

KYNETON & DISTRICT OLD TIME DANCE CLUB

January 2021

Happy New Year and a happy, safe, healthy and enjoyable 2021 to all. We seem to have survived a difficult year in 2020 and are adjusting to a new type of freedom in our society – not quite the same as we have known in the past but certainly much more open and connected than last year. It is obviously important that we remain careful and responsible as we regain our ability to go out and about, mixing together and getting back into our activities and interests. We have, by and large, responded well to the restrictions and precautions that were put into place to bring this virus back under considerable control, with great results. When comparisons are made between Australia and many other countries, we Aussies did what was needed, without too many complaints or compliance refusals, but the tragic numbers in other countries demonstrates what can so easily take place through carelessness or complacency, through civil disobedience or disregard, and through uncertain leadership. We must stay strong and resilient, keep looking out for each other and be optimistic for the future.

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K&DOTDC Welcoming-in-2021 Lunch

On Thursday 14 January, we held a luncheon at the Shamrock Hotel in Kyneton to welcome in this year, 2021. This replaced our traditional December Christmas breakup dinner, which we were unable to have due to Covid restrictions. It was a chance for club members and non-members of our dance community to get together for a meal and a good time catching up with old friends and perhaps making new friendships. The event saw 55 people gathering in the dining room of the Shamrock. The noisy talking, laughing and pleasure in getting out socially with each other was evidence of how much people enjoyed the day. The meal provided by Manager Toto, Chef Jack and his helpers in the kitchen, and the waiting staff was terrific. They always do a great job and are so helpful in organising any function.

(Following this success, a second lunch is planned for Wednesday 17 February – See below for details)

President's message re dancing recommencement

During the luncheon, our **President Mary Thornely** updated those present on the current situation regarding the recommencement of dancing in Kyneton.

At this stage, the Club is unable to have the use of St Mary's Hall. As this is the only hall in Kyneton which is an appropriate size to cater for the numbers that we were experiencing prior to the Covid restrictions in March 2020, this has caused a problem in planning ahead, particularly as smaller halls are limited in the numbers allowed under the restrictions. It was initially thought that we may not be welcome back to St Mary's at all. However, Fr Declan of the Parish has assured us that we will be able to use the hall again once he feels that it is safe to allow groups to gather. He is most concerned that mixing is a real risk for the spread of the virus, particularly given obvious problems of social distancing at a dance. He feels that there is still too great a risk of infection for him to allow the hall to be used for any purpose which brings numbers of people together.

Although the Committee has concerns about getting back to dancing, they have been considering other halls in surrounding localities for the Club's Tuesday night social dance events. The cost of hiring many of our local halls makes it financially unviable to use a smaller hall, which is limited to quite small numbers. However, at this point in time, nothing is being planned until the Covid situation is more stable and restrictions more certain.

We will keep you informed as new information emerges.

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February Club luncheon

Because the above event was so enjoyable, the Club will continue to have monthly lunches whilst our dancing future is still uncertain. A similar lunch has been organised for **Wednesday 17 February**, again at the **Shamrock Hotel in Mollison St., Kyneton**. It will mean a 12pm arrival for a 12.30pm start. The menu has good variety at reasonable prices and I have never had a bad meal there.

We need to keep to the hotel restrictions under Covid 19 rules, which are gradually easing. Closer to the date, I will give you an update on what is currently required.

So, put this date in your diary or calendar, let me know you would like to attend, then have a lovely drive in the country and a wonderful gathering of dance friends for a very nice lunch, at which President Mary can give you further update on dancing in Kyneton. After lunch, you can check out the town and some of the lovely old bluestone buildings – part of Kyneton’s heritage.

If you would like to join us for lunch, please book in asap so that we can get numbers confirmed and menu’s sorted.

Confirm your booking by return email or call/text me, Julie Wilson, on 0400 126 870. Once we have an idea of numbers, I will let you know more about the meals and costs.

We look forward to seeing you - hopefully.

News of other dances

A couple of emails re upcoming dances in different locations have been received – also a couple that have already been held (apologies that this information was unable to be included).

*A Masked Gala Ball will be held on Saturday 30 January (It didn’t actually say which month, but I am guessing it is January) at Menzies Avenue Hall, 41a Menzies Ave., Dandenong North, with doors opening at 7.30pm and music by The Silhouettes. Booking is essential and pre-payment of \$25 is a ‘must’. For more details, contact Peter Sellars on 0438 988 861.

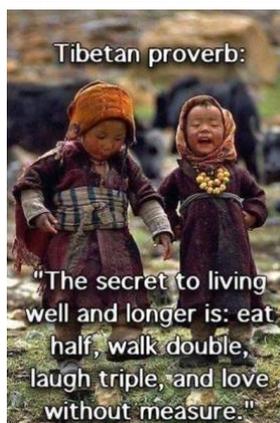
*There is also a message from Ken Cathie (kcat@bigpond.com) to say that the Warrnambool Weekend of Dance has been cancelled due to Covid restrictions but does not include a date. (*I personally don’t know who Ken is but include this item for your information.*)

‘Keeping in Touch’ Newsletter

Several people have said how they enjoyed the newsletter ‘Keeping in Touch’. As we are still not able to dance, I am happy to keep putting this together and sending it out monthly to those who are interested. I will need you to send me news, articles of interest, jokes, poems that mean something to you, recipes, etc. You will have to bear with me as I have a new computer which I am still not quite conversant with. I have a young friend, who has set it up for me and hopefully he will be patient in helping me learn to attach videos, etc., on this more modern machine. (*Or, who knows, I may even be able to do it without his help.*)

Please let me know if you want me to take you off the mailing list.

Julie Wilson (0400 126 870) or juliewilson40@bigpond.com



Old Tibetan proverb -

