

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

April 2008

ABSOLUTELY CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!..

*To participate in the Tassie Tour you **MUST** have a current membership and pay a \$100 Deposit
Payment deadline is 20th April (Sunday gathering)*

PLEASE REMEMBER!

STOP PRESS

*Young peoples group up and running – are you young? Come and join us for cool tunes and a cool time!
Call or email Jack (jack.willo AT gmail.com) to find out! First gathering 12.30 at St Aidans prior to next
meeting on April 20th*

MSFC has fantastic trip to Canberra for the National – read all about it below

Jack Wilson wins the Chris Wendt Award for most promising Young Player this year – more below

MSFC08 CALENDAR EXCERPT – SEE END OF NEWSLETTER FOR FULL YEAR

APRIL 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Boroondara concert –	20	Sun	2 pm	3 pm	tba	Small group only – you know who you are
Monthly Meeting	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

MAY 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Rehearsal Celtfest	14	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	18	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidan's	ALL WELCOME
Rehearsal Celtfest	29	Thur	7pm	9pm	South Melbourne	ALL WELCOME

PLEASE NOTE: MAFFRA GIG POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING: PLEASE DELETE MAY 17 FROM DIARIES!

From Judy

Agenda for meeting – Sunday 20 April

St Aidan's Uniting Church, Duggan Street North Balwyn

- 12.30–2.00pm First young players get together - Jack to lead
- 2.15–3.30pm Jack leads the Quiet Man set – looking at the strathspey in detail
- 3.30–4.00pm Arvo tea - bring something to share for this legendary feast
- 4.00–5.00pm Judy to lead – 2 tunes from our Canberra fiddle workshop and title song for new album “Gates of Gold” by RLS

MSFC website update

Three resounding cheers for the trio of brains who managed (finally) to wrest our website back from the grips of the Viagra fuelled maniacs who had subverted it – can't think why they saw us as fertile ground for the product promotions!! Pete in the lead, ably assisted by Jean and Neil, with some off stage advice from Michael, and it's all back as good as new, and with some terrific new features – now read on.....

From Uncle Pete

After much anguish and obstinacy from the former Web Hosting company, the Fiddle Club's web site (www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com) is once again in operation. It's still a work in progress but it does have

a few more facilities than the previous Web Host could offer.

We now have statistics. Although we only have been up and running for 3 weeks at the time of writing, we've had visits from France, Hungary, Austria, Poland, China, Germany and (surprise surprise) Canada. The "downloads" pages generate the most hits and the most traffic.

You can also email your favourite committee member using a "@melbournescottishfiddlers.com" email address if you don't have their actual email address at hand. The current "@melbournescottishfiddlers.com" addresses include:

- director@melbournescottishfiddlers.com (Judy),
- president@... (Matt),
- secretary@... (Jean),
- treasurer@... (Louise),
- sales@... (Sue)... etc.

Some of the stats reveal some rather strange facts about how web searches work. It's interesting to note that two hits were generated by visitors who had searched using the phrase "powerlines glen iris"!

=====

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL REPORT



Team MSFC at the Budawang!

Maybe our best ever trip to the nation's capital, where the weather was weirdly warm, and the crowds the warmest and largest we have ever seen – apparently the festival was a sell out days before the gates opened, but due to an agreement with the ACT government they had to keep the box office open for locals, so most venues were packed and many people reported not being able to get into concerts – all good news for the performers. We had a great turn out of players and acquitted ourselves really well – for me (Judy) it felt like the most polished performances we had put

in, as well as having that hint of unpredictability that keeps us on our toes. *VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR SOME GREAT PICS!*

Highlights of NFF08 – Director's cut

- Chris Stout joining us at our Sunday morning concert in a small but packed Palladium. Incredible energy from all of us and a real privilege to be able to experience the Stout phenomenon up close- and how about us teaching him how Baak Hi goes, as he doesn't play it much any more!! A marvellous experience for me as he is my personal favourite of all the great young fiddlers, and if you missed out on buying First o the Darkening make sure you go on line and snap one up – the feeding frenzy after his gig was an awesome thing to behold.
- Pascale Gemme sitting right in the middle of the crowd of us on the Fitzroy Stage and thumping away with those size 14 shoes on his amplified board, and leading us through the Teenagers set and Sheepskin and Beeswax – only sadness was that Pria – who taught us those tunes in the first place- wasn't there to enjoy it too. Fantastic! The man is a fiddling machine, and such a joyful presence on stage.
- Joining Ron on stage for his big NFF performance in the Budawang on the Monday – he did a great job of conveying the depth of the material in the archive and introducing people to Scottish/Gaelic culture in Oz. Bec's singing in Gaelic was quite miraculous, and the crowd were right into the material and the presentation – good on you Ron!
- Jack Wilson winning the Chris Wendt Award for best young player of the year – all his own work, mind, but a tribute to ours as well, and seeing his gigs with Lucy Wise was also a joy – great tunes, great playing, all done with great confidence, and he even made the audience laugh – go Jack!!!
- Natasha's playing of Da Slockitt Light on the big stage at our first gig – absolutely perfect playing.
- Some magic sessions – our big scotch one, one with the Genticorum boys outside in the cool air, and at the front door with the Faerd guys and Chris and Catherine, when do you ever get to play with 2 nyckelharpes?
- Above all – the number of us who played, and the dedication everyone showed to being places on time, and knowing the material – not only were we really tight, but it made for a much less stressful outing than it can be – thanks to everyone who did extra things – you know who you are! I had heaps of good comments from people who have

heard us before that we had made a big leap forward, so congrats to you all.

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL 2008 – Chris Wendt Award by Kate O’Leary

When Kate Burke was introducing the Chris Wendt award on the final night of the Festival, I had a feeling in my stomach that someone I knew would get it. When she announced that Jack Wilson was receiving the award I was unbelievably excited and proud. Jack, being a good friend of mine, seeing him get up there was incredible, as anyone who has spent time with him will know that he is so deserving of it. Jack is an amazing and inspiring musician and a beautiful person so I can’t think of a better person to have received the award. I actually started getting teary when he was up on stage with Kate Burke because I was just so happy that he had been given this recognition. To then see him and Lucy Wise up on stage with *Genticorum* and other amazing musicians was even more exciting. I have to admit I was slightly jealous, but mostly just really happy for them as I knew it would be the highlight of their festival and a moment they wouldn’t forget. Congratulations Jack, I love you lots!

Kate O’Leary

[The Chris Wendt Award is given each year at the National Folk Festival in recognition of musical excellence in a young performer.]

Eds note: When Judy asked Kate to write a newsletter item about Jack Wilson winning the Chris Wendt Award for Musical Excellence she was preparing to go “Off to California” for her school’s Senior Band Music Tour. That’s what I call dedication! Have a great very extended 18th birthday as well.

Tasmania tour update (5-13 July)

Getting closer all the time, now! We have a good sized touring group of more than 30 firmed up, with several rhythm section players including a couple of guests, and plenty of fiddles.

In recent weeks, the tour planning group has been arranging the final gig schedule, and sorting through the options on accommodation and bus transport.

We’re now at the point of preparing some marketing material to spread around through our various contacts in places we’re booked to play at, and posters and e-mailable flyers etc are being prepared and we’ll be using all our contacts to spread the word about the famous MSFC.

An almost-final tour schedule (with just a couple of events now awaiting a final word from other partners in Tassie) is:

- Sat 5 July: Arrivals into Launceston
- Sat 5 July - Launceston : evening gig at Horton Auditorium (at Scotch Oakburn College).

The Scottish Fiddler – April 2008

- Sun 6 July - Burnie: afternoon free concert (sponsored by Burnie council; venue t.b.c.). (Possible morning workshop with just some of us involved).
- Sun 6 July - Westbury: evening gig at Westbury RSL (sponsored by Meander Valley Council).
- Mon 7 July - Westbury: daytime gig for local schools in Westbury/Deloraine area (Evening - a session with us plus locals/visitors).
- Tue 8 July - Touring - no evening gig. Visit to Richmond (and possible daytime final practice for Friday’s Port Arthur gig).
- Wed 9 July - Cygnet: Evening gig at Cygnet Town Hall.
- Thu 10 July - Franklin: Evening gig at Palais Theatre (MSFC + Tasmanian Heritage Fiddle Orchestra as curtain raiser).
- Fri 11 July - Port Arthur: all day - travel/Port Arthur site tour/set-up/practice/meal/concert. (Possible stay-over in Port Arthur)
- Sat 12 July - Hobart: probable daytime workshop with Tasmanian Old Time String band members. (Possibly just some of us involved).
- Sat 12 July - Hobart: evening gig at Polish Club, Hobart. (Final tour gig).
- Sun 13 July: Departures from Hobart.

A pretty busy, but hopefully enjoyable and fulfilling schedule. We’re awaiting final confirmation of the Port Arthur gig arrangements, so the above details are just to give you an idea of how it all looks so far.

For the second half of the week we’re likely to be based in Hobart, with bus touring out to wherever we’re playing that day. Sue and Louise are also having a look at some travel/touring options for a couple of the non-gig days.

As ever, if you have any questions at this point, please contact Matt, Louise, Judy, Athalie or Sue. Thanks to all who’ve been helping out with the planning so far - a great team effort.

Stay tuned....

Matt Robertson

Il Presidente

Tassie tour repertoire and soloists – what a line up!!!

The tour repertoire will be built around the new CD sets – see below - and a best of all of our earlier CDs – looks like Lucy Wise, Ronald and Neil will be our main singers, and we may still be lucky enough to have our favourite harp and piping duo Dave and Di

Alleway to call on for special moments. Great news for us is that Davvyd Madonald, the fabulous Irish step dancer who danced with us in Canberra, will be joining us for the tour as will our dear friend Colin MacLeod!

Our cellist ranks will be swelled by the addition of Julia Arnold (Kristin’s sister, also the bassist in NESSIE) and of course our sound will benefit from the haunting tones of Evan Davies on flute and Jonesy on percussion – what a phenomenon – now to MARKET the group so we get great crowds everywhere.

Tassie marketing- your help needed!

Ron and Judy are preparing a marketing strategy based around the 5 hits principle, and leading with word of mouth. We need YOU to help by circulating the pdf to all your Tas contacts and starting the buzz. We want to gather email addresses, so we can do broadcast emails as the time gets closer. If you have any folkie or family friends in Tasmania please ask if they are happy to be added to our email list, and then send the email address to newdogs@optusnet.com.au

=====

CD update – note rehearsal and recording dates in your diary now!

Suggested sets as at April 08 – please note where you are leading/arranging/running or soloing in something

SET	Origin	What	Tempo	Featuring
Fear na Bhata	Emily Lyle coll.	song	slow	Bec/Judy/Natasha
Will Ogilvie's Auld Lang Syne	Oz	recitation	slow	Alex Legg
Bonnie George Campbell/Motivator waltz	Oz	song	slow	Neil & Pete /Natasha
Chris Duncan's Mansfield set - North Bridge from Edinburgh and Brumley Brae	Scotland	tunes	Strath/slow reel	Chris
Young people set (Jack)	tba	tunes	Tba – needs to be fast or get fast	Tba feature Evan in here
The slow lovely Gaelic farewell song from NFF	Emily Lyle collection	song	slow	Ron/Dave/Evan
Gates of Gold	RLS	song	medium	Neil/Bec
Jack's Jigs	Cape B	tunes	jigs	Chris
Johnny/Hughie/Billy reel set	Cape B	tunes	Straight reels	Chris/Sarah/Natasha & Pete
Pria's Mansfield Jig set	?	tunes	jigs	Sarah/Evan
Prias' FC set	French Canadian	tunes		Pria? Pascal?
Ronald's Gaelic set w Calum's Rd & Miss Thompson	Scotland	Song & tunes	builds	Ronald/Jean
Wheel of Fortune with ??		Song & tune	jaunty	Bec/Rowena & Lucy Wise
MSFC Originals tune set	Oz	Tunes	fast	Matt/Jack?/Judy
Neil Gow Foggo / Alexander Laing set	Oz/Scotland	Tunes	Tbc	Tbc

MSFC YOUNG PERSON'S GROUP: CALL JACK TODAY!

The new MSFC Young People's Group is up and running.

Are you young? Are you cool? (If you play fiddle, you thereby automatically qualify for “cool” status.)

So call or email Jack to find out about our new Group!

Our First gathering will be at 12.30 at St Aidans prior to next month's meeting on April 20th.

You can contact Jack at: mob – 0424660461 home- 03 937 92635

email: coolpeople@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

News...News...News***From our dear friends at Celtic Southern Cross***

Congratulations to Ruth Wise from Western Australia, for being jointly awarded the Declan Affley Award at the National Folk Festival held in Canberra over Easter, 2008. This is a huge achievement, and Ruth, as a major part of the fabulous Wise Family can be very proud of this achievement.

Up on stage as well, to receive the equally prestigious Chris Wendt Award was Jack Wilson from Melbourne, who plays Scottish, Irish fiddle, keyboards and the Chinese erhu.

To accompany Jack on stage as he played a great set of tunes, was another member of that wonderful Wise family, Lucy, whose recent work with Kate Burke in the Guitar class was shown to great advantage.

Another great achievement for these talented young people.

Not to be outdone, our tutors for 2008, Adrian Barker, Kate Burke and Ben Stephenson (helped along admirably on the CD by Joe Ferguson of course) won the National Archives Recording of the Year, so they were up on the main stage as well, playing a blistering set. They just get better and better, and Mike and I wish them all the good fortune possible when they head off overseas to spread their music and joy to others.

My little heart was close to overflowing as I watched that final concert at the National, I can tell you.

Thanks folks and keep it going.

Celtic Southern Cross

And another dear friend.. Ed Perlman

Hi Judy,

I hope things are going well for you. I wanted to tell you that my son Neil (now 19!!) and I have finished a CD called "On the Edge" --on the edge of Scottish, and on the edge of jazz...

It will be out in 2 weeks, and there's more info and samples at www.edpearlman.net/ontheedge.html Please spread the word to anyone you think might be interested, thanks!

Also, if you know anyone who might like to make the big trip to Scotland in a new kind of way, please pass the word about the Scottish Fiddle Hikes in July and October. A Scottish guide leads daily hikes, while I am organising musical events for the evenings, featuring various Scottish musicians. More info is at http://www.distantjourneys.com/travel-scotland/fiddle_hike.html

All the best for now--

Ed

NESSIE UPDATE!

Who is this with NESSIE's Kristin Marriott?



Of course! It's Motivator of Collessie Motivator fame....learn the tune, and make sure you know it in time for our CD recording

Contacting NESSIE?

NESSIE (North East Scottish Strings Including Elbow pipes) meets 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 Claire on tel: 5963 3277 or Kristen on tel: 03 5766 6282.

MSFC 2008 – April edition – wishful thinking?

APRIL 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Boroondara concert –	20	Sun	2 pm	3 pm	tba	Small group only
Monthly Meeting	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

MAY 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Rehearsal Celtfest	14	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	18	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidan's	ALL WELCOME
Rehearsal Celtfest	29	Thur	7pm	9pm	South Melbourne	ALL WELCOME

JUNE 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Celtic Festival tbc	8	Sunday only	Port Arlington Celtic Festival		Portarlinton foreshore	Will be a one day affair this year
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Tas rehearsal	19	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	Only Tas goers
Tas rehearsal	26	Thurs	7pm	9pm	South Melbourne	Only Tas goers

JULY 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Final Tassie rehearsal	2	Wed	7pm	9pm then some	Athalies	Only Tassie goers – followed by a drink to toast our success
Non stop fun	5-13	TASMANIA TOUR			All over the island	
CD Rehearsal	16	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
CD Rehearsal	23	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
CD Rehearsal	26	Sat	12 noon	5pm	South Melbourne tbc	ALL WELCOME
CD Rehearsal	31	Thurs	7pm	9pm	South Melb tbc	TBA

AUGUST 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Melb concert tbc	1	Friday night	6pm	10.00pm	TBC	Taking advantage of all our CD guests being in Melb
Recording	2-3	Sat-Sun	all day	both days	TBC	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Boroondara concert - aged care facility	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc

OCTOBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Boroondara concert - aged care facility	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

NOVEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Session	2	Sun			?	
Monthly Meeting	16	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

DECEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Boite concert and CD launch	tbc	Sat	8pm	10pm	tbc	
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

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 9636 4966 or newdogs@optusnet.com.au

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

Jack Wilson — Young person's group contact home: 03 937 92635;

mob: 0424 660 461 Email: coolpeople@melbournescottishfiddlers.com