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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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THE BILLABONG BAND OUT AND ABOUT



SCHWERKOLT'S COTTAGE

Photo by Trevor Voake

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: SESSIONS ON ALL BUT THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH ARE NOW AT THE HALL ONLY. THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH IS ALSO ACCESSIBLE VIA ZOOM (& HUMANITIX TICKET).

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

Victorian Folk Music Club

at Ringwood presents

The Weeping Willows

Singin' The Blues Tour

Support act Chris Stack

Tuesday
10th October

Laura and Andrew are multi-award winning performers with unmistakable vocal harmonies and timeless country-folk instrumentation

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-october2023-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

14th November - Christina Green



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—SEPTEMBER 2023

MC for the September Concert was Club President, Mike Hassett. September is traditionally a night to celebrate the human voice with the theme being unaccompanied a cappella singing. What a fabulous night it was with around 95 people in-hall enjoying a great concert of vocal talent from the three Main Acts: VoKallista, The Melbourne Enterprize Shanty Band, and VoiceBox.

SPOT ACTS:

Two Spot Acts preceded the Main Acts.

Bill and Maree Buttler sang two fine songs they got from Andy Irvine, the first a gentle emigration song, The Braes of Moneymore, then Bill sang another version of Moreton Bay—different from the one based on the tune of Boulavogue.



Pleasant and Delightful were the next Spot Act. Unfortunately the girls couldn't make it on this night so Ken and Don soldiered on with Drive Sorrows Away, a lovely Copper Brothers anthem celebrating the values of friendship and cheer in life over wealth and fame. At some stage an Italian military song got mixed up with the tender side of some pirates, missing their loved ones while out on the bounding main. Put Your Hand In Mine spruiks the softer side of that particular profession. They finished with the tune the Fishers Hornpipe on mandolin and button box.

(continued over...)

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

The first Main Act was Barb McFarlane's group **VoKallista** who had 13 present on the night and are a fine example of a local community choir who have been around for over 12 years with Barb at the helm, singing and performing regularly at festivals and shows around the outer east.



Their songs included We Shall Be Known, a Ukrainian lullaby, the Troy Cassar- Daley song Take A Walk In My Country, and several social justice songs. The group meets in Tecoma every Wednesday night and is open to new members. Check them out at <https://www.facebook.com/VoKallista/>

The Melbourne Enterprize Shanty Band are a support group for the restored sailing ship The Enterprize. They sing traditional Maritime work songs and meet regularly at the Mission for Seafarers and they welcome all to join them. Their songs included Rollicking Randy Dandy O, Spanish Ladies, Donkey Riding, Leave Her Johnny Leave Her, and a second pirate song for the night,, It's All Part Of Being A Pirate. They certainly had the audience fully involved in their songs.



(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (continued):-

VoiceBox is a Melbourne-based male a cappella group of five well-presented young men: Al, Cameron, Dave, Matt and Simon. They have a wide-ranging repertoire which includes everything from the popular music of The Beach Boys, The Beatles and Queen, to a variety of other styles, including sixteenth century madrigals and Gregorian chants. They have appeared at the VFMC in previous years.

These guys are superbly talented in their art, covering all registers of the male voice range from bass, baritone, tenors, counter tenor, and it is not surprising to see each in turn taking on a new range as the programme progressed. Their superb singing skills are supported with under-stated animation making their act virtually a comedy visual act as well as a superb aural entertainment experience.



Their choice of songs included well-known popular songs that the audience could relate to and join in: Nowhere Man, God Only Knows, songs from film and the media, and some clever comedy ones like The Zombie Jamboree, I'll Buy It On EBay, and Drunken Sailor.

Understandably they received a very hearty encore from the audience. VoiceBox have recorded four cds over the years. Their website is at voicebox.org.au

The efforts of many people goes into making VFMC Concerts happen, especially in cases with multiple acts and many individuals. Next month on 10th October we have the popular country/folk duo The Weeping Willows, plus a Support act Chris Stack. I hope to see you then.

- Review by Don Fraser; photos by Trevor Voake

A BAD MUSICAL JOKE

Knock knock!
 Who's there?
 Little old lady.
 Little old lady who?
 Wow! I didn't know you could yodel!



The Dance Pages

Diary dates for October and early November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st October	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
TSDAV Contra	Scottish	English	Irish	Scottish		VFMC Dance Borderline Kaylee
8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th
Claddagh	Scottish		Irish		English	
15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st
Welsh	Scottish	English	Irish			VFMC Children's Bush Dance Bendigo East Hop
22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th
Welsh	Scottish		Irish		English	
29th	30th	31st				
	Scottish	English				
			1st Nov. Irish	2nd Scottish	3rd	4th VFMC Dance Brumbies



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: Holy Trinity Church Hall, 14 Keck Street, Flora Hill. 8pm. Enquiries: 5422-1153

- by *Bill Buttler*



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y

Family Bush Dance

Saturday, 7th October 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:

Borderline Kaylee



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, 21st October 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: **The Billabong Band**



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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

While it is pleasing to know that some of our Committee are supportive of recognition of the First Peoples of Australia, I am appalled that the Committee has decided to politicise the Victorian Folk Music Club by promoting one side of the referendum vote. The aims and objectives of the VFMC are clear:

- (a) to preserve, research and popularise our Australian Folklore Heritage of traditional songs, music, poetry, prose and dance.
- (b) to encourage the creation of contemporary songs, music, poetry, prose and dance in the traditional style.
- (c) to maintain forums where singers, musicians reciters, dancers and interested organisations may exchange information, receive help and guidance for the understanding and promotion of Australian Folklore.

Nowhere does our constitution support political messaging of any kind. Our newsletter and website should not be abused in this way.

There is a long-established process of political comment in the folk music world - you write a song, often with wit and humour, promoting your case. If there are committee members who want to push a political issue, let them proceed in our traditional style.

Steve Bullock

(See response to this letter on page 12...)

RESPONSE TO LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON PAGE 11

The VFMC Committee thanks Steve for putting forward his views on its decision to express support for a First Nations Voice to Parliament. We respect his concerns about appearing to venture into political commentary.

The Committee has deliberately not expressed support for a political party, and the Voice initiative did not originate with any political party. It is a heartfelt request embodied in the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) developed by some 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who gathered at Uluru in 2017 to put forward a dignified proposal for a new approach to address the systemic disadvantage faced by indigenous people.

To support the Voice is entirely consistent with the Acknowledgement of Country that we make at concerts and sessions, indicating our support for reconciliation with our fellow indigenous citizens. To have no position on the Voice could call into question the sincerity of our Acknowledgement.

It is, understandably, a delicate matter for any organisation or their representatives to decide to express a position on an issue which has become controversial in the public arena. Yet scores and perhaps hundreds of organisations, spanning sporting bodies, business (most of the ASX top 20 companies), law, education and universities, professional associations and many community groups, including the board of Folk Alliance of Australia and The Boite, have done so. They have done so because they are also part of our society at large. We believe that there are occasions, and this is one of them, when it is appropriate to speak to the broader community.

Michael Hassett,

VFMC President on behalf of the VFMC Committee

WATTLE DAY 2023

The Victorian Folk Music Club has celebrated National Wattle Day with music workshops and playing and dance sessions since 2014. Each year has been a little different in the workshops offered.

This year for the first time we started the day with a Poet's Breakfast, presented by Bette Martin. 12-14 read a poem or two while Tony, Charlotte and Katy were working hard in the kitchen providing pancakes to the poets and audience. It was a great start to the day. Bette paid a tribute to Club member Ruth Arkley who, before her fatal accident last month, was going to be a part of this session.

A Sea Shanty Singalong with Tony and the Enterprize Band followed, with 22 singers joining in with enthusiasm.

An Australian Dance Music session followed with Trish and John in Tasmania and Denise and Richard from the Melbourne Colonial Band leading some interesting new tunes with the aid of Zoom. The scores for these can still be found on the Club website - <https://www.vfmc.org.au/wattleday2023.php>

This year a premiere vocal workshop led by Cora Browne was held with 19 participants joining in to learn some new songs and singing skills.

Next, Ray and Joan Mundy and VFMC members led an Australian Songs Singalong Session. Again very well attended with 19. A Slow Tune Playing Session was on at the same time in the other room, lead by Katy and Don.

The afternoon wrapped up with a Dance Workshop led by Jane in the main hall, and a Blackboard Session was held with 9 participants finishing off the busy 2023 Wattle Day. Judy, Peter K, Maree, Joan and Ray and Cora all performed a short bracket.

The monthly VFMC Family Bush Dance with Blackberry Jam was well attended and completed a lovely day.

Thank you to all the workshop Conveners, the Wattle day Committee, Michael Hassett for Zooming our Tasmanian presenters and to all who helped with setting up and packing up during the day. We look forward to seeing you all there next year.

Maree, Don and Jane (Wattle Day Committee)

VOICEBOX— QUIZ

1) What is Voicebox? 2) Where is it based? 3) How did it begin? 4) Give examples of songs they do? 5) Where did they recently perform?

Answers to last quiz:- 1) A folk song that celebrates various sports and recreations 2) Hunting & gambling 3) Skewball, House of the Rising Sun, tune: Foxhunters 4) Fox-hunting 5) High Level Ranters & Martyn Wyndham-Read 6) Bruce Watson

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2023

Since last month the band has played two gigs in September.

Schwerkolt's Cottage where we played instead of the Brumbies who were unable to play at this gig, it being one of their regular bookings. The gig went very well with a good response from the general public – it being an open day at the historic Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham. Jane came along & soon had people up & dancing on the forecourt.

Forest Hill Chase shopping centre – this is becoming a regular gig. Again it went off very well. We are now starting to recognise regular attendees. We had at least 6 people come up to either Margie or myself thanking us for coming & saying how much they enjoyed our sing-a-longs (Stewart projects a lot of the words onto a screen so people can join in the singing). Their organizer has asked me to send her our availability dates for next year.

UPCOMING GIGS:

Wed. Oct. 4th 10.30am	Livingstone Gardens aged care
Sat. Oct. 14th 12 midday	Seniors Festival
Sat. Oct. 21st 2pm	Children's Dance
Sun. Nov. 12th	Maroondah Festival
Sat. Dec. 2nd 8pm	Family Dance
Sun. Dec. 9th 1-3pm	Ambleside (Knox Historical Society)
Fri. Dec. 15th 11.30am	Forest Hill Chase
Feb. 2024	JL Flynn aged care (date to be finalised)
May 2024	JL Flynn aged care (date to be finalised)
Aug 2024	JL Flynn aged care (date to be finalised)
Oct. 2024	JL Flynn aged care (date to be finalised)

Many thanks to those who've helped: Maree, Katy, Bryce, Stewart, Margie, Mary, Jane, Regina, Sofie, Trevor & Bob (from the Brumbies).

- Trevor Voake (Billabong Band Coordinator)

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: