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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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OUR FIRST BUSH DANCE OF THE NEW YEAR!



photo by Trevor Voake

**ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:
THE 4TH TUESDAY SESSION OF EVERY MONTH
IS NOW AN ALL-IN PLAYING & SINGING SESSION**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 17TH MARCH 2017 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Every Tuesday except the 2nd (concert night), Ringwood East Community Hall, Knaith Rd Reserve. 6.30 Australian Folk Tunes playing; 7.30 Australian Folk Songs; 8.00-10.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. Supper. \$5 memb. \$6 non memb. Currently 4th Tues is for all-in round robin tunes, dance sets & group singing. All welcome. 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. \$14, \$12 conces and \$10 members, kids no charge. All welcome. 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
5th April	6th Fiddles	7th Club Session	1st	2nd March By-Ear Session	3rd	4th VFMC Dance Maggie Duncan & friends
5th	6th Fiddles	7th Club Session	8th	9th	10th	11th
12th	13th Fiddles	14th Guest Night	15th	16th	17th	18th
19th	20th Fiddles	21st Club Session	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
26th	27th Fiddles	28th Club Session	1st April	2nd By-Ear Session	3rd	4th VFMC Dance Brumbies Bush Band



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

Enda Kenny

A multi-award winning songwriter and twice winner of the Port Fairy Folk Festival songwriting award, Enda's recent compositions highlight his quirky sense of humour and add to an already impressive catalogue of songs which led Colum Sands to describe him as *"the finest Irish songwriter living overseas"*.

TUESDAY 14th MARCH
7:45 - 10:15pm

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve

\$14; \$12 conc; \$10 members; kids free

For info 0438.049.557 or www.vfmc.org.au

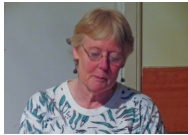
Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

11th April - Men In Suits

Guest Artist Night, February 2017

Our MC for the evening was Frances. The evening began with seven spot acts.

First up was a club favourite Mick Kearon. He sang *Lanes of Woolloomooloo*. A song about a homeless old WW11 soldier. Then a Scottish song- *Tramps and Hawkers*.



Then Christine recited her modern version of The Man from Snowy River. It was only two lines long!

Wal then took to the stage with a Tommy Makem song Four Green Fields. Then as a tribute to Valentine’s Day, he sang *Before I Met You*.



Then Ruth entertained us with a self- penned poem. She was taking a look at modern life where everything seems supersized.

Gary read some humorous poems by Harry Bowers—the first entitled *Dog House Blues*, a funny look at a couple trying to retrieve car keys from inside a locked house. This was followed by *Brewer’s Lament*.



More poetry.—this time from Maggie describing her battle with a mosquito at bed-time in her poem entitled ‘Mozzed’. She then played a tune which she recently composed as a tribute to the late Hugh McDonald. Then a poem by Mary Hannay Foott set to music, *Where the Pelican Builds her Nest*.

Dominic concluded the spot acts by singing the old whaling song *Farewell to Tarwathie* followed by *Old Whitby Harbour* composed by Yorkshireman Stan Graham.



Guest Artist Night, February 2017

Our Main Act this evening was renowned guitarist, **Nick Charles**.



Nick is a consummate guitarist and his music is a colourful mixture of blues, folk and ragtime jazz. He travels extensively throughout the USA, New Zealand and Australia. *The River Flows* his latest album was named the Blues Album of the Year in The Age Music Awards. The first piece performed was an instrumental. Then Nick played blues number Three lines Deep-Twelve Bars Long. The third number was from *The River Flows* album – *Fools Gold*. Telling us we are all bearing the crosses we have made Nick's rendition of *Albatross* written by Peter Green of Fleetwood Mac. This was followed by a song Nick wrote with Bill Jackson saying that sometimes the thing that you want drifts away from you.

Famous American song writers Leiber and Stoller, along with Ben E King, wrote the song *Stand by Me*. Whilst in the USA, Lieber and Stoller asked Nick to create a guitar arrangement of this classic. He played the piece and the audience showed their appreciation with substantial applause. Then a Bob Dylan early tune *One Too Many Mornings* followed by some Mississippi blues.

Nick composed a touching piece as a tribute to a chap who gave him his first gig in Las Cruces New Mexico USA. It was beautiful. In a salute to Valentine's Day, Nick sang *I Found You*, a love song which he wrote while travelling near the town of Orbost.. *Oh Baby I'm so glad I found You*. Then we heard- *Victory Rag* by James Scott. Then Nick played another Valentine tribute to his wife the song *Penelope*. For his finale, Nick chose a piece by the legendary Blues guitarist Big Bill Broonzy. It was the classic piece - *Hey, Hey, Baby*.



The VFMC was fortunate to have an artist of Nick Charles' stature as a guest and we look forward to seeing him again in the future.

March 14th Concert: Enda Kenny

Thank you to the various members who volunteered to do all of the jobs required to make the evening run smoothly.

- report by Bette Martin ; photography by Trevor Voake



The Dance Page

Diary dates for March:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1st Irish or Colonials	2nd	3rd	4th VFMC Dance Maggie Duncan and friends
5th TSDAV Dance Workshop Contra	6th Scottish	7th English	8th Irish or Colonials	9th Scottish	10th	11th Scottish
12th Claddagh	13th Scottish	14th English	15th Irish or Colonials	16th Colonial Bush Dance	17th	18th Bendigo East Bush Dance or Contra
19th Welsh	20th Scottish	21st English	22nd Irish or Colonials	23rd	24th	25th
26th Claddagh	27th Scottish	28th English	29th Irish or Colonials	30th	31st	
						1st April VFMC Dance Brumbies Bush Band
5th TSDAV Workshop Contra	6th Scottish	7th English	8th Irish or Colonials	9th	10th	11th Scottish

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 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
Colonial Wednesday	Social dance classes at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall. Eddy Court, Abbotsford. 8-10 pm. Contact Coral: 9885 6109
Colonial Thursday	Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Contact: Coral 9885-6109
Bendigo East	Bendigo East Progress Hall, Lansell. Contact: Dianne Pearse 5442 1715
Welsh	Dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30 pm. Contact Ian 9878 2414
TSDAV	Sunday: The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy. Contact: Norm Ellis 9888-5332
Contra Mon. & Sat.	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

MORE FOLKIE JOKES

What do you call a cow that plays the harmonica?

A moo-sician.

How do you make a violin sound like a viola?

Play in the low register with a lot of wrong notes.

Specific Australian Folk Tune Sessions

Every Monday, 8:00 pm (By ear, fiddles at Harry's place, Ringwood East) □

Every Tuesday, 6:30 pm (Screened score, all instruments, in the NE corner of the Ringwood East Community Hall except on monthly second Tuesdays when it's on stage at about 7 pm without the screen). □

Monthly first Thursdays, 8:00 pm (By ear, all instruments, Harry's place, Ringwood East)

Every Saturday, 11:00 am where all instruments are welcome to accompany singers in Railway Avenue, opposite to the Ringwood East train station.) □

Harry Gardner, 03 9870 8998 or Harry Gardner <enquiries@vfmc.org.au>





THE PIGRAM BROTHERS

The Pigram Brothers are a seven-piece indigenous Australian band from the pearling town of Broome in Western Australia. They are a country/folk/rock band.

They comprise the following members:-

Alan Pigram – guitar, [mandolin](#), [ukulele](#), [tiple](#)

Steven Pigram – vocals, [acoustic guitar](#), harmonica, [requinto](#), [vahlia](#), [ukulele](#), [dulcimer](#)

David Pigram – vocals, acoustic guitar

Colin Pigram – vocals, acoustic guitar

Philip Pigram – vocals, drums

Peter Pigram – bass guitar

Gavin Pigram – percussion

PIGRAM BROTHERS (continued).....

Alan, Steven and Philip were members of the band 'Scrap Metal' from 1983 until its separation in 1995.

In 1996 the Pigram Brothers band was formed.

In 2000 they were the subject of the ABC one hour documentary, 'Saltwater Country', which was part of 'Message Stick'.

In 2006 Steve and Alan were inducted into the Western Australian Hall of Fame.

In 2011 Alan and Steven began touring with Alex Lloyd as part of the Mad Bastards Trio, performing music from the 2011 film, MAD BASTARDS—a great movie!

Their soundtrack for Mad Bastards was nominated for an Aria Award for Best Original Soundtrack, Cast or Show Album at the 2011 Aria Awards.

The Pigram Brothers' original music captures Broome's and the Kimberleys' saltwater spirit and country. Songs from their albums have become hometown anthems and have also attracted critical acclaim.

They were nominated for the Best World Music Album 2006 at the Australian Music Industry's Aria Awards.

'Under the Mango Tree' is the Pigram Brothers' latest CD release, produced and recorded at Pearlshell Studios in Broome by Alan Pigram.

There is also a live DVD filmed at the Pearl Luggers in Broome, released in 2007.



- report by Maggie Somerville
(info & photos are from Wikipedia & other websites)

Birthday thanks and the Tuesday 6:30 pm Australian Folk Tune Session

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the splendid celebration of my ninetieth birthday on the opening Club session for 2017, and the kind reporting thereof in this newsletter. In the emotion of the moment, I declined to make a speech, but I should have acknowledged the Club community spirit that I've enjoyed over many years of playing with and working for the VFMC. Hopefully evidence of those thanks will emerge in what follows.

After many years of fruitless trying to practise copious amount of Australian folk tunes from the recognized collectors, I felt the need for a specific Club session that was dedicated to them. I wanted not only to play the music, but also to play it in the traditional manner, i.e. to memorise one's own tunes and to follow other players' tunes by ear.

After meeting with a small number of like-minded players in the Hall storeroom at 6:30 pm of Tuesdays for some months in 2016, we were kindly granted space in the NE corner of the main Hall room. Thanks are therefore due to those colleagues who have persevered with the early evening start and also to those singers who joined in as they arrived early for the Joy Durst Memorial Song Session at 7:30 pm.

However, the actual Australian content of the 6:30 pm Session remained low and hence I have invented a new method of learning to increase it. The idea is for the music score to be displayed on a screen from a digital projector* which is computer controlled so that a marker moves along the notes as a tune is sounded from the computer playback. After twice through at dance tempo, the speed is halved so that players can comfortably follow as they play by either (i) sight-reading or (ii) following the sound by ear. In this way the method caters for both of these types of Club players.

Ideally the computerised sound is now stopped and the tune is led by one of the players.

My hope is that as we play each of the tunes, be it only for one or two weeks, some player will say, "Oh that's a good tune. I'll make it mine." and will then lead others to play it in future sessions.

Initially the tunes are chosen in alphabetical order from the convenient list on the Club website <http://www.vfmc.org.au/FiresideFiddlers/IndexSettlers.html>, which collection is published here by kind permission of Ray Mulligan of the Bush Traditions organisation. Most of these tunes will be new to Club members and hence provide a terrific learning experience. Clicking on each title will offer several options: (a) a display of the score as provided by the Settlers, (b) a recording of the tune by Greg O'Leary, (c) a Sibelius PDF score, which is arranged for learning note by note, and (d) one or more Sibelius MP3 playbacks at different speeds.

Moreover, 6:30 pm Session players will also be encouraged to lead their own choice of Australian tunes, either from the Settlers' list or from other sources, provided that I have advance notice to publish their pieces on-line for all the participants to hear in advance and sight-read at the Session.

Songs are not excluded, provided that they are treated as tuneful items with only a couple of selected verses. Ron Edwards' collection, *The Big Book of Australian Folk Song* is to be recommended because Club members may get a pleasant surprise by learning some snippets that Ron himself collected very near to us in the Ringwood area of Victoria, Australia. Songs and tunes found by John Meredith and others should also be done. There's no limit. Go to it! The weekly new tune is indicated in red in the Settlers' index.

All Club members are, of course, most welcome to participate in the 6:30 pm Session. Please don't be put off by its by-ear origin. Whilst I cannot abandon by-ear for myself, I am substituting a method for all the sight-reading participants to read exactly the same version at a controlled speed whilst simultaneously allowing by-ear players to follow without looking at the screen.

As a by-ear player myself, I derive tremendous enjoyment from trying to alter any memorised version to be identical with what the sight-readers are playing on the occasion. It's that spirit of community that lifts session playing to the highest level of musical fun for me. We're then all in it together!

- *Harry Gardner*

* I'm indebted to Tony O'Neill for the use of his digital projector and screen and to Stewart Boundy for providing the projector stand.

TUESDAY SESSION NEWS—THE LATEST

As noted in our previous newsletter, February 2017 Tradition, we are about to trial the new Tuesday Session format. This means that the all-in round robin playing and singing will commence shortly on **TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2017**. Please also note that this new format will mean that our monthly Hot Spots will now be moved back to the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The following is a recap of Don Fraser's report on this issue:

You may know our Tuesday session nights are now planned and run by a sessions sub-committee, the SSC. With ever-increasing numbers and complex issues arising, this has become necessary. To get the best out of the limited time available, the SSC has recommended trialling a re-arrangement of Tuesday nights to give some extra space for all-in instrumental playing and singing to take place.

There's a need among a good portion of the membership for this type of playing, to complement all the other things we do. We want to trial devoting the fourth Tuesday of the month just to all-in round robin playing and singing. The other weeks stay the same - tune playing, singing, recitation, soloing, Hot Spots (third week), tunes session from 6.30, Joy Durst singing session from 7.30, and so on. Just when you come along on the fourth week, have a few good tunes or songs in mind for everyone to join in with. And be prepared to pick up new material for your own repertoire – there are some tremendous resources available in our music books.

We want to give this re-arrangement a try-out for six months to see how it goes and have a major review around August. Of course we will monitor progress over the months and want your feedback and ideas. We think this plan will broaden the Club's appeal even further and go a long way to getting people familiar with all those great foot-tapping tunes hidden away in the music books.

If there's a fifth Tuesday in a month we may have something special planned - workshops, mentoring, theme or tryout night, party? Stay tuned.

- Don Fraser and Maggie Somerville

FOLK SINGER— QUIZ

1) What country was Martyn Wyndham -Read born in? 2) What years did he live & work in Australia? 3) What is he renowned for? 4) Name one Australian poet he has focussed on. 5) Which VFMC members have hosted his concerts?

Answers to last quiz: 1) Seven 2) Aboriginal 3) Western Australia 4) Mad Bastards.

Concert Party Report Feb 2017 *Report—Trevor Voake*

Recent Events:

(convenor: Maree Buttler)

Wednesday 25th January: Australia Day concert at Donwood Aged Care

This coincided with their Australia Day BBQ & so we had a big audience in fact the organizers said it was their best turn-out for any group that they had performing there. With residents, family members & staff, there were over 80 people singing along to a selection of well known Australian tunes. Thanks to Don & Stan who provided & set-up some sound equipment. With all the people there we needed the amplification. Also thanks to Harry & Tony who set up an overhead projector so the audience could follow the words.

Wednesday 27th January: Australia Day concert at Lionsbrae: Another Lionsbrae concert – we really enjoy playing at this venue & we've got to know a number of the residents. Again this was an Australia Day theme so it was a lot of well known songs that they could join in with. Harry MC'd this one & made it a great afternoon. Thank you to all those who participated in the above concerts: Stan C, Don G, Tony, Frances, Denis, Sofie, Frances, Stewart, Rob, Trev, Margie, Maree and Harry. **Upcoming Events:-**

Friday March 3 rd	Lions Brae
Friday March 17 th	Donwood aged Care
Friday March 24 th	Mooroolbark Residential Care
Saturday March 25 th	Cherrie tree Retirement home
Thursday April 13 th	NFF Welcome dance
Sunday May 7 th	Wild colonial Boy Exhibition
Saturday May 27 th	Woolshed Ball

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: