

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

February 2008

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|-------------------|--|---------------|---|--|---------------|--|--|---------------|---|--|----------------|
| STOP PRESS  | <p>Annual Membership Fee is Due Single \$60 Family \$80 Concession \$30</p> <p>National Folk Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructions elsewhere in newsletter- note we must pay partner tix by 22 February so get your bookings to Jean You must come to a minimum of 3 rehearsals to earn your spot on the team travelling to Canberra Note rehearsal changes over next two weeks! <p>Tassie Tour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and Sign Up Sheet is at the end of this Newsletter A deposit of \$100 will need to be paid at the March Monthly Meeting to secure a place in the tour | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Monthly Meeting 17 Feb 08</td> <td>1.00 – 2.00pm</td> <td>Committee Meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1.00 – 2.00pm</td> <td>Cello & bass section meeting – led by Natasha</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2.00 - 3.00pm</td> <td>Tunes for Canberra fiddle rally – quick run over</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3.30 – 4.00pm</td> <td>Tour news and arvo tea - bring something to share</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4. 00 - 5.00pm</td> <td>Ron's songs for Canberra</td> </tr> </table> | Monthly Meeting 17 Feb 08 | 1.00 – 2.00pm | Committee Meeting | | 1.00 – 2.00pm | Cello & bass section meeting – led by Natasha | | 2.00 - 3.00pm | Tunes for Canberra fiddle rally – quick run over | | 3.30 – 4.00pm | Tour news and arvo tea - bring something to share | | 4. 00 - 5.00pm |
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| FEBRUARY 08 | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
|-----------------|------|-----|------------|----------|-----------------------------|--|
| Rehearsal NFF | 13 | Wed | 7 pm | 9 pm | Athelie's | YOU MUST ATTEND AT LEAST 3 OF THESE TO GO TO NFF AS PART OF THE GROUP |
| Monthly Meeting | 17 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | |
| Rehearsal NFF | 20 | Wed | 7 pm | 9 pm | 229 York St South Melbourne | |
| Session | 24 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | Need a Volunteer Host | |

| MARCH 08 | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
|----------------------|---------|-----|------------|----------|-----------|---|
| Rehearsal NFF | 5 | Wed | 7 pm | 9 pm | Athelie's | MSFC not playing See Above |
| FYI - Port Fairy FF | 7 - 10 | | | | | |
| Rehearsal NFF | 13 | Thu | 7 pm | 9 pm | St Kevins | |
| Monthly Meeting | 16 | Sun | 5 pm | 8 pm | St Aidans | NOTE ONCE ONLY TIME CHANGE !! |
| FYI - National FF | 20 | Wed | 7 pm | 9 pm | Athelie's | See Above |
| National FF (Easter) | 20 - 24 | | | | Canberra | All Welcome Family Tix Available |

From Judy ...

NFF update

The Club has a good contingent going, and we have had a great first rehearsal at Athelie's place. For your information a set list for each of our four gigs will be uploaded to the web site before the Feb. meeting. We have gigs each day – the first being Friday at 4.30pm – so make sure you leave early Michael! Ron McCoy will be helping to put together the big concert in the Budawang which features us and Ron and includes a set from Ian Blake – last year's recipient of the National Library Folk Fellowship awarded to Ron for this year. WE are also playing at the Celtic Fiddle Rally organised by our friends Trish and Tim Barker, which is always good fun. The sheet music is on their web site, and here's a brief message from Trish

I've (Tim actually) posted the set of tunes for the fiddle rally on the Sydney Scottish Fiddlers' website - www.scottishfiddlers.com/Sydney, and it's a reasonable selection of tunes. None are too difficult, many will be known, and there are second/easy parts to cater for those players not quite as proficient as others. It's a balance of things with a set of Irish hornpipes and a "scottish/irish" set from an early Boys of the Lough CD. Also a tune by Angus Grant from his new CD Troots - I saw him at a gig in Katoomba and he said he'd love us to play it

MSFC website update

During December and then again in January our web site – melbournescottishfiddlers.com – was attacked several times and became unusable. After much frustrating nagging and emailing Neil and Pete were able to find out how to fix it, but sadly in the process Pet's marvelous members page disappeared. Commiserations go to Uncle Pete who now is busy remaking the members page, and again thanks to both Neil and Pete for all the work they put in keeping us on line.

MSFC SUPPORTING ITS MEMBERS IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPING

1st Proof – the Music under the Mountains school in 2008, where Judy Turner and Natasha Trinkel were sponsored by the Club, and both had a great time learning from Chris Duncan and sessioning at night with the whole gang. Highlights included Natasha's tunes playing and her extreme dedication to getting all the nuances just right, as taught by the master, as well as her ability to stay up playing with the best of the. Another highlight was Neil and Kristin's joint birthday party – starting on the verandah shared by Chris and Catherine and Neil and Judy and moving on to various other venues through the night. Louisa Wise's verandah music antics will be remembered by many for years to come, as will the fabulous group of tunes we learned and the strength of the reputation of the club among our fellow players. Jack was there mastering complicated licks on piano, and Kate was there doing Irish flute – all up MSFC had about ten players there, and a great time was had by all.

2nd Proof – several of our members are going to take classes at the Easter School prior to NFF - not all are doing Scottish fiddle as we are very happy to encourage people to branch out to other instruments and styles – the Club is sponsoring all these people by paying 50% of their fees, we'll let you know how they go in the next letter.

3rd proof – Pria was sponsored by the Club to go to Canada over the summer and soak up as much French Canadian fiddle playing and dancing as she could before returning to uni. Seems she took us too seriously, and is having such a great time sessioning, and is already gigging, teaching, appearing on TV, waitressing in a French speaking café full time that she has decided to stay on. So watch this space for an occasional bulletin from our Canadian correspondent. The snow is apparently so deep just now she hasn't been able to struggle out of the apartment to get to the internet café..... or something like that!

City of Boroondara gigs – we need a volunteer

We have a commitment to perform four times this year for the City of Boroondara (in return for our \$5000 grant) and need to line up three gigs in aged care facilities. Would someone be interested in being the liaison person with the Council to set up these gigs, and then organize the players. If yes, please let Jean or Judy know by the Feb meeting – it would be a great help as the committee are busy delivering the Tassie Tour. Some of our number have already helped out the Council twice with small last minute gig requests, and they are very well disposed towards us – it would be great to keep this good situation going.



Pria at a high octave session

Hi everyone,

Well greetings from Montreal, Quebec, land of separatists, poutine, and many, many fantastic musicians as well as tunes crochee (crooked tunes)!

After being here for the better part of a month I've decided that there's such an amazing traditional scene (playing, dancing and storytelling) that I'm going to stick around for a year and see what I can soak up.

There are many things that I could write about but for this month I think I'll tell you about the weekly quebecois sessions (there are other irish etc sessions). Held in a cosy little pub on what would translate to High St, you walk out of the snow and -20 weather into a place that is filled with half musicians half punters, either drinking or grabbing a bite to eat or both. The session is in the middle and at any given time there are about 10-15 people playing (fiddle, guitar accordion and the odd banjo/flute/clarinet, as well as the ever present podorhythmie (foot tapping) however there would be at least the same amount sitting and chatting (and drinking....did I mention there were 150 beers on the menu? at 3 a week that should be about right...)

The session goes late on into the depths of Tuesday nights, where people leave according to their occupation (Those who start at 6 the next morning tend to leave by 1). Being a waitress, I am among the dregs at the end, but this week I drew the line regretfully at 3AM as a shift change was occurring and the whole thing was starting up anew.

Anyway, have a great year, please keep in touch (my email is priask@coolgoose.com), next month I will try and write out a cool tune or two (just as soon as I work out the french word for 'manuscript').

Love, Pria

Blast from the past- and the future we hope

a note from Margaret & Jim

Hi Judy and all the MSFC,

I don't really know where this year has gone, each month I have tried to get to Fiddle club and each month I have been unable to, and now it's almost 2008. Hopefully I will get there this year.

However, Jim and I are getting Married on the 1st of March, we will have relatives out from England before and after that time and up until then we still have a bit of organizing to do. We are getting married at the Kilgour Estate Winery which is on the way to Portarlington.

We have also moved house, we sold our home in East Geelong and we have bought a 6yr old home in Clifton Springs with a view to retirement in a few years, we are both members of the Golf club here. Clifton Springs is just near Drysdale about 18kms from Geelong on the Portarlington R.

Skibbereen has finished up now, and at the moment selling and shifting the instruments haven't been put to much use but we are looking forward to getting back to playing.

We only got this email today as it was on Jims work email, but we couldn't come as we had something else on, I had read about it in the Newsletter.

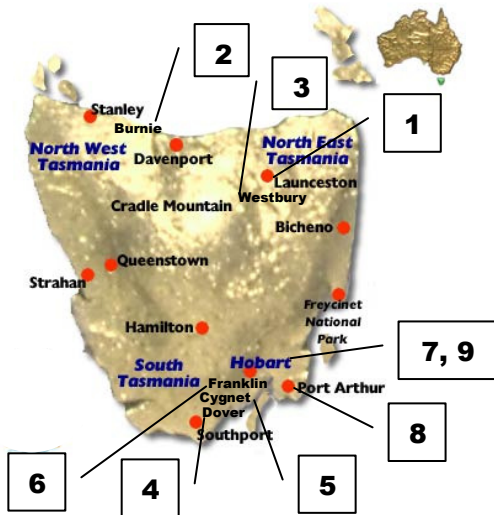
Hopefully I will get back before too long, no doubt way behind with all the new tunes.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year.

JaM (Jim & Margaret)

TASSIE TOUR

5 - 13 July 2008



ITINERARY

| Day | Jul | Location | Activity |
|-----|--------|-------------|---|
| 1 | Sat 5 | Launceston | Gig |
| 2 | Sun 6 | Burnie | Gig and/or Session |
| 3 | Mon 7 | Westbury | Gig and/or Session |
| 4 | Tue 8 | | Workshop |
| 5 | Wed 9 | Cygnet | |
| 6 | Thu 10 | Franklin | Gig with Tasmanian Heritage Fiddle Ensemble |
| 7 | Fri 11 | Hobart | Gig |
| 8 | Sat 12 | Port Arthur | Gig and Touring |
| 9 | Sun 13 | Hobart | Workshop |

| Travel | Accommodation | Meals | Touring | Uniform |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to make and pay for their own booking to and from Tasmania <i>Due to the wide range of fares and that we would have had to pay full fare tickets to book as a group The Committee decided it best to allow individuals to make their own way to Tassie and perhaps take advantage of "special" fares that appear from time to time</i> Planning Dates and Times Arrive Launceston 5 July 08 <i>Group Meets at 2 pm</i> Depart Hobart 13 July 08 <i>Group breaks up at 1:00 pm</i> All other transport will be provided by a chartered bus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation will be in billets and hostels Speak with Sue O'Leary for any special needs | Individuals will be responsible for purchasing their own food | Currently looking at options | Under discussion but to be decided by Club Members |

To be part of the "Tassie Tour" fill in and tear off the lower part of this page. A \$100 Non-Refundable Deposit is due at the March meeting or you may mail a cheque to Louise Schwall-Kearney 47 Acacia Rd Ferntree Gully 3156

Name _____

I am aware my deposit is non-refundable if I cancel my booking Yes

If you're looking for a great musical experience after the Tassie Tour you couldn't do better than attend one of Alasdair Fraser's Fiddle Camps!

Applications now being accepted for Alasdair Fraser's Fiddle Camps

Application forms available at websites below

[Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp](#)

June 13 - June 21, 2008

Nevada City, CA

Applications accepted now

Priority postmark deadline is Feb 15, 2008

[Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School](#)

August 22 - 30, 2008

Boulder Creek, CA

Applications accepted now

Priority postmark deadline is Mar 1, 2008

[Alasdair Fraser Skye Fiddle Course](#)

July 26 - Aug 2, 2008

Isle of Skye, Scotland

Applications accepted now

Message from Kristin Pre-Christmas Hello from Kristin and sorry this has been such a long time coming.

There was quite a major announcement – a new (second hand) vehicle was purchased for the brigade with money raised by our concert!!!! They traded in their old (very unsafe) vehicle which could not legally tow the weight required of it and, with \$5,700 from the concert and \$10,000 donated from Benalla Rotary they bought and fitted a Toyota landcruiser.

The raffle made \$6,000. Some of this has gone to the Molyullah Brigade to pay off their slip-on unit, and to equip it with a GPS. The remainder of the money is available for the other 11 Brigades to apply for, to purchase items such as UHF's, chainsaws etc.

THANKYOU! For all your efforts and kindness, for all the organisation, for your time and all your musical talents. The concert was fantastic - and the result for the local CFA was nothing short of miraculous.....

THANKYOU, THANKYOU, THANKYOU

Message from Kristin Post-Christmas

It's not a very good photo of him... but it does tell the story. Above is Calese Motivator with his coat still rather long and wintery - I do wonder what he would say on these 41 degree days if he could talk...



More Awards for the Davidson Brothers...

Young Victorian Bluegrass sensations, the **Davidson Brothers** walked away with 2 awards against a strong field in the **Best Band** category as well as **Best Fiddle Composition** with *Tipsy Gypsy*.

Hamish and Lachlan previously won the Best Band Award in 2006, quite an achievement for these young multi-instrumentalists.

Greetings,

Just to show how Scottish culture travels the world, this is to pass on the word from Australia about a unique environment to learn Scottish Fiddle, in Spain!

Gregor Borland runs the school -- Gregor has the good fortune of being the only current performing fiddler to have been taught by both Hector MacAndrew of Cults and Donald Riddell of Clunes - both these fiddlers are now legendary in Scottish traditional fiddle music.

Gregor will be teaching at the Southern Hemisphere International School of Scottish Fiddle in New Zealand in April (<http://www.shissf.com>), and at the Boston Harbor School of Scottish Fiddle in the USA in August his year (<http://scottishfiddle.org/bh/>), but if Europe is of interest, we can certainly recommend his school in Spain. Please pass the word!

More Info at www.gregorborland.com

Cheers, **Duncan Smith**

| CLUB CONTACTS | MEETINGS | | St Ai dan's Church Duggan St North Balwyn |
|-------------------|--|--|---|
| | Every 2 nd Sunday of the Month 2.00 pm | | |
| Position | Name | Email | Phone |
| Musical Director | Judy Turner | newdogs@optusnet.com.au | 9636 4966 |
| President | Matthew Robertson | matt.madonna@bigpond.com | 9484 8076 |
| Secretary | Jeane McConachie | jeaniuszasz@optusnet.com.au | 9480 5865 |
| Treasurer | Lousie S-K | ask@netspace.net.au | 9758 4486 |
| Gig Mgr /CD Sales | Sue O'Leary | sdarbyoleary@hotmail.com | 9481 7268 |
| Newsletter Editor | Ronald McCoy | rmccoy@ocean.com.au | |

And Lastly...

**Here's a look ahead so you can get some dates into your diary
It's going to be a busy year !**



MSFC 2008 - Feb edition – first cut

| FEBRUARY 08 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|------------|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Rehearsal NFF | 6 | Wed | 7pm | 9pm | Athalie's 4 Morley Cres Box Hill Nth | NOTE YOU MUST ATTEND |
| Monthly Meeting | 13 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | Athalie's 4 Morley Cres Box Hill Nth | AT LEAST THREE |
| Rehearsal NFF | 20 | Wed | 7pm | 9pm | 229 York St South Melbourne | OF THESE TO COME TO THE |
| Session | 24 | Sun | 2pm | 5pm | Need a volunteer host | NFF AS PART OF THE GROUP |
| MARCH 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Rehearsal NFF | 5 | Wed | 7pm | 9pm | Athalies | SEE ABOVE |
| fyi - Port Fairy F F | 7-10 | | | | | MSFC not playing |
| Rehearsal NFF | 13 | Thur | 7pm | 9pm | St Kevins - Toorak - Heyington station | SEE ABOVE |
| Monthly Meeting | 16 | Sun | 5pm | 8pm | St Aidans | NOTE ONCE ONLY TIME CHANGE!!! |
| Rehearsal NFF | 20 | Wed | 7pm | 9pm | Athalies | SEE ABOVE |
| National Folkesti (Easter) | 20-24 | | | | Canberra | All welcome - Family Tix Available |
| APRIL 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Session | 6 | Sun | 2pm | 5pm | ? | ALL WELCOME |
| Boroondara concert | tbc | tbc | tbc | tbc | Aged Care Facility | tbc |
| Monthly Meeting | 20 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | ALL WELCOME |
| MAY 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Trip to Gippsland? | 3 - 4 | Sat | tba | Sunday | HOLD – Maffra & workshops | To be confirmed |
| Rehearsal Celtfest | 14 | Wed | 7pm | 9pm | Athalie TBC | ALL WELCOME |
| Monthly Meeting | 18 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | ALL WELCOME |
| Rehearsal Celtfest | 29 | Thur | 7pm | 9pm | St Kevs TBC | ALL WELCOME |
| JUNE 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Celtic Festival tbc | 6 - 9 | Sat-Mon | | | Port Arlington | |
| Monthly Meeting | 15 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | |
| JULY 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Tasmania Tour | 5-13 | | | | | |
| Monthly Meeting | 20 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | ALL WELCOME |
| Boroondara concert | tbc | tbc | tbc | tbc | aged care facility | tbc |
| AUGUST 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Session | 3 | Sun | 2pm | 5pm | ? | ALL WELCOME |
| Monthly Meeting | 17 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | ALL WELCOME |
| CD Rehearsal | 23 | Sat | 1pm | 5pm | Athalie TBC | ALL WELCOME |
| SEPTEMBER 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| CD Rehearsal | 6 | Sat | 1pm | 5pm | Judy & Neil | ALL WELCOME |
| CD Rehearsal | 14 | Sun | 10am | 4pm | Anyone? | ALL WELCOME |
| Monthly Meeting | 21 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | ALL WELCOME |
| Recording | 28-29 | Sat-Sun | all day | both days | TBC | ALL WELCOME |
| OCTOBER 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Boroondara concert | tbc | tbc | tbc | tbc | Aged Care Facility | tbc |
| Monthly Meeting | 19 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | ALL WELCOME |
| NOVEMBER 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Session | 2 | Sun | | | ? | |
| Monthly Meeting | 16 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | ALL WELCOME |
| DECEMBER 08 | | | | | | |
| | Date | Day | Start Time | End Time | Venue | Notes |
| Benefit Concert | tbc | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | Kew Courthouse | |
| Monthly Meeting | 21 | Sun | 2 pm | 5 pm | St Aidans | ALL WELCOME |

