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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

In This Issue ...

Club Events	2
Next Concert Night Guest Artist/s	3
Concert Night Report	4
Dance Pages and flyers	7
Woolshed Ball 27th May—flyer	11
Poem - 'Seals in the Rivers'	12
Dorothy Hewett ; A.G.M. 2023 soon	13
Quiz ; Billabong Band Report	14
Other Clubs	15
VFMC Membership	16

A BAND THAT SOME OF
OUR MEMBERS ARE IN:
'DELIA'S FRIENDS'
VFMC



Dance in April

(Photo by Trevor Voake)

**ATTENTION ALL VFMC MEMBERS:
WOOLSHED BALL— SATURDAY 27TH MAY**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 19TH MAY 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
	1st May	2nd Club Session HYBRID	3rd	4th	5th	6th Family Bush Dance
7th	8th	9th Concert Night Guest artist/s HYBRID	10th	11th	12th	13th
14th	15th	16th Club Session HYBRID	17th	18th	19th	20th Children's Dance
21st	22nd	23rd Club Session HALL ONLY All-in	24th	25th	26th	27th
28th	29th	30th Club Session HYBRID Themed	31st			



Victorian Folk Music Club

at Ringwood presents

MARIA FORDE



Maria is a gifted Irish-born Australian singer / songwriter who captivates her audiences with her beautiful voice and enchanting lyrics. With Support act Nerida Cuddy.

TUESDAY 9th MAY

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-may2023-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

13th June - Sara and Silas



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—MAY 2023

Our host for the evening was Michael Hassett.

SPOT ACTS: The proceedings began with tributes to two recently departed icons of the Australian folk scene.



Jim Smith, who passed away in March, was a long-time member of our club and revered all over Australia as one of the foremost reciters of Australian Bush Poetry. He felt a special affinity with the outlaw Ben Hall and had once paid his respects to him by standing by his graveside in Forbes, NSW and singing the *Ballad of Ben Hall* in tribute. Jim and Dominic Martin performed the song together one evening at the club, so this evening Dominic sang the ballad as his personal tribute to Jim.

Folk legend Brian Mooney died last week aged ninety-three years. He was at the forefront of the revival of the 1960's centered at Traynor's in Melbourne along with Danny Spooner, David Lumsden, Glen Tomasetti, and Martyn Wyndham-Read, to name a few. Brian specialized in Irish folk songs and ballads and was also a renowned Australian artist spending his latter years in Launceston, Tasmania. Brian's special guitar arrangement of *Gartan Mother's Lullaby* was a feature of his performances and Dominic played and sang this beautiful song as a tribute to Brian.

One of our club's prolific poets, Ruth, took to the stage to share her thoughts with the audience. The *Soundtrack of your Life* points out that at specific times in our lives a particular song was playing in the background and these days triggers memories. Thirteen song titles were skillfully rhymed and woven through the verses of this delightful poem. Then, as Ruth and her husband are preparing for a long stint overseas, she shared with us *The Holiday Blues*, a poem about the frenzy of preparation for holidays and noting that it is all worth it. Advising the listener to—*be adventurous and bolder, don't be satisfied with dreams!*



Peter, a singer-songwriter played guitar and harmonica as he sang his song: *I've Never Been a Cowboy*, I wouldn't know what to do... Peter punctuated the chorus with animal noises and invited the audience to howl and bark along with the song. His second song was a slower, sadder story of loneliness. *I was Talking to my House*, it echoed like a tomb yesterday...

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (continued):



Stephen Whiteside challenged the audience to a quiz about Australian literature. He quoted the endings of five famous novels and waited to hear if anyone present could match each ending to the correct novel. After a slow start some people gave the correct answers but everyone will have to study a bit harder if they wish to get the right answers next time.

Ed Robbins played his 1969 Maton guitar with great dexterity as he sang one of his own songs about the horrors of drought, our country desperate for rain. He followed with a song written in memory of his late friend *Bill*, a Dutchman, a skillful master mariner who could turn his hand to so many things but excelled as an abalone diver.



Maree concluded the spot acts by exhibiting her skill on the harp and treating us to the touching piece of music: *Amazing Grace*. At her invitation, the audience joined in the next song: *The Water is Wide*.

MAIN ACT:

The club was pleased to welcome Khristian Mizzi as our guest artist for April. As a former performer at the club, Khristian is a firm favourite with our members who look forward to his return. This singer-songwriter was awarded the title of Solo Artist of the Year by the Australian Folk Alliance in 2021. His debut album *Some Other Morning* was released in 2019.

In his gentle laidback style Khristian eased into his first song about stepping outside his cosy little kingdom in the morning, singing... Who am I to look across this morning? Next he sings a song where his beautifully blended words are carried along on the flow of musical notes inspired by the golden glimmer on the Yarra at Bend of Islands where he is looking for *A Little Space*. He followed with a song of encouragement for a young man recently turning his life around for the better and offering a good piece of advice. *Did you call your Mother?* So many of Khristian's songs are inspired by nature as with the next piece about sitting at the back beach at Rye when the newly fledged baby birds are ready to leave their nests. —Watching the sun set over Williamstown across the purple sky as the birds of Rye fly by. There followed a tune familiar to the audience members who sang along happily to the Cat Stevens classic: *Moonshadow*.

(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (continued):-

His next, almost whimsical song describes the wonder of two opposites staying together. She's an early riser... I can't believe she hasn't left me yet. Khristian's mastery of words create lyrics which evoke feelings in the listener which cover the entire gamut of emotions as in this one which underlines the pain suffered by children of divorce— *Me and Dad and Ice-Cream in a Cone*. It tells the tale of weekly visits of a child and his father who fish together one day a week then go their separate ways at day's end.

Another one for audience participation was the beautiful *Four Strong Winds* written by Canadian Ian Tyson. Then followed a country style song of possible lost love about a chap fantasizing about the young girl he once danced with after she caught the bridal bouquet. A sad one followed with the singer

asking the question—Will the party go on without me when the curtains fall? Keeping in a sombre mood, Khristian sang one of Leonard Cohen's signature songs—*Bird on a Wire*.

The tempo picked up again with the old rock classic Del Shannon hit—*Runaway* when the audience really let themselves go and hit those high notes. The final song was about freedom: *I would never run away if I were free*. Khristian's amazing guitar skills and skillful construction of lyrics combine with his personal warmth and laidback charm to ensure a great evening's entertainment, leaving the audience wanting more.

For an evening which began with acknowledgment of the losses of two great artists in Jim and Brian, it is encouraging to know that with musician/songwriters of the calibre of Khristian Mizzi, the future of the folk world is in extremely capable hands.

The VFMC thanks all of the people who volunteered their services to support the evening.

Next month: Maria Forde - Supported by: Nerida Cuddy

Report by Bette Martin ; Photographs by Trevor Voake



The Dance Pages

Diary dates for May:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1st May Scottish	2nd English	3rd Irish	4th	5th	6th VFMC Family Dance Comhaltas
7th TSDAV Contra	8th Scottish	9th	10th Irish	11th Scottish	12th English	13th Scottish
14th Claddagh	15th Scottish	16th English	17th Irish	18th	19th	20th VFMC Children's Dance Bendigo East Hop
21st Welsh	22nd Scottish	23rd	24th Irish	25th	26th English	27th VFMC Woolshed Ball
28th Claddagh	29th Scottish	30th English	31st Irish			
				1st June	2nd	3rd VFMC Family Dance Contradi- tion
4th TSDAV Contra	5th Scottish	6th	7th Irish	8th	9th English	10th Scottish

THE DANCE PAGES (continued)

V.F.M.C. Woolshed Ball, Kilsyth Hall, Mount Dandenong Road, Kilsyth
Tickets on sale now <https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-may2023-woolshed-ball>

DON'T MISS OUT! See www.vfmc.org.au or contact Jane 9762-1389

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Marie: 9471-0690

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

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

Contact Ian: 9878-2414

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

Scottish Monday and Saturday: Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Rd, 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, Flora Hill. Contact Dianne Pearse: 5422-1715

- by Jane Bullock



—Grand March at the National Folk Festival 2023

(photo by Trevor Voake)

Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc
Saturday 6th May 2023
with Comhaltas

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

purchase your tickets at the door

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

Dance - 8.00 - 11.00pm - supper included

Contact Jane on 97621389



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
(Registered No A2511Y)



**Bush Dance
for
school children**

Saturday 20th May 2023
2.00pm - 3.00pm

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

Band: **Borderline Kaylee**



**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

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 used to enjoy reciting this poem by Stephen Whiteside.

SEALS IN THE RIVERS

They're wobbling up the Wakool.
They're moving up the Murray.
They're diving up the Darling.
They're always in a hurry.

I'm coming out in goosebumps.
My spine is filled with shivers.
Did you know
That long ago
We'd seals in the rivers?

They came in on the flood tide.
A thousand miles they'd swim.
At first it all seemed easy,
But they faced a future grim.

The water soon subsided,
And left them far from home.
They'd wallow in the billabongs,
Removed from salt and foam.

But then the paddle steamers came,
The waterways to churn.
Their frantic threshing caused the seals
The inland routes to spurn.

Yet sometimes in the depths of night,
When stars are twinkling high
Above a silent billabong,
You'll hear a muffled sigh...

They're wobbling up the Wakool.
They're moving up the Murray.
They're diving up the Darling.
They're always in a hurry.

I'm coming out in goosebumps.
My spine is filled with shivers.
Did you know
That long ago
We'd seals in the rivers?

DOROTHY HEWETT

This year marks the centenary of the birth of Dorothy Hewett.

Dorothy Hewett AM (1923 – 2002) was an Australian playwright, poet and author, and a romantic feminist icon. In writing and in her life, Hewett was an experimenter. As her circumstances and beliefs changed, she progressed through different literary works and styles.

A fundraiser for the forthcoming activities for her centenary celebrations has been set up.

<https://chuffed.org/project/dorothyhewett>

Advance orders can be placed for the re-issue of the 1961 book "What about the People?" from which a dozen or so songs including "Weevils in the Flour" helped to kickstart the Folk Revival. It will be ready by May 21.

- *by Joe Flood*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Folk Music Club will be held at 2.30pm on **Sunday 18th June**, at Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Lawrence Grove, East Ringwood, and on-line via Zoom. Formal invitations will be sent in late May.

PLEASE NOTE: Members who wish to discuss any matter in 'Any Other Business' should make a request in writing to the Secretary by 6pm on 12th May.

Please consider joining the committee and contributing to the operation of your club. Speak with any committee member to discuss how you can participate.

Once the formalities are completed, there will be afternoon tea and some music-making. See you there.

- *by Steve Bullock (President)*

RON EDWARDS — QUIZ

1) Who was Ron Edwards? 2) Where was he born? 3) What formal tertiary training did he have? 4) What was the name of his publishing company? 5) Who recently wrote his biography? 6) What is the name of the book that he is most well-known for?

Answers to last quiz:- 1) *An English singer-songwriter and left wing activist*
 2) *Folk, punk rock, protest songs* 3) *Younger generation* 4) *Activist causes*
 5) *Australia (Adelaide and Canberra)*

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—APRIL 2023

The Billabong Band played at the Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic festival on Sunday 26th March. Unfortunately, I was unable to be there but from all accounts it went off quite well although being the first act for the day, the crowd was a bit sparse.

Many thanks to those who participated: Maree & Bill , Carol, Mary, Maggie, Katy & Bryce.

Upcoming Gigs:

May 27th Woolshed Ball

June ?? Kirkbrae Retirement Village—confirmed date in mid June

June 16th Forest Hill Chase

July 15th Children's Dance

Sept. 15th Forest Hill Chase

Dec. 2nd Family Bush Dance

Dec. 15th Forest Hill Chase

Note: September 24th—REALM, Eastland, Ringwood. This is not strictly a Billabong Band gig, but an opportunity for our members to participate in a community folk choir run by Cora Browne.

- by Trevor Voake (convenor)

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES CHECK IF ON**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, 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	<u>Membership Type</u> (please circle)	
(b) Post	<u>Metro</u> Single	\$25
(Cross out whichever is not applicable)	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: