

The Banana Bend- Bugle

February 2009



QUEENSLAND PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello, and I wish you all a very Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year.

My first year as President has been one with a couple of minor hiccups- fitting in dates and venues for the Roundup which we were able to sort out. However I did manage to get around a few of the Clubs, up north as far as Cardwell and Townsville, and down south to Burleigh Heads and Clubs in between.

Being based in Hervey Bay, (our little bit of Paradise), makes travelling a bit of a drag, but is compensated by the welcome at the Clubs, and makes it all worthwhile. The most memorable highlight for the year was my visit to Cane Country Squares (Bundaberg), presenting the "Silver Spur Award" to a gracious lady, Shirley Kelly, surrounded by her Family and her protégé Callers.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my Committee Members for their support, especially Jane Rayner who stepped into the breach as Secretary (in spite of her health problems). For this Jane, I am truly grateful.

QUEENSLAND CALLERS ASSOCIATION

29th QUEENSLAND STATE SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION

(Hosted by Alan's Allemanders Square Dance Club Inc)

FRIDAY 11th – SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2009

CLEVELAND ASSEMBLY AND MEMORIAL HALLS

SMITH STREET, CLEVELAND QLD 4163

ROUNDS, CLOGGING, DRESSED SETS, BANNER PARADE MAINSTREAM, PLUS, ADVANCED SQUARES, CONTRAS

FRIDAY NIGHT IS ZODIAC THEME NIGHT

"WEAR YOUR STAR SIGN TO CLEVELAND 2009"

PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED LADY AND GENTLEMAN TO THE ZODIAC THEME

INFORMATION PAGE AND REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE FROM YOUR CLUB OR DOWNLOAD AT

www.squaredanceqld.com

Enquiries to Alan Scammell

78 Rosia Road, Park Ridge. 4125

(07)3297 1225

aasdcinc@yahoo.com.au



Contact The Bugle:-
burtrax@bigpond.net.au Noel Miller, 29 Blue-
grass Crest. Eight Mile Plains 4113
Ph. 3841 6619

Reproduced courtesy of

We Square Danced in Beijing

Six Square Dancers from Brisbane were part of a "Helen Wong" tour to China during September and October. Just a few days before we left David started to think about the possibility that there may be Square Dancing in China and that just maybe, we could try to get to a dance over there.

Thank heavens for emails. Our friends, who some of you meet last year while they were touring and dancing around Australia, Betsy and Jim Pead, sounded like they had contacts in China as they had spent time there teaching. A quick email found them in Germany, but with the contact names for dancers in Beijing. Once again to the emails. Our contact in Beijing, Zhang Jian (she uses Jane as an English name), said that she would try to arrange a dance for us if we had free time.

The internet is not easily accessible in China, even at good hotels, but over the next two weeks we had confirmed that we had a Sunday evening free in Beijing. The local clubs only dance during the day there, but Jane was able to arrange a "Party Dance" for us on the Sunday evening.

David, Faith, Frank, Barbara, Bob and Pam duly arrived at the "Railway Workers Institute" by 2 taxies to be greeted by Jane and several dancers. When we got into the hall, seven sets of smiling, welcoming dancers were awaiting our entrance. To top it off, their caller Mr Lu (Peter) was there ready to welcome us and to ask me to call. I hesitated for a couple of calls to try and see what calls he used and the type of music he played.

Now you must understand, very few Chinese folk speak any English. To hold a conversation with someone usually meant having a young person handy to interpret. English is taught to children in school these days.

We callers tell dancers when we introduce them to our wonderful universal hobby, that you can dance anywhere in the world because all the calls are in English. Yeh Right!! That's fine if you only use words straight from the command, "Circle Left" "Forward and Back" "Do Sa Do". When I started to add words like "everybody" "Now lets all"- Well the looks and laughs I got were amazing.

Between all the smiles and laughing we did actually get some calls together. And from the dancers reaction at the end of the night and from Mr Lu's obvious enjoyment in sharing the calling with a visiting "Non-Chinese speaking" caller, a good time was had by all.

Our friends in Beijing certainly know how to enjoy their dancing. They are great at making you feel welcome and would love to meet more Aussie Dancers.

David and Faith Pearce



Members of "Beijing Long March Square Dance Club" and the "Beijing Smile Square Dance Club", ready to dance.



Pam, Bob and Frank Square Up with a set in Beijing

STEPPING OUT WITH CLOGGING

"When do we start?" is the message Clogging Club Leaders are getting loud and clear as the February start-up dates get closer and closer.

Storm King Camp at Warner (north Brisbane) is in high organizational mode with Edith and Jenny setting it all up for our Clogging pleasure and enjoyment in mid-March.

Olive will be once again doing her Clogging-in-July Camp at **Aussie Clog**.

Westward Ho! as the weeks zoom by to the ACA 14th National Clogging Convention in Perth in June. Find out all Convention details at www.cloggingaustralia.com or 'phone the Convention Registrar, Lorraine Taylor on 08 9398 4472, or email Lorraine at sxclloggers@yahoo.com.au Join the strong Queensland contingent already booked in.

The 'Get Rhythm Dance Team' will be starting their practice sessions in February as they make themselves available for events and displays at venues wherever toe-tapping entertainment is sought.

With all the proposed dancing activities this year at Clubs, Camps and the Convention, if Clogging is the food of life no one will go hungry.

Best Wishes for a great 2009,

Frances

FRANCES LOOK O.A.M.

PH: 07 3391 6526, EM: lookdon-frances@bigpond.com WEB: www.cloggingaustralia.com

**NO ONE CAN DO EVERYTHING,
BUT
EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING.**

NEVER TICK OFF A NURSE

A big shot attorney had to spend a couple of days in the hospital. He was a royal pain to the nurses because he bossed them around just like he did his staff. None of the hospital staff wanted to have anything to do with him.

The head nurse was the only one who could stand up to him. She came into his room and announced, 'I have to take your temperature.' After complaining for several minutes, he finally settled down, crossed his arms and opened his mouth.

'No, I'm sorry,' the nurse stated, 'but for this reading, I can't use an oral thermometer.' This started another round of complaining but eventually he rolled over and bared his behind.

After feeling the nurse insert the thermometer, he heard her announce, 'I have to get something. Now you stay JUST LIKE THAT until I get back!'

She left the door to his room open on her way out. He cursed under his breath as he heard people walking past his door, laughing.

After a half hour, the man's doctor came into the room. 'What's going on here?' asked the doctor.

Angrily, the man answered, 'What's the matter, Doc? Haven't you ever seen someone having their temperature taken?'

After a pause, the doctor confessed....

'Not with a carnation.'

JUST A TAP ON THE SHOULDER

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate-glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, and then the still shaking driver said, 'I'm sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me..' The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, 'No, no, I'm sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab.....
I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years.'

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-

DEAR READERS-

All readers were advised in the November edition of the Bugle that the next edition would go out early in February '09. We will be away late in January for a couple of weeks hence this early Bugle. If there is a need for a supplementary edition it will be attended to as soon as we are home. Please hold all email until 5th. February

This year all contributions are requested emailed before the twentieth day of the month. The only exception to this requirement will be for Society information to members and clubs.

The Bugle will go out as close as possible to the end of each month.

Please keep the method of 'conceiving' the articles simple. I am not referring to the contents. At times the most weird and wonderful letters arrive to go in the Bugle and can't be used because of the way they are created. I know some of you are very experienced PC operators but I am not that knowledgeable at all. I get there, just. .

Adverts. No, a copy of the poster that is sent to clubs is of no use in the Bugle. Poster size is just too big.

A5 Landscape with about a two centimetre border is the only acceptable size for adverts. Up until now, oversized adverts have been 'reworked' so that clubs would not miss out on getting their function advertised. This point has been mentioned on a number of occasions but this year 'a line in the sand'.

.A5 Landscape advs. only, please.

Sometimes it is necessary to publish A4 size forms for Conventions etc. These documents will be a separate attachment to the Bugle.

The Bugle is for all Queensland dancers and it depends on your contributions to keep it going. It is like a lot of other things in this world. Use it or lose it. I am looking forward to many of your contributions during 2009.

Noel Miller, Editor.

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin -

Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalog: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'
- Eleanor Roosevelt

ROUND DANCING

Learn Easy Level "Square Dancer" Rounds
including the Two-Step Rhythm

Teacher/Cuer: Jane Rayner

Logan City Square Dance Centre

161A Magnesium Drive, Crestmead

commencing Tuesday 17th March 2009 7.30pm

Admission; \$6.00 per person

Round dancing is a couple dance medium and is a simplified form of ballroom dancing **(please bring a partner)**

Enquiries contact Jane Rayner 3299 7717

Square Dancing Society of Queensland Inc.

Annual General Meeting

to be held at the

Baptist Church Hall, Innes Street, Geebung

Saturday 28th February 2009

commencing at 12.30pm

For further information contact

Jane Rayner 3299 7717

As well as the advertised positions available for 2009, the Society is currently looking for a Secretary and a Publicity/Promotions Officer. If you think you can fill either of these positions and you are a financial member of the Society, please attend the AGM at which these positions will be called to be filled. If you are unable to attend the meeting and are interested, please contact

Acting-Secretary Jane Rayner on 3299 77 17 before 20th February.

LOGAN CITY SQUARE DANCERS Inc.

5th ANNIVERSARY DANCE

FEATURING CALLER

Mike Davey (Vic)

14th FEBRUARY 2009

Logan City Square Dance Centre

161A Magnesium Drive Crestmead

Saturday afternoon Plus 2pm - 4.30pm

Saturday evening Rounds 7pm - Squares 7.30pm

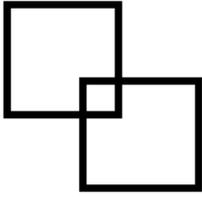
Admission; Afternoon \$7.00 per person Evening \$8.00 per person or \$13.00 for both sessions

Juniors under (16 yrs) \$5.00 afternoon \$6.00 evening or \$9.00 for both sessions

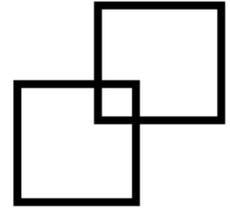
Enquiries; Jane Rayner 07 3299 7717 Email; cysquare@optusnet.com.au

The hall will remain open between sessions for those wishing to stay on.

Showers available. BYO basket tea or there are several food outlets close by.



Rambling Eights
Square Dance Club
Caller David Pearce



12 Nemira St, Carseldine
Qld 4034

Phone (07) 3263 1408

If you haven't had the pleasure of joining Rambling Eights at a Lake Perseverance Camp before, here is your chance.

Rambling Eights holds an annual Square Dance camp. For many years it has been held at the Lake Perseverance Recreation Lodge just outside Crows Nest, via Esk. The camp site consists of modern log cabin style units which have 6 beds and an en-suite in each. A multi purpose hall is used for Dining, Dancing and other activities. A sports field over the road is also available for outdoor games and fun activities.

Campers move in from 5.00pm on Friday 20th March and reluctantly head for home after lunch on Sunday 22nd. All meals are supplied (from Saturday breakfast on), and catered for by the on site cooking staff.

Dance sessions are conducted by David Pearce and Noel McKenzie, with Corinne Bradshaw looking after the Rounds. Square Dance sessions include interesting mainstream, some plus and a variety of "not so usual" sessions. Clogging and Line dances are also on the program if they are requested.

Outdoor activities include: Tennis, Table Tennis, Bocce and a few surprises. A bush walk is always available for those who are keen to explore the area.

We have a Theme for this year which is "My Initial". On the Saturday party night, campers are encouraged to dress to the theme. This year you can dress up as something that indicates your initial.

That could be your Christian name or your surname.

The camp goes from March 20th to 22nd. The total cost is \$110.00 for adults and \$64.00 for children.

Would like more information or a registration form? Please contact David or Faith Pearce, Phone 3263 1408 or check us out on our Web site: www.ramblingeights.org

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

I promised to answer some questions about Society individual Membership some time back. This article supplies an answer to all the questions mentioned.

There are many benefits for you and your fellow square dancers in taking out individual membership. You support the Society and the Society support the dancers, including you and your friends, as well as it can. Individual membership in the Square Dancing Society of Queensland Inc. (yes, it is a mouthful) gives members the opportunity to have their say, to contribute ideas and advice, all of which is sorely needed. Members get the opportunity to take an interest in what is happening and to support the body trying to arrange functions and foster the activity of Square Dancing in Queensland. And yes, you get an Individual Insurance which, in my opinion, has been over-emphasised, but nevertheless it is a good thing.

You could join ten clubs and the one Individual Membership fee would cover you in all clubs. The fee is for the individual with nothing to do with any club/clubs. The individual membership is solely that. It is the INDIVIDUAL MEMBER'S MEMBERSHIP of the Square Dancing Society of Qld. Inc. Please do not get the wrong impression that this Membership of the Society covers your club membership. Some if not all clubs do have fees as well.

All the members of some clubs are member of the Society while in other clubs there is not one member who has joined the Society. One wonders about this localized lack of membership. The Society never receives any correspondence or indication as to why such a situation exists. If there is a problem with this scheme it would be nice if the Society was told of the objections. Steps could possibly be taken to fix any problems.

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Planning for 2009

Have you started planning for 2009? What about your Square Dancing?

At the beginning of each year most of us start to make plans for the way we think we would like to see the New Year unfold. Callers, Clubs and Dancers should be setting goals for the time ahead.

Callers are hopefully taking a rest to recharge their batteries for the Club nights, Festivals and other special events. They are also thinking about introducing new dancers, what choreography to use, what new music they can obtain, how their sound equipment will perform and what maintenance needs to be carried out. What direction will the club take this year and how to best satisfy the dancers. They have the challenge of whether to change to more modern technology, will it benefit the dancers, will it help with their programme and running the dances, can they afford the added cost.

Clubs are for the most part, also taking a break. The members are holidaying, or spending more time with families and generally relieved that we are not dancing in 30 degree heat.

Some time before the dancing year gets under way, it is good to get interested club members together to set the club's goals for the year. "Do we need to change the format of the dance nights/days?" "Are we going to make an effort to attract new dancers to the activity?" Not just invite dancers from other clubs to join us as well. "Do we need new officers or coordinators to plan dances and carry out other club responsibilities?" "Do we have a representative to liaise with the Square Dancing Society of Qld. and to attend their meetings on behalf of the club?" "Is someone in the club interested in coordinating any communication? i.e. News/ Advertisements with the Bugle Editor".

Dancers. The backbone of our activity. How are you approaching your dancing experience in 2009? Are you looking for opportunities to welcome new dancers to Square Dancing? Do you always want them to join you in your squares? Are you seeking ways to make them feel part of the club? How do you accept them? ...Let's stop there and change the points of view. What do the visitors, prospective new dancers, possible long time valuable club members perceive of their first night? "Are they suspicious of your motives for being friendly?" "Are they sceptical that they will ever be a competent square dancer?" "Do they see the looks on some dancers faces when they realise they are in a square with beginners"?

Maybe as dancers who have been around for awhile, we need to put ourselves in the beginner's situation and help them feel really welcome. Let's not kid ourselves that newer dancers don't notice that sometimes groups of dancers "Square Up" around them. We see disappointment on their faces if they are not encouraged into a square, and excitement if more experienced dancers "give up" their spots to let them in.

Do we believe that Square Dancing is really "Friendship Set To Music". We used to say "Fellowship set to music"- I think that phrase had more depth and meaning. It did more to bring everybody together, to encourage a bonding that makes a strong Square Dance Club.

Plan for your club to be strong this year!

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

You may query some of the questions on the Individual Membership form E.g. You are asked to nominate a club. The only reason the Registrar requests an individual to nominate a club is to ease the financial burden on the Society for the delivery of members' mail. To post a letter to one member is 55 cents. To post 20 letters in one packet to twenty members per a club is a couple of dollars. About an \$8 saving per twenty members. To the Society the overall financial saving is a considerable one.

Better still is a member's email address. A large percentage of members have supplied their email address or an email address of a friend and receive their mail electronically. This is much better for all concerned. You get your mail more quickly and can ask questions direct to the Secretary or the sender and clarify any subject.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future when membership numbers allow, there may be discounts for members attending Society functions. An individual Members' Benefit Fund would be another good aim. Something to assist dancers financially with any costs in recuperating from any mishap that occurred in connection with a function.

If this explanation is not satisfactory or if you or anyone else has a query about Individual Membership of the Society, please contact me. Noel Miller.

My Comments

Over the Christmas break I had the opportunity to read Society minutes from the mid nineties to 97. It was interesting to compare the organization then with now.

In May '95 the Current Quarterly Selections for square dancing were M/S. Grand Parade. Plus Selections were Double Your Neighbour, Follow Thru and Ping Pong Circulate.

In the 90's application for membership to the Society involved having the request tabled for three months. This was supposed to allow members "to find out about the applicant and decide if we want to accept him/her as a member".

In September 95 the bank balance was \$21,410.42. In May 97 the first mention of 'our connection to the Internet' appears. I thought I would find a mention on the "Life Be In It" program but there was no mention of it.

In one report it mentioned about five hundred dancers at a Roundup. How things have changed.

Incidentally, if you look up 'Life Be In It' on the web you will find Norm, the great Australian sportsman. The site invites you to make a comment. Join in and give Square Dancing a plug. We are not using the web tool anywhere near as much as we could. I am well noted for wanting the Society to have its own Queensland web site. It will happen one day, and it will be an aid in the recruitment of new dancers

These reports were read to ascertain what activities the Society organized to acquire new dancers in those days. Clubs were active in this regard but very little if any action 'came from the top'. It would appear that the Promotions and Publicity Officer mainly operated in the Publicity area. I could not find any organized Promotion activity from the Society's point of view since 1995.

Today the Bugle looks after the publicity. Most clubs and organizations use this free newsletter to get their message out to all dancers.

Promotion is another problem altogether. The Society has no Promotion Officer at present. In the quest for accuracy maybe we should drop the 'Publicity' part of the name. About ten months back I raised the idea of having a DVD that individual dancers could give to acquaintances to encourage them to try square dancing. Members agreed with the idea and I have given one report on the matter. It is a lonely job working on such a project as one often wants the opinion of someone else, but it is difficult to find that person who has a similar interest and generosity of time.

The text and scenes of such a DVD have been reworked a number of times and discussions have been had with an organization familiar in using this means of promotion and it looks very promising. This was done as a private venture and in no way committed any organization to any action or cost. The members of the Society will be brought up to date at a meeting with progress when an opportunity arises.

I feel very strongly that the Society needs to take the lead in providing a tool for clubs to use to acquire new dancers. No doubt such a move will be a costly exercise but is there a lot of choice? Does anyone have another idea?

Are you prepared to get involved in helping square dancing get new dancers? If you are, attend the AGM of the Society.
. . . . And remember 'Every journey starts with a single step'.

Noel Miller.

Don't Break The Elastic!!

Maya Angelou was interviewed by Oprah on her 70+ birthday. Oprah asked her what she thought of growing older. And, there on television, she said it was "exciting." Regarding body changes, she said there were many, occurring every day...like her breasts. They seem to be in a race to see which will reach her waist, first. The audience laughed so hard they cried. She is such a simple and honest woman, with so much wisdom in her words! Maya Angelou said this:

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow."

"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."

"I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life."

"I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as "making a life."

"I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance."

"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back."

"I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision."

"I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one."

"I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back."

learned that I still have a lot to learn."

learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."