
November 2022 - Newsletter

Three Sisters Social Group

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Committee

President: Terence Preeo - president@threesisterssocial.asn.au

Vice-president: John Wilson - vice-president@threesisterssocial.asn.au

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

Treasurer: Allan Kerr - treasurer@threesisterssocial.asn.au

Committee members: Thomas Naylor, Rick Hawthorne



UPCOMING EVENTS



Avalon

**18 Katoomba St
Katoomba**

7.00pm Wednesday

9 November 2022

Price: \$45

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

bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au

MONTHLY Luncheon

The Grandview Hotel

**Great Western Highway
Wentworth Falls.**

12pm Tuesday

22 November 2022

**A choice of main course and
dessert**

Price: \$37

**Reservations: by the Sunday
evening prior**

bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au

From the President

Dear Friends

November is upon us. How did that happen? Pretty soon it will be Christmas, then Mardi Gras and World Pride (the LGBTI Christmas?) and then it will our turn, the Three Sisters Kings Birthday Long Weekend Ball – On the Catwalk. June 2023 is really not that far away.

Our planning for our signature event is well advanced and we will be providing you with more information about the ball in the next newsletter. That will be one to read and keep.

One thing we can tell you now, as I suppose it's an open secret, we will have a new venue for the Ball, the Carrington. I find the change terribly exciting as it gives us fresh scope to bring you new ball going delights.

The Platinum and Ruby Ball was an outstanding success. The Catwalk Ball will surpass it.

In the meantime we have the dedication of the AIDS Memorial at Medlow Bath Park to attend to. The memorial is almost complete, attaching the plaques to their sandstone bed seems to be the only thing left to do. Together with the Medlow Bath Residents Association we have achieved a great deal to get this project completed within a short time span. It's been a rewarding effort and knowing that the memorial will continue into the future is a great relief.

The dedication will take place at midday on World AIDS Day, 1 December, 2022. I look forward to seeing you there.

Before that, however, we have a special treat for our members and friends. Through the auspices of our good friend, Maurice Cooper, we have arranged a Traditional Afternoon Tea Supreme at Bygone Beautys, Leura, on Sunday, 13 November, 2022. More

lunch than brunch and at a special price just for us, it will be a very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon. Many of you have asked that we try a few new exciting and different events and this just fits that bill.

Our annual Chalet Christmas Dinner will be held on 13 December. Put the date in your diary.

Of course, we have our monthly dinner and luncheon. These have been, and will continue to be, very pleasant occasions and I hope we can persuade those of you who we haven't seen for a while to share these occasions with us.

In the meantime,

Stay safe

Terry

The Three Sisters Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Chalet, Medlow Bath, on Tuesday, 13 December 2022. It's a tradition in an increasingly traditionless world. Some things are worth keeping and enjoying. Our Christmas Dinner is just the thing.



Don't Forget our Regular Monthly Dinner and Luncheon



Three Sisters Special Event

Traditional High Tea Supreme

The ultimate experience is to enjoy the famous silver service Traditional High Tea Supreme in the Bygone Beautys Tearooms.

A true indulgence!

Dressed in top hat and tails, your waiter will serve this decadent delight to your table with a degree of pomp and circumstance. An experience reminiscent of decades past when life was more leisurely.

Delicately presented on a triple-tier cake stand with fine bone estate china and estate acquired afternoon tea serviettes. Enjoy finely rolled crustless sandwiches, an assortment of homemade tea cakes, biscuits, baby scones topped with freshly whipped cream and strawberry jam.

Enjoy complimentary champagne in crystal flutes upon arrival with mini quiches, sausage rolls and vegetarian roulades.

<p><i>Three Sisters Special Event</i></p> <p><i>Traditional High Tea Supreme</i></p> <p><i>Bygone Beautys Leura</i></p>	 <p>Where: Bygone Beautys Cnr Grose & Megalong Streets Leura NSW 2780 Blue Mountains Australia</p> <p>When: 02.00 pm Sunday 13 November 2022</p> <p>Price: \$65.50</p> <p>Reservations: bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au</p>
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Bygone Beautys
Cnr Grose & Megalong Streets
Leura NSW 2780
2.00 pm Sunday
13 November 2022
\$65.50

Reservations by Friday prior: bookings@threesisterssocial.asn.au


AIDS Memorial Medlow Bath Park

Dedication Ceremony

It looks like we will have the memorial completed for World AIDS Day on 1 December, 2022, for its dedication.



Three Sisters
Social Group
Blue Mountains



Medlow Bath
Residents
Association

World AIDS Day
1200 1 December 2022
Medlow Bath Memorial Park

➤ **Dedication of the Restored AIDS Memorial**
➤ **Remembering those affected by HIV/AIDS and their Families, Friends and Carers**

All Welcome
Join us for Refreshments Following the Dedication

The garden has been planted, the sandstone memorial logs have been placed, the plaques have been cleaned and are ready to be affixed to the sandstone and the path has been laid. All that remains is to have the individual plaques to be set in place and we need to have the site dry for a period before this can happen.

You will find that Justin from DIG Landscape and Design has done a wonderful job.

All that remains now is to formally dedicate the memorial.

The completion of the memorial is a great testament to the strength of the Blue Mountains community, the support that the Medlow Bath Residents Association and the Three Sisters Social Group have received has been phenomenal. That the restoration could be achieved within such a short timeframe in perilous and uncertain times is truly remarkable.

We hope that you will be able to join us on that very important day, World AIDS Day, 1 December 2022, for the dedication of the restored memorial and to remember those who have left us and the challenging times we all went through.

Catwalk. Kings Birthday Long Weekend 2023

The news that you have all been waiting for.

The follow up from the stupendious Platinum and Ruby Ball will be held on the Kings Birthday long Weekend, Sunday 13 June 2023 at a new and sensational venue.

We are excited to announce that Catwalk will be at the Carrington, Katoomba, next June.

The Carrington is a marvelous venue, steeped in history and having a unique style of its own. A style that our community can well match, or outdo.

Next newsletter will tell you more about ticketing, accommodation and more.



'On the Catwalk'

Kings Birthday Long Weekend

11 June 2023

'The Carrington'



Three Sisters
Social Group
Blue Mountains

Medlow Music in the Park



A beautiful spring day, gorgeous flowering trees, soft grass and picnic blanket, bucolic music, a friendly number of Three Sisters group, a glass of bubbles and the wonderful hosting of the Medlow Bath Residents Association saw the much-postponed Medlow Music in the Park on 15 October last held with great success. It can be reported with some confidence that a good time was had by all.



Charity Dinner in Aid of Sala Bai School in Seam Reap

The International Hotel School, Leura, was the venue hosted by Maurice Cooper to support the Sala Bai Hospitality School in Seam Reap, Cambodia in September. A stalwart crew of sisters and friends made up a table or two. The school is a particular cause for Maurice and Kerry and they hold fund raising functions in the mountains and Sydney in its support.

Maurice has sent us a note of appreciation that I thought I would share with you.

"Dear John,

This is very late in coming, when you are speaking to the good people at your table please convey the result and our grateful thanks...

I have finalised all payments for this dinner, with your support I am pleased to say that the final amount going to the Sala Bai School in Seam Reap, Cambodia is AUD\$15,196.00. I thank you wholeheartedly for your part in either/and/or attending the dinner, sponsoring, donations to produce this great amount. Thank you so much, Kerry and I look forward to continuing this work for next year

Kind regards,

Maurice G Coope OAM"

Memories of Balls Past

Bernhard König and the Revenge of the Clones, or Murder on The Dance Floor, those Barn Dance Blues.

*The night was dark and stormy
The billy goat was blind
He ran into a barbed wire fence
And hurt his nevermind.*

I have no idea why this piece of infantile doggerel sprang uncalled for into my supine mind. Maybe it was the close proximity to at least 20 toddlers at a christening lunch that awoke my naughty joke as a five-year-old; or maybe it was a first sign of approaching senility. Who knows.

But spring it did. And once sprung, a flood of completely unconnected memories unleashed themselves upon my quickly addling brain. One of those memories would not leave me alone. It pinged around inside my skull until I feared my hearing aids would short.

It was the very early 1990s. There was a ball. I remember it was a ball. A Mountaineers Ball at that now famous mid mountain community hall which was redolent of tobacco impregnated and KB Lager-stained floor boards. A musty aroma of slightly toxic dust particles permeating everything.

The ball was in full swing so no one noticed the funky nature of the atmosphere. In fact, they were adding to it. To say the hall was full would have been an understatement. In those heady days pre-RSA, maximum capacity limits, high insurance premiums and religiously fervored and inspired wowserism that would later result in the destruction of life as we knew it, aka, the lock downs, this was normal. Ah, that was the life. Isn't nostalgia wonderful?

So it was that night progressed to a juncture. A juncture that saw the band, for these were the days when bands were still employed, announced the barn dance.

This was a salutary moment. A moment of mass confusion. For the assembled to a man, except for Bernhard König and myself, did not know how to dance a barn dance.

It seems that collectively they did not have the advantage of a catholic childhood that was dominated by champion ball room dancing parents and the sundry delights of the Holy Trinity Parish Ball and the Auburn Oddfellows Christmas Dance and, indeed, the Parramatta RSL Junior Tennis Championship Awards Night and Dance.

Or in Bernhard's case, natural talent and a big ego.

You see, the attendees were the first of the non-ballroom dancing generations. The ones who weren't taught the Pride of Erin by the great ballroom dance teachers of the vast suburbs. They were the ones that broke free of the isolating suburban vastness to populate the pubs of Oxford Street immediately they left school. They eschewed scent and the trappings of camp, they wore the uniform, Cuban heeled RMs, Levi 501s, flannie shirts, even, horror, cowboy hats or baseball caps INSIDE. They were the clones.

Twenty years after the clone experiment many now swooned over a nice shot-silk décolletage. But they lacked the poise to wear a Dior cream and tan court pump. And they certainly couldn't dance beyond their version of YMCA. The girls were in the same boat, although you'd never say that to them.

They wore their frocks and dinner suits with an air of uncertainty, although they could handle the heels having worn those Cuban shod RMs for many years. But they didn't know how to do a Barn Dance.

Pandemonium ensued. They milled around like sheep in a pen. The band struck up, somewhat heteronormatively (but that wasn't picked up in those years):

Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do
I'm half-crazy, all for the love of you
It won't be a stylish marriage
I can't afford a carriage
But you'll look sweet
Upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two

A kind of panic set in born of uncertainty. I can remember the cloud of sequins and Brut33 that erupted as people unaccustomed to the finer points of the ballroom and dancing whilst actually touching milled around.

It was all too much for our hero, Bernhard. Or was it just what he was looking for to exert his powerful personality? You see, Bernhard was a celebrity. Not a minor celebrity as we know them today, but a fully-fledged celebrity. He was on the tele.

Bernhard leapt to the stage and grabbed the microphone from the startled vocalist/saxophonist, immediately showing his mastery of the implement. The music paused.

Bernhard spoke with authority. He marshalled his mob. He sorted the leaders and the led, he guided the herd into a circle, he described the steps, exhorted the laggards and the dim and the rhythm challenged.

The music began, half time. Easy does it:

Forward and Back (4 bars): Three steps forward along LOD (1, 2, 3), and point inside foot forward (4). Then three steps back against LOD (5, 6, 7), and point outside foot forward (8).

Balance Left and Right (4 bars): Side (1), close (2), side along LOD (3), then side (5), close (6), side (7) against LOD.

Two-Step (4 bars): Two full turns of two-step.

The maestro guided the company masterfully. It didn't matter that men in frocks wanted to lead for some men in dinner suits wanted to be led. All the women in suits led. They fell into the rhythm. It guided, beguiled, delighted and amazed. They were having fun.

Until, some wag or mathematical genius, decided that the progressee should progress to be the progressor diagonally across the circulating ring in the progression.

The adept could probably do it. But there were none of those at the ball. As one could imagine, confusion reigned. The first stumble, the first blocked progress, the first barked shin, started a chain reaction of pandemonium. People fell, people swore, mascara ran.

Bernhard was speechless, something that had never afore been seen.

But he rose to the occasion. Defeat was not in his vocabulary. He marshalled the troops. Took note of the miscreants. Calmed the crowd. He carried on, the trooper that he was.

But something happened inside Bernhard's soul. The spark had flickered, the light had dimmed. The doubts had surfaced.

He had trouble controlling a crowd of queens. Of course, anyone could tell him that was par for the course, but he took it hard.

Everything had turned out well in any case. But I, for one, was happy the band didn't start the Canadian Three Step.

It's not known if Bernhard attended another ball.

Disclaimer: This is a work of fiction based on fact. This series of ball tales may be salacious or frivolous or fatuous but always fun, and I hope never nasty. Bitchy possibly, but not nasty. The facts that are there, the few that are there, may be highly embellished. I'll leave that to the reader to discern. Names have been changed to protect me.