

Australian

June 2024

TRADITION

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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THE WOOLSHED BALL 31st MAY 2024



Photo by Bill Buttler

(Also see more photos p.13)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEERING: 16th June at 2.30 pm. TUESDAY SESSIONS have relocated from 30th April to Ringwood East Senior Citizen's Hall, Laurence Grove, 7.30-9.15 pm. (Concerts at Ringwood Uniting Church.)

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JULY NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 22ND JUNE TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

WHAT'S ON AT VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB

<u>Session nights</u>: The Club meets **each Tuesday** evening (except for the next Concert Night) at **Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall, Laurence Grove**. Sessions run from 7.30 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.

<u>Concerts</u>: 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.

<u>Dance Events</u>: 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.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30th			1			1st June Family Bush Dance
2nd	3rd	4th Club session Round robin	5th	6th	7th	8th
9th	10th	11th Concert Night Guest artist/s	12th	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th	18th Club Session Round robin	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th	25th Club Session All in	26th	27th	28th	29th



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—MAY 2024

Our host and MC for the evening was Don Fraser.

SPOT ACTS:

Newly formed trio, Trev on bodhran (Irish drum) and mandolin, Margie on vocals and Dominic on guitar and vocals, performed a lovely version of the *Little Drummer Boy*. Then the audience sang along as they performed *Amazing Grace*. And again with their third choice, the 1950's anti-war song by Ed McCurdy: *The Strangest Dream*.





Peter Read, a popular regular performer sang his own song written in the style of an old English folk song about a pair of young lovers, *Looking for the Silver Lining*. Then we heard about a lost pet chicken and its desperate owner's efforts to find it.

Brian Elwood accompanied himself on guitar and sang a beautiful folk song by Graeme Miles inspired by his frequent visits to the Lake District: *Where Ravens Feed*. Brian then sang a lovely unaccompanied old whaling song c1864 regarding a ship from the Nantucket area named The Three Brothers. *Row On!* Whaling was a dangerous profession and the song encourages the men to keep going for there is another dawn beyond the night.





Marie played the harp to accompany Franciska who sang the beautiful song: *In Flanders Fields*. This is a poem written in Flanders during World War One by Canadian John McCrae. She followed with a quick ditty by Pete Seeger about the death of John Doe.

Rob Fairbairn and Kevin O'Mara opened with a rousing song: Let's have a Party Here Tonight! All about starting a celebration and lighting up a barbie. Then a very humorous song about the way is seems that obscenities seem to be running amok these days in all aspects of life. Bells, whistles, kazoos etc... used to censor the lyrics of a song.



CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Rudy played guitar and also harmonica as he performed a very moving song by Paul Kelly, *I Close My Eyes and Think of You*. Then Rudy invited the audience to clap in time as he sang the old favourite song, *Wild Rover*.





Popular performer Bruce Watson sang a selfpenned song about the day he attended sheep dog trials out in the Wando Vale in the Western District, the chorus complete with shouted instructions!! Then the versatile singersongwriter proceeded to waltz around the hall as he sang a song he'd written about Saturday night bush dances.

MAIN ACT: MAGGIE SOMERVILLE

Over the past years, Maggie has had extensive experience in the folk music world. An accomplished musician and singer, she has played in bands and composed music for amateur theatre. Many of her tunes and music have won awards at various folk festivals. Her material is often based on her own and others' experiences with a focus on Australian themes.

Her latest two CD's offer the works of two renowned Australian poets set in musical scenarios composed and arranged by Maggie. Henry Lawson (1867-1922) famed writer of prose and poetry wrote about the Australian way of life in a realistic and pragmatic way, while John Shaw Nielson (1872-1942) wrote in a more whimsical and mystical manner.

A small orchestra of talented musicians and singers occupied a corner of the hall behind the main artist. A violin, cello, mandolin, flute, keyboard, ukulele, harp, piano accordion, snare drum, harmonica and even a glockenspiel contributed to the beautiful presentation of the various tunes composed by Maggie.



CONCERT NIGHT (continued):

The title poem from the Neilson CD is *The Walking of the Moon Woman* written later in the poet's career describing his thoughts as he walked through a barley field at dusk. Next, Lawson's *Cinderella* draws a thoughtful comparison between the fairytales of old compared to the reality of the marriage prospects of the (then) modern day servant girls. Neilson personifies love as a male in his poem, *Love's Coming*. Lawson's *He's Gone to England for a Wife* tells of the habit in the old days of newly wealthy men abandoning Australian-born partners to find a more socially suitable spouse back in the mother country, England.

Two lighthearted pieces followed: *My Cow in Switzerland*, complete with cow bell, and *The Lily and the Bee* where the audience sang the chorus. Then *When are the Angels Nearest* by Nielson was followed by a cute poem written for Lawson's daughter, *When Bertha comes to Tea*.

The audience joined in singing Waltzing Matilda as an introduction to Lawson's World War One poem, *The Route March*, which speaks of the orphans left after the war when the fathers did not return. Nielson's poem, *When Kisses are as Strawberries*, is a fanciful look at young love. The final two songs of the evening related to two different Australian trees: *The Stringybark Tree* by Lawson and young love *Under the Kurrajong* by Nielson with the audience joining in the final verse.

Thanks go to Maggie for a great evening of Australian poetry and song. Also to her wonderful musical support group including: Dave, Catherine, Jenny, David, Maree, Trevor, Bill, AJ, Jill, Bruce and Stephen.



— Maggie & friends with original paintings for the two albums: 'The Walking of the Moon-Woman' and 'Cinderella'

Also, a big thanks to all of the volunteers who work quietly in the background to make these concerts such a great success.

Next month: The folk duo: Parkville.

Australian Tradition

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June 2024



THE DANCE PAGE

Diary dates for June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26th May Claddagh	27th Scottish	28th English (Bennetswood)	29th Irish MCD	30th Scottish	31st	1st June VFMC Dance Contradition
2nd TSDAV Contra	3rd Scottish	4th	5th Irish MCD	6th	7th English (Surrey Hills)	8th
9th Claddagh	10th Scottish	11th English (Bennetswood)	12th Irish MCD	13th	14th	15th Bendigo East Hop
16th Weish	17th Scottish	18th	19th Irish MCD	20th	21st English (Surrey Hills)	22nd
23rd Claddagh	24th Scottish	25th English (Bennetswood)	26th Irish MCD	27th	28th	29th
30th	1st July Scottish	2nd	3rd Irish	4th Scottish	5th English (Surrey Hills)	6th VFMC Dance Delia's Friends

VFMC Family Bush dance at East Ringwood Elderly Citizens Hall Laurence Grove, East Ringwood 7:30-10:30 pm 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@bjgpond.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, 1st June 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:

Contradition



Entry: \$10 members, \$12 non-members, Kids free.

Tickets available at the door or online at: https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-jun2024-dance

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

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The VFMC's 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Lawrence Grove, Ringwood East on Sunday, 16th June, commencing at 2.30pm.

A formal Notice of this Meeting has now been sent to all Club members.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

If you have not yet renewed your VFMC membership, which was due at the end of March this year, you will unfortunately be unable to vote at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on Sunday 16th June or stand for any positions in the Club. So if you have not already done so:

PLEASE RENEW YOUR V.F.M.C. MEMBERSHIP NOW!

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Duet concertina manufactured by Lachenal & Co, Patent Concertina Manufacturers, London circa 1920's, serial number 4/940. Has 30 treble steel buttons (5 rows of 6) and 25 bass steel buttons (5 rows of 5). Whilst it appears to be in reasonable condition, it may require some restoration work and, as it is pre 1938, it is possibly not tuned to concert pitch.

If any member is interested in acquiring this instrument, please contact Colin on 0411 561 502.



DO YOU SING ANY BOGLE?

Well, no doubt you have heard the lamentable word From the iconic folk singing mogul; The hirsute ex-Scot with a bit of a pot – I speak of the great Eric Bogle –

How he tired of the shout as he travelled about, Always eager and active and willin'; Writin' great songs for to right the world's wrongs: "That's nice. Can you sing any Dylan?"

CHORUS

He sang, "No, no, a thousand times no, I'd rather see all my blood spillin'." He'd sing anything, even 'God Save the King', But he just wouldn't sing any Dylan.

This went on for years and it ended in tears Till he thought of himself as a failure, And he said he would go where all failures go And he boarded a ship for Australia.

Weil, I'll pick up my pace and I'll cut to the chase For he now is a legend, a hero, And the number of times that these horrible crimes Are committed is right down to zero.

CHORUS

But only last week, I heard people speak Of a great concert most atmospheric Given by Bob, where he got this great lob, "Hey mate, do you sing any Eric?"

(continued over...)

DO YOU SING ANY BOGLE? (continued):

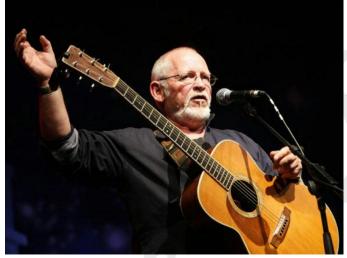
Well, he missed not a beat. He proceeded to bleat These phrases we've all heard so often, And my thoughts most unkind all commenced to unwind, While my attitude started to soften.

When I was a young man I carried a swag, And I lived the free life of a rover From the Murray's green shore to the dusty outback I waltzed my Matilda all over.

Oh, Eric and Bob, they can both make hearts throb, And both is a bit of a rogue. And Bob will sing Eric with phrasin' hysteric, And Eric sings Dylan in brogue.

But that's not the end. There's a new tragic trend I have heard that is in the wind blowin'. Though Bogle's so big, he is asked at each gig, "Hey mate, can you sing Leonard Cohen?"

© Stephen Whiteside 09.10.2019



— Eric Bogle (public domain: internet)

A GREAT INNER-SUBURBAN FOLK MUSIC VENUE

For anyone who does or does not live in the Ringwood area and/or who perhaps lives nearer to the city, you may be interested in visiting this folk venue:

THE LOMOND HOTEL

225 Nicholson Street (corner of Blyth Street & Nicholson Street)

East Brunswick. Vic. 3057

Phone: 9380-1752



<u>REGULAR SESSIONS</u>: It has long been the venue for various folk bands and folk musicians, and has recently started to attract some VFMC members to its <u>2nd Monday of the month evening sessions</u>—including Maggie Somerville (who lives very locally) and Dominic & Bette Martin (who live far away but think it's worthwhile to make the effort). A lovely relaxed session with everyone able to participate if they wish in a round robin setting or else just simply enjoy listening!

<u>WEDNESDAY EVENING CONCERTS</u>: Last week Bruce Watson performed for an hour with his brand new **BRUCE WATSON TRIO** on Wednesday evening 22nd May—a brilliant hour of entertainment, with Bruce now accompanied by two excellent musicians on violin and cello.

Next month **ENDA KENNY** will be performing there on Wednesday evening 5th June before heading off on a U.K. musical tour. (Enda is also performing on 31st May at the Northern Arms Hotel in Castlemaine and on 7th June at the Selby Folk Club.)

LOMOND ACOUSTICA (in the Lomond Hotel) is definitely worth checking out!

- by Maggie Somerville

OUR ANNUAL WOOLSHED BALL (2024)—PHOTOS







Photos by Bill Buttler







JOHN SHAW NEILSON—QUIZ

- 1) Who was John Shaw Neilson? 2) When was his birth and death? 3) What was his main source of income? 4) Name one of his most famous poems.
- 5) What happened to his poems in Chinkapook? 6) Name 3 people who have set his poems to music.

Answers to last quiz:- 1) A free reed wind instrument 2) Mouth organ, French harp, mouth harp 3) Blues, folk, classical, jazz, country, rock 4) Diatonic, chromatic, tremolo 5) Diatonic or blues harp 6) Bob Dylan 7) Bill B., Rudy, Michael.

BILLABONG BAND REPORT—MAY 2024

Practices for the May Woolshed ball went well. Bill also used these practices to update our club dance sets & come up with a definitive version of each set available from our website.

Saturday 25th May: **The Woolshed Ball** was a great success, with over 50 attendees, mostly in their best ballroom attire (see photos). It was at a new venue: the Box Hill Community Arts Centre. Such a shame that we had to comply with council regulations and stop playing/dancing at 10.30 pm though! Just enough time to sing Auld Lang Syne after a wonderful evening of music, dancing and a yummy supper.

UPCOMING GIGS:

At this stage we have only booked Heritage Day at Gulf Station for 25th October.

I sent out a general e-mail to the people who normally play at different functions. I've had such an overwhelming response that I've split the players into an AM, PM & a PM band. The organiser is thrilled to get such a response from the club.

Trevor Voake (Convenor)

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES CHECK IF ON

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680 buzza@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 Trimnell, 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

Therese 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. Maree: 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:

Iw Folk Music Club Inc. and will	ish to become a member of the V	ictorian		
(a) Support the aims of the Victorian Fol (b) Abide by the rules of the Victorian F (For details see: - http://www.vfmc.org.au/Cons	olk Music Club Inc.			
Signed	par)			
I wish to receive my Newsletter by:	Membership Type (please circle)			
(a) Email or/and	Metro Single	\$25		
(b) Post	Family*	\$30		
(Cross out whichever is not applicable)	Junior (u 18)	\$15		
(Cross out whichever is not applicable)	Student (full time)	\$20		
Please post completed form to:	Single Concession	\$20		
The Secretary	Family Concession*	\$25		
VFMC	Country Single	\$20		
PO Box 215	Family*	\$25		
Ringwood East 3135 Victoria	*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18			
Name:				
Address				
EmailPhone/s				