



The Future of MFS



From the President's Soapbox – April 2020

Hi folks

We trust you are coping with the current lockdown situation and it is heartening to see that it does seem to be achieving the aim of restricting spread of the virus. We have a fairly intelligent membership, so I would assume that most of you are finding useful ways of filling your days: I, for one, have welcomed the opportunity to get a lot of things done around home that have been neglected due to my other commitments.

Following a discussion with Tina, we decided that with the suspension of the activities in folk societies in general, and MFS in particular, there was not a lot of point in an April edition of the Monaro Musings. Any items that may crop up can be dealt with by MFS announce, or its equivalent.

With society undergoing an unprecedented shakeup, we would be forgiven for thinking that it will lead to a major reassessment of many aspects of our daily lives. However, we do seem to have very short memories (not just us old folkies, but society in general), and a desire for a return to “normal” may prove more of a driver than finding ways of doing things better.

As the time frame lengthens as to when social interaction can return to a safe level, it is more and more likely that people will lose the habit of doing things that do not revolve around their work. Our dance activities as a folk society will likely be the longest affected, as older members may be more reluctant to rush back to having such close contact with others, and it

will be even harder to attract new people to indulge in contact with strangers. Of course we could consider the option in the image above to preserve distancing ...

On the other hand, there may be a heightened desire for people to have such contact with others after a long period of relative isolation. Only time will tell.

Music sessions and performances will doubtless resume much quicker, and the months of being at home practising diligently will obviously lead to a much higher standard of musicality Zoom sessions are always an option, so talk to your organisers about this..

Nevertheless, I think this is a good opportunity for us to take a look at all aspects of the society and constructively consider whether there may be better or different ways of doing what we do. So please have a think about whatever activities of the society you are involved in, be they dance, sessions, performance, administration or promotion. Don't tell me you are too busy at present!

Send any thoughts by email to me at president@monarofolk.org.au and I will be happy to pass them on with the object of starting some useful discussion.

If you have not bothered to register for access to the members' section of the website before, now may be a good time. Just go to www.monarofolk.org.au/membership/membership-registration . It may take 24 hours for activation.

One more thing: for some of you, your regular activities with MFS may be your main social outings. If any of you would like to have contact with other members you regularly meet with, but don't have their email address or phone number, please let me know and we shall put you in touch. We will not pass on anybody's contacts without their specific permission, but will make an initial approach on their behalf. If you only know their first name, but can tell us at what activity you meet, or in which suburb they live, we shall do our best to work out who they may be. Email to membership@monarofolk.org.au

I shall try to send out somewhat regular updates as things progress.

Cheers

Geoff
