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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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WATTLE DAY—2026



Photo by Trevor Voake

(See Wattle Day report inside)

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: APOLOGIES IN ADVANCE FOR ANY PROBLEMS WITH FUTURE NEWSLETTERS AS THE PUBLISHER PROGRAM IS ENDING AND CANVA WILL NOW BE USED—QUITE DIFFERENT! FINGERS CROSSED...

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER BY MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2026 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU

The views expressed in this newsletter

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 October	**2ns**	**3rd** Family dance
4th	**5th**	**6th** Club Session Round Robin	**7th**	**8th**	**91th**	**10th**
11th	**12th**	**13th** Concert Night Guest artist/s	**14th**	**15th**	**16th**	**17th**
18th	**19th**	**20th** Club Session Round Robin	**21st**	**22nd**	**23rd**	**24th** **Woolshed Ball**
25th	**26th**	**27th** Club Session All in	**28th**	**29th**	**30th**	**31st**


Victorian Folk Music Club
presents
Enda Kenny
Tuesday 13th October
Witty and intelligent songwriting and
a brilliant night's entertainment
Eleanor McEvoy
Support Act Peter Pentland
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-october-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
November Concert - Kris Mizzi

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW—SEPTEMBER 2026

Acapella Concert 8th September 2026 VFMC - MC'd by Maree Buttler

SPOT ACTS:



Brian Ellwood opened with "***Row On***", a beautiful ballad. There are two lovers, one imprisoned in the Tower of London. A brave rower sneaks messages back and forth between them, rowing in and out with the tide. The words were re-discovered in the 1846 logbook of the whaling ship *Three Brothers*, out of Nantucket, and set to this tune by Tim Laycock. [Also listed in Roud 2084 ; Mudcat 13562 ; words trad., tune Tim Laycock.]

At first glance, *Row On* looks like a lover's lament, but from the context, it is clear that it is a hidden warning for the rowing messenger not to dock at Arabella Stuart's prison house to pick up a secret letter.

The 1846 log book of the Nantucket whaler, *Three Brothers,* contained slightly different lyrics. Gale Huntington printed it in his 1964 book *Songs the Whalemen Sang*, noting that he had "not been able to find this song in print". I think Brian captured the poignant feeling of love and anxiety that must have been the constant lot of coastal families living from the sea. *Ninebarrow* performed this song at St Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook, on 31 January 2020, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHPIBeWvkA8 .

Then Brian sang "***Lay Fallow***" written by Michael Kennedy. "Hear the voice in the wind, my child…..".

Brian was followed by **Kass**, who led everyone, audience and performers, in ***Tjo Tfo i Ri***, a Southern Tyrol devotional yodel song, taught to her by Joseph Jordania. Then we sang a ***Solomon Islands spear dance song***, with some very dangerous-looking people performing a scary dance with spears. Those who remained sitting were obliged to perform a ***Samoan Mosquito Slap Dance*** involving confusing body percussion. No-one escaped!





(continued over…)

CONCERT NIGHT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

THE MAIN ACT this month was not one, but three acts involving three local community choirs in a delightful evening of a cappella music.



Breathing Space is a women's choir which grew out of a project at a North Fitzroy Primary School with Therese Virtue from the Boite, where many of the singers were mothers. In the 30 odd years since then, with Director, Therese Virtue, they have explored songs from many cultures and sources, working with a range of exciting teachers and performing in spaces across Victoria. Jeannie Marsh has kindly stepped in to lead this group.

Outward Bound, leaving everything I've found without regret. **A "**Restless call, we'll be leaving on the turning of the tide". And unsentimental man. Teamed in an interesting arrangement with "The Water Is Wide".

"***She Moved Through the Fair***" is a County Donegal song in myxolodian mode. [The Mixolydian mode is a scale that sounds like a major scale, but with a flattened seventh note.] This is a very beautiful and sensitive arrangement by Anita Mahon. *Breathing Space* have a beautifully balancing of their nine voices in this great song.

Jeannie Marsh checked her starting notes on a colourful rubber piano for ***Ranina***, a Georgian song. This song came from Joseph Jordania originally. We are lucky to have quite a few ethnomusicologists in Melbourne that teach Georgian music.

"*In this heart*" written by Sinead O'Connor about motherhood, encompassing enormous grief and loss, but hopefully ending on a bright note of hope. Very enjoyable harmonies in this arrangement.

Melanie Demore was teaching at a school in America of mostly black students who were worried about becoming slaves again when she wrote "***Lead With Love***", placing one foot in front of the other. Jeannie turned to the audience and lead us all in the chorus "You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love" plus some clapping on the off-beat. Such a moving song.The final song was accompanied by a thankyou to Jeannie for stepping in for Therese Virtue at the last minute - Therese is in Georgia, collecting more songs!

Mingulay Boat Song – a sea shanty with great audience participation! (cont…)

Monday Nights Choir started when a group of parents asked their children's music teacher to run a singing group for parents to participate in a school concert. That was over 30 years ago. They are still singing today. There must be something in this game!!

"***Let It Go***" written by Michael Leunig and put to music by Suzanne Frisk was this group's warm up song.

Asikhatali 8 ladies and one gentleman in this group – the gentleman had a violin and held his own very well among the ladies.

Siyahamba - a lovely rendition of this popular song, with many singers from *Sweet Sassafras* joining in down the back of the hall with me.

Shosholoz—This song perhaps benefits from being sung by larger groups.

Weeping—This song was written during apartheid and was banned at one point. It includes parts of Singawayo. A very dire story with the fear, the fire and the guns remaining. The world is sleeping.

Ride On by Christy Moore was sung at a galloping tempo! It included the bodhran and an intro on violin. This was a charming arrangement by this group.

Cum Decore— a very nicely balanced arrangement, which then moved into a faster tempo for this gorgeous song.

Panis Angelicus—a 13th century song. Performed with lovely dynamics and balance. 3 sopranos, 3 altos, 3 tenor ladies, and the gentleman singing bass. An advent song.

Suo Gan **-** is a traditional Welsh lullaby by an anonymous composer first printed around 1800. *Huna blentyn ar fy mynwes, Clyd a chynnes ydyw hon = Sleep my darling, on my bosom, Harm will never come to you*. **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whKw72731L8**

Wild Mountain Thyme **-** audience participation invited for the chorus.

Keep You Peace—so many versions of this gorgeous blessing. A great choice for this group's last song of the evening.



(continued over…)

Sweet Sassafras have also been singing for many years and are based in Tecoma on Mt. Dandenong. Their current leader is Susy Hull, a jazz singer and multi-instrumentalist. They are a friendly group of people who share the pleasure of singing together in an inclusive and encouraging setting. Some of our VFMC members have at various times been members of Sweet Sassafras. Everyone is welcome!

Lingmarra - many in the audience joined in with this wellknown song written by Tom E. Lewis.

Drunken Sailor OH, what an ear-worm! Invited to join in with this drunken song. Started with hiccupping singers in such an entertaining arrangement, with women and men singing different parts. Rollicking good song.

Fugue was composed by Sue Johnson from her 2003 Coco's Lunch CD with an "illegal flute". [Acappella is not strictly instrumentless – that is a modern definition, so the flute was a legal addition!] Intro on the flute of this interesting song in a minor key. Based around vowel sounds with a very gentle tempo – makes a gentle lullaby until the dynamics lift it into the more dramatic.

I Got Rhythm—Usually Sweet Sassafras can say that they have rhythm and harmony! Very bouncy tempo with audience invited to keep the time with finger-clicking. Well done!

Love Sounds Like This—Anna Tabbush wrote this song – she was commissioned to write it for the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs in 2025.. The lyrebirds in Emerald sometimes sing with Sweet Sassafras. Clever sliding by choir members on notes! This is the sound of love = harmony and perfect timing and very tight dynamics. A very ambitious ending!



(continued over…)

CONCERT NIGHT (continued):



Babethandeza saw Marg on the tambourine and Barb on a mini-djembe. This is a call to join in prayer. It features the altos, who often get the rough end of arrangements. Clever drumming complimented the singers. It is really difficult to get such an enthusiastic group to achieve dynamics, but Sweet Sassafras did a wonderful job of handling this song.

Bring Me Lil Water - Leadbelly's song with fantastic body percussion – it really complimented the singing. WELL DONE! Another great arrangement.

Marvellous - a polyphonic song. Not one of my favourites, but I may have been converted by this rendition. A lovely song to conclude our concert with as it is so happy and congratulatory.

What a great evening of community singing and harmony!

Thanks to all who helped to make this night such a success—putting out so many extra chairs, organising supper, doing the lighting, etc.

Next month: ENDA KENNY

- Report by Kass Mulvany ; Photos by Trevor Voake



Some of the organisers of this year's Wattle Day activities. From left: Jane, Bette, Maree. *See full report on page 11 of this issue.*

(Photo by Trevor Voake)



THE DANCE PAGE

Diary dates for October

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

7-9pm Contact Di Gaylard 5963 3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au.

Bendigo Dinki Di Ball St Andrews Church Hall, Myers St inquiries 5442 1153

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

Registered No. A2511Y

Family Bush Dance

Saturday, 3rd October 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:

Borderline Kaylee



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

Tickets available at the door or online at:

https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-october2026-dance

Phone:	Bill 0417 300 682
Email:	dance@vfmc.org.au
Website:	www.vfmc.org.au

VFMC WATTLE DAY 2026—REPORT

Wattle Day 2026 was another very successful event.

National Wattle Day is celebrated by the Victorian Folk Music Club on the first weekend in September every year. On Saturday 5th September we provided for our members and the public a great day of varied and interesting workshops. We'd like to thank all our members who ran workshops throughout the day. A summary of the day is listed below.



The Squeezebox workshop just had 4, or 5 if we count Maureen from the Bridge Club. She attended several other sessions too. Ken, Colin and Marjan all brought their own accordions along, but I had about three others for use.
We could really just scratch the surface, but it was a good intro to the button box and brought us together.



Dom Martin ran the Guitar workshop. He was happy to have 5 guitarists. That allowed him to have time to personalise the tuition. He showed techniques slowly and had participants perform them.
He felt the session went really well. He prepared take home material for them to practice the techniques taught.



Bill had 6 participants in his Blues Harmonica workshop. He covered a range of introductory skills, including how to sound like a train and how to bend notes. Those who stayed on for the Blackboard concert were able to play the theme from 'Petticoat Junction' in the afternoon.

Following these three instrument workshops was Ken McGregor's vocal folk harmony workshop supported by Pleasant and Delightful. There were 13 participants which was enough to sing different parts against each other. Ken had us walking around the room while we all sang our individual parts. Very enjoyable workshop.

(continued over…)

WATTLE DAY REPORT (continued):



The last morning session was Joan and Ray's dance music workshop. There were 10 participants all with their instruments. When I walked into the workshop Joan had everyone singing the melody of the tunes she was teaching. Everyone had fun. Printed sheets of the tunes were available to take home and practice.

After a quick lunch, the afternoon started with Chris Lazaro's Songwriting workshop. There were 18 people at this excellent workshop. Chris was very encouraging. He helped us find a topic to write about by us tapping into our emotions.



Next was Norm's "Throw away partners' dance workshop. 8 people participated.

At the same time as the dance workshop was the poetry open mic session. Poetry had about 12 -14 people attending with seven different poets reading verse. Most did two rounds each. Participants were Don Fraser, Peter Pentland, Maggie Somerville, Stephen Whiteside, Ray Mundy, Dominic and Bette Martin. Bernard Heinz gave a very interesting talk on wattle. He has many wattles in his garden and is also a bee-keeper. He had brought along a few wattle branches as a display.

Blackboard open mic. The afternoon finished with a concert. Ten items in all, starting with a combined guitar / blues harmonica collaboration. With participants from those workshops.



It was a very successful Wattle day celebration culminating in the Family Bush Dance in the evening with Comhaltas Band (including Maggie singing her 'Wattle Day' song during a break between dances).

A big thankyou to the Wattle Day committee who organised this wonderful event: Jane Bullock, Bette Martin, Don Fraser and Maree Buttler.

- Report by Maree Buttler ; Photos by Maree and Trevor

LOOK WHAT'S COMING UP IN OCTOBER!

An extra bush dance and the annual wonderful **WOOLSHED BALL**:

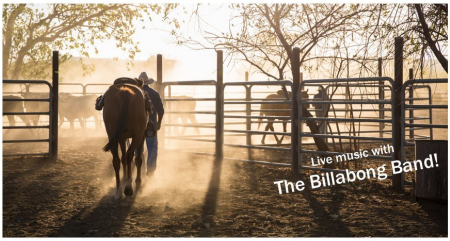




Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
Registered No A2511Y

October Woolshed Ball

At the Augathella Station



Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Club

Saturday 24th October 2026 **8:00pm - 12:00am**

Come dressed for a woolshed ball at the old station! The Waltz, Polka and all kinds of dance explained and called. BYO mug and plate of supper to share. Tea and Coffee provided (Alcohol-free event).

Tickets:

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

At the door: $30

https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-october-2026-woolshed-ball/tickets

Phone: Bill 0417 300 682

Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Website: www.vfmc.org.au

DO TRY TO COME ALONG TO AT LEAST ONE OF THESE!

CHRISTY MOORE - QUIZ

(1) Who is Christy Moore? (2) When and where was he born? (3) What two bands was he a founding member of? (4) What instruments does he play? (5) Outside music, what is he well-known for? (5) What negatively affected his health? (6) Name at least 2 of his best songs (7) What is his latest album called?

Answers to last quiz: (1) An American folk group (2) Early & mid 1960s (3) The American folk revival (4) Traditional songs, songs by Yarrow & Stookey, songs by Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger & others (6) Puff the Magic Dragon, Lemon Tree, 500 Miles, If I Had a Hammer.

SEPTEMBER BILLABONG BAND REPORT

Upcoming Gigs

Nillumbik Shire Council - Seniors week - Tuesday 13th October. Practices commence Friday 21st August - extensive program of songs & dances for a 2 1/2 hour gig. See flyer on page 13.

Woolshed Ball - Saturday 24th October

Practices commenced Friday 28th August and are going well, with a good program of interesting dances as well as some old favourites.

Maroondah Festival - Sunday 8th November - It would be great if we could have a few more players for either in the morning or afternoon. If you have a Working With Children Card all the better & could you include the WWC number - this is a council requirement.

VFMC Christmas Dance - Saturday 5th December

Gigs under consideration

Olivet Care (Ringwood)
Keyton aged care (Forest Hill)
Lionsbrae (Ringwood)
Bayswater TTHA (Bayswater)

- by 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. 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)

Metro	Single	$25	Country Single		$20
	Family*	$30		Family*	$25
	Junior (u 18)	$15			
	Student (full time)	$20			
	Single Concession	$20	*Parent/s & children under 18		
	Family Concession	$25			

Name:……
Address……..…
……..….
Email……. Phone…….….

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