

KYNETON & DISTRICT OLD TIME DANCE CLUB INC.

'KEEPING IN TOUCH' NO 11 – OCTOBER 2020

Marie Clifford (Gisborne) phoned to inform me that **Jackie Showler** (Lancefield) had passed away earlier this week, after being unwell for some time. His funeral was held on 23 October at Scott's in Kyneton. Many of you would know **Jack and Bev Showler** as dancers and friends. I personally did not know them well, but best remember them from Kyneton Football Club dances a few years ago, where I thought how well they danced together, particularly their pivot dancing. I am sure that you will all join me in sending condolences to Bev and family from the Club and the wider dance community. **R.I.P. Jack Showler.**

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Several people let me know that they had not received or could not access the **club membership application forms** with the previous email of the newsletter. I checked around with others and found that most people had received it. I am sorry if you missed out, I will re-send it to accompany this letter. If you are interested (*and we hope that you are*), please return the form to our Treasurer, Helen Bollen, by email (hpbollen888@gmail.com) or by mail to P.O.Box 687, Kyneton 3444 and deposit the membership fee of \$20.00 at any Bank of Bendigo branch, (the bank account details are on the form) – **make sure to put your name as a reference.** (Because of Covid, fees cover period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022)

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ZOOM DANCING – John Bennett (Gisborne) has emailed all those who are participating in the zoom dances to say that the **Saturday dances** will now be held in a permanent time slot of **7.30pm to 9pm on Saturday nights** until 'normal' dancing can resume.

John also says that, as summer is approaching and other activities beckon, the **Thursday afternoon session will be discontinued.** The **weekly Tuesday sessions** will continue, but at a **different time – 7.30 pm to approximately 9pm.**

Contact John if you would like to join in the fun of dancing and the joy of being able to see people again. (0400 908 401 or email – john_n_bennett44@bigpond.com)

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I am sorry that I haven't done anything as yet about the **Zoom Coffee Club**, as discussed previously. I have had a couple of hosting practice runs, which worked out reasonably well. So, I now feel up to giving it a try. If you would like to have a chat where you can see the people you are talking with, let me know. You need to be prepared to install the Zoom app, which is not difficult - just type Zoom into your carrier and then follow the prompts.

I thought that we could get together from 2.30pm to 3.15pm on Wednesday 4 November. Please let me know if you would like to join in and I will then send you an invitation with a link attached. (*The one condition is that you will need to be patient with me.*)

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What started off as a short term way to keep connected has dragged on... and on... and on. **If you no longer want these letters, just let me know and I will take you off the mail list.**

It was nice to hear from **Sarah Hargreaves** (Tylden). She said that she is playing social tennis at Gisborne each week, with whoever turns up on the day. She catches up there with Jill Bennett, who is also one of the group. No other news particularly, but says she enjoys getting the 'Keeping in Touch' letters.

(Aren't we regional residents lucky that we are able to meet, albeit still with restrictions such as social distancing, masks and limited numbers.)

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Margaret McDonald-Kerr (Sunbury) enjoyed the video with the couple dancing together so smoothly and beautifully. She said that she wished she could do this on the floor, not just in her head.

(I was in awe of their magic together, and I imagine that several others of us would like to be not only that smooth, but also that fit.)

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Jill Casagrande (Qld.), who has joined in with John's zoom dances all the way from Queensland, also said how much she loved the dancing video.

(It was nice to hear from you, Jill, from sunny and unrestricted Queensland. We hope it stays that way for you northerners.)

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Steve and I went for a lovely day out from Ballan through Creswick and Talbot to Smeaton, where we had a picnic at the old mill by the creek under the oak trees. The old mill has been well restored and maintained; we met the man who is in charge of keeping it maintained and gradually restoring it further. He was very proud of the building. It is in such a lovely setting.



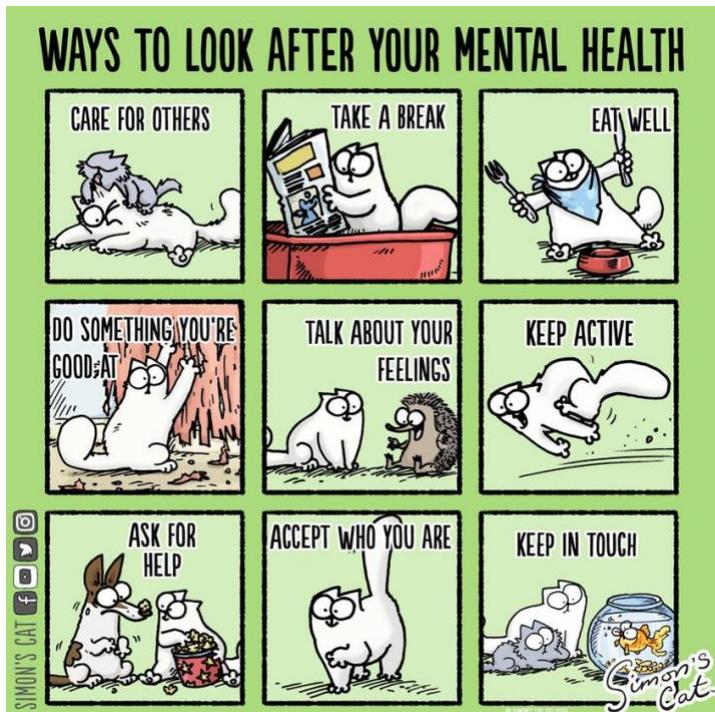
*(For my GFC footy friends, **Joyce, Graeme, Jack** and others – Go Cats!!!)*

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Virginia Love (Kyneton) asked to pass on her regards to all, she is missing being able to meet up and actually see people at a dance, but is zooming both dancing and choir. She said she submitted her second virtual choir video challenge with the song "Count on Me", which she describes as a lovely song, all about the give and take of friendship. She said it has been a long road of isolation, but that we have learned to adjust to it for our own and others safety. She says she finds plenty to do at home and is currently repainting the interior walls.

(Great to hear from you, Virginia, best wishes for your choir challenge, Virginia. Let us know how you go.)

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Jenny Trehwella and Ian Malloy (Bacchus Marsh) had a few days away in their caravan to St Arnaud. They found a lovely peaceful grassed area for the van, and really enjoyed being able to get away for a short time.



Steve and I rang **Don Clifford** for his birthday on 10th October, and spoke to him and Marie. They were hoping to catch up in some way with their girls and grandchildren for Don's birthday. They said to say hullo to everyone.

It was good to speak with **Barry Breakell** from Kilmore. He is coping with Kilmore's rather unique situation of lockdowns, lifting of some restrictions, then back to lockdown. (*It happens so easily, one person stretching the rules can affect so many in a ripple situation.*)

Marie Waller (Broadmeadows), who recently had a hip replacement after a nasty fall, says that her physio exercises are getting more difficult as she is progressing. She adds that she will get through it, but that it is very exhausting. Robert is 'doing well' but they are missing everyone 'like crazy'.

I dropped off a few membership forms to **Helen Bollen** (Kyneton) the other day. It was great to see her. She had been playing golf with a friend to help blow the cobwebs away. She has the most amazing dog (George), some type of bulldog and quite enormous although quite young. George and her cat are such good mates, having joined the family at the same time when they were just baby puppy and kitten. Now they are 'maturing', they still play together constantly and are laugh-out-loud comical.

Bill Darling is still bunkered down in Kilmore. It is disappointing that they have again been placed under further restrictions, but positive to hear that the virus that re-surfaced there seems to have been managed well.

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I spoke to **Noel Aplin**, after being connected to him by cyber magic after I had installed Duo to see and speak to a friend. Duo decided that I should also speak to Noel and rang his number without me knowing. After a few minutes sorting out who had rung whom, it was good to hear that he and Lois (Makepeace) are going along well, still sticking to the restrictions as required. He is keeping busy with jigsaws, etc.

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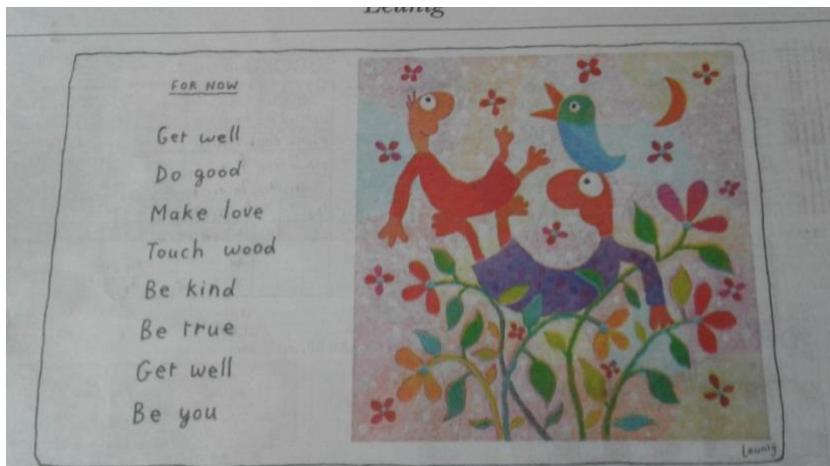
I dropped off the newsletter to Norma Proctor (Kyneton) and said hullo to her. She is trying to rest up with her bad knee, but resting is something that Norma is not so good at – she is always inspirationally busy.

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Mary Thornely, Pam Brooks and Sheila Salas were at the coffee shop in Riddells Creek when we spoke to them a couple of weeks ago. They had walked down to the shops and were enjoying being out and about, chatting and drinking coffee. They send their best wishes.

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Leunig – “The Saurday Age”



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Clive Niemann (Bendigo) let me know, so that I can pass it on, that all is going as good as can be expected under the circumstances with his rehab, with plenty of physio and occupational therapy. He says, and I quote, “they say I’ll be back on the bike soon!!!” *(Here’s hoping, Clive, for a steady improvement so you can, indeed, get back on that bike. No more arguments with cars please – you may be super tough but cars are tougher than bikes.)* We all wish you well as you work to get fit again.

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June Wishart (Castlemaine) has a **Big** birthday on 29 October. Congratulations, June, a wonderful milestone. Happy birthday to you – and many more to follow.

From **Jeanette Ford** (Newstead) – ‘**The Fifth Parrot**’

Three girls, Jan, Sue and Val, haven't seen each other since leaving school. They re-discover each other via Facebook and arrange to meet for lunch.

Jan arrives first, wearing a beige Versace dress. She orders a bottle of Pinot Grigio. Sue arrives shortly after, wearing a grey Chanel number. After the initial hugs and kisses, she joins Jan in a glass of wine. Then Val walks in, wearing a faded old tee-shirt, blue jeans and boots. She too shares the wine.

Jan explains that, after leaving school and attending Oxford University, she met and married Rodney, with whom she has a beautiful daughter. Rodney is a partner in one of Sydney's leading law firms. They live in a 4000 sq ft apartment on North Shore. Susanna, the daughter, attends drama school. They have a second home in Bali.

Sue relates that she graduated from Monash University, studied to become a doctor and is now a surgeon. Her husband, David, is a leading financial investment banker in Melbourne. They live in the Toorak area, and have a second home in Italy.

Val explains that, after she left school at 17, she ran off with her boyfriend, Jimmy. They run a tropical bird park on the Sunshine Coast and grow their own vegetables. Jimmy can stand five parrots, side by side, on his erect penis.

Several hours later and halfway through their third bottle of wine, Jan blurts out that her husband really works at Target, they live in a small apartment and have a camper trailer parked on the front drive.

Sue, chastened and encouraged by her old friend's honesty, explains that she and David are actually both nursing care assistants in an old people's home. They live in Hoppers Crossing and take camping holidays on the Murray.

Val admits that the fifth parrot has to stand on one leg.

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**Dear Lord,
Please don't let Brussel Sprouts
be a part of the cure of Covid-19 Virus.**



A friend sent me this. I found it interesting. **'WW2 and Monopoly'**

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.....

Now, obviously one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of "safe houses" where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks – they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet they turn into mush.

Someone in MI5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort. By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the UK Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of items qualified for insertion into CARE packages dispatched by Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest security, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of 'sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy (where Allied POW camps were regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could be easily screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency hidden within the piles of Monopoly money

British and American air crews were advised before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that "Get Out of Jail Free" card.

(It states at the end – "This story is confirmed as true by snopes.com(1) at -

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/war-games-3/>

(Isn't it amazing what people can come up with when there is a need – simple yet complex)

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