



Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club

MEDIA RELEASE – 28 May 2008

Reel cool fiddlers heading south!

The world famous Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers are heading down south, full of fire and energy, and ready to knock your socks off.

Established in 1995 the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club has become one of the most popular acts on the mainland folk festival circuit, regularly playing Port Fairy, the National Folk Festival, the Brunswick Festival and more. Their 1999 hit recording of the traditional ballad "Tam Lin" received over 100,000 plays on mp3.com, establishing their reputation internationally.

According to Una McAlinden, Director of the National Celtic Festival, "our crowds cannot get enough of the MSFC. The collective energy of this group unleashed connects with the audience, producing high-powered energetic music that reaches from the heart to the feet. They are a musical force to be reckoned with."

In 2005 they toured New Zealand playing to audiences all over the north and south islands, and winning a raft of new friends. They explore the tradition and move it forward, combining an interest in Scottish contributions to the Australian folk heritage with a desire to be the best players they possibly can be.

Many of the club's young players have gone on to create bands of their own, and in 2008 Jack Wilson – just 18 – won the Chris Wendt Award for best young player of the year at the National Folk Festival in Canberra. In the Scottish fiddling revival currently happening all round Australia, the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club is seen by many as the mothership, spawning new clubs in South Australia, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra.

Their three CDs and the accompanying books have spread their music far and wide, and in 2008 they will record their fourth CD "Gates of Gold". In 2007 member Dr Ronald McCoy was awarded the National Library of Australia Folk Fellowship. His researches into Scottish derived collections in the archive have included unearthing some Tasmanian treasures which will be incorporated into the tour repertoire.

"The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club is a dynamic and diverse group of musicians. Backed by a rock solid rhythm section and accompanists, fiddlers and soloists, developing and accomplished, soar above, collectively making this group one of the most exciting of its kind," says Dani Rocca, Music Program co-ordinator at the Port Fairy Folk Festival.

Accompanying the Club on tour will be Davydd McDonald, former Australian National Irish Dance Champion, Jonathan Jones, one time National Pipe Band Drumming Champion, and many more great players. A team of 27 fiddlers will be led by Judy Turner (Director and Founder) and President Matt Robertson, with guest star Colin MacLeod from Edinburgh, well known in Tasmanian fiddling circles.

Visit <http://www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com/Performances/Tasmania/Tas08.htm> for further details.



Bookings can be made at: enquiries@melbournescottishfiddlers.com

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| Launceston | Saturday 5 July 7.30pm | Horton Auditorium, Performing Arts Centre, Scotch Oakburn College - concert | Info Tim Gleeson 0449 292 515 |
| Burnie | Sunday 6 July 1.30pm | Hellyer College – free concert | Info Judy Turner 0438 560741 |
| Deloraine | Sunday 6 July 8.00pm | Deloraine Community Complex – free concert | Info Patrick Gambles 0418 507 113 |
| Westbury | Monday 7 July 8.00pm | Westbury RSL – “session” all players welcome | Info Patrick Gambles 0418 507 113 |
| Hobart | Tuesday 8 July 8.00pm | New Sydney Hotel – “session” all players welcome | Info & dinner bookings (03) 6234 4516 |
| Cygnets | Wed 9 July 7.30pm | Cygnets Town Hall - concert | Info Michael Minchin (03) 6295 1708 |
| Franklin | Thursday 10 July 7.30pm | Palais Theatre - concert with Tasmanian Heritage Fiddle Ensemble support | Info Steve & Marjorie Gadd (03) 6266 3446 |
| Port Arthur | Friday 11 July 6.00pm | Port Arthur Historic Site – theme concert | Info & bookings Freecall 1800 659 101 or email reservations@portarthur.org.au . |
| Hobart | Saturday 12 July 7.30pm | Polish Club – concert with Hobart Old Time String Band support | Info & bookings Roger Joseph manager@arelmedia.com.au 0419 558 421 |

Media contacts:

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National Library of Australia

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www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com