

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 8

September 2008

STOP THE PRESSES!!

1. *Two new gigs in October – please sign up at the meeting or by emailing Judy – click on Contact MSFC on the web site – details below*
2. *Early mixes of new CD show great promise – critics anticipate great success for MSFC 4th album!*
3. *December meeting date - changed to be same weekend as CD launch – Sunday December 14 new date for meeting – please mark your diaries now!*

SEPTEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting and AGM	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

OCTOBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Concert rehearsal	1	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's place Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
Workshop for Tintern fiddlers	10	Friday	1pm	4pm	Tintern	Matt, Judy, Natasha, Gus D
Aged care concert	12	Sun	1pm	4pm	Samarinda Lodge	ALL WELCOME
Tintern Strings Concert	14	Tues	7pm	Tbc	Tintern Ringwood	ALL WELCOME – JUST 15 MINS OR SO
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

See last page for the rest of this year and for an indicative look at 2009

From Judy

Agenda for meeting – Sunday 21 September — St Aidan's Uniting Church, Duggan Street, North Balwyn, Melbourne Scottish Fiddle (cello and food) Club!

12.45 - 2.00pm *Young players gathering – Gus Downing to lead*

12.45- 2.00pm *Focus on the Strathspey – part 2 – Matt to lead*

2.00 – 2.45pm *Rehash Josephina – for correct dots (thanks Bjorn) see web site; and making a set of Swedish tunes with a new reel – Judy to lead*

2.45 – 3.30pm *AGM*

3.30 – 4.00pm *Afternoon tea - bring something to share as usual*

4.00 – 5.00pm *TUNE WRITING – we will have a look at the past winners/place getters of previous tune writing competitions. Matthew (and others) will talk about how they wrote their tunes*

Two new Gigs to sign up for – what fun!

1) *Sunday 12 October, 1pm – 4pm Samarinda Lodge, 286 High St Ashburton*

2) *Tuesday 14 October, 7.00pm – tbc, Tintern School in Ringwood – same venue as recording*

Please note both these gigs are a sort of payment in thanks to Tintern for free use of their venue, and part of our commitment to Boroondara for the \$5000 grant.

Sign up sheet at this gig or email Judy with TINTERN YES and BOROONDARA YES in the header.

Tune competition revival *Judy*

Just a reminder that it's time to get those scraps of melody out and turned into tunes - Conditions as follows:

1. Must be your own work (as far as you can tell!)
2. Not recorded previously
3. Must be submitted in writing – help available if needed – recording can also be submitted if you like
4. Any jig, reel, march, strathspey or air will do as long as there is something vaguely Scottish about it
5. Winning tune will become part of our repertoire if it is accessible enough for all to play

Winner receives much glory and a voucher to be spent at the Violineri or at Burke's Music – your choice

Forthcoming 07- 08 AGM

Don't forget that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the SEPTEMBER meeting on SUNDAY 21st September, 2008 sometime during the 2.00 to 5.00 pm meeting time and will be relatively painless. All positions will be declared vacant and nominations called for.

Please consider nominating for a position. New office bearers keep the club "fresh" and help bring new ideas into the club. Getting involved this way increases your knowledge of how the club works and shares the organisational load. If you want to have a go at any position (all are available) ask another member to nominate you or talk to a current committee member. If you think another member would be great to be on the committee, ask them if they would like to be nominated!

If you can't attend the AGM please let us know by phoning Jean on tel: 9480 5865 or email: jeaninszaz@optusnet.com.au.

Gates of Gold update

At time of writing about 75% of the overdubbing has been completed (sax, vocal harmonies, some fiddle, and a complete remake of Fear a Bhata) and 5 tracks completely mixed. We expect to have a rough mix of all 16 tracks by Friday 19th thanks to a great effort from Hugh, Neil, Matt, Bec, Dave, Natasha, Pete and JT. Lisa is working on a concept for the cover and the poster art, and we have a group working on getting together all the author and publisher info for our application to AMCOSS who charge for the right to record other people's music. Liner notes coming together nicely, and the launch is moving ahead too. First impressions are that this album is going to be quite a departure from earlier ones for two reasons: first because the quality of the playing is so much higher, and the sound so much stronger and second, because the arrangements are more complete and more confidently executed.

Gates of Gold Launch – tell all your friends, mark your diary NOW!

The venue is set for Hawthorn Town Hall – fond memories of this place for those of us who did the 2005 sell out gig – and the date for the **afternoon of Saturday 13 December**. It's a huge venue and we are selling tix so we will all need to put in a good effort with promoting to friends, fans and family – we will give the City of Boroondara 100 free tix to distribute to aged and disabled groups as part of our commitment to them. Chris Duncan and Catherine will be down, Sirocha will be up, and we are hoping that Sarah, Davvyd, Lucy and Jonesy will also join us to add to the fun and the musicianship of the event. We will follow the launch with a full on party in Fitzroy, and the Sunday will be our traditional pot luck Xmas lunch, meeting and tunes comp so you may as well just BLOCK OUT THE WEEKEND NOW!

Do you YouTube? Is privacy an issue for you?

We plan to put a filmed version of Gates of Gold up on YouTube, and maybe also Ronald's Gaelic and another set or two. Please advise if you have any objection to being up there. If we don't hear from you by end of October we will put these sets up and link them to our web site.

Report on Boroondara seniors concert

Many thanks to Barbara Hannon for organising the Highgrove Concert on 31 August – a great time was had by all. Thanks too to Steve Gilbert for taking on the next one, which should see us complete our obligations to the City of Boroondara this year. The following is an extract from a letter received from Claudia Crosling the activities co-ordinator at Highgrove:

“Many many thanks to you and your friends from the Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers for your wonderful performance last Sunday. It was an absolutely outstanding afternoon. The residents, family members and others who attended have been referring to it all week! What was a highlight was the obvious enjoyment you all passed to us through your lively music The body language was fantastic It was an experience we will all remember..... thanks to all concerned for sharing their talents with us and giving up their afternoon. You have given immense pleasure to us all.”

=====

LETTER FROM AMERICA! JACK AND CLARE WRITE!

Dear Fiddle Club,

We are having a super awesome time.

We arrived in San Francisco in one piece. We went to the pre-VOM concert on our second night. The line into the auditorium went to the end of the street, we had to keep asking people if we were in the right place (since when are there crowds for fiddle shows?).

Valley of the Moon was amazing!!!! We learnt so much from classes (that we were awake for) but also from being around new musicians, on the other side of the world. I spent a lot of time in disbelief at the quantity and quality of the cellos. No-one looks twice at a cello over here, pretty cool. As well as sessions and dancing, they have themed nights to keep us entertained. This year there was 'Honky Tonk' and '80s Prom'. I discovered the beauty of a particular floral jumpsuit and Jack sported a very flashy jacket. (see attached). We also had a VOM representation of the Olympics in Ceilidh. Sarah, Pria, Jack, and I made a sterling team, evidence can be viewed on Youtube.

After VOM we went to the Pleasanton Games to play with the San Fran Fiddlers. Was amazing to watch Alasdair transform a cross-armed audience into this sea of groovers, he is an amazing man.

Back in San Francisco we went, with George (New Zealand fiddler who plays with Darydd), to the Golden Gate Bridge. We of course thought of you all there.

We were then in New York City. We had a day of seeing the Manhattan sites including: Central Park, Carnegie Hall, Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Times Square and Ground Zero.

We went to Danbury in Connecticut to see Liz Carroll and John Doyle. We had this tremendous journey to the festival ground which included a hike with packs and fiddles up an amazingly big hill in pre-storm humidity. About 2 tunes into the set it pissed down so we got to sit on the stage a metre away from them which was a double blessing as we weren't wet and we could hear them acoustically. Unfortunately the second set was cancelled due to the rain but we got to have a little session with them before the festival was closed due to lightening! Fortunately we were staying in the hostel 2 nights so our clothes, sleeping bags, packs and shoes could dry out.

We are now in Boston staying with a friend from camp. We have been to Club Passim (the local folk club which has an act on EVERY night), a session and tonight we are going to a party at Hanneke and Natalie's house. Lots of friends from VOM live in Boston so it will be great to catch up with them all tonight.

On the weekend we are headed to a local Irish Festival called ICONS. We are both very excited about the line-up and that concerts do not begin until noon.

Will be catching up with Pria and Sarah the following weekend to play at a Festival in Vermont.

Hope all is well and you're not missing us too much.

love Jack and Claire



Jumpin' Flash Jack and Retro Clare Off to California..

A Letter..

Dear Judy

I was checking out your web page tonight and see that your (obviously wonderful) supporter, Mrs Patricia Gilmour had passed away.

I just wanted to let you know of all the tunes on your CD Reel Cool, the track "Mrs Patricia Gilmour" is my favourite. I always thought she must have been somebody special and of course, that is what she must have been to you.

I have played that track, over and over again (in fact, some days, I press "repeat" and just keep listening). The way that melody builds up from the singleness of the flute, then have the fiddle harmonising over the top and then all the fiddles towards the end-it is just pure magic.

Since my marriage break up earlier in the year, I have been living in Grenfell but working in Cowra, so I have about 40 minutes, each way, in which to listen to music. There is hardly a day where I don't listen to Reel Cool or A Long Way from Home. Your lovely music takes my mind away from my troubles and lets my thoughts wander back into my (happy) childhood memories, where my sister and I learnt highland dancing and my (English) father really thought he would have liked to have been a Scotsman!! In fact, two of his best friends were Scottish emigrants who had lived in Cowra. Also, it is a lovely reminder of having such a happy time listening to your band/music (when my heart was really sad) at the National Folk Festival.

Condolences to you and members of your band on the loss of somebody who was obviously very dear to you all.

Kind regards

Jenny Smith

Contacting NESSIE?

NESSIE (North East Scottish Strings Including Elbow pipes) meets on the 2nd Sunday of every month. So if you're in the area, drop in and join in the fun! For more information contact Claire on tel: 5963 3277 or Kristen on tel: 03 5766 6282.

MSFC YOUNG PERSON'S GROUP: BUSINESS AS USUAL!

GUS DOWNING WILL BE TAKING THE GROUP IN JACK'S ABSENCE

The new MSFC Young People's Group is up and running.

Are you young? Are you cool? (If you play fiddle, you thereby automatically qualify for "cool" status.)

So call or email Jack to find out about our new Group!

Next gathering will be at 12.30 at St Aidans prior to this month's meeting on August 17th.

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 jeanius:as:@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor - Ronald on 03 9527 1375; mob: 0407 318 911 or email:

rmccoy@ocean.com.au

Young person's group contact until 17th August Jack Wilson — home: 03 937 92635;

mob: 0424 660 461 Email:

coolpeople@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

MSFC 2008 – winding down is for wimps!

SEPTEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting and AGM	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

OCTOBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Concert rehearsal	1	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's place Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
Workshop for Tintern fiddlers	10	Friday	1pm	4pm	Tintern	Matt, Judy, Natasha, Gus D
Aged care concert	12	Sun	1pm	4pm	Samarinda Lodge	ALL WELCOME
Tintern Strings Concert	14	Tues	7pm	Tbc	Tintern Ringwood	ALL WELCOME – JUST 15 MINS OR SO
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	2pm	5pm	Need a volunteer	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	16	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

DECEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Launch rehearsal	3	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's Box Hill	All welcome
Launch rehearsal	11	Thur	6.30pm	9pm	South Melbourne	All welcome
Melbourne concert and CD launch	13	Sat	NOON	5pm	Hawthorn Town Hall	TELL EVERYONE- 400 SEATS TO FILL!
Post launch party	13	Sat	7pm	10pm	Jenny's place	PARTY!!
Monthly Meeting						ALL WELCOME – party and tunes competition afternoon – welcome back Pria and Lousie
NOTE DATE CHANGE !	14	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidan's	

=

MSFC 2009 draft calendar

FEB	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Fests rehearsal	18	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's place Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
Fests rehearsal	26	Thur	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME

MAR	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Fests rehearsal	4	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's place Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
PFFF	6 - 9	Port Fairy Folk Festival				TBC
BMF	12-22	Brunswick Music Festival				TBC
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
NFF rehearsal	26	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME

APR	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
NFF rehearsal	2	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
NFF rehearsal	8	Wed	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME
NFF	10 - 13	National Folk Festival Canberra				TBC
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

MAY	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Celtfest rehearsal	20	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
Celtfest rehearsal	28	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME

JUN	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Celtic Festival tbc	6 - 8	Port Arlington Celtic Festival				TBC
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	

JUL	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Rehearsal						
Concert at St A's	12	Sun	2pm	5pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME - confirmed
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

AUG	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	9	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

SEP	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

OCT	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

NOV	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

DEC	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	13	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	SUGGESTED DEC ONLY CHANGE!!