



Welcome to December.....

STOP PRESS!!!

- **MSFC year-end Xmas party – celebrate the big year that was!**
- **Play through 2011 sets (Stout-McKay; Fraser-Haas; MSFC etc)**
- **Competition - Yuletide carol/wassailing song segué to a Scottish tune**
- **Session tunes**

Agenda for meeting - Sunday 19 December 2011

St Aidan's Uniting Church, Duggan Street North Balwyn, 2-5pm

2.00pm – 2.30pm	Review of 2011 tune sets
2.30pm – 3.30pm	Competition - Yuletide carol/wassailing song segué to a Scottish tune
3.30pm – 4:00pm	Famous arvo tea - bring something to share (Yule-ish if you want)
4:00pm – 4:10pm	Update and announcements about 2012
4.15pm – 4:45pm	Session tunes to finish the year; MSFC favourites, newies and oldies

As a one-off, St Aidan's has asked whether we could finish a few minutes early (hence 4:45pm), to allow for a private devotional use of the church and facilities scheduled for 5.30pm needing some preparation

From the Musical Director

This month – *party time and competition*

Dust off your arranging skills for the competition for Yuletide carol/wassailing song segué to a Scottish tune.

During the December meeting, we will have a different kind of competition from previous years. This is meant to be fun and informal, not tooooo competitive (but, yes, prizes are to be had), so go solo, pair up, form a small band with a rhythm player, whatever you like, and see if you can silkily and creatively flow from a carol or traditional wassailing song into a recognizable Scottish tune. Time signature, key, style all up to you.

If you participate in the comp, please be prepared to provide a small judging panel with the names of tunes. If you want to be an audience member and help judge a punter fiddlers' favourite, that's fine too. Matt and others will offer an opening non-competing example, and hopefully we'll have a few other, meritorious entries. Good luck!

MSFC on radio...

Following our grand gig back in October with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, some of it has already been featured on ABC radio a couple of Saturdays ago. We are able to use, with attribution to the ABC, the recording of our playing in the 'stramash' bracket of reels and slow tune that some of us were involved in, so we're hopeful of including a track on the next CD...the half-life of the AF&NH visit continues to be very much more than half.

Update - MSFC festival applications for 2012

The not so good news to update you all about is that our applications for the National Folk Festival (Easter weekend, Canberra) and the Fairbridge Folk Festival (weekend after

Easter, WA) have both been unsuccessful, though we remain ever optimistic and determined to make good applications to the NFF (and maybe even FFF) the following year. As we know, good musical things happen wherever we go, both on our own account and in collaboration with others. Quite apart from musical merit, we have a provable crowd-drawing history, so we're good for the bottom-line of a festival!

We can at least be much more confident of our application to the National Celtic Festival in Portarlington over the June 2012 long weekend, so please pencil in a likely single day (at this stage probably Sunday 10 June – see draft calendar), and there's a pipeline of good ideas that will see us nicely busy in 2012 anyway.

Outcome of MSFC Annual General Meeting – Sunday 20 November – St Aidans

The MSFC AGM for 2011 was held during the November meeting. The new MSFC committee for 2011-12 is:

Office bearers

- President: Sirocha Bruckard
- Vic-President: Melody O'Meara
- Secretary: Kirsty Greenwood (& Public Officer)
- Treasurer: Howard Grenville

Other committee members:

Peter Dwyer, Shirley Hunter, Sue O'Leary, Judy Oleinikov, Matt Robertson





Continuing the year of baton-passing, the big move is Sirocha Bruckard stepping up to take on the role as President as Matt Robertson focuses on the Musical Director role. Please wish Sirocha well, and give her every support at that you can. She brings a wealth of experience in traditional music of many kinds, has eclectic musical interests and a good feel for how to build support for an artistic idea through to fruition in performance – all good guidance and leadership qualities.

So, we have a committed committee, and we are already working away to turn some ideas into worthwhile events for all of us to enjoy throughout 2012. MSFC relies on volunteers to do nearly everything, and while the committee will naturally take on most of the organizing and admin, we will of course ask for help here and there during the year. If you feel you have some time to contribute some skill and energy at any point in the year, please talk to Matt or Sirocha.

My abbreviation-laden President's Report for 2011, is included with this month's newsletter to give a quick and detailed view of the year that was. In any terms, this has been a big year for a community arts group.

MSFC represented at City of Boroondara grant recipients event. A redoubtable small band of our finest represented MSFC at a grant celebration event in November run by one of our key sponsors, the City of Boroondara, in Camberwell. We were asked to showcase and recount how our 2011 grant assisted us to run our series of fiddle workshops. This was great visibility for us in front of a 150 crowd, and with Jenny on piano, Louise on cello, Pete on mandolin, and Jean, Cameron, Marguerite, Judy O and Matt on fiddles, we played some Shetland pieces and other MSFC favourites briefly to a very appreciative crowd. As a more significant triennial grantee over the 2012-14 period, we may be asked to participate in similar events in future, and we can very highly recommend your involvement.

Big gigs and other ideas on the make for 2012...

Some careful thought is going into a range of 2012 events, including: CD release gigs; Mini-tour or single day visits to regional Victoria (timing tbc, possibly incorporating a Camperdown visit again); Other metro gigs; a likely Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt weekend in Melbourne in October (joint gig and workshop); Ceilidh dance; guest tutor workshops; and more.

A draft calendar is included further below with just some of the possible ideas and a couple of firmish dates so far for 2012. More details to come in an early 2012 newsletter, by which time a number of events, dates and arrangements will be firmed up to help with diary planning that we all want to do...stay tuned!

Workshop & Concert Monday January 2nd 2012

Come along, if you can, to the fabulous workshop, house gig and session to be had on Monday 2 January 2012 with Anna-Wendy Stevenson and Simon Bradley (see flyer for details, and thank you to Jean McConnochie for hosting!). This is the first of the MSFC sponsored workshops for 2012, after a big year on that front in 2011.

A number of MSFC musicians will also be at **Music Under The Southern Cross** fiddle camp at Campaspe Downs in mid January, so see you there, whichever course you're doing.

Finally, thanks again to all of you for your involvement in 2011; please all have a relaxing break, and we'll convene again in February 2012 for another great year in the life of the famous MSFC.

- Matt Robertson

Message from our President

Having been to my first committee meeting as President last night, I am happy to say I survived! I am excited about helping to guide the club through another year. And so what will next year hold? Well the short answer is 'lots'! Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our applications for Fairbridge and the National Folk Festivals but many of our members will be there in different guises so if anyone is thinking of making the trip there will be many familiar faces at each festival to say hello to and share a few tunes with. As for workshops, well we have ideas coming out of our ears. To kick the year off in style we have two fantastic musicians, Simon Bradley and Anna-Wendy Stevenson, coming to Melbourne for a small intimate workshop, gig and session. Stay for one or all three (details elsewhere in this newsletter) but get in quick as there is limited room. I would encourage you to make it along to this if you are in Melbourne (even if you are recovering from New Year festivities!) because they are both fantastic musicians and teachers with quite different styles and musical experiences. What a great way to kick off the year and stay tuned as the committee has plenty of other ideas and plans. Please bear with me as I learn all the ins and outs of the behind-the-scenes workings of the MSFC. Have a great Christmas and I'll see you all in the new year.

- Sirocha Bruckard





Highlights of 2011 and news from MSFC members:

Jenny Newcombe:

So many highlights for me this year! Playing the piano to a whole new level, joining the amazing rhythm section and getting to play even more with Neil, Athalie, Louise, Claire, Anita and Jack. Fun at SHISSF with Barb and Marguerite, (and some great playing and teaching) the hospitality of our Camperdown friends. The session at The Retreat in Abbotsford every second Sunday. Playing for Scottish dancing groups on week nights deep in the Eastern 'burbs (who would have thought there was so much passion on a Tuesday night in Hartwell?) With my other band: "The Sullivans and Friends", playing fiddle, piano and singing harmonies behind Ciara - we do all the old Irish standards. Come and see us 7.00pm 14 January at The Knife Shop in Collingwood, bring instruments and join in - it is a very casual gig. Finally, Matt's patient, gentle but persistent encouragement of us all.

-Jenny

Claire Alleway

Alasdair and Natalie gig! There was so much excitement in the room that night, definitely my fiddle club highlight of the year.....without thinking too much about it!

xClaire

Chris Hunter

I just loved the Alasdair and Natalie gig too. Such incredible musicians and also great entertainers.. I loved it..

Claire Alleway

...having thought about it slightly more -the Chris Hunter catering team has been awesome! I love that the fiddle club considers cake to be a compulsory part of intermission.

Declan Simpson

Wrote a limerick in Limerick..

Declan and Claire were train travelling
Ireland's countryside was unravelling
The trip was not long
No time for a song
But the length of a limerick - more dazzling!

Christina McDaid There's still Claire in Claire to come!

Declan Simpson Ha Tina, Claire currently is in Clare. Shame they spell it wrong!

Neil Adam

Well what a year! - Best album, Ry Cooder "Draw Up Some Dust". (Did you know that Keith Richard said the Stones tried for 30 years to do with 4 hands on guitar what Ry could do with 2?) - Best sandwiches: Shirley's - Best gig: The Alisdair/Natalie one for sheer traditional wonder, The Chris/ Catriona gig for sheer musicality - Most challenging musical experience: trying to keep up with Catriona at the concert - Best musical fun: watching Chris Stone and Judy recording the fiddle parts for our Robert Louis

Stevenson CD -Most misguided National Folk Festival : The Australian one for not booking the Fiddle Club for ...is it the 5th or more? year in a row - Best organised and least stressful recording I have been involved in : The latest Fiddle Club one, hey who else could make a CD recording feel like a holiday, and hey who needs the National anyway? - Best block of land anyone ever bought: Our one at Newlyn close to Daylesford, please drop in between Christmas and New Year, but bring a tent - Best gig for Scottish country dancing: last Saturday's in St Kilda, when I have rather rarely seen more people having more fun than. - Worst grammar of the year : that last sentence - Most successful hand over of Fiddle Club Directorship: this year's, and congrats to Matt- mind you, I don't notice Judy at home with her knitting much.....

Judy Turner

I agree with everything Neilly said! It was a fantastic year when you add up all the gigs and international visitors and parties and so on! A year of transition that was pretty seem less or is that seamless?

Unca Pete

Judy O, Alanna and Alex provided the tunes and Peter and Rosalie, the rhythm, at Mont Albert Street Fair on Friday evening 9th December. In an hour, they raised around \$40 for the Kindilan Society, which greatly appreciates their effort" - And thank you also to members who responded but were unable to make the gig.

Thanks - Peter





MSFC CLUB CONTACTS

The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club (MSFC) meets at
2.00 PM on the 3rd Sunday of the month at:

St. Aidans Church Hall,
17 Duggan Street,
North Balwyn
Vic 3104

President Sirocha Bruckhard

Director Matthew Robertson
Phone 03 9484 8076
Email matt.madonna@bigpond.com

Treasurer Howard G
Phone 03 9874 6520
Email howardgj@dodo.com.au

Tour Manager/CD Sales Sue
Phone 03 9481 7268
Email sdarbyoleary@hotmail.com

Secretary Kirsty
Mobile 0434 354 948
Email greenwd@melbpc.org.au

Young person's group Jack Wilson
Phone 03 937 92635
Mobile 0424 660 461
Email coolpeople@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

Administration Melody
Phone 0408 191 619
Email melodyomeara@gmail.com

Founder MSFC/ Judy Turner
Fraser/Haas Concert Details
Phone 0438 560 741
Email judy@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

NESSIE

North East Scottish Strings
including Elbow Pipes

Nessie meet 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:

Di Ph: 03 5963 3277

Kristen Ph: 03 5766 6282



the melbourne scottish fiddle club



2011 MELBOURNE SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB CALENDAR 2012

2011 MELBOURNE SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB CALENDAR 2012						
2011						
Dec	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	18	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	Xmas party / MSFC year-end
2012						
Jan	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Fiddle workshop Anna-Wendy Stevenson / Simon Bradley	2	Monday	3.30	5pm	Details on separate flyer (Jean McConnochie's place)	Fiddle & rhythm
House gig Anna-Wendy Stevenson / Simon Bradley	2	Monday	5.30pm	7pm	as above	Guest performance
Session	2	Monday	7.30pm+	10pm	as above	All instruments
Feb	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
MSFC monthly meeting	19	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	
March	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
MSFC monthly meeting	18	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	
April	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
No MSFC gig @ National Folk Festival (Easter weekend 6-9 April)						Fiddle sessions throughout festival if attending privately
MSFC monthly meeting	15	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	
Possible CD release gig practices practice tbc	tbc	Wed	7	9	tbc	
May	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Possible CD release gigs tbc	tbc					
MSFC monthly meeting	20	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	
NCF practice tbc	23	Wed	7	9	tbc	
NCF practice tbc	30	Wed	7	9	tbc	
June	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
NCF practice tbc	6	Wed	7	9	tbc	
National Celtic Festival	10	Sunday (tbc)	Morning	Evening	Portarlinton - various	NCF Fri 8/6 - Mon 11/6. MSFC likely single day Sun 10/6 (tbc)
MSFC monthly meeting	17	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	MR to lead



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July	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Possible practices for mini-tour	tbc					
Possible MSFC mini-tour to regional Vic tbc	tbc					
Possible MSFC mid-year gig (metro-Melb) tbc	tbc					
MSFC monthly meeting	15	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	
Aug	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
MSFC gig practices tbc	tbc	Wed	7	9	tbc	
MSFC monthly meeting	19	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	
Possible Camperdown Burns statue restoration workshop/gig/session weekend tbc	tbc					
Sep	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Marysville/Buxton Golden Triangle Dancers Scottish dance (Not an MSFC gig, but we're welcome to play)	15	Saturday	Afternoon/evening	Late	Buxton Hall	Event contact: Di Gaylard (Music: Mtt Robertson / Dave A'weay)
MSFC monthly meeting	16	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	
Oct	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
MSFC&CD&CS gig practice	tbc	Wed	7	9	tbc	
MSFC&CD&CS gig practice	tbc	Wed	7	9	tbc	
Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt workshop and gig weekend	tbc	Sat&Sun	tbc	tbc	St Aidans	
MSFC monthly meeting	21	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	tbc
Nov	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
MSFC practices if needed for any end of year gig	tbc	Wed	7	9	tbc	
MSFC monthly meeting	18	Sunday	2	5	St Aidans	
Possible MSFC end of year gig tbc	tbc					
Dec	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
tbc						

