

KYNETON & DISTRICT OLD TIME DANCE CLUB INC.

“KEEPING IN TOUCH” (NO. 4) – 5 JUNE 2020

Hullo again to all and thank you for sending your contributions for this letter. It is terrific how many messages and phone calls I receive with bits and pieces of news and other items. Whilst you keep doing this, I am very happy to keep the letters coming, as often as there is enough to make it interesting. If you would like to say hullo generally or to anyone in particular, just let me know. It is great how you are passing letters on to others for whom I do not have addresses, if there is anyone you think may like to have a copy emailed to them, get them to send me their address. I think people enjoy reading through the names and remembering the good times we all spent together.

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Firstly, Mary Thornely would like to thank everyone who sent her flowers, cards and messages of support on the passing of her friend, Bill Hickey. She is very grateful for this and looks forward to seeing everybody again.

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My apologies to Elizabeth and Noel Crockett (Kyneton). I had a lovely phone call from Elizabeth prior to the previous letter, saying how thrilled they were to receive a letter and hear all the news, sending their best wishes to all. I know those of you who know the Crockett's will be pleased to hear from them and know they are still interested in the club and members. It was not until I had finished and sent the No. 3 letter that I realised I had not included their message. Quite separate to this, I believe that congratulations are due to Elizabeth and Noel on their upcoming 60th wedding anniversary. That's a great effort, well done to you both.

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I had a great phone chat with Vera Richmond (Castlemaine), who said that she and Colin are coping, following all the restrictions and keeping occupied at home. Col has now been able to enjoy his first game of golf since the restrictions were put in place. Vera sends their best wishes to all.

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Heather Vander Reest (Bendigo) sent a poem about the complexities of the English language, which I think is extremely well done.

ENGLISH SPELLING IS A PEACE OF CAIQUE

I take it you already know of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble but not you, on hiccough, thorough, through and laugh.
“Well done! And now you wish perhaps to learn of less familiar traps.
Beware of heard, it's a dreadful word that looks like bead and sounds like bird.
And dead; it's said like bed, not bead, for goodness sake don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat, they rhyme with suite and straight and debt.
A moth is not a moth in mother, nor both in bother, broth in brother.
And there is not a match for here, nor dear and fear for bear and pear.
And then there's dose and rose and lose – just look them up – and goose and choose
And cork and work and card and ward and font and front and sword,
And do and go and thwart and cart. Come, come, I've hardly made a start.
A dreadful language? Man alive, I'd mastered it when I was five.

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Lorraine McPherson (Maldon) has been cleaning out more cupboards and got quite a shock when she found, at the back of a shelf, all wrapped up and stored carefully, a pile of lovely floral towels, unused and certainly not marked 'Made in China', which she had received for a wedding present in 1966. How about that? Like an archaeologist finding buried treasure!

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Following a lovely phone conversation with Nancy Winderlich (Kangaroo Flat), she sent me the piece about 'The Tate Family' (see next paragraph) to pass on. She sends greetings and salutations to all those dancers who may remember her, and writes "I am still in the land of the living (obviously) regardless of having another head-banging incident, this time in the kitchen. I have now been advised to put more water in it? I have a gopher, I have named it 'Obnoxious', and tootle down the street with it at my leisure." She says it is good to read what others are doing. Anzac Day was acknowledged for her with a spray of rosemary and a poppy picture on her mailbox door at the Post Office. Nancy said that Margaret Marshall (Bendigo) sends greetings to all her friends. (Thanks a lot, Nancy. Good to hear from you. Keep the water up to the whisky in future.)

Chat Corner – Meet the Tate Family

Let me introduce you to some of the members of the Tate Family in our community. First, there is the old man, DIC TATE, who wants to run everything, while his cousin, RO TATE, tries to change everything. Mrs AGI TATE stirs up plenty of trouble with the help of her husband, IRRI TATE. Whenever there are new projects suggested, Mr HESI TATE and his wife VEGE TATE, want to wait until next year. Then there is Mrs IMI TATE, who wants our community to be just like the one she visited at Newtown. Mrs DEVES TATE provides the voice of doom, while Mr POTEN TATE just wants to be a big shot. But there is also Miss FACILI TATE, who is most helpful when there is work to be done. Mr COGI TATE and his wife, MEDI TATE always thinks things over and are usually very positive in their ideas. And finally there is the black sheep of the family, AMPU TATE, who has cut himself off completely from the rest of the community. (With thanks to Yvonne Wallace)

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Peter Amott (Riddells Creek) phoned to say he is enjoying the letters, hearing what people are doing. He said to pass on his best wishes to all. (Great to hear from you, Peter.)

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Lois Makepeace and Noel Aplin (Bendigo) phoned. Noel is busy with a 'Mystery Jigsaw', which sounds very complicated as there is no picture to follow, it is a mystery homicide, "How to Kill your Husband", which you have to solve by putting together the clues on the jigsaw itself. The mystery is in the jigsaw. Lois feels she has solved it and knows who the killer is, but Noel is still following the trail on the puzzle itself. They asked to say hullo to all who attended the Tuesday evening dances at Kyneton, Lois said this is such a friendly group. They asked me to say hullo to Dickie Green, who they have a lot of fun with on Tuesdays, from Lois and No-EL. Also want to say 'hi' to June Wishart and Robbie Wright.

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Jill and John Bennett (Gisborne) are missing the music, the dancing and especially all the people they have met over the years at the dances. They send their best wishes to everyone.

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Barry and Mathilde Birmingham (Sunbury), Bill Darling (Kilmore), Jeanette Ford (Newstead) and Margaret Gray (Malmsbury) and others have all made contact to say that they are appreciating the 'Keeping in Touch' letters, how they miss getting together to dance, and ask to pass on their best wishes to all .

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Yvonne Code (Kilmore) liked the Joke of the Day in the Herald Sun of Friday 22 May, and wanted to share it with you.

"Tommy, my neighbour, rode his bike to the local pub, had a couple of drinks and then bought himself a bottle of wine to take home and enjoy later. He put the wine in the basket on the front of his bike. Then he thought that, if he fell off, the wine bottle would break, so he sat down on the side of the road and drank the wine. He told me later "Just as well I drank it because I fell off the bike five times on the way home."

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Thanks heaps to Ray Sharrock (Bendigo) for such an interesting email, including an anecdote of a time when he was commending a drummer after a dance in the area, who responded with “Thanks, but I must tell you that when I am playing the drums, I am not playing them, I am dancing with them”. Ray went on to say that this was so descriptive of his drumming - “a very gracious man- this drummer”.

Ray said he felt very privileged to have shared these thoughts on that occasion, and that “each time I dance to that band, I recall that beautiful moment when he (the drummer) felt able to share with me.”

Ray has included some music to dance to -

‘That Old Gum Tree’ by Buddy Williams

‘A Mug of Billy Tea’ by Trevor Day

‘Rusty Goes Home’ by Rick and Thel Carey,

and for those who play around with TEMPO – ‘Black and White Tangle’ by Terry Hall.

Ray sends his love to all. (Thanks, Ray, for your lovely contributions and thoughts.)

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Elaine and John Black (Reservoir) said they have survived the corona lockdown so far and are looking forward to when we can all meet and start dancing again soon. Elaine says it has been good to be able to start visiting people again with some of the restrictions lifted.

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Rayma Gilligan (Gisborne) phoned, we had a long conversation during which she asked after a number of our dancers. She has had a few health issues, the latest being a problem with her calf but is pleased to report that this is okay again.

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Marie and Robert Waller’s daughter, Anne, reports that there have been good medical reports all round, they all tested negative for Covid 19, Marie and Anne have kept busy with Scrabble, Canasta and 678 but Anne says that she got sick of winning and has now moved onto new (old) projects, including diamond art projects. They are looking forward to being able to go out for drives again, and to getting back to dancing and seeing us all again soon. She says to ‘keep dancing in your minds’ then adds ‘if this keeps up much longer we won’t have the energy or the mind to do it’.

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Margaret McDonald-Kerr (Sunbury) phoned to say that she is enjoying the letters, which have been passed on to her by Marie Clifford, and asked to be put on the email list. She is going well during the lockdown situation, had just come back from taking cooking to her mother, Eunice, who some of you will remember from dancing in the past and also from a couple of the Meet, Eat and Talk dinners we held in the southern part of the region. Margaret said she also keeps in touch with Ron Adderley (Melbourne), who is missing his dancing and can’t wait until we are able to dance again.

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Shirley Jakowenko (Melbourne) emailed me to say that Beth Coulson had passed on the last letter and also asked to be put on the emailing list. Shirley said that her daughter, son-in-law and one year old grandson have been living with her since late last year so she has not been alone through this time. As they are both working full or partly from home, the household has been very busy. Shirley says her garden has been receiving extra attention and also cupboards and drawers have been sorted and decluttered. Her friend, Neil, whom we also know as they often attend our Kyneton dances, is about to have a knee replacement after a long period of pain with it, so that he found dancing difficult. He is doing a lot of walking and bike riding to prepare himself for the operation. (Good to hear from you, Shirley, and very best wishes to Neil for a quick and successful recovery so that he can kick up his heels again when dancing resumes – whenever that will be.)

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Faye Sheldon (Welshman’s Reef) is enjoying hearing how other dance people are going and what they have been up to. She is looking forward to the time when we can all get back to dancing again.

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It was great to see Clare Claydon (Glenhope) when she dropped off some lovely home grown pears for Steve and me. She and Win are enjoying working on their property with their garden and fruit trees. They have also started cycling on the hilly roads around their property, which is helping them to greater health and fitness. They are enjoying this activity and benefiting from it so much that they have rewarded themselves by buying mountain bikes and are planning a long distance bike ride – she told me what it was, but I am sorry, Clare, I have forgotten. (The main thing is to keep enjoying yourselves.)

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I heard from Eileen Cardillo (Clarkefield) that Marie Clifford (Gisborne) has just had a big 80th birthday on Monday June 1. She had hoped for a big family celebration to mark the occasion but this will have to wait until parties are allowed. I am sure that everyone who knows Marie will want me to pass on to her sincere best wishes and congratulations on this achievement

Marie has a twin brother, Allan. Eileen told me a lovely little anecdote that Marie had told her of how she and Allan went home from hospital to the family home at Monegeeta, two precious little bundles wrapped up in cotton wool, each in a shoe box. (She has certainly come a long way since then). Perhaps unusually, Don is also a twin, his brother, Victor, lives in W.A. I don't know that they came home wrapped up in cotton wool but I am sure they were both adored little treasures also.

Eileen also told me that Marie and Don Clifford feature in an article in this week's Midland Express, which lists Belle of Balls from 1948 to 1971. Marie and her dashing, debonair partner, Don, danced beautifully together. In those days, all the local football clubs in the Riddell District Football League held a Ball to choose their Belle of the Ball, who then went on to represent their clubs at a Belle of Belles Ball, 'a prime social event' held in Sunbury. In 1959, Marie Stafford (her maiden name) represented Riddell, as it was then known, on the big night, having earlier won the Belle of the Ball for the Riddell Football Club. This resulted in Marie winning Belle of Belle's, a really notable and well deserved honour. Marie, who always dressed (and still does) so elegantly, partnered by Don, was Belle of many Balls at many venues. After she married in April 1962, she was no longer eligible, as a married woman, to enter for a Belle of the Ball.

(I myself have memories of Marie and Don rock & rolling in the 50's at the Jubilee Hall, Macedon, in the corner near the steps up to the supper room - for anyone who remembers the old hall - while everyone else was 50/50 foxtrotting. They were ahead of their time at sleepy little Macedon. I thought they were terrific.)

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For those of you who can receive emails, a friend sent me this short video, you may enjoy it. Apologies to those who do not have the internet, I can't send them to you.



Nessun Dorma...alla Corona 20.4.201.mp4

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Something from Klaus Sieber (Kyneton) – this is rather fascinating.



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