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# TRADITION

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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### THE THREE AMIGOS A new VFMC trio?!



*Photo by Stephen Whiteside*

**MEMBERS NOTE THAT THERE IS A SEA SHANTY SESSION COMING UP ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY IN FOREST HILL—SEE FLYER ON PAGE 9 OF THIS ISSUE AND IF POSSIBLE DO COME ALONG FOR A GOOD OLD SINGALONG!**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER BY: TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU BY FRIDAY 18TH JULY 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,

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



# Victorian Folk Music Club

## **SAOIRSE** Tuesday 8th July



Saoirse delight audiences with their beautiful renditions of traditional Irish ballads and original works, and will join hands to offer some spirited jigs and reels to get your feet tapping.

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

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

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-july2025-concert>

Spot acts 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 12th August - Cate Taylor**

## CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—JUNE 2025

### SPOT ACTS:

Bill Buttler opened the evening's entertainment with two mining themed songs by Ewen MacColl. Bill accompanied himself on guitar and sang *Schooldays Over*, documenting a young lad's transition from pupil to coalminer. Then he sang a cappella (without music) a sad MacColl/Seeger song about the Springhill Nova Scotia mining disaster of October 1958.



Wal Tiedemann also sang a song relating to Nova Scotia: *Song for the Mira*. Written by Canadian Allister MacGillivray, this beautiful song is about the Mira River in the Cape Breton area of Canada. He followed by singing the old favourite, *Bunch of Thyme*, accompanying himself on his classic Spanish Guitar.



Dominic Martin chose to sing one of his personal favourites: an old Scottish whaling song, *Farewell to Tarwathie*. This song, written around 1850 by Scottish poet George Scroggie, was set to an even older folk tune. Then the audience joined in the rollicking chorus as Dominic sang a tribute to an isolated Scottish island: the Mingalay Boat Song.



### SUPPORT ACT: NIRANJANA AND PRANAV



Niranjana has been trained in classical Indian singing and guitar and was joined by her younger brother on violin. They began with a lively instrumental of the well-known *Drunken Sailor*. Then Niranjana and Pranav's pure clear voices blended beautifully in a quieter offering of the lovely *Caledonia*. A popular tune written by homesick Scot, Dougie MacLean, in 1977. Then more harmony with *More than Words* by American group, Extreme. Two instrumentals show-cased young Pranav's skill on his violin. Next was a song about peace, encouraging people all over the world to look for and find happiness. The audience members hummed along as the siblings sang *Annie's Song* by John Denver. Then they performed a recently released song, *The Best Part*, by Canadian Daniel Caesar. The quality of their harmony greatly enhanced the enjoyment of this beautiful love song. They concluded their performance with a foot-tapping rendition of a popular traditional folk song, *I'll Tell me Ma*.

(continued over...)

## CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

### SUPPORT ACT (continued):

The youthful duo impressed the audience with not only their musical and vocal talents but also the professional attitude displayed by a couple so early in their career. They presented a wide variety of songs and tunes dating back to traditional tunes from the 1800s right up to one composed as recently in 2017 included in their performance. The Victorian Folk Music Club is grateful to Niranjana and Pranav for performing for us and we are sure they will be very successful in their musical future.

Follow their journey on Facebook: [Niranjana-Paru](#)



### MAIN ACT—PLEASANT AND DELIGHTFUL:



This traditional folk group is celebrating ten years of performing together. Musicians and singers Kristin, Robyn, Don and Ken met at the regular Tuesday night sessions of the Victorian Folk Music Club. Ken tells the tale that the idea for the group started when he awoke at 4.30am one morning after having a

dream about a traditional folk song, Pleasant and Delightful. Between them they play a multitude of instruments and their repertoire is all encompassing.

Robyn on guitar, Kristin on flute, Don on accordion and Ken on a variety of instruments firstly sang about the *Lass of Richmond Hill*, which dates from around 1785. Then a more modern song by Donovan Leitch, the ever popular *Catch the Wind*. Ken switched to the mandolin for the lively dance tune, *Sonny's Mazurka*. Don introduced a well-known singalong song presumed to be Australian, which he told us was originally an American song from Alabama, *The Gumtree Canoe*. An example of the practice of re-using old tunes for newer songs, the group performed two different songs to the same tune. *One of the Hasbeens*, an old shearer's lament that he's slowing with age, followed by the ever popular Cusby Butterfield. The audience enthusiastically joined in the chorus.

(continued over....)

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 CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (continued)


From the beginning of the evening there had been a Scottish theme throughout the proceedings and the next instrumental fitted in perfectly. *The Dark Island*. Written by Iain MacLachlan in 1958 about the Scots Isle, Benbecula. It became popular as the theme for a series of the same name on the BBC. Then followed *The Pretty Maid* and World War One song, *Long, Long, Trail*. Their signature song, *Pleasant and Delightful*, is an old love song about a sailor leaving, promising to return and marry his sweetheart. Next came an instrumental: *Napoleon Crossing the Rhine*.

In England, Morris Dancing had been traditionally a male domain. Due to the high death toll in village male populations during WW1, the widows, sweethearts and sisters of the dead soldiers began to take their places in performances as a tribute. The song, *Dancing at Whitsun*, tells this story. *Dainty Davey* and finally *Over the Hills and Far Away* concluded a great hour's entertainment from this group. Throughout the performance Kristin's flute added warmth and depth to the music. Robyn's guitar playing was excellent with her voice clear and strong. Don and Ken played at times the mandolin, harmonica, button accordion, guitar, banjo, fiddle, autoharp, double bass and even the bongos. It was a great evening's entertainment and let's wish the group many more anniversaries to come.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the evening a great success.

Next month: Traditional Irish group, Saoirse.

*Report by Bette Martin ; Photos by Trevor Voake*



## THE DANCE PAGE

### Diary dates for July

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

**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 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, 5th July 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:**

### Melbourne Colonial Dancers Dance Band



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

Tickets available at the door or online at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-july2025-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

# Sea Shanty Session

**Wednesday, 9th July 2025**

**1:45 for 2:00pm until 4:00pm**

Community Space, Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre

270 Canterbury Road, Forest Hill

(directly opposite the Post Office on level 1)

**Printed songbooks supplied plus lyrics onscreen**



**Entry free!**

Phone: Tony 0417 300 682  
Bill 0417 300 682  
Email: tonyo43au@gmail.com  
billnmaree@gmail.com  
Website: [www.vfmc.org.au](http://www.vfmc.org.au)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025—REPORT

The VFMC's 2025 AGM was held on Sunday 15th June. There were no special resolutions put forward, so the meeting dealt just with the essential matters required under our constitution.

There have been a few changes with the committee and roles. Peter Kernebone was elected President and Michael Hassett replaced Peter as Secretary. There are two new faces on our committee, Tony O'Neill and Brian Ellwood replacing Steve Bullock and Peter Reid. We thank Steve and Peter for their contributions on the previous committee.

The full AGM minutes are available on the website under 'VFMC Information > About Us > VFMC Annual General Meetings.

- Michael Hassett (VFMC Secretary)

### NEW OFFICE BEARERS:

President	Peter Kernebone
Vice President	Trevor Voake
Secretary	Michael Hassett
Treasurer	Don Fraser
General Committee	Maree Buttler
	Bill Buttler
	Colin McLaren
	Maggie Somerville
	Tony O'Neill
	Brian Ellwood

## AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST GUITAR



This guitar is the world's second largest playable guitar and the world's largest acoustic guitar. It is kept tuned and has been played. One person plays the frets while another strums the strings.

The world's largest guitar is an electric guitar in Texas and is also playable.

*- by Trevor Voake ; photo by staff member at Narrandera Information Centre*

It seems appropriate somehow at this point in time to include a poem about war—how it only leads to death and misery.

## WAR

Out in the dust he lies,  
Flies in his mouth,  
Ants in his eyes.....

I stood at the door  
Where he went out;  
Full-grown man,  
Ruddy and stout.

The beat of the drum  
Was clods on the heart,  
For all that the regiment  
Looked so smart!

I heard the crackle  
Of hasty cheers  
Run like the breaking  
Of unshed tears.

And just for a moment,  
As he went by,  
I had sight of his face,  
And the flash of his eye.

He died a hero's death,  
They said,  
When they came to tell me  
My boy was dead.

But out in the street  
A dead dog lies;  
Flies in his mouth,  
Ants in his eyes.

*Poem by Mary Gilmore, 1932  
(Music by Maggie Somerville), 2016)*

# Wally Fabey's Polka Mazurka

Collected from Wally Fabey, Devonport, Tasmania  
 by Rob Willis, NLA bib ID 734702

(Australian Settlers Session & Dance Music – NFF 2024)



## FOLK SONGS ABOUT WAR— QUIZ

(1) What are folk songs about war? (2) Name a well-known American war song (2) Who has written several great war songs in Australia? (3) Name at least two of these songs (4) Name a famous Redgum song about war.

*Answers to last quiz (1) A genre of American roots music starting in 1940s (2) Appalachian region on USA (3) It is only played on acoustic instruments e.g. fiddle, mandolin (4) From the band Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys (5) Stringed instruments & off-beat (6) The Hayes Brothers, Bluegrass Ramblers*

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## JUNE BILLABONG BAND REPORT

The two gigs we recently played were for the Maroondah Council – these were part of a program designed for women who were feeling isolated and not getting out of their houses.

“I Like to Move it” – City of Maroondah – May 27<sup>th</sup>

“I Like to Move it” – City of Maroondah – June 3<sup>rd</sup>

It was a resounding success, with a couple of them wanting further information on our Saturday family bush dances.

Their organiser spoke to me afterwards and said how much positive feedback she got from the women and how much fun they had. Unfortunately the council has withdrawn funding for this project so it finishes at the end of June.

Thanks to Maree & Bill and Katy for calling/teaching the dances.

### Upcoming gigs:

Under The Fern Tree - Sat 4<sup>th</sup> October

Family Bush Dance – Sat 6<sup>th</sup> December

- by Trevor Voake (Convenor)

**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**

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**

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.

geelongfolkmusic@gmail.com  
 geelongfolkclub.au

**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/](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.  
**Music On The Hill (MOTH)** Mornington Peninsula First Friday each month. Int. & local artists. <http://musiconthehill.com.au>

**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: .....