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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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NEW YEAR UP AT NARIEL CREEK FOLK FESTIVAL



Photo by Carmel Shannon

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: The admission price for our Concert Nights (2nd Tuesday of each month) has gone up one dollar—for members to \$11, concession to \$13 and for non-members to \$15.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 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 \$11 members to \$15 others, 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.

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

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

Victorian Folk Music Club at Ringwood



ENDA KENNY

Support act
**Newport
Bush
Orchestra**



Tuesday 13th February

Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, Station St.

7.30 - 10.00pm Admission \$11 to \$15, kids no charge

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

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-february2024-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 12th March - Tidal Moon



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—DECEMBER 2023

MC Maree welcomed all to the final Concert for the year. It was a very warm and humid night, with the quickly spinning fans more a visual relief than actual, struggling to make a difference.

SPOT ACTS:

Steve Bullock opened with an English Christmas song about a pursuit for a hare in a bus. True!! Long story short, the family had hare for Christmas dinner. Thanks Steve.



Peter Read is a clever writer and a fine guitarist. He opened with his song Never Been A Cowboy, and followed with a bluesy song Life's A Circle.



Next was Franciska with a French carol and the old classic Aussie bush song My Old Black Billy which encouraged the audience to join in.



Mike Hassett did Ted Egan's Sayonara Nakamura, about a Japanese pearl diver up north who lost his life when a quick retreat from a sudden storm resulted in him dying on the deck from the bends. Woody Guthrie's song Vigilante Man is about the poor fruit pickers cajoled into moving to California during the Depression. When they got there they were poorly paid and treated badly.



Bette Martin has her own writers' group which meets regularly to express themselves in words. My Hat was a fun bit of verse, and then the story of the cook trying to cope with the varying dietary needs of the family coming for Christmas dinner.



(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

SPOT ACTS (continued)

Continuing the Christmas theme, Maggie Somerville accompanied herself on guitar with Aussie Christmas Day, then her song from Henry Lawson's poem, The Lily and the Bee.



Robyn led Pleasant And Delightful with a fine rendition of Eric Bogle's lovely The Old Dog's Song, about the value of singing in getting through the day. In a similar vein the Carter Family's bubbly song Keep On The Sunny Side Of Life, complete with Carter Family authenticity with Ken playing his autoharp.

Cora Brown slipped a quick Spencil Hill into the busy programme of Spot Acts.



Thanks to all who stepped up and made such an interesting start to the night. Lots of variety and some good talent.

MAIN ACT:

Main Act Sarah and Silas were originally booked for June but a last minute visit by Captain Covid postponed it. Anyway we got them this night and what a treat it was—certainly one of the most polished acts we have ever had. Brilliant musicians, excellent communicators, and talented writers and presenters of essentially their own stuff. They are a fun and lively act and have great connection to the audience. A duo this night but on other occasions they are one half of The Royal High Jinx band, an equally talented and vibrant group, more in the gypsy cabaret style.

Sarah was striking in her bright red dress, impeccably made up and engaging as she bounces around like a brightly coloured butterfly at the height of spring, singing or fiddling faultlessly. They have an excellent understanding of the visual aspect of an act. Silas is a little more anchored around a drum kit which along with excellent ukulele playing, and well placed repartee, completes the act.

(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REPORT (continued):-

They opened with, of all things, a farewell, the lovely Ashokan Farewell as a fiddle duo before launching into a lively reel, showing in an instance their brilliance as musicians. Silas somehow manages to play both drum and cymbals and fiddle or uke simultaneously. Sarah was very animated and engaging on Ooo La La La, a sweet jazz song, then a trip down memory lane to the Coburg drive-in theatre, which like most of their tunes has strong elements of virtuoso jazz.

Even on their own songs about the Covid lockdown or Growing Food Is Hard, jazzy riffs and breaks backed by audience participation show their musical skills. Gold Standard was led by Silas's use of uke chords. Mum And Dad In Love, Rock Me Mama, a trip through Alice Springs, or a set of reels all have an energy and driving rhythm interspersed with superb fiddle riffs and uke backing. What an act!



The February Concert will be a beauty too. Enda Kenny will be the Main Act and we have our friends from the Newport Bush Orchestra coming over as a Support Act. Get there early; it will be a busy night for sure.

Thanks to all who chipped in and made this last concert for 2024 such a great night.

Review by Don Fraser; Photos by Trevor Voake



THE DANCE PAGE

Diary dates for February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28th January	29th	30th	31st	1st February Scottish	2nd English (Surrey Hills)	3rd VFMC Dance Blackberry Jam
4th TSDAV Contra	5th Scottish	6th English (Bennetswood)	7th Irish	8th	9th	10th
11th Claddagh	12th Scottish	13th	14th Irish	15th	16th English (Surrey Hills)	17th Bendigo East Hop
18th Welsh	19th Scottish	20th English (Bennetswood)	21st Irish	22nd	23rd	24th
25th Claddagh	26th Scottish	27th	28th Irish	29th	1st March English (Surrey Hills)	2nd VFMC Dance The Brumbies

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

VFMC Family Bush dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall Laurence Grove, East Ringwood 7:30-10:30 pm [Note new time!] 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 Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills 2-4.30pm. Contact Ian 9878 2414.

Contra Sunday Beckett Hall, 72 Highfield Rd. Canterbury info: 0422-932532

Scottish Monday and Saturday Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene 8pm

Contact Deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com

Scottish Thursday Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thomton Road

7-9pm Contact Di Gaylard 5963 3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au.

Bendigo East Hop Holy Trinity Church Hall Keck St. Flora Hill 8pm inquiries 5442 1153



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y

Family Bush Dance

Saturday, 3rd February 2024

(and the first Saturday of every month except January)

7:30 -10.30pm - 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-feb2024-dance>

Phone:

Bill 0417 300 682

Email:

dance@vfmc.org.au

Website:

www.vfmc.org.au



Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y

Family Bush Dance

Saturday, 2nd March 2024

(and the first Saturday of every month except January)

7:30-10:30 pm - light supper included (alcohol-free)

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-mar2024-dance>

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

NARIEL CREEK FOLK FESTIVAL

We left late on Wednesday 27th December but had a good run as roads light on traffic. Stopped en route at Lake Nillahcootie for lunch and a change of drivers. I drove to after Wodonga and then Stephen took over for the last 100ks. Due to leaving we arrived late and missed Ray Mundy's birthday party. However, after unloading, we ate a quick meal (thank goodness for left overs), changed and headed off for the first dance of the festival.

The first dance is always held in Cudgewa Hall and this year it has air conditioning and boy was it needed! Slowly the dancers out numbered the band (18 musicians on the stage) and it was a great evening. Half way through the evening it was time for one of those celebrated country suppers, scones with jam and cream, sandwiches and biscuits, with a bottomless pot of tea or coffee. Jenny Simpson was calling and at last (flagging after travelling) the last dance was called and we all got that last bit of energy and then we were off in our car back to the caravan park at Colac Colac.



I had organized with Fran to play recorders in the morning with her and so my mornings were pleasantly occupied playing tunes that took our fancy. Weather was beautiful, needed a hat, we sat outside Fran and Bernie's tent city and in the Shade of the trees played our recorders. I have a new recorder a Treble and so I was giving it a go. Stephen was watching the cricket in our unit quite happily whilst I was playing recorders.

The afternoons were spent relaxing with our eyes partly closed and our books resting on our chests before waking up in time for Happy Hour!

This year they had an Irish Ceili dance instead of a contra which was different. Matt Harriage and Kirsty Greenwood did a great job of calling the dances and the band was the Melbourne Irish Ceili band.



(continued over...)

NARIEL FOLK FESTIVAL (continued):

New Year's Eve was brilliant, the weather was dry and due to being in the country the night was pure black. Lots of people especially the children wore fluorescent necklaces and bracelets. The green was packed and it was fabulous calling to such a huge crowd all out to have fun. At midnight the band stopped playing and we went around hugging everyone before going back to the cabin to make mulled wine. A bit of a tradition this mulled wine and over the years, it has improved so it is nice to have 2 cups! All the folkies in the caravan park came with a mug and we talked about the old year and speculated on what surprises will be in store for us in this brand new year.



New Year's Day and the caravan folkies got together for a brunch and a joke session. Thank goodness for the people who can remember the simplest jokes as I can't or I say the punch line first in my hurry to remember it right! After that we all went down to the green for the big New Year's Day concert. There was a girl this year who had a fabulous voice, she was on twice, the second time just before the dance in the evening. We had Happy Hour down by the creek at John and Trish's cabin nibbling, drinking and playing tunes. The New Year's day evening dance is always at the green and this night is for the dedicated dancers. A great night to try out new dances.

The 2nd of January and the last day of the festival. People starting to leave today so it was a bit sad as we wished friends a safe drive home. Happy though as well as we were not leaving until the 3rd so had another dance! The last dance was back at Cudgewa Hall with the air conditioning! I won the raffle, the first time ever – I won a big box of fruit and vegetables from the local veggie man. Huge value and big on variety for just the price of 3 tickets, a fiver! What a way to end the festival!!

We packed up the next morning and said goodbye to all our folkie friends until next time we meet and set out on the long journey home, stopping at Lake Nillahcootie for lunch and a change of drivers.

Report by Jane Bullock ; Photos by Carmel Shannon

UKULELE— QUIZ

1) What is a ukulele commonly called? 2) Where did it originate? 3) Where was it popularized? 4) How many sizes do ukuleles come in? 5) How do we usually tune a ukulele (words)? 6) What notes are those 4 words on a uke?

Answers to last quiz:- 1) A variety of genres of music played near Christmas 2) Can be both 3) Secular & kids' songs 4) Traditional/religious 5) The Great Depression 6) Silent Night, The First Nowell, Away in a Manger.

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—JANUARY 2024

Dec 2nd The clubs annual family Christmas dance. We had 10 musicians on stage & it was a very enjoyable evening with a good turn-up for the final dance of 2023

Dec 9th Knox Historical Society at Ambleside residence. The band had practised long & hard for this gig given that we were playing for 3 hours. We had put together a program of Christmas carols, including a number of Australian carols plus a few dance pieces. Unfortunately for us and the organisers the weather was atrocious. We were supposed to be playing outdoors so they provided a marquee but this didn't stop the water from flowing across the ground. Bill & I had come prepared with a number of tarps & I had brought a table to put the sound equipment on however it was a very trying experience. The visitor turn-up was so small that the organisers decided to call everything off as soon as Santa visited. We didn't object. On a side note the following Sunday I was working at a community market & one of the stall holders there had been a stall holder at Ambleside. They said how much they had enjoyed the music.

Dec 15th - Forest Hill Chase – a Christmas concert to finish off the year. As usual we had a good audience who loved to join in on all the well known carols. We used a lot of the carols from Ambleside to make it easier for us. Many thanks to: Steve, Maree, Bill, Katy, Beth, Mary, Selina, Carol, Michael, Stewart, Rob, TonyO, Bryce, Franciska, Margie, & Trevor for making the gigs a success.

UPCOMING GIGS 2023/24:

Friday 9th February – Forest Hill Chase

National Folk Festival, Easter – unfortunately we didn't get a concert gig but we did get the Farewell Dance. In the latest NFF Newsletter this dance is listed as a tribute to Shirley Andrews

National Celtic Festival – June long weekend. The applications for this don't close until the end of January so we don't know if we've been accepted.

*Trevor Voake,
Billabong Band Coordinator*

Ukelear Power: a new ukulele group in Preston

If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning ukulele, improving your uke playing, or just having fun playing uke with others — here is your chance.

Bruce Watson will be running at least two weekly groups from February 2024: one for beginners and one for players with more experience. The focus will be on having fun, but Bruce will be sneakily teaching as well.

Bruce will be encouraging people to stay around after each session if they can for coffee and a chat, and maybe even a bit of extra tuition.

Times are to be confirmed, and will be organised to suit the maximum number of people.

Bruce is well-known to VFMC members, and has lead ukulele groups for many years. He has run classes for all levels in neighbourhood houses and community centres, and uke workshops at many music festivals and camps. He gets instant results with complete beginners, and can bring new knowledge, skills and confidence to those with some experience. As an experienced musician and teacher he knows how to adapt to the skills and interests of participants, and to encourage, enable and stretch them. It's empowering, it's inspiring — and above all, it's fun!

For more on Bruce as a ukulele leader, check out this one-pager:

www.brucewatsonmusic.com/documents/brucewatson_ukulele_teacher.pdf

and this short video: <https://youtu.be/BTidlTYqmGY>

To be part of the fun, and for more details, email Bruce at brucewatsonmusic@gmail.com or via his website: www.brucewatsonmusic.com/contact.html



The Mouth of Stockyard Creek

We started at the Landing when the tide was very low.
The mud was thick and greasy, and put on a grisly show.
A million small crustaceans fled before us, scared and meek.
There are crabs along the mudbanks at the mouth of Stockyard Creek.

Plant roots towered above us, reaching up towards the sky;
Abandoned by the falling tide, they now stood high and dry.
Knowing they'd be flooded soon, we treasured this short peek.
There are mangroves, lush and glossy, at the mouth of Stockyard Creek.

We ventured to the inlet, but our course was far from clear.
Port or starboard, east or westward, which way should we steer?
We rested, and decided further travels not to seek.
(There are ibis on the mudflats round the mouth of Stockyard Creek.)

We turned for home, then glimpsed a shadow hovering above.
A further view of fauna is a prospect we both love,
But this was not the time to smile, and turn the other cheek.
There are eagles in the heavens at the mouth of Stockyard Creek!

Our thoughts then turned to days long past, the fevered search for gold;
The early days of Foster, pioneers poor but bold.
Some might strike a fortune, most the barest living eke.
There are ghosts of old prospectors at the mouth of Stockyard Creek.

There are crabs and there are mangroves, there are ibis on the mud.
There are eagles, ghosts and eels (who will greet you with a thud!),
And sometimes, very briefly (on such trips of which I speak),
There's a yellow double kayak at the mouth of Stockyard Creek.

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 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: