



Welcome!

Next Meeting: 18th December

The December meeting will be an informal fun afternoon of tunes (session, carols, singing), cheese, wine and food, and some croquet in the back yard (pronounced the traditional Aussie way; crow-key). It will be at Angus' parents' place: 8 Rocke St, Ivanhoe from about 2pm until about 5ish. We will run the Illawarra sets earlier (see below). Please bring a plate to share. Limited drinks and nibbles will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there, and before!

From the President:

Hi all,

So 2016, the year the world went a bit mad, is nearly over! Hopefully people won't look back on my time as president as our 'Brexit moment'!! I did make some painful cuts recently though; losing the tip of my finger over the weekend. Doctor assures me it will be healed just in time for Illawarra!

A few quick notices this month. Fiddlership recipient/s will be announced shortly – hopefully in time for the end of year celebration this weekend at my parents' place. We're all set for a 'mostly sunny' 21 degrees, so it should be a lovely afternoon. Don't forget to bring a plate of something for lunch, and your instrument for a session. If you don't know the address, please call me: 0438 318 983. It's in Ivanhoe from 2 until 5ish.

BUT, Jack has asked that for those of us going to Illawarra, please come on Sunday at 12:30pm if you can, for a run-through of some of the tunes and a bit of a briefing – particularly in relation to the Illawarra Ceilidh.

If you're going to Illawarra, please also keep Wednesday 4 January free for a rehearsal. Venue will be confirmed shortly. Also massive thanks to Sue O for arranging transport. She will be in touch with people as the details get finalised.

Other than that, thank you all for a fantastic year; with the new album launch and Stringmania being two of my highlights, but many other great moments. Really awesome playing at Surrey Hills by everyone who came, and I was particularly impressed with everyone's professionalism – getting on and off stage very quickly and switching straight into high energy yet sensitive playing! You all did a great job but I wanted to particularly congratulate Judy O for learning the piano arrangements so quickly! And it was great hearing Jess and Louise do their set before we got up for ours.

If you can't make it on Sunday, and even if you can, have a fantastic Festive Season. Party hard but don't lose any limbs!! Best wishes,

Angus





Upcoming gigs:

Illawarra Folk Festival: 12-15 January 2017

Performance times: 12:30pm on Friday, 5:45pm on Saturday and 11:45 on Sunday.

More details to follow.

C.D / band review: a new monthly feature.

OK so here's a CD review from a Heretic! I'm not a fiddle player – I don't know much about fiddle playing but I know what I like, and it usually has the word "Irish" somewhere in the title. My CD pick for 2016 is a duo album, NORTH, from Belfast-born fiddle players Conor Caldwell and Danny Diamond.

Having spent a lot of time on Public Transport over the past 9 months, I've been listening on Spotify to the best Fiddle CDs as recommended by TradConnect. This CD impressed me as it shows that interesting arrangements of traditional tunes and contemporary tunes composed in the traditional style don't need massive rhythm sections to make an interesting, varied and pleasing sound. And they achieve this with just two fiddles playing complementary harmonies, drones and rhythm support. (Oops – have I just justified my retrenchment?)

NORTH was nominated for Traditional Album of the Year 2016 in The Irish Times, a well-deserved nomination if they didn't win.

Some background on the players (courtesy of their Website): Conor Caldwell is a fiddle player and traditional music researcher. He was awarded a PhD from Queen's University, Belfast in 2013 for his thesis on the Donegal fiddler John Doherty. Conor has taught traditional music at Queen's since 2011.

Danny Diamond is a fiddle player, composer, researcher and recording engineer based in Dublin, Ireland. In his music Danny creates a unique sound-world, rooted in the rich heritage of Irish traditional music, but incorporating wider influences from *Nordic* and American folk to baroque music to electronic music. Danny plays with the contemporary Nordic/Irish band Slow Moving Clouds and the Irish traditional band Mórğa

So if you're on Spotify (perhaps also on iTunes?) give this CD a listen, even if it's Irish!

Pete Dwyer

Volunteering Opportunity

Are you a dab hand with a sewing machine and interested in volunteering to help others from the comfort of your own home?

St Vincent's Hospital is looking for people to make and sew syringe-pump bags for patients to carry their intravenous pumps around the wards with them. These might be typically Cancer patients who have a PICC line inserted into their arm. We can provide pattern and material.

These are single-patient bags that are discarded after the patient no longer needs them. If you can help, please email Shirl at attillathemum01@gmail.com"





Quebec Fiddle Weekend



November 3 - 7, 2017

Quebec Fiddle Weekend is very excited to introduce the fiddler from legendary band, *La Bottine Souriante*, **David Boulanger**. David is a highly respected fiddler, foot percussionist, singer, composer and arranger from Montréal. He will be in Australia for the very first time and, as a proud tradition-bearer of Quebecois trad music, is really enthusiastic to share his passion with us.

David is also a lot of fun to be around!

Registrations for 2017 will be open in February. quasitrad.com will have all the details, or just ask me!

Judy O: 0422 868 680





Members' Notice Board

Newsletter Deadlines and Submission

Any MSFC member or friend is welcome and encouraged to submit content for our monthly newsletter. Got another band? Looking for students? Advertise your gig/service here

Please email contributions/ideas/notices /photos attached in a word document or as a jpeg to shannon_ol85@hotmail.com

Please email any great photos you take at rehearsals/gigs/festivals to photos@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

Don't forget to post some on our public FB page as well 😊

NESSIE

North East Scottish Strings including Elbow Pipes
Nessie meet 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:
Kristen Ph: 03 5766 6282



the melbourne scottish fiddle club



MSFC Contacts

The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club (MSFC) meets at 2.00pm on the third Sunday of each month Feb – Dec at:
St. Aidan's Church Hall, 17 Duggan Street, North Balwyn Vic

Performances and Workshops:

Angus Downing (President)

Email: president@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

Phone:

Newsletter: Shannon O'Leary

Email: shannon_ol85@hotmail.com

CDs and Tune books:

Email: Sue Darby - O'Leary

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Musical Leadership Group:

Coordinator: Jack Wilson

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Events and Activities Group:

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Media and Publicity Group:

Coordinator: Stephanie Reed

Email: stephanie.reed@outlook.com

MSFC Committee:

President: Angus Downing

Vice-president: Barbara Hannon

Treasurer: Shirley Hunter

Secretary: Kirsty Greenwood

Musical Leadership Coordinator: Jack Wilson

Events and Activities Coordinator: Sue O'Leary

Members and Friends Coordinator: Shannon O'Leary

Media and Publicity Coordinator: Stephanie Reed

General committee member: Judy Olenikiev.

MSFC Founder:

Judy Turner

The MSFC is proudly supported
by:



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