

Established 1959

Australian

December 2023



TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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FAREWELL TO LINN PHIPPS - our Zoom singer from U.K.



We will miss her beautiful voice
and are grateful for her rising so
early in the morning to join us

Photo by Trevor Voake

**PLEASE NOTE: OUR FINAL ZOOM SESSION WILL BE ON
TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER (BUY TICKETS—HUMANITIX)
OUR LAST HALL SESSION FOR 2023 WILL BE 19TH DEC.
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY 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
31st					1st Dec.	2nd 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 Club Session HALL	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
24th	25th XMAS DAY	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th

Victorian Folk Music Club
at Ringwood

Sarah and Silas

Exciting duelling fiddles and sweet vocal harmonies which dance to the strum of a ukulele and the stomp of a drum. Over the course of the pandemic, this duo kept the spirits of Australians high with their uplifting songs defining the times.

Tuesday 12th December

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-december2023-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 13th February - Enda Kenny



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—NOVEMBER 2023

Robyn Hammond was the MC for the evening.

SPOT ACTS:

First act for the evening was Dominic Martin, who played guitar and sang *Four Strong Winds*. A classic folk song composed by Ian Tyson voted by Canadians as one of the most popular folk songs of all times. Maree Buttler and her harp joined Dom on stage where they performed as *Dommie and Maree*. Their song of choice was *Fields of Athenry* written in 1979 by Pete St John.



Max and Michael with their guitars and harmonica began their spot with a very polished performance of an Eric Bogle song: *Waltzing Matilda no More*. Then had the audience tapping feet and joining in the chorus as they presented a popular traditional English folk song *The Fox*.



Regina sang the beautiful English folk song *Sally Gardens*, accompanied by Trevor Voake on the mandolin. This song was inspired by a poem by W.B. Yeats. Then Regina on violin and Trevor accompanying on mandolin presented the lovely waltz *The Ashokan Farewell*. This tune from the Catskill area New York USA was composed 1982 by Jay Ungar and Molly Mason.



Stephen Whiteside presented a very funny poem about Mary and Paul who built the most magnificent toilet of all, in an effort to make their fortune. It was three stories tall and had an escalator. Visitors who answered Nature's call paid ten cents a twinkle.



Rudy was the next performer and soon had the audience singing along again as he played and sang the old Jack O'Hagan song, from 1922, *The Road to Gundagai*. In memory of his mother who passed away recently aged ninety-seven, Rudy played mandolin and harmonica as he sang a song he had composed in her honour many years ago. A tribute recounting her loving touch and nurturing voice.



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CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

SPOT ACTS (continued)



groups.

Rudi returned to the spotlight with his panpipes and led the audience in singing Men at Work's great hit of the 1980's, *Down Under*. It has been voted as one of the most Aussie songs of all time.

Stephen Whiteside shared his latest published poem entitled: *The Bushman's Clock*. A reference to the call of the kookaburra.

MAIN ACT:

Our Guest Performer for the evening was Christina Green.

Christina Green is a singer/songwriter and multi-skilled musician. Nowadays based in Melbourne, Christina has travelled the world and lived for some time in the UK where she spent time with acoustic folk community. She is a prolific song writer, using her experiences throughout her travels as inspiration for her impressive output.

Her first original song extolled the many and varied uses of *The Tomato*. This versatile and tasty fruit is an invaluable ingredient in so many delicious meals, sauces salads and Christina's humorous song mentioned just a few.

A residency in Banff, Canada inspired the next song about going to the mountains and visiting the ice-fields. A crowd favourite followed, the audience wasting no time in joining Christina in the chorus of the popular traditional song: *Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond*.

Yorro Yorro is an indigenous song from the Kimberly area. Elder David Mowaljarlaihas rekindled an ancient creation story and Christina's pure, clear voice filled the room as she performed this meditative song which means: Everything Standing up Alive.



Bill and Maree Buttler were joined by Maggie and Trevor and they performed a traditional Palm Island song which the Buttler foster grandchildren sing about their home on Palm Island, off the coast of Queensland. The song is: *Forty Tribes of Bwycolman. This is my home, It is Paradise to me, One people from many*

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

With a songwriter's perceptive point of view, Christina penned this next funny song: *The Lukewarm Latte Blues*. If it's just right it's a total delight.

She displayed her considerable guitar skills performing the next song. *Belfast Mill*, originally *Aragon Mill*, by American Si Kahn. It tells a tale of the death of a township after the closing of its mine.

As a Melburnian coming out of lockdown, Christina was inspired to write about the profusion of colours which jumped out at her from everyday surroundings as she resumed outside life. Next, a Sinead O'Connor classic *Jackie* was from an album in 1987: *The Lion and the Cobra*. Then a traditional song: *Early One Morning*.

Another food themed song about the mysterious street food from Quebec, Canada *Poutine*. A very popular local mixture of French fries topped with cheese curds then covered with gravy! A family of *Beluga Whales* inspired the next—a very beautiful song.

Then *Chaos*, a song about why the old ways have to change. There followed another great Scottish song, *Westering Home*, with enthusiastic audience support. A motorbike ride through the Hurstbridge area inspired the wistful song: *Maybe One Day*. Christina sang a cappella as she presented the story of *Bridget Evans*.

An anthem of the women's peace camp at Greenham Common in the 1980's. It was composed by renowned Australian folk singer/songwriter Judy Small.

Back to Scotland and now we're *Roaming in the Gloaming* by the Bonnie Banks of Clyde. She finished with a song about a four hundred-and-forty- four year old banana in a naval museum in England finally getting the credit it deserves.

Christina presented an outstanding evening with her mix of original and traditional folk songs. We hope to be seeing her again in the future.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped make the evening a great success.

Next month: Sarah and Silas

Notes: Bette Martin

Photos: Trevor Voake, Bill Buttler & Peter Kernebone





The Dance Pages

Diary dates for December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1st	2nd VFMC Dance Billabong Band
3rd TSDAV Contra	4th Scottish	5th	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	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
24th MERRY	25th XMAS	26th AND A	27th HAPPY	28th NEW	29th YEAR	30th TO ALL
31st						
We	will	be	resuming	dancing	by	February

**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, 2nd December 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 Billabong 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, 16th December 2023

(this will be our final kids' dance for 2023)

2-3pm

Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall

Laurence Grove, Ringwood East

Featuring live music with: **The Jolly Jumbucks**



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 CLUB PICNIC

WHEN: This event will be held on Sunday 10th December from 10:30 onwards.

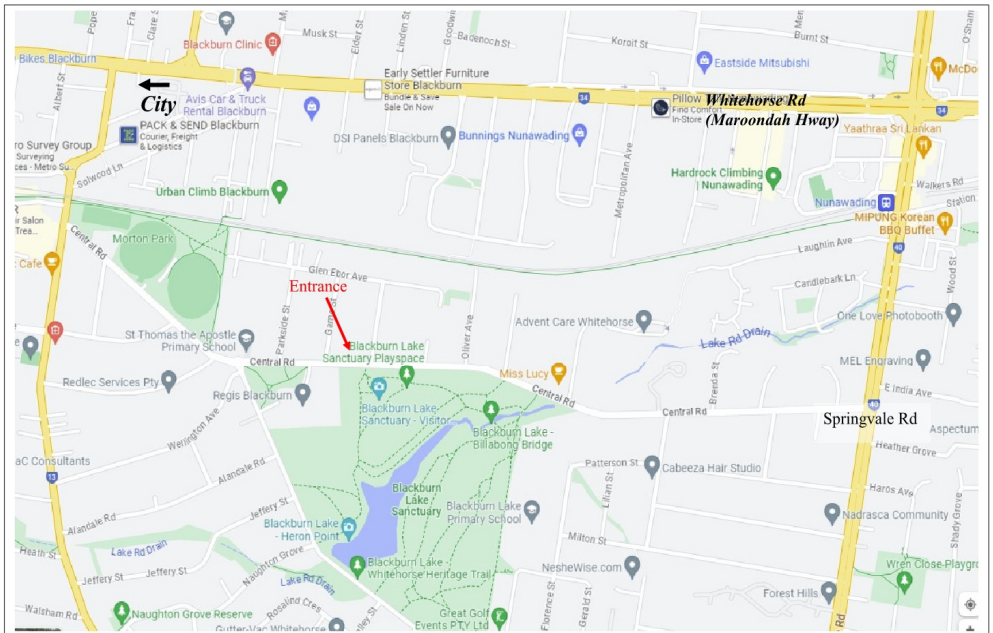
WHERE: Blackburn Lake Sanctuary – Central Rd, Blackburn

WHAT TO BRING: Bring something to eat & drink, bring your instruments or just come along & enjoy a good old-fashioned yarn.

Maybe also bring a chair and/or a picnic rug, and, if necessary, sunscreen too.

WHERE TO MEET: Meet underneath the pine trees running parallel to Central Rd. Car parking is available either in Central Rd or in the Sanctuary car park (enter from Central Rd).

SEE MAP BELOW:-



Blackburn Lake Sanctuary car park entrance is off Central Rd – Just past Regis Aged Care. Picnic area is beneath the Pine trees parallel to Central Rd. Parking is also available in Central Rd.

VFMC CONCERT TICKETS—PRICE REVIEW

We would like to advise all members that the Committee has reviewed the ticket prices for our regular monthly concerts, and decided to increase all tickets by \$1. The new prices will apply from the first concert in February 2024.

The Club operates on a not-for-profit basis and all proceeds from ticket sales goes towards the Club's costs in running the concerts, plus a share to our guest performers. The increase is the result of general increases to our costs over the last year. We still believe the new prices continue to be affordable and offer good value for our audiences.

	Current	New
General admission	\$14	\$15
Concession	\$12	\$13
Members	\$10	\$11

Tickets can be pre-booked via our website, or paid at the door. We now offer electronic payment using cards or suitable electronic devices (mobile phones or smart watches equipped with the necessary apps). Of course, we will accept cash - preferably bring the exact amount to avoid the need for us to hold large amounts of change.

- *Bill Buttler (for VFMC Committee)*



Two VFMC members in waistcoats

(photo probably by Maggie Somerville)

AUSSIE CHRISTMAS DAY

It's the 25th day of December and the sun is beating down,
The turkey is in the oven and the kids have gone to ground.
The Christmas cards are on display with their reindeer and their snow,
And the temperature is rising, but still Santa goes "Ho Ho".

CHORUS: Now the child born in the stable might be o so far away,
But we've family & friends at our table on an Aussie Christmas Day.

The Christmas tree is all lit up and the presents lie below
And some of us are cooking and some off to church we go.
We make our phone calls, send our texts and wish our neighbours well,
Soon the Queen will read her message in her voice clear as a bell.

CHORUS & INSTRUMENTAL (chords of Chorus)

So we all are in our Sunday best and we start to eat our fill
But the kids are opening presents and the youngest won't keep still.
We pull our crackers, read our jokes and stuff ourselves for hours,
Then we all collapse in the heat of the day and await the cooling showers.

CHORUS

© Maggie Somerville, 2012



PLANXTY — QUIZ

1) Who were Planxty? 2) When did they first form? 3) Who was their most famous member? 4) What distinctive instrument did they use? 5) What does the word “planxty” actually mean? 6) Name a well-known popular tune with the word “planxty” in its title.

Answers to last quiz:- 1) Music of Aboriginals & Torres Strait Islands 2) Didgee and clapsticks 3) Percussion 4) Dancing 5) Cultural/spiritual events and The Dreaming.

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—NOVEMBER 2023

Since last month the band played at **Maroondah Festival** on November 12th. The October 21st gig was the children’s dance & we swapped with the Jolly Jumbucks so are playing in November instead.

The Maroondah Festival gig was an okay gig. Unfortunately we were the last spot on the program & were on the back stage next door to the carnival with all its associated fairground noise & music.

Note that the applications for the National Celtic Festival will open on 25th November. After discussions with Bill, I’ll put in an application and use the program very similar to what we used at the Melbourne Highland Games at Williamstown last year – Celts in Australia.

As always gigs don’t happen on their own so thanks to: Margie, Regina, Steve, Michael, Rob, Tony & Trevor for their input & help.

UPCOMING GIGS 2023/24:

Saturday 2nd December at 8pm: Family Dance

Saturday 9th December 1-3/4pm: Ambleside (Knox Historical Society)

February 2024: JL Flynn aged care—dates to be finalised

June long weekend: National Celtic Festival (lodging application)

May/August/October: JL Flynn aged care—dates to be finalised

March/June/September/December: Forest Hill Chase—multiple dates to be finalised for gigs at 3-monthly intervals for all of 2024.

By Trevor Voake and Maree Buttler

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

(b) Post

(Cross out whichever is not applicable)

Please post completed form to:

The Secretary

VFMC

PO Box 215

Ringwood East 3135 Victoria

Membership Type (please circle)

Metro Single \$25

Family* \$30

Junior (u 18) \$15

Student (full time) \$20

Single Concession \$20

Family Concession* \$25

Country Single \$20

Family* \$25

*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18

Name:

Address.....

Email

Phone/s.....