

The
New
Normal?



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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

COVID-19 & IT'S CONSEQUENCES!

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Today, as I sit at my desk on DAY 102 (7/7/20) of COVID-19, I feel sure that you probably all have the same feelings as I have. At times I have felt anger how COVID has changed our lives, yet at the same time it seems to have given me an 'inner peace' that is difficult to describe. Pre-COVID we all found there were never enough hours in a day—now my goodness the days seem there w are many hours to fill! What I believe that makes me the happiest is that our immediate family and friends are all well & this is indeed something to be ever grateful for!

Many people and businesses have suffered tremendously during this period and I am sad to say that our family, has not been immune!

However, one thing that has come out of it all is that there is light at the end of the tunnel—COVID will end one day (only the Virus knows when!)

I prefer to be optimistic, and indeed it can't last forever! Patience is required by all and certainly it is something that (hopefully) we will never have to live through again!



Brian and I have had our fair share of doctors/hospitals/step-down facilities to last us a lifetime! We are both well now and raring to go. In fact, when we get the go-ahead from Hylton Ross that all is clear to travel, we will send out our plans. Coach travel will be different and Hylton Ross have wonderful plans in place to adhere strictly to the rules. Social distancing will play a part in our trips and we will make sure that we also adhere to all rules!

UNTIL WE MEET UP AGAIN, BE SAFE & TAKE CARE

HERE I GO AGAIN WITH MEMORIES

SUMMARY OF PAST OUTINGS: 2019/2020

Allow me to share some of my memories of 2019/20 in what has been the **MOST difficult time of our lives to try to operate a small touring business.**

2019 started off with our **Nautical 2019** celebration in July, when we joined the 19th celebration of Time Out at the **Krystal Beach Hotel, CAPTAIN'S TABLE.**

Our August outing was cancelled as I had an American group to take on a flower tour.

End of September saw us heading out to the Riebeeck Valley, where we enjoyed lunch at the newly opened **The Bay Leaf & Thyme** where we had a good lunch followed by a drive back to the city in an extremely HOT coach!

In October we visited **BOSJES** near Worcester—amazing on this day we had 30 people aboard the coach. Sadly some of these ladies only came because of the venue and are not regular supporters of our trips!

We never held our usual November—end-of-the-year trip, as we believed that we would rather have a full coach for our **Mystery VenueTour** in December.

Sadly, on 18th November my wheels fell off and I ended up in hospital for emergency surgery & I eventually endured 80 days in Hospital, ICU and the Oasis step-down facility.

This seems a dim memory at times and I would rather put it behind me. I am, thankfully, almost restored to my former self. When I say 'restored' I am ever thankful to Brian who has been beside me all the way; my caring family and you, my Time Out friends who visited; and cared!



On to the future—COVID-19 has put a damper on our lives in one way or another. Sadly our business has come to a grinding halt. We remain optimistic that when we 'get the go-ahead' we will be able to resume our tours.

Life will sadly never return to what it was—

News which is very difficult to digest. At present there is MUCH confusion as to what is allowed - and until there is clear definition of leisure travel be assured , **You will be the first to know!**

VIRTUAL 20TH BIRTHDAY SPEECH

With thanks to Mel



As your Birthday MC, I asked Brian to include this message in the July newsletter. Just a few words to add some cement to our friendship and maybe have a light-hearted moment in our lives. **Yes folks it's our birthday on 30th July.** One every year and 20 birthdays later is quite an achievement. I'm sure you all have that ache in your heart that we can't be together. This last year hasn't been kind to a lot of us. Both Ingrid and Theresa have lost the most precious person in their lives.

Believe me our hearts broke for you both and we are all here for you to help you to face the future. Carol herself gave us a million frights as she see-sawed up and down during her illness. It's good to know that she is closer to recovery than ever. To all of you that have had their own private problems during the last year, **CHINS UP.** We are a big, bold, brave, bunch of Beautiful "Broads" and we will survive. But don't let us dwell too much on the past, let's look to the future and pray for better and healthier days.

YESTERDAY was then and just cast your mind back on those happy days that we spent together. Memories we will never forget. July was the month that we all went off to the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, more than once. Also Kruger, Flowers, Lalibela, Knysna, Overberg, just about every winery in the Boland and so many more trips. Not forgetting the very special venues for our birthdays and those goody bags and presents. My special memories are for those little shops and roadside traders that we visited along the way. We came out laden with STUFF that we did not really need but it was all so precious because we were together. Everybody's opinion counted about what we bought. We did the past together. **TODAY is now.** We are not living in the world we used to know. Because of a tiny little bug in the air we are virtually no longer in control of our lives. We are the lucky ones. We have all been in this world for at least half of our lives. We grew up in the best era that there was, so spare a thought for those less fortunate, those still growing up in this world, and do what we can to help TOGETHER. Include them in your prayers TODAY. **TOMORROW** is another day in our lives and, hopefully, we will find a glimmer of light at the end of this scary tunnel. We all have our own predictions for the future and we all live with our own private fears. Let's all have faith and hope that "We'll meet again some sunny day" with loads of laughter, good health and stacks of HUGS because friends are the main ingredient in the recipe of life. Lastly, but not least, we give thanks for the continuing recovery of two special people in our lives, without whom you would not be reading these words. Both Carol and Brian have been through hell and back lately and we wish them a long life full of gladness and health. May the happiness they spread return to them in abundance.

Thanks to Brian f& Carol for keeping us up to date with newsletters and optimism for future outings. Love you all. Keep safe, warm and sane.

P.S. Barbs and I will be having a Birthday "dop" at 18.00 on the 30th. Please join in.

