

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com

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October 2007

MSFC DATES FOR OCTOBER 2008						
WHATS ON	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Practise for Warrnambool	4	Thur	7pm	9pm	St Kevins Toorak	
Warrnambool gig	6	Sat	3ish	next day	PAC	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
practice for Kew	24	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalies place 4 Morley Cres Box Hill Nth	ALL WELCOME
Kew Courthouse gig	28	Sun	1pm	5pm	Kew Courthouse – High St Kew	ALL WELCOME

Agenda for October 2007 meeting

- 2.00 – 2.30 Matt will lead the entire session - with any luck he will go over the Mansfield sets so we can play them at Kew
- 2.30-3.30 Benalla sets- reminder of Pria's Jigs; Chris' Strathspey & Reel and Bonnie George Campbell & the Collessie Motivator
- 3.30 – 4.15 Arvo tea bring something to share
- 4.15 - 5.00 Session – as per committee recommendations – see below from Jean

MySpace <http://www.myspace.com/themelbournescottishfiddleclub>

Thanks to Neil Adam our web mesiter, we now have a MYSpace page- how Hip and Cool are we? Go there and make us your friend - tell your friends to make us their friends, too!

Let's do a tune that we all know!

How many times have you heard this at a Sunday Monthly meeting, only to be confronted with a tune that was learned at a Monthly Meeting 6 months ago when you were on holidays on the Island of Tristan da Cunha (look it up in Google if you don't know it). Not only have you never heard of the tune but you don't have access to the sheet music and you don't know how it should sound. Know the feeling?

Well help is (sort of) on the way.

On the fiddle club website, sheet music for (almost) every tune that's been learned at Monthly Meetings over the past 18 months can be found at melbournescottishfiddlers.com/sheetmusic. The music is in either JPG or PDF format, which can be read on most PC and Mac computers.

And if the gods are really smiling on you, you may even find a sound file of the tune in the "members" page at melbournescottishfiddlers.com/members. The sound files are mostly in MP3 format which, once again, can be read on most PC and Mac computers.

Neither site is complete but I try to buttonhole teachers of tunes at each meeting to get sheet music and sound files, with varying success. If there's a tune or two that is missing and you can supply it in any format, please email it to peterdwyer@connexus.net.au. I will ensure that it gets onto the website.

What the Committee said... by Jean McConachie, Secretary

The MSFC committee met together recently and had a bit of a chat about how to keep our fiddlers happy and how to entice new unsuspecting fiddlers into the fold.

We have a great variety of experience, levels and ages in our club, which means that we can come together to share and learn from each other in the folk tradition.

The club as it is now is different to how it was 10 or even 5 years ago. We have made 3 recordings and given many concerts. Our repertoire is substantial now. Some of us were lucky enough to travel to New Zealand together, where we really got to know each other on a different level! Others have only just ventured into the scottish fiddling realm and may be learning their very first strathspey.

We need to be mindful of these differences and create opportunities to offer something for every one of us. We all learn in different ways and at different paces. We all know each other at different levels. It may be a daunting prospect for a curious fiddler turning up at a meeting with fiddle in case and being introduced to 30 fiddlers with fiddles under chins.

We already have a CD to give to new fiddlers, and we want to develop this into a welcome pack so they will have few excuses not to want to come back. We will develop a calendar of upcoming meetings, rehearsals and gigs. But that's not all. We're going to expand our "buddy" system so they have someone to talk to when they get their coffee and cake. That's where we can all make a difference and turn on our charm. We will also keep in touch with them to see if they would like to come to the next meeting. That may depend on the quality of the afternoon tea - again we can all help with that.

We learn a great deal of tunes, and we have a very large collection of tunes. No-one (that I know of) can learn a tune once and play it a few months later without having a bit of a brush up. So to help keep our tunes playing we will spend the time after afternoon tea having a consolidation session. That means we can play our favourite tunes and go over recently learned tunes. Players will have a chance to lead a tune in a friendly atmosphere at their own pace. That's also a folk tradition but can be a bit daunting when you're at your first or even 50th session.

We hope these measures will help keep the club moving onwards and upwards and help everyone to achieve their personal best.

If you want to raise any other issues please have a chat to a committee member.

Future Events the Committee approved:

Road trip in Tassie - July 2008. 7 to 10 days.

National Folk Festival at Easter 2008

Record a new CD in September 2008

Go to Scotland !?!?!?!

AGM Results

President	Matthew Robertson
Vice President	Michael Kilpatrick
Treasurer	Louise Schwall-Kearney

Secretary	Jean McConachie
Award winner	Natasha Trinkle – greatest commitment- Natasha has a free trip to Celtic Music Under the Mountains camp in Jan 08
Award winner	Judy Oleinkov- most spectacular improvement over the year – Judy gets a voucher to spend \$100 on CDs with Celtic Southern Cross

Director's report at the AGM

Back in February after discussions with Matt Robertson (President) over the break, I wrote that 2007 should be a year of learning more than a year of performing, in contrast to 2005 and 2006, which were full on with making money and touring and performing. Looking back I think we have achieved the things we set out, to, with the spectacular addition of a fantastic concert to aid the community in drought and fire ravaged north easter Victoria, with the help of our great friends Chris Duncan and the NESSIE group- who we have to thank for making it possible and doing most of the organising. Our association with NESSIE members continues to grow, and we hope they will join us in another similar concert in 2008, and in the recording project we plan for next year. I also said- controversially perhaps that we would be cutting back the concert requirements and beefing up the tune learning. We certainly have done that, and perhaps pushed the pace faster than some members would have liked- now there's plenty of new stuff in our kit bag, and we have lots to build our new CD around. Finally, we promised a new adventure into the world of song, and our Gaelic bracket is just the beginning – thanks to Ron McCoy we will have more songs to learn in the new year.

Highlights have been:

November 06	Ballarat concert and workshops
May 07	New session a the Montague in Sth Melbourne- lasted a few months
June 07	Swingin Fiddles Visit
August 07	Mansfield camp and fire fighters fundraiser
September 07	Ron McCoy wins the Folk Festival Fellowship for 2008

Warrnambool gig

Another good night for the club – in WADPADI we met a fantastic pipe band and their legendary leader Donald Blair who ahs a great group of young players. Hoping for more collaborations in future.

Sunday 28 October at Kew Courthouse – just us, afternoon gig – setlist follows – let's chose from these sets

SET ONE	SET TWO
Glen Tilt and Franks Reel	Stellas Trip to Kamloops
Da Guisers March/Wedding Reel	Funky Jig Set
Jack's Jigs	Ron and Pria
Welcome Willie Stuart	Chris Duncan's Mansfield set – North Bridge from Edinburgh and Brumley Brae
The Quiet Man/ Miss Isabella Robertson/ Allie Croker	Bonnie George Campbell/The Collessie Motivator
From St Kilda to Kings Cross (Paul Kelly)	Neil/JT/Pria?Dale- Heaney set?
Pria's Mansfield Jig set	Bec and Dale songs x 2?
Ronald;s Gaelic set w Callums Rd	As above
Da Slockitt Light (Tom Anderson)	Tommy/Billy/Hughie set
Fiddles and Feet	Hector the Hero
Footsteps	Flowers of Eduinburgh – walk out?

MSFC 2007 remaining dates at 07/07/07

OCTOBER 07	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
practice for Kew	24	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalies place – 4 Morley Cres Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
Kew Courthouse gig	28	Sun	1pm	5pm	Kew Courthouse	ALL WELCOME

NOVEMBER 07	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
Practice	7	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalies place tbc	
Monthly Meeting	18	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Practice	22	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Judy and Neil's place	ALL WELCOME

DECEMBER 07	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Kew Courthouse gig	8	Sat	7pm	10.30pm	Xmas gig at Kew	ALL WELCOME
End of year pot luck lunch; awards ceremony & tunes	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME