

# THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



[www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com](http://www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com)

**VOLUME 12, ISSUE 10**

**November 2007**

NOVEMBER 07		Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Monthly Meeting	18	Sun	2 pm	5 pm		St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Slow Tunes Practice	22	Thurs	7pm	9pm		<i>Judy and Neil's place</i> 229 York St South Melbourne	ALL WELCOME
Session for all	30	Fri	7.30pm	whenever		<i>Pete n Shirls place (see article)</i> 63 Monash St Box Hill	ALL WELCOME

  

DECEMBER 07		Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Kew Courthouse rehearsal	8	Sat	4pm	6.30pm		Practise for the gig, then dinner	ALL WELCOME
Kew Courthouse gig	8	Sat	7.30pm	10.30pm		Xmas gig at Kew	ALL WELCOME
End of year pot luck lunch; awards ceremony & tunes	17	Sun	1 pm	5 pm		St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

## From Judy

### Agenda for November 2007 meeting – focus on slow tunes!

- 2.00 3.00 Two new tunes – both fairly slow – from the Emily Lyle collection
- 3.00 -3.30 Revision of two tunes – Laura’s Waltz-taught at the Swingin Fiddles workshop back in June and Bonnie George Campbell – taught at Mansfield
- 3.30 – 4.15 Arvo tea bring something to share
- 4.15 - 5.00 Session –focus on Red Hot Scots tunes- esp the jigs with Matt’s MSFC Welcome to Alasdair Fraser and Tam Lin

### Kew Courthouse – last gig for 2007



Please come if you can, and please tell your friends. We have been low on numbers at gigs lately – could we make this one a full on MSFC thing with lots of players? If you are holding back b/c you don’t feel you know the tunes well enough, let’s try and

arrange another practise in addition to the slow practise on 22 November, to make sure as many people as want to can be up there playing. If you

would like an extra practise, email Judy on [newdogs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newdogs@optusnet.com.au).

KEW COURTHOUSE GIG SET LIST – Dec 8
<b>SET ONE</b>
Stellas Trip to Kamloops set (RHS)
MSFC Welcome Jigs
The Quiet Man/ Miss Isabella Robertson/ Allie Croker (ALWH)
Bonnie George Campbell/The Collessie Motivator
Pria’s Mansfield Jig set
Da Slockitt Light (RHS)
From St Kilda to Kings Cross (Paul Kelly) (ALWH)
Reel of the 51 <sup>st</sup> (RC)
Fiddles and Feet (ALWFH)
<b>SET TWO</b>
Ronald’s Gaelic set w Callums Rd
Glen Tilt and Franks Reel
Jack’s Jigs
Chris Duncan’s Mansfield set – North Bridge from Edinburgh and Brumley Brae
Tommy/Billy/Hughie set
Footsteps
Laura’s Waltz
Da Guisers March/Wedding Reel
Flowers of Edinburgh – walk out?

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**MSFC goes to Tassie – July 2008**

Well, it's on! Your fearless committee has worked through some of the big issues and we've concluded that a Winter tour to Tasmania next year is a goer. Likely dates are Sat 5 July – Sun 13 July 2008, so please put these in your 2008 diaries now.

The plan is to take a full-sized group of 25-30 on tour for our very own 9 days on the island (we'll think of a better name than "...X days on the island..." which I believe is already taken).

We're in discussion already with muso contacts in several places and are beavering away on a tour programme that should see us perform from Launceston in the north to Hobart in the south, and a variety of towns in between and around and about, doing our famous stuff like gigs, workshops and sessions, and some fun bus touring in between.

We have some enthusiastic supporters already on board in Tassie, and are hoping to arrange a couple of feature gigs as highlights for the week, as well as including time to meet fellow musos, so it's more than just doing a gig and moving on.

The lad(d)ies' auxilliary is on the job sleuthing out some of the boring but important logistical things like accommodation and transport options – more to come on those aspects.

There will be an introductory Information Package sent prior to the December Meeting including an outline of tour basics and an indication of participation costs. People will be asked to fill in a sign-up sheet at the December meeting (or in the December Newsletter) for a show of interest.

There will be much more to tell you about in coming months in a regular newsletter update, but our plan is to lock in a good itinerary as soon as we can and then keep working on the artistic side of what we will perform while on tour.

This promises to be a highlight for the MSFC next year, and we'd love to pretty much fill a bus. We did it well in NZ in '05; let's rev up again for a great tour closer to home in 2008.

Until next time.

Matt Robertson

(Il Pres.)

**Emily Lyle update – by Ron**

Delving into the archives of the National Library has enabled me to hear and look at some much music — not just the Emily Lyle Collection, but sheet music, newspapers, photos and manuscripts, such as personal letters of Australian musicians.

I've been busily digitising copies of the Emily Lyle collection in order to transcribe tunes, stories and songs for our upcoming concert at the National Folk Festival next year.

**The Scottish Fiddler – September 2007**

Although Dr Lyle made the recordings on a visit to Australia in 1976 and 1977, I was amazed to here some of the people on the recordings recall events that happened in the 1850s – I'm not kidding!

What has amazed me is the huge numbers of Gaelic speakers that came to Australia in the 1850s. I have found information — written in Gaelic — that in 1857 there were 20,000 Gaels in the South East of Australia with 4 ministers delivering services in Gaelic, as many of the Scottish people who arrived had no English!

Did you know that many of those stone fences you see in the countryside of Victoria were made by the Scots then? That there were children growing up in Victoria who only spoke Gaelic at home, who had never been to Scotland? That they wrote their own stories and songs?

Some of the recurrent themes that seem to be coming out are the number of children songs that interviewees remembered; the strong piping tradition; the tradition of the ceilidh, and the role of sailors as news bearers from the old country. I've also been challenged as to what constitutes "tradition" "folk music" and the process of passing on tunes.

I have currently listened to about 40 hours of recordings, but half of the collection has yet to be digitised. This will happen in November and I expect to have a lot more tunes for December

This week in the fiddle club, I'll bring some of the recordings to play, and we'll learn some of the tunes. I've written out the notes, so you'll all get copy, and there's nothing at all challenging yet, so the concert will be fun and a good showcase for our clubs skills.

Ronald

***Our MySpace — become a friend now!***

*<http://www.myspace.com/themelbournescottishfiddleclub>*

Don't forget, we now have a MYSpace page- how Hip and Cool are we? Go there and make us your friend - tell your friends to make us their friends, too! Neil gets one or two messages a day from people who are interested in the famous MSFC.

***Highlights for 2008 —sign up now! Form at end of newsletter***

Three great highlights of our big year ahead - how to be part of it

1. National Folk Festival - Canberra at Easter
2. Touring in Tassie - July 5-12 2008 (final dates tbc)
3. Recording new CD – 28-29 September (venue and final dates tbc)

In 2008 we are again pushing ahead with learning new material to tour and record. We want as many of our members and NESSIE members as would like to, to be involved in the tour, the recording and the trip to Canberra. We realise that people can feel reluctant b/c of the speed with which tunes are played, and not feeling confident. Please don't let that stop you becoming part of the fun of the MSFC on the road.

So we can involve everyone who would like to be in these exciting projects, we will be scheduling two extra slow practises every month, in addition to the actual rehearsals.

That's our commitment to all of you BUT we need you to commit to a minimum number of meetings and rehearsals to be eligible to do the three things. Sign up sheet will be distributed at the meeting and is attached here at the end of the newsletter.

Note too, that the club funds will be used to subsidise our tour in Tassie, and the making of the new CD – you should all feel welcome to be part of that, and will probably be asked to contribute to our fundraising efforts in 2008 as well.

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**Sunday 28 October at Kew Courthouse – report**

A small crowd saw us play a nice little gig, supported by Bec Rigby and Dale Packard, that soon to be famous singing duo. The crowd and committee were v. enthused and there was talk of getting us back to a much bigger venue in 2008 – watch this space. It was great to have Monica and Jess playing with us again – an inspiration to other newer members?

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**MSFC Sessions— 30 November 2007**

During 2007 regular Saturday afternoon sessions were established at a pub in South Melbourne but these came to an end after a few months due to: Geographic location? Day of the week? Time of day? Unfamiliar tunes? Tunes played too fast? \_\_\_\_\_ (insert your own reason here)...

Sessions are of great value for reinforcing what has been learned as a group as well as providing the opportunity for a social get-together. We learn heaps of tunes at Sunday meetings, workshops etc. that just seem to disappear into thin air, many of them wonderful tunes that deserve regular attention. Off the top of my sparsely thatched head I can think of "Dr Morrison's 7 Thistles", "Tongadale Reel", "Gorsav Y Gof" and "Da Holm Waltz" amongst others.

We are looking at establishing sessions on a regular basis - say, monthly or every 6-8 weeks - at moving venues (read "members' homes"). *The major ground rule for these sessions is that they are limited to tunes that have been recorded by the Club or taught at an official Club workshop*

**The Scottish Fiddler – September 2007**

*such as Mansfield or the "Swingin Fiddles" weekend. There must be hundreds of tunes that meet this criterion!*

(There's also the consolidation of material for the MSFC's forthcoming award-winning 4th CD to think of).

So to set the ball rolling Pete'n'Shirl will host the first (but hopefully not the last) of these sessions at their home on *Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm*. The address is *63 Monash St, Box Hill South*. So that we can arrange a sufficient number of chairs, *it is important for you to let P&S know that you will/may be attending*. Our phone number is 9890 5362 and email address is [peterdwyer@connexus.net.au](mailto:peterdwyer@connexus.net.au).

Monash St runs between Canterbury and Riversdale Roads near the Box Hill Sports Complex. The doorbell is conveniently located at elbow height so you can press it despite having your fiddle in one hand and plate of something yummy in the other.

Oh and if you wish to nominate *your* home as the next venue, feel free to do so. Just drop an email to [peterdwyer@connexus.net.au](mailto:peterdwyer@connexus.net.au).

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**News from the Southern Hemisphere International School of Scottish Fiddle**

*Dear Club Members: we received this letter from Catherine Fraser, of which many of you will be interested in.*

Dear friends of SHISSF,

Applications are now open for the 5th annual Southern Hemisphere International School of Scottish Fiddle, 20th - 27th April 2008

You can download your application form and get all the latest information at [www.shissf.com](http://www.shissf.com)

Our fiddle instructors for 2008 are Catherine Fraser, Australia; Gregor Borland from Scotland via Spain; and Laura Risk, Canada, who we are delighted to have back for the second year. Accompaniment classes will be taken by pianist Duncan Smith, and are suitable for all accompanying instruments (keyboard, cello, guitar, harp etc)

We are once again offering a part scholarship to one under 18 year old - a contribution of \$250 will be made towards their early bird fee. Check out our scholarship page on the website for all the details.

EARLY BIRD applications close December 31st so start getting your applications in now to take advantage of the cheaper rate!

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any enquiries, and feel free to forward this email on to anyone you think may be interested.

Kind regards

The SHISSF Team      [www.shissf.com](http://www.shissf.com)

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[www.jugularity.com](http://www.jugularity.com)

[www.melbourneplayback.com.au](http://www.melbourneplayback.com.au)

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**STOP PRESS! GLASGOW HAS 2014  
COMMONWEALTH GAMES!**

*Ronald McCoy*

In case you haven't heard, Glasgow will hold the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

When I was flying to Scotland last year, I shared a bus ride at Dubai airport in the Emirates when getting on a flight to Glasgow with a Scottish man who was returning to Scotland from Melbourne. He had been in Melbourne learning how Melbourne won the Commonwealth Games — it obviously helped!

Read all about it and watch a documentary about Glasgow — one of my favourite cities the exciting announcement on

[http://www.scotlandontv.tv/scotland\\_on\\_tv/news/Glasgow2014.html](http://www.scotlandontv.tv/scotland_on_tv/news/Glasgow2014.html)

Ronald

**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*

**Want to be part of a massed Klezmer  
Orchestra?**

Dear members – this wonderful opportunity came from our good friend Ernie Gruner. It's a great opportunity to take part in a massed Klezmer orchestra – all the details are below...

*Would you like to be part of a massed Klezmer Orchestra for the Kingfisher Festival at CERES ?*

Please reply soon if you'd like to participate.

And your availability for which of these :

Nov 24	6.50pm - 7pm ish	Probable Performance	Village Green
Nov 24	7.45pm - 8.45	Main Performance	Stamping Ground
Nov 23	4pm - 5.30	Dress Rehearsal	
Nov 21	7pm - 10	Rehearsal	
Nov 13	7pm - 10	Rehearsal	

Kingfisher Music can be downloaded at [www.erniegruner.com/ernie.html](http://www.erniegruner.com/ernie.html) Thankyou to Mads especially for cleaning up my first Sibelius writing.

For more information contact Ernie Gruner  
[www.erniegruner.com](http://www.erniegruner.com)

Kaleidoscope Music ph 03 9386 7108

**SIGN UP SHEET- MSFC IN 2008**



**Name (s)** .....

**Instrument** .....

**Email** .....

**Phone** .....

**As far as I can tell at this stage, I would like to take part in:**

- Easter in Canberra – National Folk Festival – March 21-24**
- Tasmanian Tour – mid year – July 5 – 12 (to be finally confirmed)**
- 4<sup>th</sup> MSFC CD recording – 3rd term holidays- 28-29 Sept (to be finally confirmed)**

**I will be able to commit to attending at least 75% of all meetings and rehearsals relating to each event, and undertake to advise of any I am unable to make, by email to the secretary. I undertake to let the secretary know if it turns out that I can't make any of the events I have signed up for.**

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....

**Please note – calendar with all proposed rehearsals will be distributed at the December meeting – it is your responsibility to advise the secretary of any rehearsals you cannot make – we will expect you at all other practices.**