

# THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



[www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com](http://www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com)

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 11

December 2007

**MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!**

DECEMBER 07						
	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
End of year pot luck lunch; awards ceremony & tunes	17	Sun	1 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

  

FEBRUARY 08						
	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Rehearsal NFF	6	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie tbc	NOTE YOU MUST ATTEND
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	AT LEAST THREE
Rehearsal NFF	21	Thur	7pm	9pm	St Kevs TBC	OF THESE TO COME TO THE
Session	24	Sun	2pm	5pm	?	NFF AS PART OF THE GROUP

## From Judy

### Agenda for December 2007 meeting – focus on friendship St Aidan’s Church Duggan Street North Balwyn

Please invite any players who are no longer regulars that you might see to come back this Sunday for our end of year gathering and pot luck lunch.

Bring a plate to share and note the EARLIER START TIME below. It would be great to see some of our old friends, and some babies too. Looking around the group on Saturday at the Courthouse I realised that many of us have been playing together for over a decade – that familiarity and trust is irreplaceable, and is why we are able to turn on a good show regardless of how many of our “stars” are away. I for one feel very privileged to be enjoying this great music with you all, and over so many years, and so many shared adventures.

- 1.00- 2.00 **Lunch** bring a plate to share – salad/ sandwiches/ quiche/ whatever – soft drinks and bread sticks provided
- 2.00 - 3.30 **TUNES EXPO** – bring along a tune you like that you have written or learned this year that the club does not already play – if you can bring dots, so much the better.
- 3.30 – 4.00 **Awards, tour news and arvo tea** - bring something sweet to share
- 4. 00 - 5.00 **Session** – focus on any tunes we have recorded

### City of Boroondara awards the club \$5000 grant

Our application to the Community Grants – funded by City of Boroondara and the Rotary Club of Balwyn – was successful, and as a result we have a grant of \$5000.

In return we have committed to playing 4 free concerts in the City of Boroondara, one of which we hope will be a big event in aid of the Kew Courthouse – maybe at the Hawthorn Town Hall. The dates are not yet settled, and not all gigs will require all players, but they will add to our workload in 2008 – which means we will need to go easy on taking other gigs — at the moment we have the NFF at Easter, the Celtfest in June, Tassie in July and the recording of the new CD in September, as well as the 4 gigs for City of Boroondara. Let’s try not to take on anything else!!

### Kew Courthouse – last gig for 2007

Another great gig by the group with the Courthouse full to overflowing – they kept bringing in chairs, and between us and Alex Legg we kept the crowd royally entertained. We marched out after two good brackets and they wouldn’t leave, just sat in their seats stomping and cheering, so we had to march back in the rear door – very fun night, and good to see people soloing who don’t usually – go Jenny! Particular accolades go to Pete Dwyer who learned not only all the guitar parts but also the lyrics to 2 songs and did a fantastic job of both.

***NFF – Canberra – 20-24 March 2008 - we have official booking***

Brush up your session tunes, pull out your winter woollies, we are heading to Canberra again next Easter. More instructions in the New Year.

NB though - if you wish to be part of the group at the festival (this means free ticket, free camping, reduced price family tickets and family camping and you join us for the performances) you are very welcome BUT this year you must commit to at least three rehearsals or you can't be considered.

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Anyone who needs extra family tickets or camping at the NFF please be in touch with Jean McConachie- see below - our order needs to be sent off by 15 February and we will you're your payment in advance this time, but as the Club will co-ordinate all bookings you need to get this to Jean- see form at the end of this newsletter.***

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***Easter School at the NFF - another chance to learn from masters - the club will subsidise your learning.***

Each year the NFF run these Masterclasses prior to the Festival- this year from 18th- 20th March with a line-up of brilliant and exciting tutors.

Email Matt if you would like to have your enrolment subsidized- you will need to book and pay and the club will pay a portion of your fee – usually 50%.

*Mike Compton - Bluegrass Mandolin.*

Mike, who received his first mandolin at the age of 15, has many awards and CDs to his name and has toured internationally. A renowned Nashville player, he has played with the multi-award winning Nashville Bluegrass Band and worked and recorded with John Hartford, who once said that Mike Compton knows more about Bill Monroe style mandolin than the Father of Bluegrass himself.

*Donal Baylor - Bluegrass Fiddle.*

Donal Baylor is one of the country's top fiddlers who, after winning the national championship 3 times, became Slim Dusty's regular fiddle player. He has played western swing in The Dancehall Racketeers and the Baylor Brothers Band and recently has been specializing in bluegrass with Bluegrass Parkway.

(Expect some inspired bluegrass sessions throughout the Festival)!

*Jackie Luke - Hammered Dulcimer*

A foremost exponent of the hammered dulcimer, Jackie has performed widely in Australia and abroad. She has played in the Sydney Symphony

## The Scottish Fiddler – December 2007

Orchestra, The Millennium Ensemble Olympic Torch Ceremony, international festivals in Munich, Slovakia and China and has toured NZ and the USA. Jackie maintains a keen interest in expanding the repertoire of the dulcimer.

*Chris Duncan - Scottish fiddle*

Chris Duncan, one of the world's foremost exponents of Scottish fiddle playing, has toured Canada with "Coalbrook Ceilidh Band", attended Alasdair Fraser's "Valley of the Moon" fiddle school 3 times, travelled to Cape Breton to study and teach, as well as exploring Scottish fiddle music in Australia with anyone who was interested. His second CD, "Fyvie's Embrace" (with Catherine Strutt and Julian Thompson) won the ARIA for the Best World Music Album.

*Catherine Strutt - Piano Accompaniment*

Catherine Strutt has been performing for almost twenty years. Including folk festivals, dances and concerts in Australia, Scandinavia, New Zealand, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia and San Francisco, USA. For almost fifteen years she has played piano with her musical partner, master Scottish fiddle player, Chris Duncan. Catherine's piano accompaniment skills are well known and highly regarded, her intuitive sense of rhythm and colour is incomparable. She is considered to be one of the finest Scottish style piano accompanists in Australia and teaches at the Music Under the Mountains Celtic Music School in Tasmania each January.

To enrol, go to the National Folk Festival website - <http://www.folkfestival.asn.au/> www.folkfestival.asn.au/ The Festival /The Easter Masterclasses -and take it from there!

***CHECK OUT THE FIRST CUT MSFC CALENDAR DATES FOR 2008 NOW!***

***PUT THEM IN YOUR DIARY NOW!***

***IE NOW MEANS NOW!***

***(hint, hint!)***

***Contacting NESSIE?***

NESSIE (North East Scottish Strings Including Elbow pipes) meets on the 1st 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.

**HONEY – THEY'RE HOME!...  
SHOOGLENIFTY IS BACK!**

Groundbreaking Scottish mavericks Shooglenifty push the word 'traditional' to its limits with their unique blend of dance vibes and roots music. Genuinely genre defying, they have been described as everything from "acid croft" to "hypnofolkadelia".

Journalists may compete for words to describe (*their name wreaks havoc with my spellchecker- Ed*), but all agree they are virtually impossible not to dance to and one of the best live bands of their genre around. "While their sound is difficult to put into words, audiences from around the world have fallen under their musical spell.

A supremely dexterous and witty live band, their energetic live performances have kept them in constant demand around the world. The Evening News in London, said of a Shooglenifty live performance, "This virtuoso band started building crescendos from the start, each one higher than the last, until the final, shuddering chord left the crowd breathless and cheering wildly.

**AUSTRALIAN TOUR**

This is tradition standing on its head, doing cart wheels and pole vaulting over every barrier in sight...  
The Irish Times

**SHOOGLENIFTY**  
live:

<b>DECEMBER</b>	
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> - Mon 31 <sup>st</sup>	Woodford Folk Festival - <a href="http://www.woodfordfolkfestival.com">www.woodfordfolkfestival.com</a>
<b>JANUARY</b>	
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup>	Woodford Folk Festival - <a href="http://www.woodfordfolkfestival.com">www.woodfordfolkfestival.com</a>
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Rails, Byron Bay
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bangalow Hotel, Bangalow
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	Heritage Hotel Bulli - ph 4284 5884 - <a href="http://www.heritagehotel.com.au">www.heritagehotel.com.au</a>
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sydney Festival - <a href="http://www.sydneyfestival.org.au">www.sydneyfestival.org.au</a>
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Clarendon Hotel Katoomba - ph 4782 1322 - <a href="http://www.clarendonguesthouse.com.au">www.clarendonguesthouse.com.au</a>
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	Yinnar - <a href="http://www.aacyinnar.org.au">www.aacyinnar.org.au</a>
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	Meeniyar - ph (03) 5664 9239 - <a href="http://www.jyrebirdartscouncil.com.au">www.jyrebirdartscouncil.com.au</a>
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>	East Brunswick Club, Melbourne - ph 9388 9794 - <a href="http://www.eastbrunswickclub.com">www.eastbrunswickclub.com</a>
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cygnat Folk Festival - <a href="http://www.cygnatfolkfestival.org.au">www.cygnatfolkfestival.org.au</a>

**www.shoogle.com**

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**A GAELIC CHRISTMAS! Duan Nollaig - A Gaelic Christmas (double album) Fiona Mackenzie**



*Fiona Mackenzie, Mod Gold Medallist, Màiri Mhòr Fellow and all round great gal!*

Traditionally New year is the big celebration in Scotland, and even until recent times, Christmas was not celebrated in some of the Presbyterian parts of the Highlands and Islands, although it has always been celebrated amongst Scottish Catholics.

As a result, there has been a dearth of Gaelic Christmas recordings over the years, but now, the wonderful Mod Gold Medallist, Fiona

MacKenzie has redressed this by the release of the wonderful *Duan Nollaig*, a unique 2 CD album of Gaelic Christmas Carols and Songs sung by Fiona Mackenzie, for the Màiri Mhòr Fellowship.

I've had the privilege of spending time with this wonderful musician, who is terrifically supportive of Gaelic learners, and must be one of Gaeldom's hardest working people.

This double album of 35 songs is a collection of traditional carols eg Silent Night, In the Bleak Midwinter, Away in a Manger etc, traditional Gaelic carols, eg Heire Bannag, Leanabh an Àigh (recorded as *Morning has broken* by Cat Stevens) etc new Gaelic Christmas songs, songs for children, young people and Gaelic learners, and a few surprises thrown in.

Inspiration has been drawn from several musical genres and cultures i.e Manx Gaelic, Latin etc - and will provide something for everyone, whatever their age or musical taste, be it classical, trad or rock. For more information and copies for purchase visit:

[http://www.footstompin.com/products/cds/duan\\_nollaig\\_a\\_gaelic\\_christmas\\_double\\_album](http://www.footstompin.com/products/cds/duan_nollaig_a_gaelic_christmas_double_album)

You can hear Fiona regularly as a presenter on the internet radio program *Kitchen Ceilidh*, where you can hear what's popular in the Highlands and Islands, (and even check out bands such as *Ceilidh Minogue...!*)

You can hear the Kitchen Ceilidh at <http://www.internetradio.co.uk/kitchen.html>

You can learn about the wonderful Màiri Mhòr Fellowship at <http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/mairi.mhor/index.html>

# MSFC 2008 – FIRST CUT

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FEBRUARY 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Rehearsal NFF	6	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie tbc	NOTE YOU MUST ATTEND
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	AT LEAST THREE
Rehearsal NFF	21	Thur	7pm	9pm	St Kevs TBC	OF THESE TO COME TO THE
Session	24	Sun	2pm	5pm	?	NFF AS PART OF THE GROUP

MARCH 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Rehearsal NFF	5	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie TBC	SEE ABOVE
fyi only	7-10	Port Fairy Folk Festival				MSFC not playing
Rehearsal NFF	13	Thur	7pm	9pm	St Kevs TBC	SEE ABOVE
Monthly Meeting	16	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Rehearsal NFF		Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie TBC	SEE ABOVE
Festival (Easter)	20-24	National Folk Festival			Canberra	ALL WELCOME FAMILY TIX AVAILABLE

APRIL 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Session	6	Sun	2pm	5pm	?	ALL WELCOME
Kew Concert	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Monthly Meeting	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

MAY 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Benefit Concert	3	Sat	8 pm		Uniting Church Frankston	Cancer Council Benefit
Rehearsal Celfest	14	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie TBC	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	18	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Rehearsal Celfest	29	Thur	7pm	9pm	St Kevs TBC	ALL WELCOME

JUNE 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Celtic Festival tbc	6 - 9	Sat-Mon	Port Arlington Celtic Festival			
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	

JULY 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
	5-13	TASMANIA TOUR				
Monthly Meeting	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Kew Concert	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc

AUGUST 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Session	3	Sun	2pm	5pm	?	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
CD Rehearsal	23	Sat	1pm	5pm	Athalie TBC	ALL WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
CD Rehearsal	6	Sat	1pm	5pm	Judy & Neil	ALL WELCOME
CD Rehearsal	14	Sun	10am	4pm	Anyone?	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Recording	28-29	Sat-Sun	all day	both days	TBC	ALL WELCOME

OCTOBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Kew concert	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc

