

# THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



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## STOP PRESS ONE!

*Late breaking news: the NFF want us in 2006 – but in a different capacity – we'll be part of the giant fiddle rally – Canberra, Sydney and us – tunes will be picked by Sydney and available on their web site. In addition the lovely Dave O'Neill has programmed a concert just for us, to launch for the new CD!*

*We will subsidise up to six places at the fiddle classes which precede the festival – see below.*

## STOP PRESS TWO!

*There will be a practice in January for all going to the PFFF – if you are not sure please come – Sunday 15 January at St Aidan's in Duggan Street Balwyn, 2-5pm like a normal meeting*

## STOP PRESS THREE

*Searching for that last minute Xmas present? Don't forget our massive MSFC 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary mugs – only \$5 each but reduced prices available for bulk buyers – great stocking stuffers!*

## From Judy

### *Xmas meeting*

Hey everyone! Deck the halls and all that, it's time to think green and red, mince tarts, shortbread and good cheer - bring anything Xmassy to share for arvo tea to our final meeting for the year on December 18 – this Sunday in fact!!



### *Meeting schedule:*

- |           |                                                                       |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2–3pm     | New jigs will be taught by Jack and Judy                              |
| 3–3.30pm  | Revise Ronan's tunes – Gus Downing again                              |
| 3.30–4.30 | Xmassy arvo tea, video watching, mug buying, talk about next year etc |
| 4.30–5pm  | Session round the piano                                               |
| 5pm–5.15  | CLEAN UP THE ROOM!                                                    |

### *Recording update – "A Long Way From Home"*

Since we last all met, some time has been spent in the studio, with good results. We now have all 15 tracks completed and awaiting mixing and mastering.

Players who were there will be delighted with the quality – as Louise has been heard to remark – “finally the fiddles are the best thing on the album!”

Some of the other stuff is pretty good too ----- stand out items include Alex and Jenny's singing, and the Chris Duncan, Pria and Neil set. Lisa is working already on the theme for the booklet and cover, and Athalie on the copyright permissions etc.

All going well we will have it in hand by 1 March – ready to take to PFFF, and then to the week of launches- April 1-9.

The CD will have a 12 page colour booklet, and we will be pressing 1000 this time, in an optimistic move based on earlier sales.

***New Committee members***

Our AGM in November saw a slight changing of the guard. We say farewell and thank you to retiring committee members:

**Ian Thompson (Treasurer) and**

**Bjorn & Catriona Lemfors (ordinary members)**

We said welcome and thank you to

**Jean McConachie (Secretary)**

**Louise Schwall-Kearney (ex Sec now Treasurer)**

And welcome back to:

**Matt Robertson (President)**

**Michael Kilpatrick (Vice President)**

We also had a post meeting offer for the following position (hooray!)

**Pria Schwall Kearney (archivist)**

– watch this space for injunctions to collect your photos, clippings, programs, posters newsletters etc for Pria's archive.

Please remember that the committee meetings are open to all and advertised in the newsletter – they happen every 2<sup>nd</sup> month just before our regular meeting, and the next will be on

Sunday 19 February, at 1pm

***MELBOURNE SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB'S 10TH BIRTHDAY REPORT***

MSFC's ten year celebrations started on the Sunday post recording with a barbecue at Athalie's place culminating in an afternoon tea after the Annual General Meeting at November's meeting.

At the afternoon tea, Neil brought out the magnificent cake that the current cohort of MSFC children (ie future young people of tomorrow) exercised their candle extinguishing skills.

We were especially honoured to have two members who were present at the original meeting – Lyn Ansell

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and Harry Gardener, who along with Judy, had the job of cutting the magnificent cake.

After ten years, the general feeling of the fiddlers present was that the club just keeps getting better all the time!



*The young people – THE NEXT GENERATION!*



*Harry Gardner, Music Director, Judy Turner and Lyn Ansell take the line honours – ten years of long service to the MSFC!*

***Happy 10th  
Birthday!***



## 2005 Award winners

Two very worthy winners this year took away the Director's Awards – Angus Downing in the young player division (!) and Louise Schwall-Kearney in the Adults. Both Angus and Louise will go to the Celtic Music Under the Mountains summer school in Tassie sponsored by the Club, and will come back totally renewed, refreshed and fired up – we hope! As both will be away a good part of 2006 we will extract our pound of tunes in the first half of the year from both.



*Angus Downing and Louise Schwall-Kearney – proud recipients of the 2005 MSFC's Directors Award – WELL DONE AND WELL DESERVED!*

## Gig report

### ***Being Bond – Comedy Theatre, November 26-27***

What a hoot this gig was – complete with sequins, footlights and pyrotechnics. Luckily for the rest of you we have video footage of ourselves in glorious technicolour, pretending to be slinky fiddling femme fatale types..... Some more successfully than others. If you are really lucky Doug will bring his computer to the Xmas meeting and Jean her camera, and we can all watch it.

### ***Being Ourselves – Rye RSL with Rats Of Tobruk, 11 December 2005***

A stalwart group of ten fiddles and back line, including the inimitable Bruce Packard on bass, played for a packed RSL club full of revellers, who fell over themselves (literally in some cases) to tell us how great

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we were, afterwards. “This is better than Neil Diamond” one was heard to slur. Seriously though, we did good, had fun, made friends and fans, and got lots of offers for gigs we won't be able to take next year! Thanks to all who made the trek — it's always worth it in the end but what a schlep — Neil made it all worthwhile for a small gang of stragglers when he stripped to his undies and jumped into the sea. Three extra cheers for Margaret and Jim who drove right round the bay to be there.

### ***2006 – looking like a big year again***

Just when you thought it was time to relax, your leaders can confirm that we will be busy learning and performing again in 2006. For full gory details, see the attached 2006 calendar kindly prepared by Louise (ex-Secretary, now Treasurer) and Ron. Highlights of the year will include:

**10–13 March - Port Fairy Folk Festival** – Contrary to previous information, we will be there – still negotiating numbers but note, accommodation is provided for all players in the Sea Scouts Hall – you must let Judy know if you DON'T need this option but ARE hoping to play with the Club at PFFF.

**1–2 April** - CD launch tour, Horsham (Saturday 1st) and Castlemaine (Sunday 2nd)

Accommodation will be provided in Horsham at a motel and the club will hire a bus- partners are welcome – please sign the sign up sheet on Sunday.

**9 April** — CD Launch at the Brunswick Town Hall

This is an afternoon gig, hopefully with CD and CS – to be confirmed with the organisers. This is the one to tell your friends and family about – great venue, good sound, and usually a really fun atmosphere.

**13–17 April** – National Folk Festival Canberra

We are part of the combined fiddle rally, which will provide us an entrée to the festival – watch this space. **WE WILL OFFER SIX SUBSIDISED PLACES** at the Easter School with teachers Hanneke Cassel and Catherine Fraser (4 places- Scottish) and Gerry O'Connor (2 places- Irish) – if you are interested let our new secretary Jean McConachie know or sign up on Sunday. See the NFF web site for more information.

**10–12 June ? Portarlington? Sign up now!**

We need to decide whether to apply again for the Celtic Festival in Port Arlington – sign up this Sunday or let Jean know and we will do a count on people interested.

**July – ? Mansfield weekend?**

a possible repeat of the Mansfield weekend – again, we will gauge interest

**23 July – gig at St Aidans** for the famous St Aidans Music Society in the church itself.

**19 August – Matt's group turns 50** and we help them celebrate, in Burwood

**21 October – two gigs in one day** at Mornington Shire's community theatre – a repeat of Hawthorn, but over two sessions. Great fee, great opportunity to plug the CD, should be a really fun day – we will arrange food for all in between, and some sort of car pooling arrangement.

**New Year's Eve and Day** – we have a tentative booking at Maryborough - need to have expressions of interest on Sunday

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***PST FYI...The 30th Port Fairy Folk Festival:  
March 10 - 13 2006***

*Next March the beautiful fishing village hosts the 30th Port Fairy Folk Festival! The 30th festival will be held over March 10 to 13, 2006.*

*Around 20,000 people a day come to the Port Fairy Folk Festival to enjoy four days and three nights of music, dance, workshops, street performances, theatre, busking, craft fairs, a Children's Folk Circus, the Free Festival of the Streets, and the many local tourist charms of the historic coastal fishing village.*

*Headliners include Richard Thompson, Mary Black, Sharon Shannon and Friends, Paul Kelly and the Stormwater Boys, Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion, Vika & Linda, Harry Manx and many more.*

*The festival has become a Mecca for many international top line acts in the world of roots music. The festival presents over 125 acts next year including 22 international acts plus a huge street festival with "Street Invaders", buskers and markets.*

*The Festival Director, Jamie McKew: "Port Fairy is 'must do' Mecca known by folk and roots artists around the world. Over the last 29 festivals we have hosted some legendary names on the Port Fairy stages. This year we add to an amazing list with some great old friends and a bunch of new ones."*

*International Acts for 2006 include the legendary voice of Ireland, Mary Black, the living heritage of Woody Guthrie, Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion, Quebec legends & "best band in the world", La Bottine Souriante, blues innovator Harry Manx, Irish accordion whizz Sharon Shannon, Scottish groovers Shooglenifty, and the golden guitar of Richard Thompson... plus many more.*

*The National Acts include Paul Kelly & The Stormwater Boys, Colin Hay & Band, Vika & Linda, Eric Bogle with Colcannon, Tiffany Eckhardt, The Borderers, Judy Small, The Bushwackers, Graeme Connors, Mick Thomas & The Sure Thing, Bomba, Pigram Brothers, Shane Howard, The Coodabeen Champions, plus many many more.*

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*Each the festival showcases emerging talent and amazing bands including The Audreys, Sophie Kob, Jaimi Faulkner Band, Josh Owen, Gorgeous, Rob Sanyer, The Little Steves plus many many more.*

### **TELL JUDY IF YOU ARE GOING NOW!**

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### **Another superstar is born...**

From Darron Crick..

*We have Matt's results for the grade 2 AMEB. The examiner was the editor of the technical workbook and of the 20 or so string players he did on the day Matt was one of only two to receive an A+. It is funny how exams affect different people, I know when I went to school I went to mush during exams. Matt on the other hand usually copes well, I think the pressure actually helps focus his mind on the job at hand. Anyway we are all proud and Matt thinks that it's pretty good too! Ciao, Darron.*

### **Well done Matt!**

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***Speaking of superstars, we had this note from Catherine Fraser, Director, Southern Hemisphere International School of Scottish Fiddle (SHISSF), Camp Akatarawa, Upper Hutt, North Island, New Zealand which will be of interest to some members.***

*Things are well under way for SHISSF 2006 with Hanneke Cassel and Catriona MacDonald confirmed, and applications are starting to flow in. Please continue to help us spread the word by telling everyone you know about camp so we can increase our numbers and really show support for these amazing international guests.*

*Also a reminder to take advantage of our Early Bird offer and get your applications in now - the Early Bird discount ends December 31!*

*We are delighted to announce that we are once again offering a part scholarship of \$250 towards camp fees in 2006.*

*Applicants must be 18 or under to qualify and need to send a written application with two references by January 10, 2006 (see attachment for details). At this stage we are only able to offer one scholarship but hope to increase this in future years.*

*Please note that scholarship applicants who are not successful will still have the option of paying the early bird discount price up to January 31st.*

*I look forward to receiving your applications and in the meantime, keep spreading the word so SHISSF is bigger and better than ever in 2006!*

Regards

Catherine

[www.catherinefraser.com/fiddleschool.html](http://www.catherinefraser.com/fiddleschool.html)

**email: [info@catherinefraser.com](mailto:info@catherinefraser.com)**



# MSFC CALENDAR FOR 2006

MARK YOUR DIARIES NOW!

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## MSFC 2006

<b>JANUARY</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Practice for Port Fairy	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans, Balwyn
Mix down and master the CD during January					

<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Practice for Port Fairy	1	Wed	7 pm	9 pm	Westgarth PS, Northcote
Practice for Port Fairy	9	Thurs	7 pm	9 pm	St Kevans, Toorak
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans
Art work and all mastering to Multi-Tech by Week One					

<b>MARCH</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Practice for Port Fairy	2	Wed	7 pm	9 pm	Westgarth
Practice for Port Fairy	8	Thurs	7 pm	9 pm	St Kevans
PFFF	10-13	Fri-Mon	Long Weekend		We are in!
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans
Practice for launch	23	Thurs	7 pm	9 pm	St Kevans
Need to have CD printed and returned by Week One					

<b>APRIL</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
CD Launch	1	Sat	7.30 pm	late	Horsham - Wesley P.A. Centre
CD Launch	2	Sun	2.00 pm	4.30 pm	Castlemaine- Theatre Royal
CD Launch TBC					tbc - Brunswick Town Hall tbc
Practice for NFF tbc	11	Wed	7 pm	9 pm	Westgarth
NFF tbc	14-17	Fri-Mon	Easter		Canberra
Monthly Meeting	16	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans - for people not going to NFF

<b>MAY</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans

<b>JUNE</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Practice for Celtfest tbc	1	Thurs	7 pm	9 pm	St Kevans
Practice for Celtfest tbc	7	Wed	7 pm	9 pm	Westgarth
Celtic Festival tbc	10-12	Sat-Mon	long weekend		Celtic Festival in Portarlington tbc
Monthly Meeting	18	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans

<b>JULY</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Practice for St A gig	12	Wed	7 pm	9 pm	Westgarth
Monthly Meeting	16	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans
Practice for St A gig	20	Thur	7 pm	9 pm	St Kevans
St Aidans gig - all	23	Sun	1 pm	5 pm	St Aidans Music Society

<b>AUGUST</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Practice for Ball	10	Thurs	7pm	9 pm	St Kevans
Practice for Ball	16	Wed	7 pm	9 pm	Westgarth
Box Hill 50th Anniv Ball	19	Sat	6 pm	12 mn	Burwood Uniting Church
Monthly Meeting	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	<b>17</b>	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	
Query Mansfield weekend this month						

<b>OCTOBER</b>		Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue
practice for Peninsula gig	5	Thurs	7 pm	9 pm	Westgarth	
practice for Peninsula gig	11	Wed	7 pm	9 pm	St Kevans	
Monthly Meeting	<b>15</b>	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	
practice for Peninsula gig	17	Tues	7 pm	9 pm	Celtic Club	
Mornington Shire gig	<b>21</b>	Sat	matinee	and night	Peninsula Community Arts Centre tbc	

<b>NOVEMBER</b>		Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	<b>19</b>	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	

<b>DECEMBER</b>		Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	<b>17</b>			2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans
New Years Eve tbc	<b>31</b>			all day		Maryborough Highland Society dance tbc
Maryborough H'land Gathering	<b>1 Jan</b>			all day		Maryborough



*The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club  
Keeping Traditions Alive!*