

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

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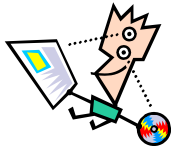


Coo-ee!

Issue Number 6, July 2015

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Newsletter contribution deadline is Tuesday 4th August before the Friday Mail-out.



Next Bendigo East Hop – Saturday July 18th 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.
This month we celebrate our birthday, the theme is Anzacs; come dressed in costume and join in the fun!

Memberships Subscriptions are now overdue; Family \$30 and Single \$18 **Membership cards** have been distributed. If you know of anyone who has forgotten to renew their memberships please give them a friendly reminder.



Next General Meeting is Wednesday 22nd July 7.30pm at the Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub in the Strathdale Community Centre Crook St. Strathdale. Mary will send an email asking people to come so please reply.



Email. Please reply to Club emails especially re the meetings.



Birthdays June: Dianne Pearse & Beverley Filbey 3rd, wishing you both a very happy day. If I have missed anyone please let me know.



Wedding Anniversaries We don't seem to have any for this month I hope I haven't missed anyone. I apologise if I have.

We have actually misplaced our birthday and anniversary book so we would greatly appreciate if you could either send through an email or text message to Elka (both contact information is at the top of the newsletter) with your name and birth date or any anniversaries so that we can help you celebrate. We will also have the book at the monthly dances. Many thanks.

VFMC WOOLSHED BALL IN MEMORY OF PETER ELLIS- The VFMC are making their **October ball Saturday 17th** a tribute to Peter Ellis and would like to extend an invitation to all your members to join us either as a dancer or musician or a caller. Should any member like to take up this invitation my number is 9762 1389.



Reports from the June General Meeting.



1 City of Bendigo Council Grant. We have accepted the grant and have the money sitting in the clubs bank account as we further research what needs to be done to complete the project and see if it is something that we can complete.

2 Half price entry? It has been decided that we will continue this promotion as we have had a few people take this offer up.

Bring a friend that has not attended a dance before and both get in for ½ price; please ensure that you introduce your new friend at the door to ensure that you both receive the discount as there has been some confusion at the door.

3. Dinki Di Posters. Dianne Pearse has some ready if anyone would like any to give out, ask her at the next dance. The **Monthly dance Flyers** are also ready to give out.

5 Dinki Di Ball- we have begun discussing plans for this years ball during our meeting, there has been discussion about offering people from out of town billets for the weekend. If you have space for anyone to stay at your home over this time could you please let us know so that we can offer the space to our out of town friends.

4 Dance report for the June dance. Numbers were a little bit down this month but the weather was a little bit chilly so that could have held a few people back from attending. It was our first dance without our much loved band leader Peter Elis, the band was led by Marg who did a terrific job filling such large shoes! Quite a few people came with their masks on as per the theme of the night, (they proved quite difficult to dance in though). The heater in the attached

room seemed to be a very popular hang out between dances. Our MC Chris did a good job. Everyone seemed to enjoyed their night.



DANCING AFTER PETER

A good size crowd attended the first dance without the guidance of our treasured Peter, he was greatly missed.

Marg Hogan worked very hard to pick up the leadership roll of the band in the tradition of Peter, and it was great to welcome back Garry Lovejoy playing his Concertina after being absent from the bands ranks for about 15 years.

An enjoyable nights dancing was topped off with a great supper and a cuppa.

Some new people to our dance did a great job of the lancers, considering they had not danced the lancers before.

The traditional dance style that Peter worked passionately on all of his life, lives on in his memory.

Kevin Long.

Retirement Village Dance Displays

We had no visits this month.

If you are interested in helping at these entertainment displays for the very appreciative elderly, please contact Margaret Dean 5439 6246 or Julie Manypenny 5447 3141 for details. It is now difficult to assemble even a minimum number for a set, so increased patronage for these events is urgently needed and very welcome.

New Members. We have no new members to report this month ☺

Tommy Dean Tommy underwent major surgery last month to have a faulty heart valve replaced. He came through the operation very well and after spending 1 week in Epworth Eastern Hospital he came back to Bendigo for rehab. at St John of God. He has continued to make good progress

- is now walking independently (no need to use a walker) and will be discharged on Friday 10th July.

There is still a long way to go before he can drive or even think about dancing but each day sees a little more improvement.

Both Tommy & I are very appreciated to all concerned for the cards & phone messages he has received. Our thanks to all. Margaret

We all wish Tommy a speedy recovery and look forward to his return to our dances.

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 **2nd August** 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/>

VALE -

Peter Nicolaus Ellis OAM (1946 - 2015)

The committee of the Victorian Folk Music Club are shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Peter Ellis just three weeks after his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Peter was a national treasure with his encyclopaedic knowledge of Australian social dance, its music and historical context.

Fortunately, Peter was a prolific author of books and music recordings, many of which were published by the VFMC, and most of which are still in print. The list includes the 3-volume "Collector's Choice", "Music Makes Me Smile" (edition 1, 1998 and expanded edition 2, 2015) both launched at the Nariel Creek Folk Festival, "The





Waltz, the Polka and all Kinds of Dance Music", "200 Dancing Years" (with Shirley Andrews as part of the bicentenary celebrations), "Quadrille Mania" (3 booklet and 6 CD set), "The Merry Country Dance", "Take Me Back To Bendigo". Alas, even with this prolific output, we will miss Peter's seemingly endless knowledge.

Awarded honorary Life Membership of the VFMC in 1986, Peter contributed to the club's activities as an MC, dance instructor, dance musician, conducted workshops on playing for dances, and when possible joined our regular music sessions.

Peter also founded the Bush Dance & Music Club of Bendigo, and has been primary MC and dance caller at the Nariel Creek Festival for many years. He played

with the

Wedderburn Oldtimers, was leader of the Emu Creek Bush Band, played with the Nariel Band and more recently played with the Gay Charmers. Primarily playing

concertina and button accordion, Peter also played the whistle, and on occasion was seen to play the fiddle, (his fiddle, had been bequeathed to him by the late

"Corry" (Mrs Agnes Corry)). Peter was greatly in demand at festivals (including the National) and dance events across Victoria and interstate. In all these roles he will be sorely missed.

The VFMC web site holds several of Peter's articles on the history of social dance and music in Australia, most of which have also been published in Trad & Now. The



Photo attached: Peter Ellis playing for dancers at the National Folk Festival 2015:-

National Library of Australia holds an extensive collection of Peter's collected material.

Steve Bullock for the VFMC Committee, with thanks to all those who helped provide details.

(Photos: Trevor Voake)

