

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.tellingtales.net

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August 2006

STOP PRESS!

Check the dates at the end of the issue New rehearsal times for the Harmony Row Gig as follows:

THURSDAY AUG 17TH
WEDNESDAY AUG 23RD

ST AIDAN'S IN BALWYN
ATHALIE'S PLACE*

7.00PM - 9.00PM
7.00PM - 9.00PM

*4 Morley Crescent,
Box Hill

STOP PRESS 2 – AGM IN SEPTEMBER

September Meeting will include our 2006 AGM NOT August as previously advertised - time to get your nominations in for Committee positions

Put them in your diary NOW!

From Judy

August 20th - Meeting Program

- 2.00pm The King's House – see attached
John Donald Cameron – see attached
Gorsaf Y Gof – see attached
- 3.30pm Arvo tea – bring something to share – time to chat
- 4.00pm Jack's CB jigs revisited; Suo Gan revisited
- 4.30PM Session – leaders will be designated!

Message from the Director

Hello again! Back in July just before leaving for my latest OS adventure I wrote you a message which got eaten by the email termites. It said something like this:

When you read this (thanks again Ron!) I will be A Long Way From Home, sunning myself in Rome, or maybe Provence, preparing for the full on five days of the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention in Aberdeen at the end of July. Some totally awesome (apologies to anyone over 25) bands and soloists are on the bill and I hope to come back with lots of contacts for our proposed tour in 2008.....(various other stuff now not

relevant deleted here) Have a great month and thanks to all for taking over my roles while I am away.

Well, I am back now - very glad to see everyone playing in Matt's dance combo at Athalie's place last Thursday, and looking forward to seeing everyone else at the meeting next Sunday 20th. I heard the St Aidan's gig was a ripper and want to thank and congratulate Pria for taking on the role of Director for a month. The church people were very happy with the gig, and so was the audience judging by the feed-back and the sales - Great stuff! There are lots of gigs coming up – I have attached here the sign up sheet so you can see what you put your name down for – feel free to join up if you haven't yet, and remember the rehearsals are very important as we will be adding new stuff in as the months go by.

NAFCO lessons – from Judy

Gus Downing and I met up in Aberdeen the night before the Convention started. We compared notes about whether Ron was going to be able to make it, and decided it looked unlikely so agreed we would have to enjoy it all twice as much and remember 30% more tunes each. We felt we were up to this challenge, especially after enjoying a monster Indian banquet at the nearest restaurant we could find. So we threw ourselves into the fiddle lessons, into the

sessions and into the concerts. We missed all the conference sessions, which while attractive, seemed less relevant than the workshops.

It was great to watch and/or learn from the likes of Jerry Holland, Catriona McDonald, Aonghas Grant (the dad), Liz Dogherty, Alasdair Fraser, Natalie Haas, Paul Anderson, Dougie Lawrence, and many more, including a great Quebecois fiddler Claude Methe. The only problem was remembering the tunes. Thank goodness for the Internet. One special thing was meeting the grandson of Gideon Stove, who wrote Da Guisers March, and chatting with him.

We also enjoyed learning some Welsh tunes from Sian Phillips, one of which I'll be teaching at the next meeting. The concerts were absolutely spectacular, esp. Natalie Haas and Alasdair Fraser who are in a class of their own, and who, it seems might be making their way to Oz next year for the March season – we ought to add our voices in support of this idea whenever speaking to any festival organisers or people with clout.

The next NAFCO is Newfoundland in two years time. I would recommend anyone to go to it who loves hearing all sorts of styles played- perhaps the most interesting to me were the Norwegians – they focus on the hardanger fiddle which makes a great sound and when you play it you feel like four people playing in a church. See photo below of Norwegian fiddler and

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me. Gus did all the sessions he could and really made the most of his time there – hopefully we will hear from him soon with his report and some pics. He made the only really great session, where four Norwegian fiddlers led the group from pub to pub until they all collapsed about 5 in the morning – sadly I had made the wrong call about the night and had piked out about 2!

My conclusion about taking the club to Scotland? You'll hear my thoughts at the meeting, and we will talk it over more in the coming months. Suffice to say I think Shetland or Cape Breton might be more of a goer, and I have another idea that I think will really work well for us.

Cheers!

Promoting our gigs

Please help us get crowds at the gigs by emailing all your friends. Two separate sheets have been sent as an attachment to this newsletter so you can just cut and paste into an email message to your list. THANKS FOR HELPING OUT!!!!

Sign up sheet – here's what you said you would play at!

Please check if we have it right and let Judy or Louise know if any changes are needed.

Compulsory gig at St Aidans July 23 - arvo	Matts small group gig August 19	Big group Kyneton vineyard august 27 - arvo	Rats gig in Preston Sept 16 - night	Two gigs at Mornington October 21 arvo and night	Darron's Ballarat gig November 18th - arvo
Pria	Matt	Judy	Judy	Judy	Judy
Athalie	athalie	Angela Nicholas	Anne?	Alex	Louise
Barbara	Barbara	Bec & Win	Athalie	Angela N	Anne
Bec	Jack	Bjorn	Bec	Anne	Andrew R
bjorn	Jenny N	Bruce Packard	Bjorn	Athalie	Athalie
Claire	Judy	Dale Packard	Helmut	Bec	Bec?
David	Kate	David	Jean	Bjorn	Bjorn
David	Little Matt?	Jean	Jenny N	David	David
Diane	Neil	Jenny N	Judy	Hawthorn Band	Jenny N
Jack	Nola	Judy	Louise	Irish dancers	Jim
Jim Vizard	Pete	Kate	Matt	Jack	Margaret
Kate	Pria?	Kate	Matt C	Jenny T	Matt C
Kate	steve	Kim	Melody	Jenny N	Melody
margaret?	Claire	Louise SK	Michael K	Kate	Neil
Matt		Matt C	Neil	margaret	Pat
Melody		Matt R	Nola	Matt	Pete?
Michael K		Melody	Pat	Melody	Pria?
Nola		Michael K	Pete	Michael K	Ray
Pat G		Michelle	Ray	Neil	Ronald
Pete		Neil	Ronald	Pat	Win
pria		Nicole	Scottish dancers	Pete	
Ray		Pat	Shannon	Ray	
Sue		Peter	Steve	Scottish dancers?	
Win		Pria	Win	Steve	
		Ray	Claire	Sue	
		Ronald	Diane	Win	
		Scottish dancers	Tom	Claire	
		steve		Tom	
		Sue			
		Trish			



Hardanger fiddler and Judy at NAFCO



Jerry Holland at NAFCO

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POSTPONEMENT OF MELBOURNE SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL NOW BE HELD AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

All members are encouraged to attend. The AGM will be at some time during the 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm meeting time and will be relatively painless. During the AGM 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. 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 Jean know by ringing 9480 5865 or emailing jeaniuszasz@optusnet.com.au **SEE YOU THERE!**

St Aidan's Gig

by Neil Adam

The concert at St Aidan's was different to our usual extravaganzas. Judy of course was away galavanting in France and elsewhere. Pria stepped up and led from the front. In the practices, she coped valiantly with people old enough to be her parents, as indeed one of them was. She coped with the phone call from the congregation member of St Aidan's who wanted to know the day before the gig why Judy wasn't going to be there, and then revealed the reason for the call was to find out whether the concert was going to be any good if Pria was running it, and should people bother to come if it was going to be useless?

But useless it was not. Pria spoke, played and danced and led the whole thing from the front. Our own version of Hugh Jackman in *The Boy from Oz*, when you think about it. **"UPPER FERNTREE GULLY GIRL HITS THE BIG TIME IN BALWYN"**. One old lady in a wheel chair complained to me afterwards about Pria 'wiggling', but I just put it down to jealousy. The crowd of more than a hundred loved the gig, so did we, playing acoustic in churches is always a hit, no PA is always a blessing. Players doing a solo step to the front, singers move forward down the aisle if the volume is not enough. Bec sang beautifully and did her Jenny impersonation for the first time, singing *Far From the Friends* in a voice that rang like a bell in the church. Jack conducted while Pria danced, Pria thereby demonstrating one human frailty, an inability to dance at the front while conducting. I guess she'll have to work on that. Claire played the cello lead on *Hoe Ra* better than ever, which only goes to prove that a month's lay off never did anyone any harm.

The whole thing was carried off with a Judyless panache which we would not have thought possible. Well done to us all, but in particular, well done, Pria !

Email address updates

Please all - if you would like to be kept abreast of all the happenings at the MSFC make sure Chris Bigby, Jean and Louise have your latest email address. You can email it to any one of them or all of them as follows: ask@netspace.com.au; jeaniuszasz@optusnet.com.au; C.Bigby@latrobe.edu.au

AND NOW (DRUM ROLL PLEASE...!) THE RETURN OF AUNTY SHIRL'S FEATURE!

From Beyond the Sales Desk
Phillip Crick — Man of the Moment!



Phillip is 7years old and goes to Ballarat Grammar School. Within the Sales Team he has a vital role. He is an extremely reliable “gofer”. If any message or request that needs to be passed on, then Phillip is the man. He is great a “sussing” out the venues, particularly the places you shouldn’t go. He is the younger son of Janet & Darron. He is also the brother of Mathew who plays in the front line.

When Phillip is not running around for us he is great at keeping us amused and entertained. He has a very lively imagination and is a demon at “hang-the-man”.

We suspect the trip to New Zealand has set him on his career path. His ambition is to work in a chocolate factory.

We had a casual interview with Phillip recently, read on for his view of the world

My favourite thing in the whole world is...aaahh! that’s a tricky one. I love doing Art.

I really do not like...beetroot.

If I could be anyone in the whole wide world I would like to be...a cartoon character like Tassie Devil (Loony Tunes) ‘cos he can spin around and go through trees.

I love...my mum

My favourite food is...redskins.

I should never have eaten...dogfood.

If I could change one thing about me, I would change ...my name to Joseph. I like the letter J.

My favourite songs are...Love Generation & Feel Good Inc

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My favourite band is...Gorillaz

I like Fiddle Club practice because...of the afternoon tea. I don’t like the long trip to and from it.

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Volunteer at the National Folk Festival in 2007.

The volunteer forms for 2007 will be released on the National Folk Festival website on the 1st of November 2006 dor the next festival: which will be held on 5 April -9 April 2007. Forms to volunteer for these roles will be on the National Folk Festival website on the 1st of November 2006. And all other information about volunteering at next years National Folk Festival can be found in the Volunteers website which is located at: Volunteering at the National Folk Festival:

<http://www.folkfestival.asn.au/pages/volunteers.html>

Best to get in early to apply for one of these volunteer jobs because some of them go pretty quick!

Contacting NESSIE?

NESSIE (North East Scottish Strings Including Elbow pipes) now every month. SO if you’re in the area on drop in and join in the fun! For more information contact Claire on tel: 5963 3277 or Kristen on tel: 03 5766 6282.

MSFC members especially welcome!

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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 9893 6332 or tellingtales@bigpond.com

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

MSFC MUSIC LIBRARY

The MSFC Music library and the current Set List is now available on CD thanks to MSFC librarian Bjorn Lemfors. This will allow new members to assemble their own tune books. All that is needed is access to a PC and a printer. The material can be loaded onto the hard disc if required.

Bjorn will be out of the country till the end of August but will access email periodically so if you have any queries you can email him on lemfors@hotmail.net.au

Concerts with Jenny Thomas

Music From the Heart: Benefit for the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre Featuring Jenny M

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Thomas & more @ St Peter & Paul Church, Sth Melbourne Sat 19 Aug 2pm

Jenny M. Thomas & Chris Hale @ Boite World Music Café, Nth Fitzroy Sat 19 Aug 8.15pm

Want to learn some new Scottish tunes?

For all fiddlers and ones wanting to learn some tunes you may be interested in a Scottish Fiddle teaching course which is available for download at:

www.ayepod.net/webcasts/teaching/awsfiddle_inter.htm
From Anna-Wendy Stevenson www.annawendy.com

Ever wandered what the Isle of Skye looks like?



Well, it looks like this! I took this picture with jet lag at 4.00 am at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic College on Skye. I bumped into Chris Stone there, and he played his fiddle (very well, I must add) at a ceilidh, and did himself proud. It was great seeing a friendly face in Skye!

Cheers, Ronald



MSFC Calendar at August

AUGUST	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Practice for Ball	10	Thurs	7pm	9 pm	Athalie's place	Matt to lead
Practice for Harmony Row	17	Thursday	7pm	9pm	St Aidans	Judy to lead
Box Hill 50th Anniv Ball	19	Sat	6 pm	12 mn	Burwood Uniting Church	Matt to lead
Monthly Meeting	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	Judy to lead
Practice for Harmony Row	23	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's place in Box Hill	Judy to lead
Harmony Row gig	27	Sun	11.30am	5.30pm	Harmony Road Vineyard- nr Kyneton	Judy to lead – lunch available

SEPTEMBER	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Practice for Rats gig	6	Wed	7pm	9 pm	Westgarth	Judy to lead
Practice for Rats gig	14	Thurs	7pm	9 pm	St Kevins	Judy to lead
Rats O' Tobruk gig	16	Saturday	7.30	10pm	Darebin Arts & Ent. Centre, Preston conf	Judy to lead
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	COMMITTEE MEETING 12.45

OCTOBER	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
practice for Peninsula gig	5	Thurs	7 pm	9 pm	St Kevins	Judy or Pria to lead
Council of Clans	8	Sun	noonish		Karalyka centre	to be confirmed
Celtic Nations gig	15	Sun	most of the day		ClocktowerCentre Moonee Ponds	small group only - tbc
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	everyone else
practice for Peninsula gig	17	Tues	7 pm	9 pm	Celtic Club	Judy to lead
Mornington Shire gig	21	Sat	matinee	and night		PUT THIS IN DIARY - BIG GIG!

NOVEMBER	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Practice for Ballarat	16	Thurs	7pm	9pm	St Kevins	Judy to lead
Ballarat gig	18	Sat	Tbc	tbc	Ballarat Grammar PAC	with teaching in the monring
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	COMMITTEE MEETING 12.45

DECEMBER	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	notes
Monthly Meeting	17		2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	TUNES COMP AND BREAK-UP