

KYNETON & DISTRICT OLD TIME DANCE CLUB INC.

'KEEPING IN TOUCH' (NO. 5) – JUNE 2020

Hullo to everyone. Here we are in mid-June still social distancing, albeit after the anticipation of a lifting of some of the coronavirus restrictions, then to suddenly find, this weekend, that these have been reinstated due to further spikes in Victoria. We are all wondering and waiting how long until we are able to meet up and dance together, we want it to happen as quickly as possible because we need to dance and to socialise together again, but we must continue to remain vigilant and patient. Lots of us fall within the demographic of risk for older folk. For most of us, we are fortunate that we live in smaller towns and areas like Bendigo, which is quite spread out and still rather countrified so that we are able to stay distanced and safe. There are so many people who have looked after us during this time – emergency services, health services, cleaners everywhere, retail businesses who provide our necessities, and so many others who have helped us maintain a life style under these quite different and difficult circumstances. These people should be greatly appreciated and recognised for the efforts they have put in, whilst perhaps putting themselves at risk medically but also in the way that their commitment has possibly affected their family life and social structures. It is my opinion that we should honour the efforts of these wonderful people who have continued to provide care for us, by remaining compliant and positive about the future, without complaint, until the limits are lifted to allow us eventually to mix socially and to dance together.

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Quite a few people have asked what is happening and when we can get back to dancing at Kyneton. So I asked our President, Mary Thornely, what she knew. She provided the following information, with the proviso that nobody knows, at this time, what and when changes will be allowed, so that it is impossible to make definite plans until more direction is gradually given by authorities.

Mary asked me to pass this message on. "We are not legally able to hold a dance at present. Announcements on the lifting of restrictions are made every three weeks following analysis of the situation at that point of time. Another announcement of further lifting of restrictions should occur on 22 June." Mary also said that the renovations to the kitchen at St Mary's are apparently not completed yet. When dancing does begin again, there will need to be a re-think how supper is served, as food cannot be put out in a buffet style on open tables as previously happened. Mary is planning to discuss these issues with committee members, and has booked the Hall for the Club's AGM for Tuesday 15 September, under the three month extension due to the virus. Keep this date.

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On This Sunday, 21 June, we had a member's only lunch at the Shamrock Hotel in Kyneton for the maximum allowable number of 20 people – the first twenty to book in. It was great to meet up with folks for a chat, the room at the hotel was big enough for effective social distancing, which everyone respected and stuck to. As this seems to have worked out safely, we can maybe plan another lunch, open to everyone, at a venue somewhere else, still with the limit of 20 people - if there is enough interest. Please let me know your thoughts. This could possibly be held in Bendigo, Gisborne or Daylesford, or wherever there is a hotel with a large enough room. (Not in Hume region just now, due to latest Covid-19 clustering). I do understand, however, that some people are understandably concerned about going out and mixing. However, give me some feedback as to whether you would like a lunch together and, if so, where you would like it to be held, so I can try to get organised.....

Ina & Graeme Bertrand (Trentham) have recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, which coincidentally falls on the same day as Elizabeth and Noel Crockett's 60th anniversary, which we spoke of in the last 'Keeping in Touch' letter. The same day in the same year. They discovered this shared occasion when they each invited the other couple to their 50th anniversary celebrations. C
(Comment - Hearty congratulations to Ina and Graeme for a job well done to maintain such a wonderfully long relationship.)

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John Bennett (New Gisborne) sent a lovely newsy email saying that he and Jill enjoy reading the 'Keeping in Touch' letters. He wrote that "as restrictions ease, we feel like we are coming out of a cocoon and taking off into the wider world again. We recently went up to see your youngest son and his wife in Yackandandah. They took us up to Mt Buffalo and we climbed The Horn and visited other tourist spots, calling into our daughter's place at Wangaratta on the way home. Social tennis has started up again, as has bush walking, both of which Jill enjoys. We also managed to catch up with our children and grandchildren, who we hadn't seen in person since early March". John also said that he is suffering from tooth trouble, which comes on as a sharp pain when he has hot food or drink. The dentist has been unable to find the cause, suggesting that he wait until it gets worse which may help her find which tooth is causing the problem – as she said, there is no point in pulling out a tooth if it is the wrong one.

John says he has realised how difficult it is after 8 weeks of non-dancing to remember the dance sequences, and is now trying to revise a few dances each day 'so all is not completely forgotten'. He is wondering if the renovations at St Mary's Hall are completed yet, and also if there are any residents moved into the units abutting the hall.

(Comment - I believe that some residents have moved in but not sure how many. Also that the renovations are not completed at this stage – see above.)

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Jenny Trehwella (Bacchus Marsh) sent a great email with the story of the trip that she and Ian Malloy had in February. She writes 'In February we went to India and spent a marvellous two weeks exploring the main cities in the north of that vast country: Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Darjeeling. People ask "What did you enjoy most?" Perhaps the scenery around Darjeeling, which is quite high in the mountains with magnificent views of the Himalayas. It was interesting to learn about Hinduism and Buddhism. We visited many temples and given a lot of information about beliefs. There is wide spread poverty as well as wealth. Quite a lot was shocking and surprising and very different from Australia. However, the people we met were friendly and helpful. No-one was complaining. We returned on 3 March to constant news of the virus. We, like everyone else, have obeyed order and stayed home. Cupboards have been cleaned out, and items stored for decades re-examined and banished. The garden has been weeded and pruned and now we are ready to go dancing. Would also like to hook up our little caravan and head north. Hope it won't be too much longer. Keep safe everyone. Ian and Jenny.

(Comment - That sounds to have been a wonderful holiday, Jenny, thank you for sharing it with us and it is lovely to hear from you and Ian.)

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PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW YOU ARE GOING. OTHERS ARE WANTING NEWS OF THOSE WHO ATTEND OUR DANCES. THEY WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU – EVEN JUST HULLO.

Noel Aplin (Bendigo) reports that he solved the homicide jigsaw case, reported on previously. The murderer was the daughter of one of the victim's wives.

(Comment – You're a real sleuth, Noel. Not sure if Lois got it right - she did say she knew who 'dun it.)

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Bill Darling (Kilmore) tells me that "This enemy can attack us at any, time and anywhere, and our defences are weak so we are told to exercise. Here are some thoughts on the why's and why not's of exercising –

"I should exercise every day so that I die healthier.

I must exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I am doing.

I cannot exercise because it makes the ice jump out of my drink.

I know I have flabby thighs, but that's okay, my stomach covers them.

If I exercise I will lose weight so I can idle away more time in the pleasure of eating".

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Jo White (Melbourne) reports - "We have been decluttering furiously too. All the vintage clothes and accessories have gone to the op; shop. I had intended to sell them but this is not possible now". Jo says that will be great to catch up with friends again. She thinks that dancing will be the last thing to be allowed (maybe next year). She says that, with Keith's 70th coming up and a friend's mother having a 103rd birthday, she feels so sorry for those who have had to celebrate big occasions in isolation. *(Comment – who knows when dancing will be allowed again, some think very soon and others are less optimistic. We'll just have to wait and see, but a definite is that everyone of us is wanting to get it happening.)*

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Heather Vander Reest (Bendigo) sent this –

Join the Club

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not amongst the dead,

Though I'm getting more forgetful and mixed up in the head.

I've got used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned,

I can cope with my bifocals, but ye Gods, I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember, when I'm standing by the stair,

If I should be going up for something, or have I just come down from there.

I'm before the fridge so often, when my mind is full of doubt,

Now did I just put some food away or come to take some out?

If it's not my turn to write, dear, I hope you won't get sore,

I think I may have written, and don't want to be a bore.

So remember that I love you very much and wish that you lived near.

And now it's time to post this letter and say goodbye, my dear.

At last I stand beside the mail box and my face has sure turned red -

Instead of posting this to you, I've opened it instead.

(Comment – lots there that I can relate to, Heather, it's a wee bit scary.)

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Pam Brooks (Riddell's Creek) has had a follow up second cortisone injection and is very relieved to find that, at this stage, it is working and she is feeling much better, able to walk much more easily and to enjoy life again.

(Comment – all the best, Pam. Hope this one hit the right spot and that the benefits last forever.)

Paul Mallia reports that he is walking much easier following his broken foot, someone suggested that he go to the chemist and get a moon boot, which he did. He said that this has made a real difference to the way he can get around. He is very pleased that restrictions have been lifted so that the RSL has been able to re-open.

(Comment – so pleased that your foot is on the mend and you can walk easier. It’s been a long time.)

Ray Sharrock is thrilled to bits. He recently had eye surgery, which was successful, and now has new glasses. This has opened up a new life for him and he is so enjoying being able to see again, without the pain and headaches which he has suffered for years. He says that being able to go dancing and meet with such nice people has kept him going through those disheartening and bad years. Both he and Jan Smith are both well and are really looking forward to getting back to dancing, which he hopes will be soon included in the lifting of a lot of the restrictions, which have been so limiting – he thinks maybe very soon.

(Comment - Thrilled for you, Ray, that life will be so much less limiting. I know you have told me previously how restrictive your poor eyesight has been for you. Good onya, Ray, enjoy yourself and get the most out of every day.)

Ray also said that Jan has been very excited as it was her stepfather’s 99th birthday yesterday. She has an extremely good relationship with him, Ray said he has 100+% mental faculty, is currently at Bupa in Woodend and was only allowed two visitors to celebrate with him. His daughter came down and visited from Canberra. Jan was planning to go also but was not well enough on the day to take the risk of visiting at an aged care facility.

(Comment – It’s lovely, Jan, that you have this special relationship with him at this stage of his life.)

A little boy opened the big Family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages.

“Mama, look what I found.” the boy called out. “What have you got there, dear?” his mother asked. With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered “I think it’s Adam’s underwear”.

(Following up on what I said above about the problem I had in trying to send a couple of videos with the last letter, I think I may have sorted out what caused the issue. I hope that sending just one at a time will work, and that you will be able to open this one.)

My friend, Madelene, sent me this delightful video. I think it is gorgeous, brought a tear to my eye.



You've Got A Friend in Me.mp4

Jack Dalton (Wheatsheaf) – herewith an update on Jack’s health following his recent heart problems. He reports that he is coming along well. He has been up on the roof cleaning out the kitchen chimney. He is now waiting on a plumber to finish kitchen renovations.

(Comment – Sounds as though you are well on the mend, Jack. The value of a fit and healthy life???)

