

Established 1959

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December 2024



# TRADITION

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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### GULF STATION 2024



*Photo by Trevor Voake*

### **MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:**

***We will be closing for the Christmas/New Year holiday break on Tuesday 16th December and resuming our regular sessions on Tuesday 21st January.***

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER  
BY: FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 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. Live 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
1st Dec.	2nd	3rd Club Session Round Robin	4th	5th	6th	7th Family Bush Dance
8th	9th	10th Concert Night Guest Artist/s	11th	12th	13th	14th
15th	16th	17th Club Session Round Robin	18th	19th	20th	21st
22nd	23rd	24th <b>MERRY</b>	25th <b>XMAS</b>	26th <b>AND A</b>	27th <b>HAPPY</b>	28th <b>NEW YEAR</b>
29th <b>TO ALL</b>	30th <b>FOLKIES</b>	31st <b>&amp; MATES</b>				

# Victorian Folk Music Club at Ringwood

## Play It Martha

*Play It Martha* is the newest creative incarnation of Patrick Evans and Cora Browne. Veterans of the Victorian folk scene they share their love of harmony, well-crafted songs and the odd rollicking chorus.



## Tuesday 10th December



Ringwood East Senior Citizen's Hall, Laurence Grove  
7.45 - 10.00pm \$11 to \$15, kids no charge

Cash or card at the door. Or pre-purchase at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-december2024-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 11th February - Marilla Homes**

**CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—NOVEMBER 2024**

The audience enjoyed an excellent Concert Night this month, which was mc'd by Tony O'Neill.

**SPOT ACTS:**

**Maggie Somerville** opened Spot Acts with her own song based on a poem penned by Louisa Lawson, mother of famous Henry. It is called The Digger's Daughter. Her second song, The Old White Horse, is about an early local pub, written about by C.J. Dennis. Maggie added a chorus to the poem, with Stephen Whiteside writing the words and Maggie the tune.

**Peter Read** has a 'genuine' all round interest in music. He composes and sings his own songs on instruments he makes himself. Recently he spent time in France making a beautiful guitar which he played for the first time this night. He made one previously, they are true works of art. He sang a melancholy Where The Homeless Live, then an a cappella song. Life's A Circle. Good job Peter!



**Garry Hayes** also writes his own novel original songs about life. Hardware Junkie is about trying to get out of the hardware store with only what he came in for. Time Is Running Out speaks about getting old and losing opportunity. (Like while being stuck in a hardware store??).



*(continued over...)*

**CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)****SUPPORT ACT:**

There was a Support Act this night, Jesse McCormack from Tasmania, who is doing an east coast tour of the mainland states.

Jesse is unique in bringing the foundational anglo/celtic folk songs to modern audiences, portraying the image of a modern day troubadour from earlier ages. He sings the old Scottish/Nordic/Anglo modal tales, or traditional English folk songs, and tragic murder ballads with a conviction that is evident. He has a rich full range voice and great skills in dynamics, while accompanying himself on Irish bouzouki. which I guess would suffice for a lute in earlier days.

His first song was an a'cappella pot pourri, 'a Scottish song to a Bretton tune translated into Swedish'.

His songs often hint at the mystical style like a Martin Pearson show, or those tragic folk songs of Joan Baez, or Steeleye Span and so on, A brave stance in Jesse's case as he does this with the conviction more of a historian of music rather than an entertainer. All interspersed with 'amusing stories, tragic tales, intriguing perspectives, and hearty singalong opportunities'.

Mantle Of Green is a traditional Irish broken token ballad, and very nicely sung I must say. Next a gentle song about hope, Keep Holding On.

A lively Maddy Prior song The Servant Man recorded by his classical folk fusion duo in Tasmania, about a discussion between a servant and a farmer as to who has the better life. What a fabulous voice, wish I had one like that.

Another lively song learned from Maddy Prior, Sheath And Knife. An intent to murder ballad, nicely finished his bracket. Jesse has recorded a number of albums over the years, travelled and performed widely, and has been in a number of combos.



*(continued over...)*

## MAIN ACT:

The Main Act The Raglins are Robert Hillman on guitar and vocals (Tolka), and classically trained vocalist Hannah Pelka-Caven (The Gleaners), their stunning harmonised vocals, storytelling and superb harmonies bring a contemporary approach to traditional folk songs.

They were brought together 10 years ago by a shared love of folk songs at the Youth Awards at the National Folk Festival, and having lived and breathed traditional songs in Dublin, Glasgow and Belfast, The Raglins have toured and performed at almost every folk venue in the country.

The Raglins take traditional ballads from original sources, old recordings and books, and create contemporary folk music which is fresh, beautiful and uniquely Australian. Hannah has a lovely voice and sings the songs while Robert is a superb guitarist who tends to play well up the neck, giving a unique ringing sound to his spot-on finger picking and chord playing. I would not hesitate to say he is a brilliant folk guitarist.

Their first song, The Palmer Song, is a tune they wrote for an old set of words, about Victorian farmers travelling to the Palmer River district in Queensland. Jim Jones At Botany Bay is a well known though rather morbid song about the convict experience. The Raglins livened it up a bit with Rob's guitar playing. The Wreck Of The Dandenong is a great piece of tragic Australian history when in 1876 48 passengers were lost when the ship The Dandenong was wrecked off Jervis Bay. Kate Burke and Ruth Hazleton resurrected this song and in recent years Lucy Wise has added it to her repertoire. Interestingly the American old-time fiddler Bruce Molsky has also done a fine version of this song.

Hannah wrote a song for her nieces called Take The River, Take The Road. Scottish folkie Alistair Hulett wrote He Fades Away, about one of the most polluted places in Australia, if not the world, the Wittenoom Mine site. Another Aussie tragedy of a different kind. Never Tire Of The Road was a lively song, propelled along with Rob's fine guitar playing. The Raglins are very engaging performers, connecting well with their audiences and can tell a good story too.



*(continued over...)*

**MAIN ACT (continued)**

Talented Scottish accordion player Fiona Black was introduced when Rob took the lead of a Henry Lawson poem. Wow, what a great combination of beautiful rich harmonies, sweet accordion, and his fabulous voice.

The popular Scottish folk song The Bonny Lass Of Fyvie was suddenly interrupted with a broken guitar string but a few awkward moments were constructively filled as Hannah added a bit of dialogue and Fiona played a melancholy tune on the accordion until Rob returned to finish The Bonny Lass Of Fyvie.



Hannah admits that Ghost is her favourite Scottish folk song with its beautiful harmonies, a low background drone from the accordion and sweet ringing guitars chords.

A song about the Miners strike in northern England finished this night of fine music.

This was a fabulous concert in that there was an interesting similarity in the approach of both Jesse McCormack and The Raglins, both being dedicated to the historical foundations of folk music, and both with high musical skills and talent.

Thanks to the Spot acts too and to all who helped make it happen. Thanks also to the audience for supporting live folk music in this area.

See you next month for Play It Martha, who will be the guest act.

*Report by Don Fraser; Photos by Trevor Voake*



## Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y



# Christmas Picnic

**Sunday, 15th December 2024**

**11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**At Blackburn Lake**

**(enter via Central Road)**



**BYO food, drink and instruments!**

Phone: Maree 0411 750 462  
Email: [enquiries@vfmc.org.au](mailto:enquiries@vfmc.org.au)  
Website: [www.vfmc.org.au](http://www.vfmc.org.au)



**THE DANCE PAGE**

**Diary dates for December**

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

**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, Warnccliffe 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

## MALDON FOLK FESTIVAL

This year's festival was blessed with glorious weather, lots of great food, wonderful performers and venues, and was as enjoyable as ever.

One of the highlights was seeing ALAN REID perform in the Maldon Hotel. Alan was originally the lead singer in The Battlefield Band during the 1970s and is still able to hold his own as a solo performer. His voice is strong and clear and he moves between guitar, piano and accordion. See photos below.



Stephen Whiteside launched his new book entitled 'Snow, Fire and Gold', which included an interesting slide show of life in the Victorian mountains during the 1930s and '40s for two quite unusual people.



Street buskers

Katinka-



The Duck Downpickers, one of whom played a little man and woman on his lap at one stage—quite extraordinary! A fantastic, eclectic band.



*Notes by Maggie Somerville; photos by Maggie & Stephen W.*

## GULF STATION—NOVEMBER 2024

Gulf Station (Yarra Valley) began in the 1840s as part of a 25,000 acre run property known as the Gulf, and was owned by the Bell family for the best part of 100 years until 1951. Gulf Station is one of the oldest and most intact examples of a pioneer farm complex in Australia.

Gulf Station was eventually bought by the former Victorian premier, Rupert Hamer, who with foresight donated it to the people of Victoria. That was when it became a National Trust property.

Some of our earlier club members were members of the National Trust & thought it would be a pleasant afternoon (& good advertising for the VFMC) to go out to Gulf Station and play some music with possibly a dance or two out on the grass. As different members passed away and with a change in management at Gulf Station these pleasant afternoons ceased. However, a new National Trust manager who could remember afternoons of music and dance has since taken over running Gulf Station. She decided that Gulf Station needed something extra to entertain the public and contacted both the Brumbies & the Billabong Band. As a result of this the Billabong Band played for 5 hours last month. This sounds like a lot of playing but we had enough musicians & singers to be able to split into two bands—morning and afternoon.

Gulf station is open on the first Thursday and last Sunday of each month. Perhaps club members would be interested in going out there again a few times a year. It is certainly a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.



VFMC performers  
at Gulf Station in  
the 1980s

*Photo by Harry  
Gardner(?)*

## GULF STATION—MORE PHOTOS THE BILLABONG BAND, 2024



*Photos by Trevor Voake and Katy Cottrill*

**THE DIGGER'S DAUGHTER**

by Louisa Lawson (1905)

The waratah has stained her cheek,  
Her lips are even brighter;  
Like virgin quartz without a streak  
Her teeth are, but far whiter.  
Her eyes are large, and soft, and dark,  
And clear as running water,  
And straight as any stringy bark  
Is Lil the digger's daughter.

She'll wash a prospect quick and well,  
And deftly use the ladle;  
The weight of gold at sight she'll tell  
And work with tub and cradle.  
She was her father's only mate,  
And wound up wash and water;  
She worked all day and studied late,  
And all she knows he taught her.

She stood alone above the shaft -  
A test for woman rather -  
When I sprang to the windlass haft  
And helped her land her father.  
She turned her pretty face to me  
To thank me, and I thought her  
The grandest girl of all her race -  
Sweet Lil, the digger's daughter.

And when my luck began to change  
I grew a trifle bolder  
And told my love, but thought it strange  
She knew before I told her.  
She said that she would be my wife;  
Then home I proudly brought her  
To be my loving mate for life,  
But still the digger's daughter.

## LOUISA LAWSON— QUIZ

1) Who was Louisa Lawson? 2) Who was she the mother of? 3) What journal did she start editing and publishing in 1888? 4) What was so special about it? 5) What role did she play as a suffragist? 6) Name 1-2 literary works by Louisa.

*Answers to last quiz:- 1) A reed instrument using bellows, with fingers pushing buttons at both ends 2) It has no keyboard 3) England & Germany 4) Travellers due to its small size 5) Italy & China 6) Ray Simpson, Katy Cottrill*

## BILLABONG BAND REPORT—NOVEMBER 2024

Since the last report the Billabong Band has played at 3 gigs.

27th Oct - Gulf Station Yarra Glen (National Trust property)

Gulf Station was a 5 hour gig but because it was popular I had enough players to split the band into AM & PM players. It was a good gig and was reminiscent of times gone by when past club members such as Rick, Garrick, Chris Healey, Phyllis McDonald, Peter Ellis and Bert Gibson would go out to Gulf Station & play for a few hours. Dancing was by led by Jane Bullock who did a great job involving young & old.

9th Nov - Mary Fraser's memorial

Mary Fraser's memorial – this was held at the community centre in the retirement village where Mary lived.. The Billabong Band played two of Mary's favourite songs, Cockles & Mussels and Westering Home. These were well received with lots of people joining in.

10th Nov - Maroondah Festival

A lovely day for a festival but unfortunately an inexperienced sound person spoiled our performance (as well as Colin's U3A uke group).

### Upcoming Gigs:

7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Family Dance – practices are underway.

14<sup>th</sup> Dec - Ambleside – Knox Historical Society –practices are underway.

27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – “I Like to Move it” – a Maroondah Council initiative to get senior citz moving.

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – “I Like to Move it” – a Maroondah Council initiative to get senior citz moving.

6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – National Celtic Festival. Bill & I will lodge an application to perform at the NCF using a program very similar to the one we used at the “Pirates Tavern” at the Williamstown Highland Games a couple of years ago.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the above gigs:

Steve, Jane, Maree, Stewart, Katy, Beth, Michael, Regina, Ian, Dominic, Joan, Ray, Tony, Bryce, Franciska, Margie & Trevor.

*Convenor: Trevor Voake*

**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 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**

Peter Kernebone  
Telephone: 0408 035 147  
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: [billabongband@vfmc.org.au](mailto:billabongband@vfmc.org.au)

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)

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

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: .....