

# The Banana Benders Bugle

Aug. – Sept. 05

My Scribble

## Calendar of Events

This is a time for reflection as we approach a year of delivering The Banana Benders Bugle. We have gratefully received many compliments, some advice and a tremendous amount of assistance from some of you. We have modestly accepted the compliments, attempted to implement that advice and appreciated the help.

The aim was to provide Queensland dancers with a channel to share news and knowledge between the dancers and to minimise the time between submitting copy and having it published. We also wanted to let clubs know what other clubs are doing or going to do and to be a 'glue' to gather the state dancers together.

At first the square dancing fraternity was targeted and now it is very gratifying to see articles from round dancers and cloggers all being included in our humble newsletter. We extend our thanks to all contributors. Starting a project such as this makes one a little nervous, one has no idea how it is going to be received or what the readers would like to see included.

I have noticed one very prominent fault in our dancing community. The dancers are very reluctant to be forthcoming with any requested information and this is not good. I asked some questions earlier this year as regards this newsletter. We email out about seventy copies most of which are reproduced a number of times. We may have received back about twelve replies. These requests are not witch-hunts. They are genuine attempts to get information to help improve the Bugle and find out what you, the dancers, want. The information supplied is handled very carefully and only generalized collective reports prepared.

I know asking the dancers instead of clubs or delegates is something new for this movement. Grasp the opportunities to give your opinion. The cost to you will be very little but the information supplied will help to deliver an improved product. This is YOUR newsletter. Please give your suggestions about The Bugle and all aspects of dancing in general. It will be a big help.

Be good, if you can, Noel M.

- 19 – 21 Aug. Round Dance Week End
- 26 Aug. Salad Bowl Squares Club Birthday
- 26 – 28 Aug. Round Dance Week End
- 8 Sept. S Bar B 52<sup>nd</sup>. Club Birthday
- 9 Sept. Salad Bowl Squares Trivia Night. No dancing. All welcome.
- 17 Sept. B'n'M Squares S sizzle & square dance, Cnr. Simla & Mayflower Sts. Geebung. Sizzle 6 pm. RSVP 10/9. Ph. 32656865 BAP.
- 21 Sept. Gumdale. Lets go Country
- 30 Sept. Salad Bowl Squares theme night. Come dressed as a book, TV or theatre character. Please notify Linda on 3841 0807 if attending.
- 3 Oct. 49<sup>th</sup>. National Convention Meeting.
- 20 Oct. 50<sup>th</sup>. & final Ashgrove Rosebowl Hoedown. S Bar B Square Dance Clubs
- 27 Oct. 53<sup>rd</sup>. Halloween Party S Bar B
- 28 Oct. Salad Bowl Squares Halloween night.
- 29 Oct. Proposed meeting to consider a new Society Constitution.

The last issue of the 'Bugle' for 2005 will go out early Oct. If you wish we will publish your club's opening and closing dates for the Christmas break. We respectfully request articles and advertisements to be submitted by 17th. Sept.

Contact The Bugle:- burtrax@bigpond.net.au

Noel Miller, 29 Bluegrass Crest. Eight Mile Plains  
4113 Ph. 3841 6619

Reproduced courtesy of

Norm Wyndham  
Councillor for McDowall Ward  
Phone: 3403 7690 Fax: 3403 7693  
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## VALE GEORGE COOK

A tireless worker for Square and Round Dancing throughout the whole of North Queensland, George passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> June.

Our sincere condolences go to his wife Norma and family.

For his dedication to and support of our activity over many years, George was honoured by the Society when he received the "Silver Spur Award" last year.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

The Square and Round Dancers of North Queensland.

## 49<sup>th</sup> Australian National Square Dance Convention.

The Steering Committee appointed to convene the inaugural meeting for the 49<sup>th</sup> Australian National Square Dance Convention invites all Square Dancers to attend this meeting at the Red Cross Community Hall, Newdegate Street, Greenslopes, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005 at 9.30 a.m.

The choice of venue will be up to the elected committee but we have investigated suggested venues in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Caloundra and see the Chandler Sports Complex as a venue with much potential to offer some innovations to make the Convention more attractive to more dancers.

This complex, venue for the 1982 Commonwealth Games Square Dance Jamboree, the 1988 Expovention, and the 1999 National Convention, is rated as highly suitable in all aspects required for a National Convention with excellent dance floor, sound, spectator areas, parking, traffic management, and atmosphere. Several school and community halls are in close proximity allowing much more time to be allocated to other dance programs such as Plus, Advanced, Rounds and Clogging.

There is a range of accommodation within an acceptable distance while on-site accommodation can cater for over 120 people in both bunk and motel style. Next door is another facility which also has bunk and motel style accommodation for over 100 and 50 powered caravan sites.

### AGENDA:

1. Opening address
2. Election of Committee (as stipulated by the Constitution)
  - Convenor/s
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Publicity Manager
3. Registration of "Expressions of Interest" for additional Managerial positions.
  - e.g. Venue
  - Programming
  - Transport
  - Accommodation
  - Hospitality/Catering
  - Etc
4. Closure.

Nominations for the 4 mandatory committee positions are required in writing with a short relevant resume and must be received by the last mail/email of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August

Please forward this information to: -  
Steering Committee 49<sup>th</sup> National C/- P. O. Box 248 Buderim Qld 4556 or  
NevBevMcLachlan@bigpond.com

Voting will only occur at the meeting in the event of more than one nomination for any position. If no nominations are received for any position, nominations will be called for at the meeting, but may be left in abeyance for further consideration.

Nev & Bev McLachlan, Sandra & Leighton Bloomfield  
Steering Committee.

# *The Banana Benders Bugle*

22nd. August. '05

## **Corrections to the last Bugle**

Ever have one of those days when everything goes wrong all week. Well I have had a series of them, in concession.

Firstly I gave a wrong date in the Events column about the meeting to elect a Committee to organise and run the 49th. National Convention.

**The meeting to elect a Committee to organise and run the 49th. National Convention will be held on the 3rd. September.**

NOT the 3rd. October. ( That's my birthday.)

And then I did not including an event for Rambling 8s. There is a notice below which will tell you what I should have included in the Coming Events. My apologies to the concerned parties.

I am not making excuses but Coming Events is a bit of a problem. ( Not in this case, I made the boo boo. ) It would appear to overcome the problem we should only include events sent as a separate item. Some of the events one has to look at all the notice boards to find out what is going on or listen to talk and then go check it out to ensure the correctness of the talk.

There will be some discussion in the next couple of weeks about how to get a better produce ( Bugle ) and the costing of same. Please send your suggestions. Noel Miller

### **Rambling Eights – Halloween Party**

**Join the Scary Fun Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

**St Pius Hall, Golda Ave. Salisbury**

Contact The Bugle:- [burtrax@bigpond.net.au](mailto:burtrax@bigpond.net.au)

Noel Miller, 29 Bluegrass Crest. Eight Mile Plains  
4113 Ph. 3841 6619

**PLEASE INCLUDE THIS SHEET  
IN THE BUGLE AS PAGE 2**



## STEPPING OUT WITH CLOGGING

**WHAT A TIME** since last we met! SENIORS' IDOL, a talent quest organised by the Brisbane City Council with the help of some u-beaut sponsors, held heats all around Brisbane in June. A line-up of Cloggers under the banner of Combined Brisbane Clogging Clubs took to the stage at the Ithaca Room in the Brisbane City Hall AND--- we won through to the next round which was held at Kedron Wavell Community Hall on 6th July. What happened? (wait for it), half a point short of getting pole position in the Judges' Award, but winning the Peoples' Choice Award.

Then THE GRAND FINAL at Kedron Wavell Services Club on the 17th July. Up against some really excellent contestants, our girls, in front of a panel of judges and a packed, huge auditorium of clapping, foot-tapping spectators who brought the roof down for the Clogging contingent, once again missed out for first place by that cursed HALF A POINT! One and all enjoyed the experience and the fun enormously. Oh! yes. A great photo and article on page three of the Courier Mail, and another pic and write up in the Sunday Mail. Talk about media tarts!

The BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL at Redland Bay on the 9th July, (one of our regular outings), and always a favourite with the crowd, was great fun, with lots of try-it-you'll-like-it Clogging candidates.

AUSSIE CLOG, which for the uninitiated, is a weekend of dance, dance, dance on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July at Redland Bay (we love that balmy Bay-breeze place), had Cloggers from near and far having, yet again, a jolly good time.

WHAT NEXT? One of the biggys on Australia's entertainment calendar, The TOYOTA COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER at Amamoor outside Gympie, sees lots of Cloggers and hyped-up novices getting on stage at our demo marquee with Josh King from the good old US of A. With demos over three days of the Muster, it really is a fantastic showcase for our activity. If you're there say "Hello" and have a go.

With just a couple of weeks to build up our energy levels, the jewel in the crown of Clogging, the ACA NATIONAL CLOGGING CONVENTION, gets underway at the Gympie Civic Centre for three days starting the 9th September. Jeff Driggs will be our guest Instructor. Come along, spectators are admitted free.

FUN EXERCISE TO MUSIC, AT YOUR OWN PACE, WITH NO AGE BARRIER is an apt description of Clogging - that's why we love it! Til next time, Keep Happy, Keep Clogging

Frances  
FRANCES LOOK OAM  
email: lookdonfrances@bigpond.com

## More Round Dancing with the Stars.

The popular T.V. dancing program seems to have ignited an interest in learning to dance in Brisbane. Instead of the usual 15 to 25 people who turn up at the start of the year to learn to dance, two clubs had over 150 people turn up and a third club had about 40. After the initial drop off in numbers after a few weeks, large proportions remained and are still keen to learn.

The idea of combining all three groups, (from Allemander Rounds, River City Rounds, and Valentine Rounds,) for one night of "easy rounds dancing" was planned and took place in June. This is the first time a night such as this has been attempted and over 100 people turned up, about 60 of them new dancers. The night was so successful that the next two get-togethers are being planned for July and August.

Round dancing seems to be alive and well in Brisbane in 2005 and we are looking to a bright future as we welcome these new dancers into our clubs.

## Square Dance Dress

We often discuss reasons why it's hard to get new dancing recruits. Often the outfits we wear is listed as a possible drawback. As contact person for new recruits in our Club for 14 years, I have chatted to hundreds of people. Not once was the outfit given as a reason for not coming. The main reasons were: Not liking to come out at night, not having a partner, & living too far away from a Club.

Without fail when the outfits were mentioned, they loved them. So do most of the ladies in our Club. Dressed sets are popular, new outfits are admired & most of us feel a little strange dancing without pettis. At Demos people come up to look at them & admire.

We live in an age where people are very clothes conscious. Just look at the crowds at footy & cricket events. When my son took up golf the first thing he did was buy 5 golfing outfits. Then there's lawn bowls, gym wear, disco dancing, line dancing, etc. So wearing the right clothes for the right event is very accepted behaviour.

Gillian Axelsen,  
EZ Reading Newsletter Editor

## VALE - GEORGE COOK

George, President and Life Member of Sun City Square and Round Dance Club, passed away on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. George has been a member of the Club for over 20 years, also served as Northern Vice President of the Queensland Square Dance Society, and a recipient of the Silver Spurs Award for Services to Square Dancing. George will be sadly missed at the club. Our best wishes to Norma, Donna, Julie and families during this time of sadness.

Rex Trow – Vice President

## "SPECIAL EDITION" EXHIBITION CLOGGING TEAM

Members of the "Special Edition" exhibition clogging team from Atlanta, Georgia USA, held a clogging workshop, at the Red Cross Community Centre at Greenslopes in Brisbane on the weekend of 11-12 June 2005. Their trip to Australia was organized by Pat Nelson, the Director of the Special Edition Team. It was a fabulous weekend, not only for the clogging workshop sessions, but for the many demonstrations performed by the team. The weekend was hosted by Apple Jack Cloggers and my thanks to the club members and their families for their help and assistance throughout the weekend, and also to Frances Look OAM for her assistance with some of the sound equipment. I wish to thank all the cloggers who attended the workshop for their support in making the weekend a great success. A special "thank you" must go to Alan and Jane Rayner for their assistance in accommodating some members of the team. Leighton and I thoroughly enjoyed have some of team members living with us during their stay in Brisbane. On Monday after the clogging weekend, we took the team to the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast, and on Tuesday, to the Ettamogah Pub and Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast. They all had a great time and hope to return to Australia in the future.

Sandra Bloomfield

## Town and Country Square Dance Club

Our Christmas Eve in July party went very well with five sets. Father Christmas turned out to be Noel with his able assistant elf being Merle. Other members arrived in various types of PJs. By the time this appears in the Bugle we will have had a visit from Ian Small, a caller from NZ.

We plan to have a Halloween dance in October but more on that later. Our Booval club is going fine. We have just completed the mainstream 53 program. We intend to do more advertising in the outer suburbs of Ipswich.

Good dancing, Noel and Merle Mckenzie.

## VALE- GEORGE COOK

The Square Dance community say a sad GOODBYE to our dear friend, tremendous Club worker and loyal supporter of the SDS of Q., GEORGE COOK of Townsville, who has passed away after a long period of ill health.

Always ready with constructive advice, valued suggestions and a passion to see Square Dancing, Round Dancing and Clogging progress and grow, George kept his times of health problems in the back ground as he truly lived by the axiom- "The dance is the thing."

Wonderful support from his family and the dancers of North Queensland saw George, with his ever-present enthusiasm, achieve much for our recreational activity.

Appropriately, George and Norma were awarded the SDS of Q. Silver Spur Award last year.

A true friend, a good mate, a proud Queensland.

"Friends are the threads that bind life's pieces together."

Deepest sympathy is extended to Norma and family

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT,  
COMMITTEE, CLUBS AND MEMBERS OF  
THE SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY OF  
QUEENSLAND Inc.

## The 27<sup>th</sup> North Queensland Square and Round Dance Convention.

This event was held in Townsville over the Queen's Birthday weekend. Congratulations must go to Sun City Square and Round Dance Club for their hard work in ensuring a most interesting and entertaining program. The hall decorations created a Masquerade Ball atmosphere with one of the highlights of the Convention being the Sunday night dance when dancers wore their masks and were given a tag to wear containing the name of a celebrity. Everyone had a lot of fun trying to find their celebrity partner and recognise their friends hidden behind masks.

There were a number of visitors from Central and Southern Queensland along with a couple from Perth. Nev McLachlan was the guest caller, Bev McLachlan guest Round Dance cuer and Jan Bennett presented the Clogging. As well as the local cuers and callers, the program included callers Lawrie Miles from Rockhampton and Margaret Baines from Pine Rivers. The number of dancers in attendance was pleasing with eight squares dancing and good numbers attending the Round Dancing and Clogging. A hot lunch with a large variety of dishes was served after the Monday morning dance ses-

## Gumdale's Christmas in July

Around 60 members & visitors attended \*Gumdale club's special dance on Wednesday 20th July at Alexandra Hill's Community hall.

Anne Usherwood arranged the night & with Ray Wiseman & Dot Sherwin's help decorated the hall to match the theme.

Alan shared his calling with Graham Brandon [Toe Tappers], Ev Johnson, Carole McKinney & David Rogers.

President Pat Ricato welcomed all & was pleased with the attendance & enjoyment shown by the dancers.

A multiple prize raffle was held, as well as the usual lucky door prize.

The supper break was taken before the last tip instead of after the end of the dancing. The changed routine & spread were very acceptable.

Two birthday cakes were supplied celebrating the club's 18<sup>th</sup> year & Alan's 13<sup>th</sup> year of calling at the club.

*\*Note: The club's full name is "Gumdale Grandslidiers Square Dance Club Inc". It was started with Eric Wendell as caller at Gumdale Hall.*

Dale Andrew

### FUTURE BANANA BENDER BUGLES

In a recent discussion it was pointed out that lead-time for an article in the Bugle can be two months, an obvious point which had 'slipped past' the keeper. The way around this is a monthly publication. *Please give your opinion on such a move.*

One of the aims of this newsletter was to provide clubs and the Society with a small source of finance. Some clubs would greatly appreciate this financial assistance and the Society is not overburdened with funds either. The original idea was to have a single contact in each club to whom we could email the Bugle. The clubs could reproduce the newsletter and charge each recipient a nominal fee. Some clubs do this. Others circulate the newsletter at no charge. This difference in charging could cause problems for a club which sells the Bugle to dancers. I recently received the following suggestion to overcome such problems: -

**IF YOU LIKE THE BUGLE MAKE A GOLD COIN "LIKE IT" DONATION TO YOUR CLUB. IF YOU HATE IT, WRITE TO THE EDITOR, THEN MAKE A "HATE IT" DONATION TO YOUR CLUB.**

It is great to have 'mates' around the place but it is a good theme. It is contemplated that each club would be charged \$20 for a year's supply of the Bugle. We would like each club to advise us of an 'official' recipient for your club's copy of the Bugle. Name and email address please.

Before anyone gets any idea of us producing all copies from the one point it is not on. It would make the end user price too high and such a method would not assist the clubs financially to any significant degree.

Another source of revenue for the Society will be to charge a nominal fee for adds. This will start in the first edition next year and a price structure will be in the next BBB.

Some dancers may wish to get their Bugle by email direct from the Society. We will do our best to keep all happy. Please advise us of your desire. There will be a cost involved in supplying such a service and we would have to work out an acceptable method of charging. We would appreciate your opinions on these matters.

## Hearing Problems

I thought that readers of The Bugle could be interested in the following. I have a hearing problem myself and realize that it could be of benefit to all to understand how the effects of hearing loss can be minimised for the better dancing of all.

There is a considerable number of dancers with varying degrees of hearing loss. I am attempting to show people their problems and how they can be minimized.

Often faulty eyesight can be restored to 20/20 vision with prescription glasses. The best (and usually most expensive) hearing aids cannot completely restore hearing.

Usually the first hearing loss occurs is the higher frequencies (higher notes). This where we differentiate between "c" and "d" and "t" and "p" etc. In an effort to rectify this, hearing aids preferentially amplify the higher frequencies. At best this is partially successful. If a voice or a recording is lacking in treble or where the base dominates, the end result is poor. *Increasing the volume increases the noise, but not the understanding!*

Another well known problem is background noise. A person with "normal" hearing can follow a conversation (or a caller) in the midst of a babble of noise. This is not a function of the ears but of the brain. The brain of a deaf person has lost the ability to sort the wheat from the chaff.

Directional microphones attempt to correct this, but how do you keep your head (and hearing aid microphones) facing the caller and hang onto your partner at the same time?

Just thought you would like to know that we may be deaf, we may be old but we are not deaf old dummies.

Don Fenton, Cairns City Squares.

## Maryborough Heritage City Hoedowners Square Dance Club.

Just everyday square dancing at our Club.

David Smythe conducted a very successful Callers School on 2nd, July and our dancers benefited greatly at the dance on Saturday night.

We had Callers from Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Gympie in attendance along with our own Caller David Habler.

A great night and supper was had by all. Many thanks to David Smythe and Shirley, Michael and Matthew from Bundy, Rob Fry, Rocky, and Phillip from Mothar Mountain.

Also thanks to the supporters who came with them, especially the group from Hervey Bay. It all makes for fun in dancing.

Regards Helen, Secretary

## This May Help

A system fast becoming a standard with square dance clubs is marketed by Tandy Electronics and is called Radio Shack 900MHz Headphone System. It was first tried at the 2003 National Convention in Caloundra.

This Rechargeable Stereo Wireless System delivers high quality sound within a 50 mtr. radius. The signal travels through most walls and floors. The Headphones have an adjustable headband, an on/off switch, re-chargeable batteries, charging jack, charging light and volume control. Also included is a tuning control to allow the unit to be adjusted to any transmitter for maximum pickup. The amount of volume of either music or voice is adjusted at the sound source (ie. The Hilton.) By rights the voice should be louder than the music for everyone on the floor and it is the callers responsibility to ensure this is the case.

The transmitter can be plugged into many different sound sources via the headphone jack, line or aux. out or monitor jack. It can also be used with many home sound systems. Approx. cost for the complete system is \$140.00.

It is believed that headphones can be purchased separately.

## Moreton Bay Squares

This has been rather a busy month for our group, but enjoyable.

Eight of us journeyed up to Morayfield for the convention and it was well worth the effort. Everyone was so friendly and helpful. Our thanks to the organizers for a great job - well done. Our three day stay at the local caravan park was very comfy, reasonably priced and we can recommend these units to anyone.

Two of our newer dancers accompanied us and were very proud to be included in our club dressed set which received many compliments. This added to the pleasure of being at the convention. We have booked for Rocky and Gosford next year. God willing we will all be there with great enthusiasm.

We hosted a Cuppa for Cancer Morning tea on June 4th, which proved very successful, raising \$324.55. This was our second year of helping this great cause. With Nellie and Alec absent on holidays, Ann and Helpers put in a great effort on the day. Many thanks go to all helpers. Thanks also to the guests from other clubs for their support. Our Monday workshop is proving to be a great help for the new dancers, with a big welcome to our newest couple Shirley and Boyd and we look forward to our numbers growing gradually but positively. A quick hello to all our friends out there, looking forward to our next square up wherever it may be. Do take care

Yours for the love of dancing. Nellie  
President Moreton Bay Squares

## The Salad Bowl Squares BBQ

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July the members of Salad Bowl Squares and a few friends who have recently put their feet up due mainly to uncertain health and fitness, had a most enjoyable barbecue at the home of Owen and Linda Williamson. There were 50 plus in attendance and there wasn't much left that was edible by the time we all went home. It was a day intended solely for eating, drinking and wind-bagging without being interrupted by Jason and Linda getting us up dancing. However Lachlan and his Dad entertained us periodically throughout the afternoon with cricket and dirt bike racing displays.

Owen and Dennis manned their barbies and turned out the sort of sausages and onions you expect to come across only on one of those TV cooking shows. They're obviously masters of their craft. With a couple of sausages on our plate, plus the tasty and interesting salads brought by those members so designated, the day was going to be a culinary, as well as a social success. Then there were all those mouth-watering desserts that soon vanished following the onslaught by the sweet tooth brigade.

It was an excellent getting-to-know-you exercise for our members and helps them feel like they are a group of friends, not merely fellow dancers. Almost the total membership attended and the reaction from them was so positive that we'll surely be repeating the exercise at a later date.

Thank-you Owen and Linda for letting us take over your house and yard for a few hours. It was greatly appreciated by the committee and members. Your choice of weather was superb.

## Farewell Dance for Brian Horsey at EZ Squares

Last year EZ Squares Caboolture farewelled Brian Horsey as their main Caller. EZ Squares began in 1989. We learned to tapes & from keen Dancers Jack & Georgina Williams. So when Brian Horsey offered to call at our Christmas do, we were all very excited. When he later offered to be our Caller for free, EZ Squares was born.

From that day on, he was with us through all the struggles to build from one Square to a successful Club. Without his support, skill & enthusiasm we would not be where we are today.

Also notable was his generosity in encouraging new Callers, & in sharing the stage with others. Because of this, when he retired, we still find ourselves with 3 excellent Callers. So although we were sorry to say farewell to Brian, our Club is in the excellent hands of Glenn Wilson as Head Caller, Rod Dinte as Co-Caller & Peter Clarke who teaches our Learners.

On 31<sup>st</sup> May we held a "Back to Caboolture" night with Brian & Sue as Honored Guests. The crowded hall was a fitting tribute to his contribution, while the lovely modern plaque was symbol of our appreciation. Thank you, Brian.

Gillian Axelsen, EZ Reading Newsletter Editor

Beat The Winter Cold with EZ Squares

### **" Pyjama Dance Party" Aug 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Winter's cold can make you blue, so for our theme we thought of you !*

*Wear your PJ's, Slippers too. The dancing's hot ! You will be too !*

***Caboolture Show Grounds Hall : Rounds 7pm, Squares 7.30***

***Lucky Door ! Raffle ! Monte Carlo ! Lucky Spot ! Prizes for Outfits !***

***Supper: Sandwiches, Slices, Cheerios & Sausage Rolls provided.***

*Please bring plate to add variety !*

## DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in The Banana Benders Bugle are not necessarily those of the Square Dancing Society of QLD Inc., the Australian Round Dance Association, the Australian Clogging Association Inc. or the Editor. Articles submitted for publication may need to be edited due to space constraints. Articles submitted for publication, including anonymous contributions or those bearing a nom de plume, will not be considered for publication unless the actual name, address, contact telephone number and/or email address is included at the bottom of the finished article. This information will be withheld from publication upon request, but must be supplied to the Editor when submitting your article. The Editor reserves the right to decline publishing any article or advertisement which he considers may be detrimental to the best interests and well-being of dancing and its participants (members).

## The Last Rosebowl

When square dancing swept across Australia in the early fifties as a social phenomena never seen before or since whole families and communities became so involved that in Brisbane one sixth of the population was dancing at least several times a week.

The 'Elimination Hoedown' in keeping with our sporting spirit was everywhere and in 1995 our S Bar B Club invited sets to compete for the brand new 'Ashgrove Rosebowl Trophy' and a friendly battle royal ensued with the 'Four Leaf Clovers' edging out the 'Bar O'H Jets' and the 'Sunflower Square'.

To broaden future contests couples were then invited to nominate and were drawn in ballot into sets, the responsibility of the caller, yours truly, being to eliminate them set by set ultimately producing a winner. This format continued right through to the present time.

Calling for the Rosebowl has always been limited to just twenty basic movements, but, with unlimited variants in choreography, the excitement has always been intense with square dancing at it's most cutting edge.

The years have rolled on with the original trophy now greatly enhanced by it's mounting on a large elegant new base thanks to our club historian, Graham Norman. The names of previous winners over five decades have been engraved on plates and attached to the base of the trophy which, at a first glance could almost be regarded as the Davis Cup of square dancers! From the first Rosebowl when in driving rain dancer streamed off trams to pack St. Barnabas Hall, right through to personalities like Alan Evans and Leighton Bloomfield involved in today's highest dancing levels yet intensely keen rivals when it comes to The Rosebowl. It's simply become an institution, unique in the 'Wonderful World of Square Dancing'.

So why then is our fiftieth 'Ashgrove Rosebowl' at St. Barnabas Hall on Thursday Sept. 22 the finale? Very simple; our magnificent trophy is now full with no more provision for winners' names. Our race is run and yet another chapter is about to be complete in the annals of square dancing in Queensland. Our sincere thanks to my best mate Rod McLachlan for his inimitable intense judging over many years, Graham Norman more recently and Bill McCoy who has so diligently and professionally recorded the contest for so long.

And now it is one to go! You are all invited to our final encounter; Caller verses Dancer on September 22. And please be assured 'Square Dancing will be the winner'.

## News From Rockhampton

### Twirlers

I missed the last copy of the Bugle because my computer c#\*&&%\$ itself but a copy will be on its way to me shortly.

A request: When my computer went down I lost all of my email addresses. If any of you who think of it please forward your address to me. My address is robfry.sqdance@bigpond.com or at work on rockhampton@selectedseeds.com.au.

On the 24th & 25th June the Twirlers celebrated our 8th birthday. Desma supplied the birthday cake and Nev & Bev McLachlan calling ensured a great weekend of dancing.

Congratulations to the organizers of Qld State Convention. We enjoyed a great time in Moryafield and are looking forward to next year here in Rockhampton for the 27th QLD State Convention.. I can assure you it will be fantastic.

Please note we have changed our name from CQ Square Dancing etc. to Rockhampton and District Square Dance inc.

Keep dancing and keep smiling

And remember our great activity is much more important than any of our EGOS.

See you on the dance floor somewhere (hopefully in Rocky) if you are passing through. R. Fry

### Square 8s

We are continuing to enjoy combined dancing in our hall under our new name, Rockhampton and District Square Dance inc.

We have had dancers attending the North Queensland Convention and Martin Klibby memorial dance.

Preparations for the 2006 State Convention are running on track with local businesses and council more than willing to help in any way they can.

June Dalliston

Square 8s social organizer

## Badges

**Pin or Magnetic badges for all occasions  
Engraved or Full Colour Laser Printed**

John V Casey

P.O. Box 6076

Logan Central Q 4114

Phone 0400 611 211

Email: [badges@optusnet.com.au](mailto:badges@optusnet.com.au)

**Queensland  
General Meeting**

To elect the committee for the 49<sup>th</sup> Australian National Square Dance Convention.  
All interested dancers invited.

DATE: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005  
VENUE: Red Cross Community Hall  
Newdegate Street, Greenslopes  
TIME: 9.30 A.M.

For details of positions, how to make nominations and general enquiries, call, write, or email

Steering Committee  
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In the following article comments about recruitment, All Position Dancing, Plus, the Czech Republic and keeping dancing interesting are worthy of note.

## Modifications to the MS program

### What is the value of opinion pollsters?

Anke Wallerer

To tell you the truth, I look at the changes to the Mainstream program with concern. On the one hand, I know from my own professional experience that the implemented proposals from opinion pollsters or management consultants are mostly not worth their effort and that most of their suggested modifications are canceled again after some time.

On the other hand, from personal experience, I do not believe that these modifications will help the Americans in any way to solve their problems of recruitment! There are enough countries and clubs, in which young people come to Square Dancing and which do not have problems of recruitment. The whole of the Czech Republic is an example in this respect. The problem of recruitment thus can **not** have been because of the MS program as it has been till now. I would be interested in knowing whether anybody - at least only **one** of the pollsters assigned in the USA - has also looked around in other countries and whether this information was taken into account in the recommendations. I believe that this was not the case and thus all results from these pollsters are **completely worthless from the very beginning!** I will gladly take opposing evidence under mail to:

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As an escorting guest from overseas at the Callerlab Convention 2000 in Las Vegas, several active US Callers talked to me. All the discussions ran similarly. "Do you have problems in attracting young people into Square Dancing in Germany?" "No, quite the contrary." "How do you do that?" "We teach MS from all positions from the very beginning, each figure can be danced with great variety and the whole program is therefore more interesting. After the Class, the variety of All Position Dancing continues, it is not always the same "Standard Applications" routines, that are being danced so soon with increasing boredom, because the dancers already know them by heart after a short time. Dancers can continue dancing MS, we force nobody within the same year into the Plus program."

"Yes, that sounds plausible but we unfortunately (!!!) cannot do it the same way, because "our club dances the Plus program" / "our President ordered that new dancers have to dance Plus within one year" / "if I won't do it he'll engage another caller and I won't earn anything" / "another caller will do it, so he makes money" ... etc.

Result: As a large proportion of the American clubs dance the Plus program, nothing, absolutely nothing, will change today's dominant practice of rushing new dancers into Plus within one year.

Even if more figures are deleted in MS, it won't help. The problem remains the same: The figures are not taught APD, but only from the standard positions, because there is a hurry. So the routines that are called remain boring and only a little varied. Particularly for older dancers learning Square Dancing, the figures starting from MS (I mean the "pure" MS without Basic starting from figure 54) are more difficult, since they build on the Basics, are assembled and longer. This applies especially to the Plus figures. Even if "only" the Standard Applications are taught, the total extent of MS and Plus is too much for them. They may finish the Class, but soon afterwards they are lost to Square Dancing. Younger dancers normally manage to learn MS and Plus from Standard Applications within a year without problems. They remain then about 2-3 years in the activity. But then they also quit. Why? It becomes too boring for them! The attraction of the ever-new, that no dance resembles another one, as it is promised so well in the "Square Dancing - What's that?"-Flyers - the reality looks different! "Swing Thru, Boys Run, Bend the Line; Pass Thru, Wheel and Deal" - always the same routines, repeated time and time again. I could hardly keep my eyes open at the dance at the Callerlab Convention!

At the same Convention, Basic was deleted as an independent level. MS became the entrance program of Callerlab. With this decision Basic, which is alive and kicking as a dance level, especially in the Scandinavian countries, was murdered. The desperate objections of the 3 Swedish Callers present, remained unheard. And what is Callerlab doing now? Figures have been deleted from MS, and those 3 were only the beginning. It will continue in this way until today's MS has reached the range of the former Basic. Plus will then have almost double the scope. One cannot do without these figures, since figures in the higher programs are based on those below.

For example: "Fan the Top" had to be added to the Plus program, otherwise "Peel the Top" would have had to be deleted. Moreover, this is educationally absolute nonsense; a further proof for the unreasonableness and frantic rush of this action. It is educationally not meaningful to teach "Fan the Top" and "Peel the Top" in the same Class - and the same applies to "Spin Chain Thru" and "Spin Chain [and Exchange] the Gears" - because of the similarity and relationship of the figures.

I personally regret the loss of "Fan the Top" in MS. A wonderful figure, in order to work against sequential overflow. I am convinced that America will not solve its problems in this way. Now the programs are feverishly changed and the success will be nil. It can only work if **everybody** - Caller, club executive committees and dancers - is pulling together. As long as a Plus club is not ready to train new people "only" to MS and then give them time to gain experience, the number of dancers will continue to fall in the USA, no matter how Callerlab modifies the programs.

In this way the healthy and young dancer communities in Europe and elsewhere - which are not shrinking, but growing - will be lost. Will they continue to grow, if we are forced to follow the American way so that our program becomes so small, simple and unattractive that our new generation is disinterested and quits after short time?

Modifications to dance program should be executed very sensitively. It is said now, that MS has too many figures. The fact is discreetly hidden, that 2 years ago the MS list was reformulated for better understanding and re-numbered to 71 instead of 66, as it had been. This was done without adding more than one figure! Now however 3 real figures have been deleted! That is already such a big cut that it is enough for the next few years. Why does Callerlab so forcefully want to do such tremendous changes in the MS program? We have, I mean we already had what Callerlab likes to have

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**FRIDAY 7PM TO 10PM MAINSTREAM**

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**SATURDAY NIGHT 7PM TO 11PM MAINSTREAM**

**SUNDAY MORNING BRUNCH 9AM**

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