

Established 1959

Australian

July 2024



# TRADITION

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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### JUNE CONCERT Ellen Hundley and Bill Desailly



*Photo by Trevor Voake*

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL OUR CONCERT NIGHTS (7.45—10 PM) AND TUESDAY SESSIONS (7.30—9.15 PM) have now relocated to Ringwood East Senior Citizen's Hall, Laurence Grove, East Ringwood. Parking available.**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER BY: FRIDAY 19TH JULY TO: [EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU](mailto:EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU)**

## WHAT'S ON AT VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB

**Session nights:** The Club meets **each Tuesday** evening 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.

**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](http://www.vfmc.org.au) for further information about sessions, concerts and dances.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1st July</b>	<b>2nd</b> Club session Round robin	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th</b> Family Bush Dance
<b>7th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</b> Concert Night Guest artist/s	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>13th</b>
<b>14th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>16th</b> Club session Round robin	<b>17th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>20th</b>
<b>21st</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>23rd</b> Club Session All in	<b>24th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>27th</b>
<b>28th</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>30th</b> Club Session Themed	<b>31st</b>			

# Victorian Folk Music Club

at Ringwood

# Dominic Martin

with Support Act Kira Janowsky

# Tuesday 9th July

**NOTE: new venue:**

Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove.  
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-july2024-concert>

Spot acts please PRE-BOOK at [concerts@vfmc.org.au](mailto:concerts@vfmc.org.au)

[www.vfmc.org.au](http://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 August - Green Fields**  
with Support act Ed Robbins



## CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—JUNE 2024

Our MC for the evening was the club President, Michael Hassett. **SPOT ACTS:** **Peter Kernebone** playing guitar, started off the proceedings with three Australian themed songs. The first was about the Moree area and told of dreams to re-establish the aboriginal camp on the fringes of the township. Then he sang of a displaced, homeless man who busked in the streets using a long forgotten Australian pastime, playing tunes on a gum leaf. Peter composed a tune to a poem written by his father about the joys of camping and drinking billy tea—he sang the short song accompanying himself on harmonica and guitar.

**Regina**, an accomplished violinist, entertained us with a serious piece on a funereal theme: Nathaniel Gow's lament at the death of his older brother William, also known as *The Gallowglass*. Then a livelier fairly well-known Irish tune, *Drowsy Maggie*.

**Wal** played his Spanish guitar as he sang two English folk songs. *The Best of Autumn* composed by Mike O'Connor paints a beautiful picture of the English countryside in autumn. Then *Copper and May*, composed by Martyn Wyndham Read, a song about the old days when horses were an essential part of farm life.

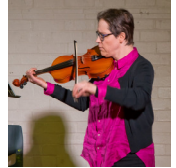
**Maggie Somerville** commented on the serious subject of violence against women by performing her song, *Streets of Fear*. she penned about the murder of Jill Meagher in September 2012.

On a brighter note, Maggie followed with a tribute to her grandson who recently celebrated his first birthday. *The Wishing Song* moves through the four seasons and the love of the grandmother shines through the lyrics. The audience joined in the chorus: lula, lula, lay.

The Dulcimer is an American stringed instrument which is closely associated with Irish and Scottish music. **Bill Buttler** played his dulcimer as he sang *The Quiet Man of Erin* which tells of an Irishman exiled in Scotland who is able to see Ireland in the distance but is never able to return home. Then with **Maree** on autoharp they presented a song about a *Little Rosewood Casket*. The origin of this song may be traced back to a traditional song *A Package of Old Letters* published in Boston USA in 1870.

**Julia and Rob** were the final spot act of the evening. Rob played ukulele bass while Julia played guitar. They performed a very patriotic Irish song made popular by many artists in particular, Celtic Thunder—*My Land*. Followed by some soft country style music—*If I Needed You*, a beautiful romantic song.

(continued over...)



**CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)****MAIN ACT: ELLEN HUNDLEY AND BILL DESAILLY**

The Main Act advertised for this evening was the folk duo, Parkville. Unfortunately, they were unable to perform due to illness. The club wishes them a speedy recovery.

With barely twenty-four-hours' notice, club members Ellen Hundley and Bill Desailly stepped forward to offer thirty minutes of folk music. Both performers are skilled in South American instruments and traditional song.

They began with a sixteenth century Spanish love song about thwarted love and the Count Orline. The tune has come down through the years in many forms and we know it today as *My Darlin' Clementine*.

The song *My Mantle of Green* is of a style known as broken token song, where two lovers are separated by circumstances and come back together.



There followed a bright, jaunty song *Dear Little Anna*. The *Swan* is a song with music from Brittany in France while the lyrics are attributed to Scotland.

To showcase their versatility, Bill and Ellen switched to Italian with a song about the village girls going down to do the washing at the communal fountain.

They completed their performance with a beautiful song centred on the small village of Shanagolden (old shoulder) in Co. Limerick Ireland. Set to an old tune more recently popularized as *The Twelfth of Never*, the lyrics were written by Sean McCarthy, and inspired by the death in 1920 of local patriot, Captain Tim Madigan at the hands of the English army.

*(continued over...)*

CONCERT NIGHT (continued):

MAIN ACT (continued): **JOSH BATTEN**



The club is also very grateful that singer/songwriter and musician, Joshua Batten, also participated at short notice to add to the evening's entertainment. He is a prolific song writer who has honed his skills over the years by attending folk festivals in Kangaroo Valley, Newstead Live, Frankston Waterfront and Melbourne Fringe to mention a few. He has also played as a support act for artists Darryl Braithwaite and Russell Morris.

Joshua plays finger style acoustic guitar and his first offering was a very

positive song about *Chasing Rainbows until I reach the Gold. The Silver Dollar* a blues style song, reminding the listener that money doesn't buy you happiness.

A song about living through lockdown came next: *Burn Out*. Working from home, trying not to get bogged down. Then he went straight into an old Credence Clearwater gem and the audience enthusiastically joined in *Have you Ever Seen the Rain?*

A thoughtful song followed about *Coming to our Senses*. The lyrics were encouraging us to make an effort to be more considerate towards each other because there is more that unites us than divides us. Joshua's song—*Behind Closed Doors*, is dedicated to all clubs and venues struggling to survive in the post lockdown climate. He finished his set with another of his positive uplifting songs—*Life is an Open Box*.

The Victorian Folk Music Club wishes to thank all of the people involved in the presentation of the June concert. Six varied and very interesting spot acts started off the evening while Ellen, Bill and Joshua, being the true professionals they are, provided an evening of great entertainment for the patrons with little time to prepare.

Thanks also to the volunteers who work behind the scenes each month.

Next month: Dominic Martin—Folk Singer/ Balladeer.

Support Act: singer/songwriter Kira Janowsky

Report by Better Martin ; photographs by Trevor Voake



## THE DANCE PAGE

### Diary dates for July

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

**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@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, 6th July 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:**

**Delia's Friends**



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

Tickets available at the door or online at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-jul2024-dance>

Phone: Bill 0417 300 682  
Email: [dance@vfmc.org.au](mailto:dance@vfmc.org.au)  
Website: [www.vfmc.org.au](http://www.vfmc.org.au)



## **2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the club was held on Sunday 16th June at the Senior Citizens Hall in Ringwood East. Sixteen members were in attendance . The existing office bearers, President, Michael Hassett, Vice President Bill Buttler - also Dance Convenor, and Treasurer Don Fraser - also Sessions Convenor, were re-elected. Secretary Robyn Hammond did not re nominate. Peter Kernebone was elected as our new Secretary. We thank Robyn for the great job as secretary for 2023-24.

General committee members elected (and their roles) are Maree Buttler - Concerts Convenor, Peter Read - Youth Outreach, Colin McLaren, Trevor Voake - Membership Officer and Billabong Band Convenor, Maggie Somerville - Newsletter Editor, and Steve Bullock.

Other roles confirmed were Website support - Steve Bullock, Michael Hassett and Peter Kernebone, Publicity - Don Fraser, VFMC Library Curator - Wal Tiedemann and Highland Games liaison - Bill Buttler.

The meeting noted the club has, overall, had a successful year. Concert attendances have remained healthy, with the February 2024 concert featuring Enda Kenny attracting an audience of over 100. Dances have also done well, with attendances improving, especially with younger dancers. The May Woolshed Ball held at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre was a great success. Sessions attendances have remained steady at around 16 to 20. The venue of concerts and sessions has now moved from the Uniting Church hall in Ringwood to the Senior Citizens hall in Ringwood East.

The Club's finances remain sound, running at a relatively small deficit but with a substantial level of cash reserve. There will be no increase in membership subscriptions for the coming year. The meeting also noted a rationalisation of storage at Fort Knox, saving \$700 annually, formalising club rules and procedures now available on the website and routine electrical safety checks on club equipment. Full details of the meeting are available on the website under VFMC Information > About Us > Annual General Meetings.

We look forward to another successful year in 2024-25.

- *by Michael Hassett*

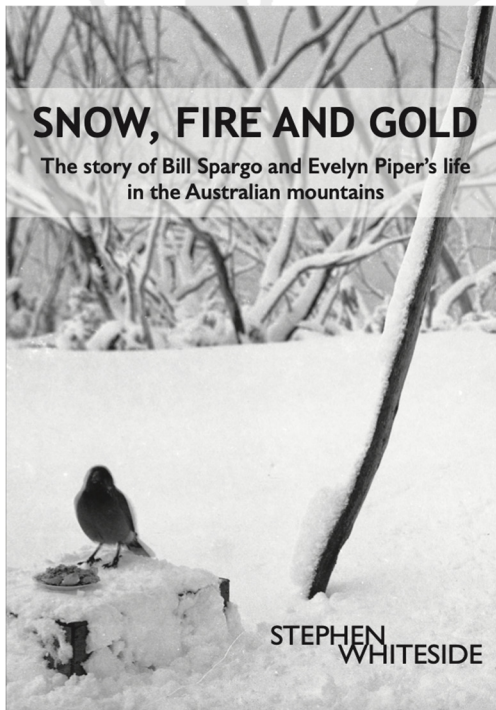
## A new book by one of our members:

### SNOW, FIRE AND GOLD

Stephen Whiteside knew that Spargo's Hut in the Australian mountains near Mt Hotham had been abandoned for many years. However, when he first visited it in 1982, he got a shock. It looked like it was still inhabited. Could he have been mistaken? Closer inspection revealed that it was, indeed, abandoned. However, its remoteness had allowed it to remain crammed full of all the items necessary for everyday living. There was a bed and pillow, a table and chairs, a Coolgardie safe, pots and pans, crockery and cutlery, a cheese grater, a fly spray pump, an oven mitt, a golf putter, books and magazines, and much, much more.

It looked to him as though a woman had lived there as well as a man. Who were these people who had lived in this one room hut above the snow line, and why? He resolved to find out...

“Snow, Fire and Gold” can be purchased at [snowfireandgold.com.au](http://snowfireandgold.com.au)



*SNOW, FIRE AND GOLD (continued):*



*Spargo's Hut during the winter of 1987*

*(continued over...)*

*SNOW, FIRE AND GOLD (continued)*



*“Hotham Heights” chalet and Mt Hotham*



*Bill Spargo*



*Evelyn Piper*

## VFMC CLUB RULES

The VFMC Constitution (Item 42 (3) (c)) gives the Committee the ability to make and promulgate rules to assist with the smooth running of the Club and accordingly, the Committee may, from time to time, introduce new rules or amend/cancel existing rules.

Over the years, a number of Club Rules have been introduced however these were never formally documented and, following a motion at the Club's 2023 Annual General Meeting, a Sub-Committee was formed to address this issue. After due research and investigation, a list of known and current Club Rules was presented to and approved by the Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

This list of Club Rules is now available for viewing or downloading on the VFMC website and can be found under the headings VFMC Information/About Us.

*Colin McLaren*  
*(on behalf of the VFMC Committee)*



*Contradition—another  
dance band mostly  
made up of current  
VFMC members*

**FRANK TRAYNOR— QUIZ**

- 1) Who was Frank Traynor? 2) What was the name of his band for 30 years?  
3) When did he found his folk & jazz club? 4) Where was it? 5) When did the club close and why? 6) What famous female singer did Traynor encourage?

*Answers to last quiz:- 1) An Australian poet 2) 1872—1942 3) Manual labour 4) The Orange Tree 5) Mice ate them 6) Cathie O’Sullivan, Richard Keam and Maggie Somerville*

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**BILLABONG BAND REPORT—JUNE 2024**

Around the time of the last newsletter’s publication, we had a very successful Woolshed Ball. The Ball was held in the Box Hill Community centre, which was an ideal size for the crowd. The ambience & acoustics were good. The only downsides were the size of the stage and the fact that council regulations meant that we had to close earlier than we would have liked. Hopefully we can negotiate a later finish time if we play there again.

Upcoming gigs:

June 30th - Rob’s & Joy's birthdays

October 27th - Gulf Station

*by Trevor Voake,*

*Billabong Band Convenor*

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**SOME CORNY MUSICAL JOKES**

- 1) What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?  
A flat minor.
- 2) What do you get when you drop a piano on an army base?  
A flat major.

**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/](http://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](mailto:secretary@vfmc.org.au)

**Session Co-ordinator**

Don Fraser  
Telephone: 0407 737 202

Email: [sessions@vfmc.org.au](mailto:sessions@vfmc.org.au)

**Family/Children's Bush Dance**

Bill Buttler  
Telephone: 0417 300 682  
Email: [dance@vfmc.org.au](mailto:dance@vfmc.org.au)

**Billabong Band Engagements**

Trevor Voake  
Telephone: 0427 784 296  
Email:

I .....wish 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)

<u>Metro</u> Single	\$25
Family*	\$30
Junior (u 18)	\$15
Student (full time)	\$20
Single Concession	\$20
Family Concession*	\$25
<u>Country</u> Single	\$20
Family*	\$25

\*Family – Parent/s & any children under 18

Name: .....

Address.....

Email .....

Phone/s.....