

Established 1959

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May 2025



# TRADITION

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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### VFMC DANCE APRIL 2025



*Photo by Trevor Voake*

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:  
ANNUAL VFMC MEMBRSHIP FEES WERE DUE  
BY 31ST MARCH, 2025.  
PLEASE ENSURE ASAP THAT YOU HAVE PAID UP**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER  
BY: TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU BY FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2025**

**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.

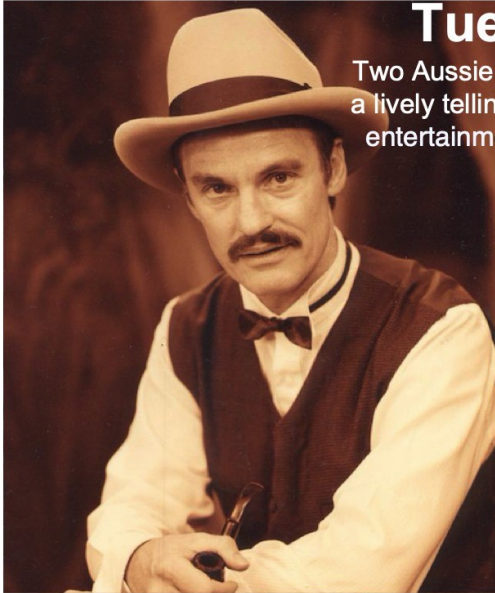
**Dance Events: Family Bush Dance** 1st Saturday evening each month except January at Ringwood East Senior Citizen's Hall. Live bands vary and dances called. Admission is \$10 members to \$12. No charge for accompanied children.

**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 May	2nd	3rd Family Dance
4th	5th	6th Club Session Round Robin	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th	13th Concert Night Guest Artist/s	14th	15th	16th	17th
18th	19th	20th Club Session Round Robin	21st	22nd	23rd	24th Autumn Dance
25th	26th	27th Club Session All in	28th	29th	30th	31st

# Victorian Folk Music Club

at Ringwood presents



## Tuesday 13th May

Two Aussie bush balladeers combine talents for a lively telling of "Shearing, Strikes & Scabs - entertainment from the good old days in song, verse and yarns"



## Geoffrey W Graham and Phil Lester

with Support Act The Newport Bush Orchestra



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-may2025-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 10th June - Pleasant and Delightful**

## CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—APRIL 2025

Maree Buttler was MC for this evening of fine music.

### SPOT ACTS:



**Dominic** started the Spot Acts this night with the gentle and plaintive whaling song, Farewell To Tarwathie, about the loneliness of life on the whaling ships of old in the Arctic waters around Greenland. Wendy Joseph wrote the poignant song of Mannum, the town on the Murray in South Australia that reputedly lost more of its men in the First World War than any other community in Australia.

**Peter and Regina** followed with two of Peter's own songs: Meet Me There By The Waterside and I've Never Been A Cowboy.



**Alex** speculated on the possibilities of someone taking their last ride at a country funeral. Basil's Hearse was all about the life and times of a local country undertaker. Perhaps the old black hearse was used for other duties between trips to the cemetery, such as transporting drum kits and band equipment for the local rock band. He finished with The Parting Glass, with the audience singing along of course.

**Gill and Jon** have their own band, and they sang the old riddle song, The Keys Of Canterbury. Set Me Free is one of Gill's songs—a tribute to the friends she has worked with.



*(continued over...)*

## CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

*SPOT ACTS (continued):*



**Brian Ellwood** has a fine resonant voice and backs it with nice guitar playing. Who Will Shoe Your Pretty Little Foot is a well-known song in the Anglo/Celtic traditions.

Then a song from the Canadian Great Lakes area about a life working on the Lakes entitled White Squall (by Stan Rogers).

**Christina** was next and began with a song which has connections to Gill and Jon's song, The Key Of Canterbury. Coincidentally, she mentions young UK accordion and concertina player Cohen Kilcoyne-Braithwaite—coincidentally because that very day I happened to be watching YouTube clips by him, and she was introduced to If You Will Only Be My True Lover. A very pretty song and nicely accompanied by guitar too.

Christina writes many of her own songs, often as part of a writing group, She related her attempts to whip up an Indian curry from instructions on the back of one of those packs you get at the supermarket. (My tip - always have a kilo or two of extra rice on hand and triple the vegetables.)



*(continued over...)*

*CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (continued)***MAIN ACT:**

Our Main act has previously been a guest at VFMC.

**Nerida Cuddy** is a singer/songwriter from Canowindra in the NSW Central West. They have an annual balloon festival there. Capturing stories in finely crafted lyrics and emotive melodies, she sings from the heart with both a social conscience and sense of humour.



Nerida started zooming during the pandemic and related the people she met and songs she learnt there. The joys of singing together. She is an escapee from the big city to the country where she has found busy involvement all that country life offers.



She is a music and drama teacher and has led an active life musically, attending festivals and events across the country. She is founder of the Canowindra Folk Club and has produced a number of cds of her self-penned reflections and stories of rural life and as a mother of three. Scots Of The Riverina inspired her to write a version from a wife's perspective.

Nerida has a pleasant and personable character that connects with the audience, so she can easily get audience involvement in her songs, Breathe being a good example. She gives a broad overview of the joys and trials of country living and the institutions and bonds that bind rural communities together.

Next month Geoffrey W Graham and Phil Lester are the Main Act— two great Aussie singers / poets / yarn spinners. And a special treat: we have the Newport Bush Orchestra coming over as Support Act, so it should be a great night. Thanks Committee people and all who helped make this night a success. Thanks Spot Acts and thanks patrons for supporting folk music in this community.

*Review Don Fraser, photos Trevor Voake & Bruce Watson*



## THE DANCE PAGE

### Diary dates for May

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

**VFMC Family Bush dance** at East Ringwood Senior 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.

**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 Thomson 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, 3rd May 2025**

(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:

**Comhaltas**



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

Tickets available at the door or online at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-may2025-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)





## Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No A2511Y



# Autumn Dance

Saturday 24th May 2025

7:30pm - 10:30pm

Box Hill Community Arts Centre,  
Corner Station & Combarton Streets



Live music with  
**Blackberry Jam!**



Come dressed in Colonial garb or come in something smart. All dances explained and called. BYO mug and plate of supper to share. Tea and Coffee provided

### Tickets:

Pre-booked: Members \$20 - Non-Members \$25

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-may2025-autumn-dance>

At the door: \$30

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)



**COMHALTAS**  
Melbourne

Presents an

# IRISH SET DANCING WEEKEND

**Beginners  
welcome!**

With International Guest Teacher  
Pat Murphy

**FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**  
to  
**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MAY 2025**

**\$95 for full  
weekend program!**

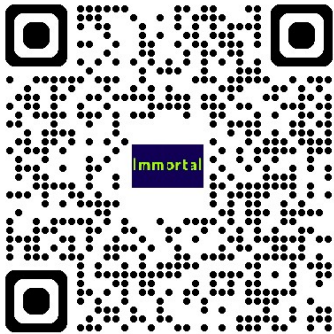


Workshops ● Ceilis ● Live Music ● Guest Teacher ● Catering

**ST. MARTIN DE PORRES PARISH HALL**

158 Military Rd. Avondale Heights, VIC

Online bookings preferred.  
See over for options.



## Immortal: A Video Tribute to Australia's Folk Legends

**Bruce Watson**

### What is the 'Immortal' Project?

Over the decades the Australian folk scene has produced so many extraordinarily talented people who are no longer with us, but who have all played a key role in expressing, defining and shaping Australia's changing cultural identity.

**Immortal** is a video that remembers and celebrates those in the Australian folk scene who have left a lasting legacy through their music, inspiration, knowledge and passion; performers, songwriters, collectors and inspirers. The video documents the greats of the Australian folk scene in a tangible, entertaining way and provides a permanent record in the one place - and gives inspiration to the next generation. It was inspired by a similar, but simpler, project by NZ folk legend Chris Priestley.

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*IMMORTAL (continued):*

It runs for 56 minutes, celebrating 76 individuals — and acknowledging a further 164. Using photographs, video and audio recordings, it captures the essence of these individuals, their lives and their creative cultural contribution. While the focus is on performers, singers and musicians, it does not ignore significant people in spoken word, dance and collecting. It includes broad representation from across Australia.

Early reactions to the video have been enormously enthusiastic:

*Wow! What a wonderful video! Brilliant photos, brought back some great memories.* (Martyn Wyndham-Read)

*BRILLIANT! A cultural treasure of incalculable value. I am moved almost beyond words.* (Phyl Lobl)

*An amazing project! What an emotional journey! How lucky are the present generation to have this wonderful tribute to enable them to appreciate those who were an important part of the establishment of the Australian folk movement.* (Kate Delaney)

*It's a treasure! An outstanding piece of work and a joy to watch. It might be the most important contribution to documenting Australia folk music ever.* (Christine Wheeler)

*Wow. Fantastic. Needs to be played at every folk festival. What a brilliant tribute. Five stars.* (Dave O'Neill)

**The making of 'Immortal'**

Bruce Watson has worked for hundreds of hours over 15 months to put the project together. Every image, audio clip and video clip had to be sourced. Dozens of people were contacted for advice, permission and material. Sometimes it took several hours' work just to get a single picture. And then there was the editing, with thousands of decisions and judgments large and small to be made.

Several members of the VFMC provided advice and material for the project, and it was supported by a grant from the Troubadour Foundation.

Drafts of the video were screened at three folk festivals in early 2025, accompanied by a panel discussion featuring a range of prominent people from Australia's folk movement. These discussions explored issues of change and continuity within the folk scene and Australian culture, and generated huge interest and excitement

*(continued over...)*

*IMMORTAL (continued):*

Here are just a few of the people included in the video: Alistair Hulett, Danny Spooner, Declan Affley, Denis Kevans, Don Henderson, Frank Traynor , Gary Shearston, Gordon MacIntyre, Harry Robertson, Ian Simpson, John Dengate, John Meredith, John Thompson, Lis Johnston, Marian Henderson, Michael Kennedy, Michael O'Rourke , Mick Flannagan, Peter Ellis, Peter Parkhill, Ronnie Summers, Sally Sloane, Simon MacDonald, Shirley Andrews, Trevor Lucas , Wendy Lowenstein, Zulya Kamalova .

A version of the video featuring more Victorian people will be presented by the VFMC later in the year. Watch out for details.

**To watch the video and read more about it, go to this website: <https://sites.google.com/view/immortalfolk> or use the QR code on page 11.**

*- by Bruce Watson*

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## **2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

For early information, the VFMC's 2025 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Lawrence Grove, Ringwood East on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> June, commencing at 2.30pm. A formal Notice of Meeting will be issued in due course.

Item 13 (1) (b) of the Club's Constitution provides that members may submit items of business for consideration at a General Meeting and requests for inclusion of any such item(s) in the Agenda for this year's meeting should be addressed to The Secretary and either forwarded by email to [secretary@vfmc.org.au](mailto:secretary@vfmc.org.au) or by mail to P.O. Box 215, Ringwood East, Victoria 3135. The closing date for receipt of requests is **12<sup>th</sup> May**.

## THE FIDDLE— QUIZ

(1) What is a fiddle? (2) What can distinguish it from a violin? (3) When and where was the first modern fiddle? (4) Do many fiddle players today have classical training? (5) What are fiddle players called?

*Answers to last quiz (1) A Scottish poet & lyricist (2) 18th (3) Auld Lang Syne (4) A Red, Red Rose, Comin' Thro' the Rye (5) He wrote 'Address to a Haggis' (6) In Croydon at the recent Scottish/Celtic Ceilidh—before haggis was actually served.*

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## APRIL BILLABONG BAND REPORT

The Highland Games (23 March) was from all reports highly successful – a pity I had to miss it. See April 'Tradition' p.14.

Upcoming gigs are:

Under The Fern Tree—3rd May. This is a new community market held in Ferntree Gully. They have a performer's marquee & have two acts playing, one morning & one afternoon – hopefully the weather gods are kind to us as it isn't a large marquee.

I Like to Move It (Maroondah Council) - 27th May

I Like to Move It (Maroondah Council) - 3rd June

National Celtic Festival – unfortunately our application wasn't successful.

May Ball – we were to be playing at the May Woolshed Ball but due to a variety of circumstances, we will now be playing at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Woolshed Ball later in the year instead of the May Ball.

Thanks to everybody who helps so much to make it fun both rehearsing & playing at our gigs.

*by Billabong Band Convenor – Trevor Voake*

**REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES (Check if On)**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bendigo Folk Club</b></p> <p>Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680  <a href="mailto:buzza@bendigo.net.au">buzza@bendigo.net.au</a>            Feature concert on the 3rd Friday of each month 8-11pm, under the grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth oval, Bendigo</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gippsland Acoustic Music Club</b></p> <p>Barbara Brabets, 03 5174 7403            Local musicians and concert opportunities. 1st Sunday at 7:45 pm, Tyers Hall, Tyers  <a href="http://www.musicclub.org">www.musicclub.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo</b></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au">secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Selby Folk Club</b></p> <p>David Miller, 03 9751 1218 <a href="mailto:miller@a1.com.au">miller@a1.com.au</a>            1st Friday every month, at 8:00 pm, Selby Community House Minok Reserve  <a href="http://www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub">www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Berwick and District Folk Club</b></p> <p>Edward Nass / Christine Trimnell,            03 9702 1223 /0418 535 264  <a href="mailto:badfolk@optusnet.com.au">badfolk@optusnet.com.au</a>            Featured artist 3rd Friday February to December, The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick Vic. 3806 <a href="http://www.badfolk.org.au">www.badfolk.org.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Peninsula Folk Club</b></p> <p>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.  <a href="http://peninsulafolkclub.org.au">peninsulafolkclub.org.au</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Boite World Music Cafe</b></p> <p>Therese Virtue 03 9417 1983 <a href="mailto:admin@boite.com.au">admin@boite.com.au</a>            Friday &amp; Saturday - March to November, 1 Mark St, North Fitzroy, <a href="http://www.boite.com.au">www.boite.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Creswick Folk Club</b></p> <p>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  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/creswickfolkclub/">www.facebook.com/creswickfolkclub/</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Geelong Folk Music Club</b></p> <p>Phil Lester 0401 992 237 or Marie Goldsworthy 0406 610 858. The club meets on the first Wednesday of most months at the Naval Association, 90 Skene St, Newtown, Vic, 3220.  <a href="mailto:geelongfolkmusic@gmail.com">geelongfolkmusic@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://geelongfolkclub.au">geelongfolkclub.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fireside Fiddlers</b></p> <p>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</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comhaltas (Collingwood)</b></p> <p>Joan and Ray Mundy run a session on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, starts 7.30pm. Supper. Maree: 9471-0690</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Newport Folk Club</b></p> <p>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.  <a href="https://www.nffc.org.au">https://www.nffc.org.au</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Music on the Hill (MOTH)</b></p> <p>Mornington Peninsula, First Friday of the month. International and local artists.  <a href="https://musiconthehill.com.au">https://musiconthehill.com.au</a></p>	

**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)

Please post completed form to:  
 The Secretary  
 VFMC  
 PO Box 215  
 Ringwood East 3135 Victoria

<b>Membership Type (please circle)</b>	
<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: .....