

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLER



www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

February 2009

WELCOME TO THE YEAR OF THE BOW!

Stop the Presses

- **Camp out weekend Cancelled** – Due to the devastating bushfires in Marysville and surrounds the fundraiser for the CFA has been cancelled. At the time of writing Dave, Di, Claire and Murray are safe with friends – please wait for further updates and keep all our friends in the country in your thoughts. We believe Anne, Andrew and Daniel are safe too.
- **Brunswick Festival Gig** – NOTE THIS IS IN THE EVENING OF Sunday March 15 - the day of our next meeting - so our meeting will be held a little earlier, from 1.30pm, with sound check commencing at 4.30pm. All welcome providing you come to rehearsals.

FEB	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Brunswick rehearsal	18	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalies place Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
Brunswick rehearsal	26	Thur	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME
Crowfoot Workshop tbc	28	Sat	3pm	5pm	TBC	ALL WELCOME

Agenda for meeting – Sunday 15 February 2009 St Aidan's Uniting Church, Duggan Street North Balwyn

2.00 – 3.30pm	Introducing – The Year of the Bow – with special guests - Judy to lead
3.30 – 4.00pm	Arvo tea - bring something to share
4.00 – 5.00pm	Report from the Campers – Matt and Pria to lead

The Year of the Bow

This year has been declared the year we shift our focus from the left hand to the right, from the fiddle to the bow. Reason for that? For fifteen years we have focused a lot on notes, notes and more notes, to the detriment of the feel, feel, and more feel. So now, for a change is as good as a holiday or a new lease on life, we bring you that special piece of wood, pernambucco in most cases, strung with horse hair, and decorated with silver wire, leather, ebony and even ivory, and ask you to think about it, appreciate it, clean it, use it, maybe you will even want to replace it after this year.

As a start, Judy will run an introductory hour session on the bow next Sunday at the first MSFC meeting involving some of our best bowers in demonstrating for us all. The idea is that we will play old tunes in new ways as well as learning some new stuff with this different slant. And speaking of different slants, we will be hoping to entice some extraordinary exponents of the bow here, such as Nancy Kerr, Hamish Davidson, Louisa Wise and other visitors we may attract such as the people from Crowfoot and Gregor Borland, to name two we know of.

Gates of Gold Stuff

Launch results

A fantastic concert again, quite stunning, with over 600 in the audience and a great show put on by all of us and by CD and CS as our special guests. Bruce Packard again did a sterling job on sound ably assisted by our own Evan Davies, and all our guests added immensely to the occasion. The pictures on our web site (thanks Ron and Michael) tell it all, and having our four dancers – led by Davydd – was extra special. As Louise put it the launch covered production costs so CD's sold beginning in 2009 will be 100% profit for the Club, and the event was so successful because of the many, many volunteer fingers in the GOG pie



Feedback

So far the feedback has been exceptionally good, with radio presenters and family members far and wide being highly enthusiastic about our eclectic mix of stuff and the quality of the playing. We have had a good bit of airplay on community radio stations as well as on ABC FM in Tasmania – Christopher Lawrence is quite a fan by all accounts! Judy and Neil distributed about 20 in Scotland and hope for a review in the Scotsman on Sunday- watch this space. If you know anyone who might have a foothold at the Age or the Herald Sun for a review please let the committee know- reviews will really help, esp if they are positive, like the ones below

Hello Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers,

Just received your new CD, which I am really enjoying listening to - it's fantastic!~ -so much variety - and which I'll really enjoy playing on 2mce, as will my fellow "One of the Folk" presenters. Thank you!

Regards, Terry

Hi Judy and Neil,

Many thanks for sending a copy of 'Gates Of Gold'. It's another cracking effort from the famous MSFC&F. The playing is excellent, as always, and your medley choices are inspired. Of course, the songs are an integral part of the mix and, once again, fine vocals on good songs add the extra dimension to this latest MSFC&F album.

Last Sunday I totally avoided any Australia Day references in my program, sticking to 100% Robert Burns content in recognition of the bawdy bard's big 250th birthday. You've just given me a good reason to play a whole lot more Australian content on tomorrow's program.

Thanks again and congratulations on a beaut album.

Bruce Cameron - Bathurst

Sales to date

Between the launch, our own purchases and the Celtic Southern Cross camp we have sold close to \$10,000 worth of CDs (about 400) and have totally covered production costs. We should be pretty proud of that. Sadly without the NFF and PFFF festivals we will take longer to sell the first print run of 1000 but we are planning gigs this year that we believe will more than make up for those two festivals.

Tune Book

This highly sought after item is in final stages of preparation and will be ready for the Brunswick gig, thanks to joint efforts of Ron, Sue and Matt.

Our December meeting

Well a near fiasco was averted by some quick thinking on the part of Jean McC and David A who, arriving early and noticing the double booking (sorry everyone!), charged off in a car looking for suitable and available halls- brilliantly they found the tennis club hall within a short walk of the St Aidans venue, contacted the president who appeared with the keys and we quickly decamped. A good if rather hot and steamy time was had by all and we were full of self congratulations for our mighty feat of the previous day (see above)> At this meeting was the first tune comp of the new era, and the winners were as follows:

These prizes were awarded:

Best tune	Springwood Jig – Ross Wood from the Blue Mountains
Best jig	As above
Best reel	A Tune for Rose - Davydd McDonald
Best slow tune	Softly – Marguerite Collier
Best hornpipe?	Peppermint Tea – Jean McConnachie
Audience favourite	A Tune for Rose - Davydd McDonald

It was good to have so many entries again and all agreed that the effect of banning Il Presidente Was a good one this year and that the idea may be carried over into 2009. Our first place winner wrote back:

Hi Judy,

What a surprise! Thank you very much. I have decided to rename it "Mrs Roslyn Wood of Springwood (Jig)" because my wife deserves to have it named after her, putting up with me doing my stuff while she has been busy at school (Blue Mtns Christian Sch - Blackheath) being the Science & Maths teacher as well as doing a masters in Science teaching. We celebrated last night for her getting an HD in her last subject (Forensic Science). I would be honoured if you used my my jig at some point in time & I've attached an updated copy of it (I believe there was a wrong chord in the original). If you wanted any score files of it, I can send them too.

Ross Wood

Alumni News1

Hamish and Lachlan win the Golden Guitar for best instrumental at Tamworth 2009 – here they are looking suitably modest!



Alumni News2



Hello,

I hope that this email finds you well. This is just to let you know that I have finally released my debut album.

It's been a busy year for me recording the album, and getting all the artwork ready for manufacture, and I'm very pleased it's finally ready. Since it's release on the 17th November there's been some positive feedback and airplay on Radio Scotland, Radio 3 and our local station in Skye - Cuillin Fm. If you'd like more information you can email me or visit

<http://www.wildcat-records.com/>

Hope to see you soon. Best regards - Ronan

Review of Music Under the Southern Cross camp, Campaspe Downs, 11-16 January 2009 – Matt Robertson

Quite a few MSFC members were involved in various capacities in last month's Celtic music summer school camp at Campaspe Downs, and it was another successful gathering with tunes by the truckload, individuals improving their playing technique, top notch sessions into the wee hours (and the odd successful wine-n-cheese session as well). We were well represented by our scholarship holder for this year, Melody O'Meara, along with Kate, Shannon and Sue O'Leary, Kristin Marriott, Kim Parker, David Anderson, Kate and Judy Oleinikov, Di Gaylard, and an assortment of non-Melburnians we sort of claim as our own anyway. Teaching or assisting in various ways were Dave Alleway on Harp, Pria standing in generously to help out with the Irish Fiddle group, and your writer helping Chris Duncan on Scottish fiddle. Great also to see Jack Wilson extending his skills on piano with Newcastle's Catherine Strutt, and even dipping into a spot of dance teaching with a Cape Breton number one evening.

The Scottish fiddle streams (two this year, with Chris Duncan taking the advanced group, and Qld's Emma Nixon an intermediate stream) both had a typical focus on strong rhythmic playing. In Chris's class there was the usual walk-through of tunes covering many of the main tempi in the Scottish tradition: slow and faster reels and hornpipes, jigs, a Strathspey, and a fine Gaelic slow air. We looked at tunes largely in A major and F# minor, and we touched on harmony and tune phrasing; hopefully each time an unusual key gets looked at through this camp, our fiddlers come away more comfortable with the idea that MSFC arrangements in the same keys are approachable.

The spread of instrument streams and singing at this year's camp meant there was a lot of variety in the sounds happening around camp all week, and the end-of-week concert yet again notched up a level or two over the previous year. This camp, run by Beth Sowter and Mike Watts of Celtic Southern Cross, has been instrumental for a decade now in giving fiddlers, whistle players, pipers, etc the chance to build their knowledge in an immersion-style setting where the basics and the nuances, technique and feel can all roll in to one for each individual at a level they're able to build on, and everyone goes away knowing not only some more tunes, but more importantly has a few more musical skills in their kit bag. If you'd like to go to this camp next year (January 2010) or even plan for the year after, as it books up quickly, feel free to talk to any of us who has been – I'm sure you'll get a good feel for how fun and beneficial it is.

SIGN UP SHEET – MSFC 2009 GIGS AND MORE – please print and give to Judy Turner

NAME _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

EVENT	CAN DO	CANT DO	NOT SURE	COMMENTS
Crowfoot Workshop 28 Feb				
Brunswick Mf 15 March				
Greg Borland W'shop 16 April OR				
Greg Borland W'shop 17 April				
CeltFest 7 July				
St Aidan's Gig 12 July				
NSW Tour 18-26 September or part thereof				

MSFC 2009 draft calendar

FEB	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Brunswick rehearsal	18	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalies place Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
Brunswick rehearsal	26	Thur	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME
Crowfoot Workshop tbc	28	Sat	3pm	5pm	TBC	ALL WELCOME

MAR	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Brunswick rehearsal	4	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalies place Box Hill	ALL WELCOME
Brunswick rehearsal	12	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME
BMF	15	Sun	4.30pm	10pm	Brunswick Music Festival	SOUND CHECK THEN GIG
	15	Sun	1.30pm	4.00pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME NB NEW TIME
Monthly Meeting	21	Sat	night	tbc	The Basin	Gig TBC

APR	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
EASTER SCHOOL	7-10	National Folk Festival Canberra				MSFC will sponsor you if you want to go
NFF	10-13	National Folk Festival Canberra				NO GIG FOR MSFC THIS YEAR - FIDDLE RALLY THO
Gregor Borland Workshop tbc	16 or 17	Thurs/Fri	7pm	9pm	TBC	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

MAY	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	17	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Celtfest rehearsal	20	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
Celtfest rehearsal	28	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME

JUN	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Celtic Festival tbc	6-8	Port Arlington Celtic Festival				TBC
Monthly Meeting	21	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
St Aidans rehearsal	25	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME

JUL	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
St Aidans rehearsal	1	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
Concert at St A's	12	Sun	2pm	5pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME - confirmed
St Aidans rehearsal	16	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

AUG	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
NSW Tour rehearsal	6	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	

NSW Tour rehearsal	12	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	ALL WELCOME
Monthly Meeting	16	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
NSW Tour rehearsal	19	Wed	7pm	9pm		
NSW Tour rehearsal	27	Thurs	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME

SEP	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
NSW Tour rehearsal	10	Thur	7pm	9pm	Sth Melb Trugo Hall	ALL WELCOME
NSW Tour rehearsal	16	Wed	7pm	9pm	Athalie's	
Monthly Meeting	13	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	NOTE NEW DATE TBC
NSW Tour tbc	18	Fri				depart for Gundagai
NSW Tour tbc	19	Sat				Gundagai
NSW Tour tbc	20	Sun	all this still to be fully planned and confirmed but what is key is knowing if YOU would like to go - see sign up in newsletter			Canberra
NSW Tour tbc	21	Mon				Grenfell
NSW Tour tbc	22	Tue				Grenfell
NSW Tour tbc	23	Wed				Bathurst
NSW Tour tbc	24	Thur				Blue Mountains
NSW Tour tbc	25	Fri				Sydney
NSW Tour tbc	26	Sat				Newcastle
NSW Tour tbc	27	Sun				home

OCT	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Monthly Meeting	19	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME

NOV	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Rehearsal Shepp gig	tbc					
Rehearsal Shepp gig	tbc					
Monthly Meeting	15	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME
Shepparton gig	21-22	Sat-Sun	all	weekend	tbc	tbc

DEC	Date	Day	Starts	Ends	Venue	Notes
Xmas Meeting & Tunes comp	20	Sun	2 pm	5 pm	St Aidans	ALL WELCOME