

# KYNETON & DISTRICT OLD TIME DANCE CLUB INC.

## 'KEEPING IN TOUCH' NO 8 – AUGUST 2020

Hi to everyone. Still no sign of restrictions lifting enough to allow us to dance again. However, it brings a little more hope when we see the positive virus numbers seem to be levelling out. The approach of spring is becoming more obvious – daffodils, prunus blossoms, roses and other plants starting to bud up, birds are busy. I feel it shows that, while we do seem to be bogged down in lockdown, nature is moving on, so there is change happening and it is important not to give up. JW

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A message from our President, Mary Thornely -

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all well and staying safe from the Coronavirus. These times are very difficult and challenging for us in lots of ways. As I write this, the numbers in Victoria appear to be decreasing and I believe this to be a sign of hope for our future, a future that will definitely include dancing together one day.

On the subject of dancing, I would like to specially thank John Bennett for introducing “Zoom” dancing to our club. He has put a lot of effort into the music and organising the events. We appreciate this as it is very helpful to our members and other dancing friends.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Julie for producing the ‘Keeping in Touch’ newsletters. They are a very important way to let everyone know what is happening and a great way to communicate between members. Julie would like to hear from anyone who has a story to tell, or maybe a joke, poem or other contribution in order to make the newsletter easier to complete.

Many thanks to those members who are reaching out to other dancers, as this also helps us to stay in touch. Please look after your physical and mental health.

We will get through this Coronavirus time. I look forward to us all being together again. Take care.  
Mary Thornely.

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**THE NEXT ZOOM DANCE WILL BE ON SATURDAY (22<sup>ND</sup>) AT 7.30PM. Contact John – as below.**

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**THANK YOU SO MUCH, JOHN AND JILL, FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO SET THIS UP FOR US. GREAT JOB.**

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John and Jill Bennett (New Gisborne) have started Zoom dances for anyone who is interested. They are proving to be a lot of fun and it is lovely to actually see people again. There have been several sessions held already and the expertise is improving each time. These dances are going to be regularly for approximately an hour, starting at **2.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. ALSO ON SATURDAY NIGHTS FROM 7.30 – 9PM.** You need to notify John (email 0400 908 401) that you would like to join in. He will then send you an email invitation providing the link to get into the meeting. John reports that the dance yesterday via Zoom went well, with 16 people logged in. He has asked me to pass on that **the next dance will be on Saturday (22<sup>nd</sup>) at 7.30pm.** Get in touch with John by email ([john-n-bennett44@bigpond.com](mailto:john-n-bennett44@bigpond.com)) or Tel. 0400 908 401.

**If you already have Zoom installed on your computer**, you just click on the link he sends you prior to the dance starting time, then there is a short wait time until John lets you into the meeting.

**If you don't have Zoom installed and you would like to join in**, send John your email address and tell him you would like to be involved. Before the next session, he will email you with a link to the meeting. Just click on that link in his email and that will take you through the easy process of installing Zoom and you then will be put into a short wait time until John brings you in to the session. If your computer has a camera, then you will come up on the screen with other participants. If you don't have a camera on your computer, you can still hear and be involved without being able to see the other people present at the session. **Either way, you need to make sure your audio is on.** John explains what music he is putting on at the start of each dance and which dances can be done to this particular music, so you then have the choice of what dance you do. There is a bit of chatting and discussion time as well. So give it a try, tune in and see how you go. It is not difficult to join into a Zoom session. Each session has been a lot of fun.

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Ray Sharrock sent me an email about John's Zoom dances to share with you. He said- "I have had some experience with ZOOM lately for dancing but not only dancing. All have been very effective but none better than John and Jill's hosting. They have a level of understanding of music for dancing and can lead even the most inexperienced dancer with their very user friendly program and MC'ing for all, in the safety of their own homes. Virtual dances have a dance for everyone. There is no need to sit down, whether you have a partner or not. You don't even need a camera to join in. Many thanks to John and Jill and the K&DOTDC. Ray Sharrock.

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The number of people becoming involved with our Zoom dances is increasing each session – probably some through word of mouth and some through the Club's website, which is terrific. (Yesterday's session had 16 people logged in.) John reports that, after some slight teething problems, he is now able to provide the music more efficiently – initially the music was coming through to others quite well, but he and Jill were not able to hear it themselves. He now reports that he has been able to improve it to a level where he is happy with it. Knowing John, it will work exceptionally well, he sets a high standard for himself, and what he has done with our dance music since he started with it is a credit to him. It has been a learning curve for all of us to get this off the ground. Thank you, John and Jill, for persevering with it and giving us this opportunity.

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Yvonne Code (Kilmore) contacted me with the sad information that Michael (Mick) Hyland, from Heathcote, passed away last Tuesday, 11 August. She said that Mick had been a keen member of the dance community, and had regularly attended dances at Spring Gully and Kyneton Football Club, also some K&DOTDC dances in the past. Yvonne said that he was a very nice person and that he had helped her learn to dance at Tooborac when she first started. He had been a farmer at Heathcote and would often talk with Jerry Colvin. Hopefully, they will now be catching up again for a yarn. Our condolences go to Mick's family and friends. Rest in peace, Michael.

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It was a nice surprise to hear from Joan Lawrence (Wallan), who rang to say hullo. She also knew Mick Hyland well. She said he was a real gentleman and a very good dancer. She remembered the days when Mick had been quite involved in running dances at Heathcote Hall. Joan said that she is going well, keeping busy with her chooks and other animals, and asked me to send her best wishes to all.

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Geoff Organ (Kyneton) phoned for a chat. He has been battling with health issues but is managing to keep on top of things. He spoke of Beverley Kingston, whose passing was reported in our last letter. He said that Bev used to live in Kyneton and was a member of the Club, before moving to live elsewhere. He thought she had worked at Ray M.Begg Aged Care in Kyneton, which a friend of mine, who had worked with her there, verified.

Geoff sends his best wishes and regards to all. His health has not been as good as he would like it to be but he is managing.

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Rayma Gilligan (Gisborne) phoned to say hullo. She is isolating under Stage 3 restrictions, missing the company of friends, but, as she said, it is what we have to do. She asked after various people, including June Wishart and Robbie Wright, to whom she sent her love. *(It was good to hear from her, Rayma and I go back a long way - to our school days at Kyneton High School.)*

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Shirley Jakowenko (Melbourne) emailed with concern for Yvonne Code (Kilmore) as her wrist surgery has had to be put off, hoping that it can be done before too long. As she said, Yvonne is 'such a trooper'. *(I agree entirely, Shirley. She certainly does more than her share of keeping in touch with so many people. Yvonne went to the same surgeon who did my Steve's carpal tunnel a week or so before elective surgery was restricted, so she was unable to have the operation at that point of time and is now waiting. Hopefully, this can soon happen for her.)*

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It was a lovely surprise to get a phone call from Ken Chakley (Glenroy). He sounded really good and sent best wishes to all. He and Elvie, who was busy watching her favourite TV show, are well and managing the Covid Stage 4 restrictions without too many hassles.

A couple of jokes from Ken -

Firstly - In a classroom of little children, the teacher said to the class, "I want you to give me a sentence with 'I' in it." Geoffrey put his hand up and started, " 'I' is...". The teacher interrupted him, saying "What is your sentence? You can't say 'I is'. It is bad grammar to say 'I is", to which Geoffrey responded, "I is the ninth letter in the alphabet". *(This isn't as funny in print as when Ken told me. Made me laugh then. Maybe read it out loud)*

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Secondly - Q. What do you call a hippie's wife?                      A. Mississippi.

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Barry and Matilde Birmingham (Sunbury) emailed that they enjoyed the video about working from home. They are getting on with some of the projects around home that have been on the list for quite a while, so they are pleased about that, but are missing the dancing. It was nice to hear from them and they send their best wishes.

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I had a text message from Marie Waller to say that both she and Robert are well. Robert's 'internals' will take until Christmas to heal but the 'externals' are still looking good for him. As she said, no news is good news. Their daughter has gone back to Western Australia, and is 'cancer free', which is great news. *(You have both had a big year health wise, so here's hoping that it is all on the mend and you can both get on with life as the year progresses.)*

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Margaret McDonald-Kerr (Sunbury) emailed to say that she enjoyed Ray Sharrock's story of Antarctica. She and her daughter did a trip there 18 months ago and had a wonderful time – kayaking and exploring the coastline. They stopped off to see the old whaling stations and an Argentinian base, where they were made very welcome. As she said, good memories. *(That must have been something special, Margaret. How good that you could do the trip with your daughter.)* She also said that she passes the newsletters on to Ron Adderley (Sunbury) and that he gets a great thrill to hear from Kyneton Dance Group, he practises dancing at home in his lounge room so Margaret felt he would probably enjoy the Zoom dances. *(Give our regards to Ron please Margaret)*

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I suddenly realised that Heather Vander Reest (Bendigo) had vanished from my group email list so I contacted her and received a nice newsy email back. She seems to be settling into Bendigo quite happily, she has been clothes shopping and enjoying that. She says that she has been comfortable, warm and safe in her rental accommodation whilst waiting for her new house to be completed. She has been, as she put it, appalled at the amount of STUFF she has to pack for the move – 24 coffee mugs, for example, as she says 'How ridiculous!'. *(Good to hear from you again, Heather. Best of luck with the packing and moving when the time comes. The start of a new adventure, a new chapter.)*

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I have also realised that Noel Aplin (and Lois Makepeace) also dropped off my list some time ago. I apologise sincerely to anyone who has this happen. It is certainly not intentional. *(When you hit the button to send a group list, you expect it to send in its entirety. I'll keep a better check in future.)*

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From Jenny Trehwella (Bacchus Marsh) – this is written by Jenny's friend, Meg - *(Very timely)*  
Trust in a Time of Covid.

For everyone in my lovely home city of Melbourne:

Before we get too hung up on blaming the state government, or the federal government, or China for our Covid situation, let's review some facts:

1. We had to bring in mandatory quarantining in hotels because we couldn't trust people to stay home after returning from overseas.
2. We then had to bring in security because we couldn't trust people to stay in those hotels.
3. We then had to bring in ADF because we couldn't trust the security guards not to have sex with those in quarantine in the hotels.
4. We had to get police to door knock and check up on people because we couldn't trust those who were meant to be self-isolating to actually stay at home.
5. We also have to have police and ADF reinforce the metropolitan Melbourne zone and state borders because we can't trust people to follow the restrictions.
6. We are now being told to wear masks because we can't trust people to social distance when they are in public.
7. Through it all, our supermarkets have had to introduce shopping restrictions because we couldn't trust people to not take more than what they needed.

So, we can get as mad as we want at politicians or health officials for imposing restrictions, or the country where the virus originated, but essentially it's all our own fault that we find ourselves here. Selfishness and lack of empathy seems to be as much of a disease as Covid itself. The quicker people start following directions, the quicker this situation will improve.

Until then.....??

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Win Westerhoff (Glenhope) called in to pick up a box of jars which Jo White had left for Clare before all the restrictions were in place. It was nice to see him and have the chance for a brief chat in person, albeit with masks and social distancing. He and Clare have been very busy at their country property, he has planted a lot of trees and there is always lots to do. Clare keeps busy on the property or on the computer. They are missing their activities such as bush walking, which they can do in the bush around their home, and cycling, but miss the human contact with others.

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*(How real is this? Is that me in the rear row on the right?)*

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This, from Carmel Haugh (Beveridge), – ‘Old Folk are Worth a Fortune!’

Old folk are worth a fortune – silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feed and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I last saw you and a few changes have come into my life.

Frankly, I have become a frivolous old girl. I’m seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me get out of bed, then I go to my Lou. Next, it’s time for Uncle Toby to come along, followed by Billy Tee.

They leave, and Arthur Ritis shows up and stays with me for the rest of the day. He doesn’t like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a busy day, I’m really tired and glad to go to bed with Johnny Walker. What a life! Oh, yes, and I’m also flirting with Al Zymer.

P.S. The Preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, “Oh, I do all the time. No matter where I am, if I’m in the kitchen or down in the basement, I ask myself, “Now, what am I here after.”

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**Would anyone be interested?** I am considering starting up either a Zoom mid-afternoon tea (2.30pm) or an early evening happy hour (4pm), perhaps fortnightly. I think it would be nice to have a cuppa and cake or have a glass of wine and nibbles together, while we chat from our own lounge room or kitchen. Talking on the phone is one thing, but seeing the person you are talking to is lovely. I do miss this, probably more than anything. Maybe there are others who would enjoy getting together in this way. I’ll keep you posted on this.

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Keep smiling, keep safe, wear your masks and keep dancing around the kitchen. JW & SK xxx

**IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP THROUGHOUT THE STRESS AND LONELINESS THAT CAN OCCUR DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, BELOW ARE NUMBERS YOU CAN USE TO GET HELP.**

**LIFELINE - 131 114**

**BEYOND BLUE - 1800 512 348**

**NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE 1800 675 398**