

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.tellingtales.net

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 7

August 2005

STOP PRESS

MALDON IS NOT ON!

AS YOU WERE - CANCEL THAT B&B OR GO JUST FOR A FUN WEEKEND, BUT THE FIDDLE CLUB WILL NOT BE PLAYING, SORRY TO DISAPPOINT THOSE WHO WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS FESTIVAL AGAIN. FACTORS BEYOND OUR CONTROL ETC ETC – A FULL REPORT WILL BE GIVEN AT THE AUGUST MEETING.

No Wednesday 17 August NZ rehearsal!

Next rehearsal is the Sunday meeting, CHECK ITEM IN THIS NEWSLETTER ABOUT WHAT'S ON!

then For NZ crew: Thursday 25 August - 7pm start NZ repertoire

PLEASE CHECK THE DATES IN THIS NEWSLETTER

At the moment all mid-week venues are at Westgarth - if any changes happen will notify you

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

BRING BACK ALL YOUR FIDDLER RAFFLE TICKETS AND MONEY THIS SUNDAY! THANKS!

From Judy

What a concert! What a Club! What a team of volunteers!

Well — words almost fail me!

The afternoon at Hawthorn Town Hall on August 14th far exceeded my expectations — both the crowd, which was panting to get started and averse to going home after more than two hours of music, and our performance were fantastic — and didn't we remember our stuff well,



better than ever before probably. And weren't our soloists great? I thought the way people in the group paid attention to the various singers, and remembered how to back them up, was brilliant- when you consider the completely new balance of songs and tunes, it was a massive undertaking, and we pulled it off.

So many of us got really positive comments - I hope that every one of you picked up on the warm response of the crowd and the genuine emotion of the Anderson family descendants — see Bill's message elsewhere in the newsletter. I can't say enough too about all the helpers, the ones who don't necessarily get the accolades, but who deserve them just as richly



as we on stage do — so for all their hard work and cheerful contributions I'd like to mention:

- Ian Thompson, our hard-working Treasurer, who looks after the money and keeps the books, pays the bills, all without ever looking for rewards or medals (that's a good idea—what about a medal for Ian?!?!?)
- Anita Szasz who organised the afternoon tea and her team of helpers most of whom I never saw, so busy was I at half time
- Shirley Dwyer who looked after the raffle
- Jim Llewellyn who read and helped out all over
- Andrew Gilmour and Robyn Wilson, who did the sales table, and what a lot of business they did!
- Ron McCoy, again, who did the program and the Anderson sheet (attached here)
- Shirl again, who looked after the shirts and other Fiddle Club merchandise
- Sue O'Leary, who makes the tune books and keeps all the CD supplies up
- Bruce Packard, our great friend and supporter, who helped the sound man all day, and made such a difference to the sound in the hall and on stage

Others there you may have noticed working hard for us were Alec Withy — the hall-keeper — Jan Semp — Council project officer — and Rita and Rod — Judy's cousins, who did the stage management. If anyone felt like writing to Council to thank them for their support, I am sure it wouldn't go astray! WE received a grant which more than covered our costs, and with sales on the day we will do well out of the event, but the money was not the main thing — it was the vibe of the thing!

So good on everyone who played, watched, drove, sold, fetched, carried and everything else. Special and final mentions go to the “creative team” of the group, who put most of the snazzy arrangements together, and didn't they go down well! They are:

Neil, Helmut, (Big) Matt, Pete, Pria and Judy.



No Wed 17 August rehearsal!

Next rehearsal is the Sunday meeting, then

For NZ crew:

Thursday 25 August - 7pm

Wednesday 31 August (changed from Thursday as originally noted) 7.15 for 7.30 start

Sunday 4 September - NZ only at St Aidan's (2pm to 5pm)

Wednesday 7 - **COMPULSORY REHEARSAL FOR ALL NZ people - CDs to be given out**

BRING BACK YOUR FIDDLER'S RAFFLE TICKETS TO THE NEXT SUNDAY CLUB MEETING TOO! MONEY, BOOKS, THE LOT! THANKS!

What they said about the MSFC Hawthorn Concert...pictures courtesy of Doug Bird..thanks!

A wonderful letter from Bill Sides and the Anderson family... you can read the full story in the PDF accompanying this newsletter..

Dear Neil and Judy,

I am still recovering from yesterday, you exhausted me and my relatives with your energy and vibrant playing! Apart from being a beautifully balanced concert that was appreciated by the capacity audience, it was very emotional for John Anderson's three children present and around 20 grandchildren.

All had seen these fiddles in his home yet had never heard more than one or two being played or being appreciated by so many. My few words were difficult as my throat had almost closed over with emotion and pride after hearing their wonderful sound together and knowing that can only improve with use so I hope they get plenty of that before cutting the CD later in the year

Convey to your group our heartiest congratulations and thanks for making them up and this tribute to a great man's work. It was obvious from their faces that all



your players enjoyed the concert every bit as much as the audience did and that so many are young guarantees the future of Scottish Fiddling in Australia.

Again congratulations and thanks on behalf John Anderson's greater family.

Bill Sides

From Jan Semp at Boroondara Council

Well done on yesterday! A terrific time had by all.

We have had 3 calls into the office this morning of people who wanted to personally say thanks for the 'wonderful/stunning' concert. I have looked quickly through the survey sheets and words like 'the best concert I have ever attended, absolutely entertaining, terrific job, fantastic' etc keep coming up, so we should all be very pleased.

Jan Semp

Martin Foot, Boroondara Council

The City of Boroondara was very pleased by the performance of the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, the Hawthorn City Pipe Band and their various guest artists at Hawthorn Town Hall on 14 August. So were the more than six hundred and fifty people of all ages who attended. Many thanks to Judy Turner and Neil Adam who provided professional musical direction to the concert. Having the military style pipes and drums perform with the softer, more lyrical string group was fraught with dangers, but the arrangements were in fact very successful. The harpist, flute player, vocalists, dancers, the accordion and cello soloists, as well as the fascinating Shetland violin set, all added to the variety of the concert and kept everyone wanting more. Thank you to all the performers and their inspired leaders.

The Scottish Fiddler – August 2005

Martin Foot, Cultural Services Coordinator."

Ronald McCoy

I've had SOOOOOO much positive feedback about the day from literally, dozens of people. I personally spoke with about thirty people or so from the Scottish and Gaelic community. They said to me that they didn't want it to end, and couldn't believe how fast the time went. What was especially nice for me, was that I originally learned The Dark Island because of Ian Fraser, a very nice Scottish man who died recently, who used to request it whenever I met him at a ceilidh, as it was his favourite all-time song. His widow, Joan Fraser (originally from Inverness) was in the audience, and said a special heartfelt thanks to the club saying "Oh ... Ian would have loved that!"

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute. That was the biggest audience I think I have ever sung solo in front of, and I only realised that after the event. I think I'm still on a high...



MSFC Club pictures

Send your pics of fiddle club activities to Ronald McCoy rmccoy@ocean.com.au for the newsletter

AUGUST MEETING THIS SUNDAY

It would be easy to forget, after the stunning success of last Sunday, but life goes on! Focus this weekend will be on the way to play for dancing - how the sweats are put together, how to set the tempo, how to make the changes and so on – Matt will introduce some new sets into our dance repertoire, which we will use in NZ as well as at dance gigs here in Oz!

2pm – 2.30 Swapping stories on last weekend; NZ update

2.30- 3.30 New dance tunes – Matt to lead

3.30-4.00 Arvo tea

4.00-4.15 AGM for 2005

4.15-5.00 More dance tunes

Check out this great site! www.tradmusic.com

We had this email that will be of great interest to members, especially if you have a trad group:

Hi,

Thank you for submitting your information to tradmusic.com. I have now included your details on the site which you can view by visiting the Group section and selecting the appropriate Letter of the alphabet. Please check the details of our entry and get back to me if there is a problem.

It would be excellent to have the details of the September NZ events. If you have any more gigs coming up we'd love to feature them in the Gig Guide section. Feel free to submit a gig/s using our Add Gig form (www.tradmusic.com/addgig.htm)

We are chasing everyone we write to for a link back to www.tradmusic.com If you can squeeze a link to us somewhere on your own web site, that would be great. You can now access an easy to download Banner Logo/Link and Flyer at <http://www.tradmusic.com/marketing.htm> Also, if you would like to be really helpful in spreading the word about our service, if you could download our flyer and then display it for others to see, it would be excellent.

Thanks again for your input -- we really appreciate it.

Regards, Billy Jones

www.tradmusic.com

NESSIE...check out these dates..!

NESSIE (North East Scottish Strings Including Elbow pipes) meets on the 1st Sunday for every 2nd month. SO if you're in the area on 2/10 & 4/12 drop in and join in the fun! For more information contact Claire on tel: 5963 3277 or Kristen on tel: 03 5766 6282.

MSFC members especially welcome!

MSFC CLUB CONTACTS

The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club (MSFC) meets at 2.00 PM on the third Sunday of the month at St Aidan's church hall in Duggan St, North Balwyn. For more information contact:

Musical Director - Judy on 9893 6332 or tellingtales@bigpond.com

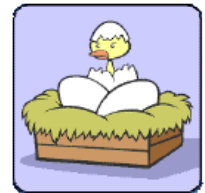
President - Matthew on 9484 8076 or matt.madonna@bigpond.com

Secretary (and daughter) - Louise or Pria on 9758 4486 or at ask@netspace.com.au

Gig Manager/CD sales - Sue on 9481 7268 or sdarbyoleary@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor – Ronald on 03 9527 1375; mob: 0407 318 911 or email: rmccoy@ocean.com.au

**Do you need a nest egg?
SO DO WE!**



Buy your LARGE FREE RANGE EGGS and help fundraise for the MSFC.

Large fresh free range upcountry eggs
DELIVERED TO FIDDLE CLUB PRACTICE!

- \$7.50 for a tray of 2 1/2 dozen
- \$3.00 for a dozen if you bring your own carton,
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GREAT PRICE! GREAT VALUE
REALLY FRESH – SHELF LIFE OF FOUR WEEKS

BYO EGG CARTON AND SAVE TWENTY CENTS! (More environmentally sound and easier with the change...!)

Email your name and order to: dicrick@telstra.com

(write in your order Att: Darron Crick, MSFC EGGS

If you don't have email, leave your order on tel: 03 53432548 the Friday before fiddle club (which is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month January) and it will be passed on!

2005

CALENDAR
UPDATE



Aug	
Date	What
21	Monthly Meeting - AGM
25	NZ only - Westgarth
31	NZ Rehearsal only

Sep	
Date	What
4	Final meeting/rehearsal for NZ only at St Aidans
7	NZ only - Westgarth COMPULSORY
10	Rhythm section - Judy's - 2pm
17	Depart for New Zealand
18	Monthly Meeting - Guest leader
25	Clan MacKenzie Gig in Melbourne if we have enough takers - Steve is in charge!

Oct	
Date	What
16	2 pm Monthly Meeting
19	7 pm - Rehearsal Westgarth for ALL
27	7pm - Rehearsal Westgarth for ALL
23	2 pm Small Group at Judy's

Nov	
Date	What
3rd	CD Rehearsal - venue tba
9th	CD rehearsal - venue tba
12/13	Record CD - venue TBA
20	2 pm Monthly Meeting
27	St Andrews Day gig - McRae Homestead on Mornington Peninsula

Dec	
Date	What
7	7 pm Rehearsal Westgarth for ALL
9	? Small group Rosebud
11	Rats of Tobruk Rye Small Group
15	7 pm Rehearsal Westgarth for ALL
18	2 pm Monthly Meeting and Tune competition
18	6 pm End of Year Concert at The Big House - ALL

Enter these in your diary — NOW!

SPUDS Poets Award — \$1000 prizemoney

The Lake School of Celtic Music Song and Dance is proud to announce a new poetry award - The Spud Poets Award!

A prize of \$1000 will be given to the best original poem, in the opinion of the judges, submitted of 300 words or less with a celtic connection.

The Award was inspired by a poem written by Mary Fiorini-Lowell in 2002 called the Humble Spud.

Mary gave a performance of her The Humble Spud at the Lake School launch in Koroit, Vic on July 23 2005 when it was announced the entries are now open for the Award.

Entries close on October 31 2005.

The panel of judges lead by Martha McEvoy (from the Embassy of Ireland) and Jim Brown (President of the Victorian Bush Poets Society) will select 15 finalists to read their poem at the Spud Poets Award Night on Friday January 6 2006.

The Award night will be held as part of the annual Lake School and staged at the Commercial Hotel in Koroit.

While the judges are considering the award winner, a concert of Songs of the Poets will be performed by renown singers Maria Forde, Vince Brophy and recently inducted Legend of the Lake - Dennis O'Keefe.

Applications for the Spud Poets Award can be found on the Bushwahzee Bush band website - bushwahzee.alpalink.com.au

Enquiries about the award can be emailed to Felix Meagher

bwz@alphalink.com.au or posted to PO Box 22 Mitcham 3132

***NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING!***

***JUST A REMINDER AMONGST OUR
BUSY SCHEDULES THAT OUR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT THE AUGUST
MEETING***

21 AUGUST 2005

***The AGM will be at some time during
the 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm meeting time***

***THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE. APOLOGIES
TO - Louise on 9758 4486 or at ask@netspace.com.au***

Stories behind the tune..South Georgia Whaling Song ..for our friends at Nessie.

For those of you who went to Mansfield, our friends at NESSIE played the tune called the South Georgia Whaling Song, which many people mistake as a traditional song.

In fact, it was written by the MacMillan brothers from the village of Kilpheder in South Uist in Scotland.



A typical view of the countryside of South Uist, about 4 miles from where the South Georgia Whaling song was written.

I recently travelled to Scotland in July and stayed in the village of Milton, the birthplace of the Scottish heroine Flora MacDonald.

I stayed with my good friends the MacMillans (no relation to the song authors), and the lady of the house, Ann was born and raised in the village of Kilpheder (which means St Peter), about 6 miles from

Milton.

Sitting in the kitchen in South Uist, the song was playing on the radio, and I mentioned to Ann that NESSIE had played the song at a concert in Australia a week earlier. She was delighted to know that the song had travelled so far!

She then told me that the story of how the song was written.

The authors of the song, Donald and Donald John Macmillan, were brothers. Donald was a policeman who was a body guard for the former UK Prime Minister Harold Wilson later in his career.

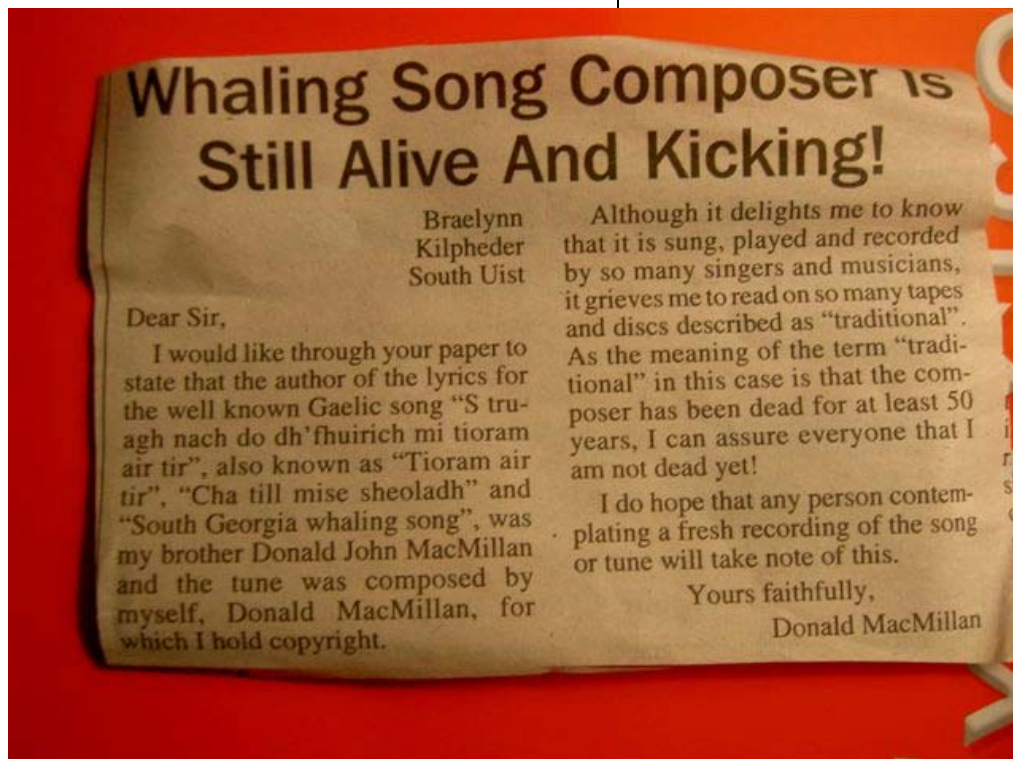
However, the MacMillans were a musical family, playing the piano, and accordion (or 'box' as the call it in South Uist) and the father, Norman MacMillan was always being recorded by the School of Scottish Studies as he knew so many songs.

Anyhow, the story goes, is that there were a few whalers living in Kilpheder who were friends of the MacMillans, and then Donald John (or Domhnall Iain, in Gaelic) wrote the words to the song. His brother, Donald then wrote the tune. The song has taken on a life of its own, and many people have thought that it is traditional, but there was a very interesting letter in the West Highland Free Press last year which I reproduce below.

I've included the Gaelic words of the song and a translation below as well so you'll know what you're playing about!

Hope you find this interesting!

Ronald McCoy



'S Truagh Nach Do Dh'fhuirich Mi Tioram Air Tìr -What A Pity I Never Stayed On Dry LandFaclan le Domhnall MacIllemaoill, fonn le Dohnall Iain MacIllemaoill

Chorus (after each verse):

'S truach nach do dh'fhuirich mi	<i>It's a pity I didn't stay</i>
Tioram air tìr	<i>On dry land</i>
'N fhìrinn a th'agam	<i>It's the truth</i>
Nach maraiche mi	<i>That I'm no sailor</i>
'S truach nach do dh'fhuirich mi	<i>It's a pity I didn't stay</i>
Tioram air tìr	<i>On dry land</i>
Ri m' mhaireann	<i>As long as I live</i>
Cha till mise shéoladh	<i>I won't return to sailing</i>
Ruith na muic-mhara	<i>Chasing the whales</i>
Ri gaillionn 's a chuan	<i>In a storm at sea</i>
Mo mhéoirean air reothadh	<i>My fingers frozen</i>
A dh'aindheoin a bhith cruaidh	<i>In spite of their toughness</i>
B' fhéarr a bhith 'n ceart-uair	<i>It'd be better now</i>
Air acair air Chluaidh	<i>To be at anchor on the Clyde</i>
Na bhith díreadh nan crann	<i>Than climbing the masts</i>
An South Georgia	<i>In South Georgia</i>
Díle bho'n t-sneachd	<i>Heavy snow showers</i>
'S tu gun fhasgadh o'n fhuachd	<i>And you're without shelter from the cold</i>
T' aodann 'ga sgailceadh	<i>Your face slapped</i>
Le fras bho gach stuadh	<i>With a shower from every wave</i>
'S t-airgiod am pàilteas	<i>Plenty of money</i>
'S gun doigh a chur bhuat	<i>With nowhere to spend it</i>
'S e síor-losgadh toll	<i>And it forever burning</i>
Ann a d' phòca	<i>A hole in your pocket</i>
Nuair gheibh sinn forladh	<i>When we get leave</i>
'S nuair ruigeas sinn traigh	<i>And we reach the shore</i>
Falbhaidh an oinseach-sa	<i>This idiot will go</i>
Còmhlà ri cach	<i>Along with the rest</i>
Chosg mi de dh'airgiod	<i>I've spent enough money</i>
Aig cunntair a' bhàr	<i>At the bar</i>
A cheannaicheadh	<i>To buy</i>
Tri taighean-òsda	<i>Three hotels</i>