

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com

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August 2008

STOP PRESS!!

Committee meeting this Sunday at 12.30 pm – hope you can make it.

Box Hill concert a sell out — we make many fans and some dollars, and promise to do it all again in December — with CD and CS again — keep weekend of 13–14 December free

CD recording weekend goes well — we record 16 tracks, eat 200 pikelets, 200 pumpkin scones and a zillion sausage rolls all in 2 days.

MSFC08 CALENDAR EXCERPT – SEE END OF NEWSLETTER FOR FULL YEAR

AUGUST 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidan's	ALL WELCOME – farewell Jack and Clare
Boroondara concert - aged care facility	31	Sun	2pm tbc	4pmish	Kew	10-12 players only needed – Barbara in charge
SEPTEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME – welcome back Gus Downing, farewell Louise?

From Judy

Agenda for meeting – Sunday 17 August — St Aidan's Uniting Church, Duggan Street, North Balwyn

- 12.30 -2.00pm Young players gathering - Jack to lead – last one for Jack this year?
- 2.00 – 2.30pm Learning by ear – a reminder session - Judy
- 2.30 – 3.30pm NEGLECTED TUNES SESSION – please bring a favourite from the past – one we glossed over or stopped

playing – so we can bring it back to the repertoire – bring copies if you can

3.30 – 4.00pm Afternoon tea — bring something to share as usual

4.00 – 5.00pm Going Scandinavian — a new Swedish tune for your enjoyment - Judy

Patricia's funeral

After a very lengthy illness, which many of us were aware of, our darling friend and former member Mrs Patricia Gilmour suffered a heart attack on Sunday

August 3rd, and did not recover. A large group of us went down to be with Andrew and the family at the funeral in Geelong on Thursday 7th, and played our fiddles for the very large crowd that gathered to farewell this marvellous woman. Our web site has a tribute to Patricia and says what we all believe- we will miss her hugely. She had such a cheeky sense of humour, and with Andrew was always great fun, and we hope very much that Andrew will feel welcome as part of our fiddle club family, to come and join us at any of our Sunday meetings. Anyone wishing to send a card to Andrew can get the address from Athalie or Judy.



Forthcoming AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the SEPTEMBER meeting on SUNDAY 21st September, 2008 sometime during the 2.00 to 5.00 pm meeting time and will be relatively painless. 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 or talk to a current committee member. 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 us know by phoning Jean on tel: 9480 5865 or email: jeaniuszasz@optusnet.com.au.

SEE YOU THERE!

The Scottish Fiddler - August 2008

Recording Gates of Gold August 3 and 4

Another fantastic weekend of food and fiddling (in that order) where everyone did their bits and the result – we hope – will be astonishingly good. Certainly the sound of the massed fiddles was way better than before – even without many stalwarts, including Margaret, Pria, Michael, Gus and Jess all of whom we missed very much – the gaps were amply filled by our visiting crowd and only Davvyd was missing from the Tassie contingent. Many thanks are due, and in particular to:

Matt Skarajew – the Tintern guy – for his generous and helpful presence

Hugh - for doing the recording so calmly and supportively

Louise & Shirl – for managing the whole food thing

Tom and Ashley – for supporting the above

Jenny – for opening her wonderful urban pad for our party and session Saturday night

All the out of towners – Chris, Catherine, Sarah, Sirocha, and all the north east crew – for being there

And everyone else who contributed and of course most of all, to all of you who practised your fingers to the bone to produce such a strong sound.

The overdubbing (sax, fiddle harmonies and additional vocals) and the mixing will be done at Hugh's over the next month or so, then comes the art work (from Lisa again) and the pressing, all in time for our launch in December. Phew!



Warming up before the main event! Chris and Judy at the vanguard of the troops!

Filming the MSFC

Doug has been quietly amassing a huge archive of MSFC footage- in Tasmania, at Box Hill and on the recording weekend – and plans to show us edited highlights during the September meeting so make sure you are there to enjoy – we want to project onto a big screen, and if anyone owns a data projector it would be good if you could let Doug or Athalie know. Our thanks to Doug for putting in all this work – soon to be seen on YouTube as well, once we have people’s permissions.

Review on Whitehorse concert from our President Matthew at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Friday 1 August

Packed and bulging at the seams, an expectant and colourful crowd of about 170 witnessed a brilliant evening of performance from all of us, and our guests. Bringing together our various guests who were down to share our CD recording sessions immediately afterward meant that we were nicely embarrassed by musical riches.

This was the gig where we gave back to our Melbourne supporters all the stuff we’d done on tour in Tassie, and some of our own who weren’t able to be in Tassie a chance to join the fray. We watched the front row of the audience foot tappin’ as we gave it shtick with the bow arm in the big all-in sets; the feature numbers with small groups gave great light and shade to the energy of the big group; Judy’s viola, Pete’s mandolin and Neil’s guitar gave great expression to birdsong; the young/cool/hip/deadly/groovy/... set led by Jack was also a hit. We even had a wee corner of the Gaeltachd right here in the ‘burbs of Melbourne, as Dr Ron asked the question, “Does anyone have the Garlic?” and redoubtably came nods of approval from several expats-of-the-Isles folk in the audience who really are a long way from home.

We were joined by Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt for their cameo, and their virtuoso playing and tight arrangements again reached new heights with exquisite renditions and veritable toying with the notes of some great traditional material. Yet another highlight was the one-off chance to link up with American-via-Wellington, Richard Klein, who charmed all of us with the warmth of the *Out on the Mira* ballad, which we helped in a simple but effective and rich-sounding way - a big thank you to Neil for seeing the potential in this

one, and shepherding it through to the gig and recording.

Not to mention the raffle – where we continue to set new standards – with Judy skilfully reminding the tartan-clad that their loose change was of interest to us in our efforts to meet the overheads of our CD recording; another successful supper, and tix/sales table...another superlative effort from our volunteers which we appreciate and cannot do without.

I think we’ve stepped up yet another notch this year in performance, with a lot of musicianship coming through in a natural way, which is how we like it! Everyone’s been a part of it in some capacity, so onto the next couple of gigs leading up to what we hope later in the year will a memorable CD launch where we’ll share it all again for some new audiences and those who keep coming back to hear our sound. As we hear in many quarters these days, but for us it emphatically applies: “it was all good”.

Matt Robertson

Special thanks must go to Athalie for the incredible job she did with the seat bookings – we learned a lot, mostly about what not to do next time!!

Cellos are Us!

A feature of the new CD will be the strong cello sound and the featured cello solos throughout – this new development is one which we are finding serves our sound really well, and while it took us a while to get there, we now have a really strong section. Rumour has it, too, that a Very Fine Player is emigrating here from Perth early in 2009 and has already shown a Strong Interest in getting involved, so our twosome could become a threesome - imagine how that will look at the centre of the stage!

Upcoming 31 August gig from Barbara

I have a number of players already down (about 12) and 12 -15 should be ample due to small playing area (ie which is the dining room of the hostel)

Venue: Highgrove Aged Care Residence

79 Stephenson St, Kew

Time: arrival 1.30 for 2.30 start

Play for 1 hour then afternoon tea

Players are: Judy, Neil, Ron, Jenny, David, Pete. Louise, Matt, Jean, Melody, Ath, Barbara.

If you would like to play contact me on email on:
bthannon1@bigpond.com tel: 0407298140

Tune competition revival

Yes it's on again – time to dust off your 2B (or not 2B) pencils and get those scraps of melody out and turned into tunes - any jig, reel, march, strathspey or air will do. Conditions to be published in next month's newsletter, judging to happen again at the December meeting. Former winners not eligible to win, but welcome to submit tunes for the general enjoyment of all You know who you are!

Applications to Folk Festivals 2009 Judy

I have submitted for both Port Fairy (March 6-9) and the National (9-13 April) so pencil these into your diary – we have traditionally (!!) launched our new CD at these festivals and hope that Gates of Gold – likely to be our best yet – can get the same leg up in 2009.

CD Launch plans

Your committee is looking for a good affordable 400 seat venue at which to launch our CD in December – please reveal any inside info or contacts you may have to Jenny Newcombe. Please also keep the weekend of 13-14 December free, including the Friday night, for rehearsing, performing and partying. Tell your friends now!

Correspondence galore!

Adelaide Scottish Fiddle Club is now online! A letter from Linda Rankin

Adelaide Scottish Fiddle Club is now online and we would love to be linked to you guys, our address is www.adelaidescottishfiddleclub.com

We are now an incorporated club and our membership is growing we are currently looking at around 25 members of various levels and ages. So please let us know of your upcoming events, and visa versa.

Check it out!

Linda Rankin, Artistic Director

Adelaide Scottish Fiddle Club

A letter from Bruce...

Dear Scottish fiddlers and entourage,

Thanks for making me welcome in your 'family' over the last few weeks - I felt I was part of something really wonderful, and hope I get the chance to work with you all again.

If any of you are interested in seeing the other side of me (it's not pretty), my bent-bluegrass band Coolgrass is playing this Sunday at Shakespeare's in Frankston (free) at 5pm. (It's a small place that also does big meals.)

We are also playing the following weekend at the Beechworth bluegrass festival, which some of you may even have a lot of fun at if you were to bring an instrument - it's a very participative festival. Details at <http://www.kellycountrypick.org/index.htm>

Bruce

A letter from Hugh!

Dear Judy,

It was a great weekend and a much improved fiddle club.

I had forgotten what a great bunch of people belong to the club, they're all wonderful people.

We will need to have a listen to the tracks, maybe a rough mix for your perusal then the final overdubs and mixing.

I think the band was sounding more in tune and stronger (undoubtedly due in no short measure to more testosterone and pelvic floor exercises) than in previous years.

Give me a call or an email and we can sort out some times.

See ya,

Hugh

A letter from Kim and Margaret

Hi Everyone,

Best of luck for the recording of the 4th MSFC CD , the first one I have missed.

I'm sure by the sound of the way the club is going it will have some great work on it.

All the best , we are off to Vanuatu for 11 days for a Golfing trip, leaving on the 1st August.

JaM (Jim & Margaret)

A Tassie Postscript re the Franklin gig

Hi Judy

Hope that you are well.

We received a letter of thanks to The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, Tas Heritage Fiddle and to

Marjorie and I from Huon Eldercare. They were very grateful for the \$1000.00. They also said how much their residents had liked the show. Congrats to all!

Love

Steve

Fan mail

Thank you very much for adding us to the new CD launch emailing list.

BTW, last night the Scottish Fiddler's music & entertainment was just terrific; quite excellent! We're sooo very glad the Scottish Fiddler's Club exists, and hope you go on from strength to strength!

Sincerely,

Mike and Toni Westwood.

Hello Athalie,

The concert was absolutely fantastic, we loved every bit of it, so entertaining and professional, what a way to spend Friday night!

Will the actual concert be sold as a live performance? I would be interested in buying a copy.

I will be looking out for the new CD, later this year. Please put me on the mailing list for future concerts. Cheers,

Ann Beach

MSFC YOUNG PERSON'S GROUP: CALL JACK TODAY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR OVERSEASE ON THE 20TH AUGUST

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!

Next gathering will be at 12.30 at St Aidans prior to this month's meeting on August 17th.

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

email: coolpeople@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

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 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

Young person's group contact until 17th August Jack Wilson — home: 03 937 92635;

mob: 0424 660 461 Email:

coolpeople@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

MSFC 2008 – August edition - looking good!

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Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

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

DECEMBER 08	Date	Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Notes
Melbourne concert and CD launch	13 tbc	Sat	7pm	10pm	tbc	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME – party and tunes competition afternoon – welcome back Pria and Lousie