

Three Sisters Social Group

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Committee

President: John Wilson - president@threesisterssocial.asn.au

Vice-president: Terence Preeo - vice-president@threesisterssocial.asn.au

Secretary: Larry Singer - secretary@threesisterssocial.asn.au

Treasurer: Larry Singer - treasurer@threesisterssocial.asn.au

Committee members: Timothy Corfield, Patrick Lee



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly **DINNER**

Wednesday 7.00pm 10th February 2021

Venue: Avalon Restaurant
18 Katoomba Street
Katoomba
Price: \$40.00 No BYO

Numbers limited to 30 persons.

Please send your booking to
bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au
by Sunday 7 February.

MONTHLY Luncheon

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 12.00

Venue: The Grandview Hotel
Great Western Highway
Wentworth Falls.
Menu: Will be a choice of
main course and Dessert
Price: \$ 29.50

Numbers limited to 30 persons

Please send your booking to
bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au
by Sunday 21 February.

From the President

Hello Members and Friends

Welcome to February everybody still things keep changing with restrictions for the Covid-19 Pandemic. When things will get back to normality who knows or the current situation could be the new normal. The vaccine rollout is supposed to commence this month let's just hope so.

The Three Sisters Social Group will continue with its normal activities as much as possible into the future.

As all would be aware there was no dinner in January but we had a very successful Luncheon on Australia Day at the Grandview Hotel Wentworth Falls undoubtedly the best luncheon since the onset of the Pandemic. Sixteen members and friends attended our best number for a long time it was a great Australia day Celebration, fabulous food and wine. Don't miss our next luncheon on Tuesday February 23rd please book early.

This month's dinner on Wednesday the 10th of February will be at the iconic Avalon Restaurant in Katoomba one of our favourite restaurants. Hope you can join us please remember to book.

The final decision on the 40th Annual Costume Ball and Disco has still not been made. We are waiting to see what restrictions will still

be in place in the next couple of weeks if any. Hopefully it will go ahead.

The Aids Memorials and trees at Medlow Bath Park are at crucial stage of preservation. The Medlow Bath Residents Association has received a small, very small, Community Assistance Grant from the Blue Mountains City Council to conduct remedial work on the park. The Three Sisters has been graciously asked by the MBRA to participate in this work. I'm sure that there are many members and friends who have connections with the work done to establish the memorial would like to participate or comment about the future of the park. I refer you to the article in this newsletter for more information about this worthwhile project.

The pandemic has certainly had an effect on membership renewal but if you wish to renew your membership you can still do so.

Soon we will announce a date for the AGM which has been postponed up till now.

Take care and stay safe my friends.

So Good bye for now.

Your president

John Wilson

Aids Memorial Preservation

The Blue Mountains Aids Memorial project was initiated in 1991 and the Medlow Bath Park Advisory Committee, including many Three Sisters members, planted 120 trees marked with small, ornamental naming plaques. The Medlow Bath Park was transformed from a somewhat forlorn and inhospitable area to a quiet, peaceful and contemplative space by the Committee of volunteers.

Over the years the Three Sisters Social Group have conducted annual memorials and working bees at the park.

It is now 2021, 30 years since the initiation of the project to provide a living memorial the lives of the 250 victims of Aids in the Blue Mountains. Needless to say, the ravages of time and nature have affected the memorial, particularly the plaques placed under the trees and, indeed, the trees themselves.

Many of the plaques and their plinths have been damaged and uprooted by the advancing years and lawn mowers. Some plaques are missing, although the Three Sisters committee have rescued a few. Other plaques are overgrown.

The Medlow Bath Park has been attacked by Armillaria root fungus which is affecting the trees in the park. Some of the memorial plantings have been infected and one has succumbed. It is likely that the fungus will spread throughout the park. The fungus is extremely difficult to control. Despite the BMCC investigating remedial action, the future of the Aids memorial trees is very uncertain.

It appears that we have arrived at juncture where decisions will have to be made about the future of the Aids memorial.

The Medlow Bath Residents Association has received a small, very small, Community Assistance Grant from the Blue Mountains City Council to conduct remedial work on the park. The MBRA has approached us to partner in this work

It now remains to be decided on what this work will entail with an understanding that the preservation of the memorial is of utmost importance to the fabric of the park and the story of those who succumbed and those who survived.

There appears to be a couple of options going forward.

One is to do nothing and allow the plaques to slowly devolve into the ground and succumb to the deprivations of lawn mowers and metal collectors.

The other is to collect the plaques with an aim to construct a sensitive, contemplative memorial space to house them, possibly near the main memorial.

This latter option will need to be longer term project due to funding and aesthetical considerations.

The first step, however, is to obtain Three Sisters members and other stakeholders' opinions, suggestions and recommendations as to the way forward. This, for some, is an emotional issue and we are conscious of need to achieve a sensitive solution to this important matter.

We will welcome your comments please send them to Terry Preeo, at

**Medlow Bath Park Aids Memorials
February 2021**



Top left to right
Overgrown plaque, Original
Plantings 1993, Empty
Plinth, Damaged Plinth,
Main Memorial.

vice-president@threesisterssocial.asn.au

If you prefer to have a more personal approach, as many people do, please send your contact details and Terry will be in touch.

Australia Day at the Grand View

The Social Spot



The Avalon

Wednesday
10 February
700 PM
18 Katoomba St
Katoomba



\$40

