

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

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Coo-ee!



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Newsletter contribution deadline is Tuesday 9th December before the Friday Mail-out.



Next Bendigo East Hop – Saturday 15th November 8pm at Bendigo East Prog. Hall Lansell St. There will be some Scottish themed dances and music on the November programme (NOTE, there is a chance the venue will be changing in the new year owing to the floor at BE becoming unsuitable and dancing not enjoyable over the last 3 or 4 months. Floor texture has been like treacle).

Admission. Members \$5 Non-members \$8 and Children under 16 Free A Plate of Supper to share is always appreciated and enjoyed.



Next General Meeting Wednesday November 26th 7.30pm

Club General Meetings are now held at a **NEW VENUE**. From October the Bendigo Neighbourhood House moved office to the Strathdale Community Hall in Crook St but owing to its small size the meeting venue is meant to be Kennington Play Group Centre and is at the opposite end of Crook St, go past the Kennington Pre School on the left then it is the Kennington Play Group turn in at the car park and you are there. If you are coming from Bendigo via Condon St turn left into Crook St and then right into the car park. Having said that, there is an issue to be resolved with the car park at this time of going to print it is still uncertain. The last meeting had to be moved to the **foyer** of the **Strathdale Community Centre**, the large hall on the right further down Crook St, almost to McIvor Rd. We could be using the same venue for the next meeting as the Bendigo Council have not sorted out the car park problem. We'll keep you posted as best we can.

November Birthdays Ron McFarlane 1st, Morrie Gierisch 7th. Gee, only two, but what a great combination, a very Happy Birthday to the Happy Charmers. (Notice the absence of the pianist, but you can never trust the timing can you?)

Reports from the October General Meeting

1 The club is considering changing the venue for next year's dancing as the floor at Bendigo East has become tacky, intolerable and awful to dance on. Our concerns have been brought to the notice of the



management of the hall, but to no avail. It seems the floor is being cleaned differently and it is difficult for us to treat it in a way that would bring it up to a reasonable yet safe surface. Whilst we managed this a few months ago, one of the girls in the gymnast group slipped and injured her wrist the following day. Mary had to go in and wash the floor.

The problem is that as dancing has gone out of vogue overall, many public halls have become white elephants and to survive they have been converted to multi-purpose community centres where other activities more regularly take place such as karate, netball, callisthenics. To suit these clients an epoxy floor surface which is 'slow' has often replaced the traditional dance floor bare boards that are treated once with linseed oil/kerosene mix and from there on with a small application of floor fast or diesel and a light polish. This maintains a suitable 'fast' floor in which dancers can glide, yet not so fast as to be dangerous.

The Spring Gully Hall which has remained a main ballroom, old time and new vogue social dance venue is able to maintain a good floor and has signs up warning other hall users the floor may be slippery as it is used for dancing. This appears not to be an option at Bendigo East and other users leave masking tape borders on the floor which our own dancers have to remove just as our dance is about to commence. This in itself is an OHS issue. Spring Gully Hall is not an option for us unless the club is prepared to move back to a Friday night dance.

Other venues being considered include St Andrews Hall, Mandurang Hall, and Sedgwick Hall. Whilst in many ways Sedgwick as we know is very suitable as a dance venue, a central city venue is more accessible for those from all around, some come from Kyabram at the other side of the globe.

There may be other suitable venues in Central Bendigo, I don't know if Kell Pell hall still operates in Barnard St. If anybody has any ideas please forward them through. Preferably need a hall with a good wooden (not estapoled) floor, a stage and piano in playable condition.

The committee is keeping an open mind and will consider all the possibilities and weigh up the pros and cons. Hopefully an announcement can be made in the December newsletter, if not, early in the New Year.

2 **Rankin's Catering** has been booked for our **Christmas Party** on Sat. 13th Dec. at the Sedgwick Hall and the price has been set at \$27 a head.

Christmas Party Menu. These are the choices made at the last meeting.

MAIN choice of 2 meats. Lamb and Pork - Potatoes in foil or roasted all served with gravy and condiments (Gravy served in Jug) - Crusty Bread basket - Peas, carrots, pumpkin and or Broccoli.

SALADS. Traditional Coleslaw, Garden Green, Greek Salad.

DESSERT. Choice of 3. Classic Pavlova, Fresh Fruit Salad and Christmas Pudding with cream and custard served separately in jugs.

3 The club donated a full set of **CDs to the Bendigo Historical Society** for its archives and for use as backing in historical projects as was successfully achieved in the Centenary of the Hustler's Mine Disaster DVD. The BHS was extremely grateful for our gift.

General Reports

1 The planning for the special **Australia Day Concert** at Goornong on January 24th from 7pm is proceeding well, it is likely to be packed out, it might be advisable to throw a fold up chair in the boot of the car just in case. BDMC and BHS are also supporting the Goornong concert with assistance in bring a plate of supper and helping to clean up afterwards. The Wedderburn Oldtimers will also be performing as well as of course Emu Creek and will be supported by singers from the Bendigo Historical Society.

The **Commemorative Centenary of the Anzacs CD** 'For Auld Lang Syne Australia Will Be There' partly recorded live at the Goornong Concert on January 24th, will be launched on **Sunday April 26th from 2 till 4.30pm at the RSL Club at Havilah Road** with a **special concert** by Emu Creek and some of the artists on the recording. There will be a door charge to help raise the \$4,000 cost of the CD for the Bendigo Historical Society, should the grant not be forthcoming. The RSL are providing the function room gratis.

2 The **filming of Bush Dances** on Sat. October 24th for our You Tube footage linked to our website went really well. Our thanks go to Matt Harriage for co-ordinating the young folk from Melbourne, the Russell family from Kyabram, Aaron and Nita from Axedale and club members that assisted. Thanks also to the club members that made such lovely sandwiches for lunch and afternoon tea. Dances filmed included Haymaker's Jig and Sir Roger de Coverley, Dashing White Sergeant, Virginia Reel, Waltz Country Dance, Circassian Circle in three variations, Waves of Tory and the Circle Waltz. It is likely a follow up session will be organised around May next year to complete the series. There were several Germans amongst the young people who had never danced and we were all entertained.

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 **7th December** 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 Report

If you are interested in helping, your support would be very welcome and appreciated, please contact Margaret Dean 5439 6246 or Julie Manypenny 5439 6317 for details.

Friday 14th November - St Laurence Court Kangaroo Flat. 1.30-2.30pm

Tuesday 18th November St Kilian's special Christmas Luncheon and entertainment for **the disabled**. This function is limited to band members and those regular dancers that perform around the homes. Any wishing to help must let Julie, Margaret or I know NOW. The band will start playing at 11am to provide entertainment as people arrive and then a set will be danced by our members just before lunch if possible, otherwise after lunch. It is likely to wind up about 1.30pm

Maldon Folk Festival

The **Friday night dance** old-time bush dance with the 'Wedderburn Charming Emus' went really well with a good crowd, we even managed to do the Alberts and it was amazing how many novices joined in and simply followed the call and lead dancers (no walking or talking through by yours truly) and most even attempted the mazurka in both waltz figures and obviously had fun doing so. Likewise the progressive Barn Dance was enjoyed by all and they seem to really like the novelty (Ron McNally's) where you have a round changing to every second person, then to every third, then back to one, but men and women changing sides. It finished of course with 'one more for practise' in the normal way with the band 'swinging' the music.

There was a good mix of age groups from young to old and thanks to our supporters from the dance club who help assembled sets and acted as lead couple in both these and the couple dances. This made it a success.

The **Sunday Bush Concert** was up to its usual high standard (except for the Can Can) with a tremendous variety of artists. Those that provided items included Ray Mulligan, Pearse O'Prey, Dave de Hugard, Joan and Ray Mundy, Geoffrey Graham, Tom Walsh, Dennis Walsh and Maggie Somerville. The band played brackets in between these, both as combined band and as Emu Creek and Gay Charmers respectively. Alida sang Daar Bij Die Molen (The Windmill is Turning or Over There by the Windmill) in Dutch, Margaret played Morton

Bay and For Ireland I'd Not Tell Her Name, Peter and Margaret the 'Drover's Dream', Peter sang 'Shining On the Cookhouse Door', Morrie played Grandfather's Clock, the Spanish Waltz and One Hundred Pipers on the old revered Mezon Grand Organ button accordion and Paul spun a Scottish yarn.

Mary's Operation

They say things happen for a reason, not sure what this was for but I think most of you know that Mary fell over on the tram lines at the Bendigo Fountain back in August and that her face looked like she had been a victim of a home invasion. She also did a bit of damage to her left shoulder at the same time.

Some Physio, several X-Ray's, 3 Ultrasounds an MRI and 2 Cortisone injections later the Surgeon decided to operate. This was a very quick decision made on Bendigo Cup Day, 2 days before the operation on Friday 31st October.

Mary stayed in St John of God Hospital for 2 days over the weekend. Said it was wonderful service, staff were lovely. They were short of beds but they found a bed on the Midwifery Floor for her and the room being 1 door from the delivery room she said this was her last chance. But no luck she still came home without a baby. She is recovering well at home but no driving the car for 6 weeks that is going to hurt.

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Bendigo East Dates. 2015

DANCES START 8PM. NO DANCE JAN, DEC.

Saturday February 21 st	Bendigo East Hall	Emu Creek (Club Band)
Saturday March 21 st	Bendigo East Hall	Emu Creek (Club Band)
Saturday April 18 th	Bendigo East Hall	Emu Creek (Club Band)
Saturday May 16 th	Bendigo East Hall	Emu Creek (Club Band)
Saturday June 20 th	Bendigo East Hall	Emu Creek (Club Band)

“CLUB BIRTHDAY”

Saturday July 18th	Bendigo East Hall	The Gay Charmers
Saturday August 15 th	Bendigo East Hall	Emu Creek (Club Band)

“DINKI DI OLD TIME BALL” at the Eaglehawk Town Hall

Saturday 19th September at 7pm with,

The Gay Charmers & Emu Creek (Club Band)

An “After the Ball Picnic” in the Whipstick Forest next day from 11am.

Saturday October 17 th	Bendigo East Hall	Emu Creek (Club Band)
Saturday November 21 st	Bendigo East Hall	Emu Creek (Club Band)



Bush Dance & Old Time Dance References via National Library of Australia's Trove & Digitised Newspapers

Feb 9th 1822 Sydney Gazette - WALTZING.

The following description of waltzing is in no very good taste, but there is much truth in it and some humour: and, perhaps, the coarseness of the language is after all the most useful mode of discountenancing this very 'un-English' amusement: "As many of the retired matrons of this city unskilled in 'gestic lore' are doubtless ignorant of the movements and figures of this modest exhibition. I will endeavour to give some account of it, in order that they may learn what odd capers their daughters sometimes cut, when from under their guardian wings. On a signal being given by the music the gentleman seizes the lady round the waist; the lady scorning to be outdone in courtesy, very politely takes the gentleman round the neck, with one arm resting against his shoulder to prevent encroachments. Away then they go, about and about. About what, Sir? 'About the room Madam, to be sure.' The whole company of the dance consists in turning round and round the room in a certain measured step; and it is truly astonishing that this continued revolution does not set all their heads swimming like a top. But I have been positively assured that it only occasions a gentle sensation which is marvellously agreeable. In the course of this circumrevolution, the dancers in order to give the charm of novelty are continually changing their relative situations. Now the gentleman, meaning no harm in the world I assure you Madam, carelessly flings his arm about the lady's neck, with an air of celestial impudence; and upon the lady, meaning as little harm as the gentleman, takes him round the waist. With most ingenious modest languishment, to the great delight of numerous spectators and amateurs who generally form a thing as the men do about a pair of Amazons pulling caps, or a couple of fighting mastiffs. After continuing the divine interchange of hands, arms, etc. for half an hour or so, the lady begins to tire, and with "eyes up- raised" in most bewitching languor, petitions her partner for a little support. It is always given without hesitation. The lady leans gently on his shoulder; their arms entwine in a thousand seducing mischievous curves - don't be alarmed Madam - closer and closer they approach each other and in conclusion the parties being overcome with ecstatic fatigue, the lady seems almost sinking into the gentleman's arms, and then - "Well Sir what then?" "Lord Madam, how should I know?" "-Extract from the Works of Geoffrey Crayens in the Somerset House Miscellany.

Colonial Times (Hobart, Tas.: 1828-1857 Friday 17th July 1829, p4 Brazilian Country Dance

The young Queen arrived at 7 o'clock, with her Suite in two carriages and four ; her Majesty was attended by the Spanish Marquises and Marchionesses: the Queen was received on alighting from her carriage by the Duke and Duchess of Clarence who conducted her Majesty to the Ball-room; the Band played a regimental march (Scipio in Handel).

The Quadrille Band commenced playing; sets of Quadrilles which were arranged by Mr. Kendon, the young Queen's dancing master. Her Majesty danced with the sons of Foreign Ambassadors in the order in which they took in the English Court; first set Prince Lieven, next set Prince Poignac, and the third set with Count Calenzo, the son of the Marquis De Parmeela. Some of the visitors brought as many as seven children; the band played the celebrated march composed for Bonaparte's Coronation, in very superior style. Quadrilles were danced until just previous to the company proceeding to supper, when a country dance was called for (the "Brazilian," in honor of the Queen), which was led off by the young Queen and Master Arthur Wood, son of Colonel Wood. The young Queen seemed to enjoy the change and dances remarkably well; at half past ten the dancing ceased, and the Company were led into the old dining room, where a very elegant supper was laid out for them. The young Queen departed at 11 o'clock, her Majesty was conducted to the carriage by the Duke of Clarence:

The Argus (Melbourne Vic.) Wednesday 11 December 1850

“Cape Horn, its passage around” “We used to lie on our bunks and call off cotillions for them to dance – first tour forward balance, turn partners – all hands round! great grand right and left – promenade to your seats.

Townsville Daily Bulletin Fri. 21st Sept. 1928 Winton Notes

At very short notice an old time dance was held in the Star Theatre on Thursday night, in aid of the Ambulance. The attendance was rather limited, but those who were there had a glorious time, as they tripped the light fantastic in old fashioned waltzes, schottische, mazurka and polka, and wended their skilful way through the intricate mazes of the barn dance, alberts, and quadrilles, to the entrancing strains of the Black Cat Jazz band.

Cairns Post 25th Sept. 1928 Old-time Dance and Euchre,

A strictly Old Time dance and euchre tournament will be held in the Odd- fellows' Hall to-night (Tuesday) by the Railway Band, and lovers of old time dancing should not miss this occasion. All are promised a gay night. Novelty old time attractions will be provided, and the competitors in these dances should be very numerous. Several free chocolate dances will be held. For the euchre players everything will be arranged to make the night an enjoyable one. Refreshments will be provided. All the square dances will be held, and music will be provided by the band's orchestra and the band. Who is going to "Buy in?"

Examiner (Launceston Tas.) Sat. 29th Sept. 1928

Tonight, at the Mechanics', St. Joseph's Band will run another popular dance, including a fox-trot competition, spot fox-trot, and chocolate waltz. Mr. D. Armitage's orchestra will be in attendance. The ladies' committee will provide supper.

Cairns Post Wed. 24th July 1929 Trocadero Thursday Night.

Lovers of the old time dance will find themselves well catered for on Thursday night at the Trocadero. A novel competition will be held, in which there is a cash prize for the couple who can waltz the figure eight the fastest. Other amusing novelties include another "Complaints and Cute" novelty, and, also a "Sudden Death" card dance for a cash prize. -Dancers should not miss this night.

Cairns Post Sat. 4th April 1931

Tonight, the usual Saturday's night real Old Time dance will be held. The waltz, mazurka, schottische, barn dance, etc.,...together with all the old favorite sets, will be danced, with Mr. R. Jenkinson charge of the floor. The full dance orchestra of six players will supply the best of music. By special request another old time dance will be held Monday night.

The Examiner (Launceston Tas.) Friday 29th March 1935

The chairman reported that descendants of Governor Sorell had consented to lead the grand march. It was decided to bring a concertina player from Tullochgorum to provide music for the polkas and some of the other old time dances.