

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 8

September 2007

STOP THE PRESSES

1) AGM really on this time- do you want a Really Important Role?

2) Warrnambool gig on October 6th - it's a goer - please confirm your attendance at this meeting – Special Warrnambool practice - St Kevin's Toorak – be there or be square – we will do the new sets from Benalla

3) Great news – Ron McCoy wins 2008 National Library Folk Fellowship – more below!

From Judy

Agenda for September 2007 meeting – 4 new concert sets – hooray!

- 2.00 – 2.30 Judy's Hughie/Johnnie/Billy – new concert set
- 2.30-3.30 Benalla sets- reminder of Pria's Jigs; Chris' Strathspey & Reel and Bonnie George Campbell & the Collessie Motivator
- 3.30 – 4.15 Arvo tea and AGM
- 4.15 - 5.00 Golden oldies part 2 – nominate your favourite forgotten tune from the past

Dust off those tune sets again – your chance to lead – postponed from August meeting!

Our three CDs contain heaps of good tunes that we often forget about and should try to keep in our repertoire. This month we are going to ask you to choose your favourite tune or set from the past 13 years that we have neglected — help to revive a tune — rescue it from the doldrums, and come prepared to lead us through it.

AGM Time – it's really on this month – sorry about false alarm last month

In order to remain an incorporated association, we need to have the annual ritualistic sacrificing of committee members so they can all re-stand and be unanimously re-elected.

At least that's how it's been for some time now. If you want to challenge the orthodoxy you should feel free to do so THIS Sunday at our AGM.

Or if you just want to put something back into your club, the one that has given you so many hours of entertainment, lots of friends, taught you new skills and so on and so forth..... then just stand for the committee!

Our longstanding committee members would welcome your assistance- membership open to all, and you can nominate for an office bearer spot too, if you like.

We have been lucky to have fantastic committee members over our 13 year life, who have looked after the books and kept the club ticking over very healthily. The key positions and their current incumbents are:

President	Matthew Robertson
Vice President	Michael Kilpatrick
Treasurer	Louise Schwall-Kearney
Secretary	Jean McConachie

Mansfield – Flaming Fiddles

Once again a great collaboration with NESSIE people led to a fantastic weekend of music making and good fun together – culminating in a spectacular concert to a capacity crowd at the Benalla Performing Arts Centre.



One of the best things was the way three great new arrangements were pulled together, featuring our spectacular rhythm section (3 cellos and 32 double basses made a very meaty sound!).



Thanks to Neil and Dave Alleway, in particular, we have three fantastic new tracks ready made for our new CD to be recorded in 2008, and which should feature not only the NESSIE folk, but also Chris Duncan and the now famous Collessie Motivator!



If you weren't there you missed one of the best fiddle club moments ever, when the firefighters paraded off the stage to the applause of the crowd, flanked by 40 fiddlers. Kristin Marriott – chief organiser – sent us a warm thank-you which is reproduced below, along with a letter from an audience member.

The Scottish Fiddler – September 2007

Dear Judy,

Just a note to say our family had a wonderful afternoon enjoying your music and the whole event at Benalla.

We have Rhyley and Callum who are 6&4 and they were really captivated by the musicians and their talents which is a great effort on your part as they are a hard pair to be entertained for that long!

We love the music and wish we were closer to Melbourne to listen to you all play..... We live on a farm north of Wangaratta and we have Rhyley at Carraragarmungee primary school where they learn guitar as I did when I was at school. I enjoyed the guitar but the fiddle interests me now I have seen the orchestra in

*Benalla. Once again congratulations on a great concert, cheers
Julie&Ken, Rhyley&Callum*

From Kristin Marriott – NESSIE co director and concert organizer:

Dear Judy,:

The weekend was very successful from the locals point of view - hope you all enjoyed it too - and its success was due in great part to the teaching of yourself, Neil, Chris Duncan and Pria. We all felt that the weekend was a bit pressed for time, but that would have been more than true for those of you who were teaching, and there probably was not enough time for us to all thank you adequately - so thank you very much for your patience and talent. Also to Louise, without whose help the bookwork side of the weekend would never have run. The concert was a complete, runaway success far beyond anyone's expectations.

The entire fundraiser of concert-plus-raffle raised approximately \$11,000 for our local CFA, a figure that I don't think anyone would have predicted when this idea first kicked off in May. But it was successful in ways that were not financial, and it is this that I need to convey to all members of the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club. I cannot walk down the main street of Benalla without people telling me that it was the best concert that they have ever been to, that Judy and Neil and Chris are just amazing, that they loved the gaelic songs, that they had never seen a bunch of musicians who so obviously enjoyed their music, that they love Pria's red shoes (and Pria!) and could they buy Chris some shoes???

The Benalla Performing Arts Centre Director says he thinks it is possibly the most successful show ever staged there. The Mansfield paper wrote a glowing report. The Benalla Ensign had us all in their "Thumbs Up" section. But, for me, the greatest testimony to the success of the concert has been the heartfelt and glowing praise from a bunch of CFA blokes and ladies who are naturally rather reserved, and the tears in the eyes of Jim Renkin, the Group Officer, after the concert. They enjoyed themselves immensely - and probably unexpectedly - and were unbelievably touched to receive the gift of wonderful music from a group of mainly city based musicians whom they didn't even know..... and they didn't talk about the terribly,

frighteningly dry August and sliding cattle prices for about 4 hours. I hope that some of you got a bug from them - if not, I hereby ceremoniously pass them on; Consider yourselves well bugged! Benalla is now a new bastion of Scottish music enthusiasm, and my husband, Max, is your No.1 fan.

So thank you - from Benalla, from the CFA, and from NESSIE who were so delighted to be playing with you all. Best wishes to you from all of us"

And finally, form one of our own:

Hi Judy and Neil,

What a great weekend! Doug and I both enjoyed it lots. I thought the rhythm section workshops were terrific and proved that we are a force to be reckoned with. Let's do something similar sometimes at Sun meetings?

The concert was great – the Fiddle Club rose to the occasion as usual and I really enjoyed playing the pieces we'd learnt over the weekend.

Friends who live in Benalla loved the concert and were particularly moved by the last tune. [As was Doug who felt compelled to hug and shake hands with his fellow photographer when he returned to the box up the back in his orange overalls....]

I'm glad we kept the tradition of dinner together in the pub followed by a session. We always get to know someone better than we did before.

And I'm getting better at joining in at sessions. It was all quite exhausting, wasn't it? My fingers and arms are a bit achy but the blood blister has burst so I'll be fine after a few more sleeps.....

Cheers, Ath



Beautiful Mount Buller was a typical view in the glorious Mansfield countryside during the wonderful NESSIE MSFC weekend.

Special Mansfield Award

The Pria Schwall-Kearney Gold Jacket MSFC-NESSIE prize for dedication to playing was awarded jointly to Monica and Natasha.



Natasha in the DJs catalogue pose while Monica opts for the Blue Steel approach....

Special Thanks time:

We all owe a great debt of thanks to (uncle) Pete Dwyer who puts in such a lot of time to make recordings and tunes accessible to all of us, via the web site.

Good on you Pete - thanks for everything you put into the club and for your musicality as well – it's hard to imagine how the club got through our first ten years without you and Auntie Shir!

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Special congratulations time:

Our editor Dr Ronald McCoy, he of the garlic songs and the incredible array of talents, has blitzed the field in the competition for the annual National Library Folk Fellowship, and will be winging his way to Canberra over the next few months to delve deep into the collection of eminent Scottish folklorist Dr Emily Lyle, who was in Oz in the 70's and whose collections of tunes and songs have lain almost unheeded in the Library's collection since then.

Ron will dig into the archive for the gems that will be playable and (we hope) recordable by the Club, and will take his researches into more academic areas as well.

We will be at the NFF in Easter next year to accompany him in his Fellowship concert. All very exciting and leading to many other possibilities - some dreamed of already, others yet to occur to us all.

Sincere congratulations from all in the club go to Ron, as well as thanks for all the time and dedication he puts into the Club as well. Read on for Ron's own description of the project.

Scottish snap! — National Library/Folk Festival Fellowship Project



Emily Lyle in Edinburgh in July 2007.

I have been given the extraordinary opportunity to dig deep into oral collections at the National Library of Australia as the 2007-2008 National Library of Australia/National Folk Festival Fellow.

The idea first arose when Sue Darby O'Leary saw an email in 2006 for the National Library of Australia/National Folk Festival Fellowship. Sue sent the email onto Judy suggesting that the Fellowship would be great for someone from the fiddle club, and that she thought that I might be interested in the Fellowship — so the thought was planted in my head by Sue!

Judy then happened to find out about the Emily Lyle collection in the National Library of Australia in Canberra, when she was on holidays earlier in the year. Judy dropped me a line about the collection, suggesting that this might make a good project for the Fellowship.

Emily Lyle from the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh (<http://www.celtscot.ed.ac.uk/>) visited Australia at the end of 1976 and early 1977 where she collected materials from many Scots and Highlanders in mainly South Eastern Australia.

I went to Canberra in May to check out the collection, and found that there was a wealth of material in the collection, some of which was unique to and to work with the club towards a National Folk Festival performance in 2008.

I applied for the Fellowship, with a performance at the Folk Festival to be part of the project, that included some stories, tunes and songs from the collection, and perhaps some other National Library collections.

I met Emily in Edinburgh at the School of Scottish Studies in July when I was in Scotland, and she was pleased to hear that the collection is being used and explored.

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Why do I think I won this? I have been studying in this area part time for a few years now, but I have no doubt that I was helped immeasurably because I applied with the support of the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club.

Our Club is recognised as one of the foremost folk music groups in the country, with high standards of excellence and a demonstrated track record, especially with supporting young people which is critical for passing on traditions. This is something we need to remind ourselves of, as it is something we can be immensely proud of.

Judy has been an immense support throughout this process, as has been Sue Darby O'Leary and Neil Adam.

I'll talk a little about the project at club meeting this week, and will write a detailed report in the next newsletter outlining the project, with lots of pictures of our National capital.

Ronald.

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Email address updates

Make sure Chris Bigby, Jean and Louise have your latest email address. You can email it to any one of them or all of them as follows:

ask@netspace.com.au;

jeaniuszasz@optusnet.com.au;

C.Bigby@latrobe.edu.au

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 9636 4966 or newdogs@optusnet.com.au

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 at jeaniuszasz@optusnet.com.au

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

Remaining gigs in 2007

Saturday 6 October at Warrnambool PAC – shared bill with W'bool Pipe Band – details will be distributed at the September meeting

Sunday 28 October at Kew Courthouse – just us, afternoon gig

Saturday 8 December at Kew Courthouse – US AND FRIENDS - maybe some Hawthorn Pipers – it's a night gig – a party to end the year

Speaking of gigs – is there anyone else who would like to join us? If so, please sign up at Sept meeting or email Judy

w'bool oct 6	Kew oct 28	Kew dec 8
	melody	melody
	michael	michael
barbara	barbara	
	natasha	natasha
judy o		
	matt	matt
louise	louise	louise
pete	pete	pete
	ath	ath
	sue	sue?
pria		gus d
natasha		
ray		
jean	jean	jean
shannon?		
bjorn		
jenny		
judy t	judy t	judy t
neil	neil	neil