

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

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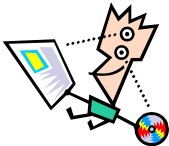


# Coo-ee!

Issue Number 1, January 2014

## *Executive*

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**Newsletter contribution deadline** is Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February before the Friday Mail-out.

**Next Bendigo East Hop** - Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> February 8pm at Bendigo East Prog. Hall Lansell St.

Admission is subject to revision at the February AGM meeting

*Members \$5 Non-members, \$7 Children under 16 Free*

*A Plate of Supper to share is always appreciated and enjoyed.*

**Memberships Subscriptions** due after possible revision at the AGM



**Annual General Meeting** – Is 5<sup>th</sup> February at Neighbourhood House 20 Neale St. 7.30pm.  
There will be voting on the Incorporations new Model Rules (Constitution) at the special meeting beforehand please come to have your say.

Likewise a warm welcome to the new executive and committee. We all look forward to a bobby dazzling year.



**Email.** Please all who receive messages relating to club business such as meeting attendance respond to the Secretary ASAP.



**Birthdays December** Heather Bell 6/12, Ken Austin & Alida Robinson 11/12, Ila Silk 13/12, Chris Beggs 18/12, Stuart Simms 21/12.

**January** Wilhelmina Iping 1/1, Mary Smith 10/1, Marg Hogan 15/1, Liz McFarlane 22/1, Jill Loorham 23/1, Elaine Martin 26/1, Wayne Blandford 28/1



**Wedding Anniversaries**

Congratulations to Heather and Aub Bell, 54 years on 23<sup>rd</sup> January



**A. / Reports**

1 Since the November Newsletter John McQueen has injured his foot and has spent weeks in hospital between Bendigo St John of God and Castlemaine hospital recuperating. We hope John will be back in fine form for the February Dance

**B. / General Reports!**

1 **November Dance Scots Night Out** A great time was had by all, some dressed with a touch of Scotch and the decorations (plaids) as with last time were great. Julie Pearse was extremely impressive with her highland dancing; one piece must have been difficult as it was to The Battle of the Somme which is in 9-8 time. The programme was mainly on social dances of Scottish derivation and the band did its best to play all Scottish tunes. Chris was MC and is presently recovering from a bout of shingles; we wish him all the best.

2 **Christmas Party.** What a great rollup on the night 61 people! It is one function that we seem to be able to keep going but then most people like going to Christmas Parties. It is a really good opportunity for everyone to catch up and have a good natter to other club members. The food was very good as always when Glen Rankin does the catering, but one person made quite a disparaging remark to the serving staff that “The roast onions had seen better days.” Mary Smith disagreed with that as she took home a plate of leftover roast vegies that were delicious. Mike Treacy did his usual good job as MC and kept the dancers busy. Don Manypeny caused a bit of a sensation with his showing of old videos of dances we had held years ago from 1989 on etc. Everyone was treated to the sight of either themselves or others and with newer members the oohing and aah’ing of “who is that - haven’t they changed!” Several people mentioned to Mary that they would like copies of the videos on DVD and that they would be happy to buy them.

3 **Nariel Folk Festival**

There was a massive crowd on the green for New Year’s Eve with 80% under 30. It was great to see so many young people, well behaved and having a hoot in both dancing and the bringing in of the New Year. The Old Time Dances at Cudgewa Hall went well, although numbers were down and everybody must be getting old, they were nearly all Cinderella dances whereas once they’d go till at least 1.30am and in the old days, to 2 or even 3.

4 **The Bendigo Historical Society** is to produce a DVD commemorating the centenary of the Hustler’s Reef Mining Disaster in May this year. As part of the production I’ve been asked to

provide some music and have combined with Glenda Hunter of the Wedderburn Oldtimers and Bruce Watson who recorded 'The Old Bush Dance' with Emu Creek and launched at one of our early Dinki Di Balls. We have selected and adapted a version of Don't Go Down In the Mine Dad by Alan Musgrove and his Harvest Moon Band and while we were at it we recorded a song about my grandmother's days at dances around Wychitella titled 'I'm Not a Toff, Just a Girl from the Bush' (See our Merry Country Dance Book for info on this, but it's a little risqué). We're also to record the Bindiis of Charlton, a 1950s parody to the 'Yellow Rose of Texas'. Bruce Watson, Glenda Hunter and 10 year old Mikayla McNeill from Wedderburn did a fantastic job of the mining song. Mikayla had just the voice for it, pleading for her dad not to go down the mine, 'she'd had an awful dream and dreams often come true!'

For information about the centenary in May refer to the Flyer at the end of the newsletter.

**5 National Folk Festival Heritage (Colonial) Ball.** The 'Wedderburn Charming Emus', alias Charming Wedderburn Emus' as you may know are playing for the ball at Canberra at Easter. It is Western Australia's year and so several WA versions of dances are on the programme. These include Veleta Waltz, Boston Two Step, Maxina, Pride of Erin and two 'club quadrilles' of 1910s vintage made up from favourite figures from the Alberts, Lancers, First Set and Waltz Cotillion. At Sedgwick over the last couple of weeks some of our dancers have been filmed by Don Manypenny doing these versions and Carol Rowe has placed them on You Tube to assist dancers from around Australia to preview them before the ball.

**6 TSDAV functions coming up:** - The **TSDAV** conducts a series of monthly dance workshops, under the name of - "**Dancing at the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour**" and continues for this year. Dates are the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month:** - the next being **2<sup>nd</sup> February** 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/>

**7 Merry Country Dance book.** The general text and articles have all been updated, corrections and additions to the dance descriptions is all that remains. There has been little response to requests sent via email.

### **8 Retirement Village Dance Displays**

Stella Anderson Friday Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. This was a pleasant afternoon and there were also some South East Asian guest aides who joined in with Tommy for a round of the Palais Glide and the Dashing White Sergeant, more a case of St Vitus than Twinkle Toes.

Further requests for displays that are being considered subject to numbers availability within our group are:-

CHUM HOUSE Cnr Chum and Maple St,  
Golden Square.  
Feb 21st, Friday  
March 6th, Thursday  
March 21st, Friday

VICTORIA HEIGHTS Victoria St  
Feb 22nd, Saturday  
March 22nd, Saturday  
April 5th, Saturday

More volunteers would be appreciated to participate in these displays and the residents are so appreciative. If you would like to be part of the team, contact Margaret Dean or Julie Manypenny.

Further long range dates: -  
**Strath Haven** Wednesday 7th May

**St Laurence Court Wesley Street**  
Kangaroo Flat  
Wednesday 16th April

Wednesday 13th August

Time for all venues - 1.30 - 2.30 pm



### **9 Australia Day**

Emu Creek valiantly played on, almost as the ship went down. Dorothy Jalland was the only dancer to attend and she recruited Don bravely attempting a Brown Jug Polka; but it seems to be even more difficult these days to entice dancers from the audience to participate. Two little girls of about 3 or 4 attempted a few steps including a pas de deux with a consequential topple. The smaller than usual crowd that attended seemed to really enjoy the music but it's rather bland just playing without the dancers and so it appears the band has to train up its singers for the future. It has become very difficult for the club to continue supporting the band on Australia day as membership ages and dancing on the asphalt road in the sun is understandably now out of the question. We desperately need a membership drive to entice new members a generation or two younger to join the fold.

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### **Refugee Benefit Fund Raising Bush Dance**

February 1<sup>st</sup> there is to be a Bush Dance with the celebrated Emu Creek Bush Band 7pm -11pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre Bingham's Rd Harcourt. It is being conducted by the Harcourt Uniting Church and Admission \$15 or Concession \$10. Supper, tea and coffee will be provided (no alcohol)

### **Vale Mary McGlashan**

Mary McGlashan passed away at Bupa on the evening 25th January 2014 aged 83 years. Mary had been a regular attendee at our dances until recent years when ill health intervened. She loved dancing and her tennis, our condolences to her family and sister Elma Gierisch. The funeral is arranged for Monday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am at William Farmers Memorial Chapel 151 McCrae St. after the service to the Kangaroo Flat Cemetery.

## Vale Bob Ballantine



You may recall mention in the last newsletter of the wonderful Bush Concert at Maldon Folk Festival and that whistle player extraordinaire Bob Ballantine played beautifully a Northumbrian Waltz, ‘Whittingham Green Lane’. Bob died peacefully at age 86, concluding a life of friendliness and musical inspiration to hundreds of session listeners and players at folk music festivals and clubs.

Many of his musician friends travelled from far and wide to attend his service at the Jehovah’s Kingdom Hall in Sebastopol on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>. Bob was one of nature’s gentleman and of extremely friendly and pleasant disposition. One thing he always looked forward too was playing at the session bars at the National Folk Festival and in the street with the ‘Rubber Band’ at places like St Arnaud Festival and Maldon Folk Festival; he particularly loved joining in sessions with the Gay Charmers. Surprisingly he shared Stuart’s passion for MacDonald’s and generally at Sebastopol. A number of us descended there after the service.

*From the family “Bob (Robert) was born in Simonburn, Northumberland UK. He joined the army at 14 under threat of being kicked out of school (his words). After serving in Africa (he knew Swahili) and the Middle East, he returned to the UK (he knew English) and harassed the prettiest Rose (actually Ivy) until she finally agreed to marry him in 1952. They had 3 children born in 3 different locations (why?) and after a £10 Pom passage to Adelaide, moved to New Zealand to have another son. They then journeyed to Tasmania, Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia before finally settling in Linton near Ballarat, but they didn’t find any more children after Linda, Paul and David. Bob was a recognised authority on Northumbrian Music and was (like his father Billy) a talented Piccolo, Flute, Tin Whistle player and Composer. While his father made an LP, Bob made a CD ... he just couldn’t work out how to play it!*

*He excelled at Darts, Football (the real version), Boxing, Rugby, Tug-of-War, Wood Chopping, Cricket and Chucking a Wobbly (oops... that’s not a sport is it?)*

*Bob built his own mud-brick home (actually Ivy made all the bricks) and loved to clean up the bush and hand-feed his native bird friends.*

*Throw in fossicking for gems, woodworking, and collecting things that may come in handy one day, and you can see Bob had a full and satisfying life. There’s so much more to his life... but Bob was a private man... fortunately his offspring are much more forthcoming! He was a good husband, a good father with high morals and a very strong faith that he loved to share with others. His hope for a better future was firm and all who knew him thanked him for all of the above. His parting words were always ‘Mind how you go!’*

Bob’s CD with Andy and James Rigby and Deanna Devers ‘Northumbria Down Under’ is a lovely compilation of tunes. Two of his father’s compositions that Bob loved playing were a Boston 2 Step called Westfield Cottage and Billy Ballantine’s reel, which used to get faster and faster. Bob also had some lovely waltzes such as Elsey’s Waltz and Rose of Allandale and he

also played music from other cultures such as a couple of South African/Rhodesian tunes including Sarie Marias (a traditional Afrikaans' folk song) and one of his own.

Gary Lovejoy formerly of Emu Creek BB has recorded and learnt most of Bob's tunes and Deanna Devers is able to transcribe them. There's a possibility of a booklet of Bob's music in the pipeline.

# HUSTLERS LOST MINERS CENTENARY

**HUSTLERS REEF RESERVE, HUSTLERS RD,  
BENDIGO**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

**MAY 3 - 4**

**10 AM**

▮ **PRESENTATIONS ON BENDIGO'S**

**WORST MINE DISASTER SATURDAY  
3RD MAY 2014**

***Presentations:***

**10 AM OPENING**

**10.30am *Hustlers Gold Mining Technology***

**11.30am *Hustlers Mine Disaster***

**1.30pm *Hustlers Mine Managers***

**2.30pm *Bendigo Goldfield Communities***

***Displays: 10am – 3pm***

***Great Extended Hustlers Reef Mining Co.***

**HUSTLERS LOST MINERS**

**MINE RESCUE & SAFETY THEN & NOW**

***Bendigo Natural Environment Then & Now***

***Guided Tours:***

***Hustlers Reef Reserve History Walk***

**11 – 11.20am, 1 – 1.20pm, 2 – 2.20pm**

**SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2014**

***Specimen Cottage Exhibit 9.30 – 11.30am***

**Mining memorabilia & artefacts from the Bendigo Historical Society collection at SPECIMEN COTTAGE, 180 Hargreaves St.**

***Crib at the Boundary Hotel 11.30am – 12.30***

**Cornish miner's lunch & Goldfields music  
2 MILROY ST. ENTRY TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR**

***Old Mortuary Exhibit 2 - 4pm***

**Photographs, memorabilia & medical INSTRUMENTS FROM THE BENDIGO HEALTH**

**Collection at Old Mortuary, Stewart St.**

**Supported By:**

**City of Greater Bendigo, Bendigo Historical Society, Hustlers Reef Reserve Advisory Committee, National Trust Victoria Heritage Festival, AIGS Bendigo**