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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

In This Issue ...Item

Item	Page
Club Events	2
Next Concert Night guest artist/s	3
Concert Night Review—by Kass M.	4
Dance Page—by Bill Buttler	8
Family Dance flyer	9
Poem by C.J. Dennis	10
A.G.M.—report ; Linn Phipps news	12
Quiz ; Billabong Band Report	14
Other folk clubs	15
VFMC Membership	16

Fiddler Harry Gardner lives on through his garden gnome



Photo by Maggie Somerville

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: WATTLE DAY IS FAST APPROACHING AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER SO ANY SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME ABOUT HOW THE VFMC CAN CELEBRATE IT WITH WORKSHOPS ETC.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER BY SUNDAY 17TH JULY 2026 TO: 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 for further information about sessions, concerts and dances.

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

Victorian Folk Music Club
presents

Nick Charles

Tuesday 14th July

Nick Charles is one of Australia's most celebrated acoustic roots and blues guitarists. He has headlined most blues, folk and jazz festivals, toured the US more than a dozen times, and released over 20 albums.

Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall, Laurence Gve.
7.45 - 10.00pm. \$11 to \$15. Online or cash or card at the door.

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-july-2026-concert>

www.vfmc.org.au

Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club / 0411.750.462

Spot acts pre-book at concerts@vfmc.org.au

Presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704



Next Concert - 11th August Michael Waugh

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—JUNE 2026

MC'ed by Robyn Hammond - Welcome & Acknowledgement to Country. A very select audience enjoyed a wonderful concert on Tuesday 9th June.

SPOT ACTS:



Alex Ruschenov - “I was born under a wandering star” and Alex’s fancy ukulele. We all joined Alex under the wandering star. I never knew there were so many verses!

Alex followed this with a tribute to every small country town that has gradually shut down over time with *The sun is setting down on “Our Town”*. <https://encrypted-vtbn0.gstatic.com/video?q=tbn:ANd9GcQGfpcismJ0b-4QDTgGcL4d-1Qfnad3HpniA>

Stephen Whiteside – **Omeo** – a poem to such a cold little town, “It’s always cold in Omeo”. Audience joining in on the final line of each stanza.

Then we heard another poem of Stephen’s based on a true story – “**Stephen said to Maggie**”, This story is known by Trevor and aired at the last Round Robin. It was just as funny this time around, causing much laughter.



Julia Faulkner sang “The Worker’s Song” by Ed Pickford. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKpkT3jrCvU> – a true worker’s anthem.

Then we heard an adapted version of Bruce Watson’s song, “Dad’s Clothes”, that Bruce wrote when his dad died. Julia sang this in honour of her dad, who died a few years ago. “We folded Dad’s clothes today”, beautifully sung and a real tear-jerker.

(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

SUPPORT ACT:

Peter Read & Regina McDonald



Peter has written over 150 songs since he retired in 2013. He is also building guitars and showed us one made from Camphor laurel and Tasmanian Huon Pine. Peter is a great poet and puts many of his poems to music.

We heard a song about Peter's grandfather – **“John Wilson is dancing”**. Regina's Violin provided a haunting sound.

Followed by “All the way to the other way” - “once I knew a girl named Jill”. “HER FATHER ran me out of town”. “Don't ask me to settle down and spread my love in just one town.” I didn't catch this song's name – apologies to Peter.

Granmas's lament – a lovely song.

A Doggy Song came next with an invitation to make dog noises! Peter played guitar and harmonica, accompanied by Regina on violin. “Howling with my dog yesterday” – the audience howled with enthusiasm. Loved the guitar accompaniment. Regina made the violin wail.

“I've never been a cowboy ... Or a drover, or a sailor”, or a gaoler. “I wouldn't know what to do!”

“I've got a silver pistol in my pocket” – a lonesome gambler song. What a life. A downward spiral! Great segue song into the following trip into the ground.

“Life's a circle” – jolly tempo accompanied by egg shaker.

(continued over...)

MAIN ACT:

CD's were available on the table for tonight was the launch of Maggie's song tribute to her son, Julian / Mowgly.

Maggie Somerville with friends: Maggie on vocals, guitar, tin whistle & banjo-mandolin, Catherine Leslie on violin, Jenny Rowlands on cello, Maree Buttler on harp, piano accordion & tambourine, Dave Billings on keyboard, A. J. Leonard on ukulele & mandolin. This was a tribute to Maggie's son, Julian, along with the launch of Maggie's "**Memories of Mowgly**" CD.

We began with "**If Julian were here**, he would write a rap... I'm in a better place now". A musical rap for Julian "Mowgly"

"Lament for Julio" - Julian's dad's affectionate name for Julian. Maggie played on tin whistle. Such a lovely gentle lament.

When Julian was about 6 months, he started laughing. "**When You Laugh**", a poem that Maggie set to music for Julian's funeral. Featuring Maree on harp. Lovely cello tones, and on the keyboard. Absolutely gorgeous instrumental bridge and finish.

A Dinosaur Tonight - a join-in chorus. Written for a 3-year old Julian and all the other little kinder kids. Fantastic recording of dinosaurs! Yikes!

"Memories of Mowgly" – when Julian died, all his mates got together to make "Mowgly" skateboards – a sellout! A lovely whistle tune with piano accordion, keyboard, ukulele, fiddle, cello. Cheeky, longish-haired Mowgly.



(continued over...)

CONCERT NIGHT MAIN ACT (continued):

Julian used to do graffiti art, with a “Mowgly” tag. One of his friends was a tattooist – **“In My Skin”**. We carry our children inside us, says Maggie. “Your soul is buried in my skin. I know I’m carrying you within”. Maggie got her first tattoo for Mowgly a year after he passed away. A really beautiful accompaniment by Jill on the glockenspiel – sublime. This song really got to me.

Trevor mounted the stage to play the bodhran for Maggie’s **“Meeting Isabella”**. Such a great dance tune with audience clapping in the chorus. Isabella is Julian’s daughter and Maggie is now about to attend her Deb event.

“The Snake” – there was a tiger snake in the Brunswick velodrome, which hid from the snake catcher. Then Julian rang his mum to say he had caught the snake in an esky. He released it down at the Merri Creek. The audience joined in the chorus enthusiastically.

“Triggers” – a suicide support group run by the Jesuits inspired Maggie to write “Triggers”, first as a poem and later set to music. A song for those who grieve. Superb cello underlining the tune. Triggers are a part of us and we just have to learn to live with them. They demonstrate how much we care. The mandolin added depth.

Bella’s Waltz – celebrates regaining contact with Julian’s young daughter. Violin & tin whistle, great musicians. Oh, we should all be so lucky! Great dance tune!

The Wishing Song – an audience participation song. Please “loo lah lay” very gently. Only keyboard emphasized the gentle lullaby for Julian’s little nephew named Bailey Julian.

Bottom Bunk Bed – the only song where Maggie plays the banjo-mandolin. Due to a broken ankle, Maggie had to have the downstairs bottom bunk bed that Julian slept in as a child and teenager.

“Towards the Light” - Maggie was asked to lead a discussion about the guilt surrounding suicide. She found that nature helps such a lot in dealing with guilt and grief. “If only ...” Superb, sensitive cello supports this song, plus beautiful harp playing. Interspersed by lovely fiddle backing. The ukulele underlies it all with enormous subtlety. Such special musical support.

Church Candle – After a thankyou to everyone from the Folk Club who came to Julian’s funeral service, this a’capella song made me and some others cry.

Julian’s Lullaby – our final musical tribute to Maggie’s son: Julian / Mowgly.

Maggie generously gave us all permission to share our grief as she shared hers – what a brave and inspirational gift. What a wonderful concert!

Thanks to all our helpers on the night. Next month: Nick Charles.

- Report by Kass Mulvany ; Photos by Trevor Voake



THE DANCE PAGE

Diary dates for July

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

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

Scottish Thursday Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thomton 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, 4th July 2026

(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:

The Jolly Jumbucks Bush Band



Entry: \$12 members, \$15 non-members, Kids free.

Tickets available at the door or online at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-july2026-dance>

Phone:

Bill 0417 300 682

Email:

dance@vfmc.org.au

Website:

www.vfmc.org.au



This year is the 150th anniversary of the famous Australian poet, novelist and journalist, **C.J. DENNIS**, who was born in September 1876. He lived for many years at Toolangi and was clearly poetically inspired by the wide variety of birds all around him there. Here is one of his bird poems, which contains a lovely reference to dance:-

THE SATIN BOWER-BIRD

Spare a bloom of blue, lady,
To adorn a bower.
A violet will do, lady---
Any azure flower.
Since we hold a dance today,
We would make our ball-room gay,
Where the scented grasses sway,
And the tall trees tower.

Beautiful but shy, lady
Yesterday we came
Dropping from the sky, lady,
Flecks of golden flame ---
Golden flame and royal blue ---
We have come to beg of you
Any scrap of heaven's hue
For our dancing game.



(continued over...)

THE SATIN BOWER-BIRD (continued)

Spare us but a leaf, lady,
If our suit be spurned
We shall play the thief, lady,
When your back is turned;
Ravishing your garden plot
Of the choicest you have got ---
Pansy or forget-me-not ---
Counting it well earned.

Then, if some rare chance, lady,
Later should befall.
And you gain a glance, lady,
At our dancing hall,
You will find your blossoms there
'Mid our decorations where
With a proud, patrician air
We hold the Bushland Ball.



(Poem by C.J. Dennis)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—REPORT

The club's AGM was held on Sunday 14th June 2026. It commenced at 2.35pm in the meeting room of the Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Hall, with 13 in attendance in-person and 4 attending via Zoom. There were sufficient numbers under the constitution to proceed. More detailed documents and the reports are available on the club website on the "VFMC Information, About Us" page (<https://vfmc.org.au/aboutvfmc.php>) for those interested in more detail of the proceedings.

There have been a small number of changes in office bearers and committee members. We farewell Trevor Voake and Tony O'Neill from the committee and thank them for their contribution over the year and previously. We welcome two new committee members: Beth Duffy and Kass Mulvaney. Brian Ellwood has assumed the vice president role, replacing Trevor. Other office bearers are unchanged.

Comprehensive reports were received from the President, Treasurer and the various sub group (Concerts, Dance, Sessions, etc) convenors. The club remains in a strong financial position. As a result, there will be no change to the membership fees over the year ahead.

The meeting also added a clause (76(3)) to the Club's constitution, regarding winding up provisions. This clause was inserted to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) for registration as a charity. This registration saves the club time and money in its annual reporting obligations and may also benefit from commercial concessions available to registered charities. A motion was also put forward regarding insurance for the committee to create a new membership category that we can offer to performers outside the VFMC so that they (and we) will be adequately covered when they perform at our concerts. This is still a work in progress, but a modified version of the original proposal was carried.

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President: Peter Kernebone

Vice President: Brian Ellwood

Secretary: Michael Hassett

Treasurer: Don Fraser

General Committee: Bill Buttler, Maree Buttler, Colin McLaren, Maggie Somerville, Beth Duffy, and Kass Mulvaney. (Big welcome to Beth and Kass as first timers.)

(continued over...)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT (continued):

Volunteers were then sought for convenor roles within the club, with the following outcome:

Concert Convenor: Brian Ellwood (taking over from Maree Buttler)

Dance Convenor: Bill Buttler. Note that Bill will be looking for an assistant and may tap you on the shoulder!

Sessions Convenor: Don Fraser. Don is also looking for an assistant this year, so if you are keen to help run the sessions, now is your chance.

Membership Officer: Trevor Voake with Michael Hassett to assist.

Publicity Officer: Don Fraser. Again, Don is looking for an assistant for this task.

Newsletter Editor: Maggie Somerville

Billabong Band Convenor: Trevor Voake

Website Support: Steve Bullock and Michael Hassett & Peter Kernebone as backup.

Wattle Day Coordinator: Maree Buttler. Additional team members required.

Highland Games Liaison: Bill Buttler

VFMC Library Manager: Wal Tiedemann

Youth Outreach: Nil. We have not appointed anyone to this roll this year, as the committee feels that the scope and responsibilities need defining. If you have thoughts on this, please let the committee know them. If you want to do it, now is a good opportunity.

Report by Peter Kernebone and Michael Hassett

Linn Phipps who was visiting from the UK recently met with Dominic and Maree and recorded a very nice version of Humping The Drum. Readers may be interested in the accompanying clip. It was recorded by Bill Buttler.

<https://youtu.be/qOhzGKiUsPk>

HARP - QUIZ

(1) What is a harp? (2) Is it the biggest musical instrument in an orchestra? (3) How far back do harps go and to what country? (4) What are the two main kinds of harps? (5) What is one harp associated with folk music? (6) Name a member of the VFMC who regularly plays the harp. (7) What musical instrument is also described as a harp?

Answers to last quiz: (1) Rock or folk rock (2) Mike Scott, a Scottish musician and songwriter (3) In the mid 1980s (4) The Whole of the Moon, Fisherman's Blues, Spirit (5) The Palais in St Kilda.

JUNE BILLABONG BAND REPORT

Upcoming gigs:

13th October—Nillumbik Shire Council Seniors week dance/concert at Research.

5th December—Family dance (Christmas themed)

Possible gigs at Lionbrae and Donwood—to be confirmed.

Trevor Voake - Billabong Band Convenor



REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES (Check if On)

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.
<https://www.nffc.org.au>

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

Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo

Monthly bush dance at Bendigo, third Saturday every month, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. Contact Mary Smith 5442-1153 or email secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

Creswick Folk Club

Second Friday, from 7.30 pm at the American Hotel, Creswick; and Fourth Friday, from 7.30 pm at the Old Station in Creswick. Enquiries: Graeme: 03 5334 5551. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/854634092750935/>

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
<https://badfolk.org/>

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

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

Selby Folk Club

1st Friday every month, at 8:00 pm, Selby Community House, 1 Minak Rd Selby
<https://selbyfolkclub.com.au/>

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

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

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

Music on the Hill (MOTH)

Mornington Peninsula, First Friday of the month. International and local artists.
<https://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

Michael Hassett
Telephone: 0407 094 929
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: billabongband@vfmc.org.au

To join or renew on line, visit <https://vfmc.org.au/Join> or Renew

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 <https://vfmc.org.au/constitution> 2023.pdf)

Signed

Membership Type (Please circle)

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

*Parent/s & children under 18

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Email..... Phone.....

Post form to: The Secretary VFMC, PO Box 215, Ringwood East 3135 Vic