



TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

Reg No A2511Y

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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ME ‘N ME MATES:

AN ALL AUSSIE BAND - AUSSIE ENTERTAINMENT



See inside p.5 for full report

(photo by Trevor Voake)

ATTENTION ALL VFMC MEMBERS—TUESDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Please see Page 11 for the latest initiative with our sporadic 5th Tuesdays.

This one is a special night to mark the World War One Centenary.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2018 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, 8.00 pm (venue TBA)
- Second Tuesday, 10:15 pm (after the Ringwood Folk Guest Night)

Most Saturdays, 11:00am, all instruments and singing, busking opposite the railway station in Ringwood East.

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 each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids free. No charge. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Children's Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January. 2-3.30pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. Live band each month. All school age children welcome. \$5 a child, \$10 a family. Adults free.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1st November	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
4th	5th	6th Club Session	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th	13th Guest Night	14th	15th	16th	17th Children's Bush Dance
18th	19th	20th Club Session	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
25th	26th	27th Club Session All-in	28th	29th	30th	



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

The NEON EFFECT

TUESDAY
13th NOVEMBER
7:45 - 10:15pm



Three young talents combine forces to explore traditional tunes and songs, infusing the music of their time and place with new energy and emotion.

Ringwood East Community Hall
Knaith Road Reserve

\$14; \$12 concession; \$10 memb; 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 December - Wanton Shillelaghs

Guest Artist Night, October 2018



Our MC for the evening was Don Fraser. Ruth opened the evening with *ScoMo's BBQ*.—a spirited poem lampooning Australian politicians, both current and past who drink and dine in style with a Kirribilli view.

Mick Kearon sang one of his own songs about *Old Friends*. He followed with *The Rare Ould Times*, written in the 1970's by Pete St John. The audience joined in the chorus: "Ring-a-ring-a-rosie, as the light declines; I remember Dublin city in the rare ould times."



A poem from the 1940s by Dame Mary Gilmore has been put to music by club member Maggie Somerville: *No Foe Shall Gather Our Harvest*, which was written during World War II when Australia feared invasion. It is beautifully presented on YouTube. Maggie's second Mary Gilmore song was *The Whistling Man*, with lots of the audience helping with the whistling.

Edward Nass from the Berwick & District Folk Club presented two of his own songs. One was inspired by the evening sky up at Nariel: *Seven Sisters Softly Shining*. Then a humorous song – *Facebook Friends*: "The adventure never ends, Even though I've never met you, we are the best of friends."



Wal Tiedemann presented a lament of both the passing of traditional old street vendors and the passing of lost love—*The Oggy Man* written by Cyril Tawney. However, Wal's second song was a German love song sung in an old German dialect and in English: *Come by night, you are my heart's delight*.

Stephen Whiteside reminded the audience that the C.J. Dennis festival is coming up soon (Oct 20-21) in the Singing Gardens at Toolangi. Stephen read an excerpt from a book published in 1918 called 'Digger Smith'. Members of the English gentry opened their homes to entertain Australian troops during the First World War, and Digger Smith relates a funny tale about meeting an Earl's wife who turns out to be a true Aussie girl.



Ellen and Bill, playing accordion and guitar, sang a lament from the American Civil War written by Washburn and Root: *We shall meet but we shall miss him, there will be one vacant chair*. They followed with *Moorlough Shore*, a traditional love song also adopted by the French as *The Drop of Water*. The familiar tune has been used for many other songs, particularly the Easter Uprising song, *The Foggy Dew*.

Guest Artist Night, October 2018

MAIN ACT: Me 'N Me Mates. This energetic trio, comprising Russell, Eddy and Chris, put on a fantastic performance of true blue Aussie songs, rhyme and tall stories. Their dog Blue sat to one side of the stage and kept a close eye on their performance. The group from South Australia offers a mixture of self-written songs as well as poetry and stories by well-known Australians.

With Chris on lagerphone, Eddy on bass and Russell on guitar, the mates launched into their first song about the problems faced in the bush: unless we have *Another Fall of Rain*. Then a *Song to Explain Everything*. Next up a song of transportation, *Jim Jones*, with the audience enthusiastically joining in the chorus. Our MC, Don, was ushered to the forefront to act the part of Michael McGee as the mates acted out the poem, *A Bush Christening*—an 1893 gem from Banjo Paterson. Then *I've been Everywhere*, written in 1959 by Geoff Mack - a truly Aussie song picked up by many international performers, including Johnny Cash and Rolf Harris. The conversation was peppered with old Aussie comments: ugly as a busted windmill, he's a head like a half stuffed mango, useless as a glass door on a dunny, etc. One of their own songs with a good tempo, *There ain't nothin' in the world I wouldn't do for you*, was followed by a rollicking version of *Ryebuck Shearer*. Slowing down a little, they sang one of their own songs: *He's a battler-she's a battler...* No time for sadness as they sang Paul Kelly's great song, *To her Door*. Next a short discussion about the fact that Aussies' nicknames have a particular ironic flavour of their own. Bluey is a redhead, Tiny is very tall, bald chaps are usually named Curly, etc. This discussion led into a song about a small baby born into the Head family named Richard Head. A tribute song to ever popular Ned Kelly finished with "Tell 'em I died game, retribution comes to all, such is



life." Then a travelling song: *There You Go*. Chris took the time to sing the praises of the faithful Blue, still sitting quietly nearby—he gets the paper, picks up the mail and accompanies them to the pub, but he doesn't drink 'cause he has to drive them home. What a mate! Next a spirited performance of *Maggie May* with the audience singing along with gusto. Then a bright and bouncy travelling song of their own. *It's a Long Long Way to Jingalingalong* was followed by a yodelling song, *Bushland*

Boogie. Mick Kearon stepped up with his bodhran to accompany the mates in their finale: *Wild Rover*. The audience refused to let the night end, demanding an encore. So we all joined in a medley of *Road to Gundagai/I'm going back to Yarrowonga*.

Thus ended one of the liveliest, most enjoyable evenings seen at the Club for many years. We offer our heartfelt thanks to 'Me 'n Me Mates' and hope that we see them again in the near future. A big thank you to all of the regular volunteers who helped with so many small and large jobs during the evening.

Next month: The Neon Effect

- report by Bette Martin ; photos by Trevor Voake



The Dance Page



Diary dates for October:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1st	2nd	3rd VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
4th Contra	5th Scottish	6th English	7th Irish or Colonials	8th Scottish	9th Spring Dance	10th Scottish Weekend at Portarlinton
11th	12th Scottish	13th English	14th Irish or Colonials	15th Colonials	16th	17th VFMC Children's Bush Dance Bendigo East Hop Melb. Colonial Dancers Armistice Ball
18th Welsh—last one for 2018	19th Scottish	20th English	21st Irish or Colonials	22nd	23rd	24th
25th Claddagh	26th Scottish	27th English	28th Irish or Colonials	29th	30th	
						1st December VFMC Dance Billabong Bush Band
2nd Contra	3rd Scottish	4th English	5th Irish or Colonials	6th Scottish	7th	8th Scottish

The Dance Page


- Claddagh** Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. **Sunday 2-5 pm**. Contact: Rod: 9497-1793
- VFMC Colonial Dance** Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, Sat. **8-11 pm**. Contact: Jane 9762-1389
- VFMC Children's Bush Dance** at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood. **2-3.30pm**. Contact Jane 9762-1389
- Irish Wednesday** Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle St, Collingwood, **8-10pm**. Contact Marie: 9471-0690
- English Dancing** Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, 7 Greenwood Street, Burwood, **8-10pm**. Contact: George 9890-5650
- Colonial Wednesday** Social dance classes. Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall, **8-10pm**. Contact Coral: 9885-6109
- Colonial Thursday** Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton. **7.30-10pm**. Contact Coral: 9885-6109
- Welsh Dancing** Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, **2-4.30 pm**. Contact Ian: 9878-2414
- Contra Dance** Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke Rd, Malvern East. **7.30-10.15pm**. Info: 0422 932 532
www.onlymelbourne.com.au
- 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** Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. 8 pm start.
Contact Dianne: dpearse@iinet.net.au
-

**SPRING DANCE WEEKEND: 10th-12th November—Parks Hall Community Centre, Portarlington. tsdav.vicnet.net.au
Contact Norm: 9888-5332**

MELBOURNE COLONIAL DANCERS ARMISTICE BALL: Preston Town Hall, 284 Gower St, Preston. Melways 18 G12. Contact Coral: 9885-6109 / 0468739761 or Peter: 9848-5852

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
(Registered No A2511Y)



Children's Bush Dance

for school age children
Saturday 17th November

2:00pm - 3:30pm

**Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East**

Jolly Jumbucks



**Cost: \$5 per child or \$10 a family and adults free
when accompanied by a child**

Phone: Jane 9762 1389
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au
VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au

'The Lies That Made Australia' CD – A Review



Australia has a long history of being more interested in the history of other countries than its own. Keith McKenry is one of a small band who have worked hard to correct this imbalance for many years.

McKenry is not a professional historian. Rather, he is a self-taught enthusiast in a field where a professional historian would not be able to earn a living anyway – the history of Australian folk life and, particularly, the lives of the folklore collectors. He is also a great student of Australian

history more generally, which he views through a lens that most would probably regard as being fairly left wing. The highpoint – to my way of thinking, at any rate – of this career has been his biography of the Australian folklore collector John Meredith. The book is an absolute tour de force.

McKenry is also a lover and writer/reciter of poetry. He has performed and held workshops at countless folk festivals over the years. He is responsible for the creation of one marvellous institution at the National Folk Festival, the 'World Poetry Debate', and is a key person involved in the creation of another, the 'Poets' Breakfast'.

These two strands of McKenry's personality – the historian and the entertainer – have come together to create the show on which this CD is based. The audience is given a list of numbered 'lies', and invited to call out a number. Keith then reads a poem which, with suitable explanation, 'proves' the 'lie'. The track listing on the CD gives the titles of the poems, but not the 'lies' to which they refer. Listening to the CD, the 'lie' is sometimes mentioned by either the audience member or Keith himself, but just as often it is not. My frustration listening to the CD was often not being aware what 'lie' the poem was refuting. The 'lies' are listed on the cover, beneath the CD bed, but they are out of order, so it doesn't really help very much.

Nevertheless, the CD is both educational and entertaining. With titles such as 'The Dingo Didn't Do It', 'Christ was Born in a Shearing Shed' and 'Ode to a Choo Choo Bar', the poems range from the profound to the trivial. Most of the poems are written by McKenry, but a number by other writers are also included. I would recommend 'The Lies That Made Australia' as a quirkily entertaining and informative snapshot of some lesser known events and people in Australia's past.

- *Stephen Whiteside*

Woolshed Ball—28th September 2018

The hall turned out to be on the corner of Highfield and Church Streets. So there was some confusion right at the start of the night and we tried to put a sign up to show the way to go. The sign either worked or everyone sorted it out!

We got in with no hassle and, with nothing to move, it was straight into putting up the decorations. We had chosen the theme of the VFL final and therefore our decorations were streamers of the two teams' colours. I found an old cup of Stephen's and we had that for our table decoration. All looked rather good.

A big thank you to Tam who came in and at once took charge of the kitchen and did an admirable job all evening. Thank you to the other dancers who gave a hand as well.

What luck we had our ball on the Friday night as with so many happy Collingwood supporters there, it might have been a different story the following night!

The band was given the nod by our M.C. Trevor Voake and away the evening went. All the dancers were eager to get up and it was rare that the caller had to coax people up. We had a very good crowd of dancers and the evening was assured of success. Thank you to our MC Trev, callers: Coral, Robin, Kathy, Pauline, Geoff and Jane, who all made the dancing go so well.

A thank you to the band who were: Maree on piano accordion, Stephen and Fiona on recorders, Maggie on banjo-mandolin and mandolin, Rob also on mandolin, Regina on violin, Stan, Don G. and Stewart on guitar, and Mick on bodhran and lagerphone. Mustn't forget Sue, our great sound woman who made sure that although we could hear the music, outside was subdued.

A last thank you to all who helped set up the hall and to everyone who helped take everything out at the end of the night.

A great Woolshed Ball with so many helpers made me very happy.

- Jane Bullock

Fifth Tuesday, 30th October WW1 Centenary

11th November 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the First World War. This tragedy of immense proportions inspired the composition of so many poignant and profoundly moving songs and tales that have since become part of the established folklore repertoire. Many of our members, and many performers world-wide, have songs of conflict in their repertoires and perform them superbly well.

30th October is a fifth Tuesday.

Let's make it another **Music Cafe style night**, with a theme of commemorating Armistice Day 2018 in song and verse. I'm sure it will be a very moving night.

This is an historic and important date, it will not come again. Put on your thinking caps, team up with others for a song, poem or yarn to contribute to the programme. It doesn't have to be specifically about WW1. One item per individual or each person in a combo (up to three songs). Enter in more than one act if you want, with preference to give exposure to as many members as may wish. A part of the night will be devoted to a playing session. Let Don know if you want a slot.

SOME FOLKIE JOKES

What do a vacuum cleaner and an electric guitar have in common?
Both suck when you plug them in.

How do you know when there is a bodhran player at your front door?
The knocking gets faster and faster and faster.

Quebec Fiddle Weekend, November 2 - 6, 2018

The annual Quebec Fiddle Weekend music camp is happening again this November, over the Melbourne Cup Weekend. The camp will be held on a private farm called Hidden Hill, 10 minutes drive from Moe. It's a unique camp, dedicated to the lively music of French Canada - the only camp outside North America that offers this - and focuses on bringing music and dance back together, rather than learning them in separate spheres. The camp is family-friendly, offering kids' classes, as well as workshops in fiddle, piano, accordion, and some woodwind, and includes the annual QuasiTrad Contradance. Accommodation is in shared bunk-rooms, or you're welcome to BYO tent or van. All meals are provided, and are a delicious highlight of the camp!

The teaching staff for 2018 is terrific. Laura Risk, fiddle, is as renowned for her Scottish fiddling, as for her great contribution to the music scene in Quebec. She is also one of the most sought after contradance players in North America. It's incredibly exciting to be bringing Laura out to Australia for the very first time. Other teaching staff include Rachael Aucoin, a superb piano accompanist, and Australia's own Kit Joyce offering accordion and free reed classes, plus Pria Schwall-Kearney, Australia's premier Quebecois fiddler, and Jess Foot with woodwind.

All details and registration for the camp are at the website: quasitrad.com or call the organiser, Judy Oleinikov: 0422 868 680.



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)



Family Bush Dance

Saturday 3rd November

All dances are called and everyone is welcome

8.00pm - 11.00pm

Music by **Borderline Kaylee**



**Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East
(Melways P50 B8)**

Cost: \$12 - Kids free with adult, \$10 - VFMC members door

Tea & Coffee provided

Enquiries:

Phone: Jane 9762 1389
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au
VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au

SEA SHANTIES—QUIZ

1)What is a sea shanty? 2)What is a shanty's distinguishing feature? 3) Were sea shanties traditionally sung accompanied or unaccompanied? 4)Name a well-known non-Australian sea shanty. 5)Name a very famous Australian sea shanty.

Answers to last quiz: 1)Sea shanties & convict songs 2)War, drought, rain 3) Click Go the Shears, Moreton Bay 4)The Bushwackers, John Williamson, Sara Storer 5) Martyr Wyndham-Read.

CONCERT PARTY REPORT: OCTOBER 2018

Recent Events:

28th September: **The Woolshed Ball**—a great success, with all the band managing to play with no stage and to last from 7.30 to midnight. For further details, see Jane Bullock's report on page 10 of this newsletter.

12th October: **Lionsbrae**—The Billabong Band has only played one gig so far this month and that was for Lionsbrae - probably our very favourite gig. Many thanks to Sophie, Rob, Stewart, Don G, Stan, Margie, Carol, Trevor & Frances, and a special thanks to Tony Kelly for MCing the afternoon.

Upcoming Gigs till the end of the year:

Oct 20th—Children's Dance

Nov 2nd—Lionsbrae

Nov 10th—a wedding in Christmas Hills

Nov 11th—Maroondah Festival

Dec 1st—Ringwood Senior Citizens (afternoon)

Dec 1st—Ringwood Christmas Dance (evening)

Dec 7th—Lionsbrae

- *Concert Party Convenors: Maree Buttler & Trevor Voake*

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@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

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

Creswick Folk Club

Second Friday, from 7.30 pm at the American Hotel in Creswick; and Fourth Friday, from 7.30 pm at the Old Station in Creswick.
 Enquiries: Graeme: 03 5334 5551
 www.facebook.com/creswickfolkclub/

Fireside Fiddlers

For fiddles plus other string melody instruments, such as mandolins.
 Every Monday evening at various venues. For further information, contact Denise Hibbs: 0402 050 524

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
- Affiliation with other organizations

VFMC Postal Address

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

VFMC Website

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

CONTACTS

Secretary

Jane Bullock
 Telephone: 9762 1389
 Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club

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

Family/Children's Bush Dance

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

Concert Party Engagements

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

Iwish to become a member of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. and will

- (a) Support the aims of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc and
 - (b) Abide by the rules of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
- (For details see: - <http://www.vfmc.org.au/Constitution.pdf>)

Signed

I wish to receive my Newsletter by:

- (a) Email or/and
 - (b) Post
- (Cross out whichever is not applicable)

Membership Type (please circle)

<u>Metro</u> Single	\$25
Family*	\$30
Junior (u 18)	\$15
Student (full time)	\$20
Single Concession	\$20
Family Concession*	\$25
<u>Country</u> Single	\$20
Family*	\$25

Please post completed form to:

The Secretary
 VFMC
 PO Box 215
 Ringwood East 3135 Victoria

*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18

Name:

Address:

Email

Phone/s: