

Established 1959

Australian

April 2023



TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

Reg

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

In This Issue ...

Club Events	2
Next Concert Night Guest Artist/s	3
Concert Night Report; musical jokes	4
Dance Pages	7
Dance flyers	9
Jim Smith Vale: Stephen Whiteside	11
For Sale—piano accordion	13
Quiz ; Billabong Band Report	14
Other Clubs	15
VFMC Membership	16

FAREWELL TO JIM

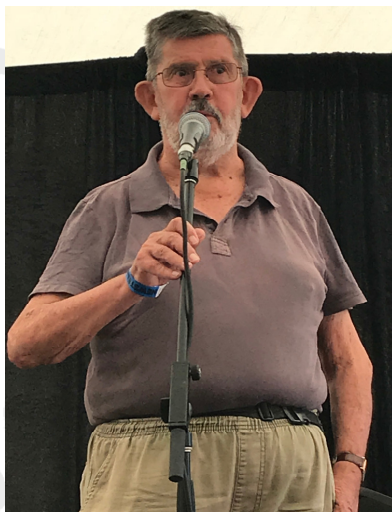


Photo by Stephen Whiteside

**URGENT MESSAGE TO VFMC MEMBERS:-
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE END OF MARCH 2023**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAY NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 14TH APRIL TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

WHAT’S ON AT VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB

Session nights: The Club meets **each Tuesday** evening at **Ringwood Uniting Church Hall**, 30-32 Station Street. Sessions run from 7.45 pm to 9.15 pm.

The format varies each week of the month, and visitors are welcome to attend and join in, or just sit and observe if preferred.

Week 1 & 3 **Round Robin:** singing, playing, reciting, yarns, solo, group, etc.

Week 4 **All-In Session:** group playing of set tunes, dance sets, group singing

Week 5 **Theme Night:** workshops, ‘Hot Spots’ or open stage nights

Admission for **Round Robin** and **All-in Sessions** is \$6 for members, \$7 non-members. Cash at the door or pay by card. Accompanied children no charge.

Concerts: Tuesday of Week 2, featuring top acoustic performers plus floor spots. The concert is from 7.45 to 10pm with a supper break at 8.45pm. Same hall as the sessions. Admission is \$10 members to \$14, cash or card at the door or purchase tickets online from Humanitix. Accompanied children no charge.

Dance Events: Family Bush Dance 1st Saturday evening each month except January, Ringwood East Senior Citizen’s Hall. Bands vary and dances called. Admission is \$10 members to \$12. No charge for accompanied children.

Children’s Dance is 2-3pm on 3rd Saturday during school terms. \$5 per child or \$10 per family. Accompanying adults no charge.

Online access via Zoom: All Tuesdays except week 4 currently available via Zoom for those unable to attend the venue. Concerts also broadcast via Zoom. Tickets must be bought in advance via Humanitix—see website to book.

More information: See VFMC website for info on forthcoming weekly **SESSIONS**, monthly **CONCERTS** or **DANCES:** www.vfmc.org.au

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30th						1st April Family Bush Dance
2nd	3rd	4th Club Session HYBRID	5th	6th	7th	8th
9th	10th	11th Concert Night Guest artist/s HYBRID	12th	13th	14th	15th Children’s Dance
16th	17th	18th Club Session HYBRID	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th	25th Club Session HALL ONLY All-in	26th	27th	28th	29th

Victorian Folk Music Club
at Ringwood

Khristian Mizzi

Poetic lyrics, meandering melodies,
a voice like a big warm hug, Khristian
Mizzi is renown for his intimate
performances and thoughtful songs.

Tuesday 11th April

Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, Station St. Also webcast.

7.45 - 10.00pm Admission \$10 to \$14, kids no charge

Cash or card at the door, or pre-purchase all tickets at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-april2023-concert>

Spot acts please PRE-BOOK at concerts@vfmc.org.au

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 9th May - Maria Forde



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—MARCH

The March Concert was MC'd by Steve who opened the night with a good tale of Paddy And The Rope. Steve related the recent passing of long time Club member Jim Smith, and handed over to fellow poet and friend of Jim's, Stephen Whiteside, for a fitting obituary.



Jim will be well known and remembered by all who follow bush poetry and yarns, as he was an expert with an uncanny memory for lengthy and spellbinding pieces. Jim would often host the Poets' Breakfasts at festivals and could deliver both wryly humorous and deadly acerbic verse with great recall. He would occasionally accompany himself on concertina, his memorable piece Peter Kagan and the Wind by Gordon Bok, an eerie tale that could hold the attention of audiences from start to finish.

On the subject of poets passing, we note the recent news of another loss, that of UK poet Les Barker. Like Jim he could be incredibly funny and the next very direct and pointed. Thanks Stephen for the fine words on Jim.

The Bennetswood Ukulele Group, ably led by Margaret Creighton, opened the Spot Acts with a couple of well presented songs accompanied on their little ukes, The Sloop John B and an interesting These Boots Are Made For Walking, from the perspective of the many community uke groups around. Well done BAUG.



A couple of fine songs from Maggie Somerville followed: first a poem of John Shaw Neilson called Love's Coming, put to her tune, then Henry Lawson's poem about the habit of men going to England for a wife.

Robyn, Ken and Don from Pleasant and Delightful did a salute to The Foghorn String Band with a couple of their lively songs: Golden Slippers and Bring Back My Blue Eyed Boy To Me.



Barb Parry often visits Club Sessions from the UK via Zoom so it was good to catch up with her on her current visit. She, with Rick on mandolin and Bill on fiddle, formed a nice trio as they sang the traditional folk songs: The Blacksmith and The Parting Glass.



Dominic and Dieter capped off the Spot acts with the old German song, The Rose, beautifully played on harmonica and guitar, and the well-known Italian trumpet tune of the 1960's, Il Silenzio, by Nini Rosso. Thanks to all the talented Spot acts - some great music presented this night.



(continued over ...)

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)**MAIN ACT:**

The Main Act this month was UK folk stalwart **Martyn Wyndham-Read**. His first song was sung unaccompanied: The Banks Of The Reedy Lagoon, an excellent introduction to his wonderful voice and presentation style of Australian folk songs.

Martyn has been involved with folk music for over sixty years. Early on he left his native England and spent a number of years in the Australian outback where he became interested in our old folk songs from the station hands, which resulted in him now being one of the finest presenters of Aussie folk songs anywhere. In Memory Of Bill was a touching song of an old swaggie.



A light hearted poem of Micky Mulga Jim introduced The Creaking Of The Saddle. Martin tells a good story, and introduced Graeme Miles' song, Sam Hill, who emigrated to Otago in NZ. Henry Lawson apparently observed that 'drinking beer makes you feel how you should feel when not drinking beer'. Genoa is a pretty song relating Lawson's love affair with a girl in that city.

Mike O'Connor wrote Shining Down On Sennen, how the stars that shine down on Cornwall also no doubt shine down on the Cornish miners who emigrated to the copper triangle of Moonta, Kadina and Walaroo in South Australia. A personal note here: on hearing this lovely song by Martin a few years ago I was inspired to spend some time exploring this area on the York Peninsula.

John Beavis, who happened to be in the audience, wrote the good lilting song The New Road. And The Aged Stockman was a good story too.

Away to Tintinarra told the story of a train ride to his first job in the outback in SA. Some verse followed about an old timer who had a desire for drink a bit beyond his best interests. Fare Thee Well was a traditional folk song of love sung unaccompanied.

(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (continued):-

Martyn put Lawson's poem Possum Land to his own tune. (This is also on his latest album, which was on sale at the concert.)

He then called Dominic and Dieter up to accompany him on Old Whitby Harbour, a Stan Graham song about the seaside town in England.



The audience requested an encore and Martyn, being the gentleman he is, obliged with Graeme Miles' song, My Eldorado. The late Vin Garbutt sang this lovely song a couple of years ago at Newstead—sadly very memorable for me as he too passed away soon after.

The Club appreciates your support for the live music scene by patronising these Concerts. It keeps the whole live music scene healthy. VFMC is a not for profit organization. We pay our Main Act performers well and love to see new people having a go as a Spot Act or Support Act.

Thanks to the many who made this such a successful night.

Next month another fine captivating voice, the ever popular Khristian Mizzi, will be our Main Act.

- Review Don Fraser, photos Trevor Voake.

MORE MUSICAL JOKES

Q. Why did the pianist keep banging his head against the keys?

A. He was playing by ear.

Q. What musical key do cows sing in?

A. Beef flat.



The Dance Pages

Diary dates for April :

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1st VFMC Family Dance Delia's Friends
2nd TSDAV Dance pm Contra eve	3rd Scottish	4th English	5th Irish	6th	7th Good Friday	8th Easter Saturday
9th Easter Sunday	10th Easter Monday	11th	12th Irish	13th Colonial Bush Dance	14th English	15th VFMC Children's Bush Dance
16th Welsh	17th Scottish	18th English	19th Irish	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th Scottish	25th	26th Irish	27th	28th English	29th
30th	1st May Scottish	2nd English	3rd Irish	4th	5th	6th VFMC Comhaltas
7th TSDAV Dances for Dancers and Contra eve	8th Scottish	9th	10th Irish	11th	12th English	13th Scottish

THE DANCE PAGES (continued)

Claddagh —Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. **2-5pm**

Contact Rod: 9497-1793 www.melbournecladdaghdancers.com.au

VFMC Family Colonial Dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood. **8-11pm.**

Contact Jane: 9762-1389 or www.vfmc.org.au/dances

VFMC Children's Dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood. **2-3.00pm.**

Contact Jane: 9762-1389 or www.vfmc.org.au/dances

Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood **8-10pm.**

Contact Mary: 9435-4435 or <http://melbournecomhaltas.org>

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

English Friday at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. **8-10pm.**

Contact George: 9890-5650

TSDAV Dance for Dancers—Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. **1.30-4.30pm.** Contact Norm Ellis: 9888-5332 or www.tsdav.asn.au

Welsh dancing at Church of Christ hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills. **2-4.30pm.**

Contact Ian: 9878-2414

Contra dance: Beckett Uniting Church, 72 Highfield Road, Canterbury. **7.30-10.15pm.** Info: 0422 932 532

Scottish Monday and Ssaturday: Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene. **8pm**

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: 14 Keck Street, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Flora Hill. **8pm**

Contact Dianne Pearse: dpearse@iinet.net.au

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)



Family Bush Dance

Saturday 1st April

All dances are called and everyone is welcome

\$12, kids free, **8:00pm - 11:00pm**

members \$10

Light supper

Music by **Delia's Friends**



purchase tickets at the door

Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East
Melways P50 B8

Need to be fully vaccinated

Music by **Delia's Friends**

\$5 Kids, parents free

Family \$10

Children's Bush Dance

Saturday 15th April

2.00pm - 3.00pm

All dances are taught, parents are welcome

BYO drink



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)

Woolshed Ball

Saturday 27th May 2023

7:30pm - 11:30pm

Kilsyth Memorial Hall,
Mount Dandenong Road, Kilsyth
(Melways P.51 F5)



Band: Billabong Band

BYO mug and plate of supper to share.
Tea and Coffee provided
(Alcohol Not Permitted)

Cost:

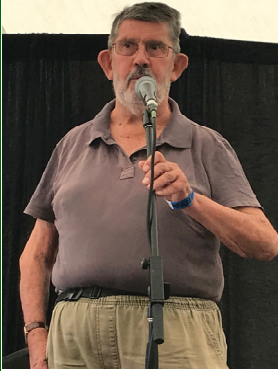
Early Tickets Members \$25 - Non-Members \$30 On the night \$50

Tickets: Humanitix <https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-may2023-woolshed-ball>

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



Jim Smith - In Remembrance



Reciter, button accordion player and long-time VFMC member Jim Smith died peacefully on Sunday 12th March after a long illness. Jim had attended the Port Fairy Folk Festival on many occasions during its early days, so it is perhaps fitting that he died during this year's festival. He was also very active during the early days of the National Folk Festival. In recent years, he regularly hosted the Poets' Breakfasts at Andrew Pattison's Newstead Live! He also frequently recited at VFMC club nights, and sometimes as a 'spot act' on a concert night.

I think I probably first met Jim at the Port Fairy Folk Festival in 1984. His passion for the craft of reciting was total and all-consuming. Jim committed huge slabs of text to memory, and never carried the poem with him to refer to if needed. In recent years, his failing memory had been the source of great frustration to him. Something of a perfectionist, he eventually stopped reciting altogether, which was a pity.

Jim didn't just learn the work of the rhyming/bush poets - Paterson, Lawson, Ogilvie, etc. He also recited the works of Kenneth Slessor, John Shaw Neilson, Ian Mudie and many others. Indeed, he was quite critical of what he saw as the takeover of the National Folk Festival's Poets' Breakfast by the 'bush poets'.



(continued over...)

One of Jim's signature pieces was 'They'll Tell You About Me' by Mudie. Another was 'Peter Kagan and the Wind' by the American folk singer Gordon Bok. He also loved 'Lanes of Woolloomooloo' (John Dengate), 'The Sandy Hollow Line' (Duke Tritton), 'The Griesly Wife' (John Manifold) and 'Burnt Norton' (Graham Jenkin). Curiously, my all-time favourite poet, C. J. Dennis, was one poet Jim didn't really like very much at all. He did, however, recite Dennis' 'An Old Master' and 'A Post Cup Tale.' There is no greater compliment that a reciter can pay a poet than to recite his poems, and Jim recited several of mine over the years. He was equally at home with the highbrow and the low, and recorded several albums of his recitations. He was quite a shy person, and would often simply greet you by reciting some lines from the poem he was currently memorising. He had worked as a bookseller, and had a deep respect for literature, and the process of publishing. His knowledge of the history of Australian poetry was encyclopaedic. Jim was a guiding light for me, helping me to understand what was important, and why.

When Maggie Somerville joined me in my search for a house some years ago, we stumbled into a display featuring Jim at the Fairfield Canoe Club. I was stunned, and when I quizzed him about it he confirmed that, yes, he had been a very keen canoeist in his younger days. He had even served as a junior official on the canoeing course at the Melbourne Olympics! An old canoe served as a garden bed in the front garden of his home.

I have attended a good number of Poets' Breakfasts (and other poetry events) over the years. I cannot think of another reciter with anything close to Jim's level of passion and commitment, or his breadth and depth of knowledge. He will be missed by many.

© *Stephen Whiteside* 19/03/2023

One of Jim Smith's albums of poetry -



FOR SALE

100 year old piano accordion, Settimio Soprani 80 bass in good working order.

If interested, please contact Barbara 0437946246.



BILLY BRAGG— QUIZ

1) Who is Billy Bragg? 2) What style of music does he write? 3) What aged people does he focus on? 4) What is he trying to involve them in? 5) Where has he been performing over the last month or so?

Answers to last quiz:- 1) A form of traditional singing 2) Diddling, mouth music, jigging, chin music, cheek music 3) Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man 4) Unavailability of instruments &/or oral tradition 5) More popular at dances 6) Fleadh Cheoil.

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—MARCH 2023

The Billabong Band played a very successful concert at the Forest Hill Chase (shopping centre) community space. Being on March 17th we obviously chose a St Patrick's Day theme. Thanks to Stewart & Agnes, we were able to project the words onto a large screen which encouraged our audience to sing along to some well-known favourites. As shoppers walked past they came in & joined us. The organiser kept having to bring out more chairs for the audience. It was successful enough for us to get 3 extra bookings to perform there for the rest of the year.

Upcoming Gigs:

26th March - Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic Festival - Eastfield Park, Croydon

27th May - Woolshed Ball - Kilsyth

16th June - Forest Hill Chase - Forest Hill

15th July - Children's Dance - Ringwood East

15th Sept - Forest Hill Chase - Forest Hill

21st October - Children's Dance - Ringwood East

2nd Dec - Family Dance - East Ringwood

15th Dec - Forest Hill Chase - Forest Hill

The meeting with Maroondah Council to discuss forming a folk choir was postponed until next week, so hopefully I will have more news for the next report.

Thanks to all the members who have contributed: Maree, Maggie, Mary, Margie, Katy, Carol, Bryce, Michael, Stewart, Bill, Tony, Trevor.

Convenor - Trevor Voake (with assistance)



- Photo by Tony O'Neil of the Billabong Band at the Forest Hill Chase on St Patrick's Day

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

Theseire Virtue 03 9417 1983
 admin@boite.com.au
 Friday & Saturday - March to November,
 1 Mark St, North Fitzroy, www.boite.com.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

Session Co-ordinator

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

Billabong Band 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: