

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

March 2009

YEAR OF THE BOW CONTINUES!

Stop the Presses

- **April Verch presents workshop for MSFC members!** Check her out on YouTube or her website - she's AMAZING – more below!
- **Lucky Oceans features GoG on The Planet** – tune your radios to 661 Radio National this Thursday 12 March at 2.20pm or again at 11.20pm to hear us being fairly famous!
- **Brunswick Festival Gig** – please make sure you are there by 4.30 (plug in people) or 5.00 at the latest (others) for our all important sound check – still plenty of seats so TELL EVERYONE!!!
- **Pre National Easter School** – don't forget we will subsidise any of our members who wish to attend the fiddle classes with Catherine Fraser, or the piano classes with Duncan Smith, for that matter. Just bring or mail your receipt to Louise and she will do the business

MAR	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Brunswick rehearsal	4	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalies place Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
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Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	1.30pm	4.00pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME NB NEW TIME
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Agenda for meeting – Sunday 15 March 2009

St Aidan's Uniting Church, Duggan Street North Balwyn

- 1.30 – 3.00pm Year of the Bow continued – Miss Wedderburn (old); The Earl of Lauderdale (new);
- 3.00-3.30pm Arvo tea - bring something to share
- 3.30 - 4.00pm Year of the Bow continued continued – The Spey in Spate (half old; half new)
- 4.00 Depart for sound check at Brunswick Town Hall

April Verch the Wunderkind – a meister classe like you've never seen!

Monday March 23 – be there or be TOTALLY SQUARE!!
South Melbourne Trugo Hall cnr Park ST and Ferrars Place
Free for our members only – totally, like, exclusive!

Hey everyone - come along to this once in a lifetime session – four of our players will be nominated (rather they will self select by calling Judy or texting her on 0438 560 741) to learn a tune nominated by AV. She will then take apart their playing (I told you it would be fun!) in front of a breathless audience, who will learn as much as those playing if not more. AV will focus on THE BOW but not only. At the end we will ask her to teach us all the same tune, time permitting.

bookings essential – j.o@mac.com

catch her at www.aprilverch.com

The Year of the Bow – report on first session, Feb 2009

Judy:

Good start to a new way of seeing things- loved the fact that it was all our own people and the attentiveness was very high – could have heard a pin drop – at least at some times! Thanks to our teachers.

Colin:

1. Overall Comments : The left hand and right hand work as part of a team to produce sound on the violin; Use of Bow pressure can provide a variety of ways to emphasise notes.

2. Jenny Dang The Weaver :- Use tune to practise triplets.

3. Earl of Lauderdale:

- Easy tune to learn because of pattern.

- This will then allow the player to focus on practising the dynamics of the tune with the bow e.g. lounds and softs.

- Practise String Crossing

4. The Spey in Spate

- Use of bow pressure to emphasis notes especially with the lead in phrase.

- The tune provides a rich opportunity to experiment with different bowing techniques.

- A player could record themselves at home playing a short passage of the tune and then record the same passage but playing it in a different manner e.g. heavier use of bow or playing further from the bridge.

Pria:

The main thing I hope people could see is that life is like a box of metaphors.....kidding. I guess I hope everyone got a sense of how much fun and energy you can approach the bow with and how much fun and energy you can get back. Specifically with the Québécois tune I'll teach that you can see that with the right bowing you can make a G-maj scale awesome and rhythmic.

I know I personally learned that the bow can be used for good tone - who knew?

Jack:

no comment your honour – was he really there?!?!?

Matt:

For reels with many quavers in a bar, bow across the groups of four occasionally: e.g. instead of 'hack' bowing [down-up-down-up, etc]

[Π-V-Π-V-Π-V-Π-V], try doing it with a slurred up-bow in the middle: [Π-V-Π-V-V-V-Π-V]. Shetland tunes are good ones to try it on, so out of 8 quavers in a bar, 4-5-6 can be slurred on an up-bow, and sometimes 8-1-2 slurring the last quaver in a bar with the first two of the next bar.

The Old (People's) Repertoire Group – from PSK

After hushed speculation and whispered queries, the monthly Past Repertoire sessions are officially a goer! Pria will be running through some of the gems from our past 10+ years of reels, strathspeys and jigs, offering some of the newer members a chance to see what they've missed..All are welcome and sheet music will be provided via the website (tbc by our IT wizards). To make it as democratic as possible, we'll be alternating meeting times/locations between the Grenvilles and the Oleinikovs. This month will be

**April 1st (1st Wednesday) , 7.30 pm
at Howard/Rosalie Grenvilles place,
59 Creek Rd Mitcham**

Hope to see you all there! Anyone with any tune suggestions, you can let Pria know at p.schwall. Kearney@gmail.com

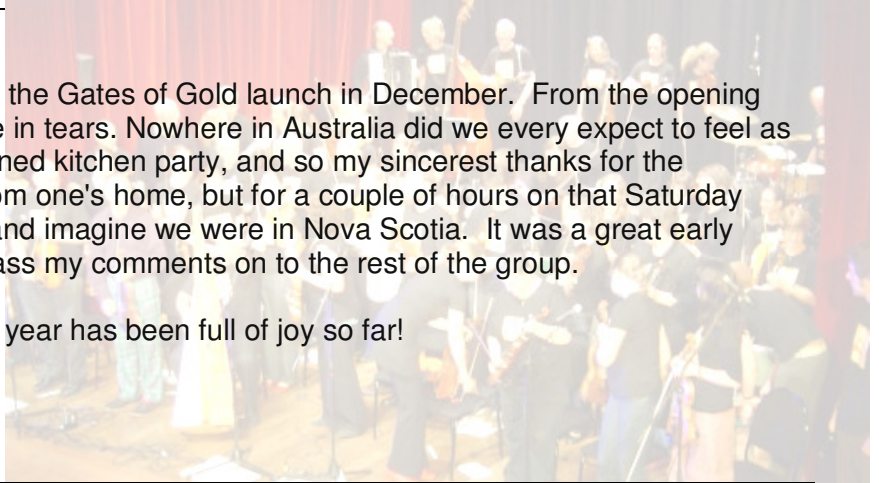
Gates of Gold Stuff

From a fan:

my mum, stepdad and I all attended the Gates of Gold launch in December. From the opening strains of the fiddles mum and I were in tears. Nowhere in Australia did we every expect to feel as though we were at a good old fashioned kitchen party, and so my sincerest thanks for the opportunity. It is hard being so far from one's home, but for a couple of hours on that Saturday afternoon, we could close our eyes and imagine we were in Nova Scotia. It was a great early Christmas gift! Please feel free to pass my comments on to the rest of the group.

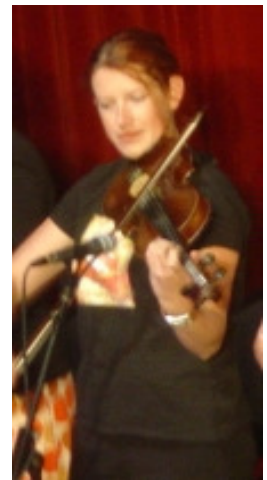
I hope you are well and that the new year has been full of joy so far!

Warm regards,
Meghann Birks



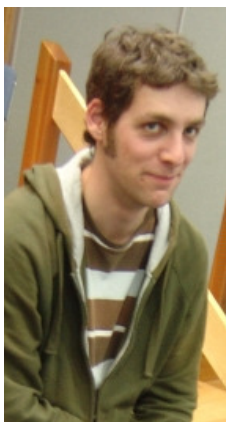
Review of Music Under the Southern Cross camp, Campaspe Downs, 11-16 January 2009 – Melody O'Meara

Not only did I have a musically fantastic and productive experience at Celtic Southern Cross, I was also very well entertained (not to mention embarrassed) by the one and (here's hoping...) only, Mr. Chris Duncan. He employed an array of amusing initiation rites to help me 'settle in' to my first Celtic Southern Cross education including making me stand in the middle, sitting next to me when I **clearly** didn't know what I was doing and throwing in some helpful behaviour therapy sessions along the way (who wouldn't? We were already sitting in a circle). The tune learning was well balanced by red wine and cheese afternoons which I'm sure contributed greatly to my ability to learn that damn strathspey!! Whoever said that music was relaxing lied! Overall, I had a lot of fun, got a lot out of the classes, met some new people, bailed others up for remedial strathspey lessons (thanks Matt, Kristen and Shannon) bought some cool cds and some even cooler jewellery (thanks Catherine) and did I mention the red wine and cheese??



Contra Dance

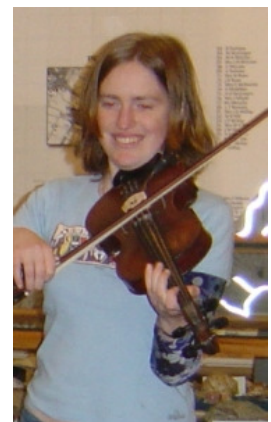
Come join us for an evening of fun, easy social dance to live music from Pria Schwall-Kearney and Evan Davies



**Tuesday 31st March 2009 7.45pm -
10.15pm**

**At
Church of Christ Hall
1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 3127**

**Melway ref. P46 H11
(car parking beyond hall)**



Please RSVP, or just show up: George or Lyn (03) 9890 5650

MSFC 2009 calendar						
MAR	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
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Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	1.30pm	4.00pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME NB NEW TIME
Workshop with April Verch	23	Mon	7.30pm	9pm	South Melb Trugo tbc	ALL WELCOME BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
APR	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Old Repertoire Group	1	Wed	7.30	9ish	Mitcham	ALL WELCOME LEARN THE GOOD OLD STUFF!
EASTER SCHOOL	7-10	National Folk Festival Canberra				MSFC will sponsor you if you want to go to Easter School
NFF	10-13	National Folk Festival Canberra				Fiddle Rally only for us this year
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
MAY	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Celtfest rehearsal	13	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
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	ALL WELCOME
St Aidans rehearsal	25	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME
JUL	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
St Aidans rehearsal	1	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
Concert at St A's	12	Sun	2pm	5pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME - confirmed
St Aidans rehearsal	16???	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
AUG	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	16	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
SEP	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Mth Meet ?	20	Sun				
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
Rehearsal Shepp gig						
Rehearsal Shepp gig						
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Shepparton gig	21-22	Sat-Sun	all	weekend	tbc	tbc
DEC	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Xmas Meeting & Tunes comp	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME