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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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ENDA KENNY AT FEBRUARY CONCERT



Photo by Trevor Voake

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 APRIL NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 15TH MARCHS 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 at 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
31st					1st March	2nd Family Bush Dance
3rd	4th	5th Club Session	6th	7th	8th	9th
10th	11th	12th Concert Night Guest artist/s	13th	14th	15th	16th
17th	18th	19th Club Session	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
24th	25th	26th Club Session Round robin All-in	27th	28th	29th	30th



Victorian Folk Music Club at Ringwood

Tidal Moon

Beautiful traditional, original and contemporary music
with Barbara Jeffrey and Jose Garcia



Tuesday 12th March

Ringwood Uniting Church Hall, Station St.

7.45 - 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-march2024-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 9th April - The Dinkum Bohos / Linn Phipps

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—FEBRUARY 2024

This Concert was an unfortunate postponement of that planned for the previous week, re-scheduled suddenly due to the severe storms then. Dark clouds and heavy rain again almost heralded a repeat but thankfully it passed. Sincere apologies to all who were so inconvenienced first time, Anyway, a very full hall on this night.



After the welcome MC Mike Hassett introduced an ensemble of Club members who did a touching tribute in



memory of our late and much missed member, Ruth Arkley. Bette Martin acknowledged Ruth's talent as a poet by reading one of her pieces, Melbourne - Hip Town. The group then played a piece introduced to audiences by Ruth in the past, an exercise by Matteo Carcassi. She was a fine player of the classical guitar too.



Julia, Rob and Daniel started with a lovely song in Scotts Gaelic accompanied by Julia's guitar, Daniel on recorder and Rob's bass uke. This was followed by a medley of songs in Gaelic led by Daniel. Thanks, trio - nice songs.

Peter Read has played at Concerts in the past, and sang I've Never Been A Cowboy and Life's A Circle, a blues-based song.



Maggie Somerville sang two songs from her new album, both inspired by her late son, and accompanied by Maree on harp. Julian's Lullaby was a nice reflection of him when a baby.

Brian Ellis is a fine writer, singer and guitarist. Across The Great Divide reminds him of where he grew up. Then a song by friend John Thompson, The Green Man, referring I think to one of those mystical folk spirits to do with seasonal changes. Anyway thanks Brian, long live the Green Man.



Marilla Homes is visiting from the UK and has a lovely voice. She sang an Alistair Hewlett song about a partner who 'fades away' from the effects of asbestosis. Next a song by a friend about knitting, apparently a common pastime in times past such as when sitting by the guillotine at the French Revolution. If it was today no doubt we'd all be tactlessly fiddling with our mobiles.



(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (continued)



MAIN ACT:

Enda Kenny did a splendid job (as usual), and we thank him most sincerely for having another crack at it after the previous week. The Dawning—about the series of disasters over the last few years - drought, the fires at Nariel, the lockdowns after Covid etc. The opening track from his new album when work as an entertainer dried up with all the lockdowns. A song about first responders at emergencies was a salute to emergency services, appropriate as his next gig after last week was at Ararat which was likewise badly affected by bushfires.

Catch Me A Cloud is about a request from a young boy to an airline steward for a bit of a passing cloud. A quirky clever song. And another about the trials and tribulations of finding the exit from IKEA in Richmond.

A trip around Hamburg Harbour and seeing the Evergreen inspired I Did It Sideways, describing when that ship ‘turned around and ran aground in the Suez Canal by going sideways’.

Bello Brave Baristas is a shanty about the cafe lifestyle in the town of Bellingen, where ageing surfies have morphed into ageing baristas. Pete Morton wrote The Two Brothers, ‘I don’t care who started it’, typical of arguments expected from two brothers.

The Cheesecake Song is a fun song, and Heart Tattoo has some nice sentiments of love.

A blues song he composed: St Patrick’s Day Blues. Visitors is about a jam with Canadian singer, Scott Cook. We had him a few years ago, remember?

A song about the women in a fishing village in Norway which left a fine impression. Enda dedicated his last song to Ruth. Wow, what a great night!

Thank you Spot Acts, you were great. And all who helped make it happen.

NEXT MONTH: Tidal Moon (Barbara Jeffrey and Jose Garcia) so we hope to see you then.





THE DANCE PAGE

Diary dates for March

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

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

Melbourne Colonial Dancers (MCD) - Wednesdays at Deepdene Uniting Church Hall, rear 958 Burke Road, Deepdene. Contact Denise Hibbs 0493 219 385.

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

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 Thornton 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, 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

Ringwood Family Dance February 2024

We kicked off 2024 with our first Ringwood Family Dance on February 3rd, with Blackberry Jam providing the music. Blackberry Jam are about to head off on a round Australia tour, and we wish them well on their journey. Jenny Simpson did a wonderful job explaining and calling the dances, and created a happy atmosphere for our guests. We had a pretty good turnout, with quite a few new dancers, particularly several from the younger generations. Please join us for the next dance on March 2nd, with The Brumbies Bush Band - why not bring a few friends? Don't forget that we are starting (and finishing) half an hour earlier this year (7:30-10:30pm).

Report and photos by Bill Buttler

(Dance Convenor)



WORLD CONCERTINA DAY

World Concertina Day (WCD) was celebrated on 6th February. This is to commemorate Sir Charles Wheatstone, the inventor of the English Concertina, birthday in 1802.

The first ever World Concertina Day was held on 6th February 2022 - the 220th anniversary of his birthday.

To help celebrate this, members of the VFMC contributed to a 13 minute Youtube clip showcasing the concertina.

This was organized by Concertina Convergence, based in New South Wales.

It can be googled at Concertina Australia Youtube. under the heading (World Concertina Day in Australia 2024)

There you will see Katy and Bryce playing "Spootiskerry and Willafford" and Don, Ken and Regina playing a beautiful rendition of "Boate Man".

There were six other contributions from around Australia.

It was great to see the younger generation taking up the concertina and participating in this event.

- *by Katy Cottrill*



A HISTORIC DANCE AT KIANDRA, 1959-60

From a publication "Historic Kiandra " regarding the goldrush there in 1859-60. Page 33, entitled: "Dance Room Empire Hotel"
18th September - A dance room opened this evening at the Empire Hotel, Carmichael's. A first class-band was engaged, and as soon as the music struck up I could not resist the temptation, so went over. In a room 14ft x 20ft I found some forty or fifty diggers standing about, smoking, chatting and a few dancing. There were only three dance girls, and those who were fortunate enough to secure one as a partner must have found it hard work dancing on a floor fully an inch thick in mud. Just fancy fifty diggers coming into a room with their muddy boots and walking about; what a nice state the floor would be in for dancing. It struck me as a queer sight to see hairy-faced men in pea jackets, and long boots with pipes in their mouths, dancing together. The dance room was a great attraction, after every dance the landlord expected each girl to entice her partner to the bar to pay for a drink for himself, his partner, and oft-times a friend or two; so you see that sort of enjoyment, with nobblers at a shilling each, costs something, and is a great source of revenue to the landlord. At first there were growls innumerable. There being so few girls, it was impossible for all those who wished to dance to get a partner; however, those who were not fortunate enough to get a lady partner had to take a 'hair-faced gentleman' or not dance at all.

Sent by Ray Mundy



- a birds-eye view of a typical Tuesday session night in Ringwood

Photo by Bill Buttler

**Tuesday, March 12, time TBC (6:45 ish)
Thornbury Picture House, house prices.**

Tickets on sale Feb 27.

Richard Lowenstein documentaries

Guest programmed by **Digby Houghton**

Evictions (1980) and ***Don't Be Too Polite Girls***(2023)

Intro and Q&A with Richard Lowenstein, by Digby Houghton

[http://www.pureshitauscinema.com/
unknown_pleasures.html#35](http://www.pureshitauscinema.com/unknown_pleasures.html#35)

EVICTIONS is a documentary/drama on police-enforced evictions in Melbourne during the 1930's depression and the tactics the organised unemployed used at the time to combat the situation. Based on the memories of Noel Counihan and Tom Hills and adapted from the book 'Weevils in the flour' by Wendy Lowenstein, the film combines interviews with period reconstruction. *Erwin Rado Award for Best Australian Short Fiction, Melbourne Film Festival, 1980*

DON'T BE TOO POLITE GIRLS

A feature documentary about the origins of Australia's Folk & Oral History movement as seen through the prismatic eyes of two remarkable women, oral historian Wendy Lowenstein and dance historian & pioneering Indigenous Rights 1967 Referendum Activist, Shirley Andrews.

Winner of the Victorian Community History Award for ORAL HISTORY (2023) and the N.L.A.'s National Folk Fellowship (2023)

Martie Lowenstein . Mobile 0415320295

Europa on Alma, Alma Rd. St Kilda

Community Singing Leader /Historian / Occ. Therapist

AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC REVIVAL — QUIZ

1) When was the American Folk Music Revival? 2) Who were some of the musicians in it? 3) What famous band had the hit, Good Night Irene? 4) Who wrote So Long, It's Been Good to Know You? 5) Why did The Weavers' career end abruptly? 6) What famous trio did The Weavers inspire and what was their first big hit in 1958?

Answers to last quiz:- 1) A variety of genres of music performed at Christmas time 2) Both 3) The secular songs 4) Traditional religious 5) The Great Depression 6) Silent Night, Away in a Manger, The First Nowell.

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—FEBRUARY 2024

Just a short report this month.

We have only played one gig so far this year and that was at Forest Hill Chase community room. As always this was an enjoyable gig even though our audience was a bit sparse to start with. By the end of the concert we had almost a full house with everybody joining in on our community songs. Beth sang the Happy Wanderer & Franciska finished by repeating the first verse in German - that was very well received. Rob finished off the concert with Goodnight Irene and had everyone joining in on the chorus.

Thanks to Margie, Maree, Mary, Beth, Franciska, Rob, Michael & Trevor

UPCOMING GIGS:

We have three upcoming gigs & we have been putting all our effort into these:

Melbourne Celtic & Highland Games - Sunday March 24th - Croydon

National Folk Festival - Easter

2 spots at the NFF. One will be running a session in the session bar & the second is playing at the farewell dance late on the Monday afternoon.

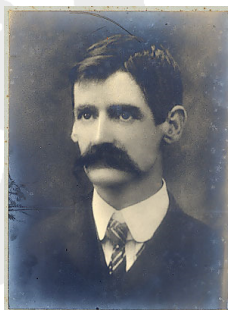
Trevor Voake - Billabong Band coordinator

The following poem by Stephen Whiteside was published in a recent anthology by the Henry Lawson Society entitled 'Beyond Lawson'.

HENRY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Henry, can you hear me? It has been a hundred years
Since your brave heart beat its final beat, and moved the mob to tears.
My father told your stories to me, back when I was young.
And I listened to your writings, and I hearkened to your tongue.
You weren't as bright as Banjo, but your lodestone ran down deep.
And I knew that close against my heart, your stories long I'd keep.
Though I rode along with Clancy, I was sure, for all my life
I'd not forget 'The Loaded Dog' - no less, 'The Drover's Wife.'

Henry, can you hear me? Far down here on Earth below,
The frailties you know so well, alas, are all on show.
The rich are all still far too rich, the poor are far too poor,
And they scabble daily for their basic needs. You know the score.
You had a mighty vision that beneath the Southern Cross
A righteous land would rise reversing grief and pain and loss.
Your grand dream for Australia is very nearly dead.
We beat the drums of war beneath the Stars and Stripes instead.



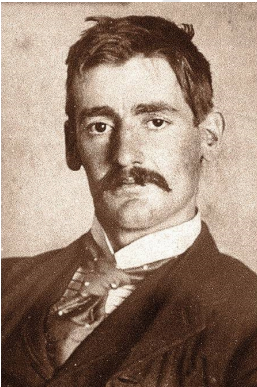
(continued over...)

HENRY, CAN YOU HEAR ME? (continued)

Henry, can you hear me? When your life at last was through,
Did God and Satan fight for you, and rip your soul in two?
Did Satan claim your spirit brain, and God your spirit heart?
Was it simply preordained that you would suffer for your Art?
The voice behind your stories and your poems still is clear,
But I have to say it sounds a little fainter every year.
There are still a few who hear you but they, too, are growing old,
And I worry that in times to come, your tales will not be told.

Henry, I can hear you, if you cannot quite hear me,
And I love to hear your visions of a country young and free,
And I love to read your stories from a very distant past,
And I love to read your poems of a country dry and vast,
And I swear to God and Satan that your spirit will not die
While still there's voice inside my throat, and vision in my eye,
And I'll pray the time might come when none need suffer for their Art,
For an everlasting unity of spirit brain and heart.

© *Stephen Whiteside 12.12.2021*



(photo and portrait both off the internet on public domain)

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.....