

---

September 2022 - Newsletter

---

# Three Sisters Social Group

Box 7074 LEURA NSW 2780

[www.threesisterssocial.asn.au](http://www.threesisterssocial.asn.au)

[info@threesisterssocial.asn.au](mailto:info@threesisterssocial.asn.au)

[bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au](mailto:bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au)

## Committee

President: Terence Preeo - [president@threesisterssocial.asn.au](mailto:president@threesisterssocial.asn.au)

Vice-president: John Wilson - [vice-president@threesisterssocial.asn.au](mailto:vice-president@threesisterssocial.asn.au)

Secretary: Larry Singer - [secretary@threesisterssocial.asn.au](mailto:secretary@threesisterssocial.asn.au)

Treasurer: Alan Kerr - [treasurer@threesisterssocial.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@threesisterssocial.asn.au)

Committee members: Thomas Naylor, Rick Hawthorne



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly **DINNER**

**7.00pm Wednesday**

**14 September 2022.**

### **Avalon**

**Katoomba St Katoomba**

**Price \$45**

**Reservations: by the Sunday evening prior.**

[bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au](mailto:bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au)

MONTHLY Luncheon

**12pm Tuesday**

**27 September 2022**

### **The Grandview Hotel**

**Great Western Highway  
Wentworth Falls.**

**A choice of main course and  
dessert**

**Price: \$ 37**

**Reservations: by the Sunday evening prior**

[bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au](mailto:bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au)

## **From the President**

Dear Friends

It's the start of the new Three Sisters' year following the AGM and the election of the new committee.

The new committee saw a swap in roles for Thomas and Alan and the welcoming of Rick Hawthorne. All-in-all we are prepared the challenges of the coming year.

Initially we will be concentrating on the restoration of the AIDS Memorial which is due to commence very shortly. This, of course, is only one of the many activities that will occur over the next twelve months.

If you would like to participate in planning and running any of our events, especially the Ball and Disco, you will be most welcome to join our Ball and Disco sub-committees.

The committee is brimming with ideas and enthusiasm and you will be hearing more about our plans in the coming weeks.

In the meantime,

Stay safe

Terry

## **Three Sisters' Social Group**

### **Presidents Report**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

**9 August 2022**

#### **Welcome**

Over 40 years ago a group of very talented men, many of whom like wearing frocks and all of whom liked to party, got together to do what they liked doing best. Or is that second best?

No matter.

The first formal information we have is about this group is a copy an invitation to their 1981 Black and White Ball. They were the Mountaineers. Thus began the 40-year-old tradition of the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend Mountain Ball.

The Mountaineers\*, was the predecessor to The Three Sisters Social Group which was incorporated in 1994. The name of the group was changed with a nod to more enlightened times, in that the group then recognised that women can also be gay and allies.

The Three Sisters Social Group is one of the most long lived and successful LGBTIQ social groups in NSW and possibly Australia, along with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association and the, revered, Pollies.

It is fitting that we acknowledge 40 plus years of the Three Sisters Social Group.

It is also fitting to acknowledge that we are still here after the turmoil of the last two years which saw many social groups and businesses either not survive or be much reduced.

Covid had, of course, greatly influenced our activities. As it had for all of our community. Out of the uncertainties caused by the epidemic, the Three Sisters Social Group has come through with a quantum of optimism.

Our covid deferred start of 2021 saw our successful International AIDS Day commemoration and launch of the AIDS Memorial Restoration Appeal at Medlow Bath Park in December. This event was attended by many local dignitaries and drew attention to the memorial and our efforts to perpetuate the memories of those we lost those many years ago and those who have gone more recently.

The intervening period saw much success in fund raising through direct donations and government grants. Unfortunately, our efforts for additional fund-raising activities were thwarted by the pandemic. Nevertheless, we were largely successful in our fund-raising that culminated in our HIV Memorial Restoration Dinner hosted and arranged by our good friend, Maurice Cooper, OAM.

I am pleased to tell you that we now have sufficient funds to commence the restoration. The restoration is planned to commence in September. Project planning and preparation work need to be finalised before then however.

Our traditional Annual Blue Mountains Ball and Blackheath Disco were undoubted successes. Holding these events hung in the balance, however. Planning, ticketing and promotion of the ball and disco are generally completed by December.

I say generally; it was a bit different this time. Last year it was touch and go whether we could proceed because of the uncertainties of the pandemic. But we took a gamble and launched a late campaign which, despite a few anxious moments, saw our decision vindicated.

Our adoption of an online ticketing system and updated financial and banking arrangements proved great innovations that assisted us enormously in putting on these events.

The Disco was held on the coldest day of the year, and for a while we wondered if we would get the traditional crowd. Despite a slow start we had about 270 attendees. A bit below previous

levels but it was a very successful and fun party. Greg and Larry did a sterling job organising the event and providing the lighting for the hall.

The Ball was attended by 160 guests. Again, below expectations. Despite that, the ball was an outstanding success, not least because of the professional stage management and entertainment services provided by Points of Difference Events and the music magic of DJ Shorty.

Our decision not to have a band and to pace the parades and shows out during the night proved to be vindicated. The Ball flowed without interruption and provided a constant stream of entertainment and extremely danceable music.

We have received much praise and a few 'reservations' and promises of additional table bookings for next year. This bodes well for future events.

I would add here that we were not alone in experiencing smaller than usual numbers at our events. Despite the optimism of earlier in the year, that the thronging crowds longing for fun and frivolity would return en masse, failed to eventuate and that attendances were generally down for events such as ours.

Our monthly dinners and lunches were maintained except for the lock down periods. However, it would be true to say that the momentum of these activities has somewhat reduced as the effects of the pandemic have been felt by our members and friends. Having said that, our special events such as our Christmas Dinner and Christmas in July at the Chalet were well attended.

At this point I would like to give John Wilson a special thanks for managing these events and for providing counsel, more than a few surprises and the benefits of his vast knowledge of the procedures, history and culture of the Three Sisters' Social Group. The events would not have been successful without his 'have you done this yet' surprises.

The past few years have been trying for all of us. But the Group has come out of it in reasonable shape. That is not to say that we are comfortable. For two years we have not had an income, only expenses. Our lunches and dinners are run at cost and our major events did not attract the usual numbers. This has affected our financial position. It's not dire, but has to be improved.

Despite this, so far, we have come out of the pandemic, unlike many other similar groups.

Our membership appears to be in reasonable shape, as shown by tonight's attendance. There has been some turnover, mostly caused by pandemic, but we have attracted a number of new and returning members.

To you I say welcome and we will welcome and appreciate your ideas and suggestions and participation in the operation of the Group.

All in all, a successful AIDS Memorial Restoration Appeal, a moving and poignant International AIDS Day ceremony, a very fun Disco and a hoot of a Platinum and Ruby Queens' Ball, plus our regular events, all add up to an eventful and fulfilling year.

My thanks go to the Committee without whose skills and commitment 2021/22 would not have been such an outstanding achievement.

---

\* John Wilson, our illustrious VP, has informed us that the group was also briefly named the GAGS, the Garden and Gourmet Society, prior to the naming of the Three Sisters' Social Group.

# Pictures

## AIDS Memorial Restoration Appeal Dinner



## Annual General Meeting



# Christmas in July

