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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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AUGUST 2023 FAMILY BUSH DANCE



MELBOURNE COLONIAL DANCE BAND

Photo by Trevor Voake

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: SEE PAGE 12 INSIDE - V.F.M.C. WATTLE DAY CELEBRATIONS ARE NOW FAST APPROACHING - ON SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2023. GREAT MUSIC AND DANCE WORKSHOPS ALL DAY!

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 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: Zoom access for Sessions will be available on Week 1 of the month for those unable to attend the venue. Post Event access to Concerts on Week 2 is available. Tickets must be bought in advance via Humanitix.

More information: See www.vfmc.org.au for further information about sessions, concerts and dances.

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

Victorian Folk Music Club

at Ringwood presents

Three A' Cappella Choirs

Tuesday 12th
September



Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, Station St. Ringwood
7.45 - 10.00pm Admission \$10 to \$14, kids no charge

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

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-september2023-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

10th October - The Weeping Willows



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—AUGUST 2023

Maree Buttler was the MC for the evening. The **SPOT ACTS** were as follows:

Ed Robbins is one of our popular singer/songwriters and entertained the audience with what he called a dog's tale. It tells a slightly different story about the famed bronze statue of a drover's dog who made a *pit stop* at a popular spot five miles from the NSW town of Gundagai. Then a song of *Reflection* about his nostalgic trip back to his childhood town of Dartmoor and environs where the general store and the pub are no longer standing.



Maggie Somerville performed a song about attempts to deal with the memories and pain of the death of her son. As the years go by there are *Triggers* which never go away. They can pop up unexpectedly, causing a person to constantly deal with their grief. Henry Lawson wrote a poem in 1889 called *Cinderella*, which Maggie has set to music. In olden times fairies always righted wrongs and magically granted a poor girl's wishes. Alas, Lawson states, fairies have disappeared and Cinderellas now wait in vain.



Peter from Healesville is also a singer/songwriter and entertained with two original songs. First was *Nariel Creek Carol*. His words describe the beauty of the sparkling waters of the creek and his lyrics gave the listener pause for thought such as: You cannot step twice into the same river. The ballad of *Billy the Baker from Bermagui*. Bernie loved Rebecca but she was promised to another, the local rock'n'roll man was her lover.



John said his love of music goes back to the folk era of the 1960s. Tonight he played the banjo and presented an old American Civil war song originally by famed Appalachian banjoist Frank Proffitt of North Carolina. A man sings *Oh Faretheewell* to his wife as he leaves home to cross the mountains to join the boys in blue. He followed up with another song about *Both Sides of the Road*.



Joan Mundy on piano accordion and husband Ray accompanying on guitar played a lively dance tune written by John Sheahan, a fiddle player with the Dubliners, a well-known Irish group from the 1960's. Then Joan led the audience in song with a rendition of *The Tennessee Waltz*. First released in 1948, this song's popularity has stood the test of time.



(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)



The last act before supper was Dominic Martin who accompanied himself on guitar as he sang *John o' Dreams*. The late Bill Caddick, an English musician/singer/songwriter, used the music of Tchaikovsky's *Pathetique Symphony* as a background for his beautifully constructed poem. *John o' Dreams* represents the Sandman who watches over everybody, the rich and poor, the freeman and the slave, all peoples as they sleep and prepare themselves for the new day. The audience was happy to join in when Dominic played an old hit of the Weavers, *Irene Good*

Night. The song dates back to around 1908 and was created by Leadbelly, the well-known Louisiana musician, as he sang his niece Irene to sleep.

MAIN ACT:

Our main act for August was well-known folksinger/songwriter Michael Waugh who was accompanied on the night by guitarist Riley Catherall. Michael's strong vibrant voice filled the room as he presented his songs composed by the many and varied experiences of his own life growing up in Maffra in Gippsland. The first was inspired by his granddaughter, with the lyrics emphasizing the importance of enjoying the moment –

Treasure every single moment of your life, you don't get to live it twice. Then he took us back in time to his teenage years up on a local hill on a Saturday arvo drinking with his mates, looking for a better place to go...

Michael's love and affection for his parents shines through his songs with the first a tribute to his dairy farmer father. Featuring a guitar solo by Riley, the song says: wherever I am I want to wear my dad's shoes. Michael gestures towards his own Blundstone boots proudly displaying rainbow coloured ribs. These traditional Aussie work boots date back to bootmaker John Blundstone in Hobart who made the first pair in 1870. These days Blunnies are still hugely popular and are now in demand all over the world.



(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (continued):-

Both of his parents died within weeks of each other just before lockdown so that Michael had long, lonely times in which to process his thoughts and feelings. His father taught him all of the important things in life: humanity and humour, integrity and fairness, and also how to eat Chinese food!

A song inspired by his work as a teacher, *Footy Trip* is an anthem for toxic masculinity. His students embraced the song with gusto and the entire group requested and sang it at their final year formal dinner.

Riley Catherall was joined by Gabrielle Parker from the audience and they sang a beautiful duet, *When I Go*.

The next song Michael described as a hero's story. It is about being true to yourself. The audience joined in the chorus as he sang... "*we are here, we've always been here, watching from the shadows.*"

Beauty and Truth is a subtle and emotional tale of a young man trying his very best to play society's roles, at the same time searching for beauty and truth.

Heyfield is a timber town and Michael sang a soft and gentle tune dedicated to his mother because, he said, people don't write pretty songs about Heyfield girls at all. Then he sang the title song from his album *The Cast* asking the question. Going back to childhood days when everyone would write a word or two of encouragement on your plaster cast if you broke a limb. *When I lose my grip and start to fall will you sign my cast?*

Michael and Riley's guitar playing and harmonies and their warm friendly natures added an intimacy to the evening, and the audience encouraged them to perform an encore. Once again, Michael sang a tribute song honouring his mother and countless other strong country women who worked long, difficult hours at Willie's Chicken Factory in Glenmaggie.

Thank you to Michael, Riley and Gabrielle for a great night's entertainment, and the club hopes to see you again in the future.

Next month: A'Cappella Night features three groups: Voice Box, The Enterprize Shanty Band and VoKallista.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked together to produce another great concert night.

- Report by Bette Martin ; photos by Trevor Voake



The Dance Pages

Diary dates for September and early October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1st English	2nd VFMC Dance Blackberry Jam
3rd TSDAV Contra	4th Scottish	5th English	6th Irish	7th Scottish	8th English	9th
10th Claddagh	11th Scottish	12th English	13th Irish	14th	15th	16th VFMC Children's Bush Dance Bendigo East Hop
17th Welsh	18th Scottish	19th English	20th Irish	21st	22nd	23rd
24th Claddagh	25th Scottish	26th English	27th Irish	28th	29th	30th
1st October TSDAV Contra	2nd Scottish	3rd English	4th Irish	5th Scottish	6th English	7th VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee

**THE DANCE PAGES** *(continued)*

Claddagh —Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. 2-5pm. Contact Rod: 9497-1793

VFMC Family Bush Dance at East Ringwood Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood. 8-11pm. Contact Bill: 0417 300 682

VFMC Children's Bush Dance—East Ringwood Senior Citizens hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood. 2-3pm. Contact Bill: 0417 300 682

Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle Street, Collingwood. 8-10pm. Contact Mary: 9435-4435

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

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

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

Contra Sunday—Beckett Hall, 72 Highfield Road, Canterbury. 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 Road. 7-9pm.
Contact Di Gaylard: 5963-3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au

Bendigo East Hop: 14 Keck Street, Flora Hill. 8pm. Enquiries: 5422-1153 or secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

- by Bill Buttler



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y

Family Bush Dance

Saturday, 2nd September 2023

(and the first Saturday of every month except January)

8-11pm—light supper included

Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall

Laurence Grove, Ringwood East

Featuring live music with:

Blackberry Jam



Entry: \$10 members, \$12 non-members, Kids free.

Tickets available at the door or online at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-aug2023-dance>

Phone: Bill 0417 300 682
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au
Website: www.vfmc.org.au



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y

Bush Dance Fun

School age children and Families

Saturday, 16th September 2023

(and the third Saturday of every month except January)

2-3pm

Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall

Laurence Grove, Ringwood East

Featuring live music with: **Borderline Kaylee**



Entry: \$5 per child under 12, or \$10 per family. Adults free when accompanied by a child.

Phone: Bill 0417 300 682
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au
Website: www.vfmc.org.au

VFMC Committee supports the Voice

The VFMC Committee at the recent August meeting considered and agreed to a suggestion that it formally declare support for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution at the coming referendum.

The situation in Australia has come into focus through the campaigning of First Nations people culminating in the May 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart and the federal government's initiative to hold a referendum to recognise the First Peoples of Australia in the constitution by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The Committee felt it was appropriate to record its support for the Voice. Discussions touched upon the traditions of folk music and many well-known folk artists and musicians who over the years have been notable voices supporting struggles for equality and justice for peoples who have historically suffered due to their race or position in their societies. It was noted that many organisations across society, including community groups, businesses, universities, churches, law and other such organisations have formally stated their support.

In making its decision, the Committee recognises and respects that diverse views may be held among our members on this matter.

The Committee also agreed to a short statement of support appearing on the VFMC website.

Michael Hassett
VFMC President



*One of our
family dances*

*(Photo by
Trevor Voake)*

WATTLE DAY Saturday 2nd September 2023

Wattle Day is a day to celebrate all things Australian. And to celebrate Wattle Day the Victorian Folk Music Club with the TSDAV is planning a day of sessions and workshops on **Saturday 2nd September** to stimulate interest in music.

Two streams will run in-hall from **Ringwood East Senior Citizen's Hall**. Sessions last an hour or more, you can attend as many as you like. Stream 2 also on Zoom.

A small charge of \$10 will help cover hall rent, printing, data costs etc. That's for as many sessions as you like. Register and pay online here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-wattle-day2023>

There is a separate admission for the evening Family Bush Dance with Blackberry Jam, that will be \$12 / \$10. Book separately for this at:

<https://www.vfmc.org.au/familybushdance.php>

Refreshments available throughout the day. Shanty book, Aussie songs, scores etc. available prior to Wattle Day on the website.

Time	Stream 1 Live in hall	Stream 2 Live in hall and on Zoom
9.30-10.45	Poets Breakfast (free pancakes) Bette	—
11.00-12.30	Sea Shanty Singalong Tony & The Enterprize Band	Australian Dance Music Trish & John, Denise & Richard
12.30-1.15	Lunch Break	
1.15-2.45	Premier Vocal workshop Cora	—
3.00-4.00	Australian Songs Singalong Ray, Joan & friends	Slow Tune Playing Session Kate & Don
4.15-5.45	Jolly Swagman Dance Workshop Norm	Blackboard Session
7.30 - 10.30	Monthly Family Bush Dance live with Blackberry Jam Band	

Enjoy the day!!

WATTLE DAY

In the early 1900s the Wattle movement was begun
When acacia pycnantha, glowing golden like the sun,
Was included on an Aussie stamp and our brand new coat of arms
As a flowering symbol, green and gold, for our cities and our farms.

But not till 1988 was the golden wattle named
As our national floral emblem and officially proclaimed;
And then after that in '92 the first day of September
Was established as our Wattle Day – a day we must remember.

CHORUS: It's the spirit of our country, it's our land of flood and fire,
Where every dawn a dream is born as we keep reaching higher.
It's the spirit of our country, it's our land of work and play,
So let's celebrate Australian life each year on Wattle Day.

Our Uluru, our Opera House, our muddy Yarra too,
Our Gold Coast and our Nullabor and our boxing kangaroo,
Our Aussie Rules, our "G'day mate" from town to outback station,
Our ethnic mix, our barbeques, our great and golden nation.

CHORUS (*then Instrumental*)

Now as we watch the seasons change, the heat replace the cold,
Our athletes represent our land so proud in green and gold.
Our history stretches back in time, both black and white our past,
Our present and our future in our golden land so vast.

CHORUS

© Maggie Somerville, 2012



SPORTING SONGS — QUIZ

1) What is a sporting song? 2) What are the most common sporting songs about? 3) What is a well-known example of a sporting song? 4) What kind of sporting song is now considered politically incorrect? 5) Who recorded an album in 1977 called 'English Sporting Ballads'? 6) Which member of the VFMC once wrote a parody of 'Up There Cazaly' (called 'Up Yours Cazaly)?

Answers to last quiz:- 1) A folk singer 2) Irish 3) Dublin 4) Traditional folk and modern material 5) 8 years old 6) De Dannan

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—AUGUST 2023

The Billabong Band hasn't played any gigs since the last report.

The Seniors Festival dance has now been confirmed.

The Billabong Band has applied for the Maroondah Festival & we are now awaiting confirmation.

Upcoming gigs are:

Forest Hill Chase – Friday, September 15th

Livingstone Gardens – Wednesday October 4th

Seniors Festival – Saturday, October 14th – now confirmed

Children's Dance – Saturday October 21st

Maroondah Festival - Sunday November 12th - TBC

Family Dance – Saturday, December 2nd

Forest Hill Chase – Friday, December 15th

Trevor Voake,

Billabong Band Convenor

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
 Robyn Hammond
 Telephone: 0419 556 116
 Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Session Co-ordinator
 Don Fraser
 Telephone: 0407 737 202
 Email: sessions@vfmc.org.au

Family/Children's Bush Dance
 Bill Buttler
 Telephone: 0417 300 682
 Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Billabong Band Engagements
 Trevor Voake
 Telephone: 0427 784 296
 Email:

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: