

Brylcreem and Butter #2 – Good-bye Vanessa.

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I'd like to extend my condolences to the friends, family and loves of Vanessa Schnatmeier as they struggle to come to terms with her very recent death.

I'd chatted with Vanessa a couple of times via Facebook and she was always 'liking' my contributions there. Vanessa wasn't always on Twitter, but we were following each other, not sure what she thought of my comments on Twitter, it's a strange beastie, but I sent the word out on both mediums getting unexpected responses in return.

It's been a tough year for me personally with both parents of a fellow Morris dancers here in South East Queensland dying as well as an Uncle of mine (the other one hasn't been heard from in over a decade) and also a friend of a friend who I'd gotten to know better because of Facebook dying and leaving behind two children, one six, the other just turned 18.

I'm a little ashamed to say that I haven't read the last couple of LASFAPA's – so I haven't been following Vanessa's decline in health. I have this split shift type of existence¹ where I work eight or nine hours, sleep three or four hours go dancing sleep another three or four hours and back to work doing anything up to 11 shifts in a row before I have a day off.

Even on my days off, I'm forever running errands or chasing up something or other, so I'm really bothered that I was caught totally unawares of how serious Vanessa health had become.

Marty's initial email announcement was met with shock from all of LASFAPA and I look forward to reading Vanessa's name in the hall of Saints of LASFAPA. Along, sadly, with the other Saint's some whom I've read in the past and have died since my joining some seven or eight years ago.²

As an avid Morris dancer, I currently dance both Border and North West (and a tiny bit of Molly at the start of this year) (and I started by learning Cotswald) and will say a small toast to Vanessa the next time I dance Border.

Once again, my condolences to all of Vanessa's extended family—rejoice in her life and smile knowing that she affected the lives of many (including one Australian she had never in real life ever met).

Andrew Ivamy – Morris Dancer, LASFAPAN, Train Driver.

1 Dare I say it – Wraith like? *Maybe not quite that important...*

2 It's never occurred to me to take note of when I joined LASFAPA, I'll be sure to look it up sometime in the early new year and advise. - 2017 Still haven't done it...