

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



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December 2006

STOP PRESS 1 (AND THERE'S A No. 2 BELOW AS WELL...)

Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas pull the plug on visit to Oz – fans left weeping and wailing!

Sorry to report that pressure of work and time taken to get here have meant that AF and NH have called off the proposed ten day trip to Oz in late January 2007, and have sent the following message of regret:

"Dear Judy. I would dearly love to come but alas I think it's all turning out to be too tight. The itinerary you've put together is excellent but I can't seem to fit it in at this end with the various deadlines going on. The NZ end is fine - I should arrive there on the 1st Feb at the latest. But I have to leave here a few days after the 23rd Jan so it would be a very short time in OZ.

Thank you for all this work - I definitely want to come back and work with you kindred spirits there at some point!

Best for now,

Alasdair"

The good news is you get to take a longer break over January. Thanks to Pete for all his work in securing St Kev's as a possible venue for the workshops and to Louise for organizing to book the Brunswick Town Hall. At least we have a plan now and will implement it when the next occasion arises!

STOP PRESS 2!! (See.. I told you there was another...!)

Take part in Jean's Unfinished Tune Challenge- see below - and join us for a fun xmas meeting at the end of another great year of musical achievements with the famous MSFC

From Judy —

OK What a Year it's Been !

Message from the Director

Well indeedy – another momentous year screeches to an end and Neil and I are trying to hang on till Xmas as I am sure many of you are too.

Highlights this year for us have included the fiddle club events — CD launches, the country gigs, the national festival, the amazing CD sales, the fact that the club is ending the year with close to \$23,000 in the bank and so much achieved — but best of all is the fun and friendship that we have gained from the club, which grows stronger each year.

The receipt of the Graham Squance award from Folk Victoria in November was a personal highlight for

Judy, and thanks to those of you who made it down and joined us for some tunes on stage – yet again we acquitted ourselves well and people commented on the vibrancy and fun of our group.

A really sad moment this year, however, was the death in Spain of our friends Carlos and Igor — the singers and leaders of the band Felpeyu, who we got to know here during their tours and with whom we recorded Neil's song *Al Grassby's Grandfather*. Their death was a reminder of how risky is the life of the touring musician, and how important it is to make the most of each moment you have with music.

Just this last week Neil and I have made the enormous move of buying a house in South Melbourne, which we will be looking for fiddlers to help us warm from April next year. Not only that but I will be changing jobs at the end of January — moving to ACMI – the centre for the moving image — at Fed Square. So 2007 will be a year of big changes for us, all positive we hope. It's been great working and playing and planning with you all this year- have a great break and keep in touch – let us know where the tunes are breaking this summer! All the best for the festive season to all of you.

Ballarat Report - Judy

The Sat November 18 gig and workshops in Ballarat for the Xmas Appeal were a roaring success — we were great and the kids from Ballarat were too — it was fun to have them join us for a few tunes at the end of the concert, and fun to march off with the pipes and drums from the U of Ballarat — great drum section, really inspirational.

The organisers have ideas for the future (see Darron's report below) and we made a lot of friends. Well done to the whole Crick family for the pivotal role they played in putting on the show and promoting it – the crowd was good though not capacity, and we could certainly look at another outing. One of the best venues you could ever hope to play in is a real attractor. Thanks again to PSK for putting the dance component together and to our marvellous merchandise team for the sales and raffle they organised.

TAKE THE TUNE CHALLENGE!

HOW?

- 1) Read programme for Dec 17 meeting***
- 2) Read Matt's note after Dec 17 programme***
- 3) Print off Jean's Part A sheet attached***
- 4) Bring your creations along to Dec 17 meeting***

GOOD LUCK!

The Scottish Fiddler – December 2006

December 17th Meeting – Da Program

- 1.00pm Gather and bring lunch to share — at the long table — bring anything as long as its easy to serve, yummy and part of a meal rather than a snack food. We will provide soft drinks!! During this time various reminiscences and reports on the year just finished will be provided.
- 2.00pm Review of the year's tunes as provided by Pete Dwyer at November meeting
- 3.00pm Jean's tune challenge – ***see unfinished tune attached to this newsletter*** and bring along your offerings or help to finish the tune on the day
- 3.45pm Session
- 4.30pm Close

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Tune writing for the December meeting

...your instructions..

What could be easier when half the job's already done!

Following last month's chat about some things to keep in mind when writing and arranging tunes, Jean McConnochie has kindly offered up a tune-in-progress which has an 'A' part, and YOU could very well be the one who consults the muse and dreams up a 'B' part to go with it.

Hopefully this won't end up as a tune-writing-by-committee outcome, but it would be great to have a few separate examples to play to the group next weekend.

Have a think about the note range of the fiddle, and some idiom things that make a tune feel Scottish (or Cape Bretonish, or whatever), like a dotted jig rhythm, bowed triplets, etc. If you feel like going that extra wee bit, maybe also figure out what the chord structure underneath the tune already feels like and try to develop that a bit.

Good luck, and let it rip!

Matt

Ballarat Concert thoughts- from Darron Crick

In total we raised \$1300 which is great for a first off go. Both Peter Caligari - organiser - and the radio station have received a large amount of feedback with the general comments being:

- "the best afternoons entertainment for twenty years!
- why can't there be more of this kind of entertainment?
- it is great to see the kids getting up and having a go.
- when is the next concert going to be so we can bring all our friends?
- the day was great and the price should have been higher. "

All these comments are great.

The day has really left Ballarat with a taste for the club. I know many people attended because of the Pipes and Drums but everyone was singing the praises of the fiddle club by the end. Today 3BA ambushed me with their expectation of organising another day in the future, with higher prices and a sellout audience. ... The idea was suggested that an annual concert could be tied in with the "Christmas in July Appeal". This is the smaller version of the Christmas Appeal where the proceeds go towards buying blankets and food so it is important nonetheless.

Re the workshops: Andrew from the Grammar School is over the moon with how everything went and the feedback from the independant teachers has been that the kids loved it and a few are considering coming along. We

have said that we are happy to bring anyone along so we will wait and see. Andrew has said that he would be very happy to have the club back at any time in the future.

Darron Crick

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CELTIC SUMMER SCHOOL SCOTTISH FIDDLE PLACE UP FOR GRABS

You want to learn from Chris Duncan? Read this from Jack Wilson ...

Hi Everyone

I've got a place in Chris Duncan's class at Tassie this year, and am not going to be using it. Harnessing the often untapped power of your many email lists, would you be able to advertise this spot?

Jack

For more details contact Jack on jack.willo@gmail.com

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CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY FROM SHANNON

Hello Judy.

I thought i would just say a very big congratulations about recieving the great award. You deserve it so much...

I hope fiddle club is going well and i miss it very much.

I am having a wonderful time here in Banff in the cold although today its nice and warm and sunny.

I am working at a hotel housekeeping and serving which is fun and have met so many amazing people and made lots of friend that will last forever.

Any how I will be back next year ready to go and eager to learn many new tunes!!!!

Shannon

Treasurer's Update

There's good financial news to report and here are a few numbers for starters ...

- \$3000 received in membership fees
- \$6200 received for our 8 major gigs
- Merchandise Sales...
 - \$ 500 *Red Hot Scotts*
 - \$1400 *Reel Cool*
 - \$8200 *Long Way Home*
 - \$1300 *Tunebook*

Income this year was primarily from gigs and merchandise sales - quite a change from the previous 2 years of fund-raising for the New Zealand trip - who missed selling sausages, wine, chocolates and busking at Safeways?

Production of *Long Way From Home* was the major expense in 2006 as well as St Aidans rental, Director/Guest Artist Fees and Insurance.

My personal thanks especially to Shirley, Darren and Andrew who make the Treasurer's job easier by collecting monies at meetings and gigs - they are great supporters and spruikers extraordinaire at gigs.

The Club started the year with \$14,000 and is ending 2006 with a balance of **\$20,500** - Judy and the Committee is no doubt relishing the opportunities the plump purse will present for 2007.

Louise Schwall-Kearney
Treasurer

Contacting NESSIE?

NESSIE (North East Scottish Strings Including Elbow pipes) meets on the 1st Sunday of every month. SO if you're in the area on 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!

From beyond the Sales Desk

by Shirl Dwyer

Meet the Sales Executives and their ever-willing helpers, members who loom ominously in dingy foyers and dark hallways. We are always on the look out for a sales opportunity, whether it be raffle tickets, CD's, tunebooks or mugs.

Our motto:

We go that extra mile with a smile. ☺

Meet this month's Executive - Anita Sasz – The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club's Golden Girl

Anita is the quiet, unassuming, glow-worm appreciating member of the sales executive. What you probably don't know is (a) that Anita represented her home country as a sportswoman and (b) what she does in Thursday nights.

Your roving reporter, Auntie Shirl, caught up with Anita and all was revealed.



Anita and Jean...up with the God's. Where else?

How long have you been in Australia and what enticed you to Australia? I have lived in Australia for about 9 years. I was born in Vienna Austria. Although I came to Australia for a holiday and love the beaches, the reason I stayed is because I met Jean. At that time she was playing in two bands, the Gussett Rustlers and The Misguided Angels - she's changed a bit since then.

Where do you live? We live in Thornbury with our dog, called Millie.

Do you have any hobbies? My hobbies are Volleyball and pruning - Jean plants them and I cut them down.

If I was shipwrecked off the coast of New Zealand, I would want these 3 things with me: glowworms- to see in the dark, a good book, so that I could finally finish reading it and a raincoat, because it would probably rain.

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If I had a million dollars I would: get hydronic heating - it's freezing here in the winter! I'm colder than when it snows in Vienna in December.

My favourite "tipple" is Gin & Tonic with a slice of cucumber (Have you tried it?)

The most interesting country I have been to is Spain - because of the amazing architecture, especially by Gaudi in Barcelona (very colourful) - eg the Santa Maria....

I never again want to go to Schmitzenhohe at Zell am See, Austria in the winter again. I took Jean up to the mountain top in a cable car - It's 2000m high and it was minus 25oC - our faces/noses were freezing so we went inside and had gluhwein and apfel strudel. The skiiers were standing around in an outside disco - probably drinking Schnapps.

I never again want to eat blutwurst - translated as blood sausage - same as black pudding - do I have to say more?

And what don't you know about Anita? I played volleyball for Austria when I was young. I love the game and 25 years later I still play here now in a Team called "Golden Girls". I get to play a good game because we are all reasonable players. We are pretty multicultural - Russian, Turkish, Australian, Japanese and Dutch. We play at Dandenong on Thursday nights. We usually do OK, and last season we won.

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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

Treasurer - Louise on 9758 4486 or at ask@netspace.com.au

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

Secretary – Jean on 9480 5865 or jeaniuszasz@optusnet.com.au

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

MSFC Calendar Dec 06

DECEMBER	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	notes
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	1PM	4.30PM	St Aidans	Long Lunch together; original tunes revealed; Kris Kringlish event.... General fun for all.
JANUARY	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	notes
Holiday time- take a well earned break!!!						
FEBUARY	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	notes
Committee Meeting	18	Sun	1pm	2pm	St Aidans	Committee meeting
Monthly Meeting	18	Sun	2pm	5pm	St Aidans	Monthly meeting including plans for the year-bring a new member along!

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BUY YOUR XMAS GIFTS AT THIS MONTH'S FIDLE CLUB MEET!

Your friendly sales staff are willing to take all amounts of money, large and small!

And what's on sale?

Selection of the 3 CDs-Red Hot Scots, Reel Cool or that old favourite Long Way from Home. Only \$25 each or a special deal for multiple copies.

Chris Duncan's latest CD, "Red House" - limited numbers are available at \$28 (that's cheaper than the ABC shop!)

Scarves - only 3 left - a bargain at \$10 each

Mugs - what a stocking filler!!!! - \$5

Polo Shirts -sml,med,& XL - \$22 short sl or \$25 long sl

Fleece vest - large - only 1 left - \$22

Fleece Jacket - large- only 1 left - \$25

Tune Books are also available.

Get in quick before Xmas to avoid disappointment.