



## Back To The Future



From the President's Soapbox – May 2020 (...a bit late ...)

Hi folks

I hope you have all weathered the lockdown well and got on with other things that have probably been waiting a long time for you to get to – I certainly have. One of my projects has been to turn my tool shed, piled with a great accumulation of materials, fixings and tools, into what I can now call The Workshop. I then saw this video: [Workshop Cleanup](#) I trust none of you blokes something like did this: I did rush out in consternation to check but no, I don't have a shed door like that.

My apologies for not having communicated with you since April. We have actually been working away on ideas behind the scenes, but some of these have taken a long time to come to fruition for legal reasons, so there hasn't been much in the way of news. However, there are now many new

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developments, so read on!

## MONARO MUSINGS

As Tina has informed you, we have a new editor for the Musings coming on board. As other options to inform you of coming events are available and being used, such as MFS announce and emails such as this one, we have decided to cut back to one edition every three months. Tina will still be in the background, handling the few paper copies that we still send out (down to 23 now for members, which has reduced her load).

This month she will be editing her final edition, and is making it a retrospective. Most surprisingly, she has had nothing sent by members for inclusion, apart from an article by Roni about the Gala Ball back in March.

I understand that you all have probably been very busy however I urge you to make a bit of an effort and send Tina something for inclusion. Her deadline, as usual, is NOW as she is working on it at present.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

One of the matters the committee has been addressing has been a proposal to amend membership fees for the coming year. We feel that as we have held very few activities in the past six months, and it will likely be another 3 months before we can begin personally interactive things, we should find a way of rolling over current memberships. We then began to run into a number of legal difficulties as to what may be possible. As the Committee does not have the power to do this, we decided that a General Meeting (held online to overcome distancing issues) would be a good solution but then found the ACT regulators were still debating whether to make such meetings an acceptable option. They have finally just ruled that online General Meetings will be legal during the Covid 19 restrictions!

## GENERAL MEETING

Therefore, we shall be calling a General Meeting to be held before the end of June to amend the fee structure agreed by members at the 2019 AGM. So this is a heads-up to expect notification of this GM to be circulated by the MFS Secretary once a date has been set. We anticipate it to be relatively brief, with (at this stage) only one motion being proposed. The meeting will be held by Zoom and you will be emailed the link beforehand. Please note that under ACT regulations, proxies will be permitted for this meeting. At the same time, we do need a quorum so, as for the last two AGMs, a Google sheet will be established and we would greatly appreciate your indicating an intention to attend, or your apologies.

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## BACK TO THE FUTURE [\(In case you didn't understand the image up top, click here\)](#)

Tired of crocheting, jigsaw puzzles, cooking and gardening?

Missing the exercise, enjoyment and social contact that our activities provide?

Enter the BTTF, a think tank and working group of a Magnificent Seven headed up by Alison Goodman (a conflicted muso/dancer with a foot in each camp), 2 musos, 3 dancers and 1 caller. BTTF has been beavering away on coming up with some tasty alternatives for getting active again using Zoom.

- **MUSIC SESSIONS:** A small group of musos can meet and play tunes in one location, and other musos can join remotely from wherever they may be. The first Zoom session that I attended (run by Jackie and Greg for their non-MFS English session group) was terrific – I had forgotten just how good it felt to be in the company of such a creative group of talented and fun friends. Not just for playing music, but some social chat as well.
- **DANCE:** BTTF has talked through some good ideas, done a preliminary technical trial and it looks very doable. Perfection is not the issue here: it is all about HAVING FUN! We think that the most important aspect is that dancers get used to moving again and enjoy socialising, albeit remotely. At this stage we have been thinking in terms of bush dance, but it could likely be applied to other genres.
- **SOCIAL CHAT:** You may just want to see people you haven't for a while and talk about ideas and what may be possible.

We have a heap of ideas and will try to put together an article for the June Musings which will expand on this. Remember that this is all a work in progress, and we really want you to be involved in developing it – it shows heaps of promise, but if you don't participate it will fizzle.

So, contact us at [btff@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:btff@monarofolk.org.au) to let us know you are interested. DON'T BE SHY!!! We would like to organise an initial online meeting of dancers within the coming week to catch up with each other socially, to chat about some ideas and demonstrate a few of these ideas and see if you like them.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Geoff

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