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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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VALE: RUTH ARKLEY



Photo by Trevor Voake

PLEASE NOTE: FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR TUESDAY SESSIONS WILL BE AT THE HALL ONLY—EXCEPT FOR THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, WHICH IS ALSO ACCESSIBLE VIA ZOOM (WITH A 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 7.30 pm to 9 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 Nov.	2nd	3rd	4th Family Bush Dance
5th	6th	7th Club Session HYBRID	8th	9th	10th	11th
12th	13th	14th Concert Night Guest artist/s HALL ONLY	15th	16th	17th	18th Children's Dance
19th	20th	21st Club Session All-in HALL	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
26th	27th	28th Club Session Themed HALL	29th	30th		

Victorian Folk Music Club

at Ringwood presents

Christina Green

**Tuesday
14th November**

Christina is an accomplished singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist writing primarily in folk, folk/rock and cabaret idioms. Her observational, image-rich and storytelling-focused songs draw on inspiration from everyday life, delighting and engaging her audiences.

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-november2023-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

12th December - Sara and Silas



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—OCTOBER 2023

The October Concert was well attended, and featured both a Support and a Main Act as well as Spot Acts.

SPOT ACTS:

Tony Kelly was MC and introduced **Peter Read** as the first Spot act.



Peter writes his own songs, always about interesting subjects like *I'm Going To The Desert*, accompanied by guitar and harmonica.

Some lesser known poems of Henry Lawson followed, set to music by **Maggie Somerville**, accompanied by Bill on harmonica. *The Stringy Bark Tree* celebrates more its usefulness as a building material than as an icon of the Aussie bush. And *Sticking To Bill* is about the long-suffering faithfulness of a woman to her perhaps not so deserving man.



Wal Tiedemann sang two thoughtful songs, accompanying himself on guitar: Merle Haggard's *One Day at a Time*, and *The Coat of Many Colours*, one of Dolly Parton's fine songs.

Thanks Spot Acts for your contribution to the programme. It is good to hear the efforts of our fellows sharing their favourites. Anyone can have a go at doing a Spotty, so just drop a line to: concerts@vfmc.com.au

(continued over...)

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

Chris Stack was Support Act this night. Chris is sometimes known as a member of the trio FolkTrain, and, like Peter Read, also writes his own often quirky songs as well as having an interest in poetry writing.

How Chris's mind works can be gleaned from his first song, a re-working of the idea of a pub with no beer, when 'let's raise three cheers' when *The Pub's Re-opening Again* with more beer. Like everyone else, *Don't Pandemic* expresses his ideas on the Covid subject. *It Takes A Worried Man* preceded his own poems entitled *I Bought Myself a New Hat* and *Hot as Bloody Hell*.

Many folkies, Chris included, will be familiar with the *Girgarre Moosic Muster*, an annual community gathering not far from Shepparton that suffered from Covid cancellation in recent years. But it will be on again next January. The town turned to music-making in a big way following closure of the tomato processing plant some years ago and it has worked spectacularly well. Further info can be found at <https://www.girgarre.com.au>

The Talking Tree imagines if the creaking and groaning of a tree might be a sign of it reaching out with something to say. But 'it can't speak English and I can't speak tree'. *Ambos And Firies* is Chris's thoughts on these jobs, and *Albury All Change* describes the early days of the Melbourne to Sydney train trip where different gauges necessitated everyone changing trains.

Thanks Chris—some interesting thoughts turned into clever song.

(continued over...)

*CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (continued):-***MAIN ACT:**

The Weeping Willows, Laura Coates and Andrew Wrigglesworth, are a couple who have established a strong profile over a number of years, thanks to their impressive harmonies and excellent instrumental accompaniment. They have a friendly and connective enthusiasm that draws the audience in, and Andrew's playing on the guitar is exceptional. Laura's occasional use of accordion is often haunting and well placed. The concert was part of their Singing The Blues tour to promote their latest album, *You Reap What You Sow*.

Their first song was a driving start to the bracket, *River Of Gold*, while *Singin' The Blues*, their latest single, is a touching love song. Their repertoire ranges from folk to country and often hints of the Bluegrass style with Andrew's impressive flat picking. Then they can slip effortlessly into a slow and sensitive song like *Lonesome Now I'm Gone* with sparse guitar and accordion.

Wheel Barrow Roll was an excellent blues solo on guitar, and *Whatcha' Gonna Do Now Your Wheels Won't Roll*.

The Willows gave due credit to Radio Eastern FM, the local FM station in Croydon, and I will do the same since they publicise our Concerts each month. If you can't get them on FM 98.1, then try their Listen Live streaming service from the website.



A nice Texas swing waltz was next, while *Dreaming* is a country style love song from their favourite writer, Bruce Robinson. The eerie Lefty Frizell classic *Long Black Veil* was well done, a typical otherworldiness of several of their songs. And *Bells Are Ringing In The Church Yard*, a gentle love song followed with nice guitar before finishing with the classic blues song *C C Ryder*.

Next month will feature multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter Christina Green. Many hanks to all who helped to bring this concert to fruition.

- Review by Don Fraser, photos by Trevor Voake



The Dance Pages

Diary dates for November and early December

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

**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, Keck Street, Flora Hill. 8pm.
Enquiries: 5422-1153

- by *Bill Buttler*



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y

Family Bush Dance

Saturday, 4th November 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:

The Brumbies Bush Band



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, 18th November 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

AUSTRALIAN FOLKLORE DOCUMENTARY

A documentary on the history of Australian folklore, produced by the Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive, was presented in a free webinar on 8th October 2023. A recording of the webinar is now available on the VFMC website. Go to: '[Interesting Stuff > Lowenstein Documentary](#)'.

STORY:

The film is a 25 minute archival documentary about the cultural history of Australia as seen through the prismatic eye of two remarkable women: oral historian Wendy Lowenstein and her close collaborator and friend, dance historian Shirley Andrews. Both strong and determined women, passionate in their beliefs and struggling against the stereotypical roles available to women in Australia's post-war era, and as such are distinctive role models for women today. It is a story told via unique archive: songs, footage, recordings, photos and audio interviews that illustrate their pivotal role in preserving what we can now term an aspect of our 'National Soul'. Wendy & Shirley's cultural and political journey as activists, collaborators and collectors formed in the idealistic post-war years of Melbourne's New Theatre, and Eureka Youth League, with both playing a key role in the formation of Australia's seminal folk music, folklore, traditional dance, and oral history movements.

Wendy Lowenstein was a founder of the Folklore Society of Victoria, back in the mid 1950s. The society eventually merged with the VFMC a few years later. Wendy edited the newsletter 'Tradition' for several years in those early days. Wendy Lowenstein's family, including son Richard and daughter Martie, were immersed in social community activism, the Australian folk music revival and collecting oral history. Martie and Richard were both "volunteers" at the first National Folk festival in Melbourne in 1967.

- Michael Hassett



*- October 2023 dance
(photo by Trevor Voake)*

VALE: RUTH HAMILTON-ARKLEY



We were all shocked and saddened to hear recently of the tragic death of much admired VFMC member, Ruth Hamilton-Arkley in August while on a cycling trip in the UK with her partner, Robert. Ruth was hospitalised for around three weeks whilst being treated for injuries sustained in a serious mishap while cycling. Sadly, Ruth succumbed to her injuries in hospital in England.

A talented poet, she will be fondly remembered for her many spot acts at concerts where she presented her poems - often quirky, often humorous, always entertaining (see next page).



Less well-known is that she was also an accomplished singer and classically trained guitarist. One of the guitar pieces Ruth presented, a piece by Matteo Carcassi, particularly impressed Wal Tiedemann, who is organizing to have it presented at a future concert as a tribute to Ruth.

VALE: RUTH ARKLEY (continued)

Ruth grew up in Brisbane and lived there until she was 24 when she moved down to Melbourne. Ruth was a published poet, and the following poem by her was published in 2019 in 'The Dan's Poets: an Anthology of Poems and Images'.

SUN ON A BRISBANE VERANDAH

A warm, gentle touch
Across grooved walls
And slated floors.

Sitting on a plastic chair
Ginger cat is drawn
Just like me.

Birds I hear
But don't see
But the sound comforts.

Different shaped leaves
Of ferns and trees
Umbrellas of green.

A momentary chill
Of moving air
Brings focus to the warmth when it appears.

Still life
But slow movement
Nothing is fast on Brisbane verandahs.

I sit
In pure pleasure
A bee floats by.

The ginger cat
Licks his fur
Sharing my moments.

ABORIGINAL MUSIC — QUIZ

1) Traditionally what is Aboriginal music? 2) What instruments usually are involved? 3) What class do most of these instruments fall into? 4) What does Aboriginal music often accompany? 5) What is Aboriginal music closely linked to?

Answers to last quiz:- 1) A male a cappella group 2) Melbourne 3) A boys' choir 4) Nowhere Man, God Only Knows, Drunken Sailor 5) VFMC concert

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—OCTOBER 2023

Since last month the band has played 2 gigs in October plus an upcoming gig on Saturday 21st.

Wed. Oct 4th Livingstone Gardens – Vermont. This is a relatively new aged care residence in Vermont. It is a multi-storey building complete with a theatre & café. We played in the café to an audience of 60~70 appreciative people. We had a number of people come up & thank us for playing an assortment of songs that they new and could join in with us. Hopefully they will ask us back again as we thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

Sat. Oct. 14th Roseville Community-Seniors Festival. This was a bbq and entertainment afternoon organised by AVEO aged care & retirement company. We provided music & dance from 12 midday to 3pm (from Maree) I thought it all ran fairly smoothly. Amazingly we got through the 24 songs on the program and three or four extra songs requested. Special thanks to Katy for being mc and dance caller. You did a great job as usual. I was surprised so many people were still there at 3pm and participated in our last song, 'Home Among the Gumtrees'. Also special thanks to Bill and Bryce for all the setting up and managing the sound so well. Thanks again to all. The practices paid off.

UPCOMING GIGS:-

Nov. 12th	Maroondah Festival
Nov. 18th	Children's Dance
Dec. 2nd	Family Dance
Dec. 9th	Ambleside (Knox Historical Society)
Dec. 15th	Forest Hill Chase
Feb. 2024	JL Flynn aged care—date to be finalised
Easter 2024	? National Folk Festival—application submitted
May/Aug/Oct	JL Flynn aged care
Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec	Forest Hill Chase

Many thanks to: Stewart, Maree, Bill, Michael, Rob, Franciska, Margie, Katy, Carol, Tony O, Bryce & Trevor.

- Trevor Voake and Maree Buttler

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
 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.....