGSS.

- Report by Bette Martin; Photographs by Trevor Voake



The Dance Page

Diary dates for November:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30th	31st	1st English	2nd Irish or Colonials	3rd	4th SPRING	5th VFMC Dance Comhaltas DANCE
6th WEEKEND	7th Irish Scottish	8th English	9th Irish or Colonials	10th Scottish	11th	12th
13th Claddagh Contra	14th Irish Scottish	15th English	16th Irish or Colonials	17th Colonials	18th	19th Bendigo East Hop
20th Welsh Break-up 1.45-4.45 pm**	21st Irish Scottish	22nd English	23rd Irish or Colonials	24th Colonials	25th	26th Melbourne Coloinal Dancers Summer Ball
27th Claddagh Contra	28th Irish Scottish	29th English	30th Irish or Colonials			
Diary dates for early December						
				1st December	2nd	3rd VFMC Xmas Dance Billabong BB
4th TSDAV Dance workshop	5th Irish Scottish	6th English break-up	7th Irish or Colonials	8th Scottish	9th	10th Scottish

SPRING DANCE WEEKEND --6th November 2016, Parks Hall Community Centre, Portarlington, tsdav.vicnet.au Contact Marion: 9439-7100
MELBOURNE COLONIAL DANCERS SUMMER BALL—Preston Town Hall, 284 Gower St, Preston. Coral: 9885-6109/0468739761 or Peter: 9848-5852

The Dance Page



- Claddagh** Irish set dancing at St Georges Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. **Sunday 2-5pm.** Contact: Rod 9497-1793
- VFMC Colonial Dance** at Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, 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 break-up dance, Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 7.45-10.15 pm. Contact George: 9890-5650**
- Colonial Wednesday** Social dance classes at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, Eddy Crt, Abbotsford, 8-10pm. Contact: Coral 9471-0690
- Colonial Thursday** Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Contact: Coral 9885-6109
- Welsh** Dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 2-4.30pm. Contact: Ian 9878-2414
- TSDAV** Sunday: The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy. Contact: Norm Ellis 9888-5332
- Contra Dance** Northcote Uniting Church Hall, 251 High St, Northcote, 7.30 -10.30pm. Info: 0422 932 532
- Contra Dance** Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke Rd, Malvern East. Info: 0422 932 532
- Scottish Mon. & Sat.** Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8 pm Contact: deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com
- Scottish Thursday** Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thornton Rd. 7-9pm. Contact: Di Gaylard 5963-3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au
- Bendigo East Hop** Contact Dianne Pearse: 5442-1715

Woolshed Ball— 8th October 2016

The excitement of the ball started with the setting up of the tables and chairs, decorations and sound system. This being our first time in this hall we (the set up people) came a bit early so that we could decide on what decorations to use and where. Once we were set up we stayed there and had dinner in the hall before changing into our glad rags for the evening. Thank you to Coral, Jenny, Lynne, Laurie and me (if I have forgotten to name anyone please let me know)

It was a good night with lots of fun and happy smiles. The band set the tune with their warm up bracket of polkas and away the evening started.

The band never missed a beat all evening and Sue our trusty sound woman kept them beautifully blended and at just the right noise level – great job Sue thank you.

Michael did a great job of keeping the callers to time and didn't blink an eye when I told him we had to finish 15 minutes earlier than stated. Michael just looked at the programme and deleted a dance or two and we finished exactly on the nail – brilliant timing Michael thank you.

Our callers for the night, Coral, Pauline, Robin, Michael, Kathy and myself kept the pace going nicely with all of us getting on the stage when required, giving just enough time for people to find a new partner and away we all went again with the next dance, this all meant of course that everyone was ready for supper. Thank you so much callers for your time and patience.

A big thank you to all of you who bought food, there was a tasty spread on the tables and although we all did our best to eat it the amount of food just beat us.

One last Thank you to everyone who helped with the clean up of the hall. We had a fair bit It was done in record time and we were out before the alarm came on!

- Jane Bullock

(see photos from the Ball on next page)

THE WOOLSHED BALL

The caller:-



The band
(the Billabong Band)

The dancers:-



LEARN TO PLAY BY EAR

By-Ear Sessions:

Every Monday 8:00 pm: fiddles, mandolins at Harry's place,

Every Tuesday 6:30 pm: all instruments in the Community Hall,

First Thursday 8:00 pm: all instruments at Harry's place,

Most Saturdays 11:00 am: all instruments and singers busking opposite Ringwood East train station,

Occasional Friday evenings: melody instruments, including guitars if picked, at Harry's place, and

Midweek busking or playing as part of any by-ear tuition; see below.

By-ear classes:

Please do not assume that one can learn to play music by ear by first sight-reading printed music. A different part (temporal lobe) in the brain is required. You can feel it as you listen. Of course there's great benefit in being able to play both by ear and by reading the printed MS with equal facility, but they are two separate skills.

I can help by uploading selected audio files on the Club website where playbacks of your chosen tunes can be slowed to your required speed, e.g. <http://www.vfmc.org.au/FiresideFiddlers/ArthurByattsSchottische.html> .

- *Harry Gardner (03 9870 8998, 0408 708 998)*

THE ANNUAL C.J. DENNIS FESTIVAL AT THE SINGING GARDENS 2016—‘THE MOODS OF GINGER MICK’(1916)

This festival commenced in 2008 through the efforts of a few C.J. Dennis enthusiasts. It was intended only as a one-off but was such a success that it has now become an annual event up at Toolangi, where Dennis spent the last 30 years of his life.

The 2016 festival was held over the weekend 22nd-23rd October and was once again a huge success - despite the fact that two weeks before the festival NINE enormous mountain ash trees fell in high winds, one of them crushing the pump house full of plastic chairs to be used in the festival, and that the first day of the festival (Saturday) had such horrendous weather – rain, hail and even sleet – that the power failed for over 24 hours! Luckily a generator plus a couple of superb wood heaters saved the day and the festival went ahead in the warm, cosy tea-rooms at the Singing Gardens.

The festival kicked off after Saturday lunch with the presentation of C.J. Dennis poetry competition awards for both children and adults, including some real beauties! This was followed by various poetic and musical renditions of the famous poet’s work before the main event of the day began at 5 pm. As this year is exactly 100 years since ‘The Moods of Ginger Mick’ was published, the President of the C.J. Dennis society, Stephen Whiteside, took it upon himself to write a script involving the entire presentation of ‘The Moods of Ginger Mick’ – a poetic journey of a fictional young man who enlisted in the Australian army back in World War One. This book in fact played a large role in the shaping of the whole Anzac legend.



Geoffrey Graham, a well-known actor and poet, performed the role of Mick superbly with various costume changes and light and shade as the story progressed.

A delicious meal was served after the first hour and then everyone settled down and enjoyed the second half of the show, which finished at around 9 pm.

Fortunately, the weather was significantly better on the Sunday, although still cold. The Poets' Breakfast began after 9 am and was so enjoyed that it morphed into morning tea and almost lunch, with David Campbell, Jim Smith, Stephen Whiteside, Tim Sheed, Maggie Somerville and many others reciting and/or singing various Aussie poems by C.J. Dennis and others.



After a yummy cooked roast lunch and with the weather still behaving itself, we all adjourned to the magnificent gardens for the Moving Theatre. The audience was led from one area to another, including to the original wash-house at one stage, by the poets themselves: C.J. Dennis (alias Stephen Whiteside), Banjo Paterson (Geoffrey Graham), Henry Lawson (David Campbell) and Will Ogilvie (Jim Brown).

A highlight of the afternoon was the live performance of one of Dennis' bird poems 'The Blue Kingfisher', set to music and sung by Maggie Somerville and danced to by local children, with choreography by Cathy Ridley. A late surprise visitor was Dame Mary Gilmore (Ruth Aldridge) who recited 'No Foe Shall Gather Our Harvest' with gusto under the trees. The afternoon wound up with Jim Brown performing Dennis' beautiful poem 'Dusk' followed by a delicious afternoon tea in the tea-rooms. A wonderful weekend of poetry and music!



And next year will be the centenary of C.J. Dennis' 'The Glugs of Gosh' and 'Doreen'to be noted in everyone's 2017 calendar—in October somewhere.

- report by Maggie Somerville; photos by Maggie Somerville & Stephen Whiteside

Billabong Band Concert Party Report – October 2016

Recent Events:

Since the last committee meeting the Billabong Band has had two engagements: The Woolshed Ball on Oct 8th & Lionsbrae on Oct 14th.

The Woolshed Ball went off without a hitch. Having a reasonable number of practices beforehand (in this case 6) pays massive dividends. As somebody who snuck down from the stage for a number of waltzes with Margie, I can say that the band's timing for the waltzes was impeccable. Steve & Jane have to be singled out for "dedication to duty" having only arrived home from the UK a couple of days prior to the event. Jane has to be thanked for coming along to the band's final practice and making sure our tempos were correct for the different dances.

The **Lionsbrae** gig went off very smoothly. The general feeling from the band was that it was one of our best performances with them. We changed our routine slightly by including two demonstration dances. They seemed to enjoy them; perhaps it brought back memories for some of them.

Many thanks to the following people who played at either or both the above gigs: Maree, Margie, Frances, Sophie, Regina, Bill, Steve, Harry, Stan A, Stan C, Don G, Rob, Mick, Stewart & Trevor.

Upcoming Gigs:

There are a number of gigs that the Billabong Band have been booked for:

Nov 6th – Maroondah Festival

Dec 3rd – Ringwood East Senior Citizens Christmas break-up

Dec 3rd – clubs final family & Christmas dance for 2016

Dec 16th – Lionsbrae

Jan 25th 2017 – Donwood Lodge, Australia Day theme

- Maree Buttler (Concert Party Convenor, 9733-0802)

FOLK MUSIC QUIZ

1) What award did Bob Dylan just win? 2) What must he deliver in order to receive it? 3) How has he responded to the award so far? 4) How much money is this award worth? 5) Who refused to accept it in 1964?

Answers to last quiz: 1) Mouth organ & French harp 2) Blues, folk, classical, jazz, country, rock n' roll 3) A free reed instrument 4) A flat elongated spring 5) In Austria, 1826.

If you enjoy hearing ukuleles en masse, don't miss this group:



**THE BUGSS—our support act next Concert Night
on Tuesday 8th November, 2016**

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@iinet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au) for details.

Berwick and District Folk Club

Edward Nass / Christine Trimmell,
 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

Ade Kelly (03)5241-3749,
 adenmyra@bigpond.com.au, Pete Fogarty (03)5339-7887. Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at Hotel Max, 2 Gheringhap St, Geelong. Open Mic. Performance events first Tuesday at Irish Murphy's, 30 Aberdeen St & 3rd Tuesdays at Hotel Max. Bookings: Paula Grembka 0401 671 1310.
<http://www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com/>

Comhaltas (Collingwood)

Joan and Ray Mundy run a session on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, starts 7.30pm. Supper. Maree: 9471-0690

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

Ballarat Folk and Acoustic Music Group

First Sunday Every Month from 2 pm,
 Venue: Carman Welsh Church Hall,
 261 Albert Street,
 Sebastopol.
 Enquiries: Arthur: 0438 323 923
 Graeme: 03 5334 5551

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 events
- Discounts on Club publications
- Discounts on Club CD's and cassettes
- Affiliation with other organizations

VFMC Postal Address

P.O. Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135

VFMC Website

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

CONTACTS

Secretary

Robyn Hammond
Telephone:
Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club

Don Fraser
Telephone: 0407 737 202
Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

Family Bush Dance

Jane Bullock
Telephone: 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 with cheque to:

VFMC Secretary,
P.O. Box 215,
Ringwood East, Victoria 3135

Newsletter Delivery: (select)
(both may be selected if desired)

By Email

and / or

By Post

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	(select <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)
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"/>

Name:

Address:

Phone Contact:

Email: