

Established 1959

Australian

March 2022



# TRADITION

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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## GEOFFREY GRAHAM: SPOKEN WORD & SONG



*Photo by Trevor Voake*

**PLEASE SEE NOTE ON PAGE 12 ABOUT PAYMENT OF  
MEMBERSHIP FEES AS SOME VFMC MEMBERS HAVE  
NOT PAID THEIR FEES SINCE 2019**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER  
BY: FRIDAY 18TH MARCH TO: [EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU](mailto:EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU)**

## CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

**NOTE: PLEASE CHECK IF EVENTS ARE ZOOM, LIVE OR HYBRID!**

### Club Weekly Sessions

#### Weekly Sessions

Every Tuesday of the month except the 2nd (Concert night), **Ringwood Uniting Church Hall**, Station St. plus **online access**. From 7.15 Australian Folk Songs; 7.45 - 9.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. The 4th Tuesday is for all-in round robin playing of tunes, dance sets & group singing. \$5 members, \$6 non members. All welcome. [www.vfmc.org.au](http://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 Uniting Church Hall and/or online. Concerts start with open stage acts at 7.45pm, finishing 10.00pm. \$14, \$12 conces and \$10 members, kids free.

### By-Ear Sessions

To be organised at a future date - hopefully.

#### 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](http://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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1st March</b> Club Session HYBRID	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b> Family Bush Dance
<b>6th</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>8th</b> Concert Night Guest artists HYBRID	<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>12th</b>
<b>13th</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>15th</b> Club Session HYBRID	<b>16th</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>19th</b> Children's Dance Zoom Eve Dance
<b>20th</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>22nd</b> Club Session HYBRID All in	<b>23rd</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>26th</b>
<b>27th</b>	<b>28th</b>					

**PLEASE CHECK BEFOREHAND IF THIS EVENT IS ZOOM ONLY**

# Victorian Folk Music Club at Ringwood

presents

## Suzette Herft

### Tuesday 8th March

Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, also Online via Zoom  
7.45 - 10.00pm Admission \$14 to \$8, kids no charge

No door sales. Pre-purchase all tickets at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-march2022-concert>

Spot acts PRE-BOOK at [concerts@vfmc.org.au](mailto:concerts@vfmc.org.au)

[www.vfmc.org.au](http://www.vfmc.org.au) / Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club / 0411.750.462

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

Next concert 12th April - Pleasant and Delightful

## CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—FEBRUARY

Stephen Whiteside very ably MC'd the February Concert, the first for the year.

### SPOT ACTS:



The first Spot Act was Peter Read from Healesville, who sings his own compositions and started with *Lucy Sleeps Under The Moon Tonight*, and followed this with a blues inspired song called *Life's A Circle*. 'Ain't nobody comes near you when they bury your bones'. Good songs, Peter.

Writing poetry is Ruth Arkley's form of therapy/ She presented two of her own clever poems: *Modern Conversations* and *Music does the Talking*.



Maggie Somerville then sang about one of her favourite places, *Waratah Bay*—"it's where you can scatter my ashes". Then a John Shaw Nielsen poem she set to music: *The Case of Adam* and supported by MC Stephen, with audience participation.

Raymond Crooke was **SUPPORT ACT** for this night.

Raymond is a regular contributor to our VFMC Sessions, a member of the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir, and a member of the Hong Kong Welsh Male Choir. He also has his own YouTube Channel which has an impressive number of folk songs on it. Raymond gave the audience a fascinating story of his lifelong interest in traditional music, starting with his father playing old Burl Ives recordings and others from the folk revival era. This interest eventually got him into collecting songs and performing at folk venues. The iconic English folk song of rejected love *Barbara Allen* is just one of the 300 or so songs collected by Francis Child over 100 years ago, generally known as The Child Ballads, and opened Raymond's bracket. Burl Ives' iconic recording in 1963 of Australian folk songs introduced Raymond to the Australian folk heritage. The audience heartily joined in on *Botany Bay*. Then *Jim Jones At Botany Bay* is a grim account of our early history, sung without accompaniment, and followed by *Moeton Bay*, also a tragic song of the hardships of convict life.



The Clancy Brothers, The Dubliners etc. greatly influenced the folk world in the '60's and '70's in the direction of Irish music, and Raymond sang *Mrs McGrath*. An animated and lively French drinking song, *Knights Of The Round Table*, got the audience involved to the extent that a finale was requested, *The Overlanders*. Thanks, Raymond, for an excellent performance.

## CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

### MAIN ACT:

After a short break MC Stephen introduced the Main Act: **GEOFFREY W. GRAHAM**, a well-known performer of poetry and spoken word from Central Victoria, particularly of AB Paterson, Henry Lawson and CJ Denis. Geoffrey set out to compare the treatment of various subjects of these three poets, starting with Lawson's *Eureka*, a vibrant observation of life on the goldfields, and the 'digger hunting' expeditions of the police that led to the Eureka rising.



*Song Of The Darling River* was a harsh word portrait of the Australian landscape, and served as a kind of prelude to a verse *Glad St. Peter Keeps the Gates to Paradise*, because the subject anticipates he will get an easy entry after the suffering he has endured on the land. According to Geoffrey, *Freedom On The Wallaby* nearly got Lawson charged with sedition, being taken as a critique of the vested interests at the big end of town at the time. A humorous verse followed about a drover's dog: *He Wouldn't If He Could*.



Geoffrey cleverly strings together snippets of the verses of the poets with songs, yarns, bits of wisdom and historical comments to make a lively presentation. At a football match an empty seat was reserved for a bloke's late wife. And where were all his mates? They were currently at the funeral of course. Maybe more relief for the wife??

(continued over...)

Geoffrey's next poet of interest was CJ Dennis, starting with the lively tale of when the bullock wagon got stuck in the mud on the Mt. St. Leonard road. *Sari Bair* relates the ANZACs battle in the Gallipoli campaign. Denis was well-known as a writer for children and *I'd Like To Be A Tram Man* was a good example.

A short excerpt from *The Wedding* followed, before Geoffrey reminded the audience of the songs that were in vogue at the time of Dennis with a medley of: *Hello Hello Who's Your Lady Friend*, *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, *By The Light Of The Silvery Moon*, and *I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now*.

A few lines of *The Man From Snowy River* introduced AB Paterson, and was followed by some quips on wisdom, such as there being no pockets on a shroud (you can't take your money with you). Then followed some snippets of images of the effect of forest fires, *The Power Of One*, *Who will give me a pound for the drover's horse?* *He Giveth His Beloved Sleep*, a *Waltzing Matilda* parody on Covid, and an unlikely theory that Johnny Cash wrote *Waltzing Matilda*. Thanks Geoffrey for an entertaining panorama of the works of three of the country's premiere poets.S

Thanks also to the Spot Acts for their fine contributions, and Raymond for being Support Act. Thanks Concert Committee for making it all happen under the difficult circumstances. Next month the velvety voice of Suzette Herft will be the featured performer.

*Review Don Fraser ; photos by Trevor Voake*

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## FOR SALE - ELECTRIC ORGAN



Wal's brother in North Ringwood is refurbishing his lounge room and no longer wants to keep their Yamaha electric organ model no. BK-20A1

He will be happy to consider a reasonable offer.

Contact Wal in the first instance on 0407 86 9696 to arrange an introduction and inspection."

- Wal Tiedermann

The Dance Page



Diary dates for March: *Please check before going to any of these dances*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1st English	2nd Irish	3rd	4th ECD	5th VFMC Family Bush Dance Brumbies Bush Band
6th TSDAV Dance for Dancers <b>Contra</b>	7th	8th English	9th Irish	10th	11th	12th
13th Claddagh	14th Scottish	15th English	16th Irish	17th	18th ECD	19th VFMC Children's Bush Dance <b>VFMC Zoom Dance</b> Bendigo East Bush Dance
20th	21st	22nd English	23rd Irish	24th	25th	26th
27th Welsh	28th	29th English	30th	31st		
					1st April ECD	2nd VFMC Family Bush Dance
3rd TSDAV Dance for Dancers <b>Contra</b>	4th	5th English	6th Irish	7th	8th	9th

**THE DANCE PAGE (continued):**

**Claddagh** Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd. Ivanhoe. **Sunday 2-5pm** Contact Rod 9497-793

**VFMC Family Bush Dance** at East Ringwood Elderly Citizen's Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood. Family 8-11pm. Contact Jane: 9762-389

**VFMC Children's Bush Dance** East Ringwood Senior Citizens hall, Laurence Grove, 2-3pm. Contact Jane: 9762-1389

**VFMC Zoom Dance**—7-9pm. Visit [www.vfmc.org.au](http://www.vfmc.org.au) for more details

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

**English Country Dance** at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 8-10pm Contact George: 9890-5650

**Irish Wednesday** Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood. 7.30-9.30pm. Contact Marie: 9471-0690

**Contra Dance** at Beckett Uniting Church, 72 Highfield Road, Canterbury. 7.30-10.15pm. Info: 0422-932532

**Welsh** dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30pm. Contact Ian: 9878-2414

**Bendigo East dance** Keck Street Holy Trinity Church Hall, Flora Hill. 8pm. Contact ianne Pearse: 5442-1715

**TSDAV** Dance for Dancers at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. 1.30-4.30pm Contact Norm Ellis: 9888-5332

- Jane Bullock

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## APOLOGY

In the February issue the main act for the Concert Night was named wrongly as the Honefields.

The correct name of this wonderful trio is THE HONEYFIELDS.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

- The Editor

# Family Bush Dance

Presented by

**Victorian Folk Music Club inc**

**Saturday 5th March 2022**

**with Brumbies Bush Band**

**Restrictions allowing we will be at:-**

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

**Advance purchase your tickets at:-**

**<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-mar2022-dance>**

**or purchase your tickets at the door**

**Cost: \$10 - Members, \$12 Non Members, Kids free**

**VFMC's COVID-19 safe plan see website.**

**Dance - 8.00 - 11.00pm - supper included**

**Contact Jane on 97621389**



# Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)

**attendees must be fully vaccinated**

## Bush Dance for school children

**Saturday 19th March  
2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,  
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East

Band: **Billabong Band**



**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](mailto:dance@vfmc.org.au)  
VFMC Website: [www.vfmc.org.au](http://www.vfmc.org.au)

# *Family Bush Dance*

Presented by

**Victorian Folk Music Club inc**

Saturday 19th March 2022

Special Theme Night

*Four Seasons in 1 night*

dance - 7.30-9.30pm

**Your house**

**Zoom ID 757 492 753**

**Password: VFMC2020**

see

**vfmc.org.au**

or

**victorian folk music club facebook**



## MESSAGE TO VFMC MEMBERS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that they must be financial in order to vote or stand for office at the AGM. However, currently there are a number of members whose membership expired in 2019. These memberships will be cancelled prior to the AGM. If you are in doubt about your membership status, please email :- [membership@vfmc.org.au](mailto:membership@vfmc.org.au) or [enquiries@vfmc.org.au](mailto:enquiries@vfmc.org.au) or [secretary@vfmc.org.au](mailto:secretary@vfmc.org.au)

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### The Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival

The Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival will be held on **Sunday 20th March 2022** at the **Eastfield Park Reserve, Croydon, Victoria**. The Victorian Folk Music Club has been invited to perform a bracket of songs in the **Folk Tent** on the day.

The Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic Festival Inc. (previously known as Ringwood Highland Games Inc.) has been held in the Maroondah area for over 50 years, since April 1967. All information can be found at: <https://melbournehighlandgames.org.au>

#### **Some events on the day:**

Highland Dancing, Highland Hustle, Irish Dancing, Morris Dancing, Scottish Country Dancing and Welsh Dancing  
Victorian Pipe Band Championships  
Caber Toss, Hammer Throw, Weight Throw, Stone Put and other  
Musical performances in the Folk Music Tent  
Scottish Martial Arts, Wee Scots Games, Heilan Coo, Ambulance Victoria Museum  
Clan tents and representatives  
Groups and vendors for information, retail and sustenance

## For Sale

Morris Mandolin (with gig bag)

Model: MF-400

Serial Number: 82060

Approx 40 years old and in very good condition. Slight wear on the tail piece. This is a solid top model unlike cheaper mandolins of today that have a laminated top.

\$250

Ring Trevor on 0427 784 296 or see him on a club night.



### SUPER SHORT QUIZ—KAZOOS

1) What is a kazoo? 2) What country is it from? 3) What was Kazoophony?

*Answers to last quiz:-*

1) *A Melbourne panpipe band* 2) *Pan flutes* 3) *Bolivia* 4) *Marching while they play* 5) *Flowing, colourful robes* 6) *Chocolate*

### BILLABONG BAND REPORT—MARCH 2022

The Billabong Band played at Regis Blackburn for our first gig for 2022 on Australia Day. Due to Covid precautions it was not an easy gig. We had to perform outdoors (in about 36 degrees) and well distanced from our audience. They couldn't provide us with 240v despite the fact that I had around 60 feet of extn lead which meant that we had to use Bill & Stewart's two small battery powered amps & one small mixer. We deliberately chose a program of well-known Australian songs with choruses that they could sing along to. Unfortunately being outdoors and well distanced, we couldn't hear them singing but Margie could see their lips moving (hopefully they weren't telling us to go home). We have more gigs planned there this year so hope to come to a more satisfactory arrangement. Many thanks to Selina, Stewart, Michael, Carol, Joan, Ray, Stan, Franciska, Margie & Trev for a great effort in such trying times.

**Future gigs** – practice dates shown in brackets:-

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Regis Blackburn (18/2)  
 March 19<sup>th</sup> Children's Dance (11/3)  
 March 20<sup>th</sup> Highland Games & Celtic Festival (4/3, 18/3)  
 April 2<sup>nd</sup> Club Dance (25/3, 1/4)  
 May 6<sup>th</sup> Regis Blackburn  
 May 28<sup>th</sup> Woolshed Ball  
 Jul 1<sup>st</sup> Regis Blackburn  
 Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Children's Dance  
 Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> Regis Blackburn  
 Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Maldon Folk Festival  
 Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Regis Blackburn  
 Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Regis Blackburn  
 Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Christmas Dance

It has been confirmed that some club members will be helping out with the Melbourne Colonial Dance Band at the NFF at Easter at a number of dances. Maldon Folk Festival, 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

The Billabong Band agreed to the Maldon Folk Festival's invitation for our 2021 application to apply for 2022, and we are listed amongst the performers on the Maldon performer's web page. We will need to update the spiel at an appropriate time, and keep an eye on workshops that we volunteer to present.

- *Trevor, Maree & Stan*

**REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES CHECK IF ON****Bendigo Folk Club**

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680  
 buzzza@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, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. Contact Mary Smith 5442-1153 or email secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

**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  
 admin@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. Marce: 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

**Newport Folk Club**

Certain Friday nights at 7.30 pm plus other evenings, e.g. Tues Blues and Sunday 2 pm singalongs etc.  
 See website for up-to-date calendar.

**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](mailto:secretary@vfmc.org.au)

**Session Co-ordinator**

Don Fraser  
 Telephone: 0407 737 202  
 Email: [sessions@vfmc.org.au](mailto:sessions@vfmc.org.au)

**Family/Children's Bush Dance**

Jane Bullock  
 Telephone: 9762 1389  
 Email: [dance@vfmc.org.au](mailto:dance@vfmc.org.au)

**Billabong Band Engagements**

Maree Buttler  
 Telephone: 9733 0802  
 Email: [billabongband@vfmc.org.au](mailto:billabongband@vfmc.org.au)

I .....wish 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: .....