

Newsletter of the Bush Dance & Music Club of Bendigo Inc.

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Coo-ee!

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Newsletter contributions:

If you would like anything included in the newsletter please email it to me on flecks@hotmail.com or if you are not on email phone me on 0404 532 779. Please note the last day I will be able to include anything is **Tuesday 8th March 2016** before the Friday Mail-out.

Annual General Meeting:

The clubs annual general meeting was held on Wednesday 3rd February at the Bendigo Neighbourhood and had a pretty good turn up. Following are some points from the meeting:

- **The South East Australian Dance Directory-** Mary has some copies for sale; **\$12.50 each**, if anyone is interested they have all the Old Time dances far and wide in it, please see Mary.
- **Dance program-** as some of you may remember from the last newsletter it was considered at the previous meeting that we trial 3 months of the same dances; this was discussed again at this meeting and decided that we would keep going as we are and allow our talented MC's to change programs on the night to suit the needs of the patrons,
- **Themed dances-** last year we had a few themed nights and it was decided that we would do it again; **March** will take on an **Irish** theme to celebrate St Patrick's Day and **November** will take on a **Scottish** theme for St Andrew's Day. The theme for our birthday dance is yet to be decided so if you have any brilliant ideas please do share them.

Annual meeting Report:

The clubs annual meeting was held on Wednesday 3rd February at the Bendigo Neighbourhood hub following the general meeting; during the meeting our president read out a lovely review of our year (which will follow) and announced all positions in the executive committee open for takers, not much changed as you can see above, the only change is that Chris Beggs is now Vice president, welcome aboard Chris!

- **Membership fees:** the fees for our yearly membership was reviewed and was decided that there will be a slight increase to cover costs of increased mail fees, **Family now \$35** and **Singles \$20**, **All fees are now due to be paid.**
- **Entrance fees:** it was discussed and decided at the meeting to leave current door prices as they are; **Member \$5**, **Non Member \$8** and children under the age of 16 free

President's report

This year has gone quickly, the patronage at the dances has been up and down with new faces at some and then later dances more new people. They have said that they enjoyed themselves and will be back sometimes they come and sometimes they don't.

We had filming for the Tube web site some nights at Sedgwick, going to Melbourne one day, and another weekend in Bendigo doing quite a lot of the older dances that are in the Merry Country dance book.

This year our band leader and original member of the club Peter Ellis passed away, as well as Rosemary Simms and Aub Bell. They are sadly missed. Also Tommy Dean had open heart surgery but he is back dancing now so hopefully this year will be a better one with no health problems or deaths in the club.

The dancers danced at Goornong for an Australia day concert in regards to the Anzac CD that was being produced, and again at the Capital Theatre in April where the CD was launched. We had a few practices for these and some of these were at Don & Julie's place, thank you for letting us use your home.

We have had different themes at our dances during the year one being Irish, a mask night and an Anzac night which was our birthday dance. This went down reasonably well with some of our members dressing up others not.

Some of our dancers danced at nursing homes in and around Bendigo entertaining the older members of our community. But we are low on numbers for these displays so if anyone is available they would be made welcome.

At our Christmas Party we had approx. 53 for the meal and dance after. The meal was great as well as the decorations. Julie Manypenny MC'ed the dance as well as playing in the band, and it was Des Skinner's last time with the Emu Creek band as he was retiring.

My thanks goes to Elka Budge for stepping in as newsletter editor and she is doing a great job. Many thanks to Mary and Carol for the minutes taken and recorded at our meetings also for website updates along with sending out the newsletter and club emails. Margaret Dean has done a great job as treasurer especially under the circumstances with ill health and the worry with Tommy.

Over the year our great Emu Creek Bush Band played for our dances except for the birthday one where the Gay Charmers completed that night giving our band members a chance to dance or a rest for the night. Thank you all band members it is great to be able to dance to your wonderful music.

Mary, Esma and sometimes Julie sold the door and raffle tickets. Thank you.

Many thanks to Carol Rowe and Chris Beggs for MC'ing the dances and the ball as well as calling some of the sets without you we would most likely not be able to run our dances.

I have enjoyed my year as president and look forward to another year of dancing, friendship and helping to Mc some of the dances.

Dianne Pearse
President
2016

Upcoming events to keep in mind:

➤ **Next Bendigo East Hop –**

- **Saturday February 20th @ 8 pm at Bendigo East Prog. Hall Lansell St. Bendigo East.**

Admission: Members \$5 Non-members \$8 and Children under 16 Free

A Plate of Supper to share is always appreciated and enjoyed

Please note that the music for this evening will be provided by the Gay Charmers as our wonderful band has a break.

Next Club Meeting is Wednesday 24th February 2016 7.30pm at Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub at the Strathdale Community Centre, Crook St. Strathdale.

- **Entertaining the old folks:** we have a few dates to put on our calendars this year; if you could make it along it would be very much appreciated by both the residents and your fellow club members. The oldies do love the music and watching the dancers, a lovely trip down memory lane for them.
- **Thursday March 17th Freedom @ 1:30 pm** (This is St Patrick's Day, wear something green.)
 - **Monday April 4th Bignold Park @2:00 pm**
 - **Friday May 20th St Laurence Crt Kangaroo Flat @ 1:30 pm**
 - **Thursday August 19th St Laurence Crt Kangaroo Flat @ 1:30pm**

Email:

- Please reply to club emails where possible.
- If you would like to receive your club newsletter via email please email me on flecks@hotmail.com so that I can add you to the list.

New members:

No new members this month ☹ if you know anyone who would love to join please let them know how great our club is!

Reports:

- **Australia Day Breakfast:** Our wonderful Emu Creek Bush Band was invited to play at the Kangaroo Flat Lions Clubs Australia Day breakfast, the band said there was a good crowd and the music was well received.

Birthday/Anniversary book:

Once again I would love you all to please let me know any special dates (birthdays, anniversaries) so that we can help you celebrate, thanks ☺

A very Special Anniversary for Tom and Margaret Dean as Marg said they will be married for 66 years on the **12th February**, this is absolutely wonderful. Congratulations from us all, we do hope you did something really special.

I would also like to apologise as I missed a very special celebration last month: **Geoff and Glenys Barker celebrated their 40th!! Wedding anniversary on the 2nd January**, I hope you had a magical day and wish you all the best for many more love filled years to come!

FEBRUARY

- 7th February- Geoff Barker and John Fordham



Wishing you all the best on your special day, may you enjoy your day surrounded by love and laughter!

Other notes:

- ❖ **Half price entry-** We are continuing our ½ price entry promotion for anyone who brings along a friend that has not attended our dances before. To help Esma at the door it would be greatly appreciated if you and your friend arrive at the door together to save confusion and ensure you both receive your half price entry, thanks in advance.

Until next time, I hope to see you all at our next dance and I will leave you with a quote:

"Look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder"