

KYNETON & DISTRICT OLD TIME DANCE CLUB INC.

“KEEPING IN TOUCH” (No. 3) – 12 May 2020

Hi to all. At this time, we are still in lockdown and needing to self-isolate, although it would seem that some of the restrictions may soon be lifted to some extent. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch, I seem to have deleted a couple of messages by mistake, so please accept my apology if I haven't acknowledged your contribution. Those of you to whom I have spoken for the most part seem to be coping reasonably well with the extended periods of staying at home, or even quite enjoying themselves. I personally miss the socialising and brain stimulation of face-to-face chatting at the coffee shop, which I think kept me mentally alert and socially confident (to some extent). Oh well, what can you do but go with the flow and do what you are told? JW

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A very sad and shattering item of news is that we lost our friend and valued club member, Bill Hickey, who died suddenly in his sleep on Friday morning 8th May. This has been a terrible shock for everyone who knew him. Bill had struggled with health issues for some time, but after each issue he would bounce back with resilience and enthusiasm. To me personally, Bill was a dear friend, a kind and caring person, with a sense of humour, a truly genuine spirit as well as a touch of the Blarney. He loved being part of the dance community and embraced the sense of belonging that brought to him. His circle of friends was wide and strong, as he liked people and would talk to everyone, he would quietly and privately help out anyone who needed a hand - friends or strangers, whom he felt were struggling in some way.

Bill's good friend, Graeme Orr, told me that he got to know Bill well when they were both involved in local government, where he felt that Bill excelled in the way he would reach out in such a personal way to his community, offering the hand of friendship, whilst going out of his way to help anyone who needed assistance, making sure that they were treated with respect and a duty of care by the local authorities.

Bill is survived by two sons and a daughter together with their families. Sincere and heartfelt condolences to all of the people who were close to him and all those many others whose lives he touched in different ways. He will be sadly missed – wandering in late to a dance, seeking us out to sit talking with so many of us, touching us with his ability to make connections, his kindness and his genuine interest in how we were going. He was an integral member of our local dance community and we will miss him.

Although this is not an official acknowledgement, I am sure that K&DOTDC members and regulars would join me in expressing our sincere sympathies, love and support to our President, Mary Thronely, who has lost a special friend with Bill's passing.

Rest in Peace, Bill Hickey. Thank you for all you gave us individually and as a group. You often said you would sooner be 'over the hill than under it'. Not to be any more – but, one thing is sure, wherever you are you will find lots of old mates and friends to have a yarn with about old times.

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Following this news, it seems irrelevant to have a laugh at a joke or enjoy a chit chat together, but it is probably necessary to find a balance, and I am sure that Bill would wish that for us. So here goes.

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There have been several calls expressing their shock and sadness at Bill's passing. These include Elvie and Ken Chakley, Graeme and Joyce Orr, Carmel Haugh and many of those mentioned below

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Jeanette Ford (Newstead) sent me this great photo-joke, which she thought was hilarious (so do I). She also said that she and her friends, Lorraine, Faye and Keith, are all missing meeting up with everyone and enjoying the fun of dancing. She said it was lovely to get news of so many people in the previous letter. (Thanks Jeanette.)

After 2 weeks of quarantine with her husband, Gertrude decided to knit him a scarf..



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From Annamarie Perlesz (Kyneton) on 30 May emailed that she had taken a week off work and, with her sister and a friend, went to Sydney to go on the Indian Pacific train, but the trip was cancelled. She and her sister hired a car to drive back to Vic, as her sister did not want to fly back at that time. Back at work, she has been very busy with flu vaccinations as well as 'ordinary' medical problems. In a following email, Annamarie said that Paul (Sartori) is staying on his farm during the week and attacking all the weeds that love this rain. He then comes and visits her in Kyneton for the weekends and starts on her weeds, which she has no time to do herself during the week as she is working very hard in her GP medical practice. She said that they both miss the opportunity to have a dance and laugh with friends, also that Paul is missing the wonderful dance suppers. She sent best wishes to all. (Lovely to hear from you, Annamarie, thank you for keeping in touch.)

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From Marie Waller (Melbourne). On 5 May, Marie said that Robert is slowly improving, she and Robert, together with daughter Anne, went for a walk around the block and that Robert did really well. They made it all the way, though barely. She also said that she hoped everyone is 'doing at least one dance every day in our head to make sure that we don't forget how to dance.' (That sounds like a good idea, even one dance a day around the kitchen table.)

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Beth Coulson (Melbourne) wrote "It is a very challenging and awful time the world is going through. I do not know where it will lead to but it's not looking good for the world financially. I worry about the young ones and their mortgages, jobs, etc., I am so thankful that I am not trying to run a business at this time, talking to my accountant this week he said he does not have time to keep up with his normal work as there are so many new rules and regulation changes almost daily and it is almost impossible to keep up". She went on to say that she is missing her dancing and luncheons and getting bored with her own company, she caught herself talking to herself the other day – as she said, not a good sign – haha. (I can relate to that Beth. At least I rarely argue with myself.)

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Marie and Don Clifford (Gisborne) are both going as well as can be expected during this self-isolation time. They send best wishes to all.

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Helen Bollen (Kyneton) emailed that she enjoyed the video clip of the couple rock 'n rolling, said that it showed just how dancing can be a passion, that it 'helps so much with mind and soul'. She feels there might (???) be hope for her yet. She sends her regards to all.

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Bill Darling (Kilmore) – tells me that the ‘in-mates’ at his retirement village celebrated ANZAC Day with a tea-party in their own front yards, but rules were soon discarded. So, I guess, they began to mix in, with appropriate social-distancing. He is enjoying building a garden at his new residence.

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Angela Van Orsouw (Kyneton) emailed to say thank you for the ‘Keeping in Touch’ letter and the updates on how people are coping, sprinkled with a little humour. She felt the rock & roll video would give us all something to aspire to. (Good to hear from you, Angela.)

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Jack Edmondson (Woodend) phoned and said that everyone would be pleased to hear that his spare room is now clear as he has caught up on all the ironing. He also told me a bit about his career as Assistant Station Master with the Railways – at different stations along the Bendigo line north and south, but also in Gippsland, finishing up returning to Woodend as assistant station master there. (It was an interesting story, Jack.)

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Pam Brooks (Riddells Creek) has had a cortisone injection to help her back/hip problem and is hoping that it will kick in soon. It has been extremely painful, so much so that she has not been able to walk around the block or do much at all, but the latest report is that the pain is easing.

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Eileen and Kelvin Cardillo (Clarkefield) had a nice drive to an indigenous nursery in Bendigo to buy trees to replace cypress trees that are not surviving well. Eileen said that it was good to get away for a couple of hours as, for the most part, they have been locked down at home on the farm.

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Joyce Bloomfield (Kilmore) left a voice message asking me to say hullo and pass on her best wishes to everyone, she hopes everyone is well and looking forward to starting dancing again, as she is.

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Virginia Love (Kyneton) emailed that she and her husband are renovating the laundry and not finding the isolation too difficult. She is keen to hear when the dancing can start again.

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Rita Mullins (from the band) rang and said that she enjoyed reading the news and hearing how people were going. She is self-isolating on the farm, and is looking forward to whenever we can start dancing again. When we spoke, she was looking out at the lovely sight of two newborn twin lambs.

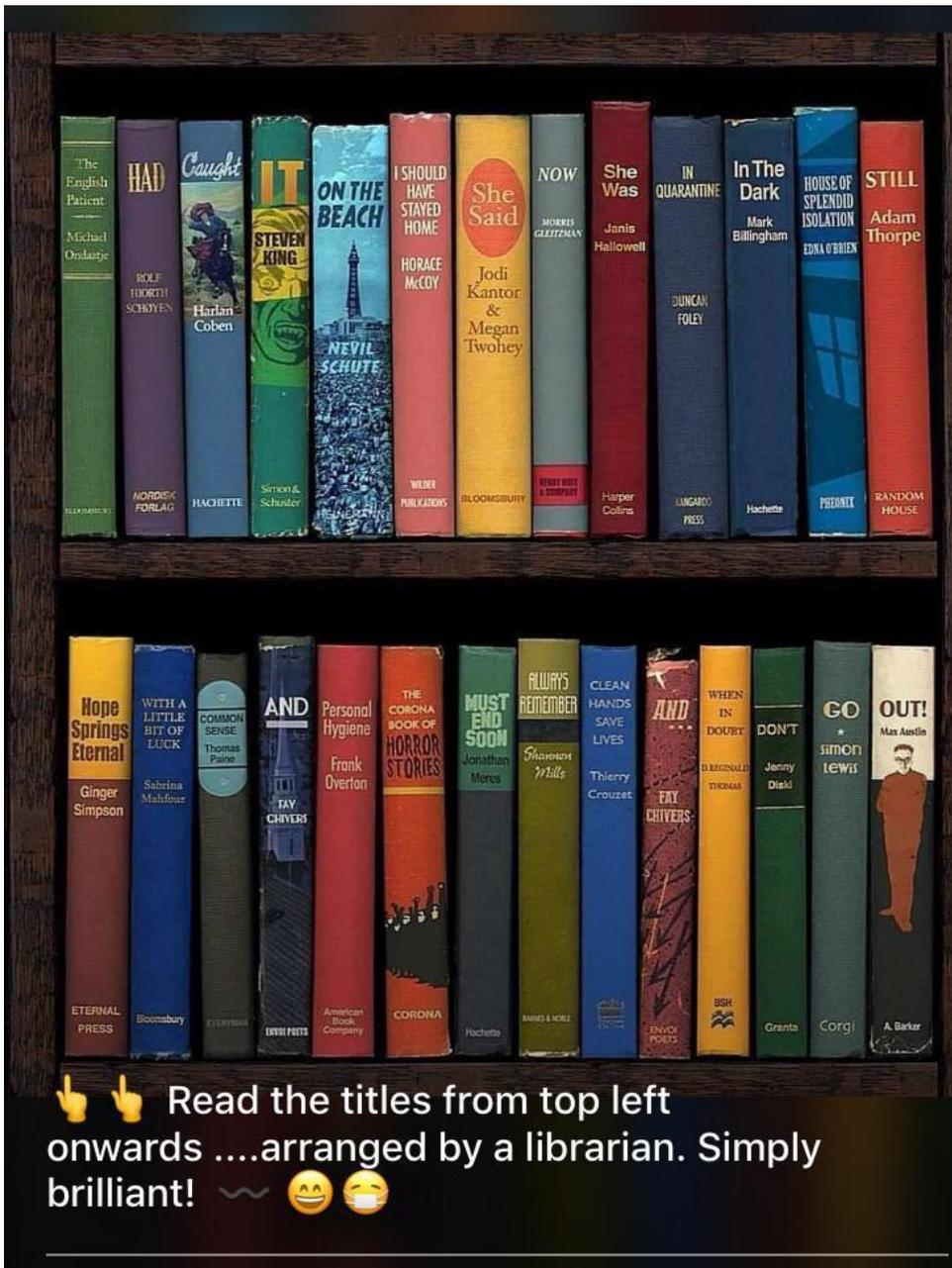
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I spoke to Ina Bartram (Trentham), who still needs to use a wheeler to get around and is finding the lockdown quite onerous. She is hoping to be fit enough to dance again whenever we are allowed to start again. (One good thing is, perhaps, that we all have time at this time to sort out some of our health problems and get on top of the aches and pains.)

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Yvonne Code (Kilmore) reported that her chook’s squashed foot is improving, she (the chook - not Yvonne) has responded well to comfrey treatment and, although limping, is active enough to mix with the other members of the chook family. However, she is still eating inside with Yvonne, who is spoiling her with extra food. (Good for the chook!)

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It was good to hear from Nancy Winderlich (Bendigo), who hasn’t been able to get to a dance since the Christmas breakup afternoon. She is coping with the isolation and was keen to hear news of the folks she knows from the dance community.

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Lorraine McPherson (Newstead) phoned to say that she had enjoyed the last ‘Keeping in Touch’, particularly a couple of the jokes. She had been mowing her quite large block, and had then gone for a walk, during which she caught up and had a good chat with Keith Stancombe, who lives nearby.

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👉👉 Read the titles from top left onwardsarranged by a librarian. Simply brilliant! 😊😄

(I think this is really smart – by a librarian somewhere with lots of time to spare.)

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 Valmai McKeone phoned to say that she and Jimmy are doing alright in lockdown, she wonders how soon it will be before we can get back to dancing and how we will all go when we do.

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 Joyce Orr (Bullarto), who plays tuba in the Daylesford Municipal Band, said that the band had been very quiet but that members were planning a virtual (Is that what you call it?) exercise although she is not taking part in this. Graeme finds things to do and keeps busy around the farm.

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 Jean Norris (Werrabee), who used to dance but is now not well enough to, enjoys reading the newsletters, hearing the news, and said to pass on to everyone best wishes and to keep safe.

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A Message from the Queen

To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11.

“In the light of your failure to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA, and thus govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of revocation of your independence, effective immediately.

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except North Dakota and Utah, which she does not fancy).

Our new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. The letter ‘U’ will be reinstated in words such as ‘colour’, ‘favour’, ‘labour’ and ‘neighbour’. Likewise, you will learn to spell ‘doughnut’ without skipping half the letters, and the suffix ‘-ize’ will be replaced by the suffix ‘-ise’. Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (look up ‘vocabulary’).
2. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as ‘like’ and ‘you know’ is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as U.S. English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter ‘u’ and the elimination of ‘-ize’.
3. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.
4. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you are not quite ready for shooting grouse. If you cannot sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you are not ready to shoot grouse.
5. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. Although a permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.
6. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left side with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.
7. The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) of roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it.
8. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup but with vinegar.
9. The cold, tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not really beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as ‘beer’, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. South African beer is also acceptable, as they are pound for pound the greatest sporting nation on earth, which can only be due to the beer. They are also part of the British Commonwealth – see what it did for them. American brands will be referred to as ‘Near-Frozen Gnat’s Urine’, so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.
10. Hollywood will be required to occasionally cast English actors as ‘good guys’. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. (Watching Andie

Macdowell attempt English dialect in 'Four Weddings & a Funeral' was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.)

11. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full Kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).
12. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside America. Since only 2.1 % of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the South Africans first to take the sting out of their deliveries.
13. You must tell us who killed JFK. It has been driving us mad.
14. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).
15. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4pm, with proper cups, with saucers, – never mugs – with high quality biscuits (not cookies) and cakes, plus strawberries (with cream) when in season.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

P.S. : Only share this with friends who have a good sense of humour (NOT humor)

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A last minute contribution received from Bill Darling, written by his nephew in isolation in UK.

LOCKDOWN 2020

Today, or was it yesterday, maybe the day before? It's much of a muchness, and life can be a bore. In these four walls for 24 hours, just me alone. Communication limited to chats upon the phone. We watch TV, play on the internet, we sleep a lot, make the most of what we have and miss what we have not.

At first it was a novelty, an adventure for the mind. As time went by, it changed, became nothing of the kind.

The need to be free, to go out, to meet friends, just got stronger and stronger, Became first in our thoughts, as each day lasted longer.

But in the midst of your misery, spare a thought for others – young children sobbing, Separated from their fathers or their mothers whose every day is spent nursing and caring for unfortunate others lying in hospital,

Afflicted, sick, and very ill with yet no cure discovered, no medicine, no pill.

Or ambulance drivers, firefighters, dustmen, shopworkers and delivery drivers.

Each one at risk, but working hard each day to ensure we are survivors.

Now each of us can play our part, if we heed advice that's there.

Stay at home, but if we must, keep our distance, taking care to wash our hands, don't socialise,

Remember that the NHS is facing danger for us to survive and to clear up this bloody mess.

(D.McKinnon)

(This is a bit squashed in but I thought it was very good and very relevant as they start to lighten the rules. This reminds us that there are many out there every day fighting this virus on our behalf.- JW)

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Don't rush too quickly to get back to 'normal', keep self-distancing and hand-washing, keep safe.

Please keep in touch. So many people have said how much they enjoy getting news and snippets from other folks. So give me a call, text or email with any contributions to pass on, small or large.

Love and regards,

Julie W (0400 126 870 and juliewilson40@bigpond.com)

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