



# The Ritz Rag

## 61<sup>st</sup> Australian National Square Dance Convention

### 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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#### G'day guys and dolls, welcome to our second newsletter! It's a little ripper!

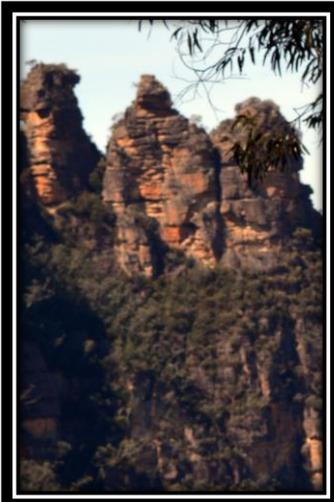
During our 61<sup>st</sup> Annual National Square Dance Convention we will be "Puttin on the Ritz" and reliving the glamour and decadence of the 1920's.

After all the 1920's was a significant time for the growth of tourism in the Blue Mountains! Post WWI in the Blue Mountains, specifically the "Roaring Twenties" was characterised by a spirit of optimism and progress. The difficult war years had come to an end, and for many Australians life was improving. Mass production and technological advances increased consumerism, materialism and modernisation. Shorter working hours, improvements in public transport a surge in car manufacture and ownership changed the way Australian's spent their leisure time. The introduction of radio and the growth of dance halls and picture palaces met the growing demand of entertainment and recreation. The figure of the flapper (see back page) with her short skirt and bobbed hair became a metaphor for the rapid changes in social and moral attitudes and the pursuit of pleasure and novelty, which characterised the decade!



While in the Blue Mountains have a Captain Cook at the Scenic Railway, pictured left in the early 1920's and as it is today. A heads-up from a local bloke, try to arrive first thing in the morning to beat the crowds and avoid getting your knickers in a knot!

**Why are the Blue Mountains Blue?** Fair Dinkum, they actually have an intense blue hazy look from a distance! Professor Harry Messel from the Department of Physics at Sydney University says its 'cause of an optical phenomenon called "Rayleigh Scattering". Lord Rayleigh first investigated this theory where rays of light reflect off particles in the air like oil droplets released from the eucalyptus trees, along with water and dust particles too. Our eyes receive the blue scattered rays of sunlight reflecting from the surroundings. So that's the John Dory.



## The Legend of the Three Sisters

According to Gundungurra Dreaming, three beautiful sister named Meehni, Wimlah and Gunnedoo once lived with the Gundungurra people in the Jamison Valley.

The maidens were in love with three brothers from the neighbouring nation of the Dharruk people, but marriage was forbidden by tribal law.

The brothers were warriors and decided to take the maidens by force. Tribal war forced the Kuradjuri (clever man) of the Gundungurra people to turn the sisters into stone. He intended to restore them after the danger had passed and the war had ended. Unfortunately the Kuradjuri (clever man) was killed in the battle and to this day nobody has been able to break the spell and turn the sisters back to their natural form.

## About our venue...

### The Blue Mountains Grammar celebrates its 100 years!!!

The school was first founded in Springwood in 1918 and moved to its current location in Wentworth Falls in the 1950's. At this time, Reverend Albert Pitt-Owen saw the need to purchase an 80 lot subdivision with the financial assistance of parents and generous benefactors, Mrs E. MacLaurin and Dr S. Ziele. Set in a large expanse of rolling grasslands, the school shows all the beauty of a bygone era.

This 40 acre site houses buildings that are iconic and historical, blended with the newly developed DJ Mulford Sports Centre, which has a double basketball court and a huge mezzanine area. The secondary venue is the school hall (a short walk from the main venue) with all the facilities that we need.



Our Committees' been working flat out like lizards laying in the sun! Their bloods worth bottling and a bonza time for all is on the cards.

Stay tuned for the next chinwag with lots of beaut facts, and the gos on local things to take a gander at, in coming issues of the Ritz Rag. Check out the website at [www.2020sdconvention.com](http://www.2020sdconvention.com) or Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/434857693607535/?source\\_id=1396017973996898](https://www.facebook.com/groups/434857693607535/?source_id=1396017973996898) too.

Feel free to give me a bell on 0425 394 002 or email [publicity2020sdconvention@gmail.com](mailto:publicity2020sdconvention@gmail.com).

Cheers Susanne Horvat Publicity Manager

We look forward to you tripping the light fantastic as we reignite the glamour of the 1920's. If you don't wish to receive this newsletter please let us know at [publicity2020sdconvention@gmail.com](mailto:publicity2020sdconvention@gmail.com)