

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

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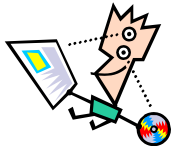


Coo-ee!

Issue Number 3, April 2015

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Newsletter contribution deadline is Tuesday 5th May before the Friday Mail-out.



Next Bendigo East Hop – Sat. 18th April 8pm at Bendigo East Prog. Hall Lansell St.
Admission. Members \$5 Non-members \$8 and Children under 16 Free
A Plate of Supper to share is always appreciated and enjoyed.

Memberships Subscriptions are Now Due. Family \$30, Single \$18, Children under 16 free.
Mary will be sending Membership Cards with this Newsletter for people that have already paid.



Next General Meeting 22nd April 7.30pm at Strathdale Community Centre
Crook St Strathdale.

If Mary sends an email to ask if people can come to the meeting please answer yes or no either way.



Email. Please reply to Club emails!



Birthdays April

Michael Treacy 1st, John McQueen 12th, Gerald Kavanagh 17th, Kevin Long 19th, Carol Cox 19th, Julie Manypenny 23rd, Margaret Dean 25th. Phew, that's a big month, Congratulations to everybody.



Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Beverley & Alan Filbey, celebrating their 22nd anniversary on April 3rd.



Reports from the March General Meeting.

1. Dianne to repeat 'half price entry' advertisement for our April Dance.
2. The June Dance will have a Masquerade Theme.
3. The July Birthday Dance will be an Anzac Theme.

TSDAV functions coming up: - The **TSDAV** conducts a series of monthly dance workshops, under the name of - "**Dancing at the 11th Hour**" and continues for this year. Dates are the **1st Sunday of the Month:** - the next being **3rd May** at the Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall cnr Gore & Leicester Sts Fitzroy 2.00-5.00 pm. Enquiries Norm Ellis 9888 5332 or <http://tsdav.vicnet.net.au/>

Retirement Village Dance Displays

Bignold Park, Murphy Street **29th Apr.**
2.00pm

St Laurence Court, Wesley Street, Kangaroo
Flat **8th May** 1.30pm

Freedom Aged Care, Condon Street **27th**
May 1.30pm

Stella Anderson, Gibson Street **1st**
Jul. 1.30pm

St Laurence Court, Wesley Street, Kang.
Flat **14th Aug.** 1.30pm

Golden Oaks, Stoneham Street **23rd**
Oct. 1.30pm

Perhaps some more of our members will note several of these dates in their diaries!!! **BECAUSE (Margaret reports)** - A small number of dancers recently visited several Aged Care Homes: - 27th March Golden Oaks Nursing Home & 1st April Strathaven. On both occasions there were only 3 couples present but the residents still enjoyed the music & dancing display. We urgently need a few more club members to join us - the residents of the Homes really enjoy listening to the old-time music & watching the dances so many of them used to do in days gone by. Please give some thought to joining the group once or twice.

Report of the last dance – Doug Pearse

At this dance we were celebrating St Patrick's night and a lot of the patrons wore something green and Chris decorated the hall to give it a real Irish feel.

Unfortunately low numbers again, Carol the MC adjusted the program a number of times as there were some patrons who were not familiar with many of the dances we would normally have. Sometime before supper there were enough couples for 2 longways sets.

Thanks must go to Carol for getting through the night, she did a great job and also thanks to the band that played so well and managed the program changes including playing many Irish tunes to set the night off. A great supper and night was had by all.

We look forward to our next dance on April 18th and don't forget to come and bring a friend.

Next You Tube dance filming for our club website 1pm for Saturday at Strathfieldsaye Community Church Hall, Wellington Street, Strathfieldsaye. This is the main road through Strathfieldsaye. It is a red brick Church and is almost opposite the Supermarket on the left. Turn right in at the Church and park in the large carpark at the back. If you are coming from the other side of Bendigo, along Tannery Lane, turn right into Wellington Street, you will pass a carwash and a child-care centre on the left. The church is just past there on the right. Filming starts at 1pm with a break mid-afternoon for refreshments and finishing before 5pm.

The weekend of our April dance was chosen so that visiting dancers from Melbourne might like to stay on and participate. Billeting is likely to be required and this is being sorted out at the time of going to print. The Sedgwick Hall is not available on Saturday afternoon of April 18th which is why the Strath Church venue has been substituted.

The list remains extensive, but it is only planned to film the dances twice through at the most, many are very simple. The dances, not in any priority include:-

Adelaide Race Day, Herr Schmidt, Canadian Four Step (Ron McNally's), Canadian Three Step with galop, north coast NSW, Doudlebleska Polka, Nine Pins Quadrille, Flying Pieman, Soldier's Joy adaption of American version by Norm Ellis, Pop Goes the Weasel, Willow Tree, Highland Reel, Stockyards, Tempest, La Tempete, Pop Goes the Weasel, La Russe Quadrille, Siege of Ennis, Nine Pins Quadrille, Walls of Limerick, Flying Pieman, Double Chain Quadrille, Willow Tree, Sir Roger de Coverley with Serpentine figure. (6 or more couples)

Sunday filming Sedgwick Hall from 10.30 am

The dances here are more advanced for the remaining experienced dancers, only four couples required for most, but with a few more for Margaret's Waltz.

Scottish Foursome Reel, Progressive Highland Fling Schottische, Eightsome Reel, Soldier's Joy Scottish version, Liverpool Plains Waltz Cotillion, Taradale Club Quadrille, Guaracha Country Dance, Galop Quadrille 2 versions, Galopade Quadrille, Margaret's Waltz

Some of our own members will be appreciated to be present to help swell numbers for the filming project.

Grant Applications

The Regency period of Early Dances in Australia proposed recording and the Wedderburn Oldtimers proposed double CD were respectively reported in the February newsletter. I'm pleased to say that our grant applications were successfully lodged in time (roughly end of

March) to the Greater City of Bendigo (the Regency) and Fosterville Gold Mine (the Oldtimers). We should hear by the end of May as to whether we have been successful or not.

The application to the Greater City of Bendigo was one of the most difficult I've ever encountered and in fact if it wasn't for Carol Rowe's expertise on the matter, there would have been a number of donkey entries from myself, and Mary probably feels the same. Our thanks to Carol for her involvement and patience on this one.

The Fosterville application was a breeze in comparison and in this case Dianne helped us put it together; a walkover compared to the other, but of course, we don't necessarily hold our hopes up in either. Rohan Phillips of Arts Bendigo checked our final Regency application out, thought it was good and that we had a reasonable chance. Keeping fingers crossed on both. The Good news is that word has just come through from President Harry Gardner of the VFMC that at last night's Committee meeting it was voted to pay up to \$500 to cover the recording in Melbourne of the Scottish Component of the Regency project. This is really appreciated.

National Folk Festival Easter 2015. Overall it was very good and Director Pam Merrigan has worked hard in the last 2 or 3 years to get it back up and running well after all the debacle and difficulties after Canberra introduced OHS regulations with Security, baggage checks and so on that cost-wise nearly brought the NFF to its knees. Such is modern life today.

Stuart Simms, Ron McFarlane, Greg O'Leary, Roland Clarke and myself had been successful in chosen to lead music for the step dance display and workshop tunes for Heather Clarke's 'Shearers' Shuffle'. Step dancing was a major component in the Australian tradition up until the time of the First World War, after which the wearing of clogs in work situations was viewed as being 'poor' and therefore quickly discarded. Our tradition disappeared overnight. Prior to that, stepdance challenges and displays were held at country dances and balls everywhere and at the local pub special competitions were arranged for the men to strut their stuff and out do their rivals as well as the musicians, with sashes and quite a number of quids as prizes. Some of the men had their own special door they carried with them on horseback so as to rattle out the rhythm in their clogs when performing. It wasn't limited to the men, as many women also participated. Margaret Winnett demonstrated a beautiful round of the original Australian stepdance known as 'The Milkmaid's Waltz'. There were a number of Australian themed stepdances such as the 'Melbourne Clog', Geelong Clog, Brisbane Clog and the 'Sydney Flash'.

Heather, Margaret and a group of girls also demonstrated the Irish Jig, the Highland Fling, Sailor's Hornpipe, Clog Waltz and Clog Hornpipe. In the Sailor's Hornpipe Heather's two daughters Marie-Rose and Isabella and son Roland each took a turn at part of the routine, with different variations, Roland actually playing the tune on the fiddle while dancing. Isabella's section had an almost Charleston step in it.

Heather pointed out the stepdance was once the realm of the common people, but started to wane once the professionals took it up for more advanced competition displays.

The sessions in the bar for Stuart and Ron had been very good in comparison to recent years and the numbers that joined in on all instruments and singing was truly amazing on the final night.

Ted Egan's presentation on the Anzacs was absolutely wonderful as was Jason and Chloe Roweth's, and which the horror of that awful war was really brought to the fore in their various songs highlighting with original film footage to accompany.

'Coo-ee, Songs of the Anzacs double CD'

All overdubs and fine tuning of tracks have been completed since just before Easter and at the time of writing the final mix-down is proceeding. I have not been well since the end of February, and both the compilation of this CD, as well as my commitments at the National Folk Festival have been an absolute ordeal, however I'm starting to improve now. I can't really say I enjoyed my time away at the National this year. Hans Meinig has also had his problems with a return of migraines and some ill health over the Easter period. However we are both getting together this weekend for the final checking of all tracks and artwork and the master will be delivered to Melbourne on Monday in time for preparation, pressing and the launch on Anzac Eve at the Capital Theatre at 7.30pm April 24th. My understanding is that some seats are still available, the concert is free, but you must book. Marg Dean has tickets for the Dancers performing on the night; you can collect yours from her at the next dance on the 18th April.

Golden Square Swimming Pool Celebratory Dance March 28th

This went really well in my opinion, several families and younger people attending and having an absolute ball. We were able to publicise our own dances and hand out pamphlets with dates, so keeping fingers crossed a few continue along to our functions. Again I was not well, and at one stage thought I'd have to leave and go home. Dust from the floor was a problem until Chris Beggs ably helped with a big sweep up and it was the dust that set my coughing and dry reaching off*.

Stuart Simms was a great help in coming down and supporting us on piano and despite being four members short in the band who had other prior commitments, we starred.

*My Health, many have voiced concern, as has also happened in the past sometimes on previous Easters with the onset of cold weather and my hacking cough. I have worked with all sorts of insidious chemicals (Formalin, Pyridine, fuming acids, various organics) in my working life, including white asbestos powder for filtrations, lagging of condensers and so on.

However I've had this complaint all my life. It is a family thing, my biological great grandfather immigrated from Wales for a better climate, he handed down the condition to all of us, my biological mother had it, my three sisters and brother, my two nieces but Tessa in particular has the same hacking cough as mine following a cold. It is said that if you still have this type a cough a week, and weeks after, a cold, that it is a form of Asthma. I have checked with my doctor who said it's not quite that, he drew diagrams to show the difference, and said it's 'sensitised

breathing', for which he prescribed me a dry powder inhaler which I use only when the condition appears, not necessary other times. He then got me to do a breathing test and was amazed after the above mentioned problem, how strong and good my breathing was. Well, whether being a whistle or mouth organ player helps, or using circular breathing in blow pipe work in Chemistry, I wouldn't know, but might have been a help.

Anyway concerns have also been expressed I may have sleep-apnoea, Well my track record varies, sometimes I know well my snoring is bad, really bad, other times after 10 minutes it stops. Stuart to his amazement found I barely snored at all during the recent stay at Canberra.

One other thing I can tell you, is that when my voice was disappearing after the extensive period of 'acoustic' calling during the You Tube filming a couple of years back, I was referred to a specialist Mr Haun, to check out my voice box (turned out it had been bruised, not nodules or cancer). He couldn't get the camera down my left nostril and asked if I'd ever had a broken nose. No I hadn't. So it turns out this nostril is restricted by a lot of cartilage and sets up a drip, a cause of 'Catarrh' which I have and contributes to my condition when I get a cold.

I am booked in with another specialist next week to ultimately check out on the possibility of sleep-apnoea, but breathing tests again. I don't expect anything really to be discovered that I don't already know, as I said, have had it all my life, just ask my family. Peter.

NB the doctor recommended 'Comvita' lozenges made with Manuka Honey to ease the throat tickle and cause of coughing. It is expensive, \$21 and only found in the Health Shop (Fountains) in Killian's Walk. I mention it because he said other lozenges and cough lollies, particularly those with Menthol are not good as they dry out you throat. Anyone with similar problems to me or with Laryngitis would find these a real help.

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser Monday 25th June 1827.

WALTZING IN GERMANY. A ball is always a pleasant sight, if conducted with propriety and decorum; it is one which always gives a reflected pleasure to a middle-aged mind, not the less sweet because somewhat sobered by the knowledge of the incredible swiftness with which the spring time of life hurries by. It seems but yesterday to most men of my age and profession, that we could journey twenty miles to an assembly, dance the short night away, and back to the early muster of the troops; but twenty years have flown by with us, with all, since that yesterday; yet I hope we are none of us so churlish grown as to dislike an occasional ball, if it was only to see lamps shining over fair women and brave men," mid hearts beating happily. But this ball had the charm of novelty, ... a German assembly, a circle of waltzers. I bear testimony, from attentive observation on this evening, to the extreme propriety mid decorum with which the Germans dance this their national figure. I take the dance to be one of very great antiquity, as great, perhaps, as the very commencement of men and women joining in the dance together. The sacred dance of the East was entirely confined to the services 'of the temple,' and mingled with

their idolatrous rites, and is undoubtedly of the highest origin; but this I take to believe genuine offspring of the ancient German camps and settlements, where, before their huts, youth and damsel clasped each other, and moved in rude circlings to sound and song. The waltz, however, transplanted, becomes another thing, and is no longer the German dance. In Spain, for example, the dark beauties of the south transfuse into all the warmth of their climate, and all the voluptuousness of their natures. In England, again, I have noticed, from causes which it would not be difficult to trace, the waltz assumes a character -either of great awkwardness and painful constraint, or of a bold, unblushing indecency, braving all censure. Here it was not so; in points like these we are all creatures of custom ; and probably to the eye of the unaccustomed German, many parts of our old country dances may have appeared to have improprieties greater than his own. To him the waltz is customary and innocent; to us, at home in England, it neither is nor ought to be regarded as innocent, and will, I trust, never gain established favour. I have only spoken thus because the Germans are taunted with their passion for this dance, as if it stained and demoralized their whole country. I observed that such a thing as a lounge, or an insipid, who will not join in the dance, is not tolerated among them; for, in the **cotillion** part, a couple break out from the large circle, and setting to any bystander, he is led off to a waltz movement, before he has time to ungird his sword. Again, they have a custom, in parts, of taking each, from the assembled circle, the lady or gentleman of their choice, for one tour of waltzing, quitting for the time their actual partner ;- a most pleasant privilege. I was exceedingly interested; the girls appeared to me to have great simplicity and frankness of manner; and there seemed an absence of all encumbering vanities in their dress. The music of the waltz has turns and cadences of a character most soft, most sweet; and where two hearts beat with a strong youth, full attachment towards each other, may certainly minister delightfully, and not without danger, to the silent language of the eye. I thought of all this as I looked on the cheerfully innocent smiles all around me, and remembered that a few years ago the gallant youth of Germany could only snatch these pleasures as they were hurried about, under one banner or another, to scenes of combat and death. I have dwelt too long on this, but the young and their pleasures are dear to me; moreover, such a picture belongs essentially to the aspect of German society. ...Ibid.

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser Saturday 6th April 1833

New Dance.-We quote the following from the grave pages of the Morning Chronicle. Something of the kind was wanting. The men have got their new constitution-why not the ladies their new dance?

"At the festivities last week at Gunton Park, the seat of Lord Suffield, a new dance was introduced, after quadrilles, waltzes, gallopades, and reels, and which far eclipsed them all. It bears the old name of cotillon, but is totally new and unequalled in spirit and effect. It begins by some six or eight couples waltzing; a chair is suddenly introduced into the centre, in which the first gentleman seats his partner. He then leads up and presents each of the other gentlemen in succession. If the lady rejects, the discarded retire behind the chair; but when the right man

arrives, she springs up, the tone and accent of the music are accelerated, and off she waltzes with the elected--the rest seize their partners, and the circle is continued. All in turn go through the process. Three chairs are then placed. A lady (in succession) is seated between two bearers [query bearers], who importunately solicit her reluctant regard till at length she gives herself to one and waltzing is resumed. A gentleman is then seated in a centre chair, hoodwinked, and a lady takes the place on each side. In this perplexity of choice, the Tantalus of the mirth remains; till by a sudden resolution he decides for right or left, uncovers his eyes, and waltzes away with the chance-directed partner, followed as before by the rest. The chairs are now placed triangularly dos & dos, and three ladies are thus seated. The youths pace round them in a circle, till each of the fair one throws her handkerchief, and away they again whirl. The men then appear to deliver to each, but to one alone is given, a ring; and the dance concludes by the ladies passing hand and hand through arches made by the extended arms of the gentlemen; and each seizes his partner, and once more swings round the circle."

Editor's Note, this is interesting, the very year it appeared as a 'party game' and quite different from the older French Cotillons consisting of a common chorus (dance routine) with about nine different verses interspersed between the choruses. The Waltz Cotillion of the 1840s, which is really a single figure 'Waltz Quadrille', is thought to have been derived from one of the variants of the Cotillion party game. The latter could go on for hours at a ball.

Cairns Post 22nd August 1928 Railway Band Old Time Dance.

The Railway Band is holding an old time dance in the Oddfellows on Saturday night, and lovers there are promised a delightful entertainment. A start will be made at 8 p.m. sharp, and patrons are advised to be at the hall at that hour. Quadrilles, lancers, cotillions and Alberts will be included in the programme, and music will be provided by the band. The Band's orchestra will also render dance music. Several Old Time chocolate waltzes have been arranged, and these should attract keen competition.

Townsville Daily Bulletin Tues. 5th Jan.1931

Ayr Notes – Ayr. The Scottish community, who by the way usually put up a sort of sleepless endurance test at the turn of the year, foregathered in the Caledonian Hall on New Year's Eve to spend the time in Old Time Dancing, and, judging by the attendance, the function was a very popular one. After the convolutions of 'Strip the Willow.' and other tortuous dances, one would have expected to see many worn and weary faces, but the sturdy Scots appeared on New Year's Day as fresh as ever.

Townsville Daily Bulletin Wed. 29th May 1935 PALAIS ROYAL OLD TIME DANCING

At the Palais Royal tonight (Wednesday), the usual grand old time dance will be held. The popularity of this delightful dancing rendezvous is evidenced by the large crowd and ever increasing number of patrons. On to night's programme are all the popular old time dances, including the Boston Two Step and the Oxford Waltz. The very best of old time dance music by Jack Polini and his ever popular Palais Royal Orchestra, combined with the specially prepared dance floor will go to make this night one of outstanding enjoyment for every-one. Jazz patrons are asked to note the Grand Carnival Jazz night on Friday next.
