

1st Ballan and the CWA

Mid-Winter Bush Dance

By VERONIKA SMITH

Social isolation is an issue that affects more people than you would expect. In fact, one in six of us will experience periods of emotional loneliness. With technology's growing role in our lives, social media platforms can connect us instantly with people the world over. But sometimes, our reliance on gadgets can mean we miss out on real life interactions. Winter can be a particularly lonely and isolating time, as everyone is cozied up indoors.

The Ballan and District County Womens Association branch has decided to tackle this issue head on in our community by hosting a good old-fashioned mid-winter bushdance in our town with the 1st Ballan Scout Group helping out.

They invited a bush dance band with a dance caller to teach everyone the moves, and cooked up a delicious supper of homemade soups and delicious treats. With the generous support from Ballan and District Bendigo Community Bank Branch, they were able to make this event free for all community members, young and old.

The CWA generously set up a lemonade stand for the 1st Ballan Scout Group, who sold refreshing home-made lemonade between dance sets. The Scouts from all Sections did a wonderful job and sold over 200 cups of lemonade. It was a great opportunity to not only fund-raise and represent our Group, but also to work on leadership, business and sales skills and to have fun with other community members on a cold wintry night.



We kept everyone refreshed and smiling while our community was linking hands in friendship as they danced together at our first Ballan Community Bushdance.