

The Banana Benders Bugle

JANUARY 2008

2008

As 2008 gathers momentum we enter a year of change in Square Dancing in Queensland. Chronologically we have the retirement of a President, Secretary and a Review Editor. We have the introduction of a new Constitution and the movement comes under the guidance of different personnel at the election of office bearers at the AGM. Then mid-year we have the National Convention at Chandler in Brisbane.

When people take on jobs in organisations such as the Society they usually have an opinion as to what they would like to see that organisation achieve under their leadership. Leighton Bloomfield has certainly done his best and should be acclaimed for the effort he put into being President of the Queensland Society. Sandra has been with him all the way as well as being the State Editor for the Square Dance Review and the Librarian for the Society.

Once in a blue moon things go as one desires with no problems. Most times a situation is a compromise and changes have to be made 'on the go'. This becomes very wearing after a time and Leighton and Sandra have been coping with such occurrences for over ten years. They are the Convenors of the approaching National Convention and there is no doubt that their efforts on behalf of dancing will be demanding in the next few months.

Secretary Jane Rayner has done her bit in many aspects of dancing but I think being the Secretary for the Society would have been the most challenging of her responsibilities. Jane's ongoing job is the Publicity Officer for both the National Convention and Logan City Square Dancing inc. so she still has a lot on her plate.

Just to say 'Thank you' to these people seems trivial but that is the nature of holding these positions.

When the new Constitution is adopted it will mask the efforts of a number of people including the Sub Committee who worked on the original draft. I had the honor of chairing that group

consisting of Don Look, David Rogers, Rhonda Chissum, and Linda Spencer with input from Leighton Bloomfield and Alan Rayner. We also received very valuable input from an 'outside' source- Elaine Watson OAM.

The best laid plans of mice and men very rarely go to plan and there is no doubt that some alterations will be made to this document, in the correct manner, as the year progresses. It is important to remember that a Constitution is a guide. No Constitution is as good as a careful inspection of a problem and fair judgment of that situation. Too many times people use these Constitutions as a backup for a particular opinion. It is a weak point of view that does not stand up to a fair-minded investigation and majority decision.

There are still some positions to be filled on the Society Management Committee so it is vital that the AGM on the 16th February is well attended. Please don't leave it to the mysterious 'someone' to do all the work. It will be interesting to see who fills the positions and in what direction the Society proceeds under the guidance of the new personnel.

While all these things are happening in the square dance area the Cloggers and Round Dancers merrily go on their way. The Cloggers are the quiet group tapping away happily, attending and demonstrating here and there. A view of their future year is in the Clogging Report in this Bugle. The Round Dancers are doing well with the usual influx when a dancing program comes on TV. A view of their year is also in this Bugle.

The Convention Committee is well on their way to seeing the rewards for their labour. This event means a major commitment from a few people over a couple of years. No doubt they will be working hard to get as many attending as possible in the remaining few months before the event. We all hope they have a very satisfying result.

Welcome to an interesting year.

Noel Miller

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Reproduced courtesy of

Rambling Eights 22nd Birthday

We are celebrating.

Our birthday Night Friday 22nd February.

St Pius Church DANCERS &
Golda Ave CALLERS ARE
Salisbury. WELCOME

Come along and help us celebrate.

Supper will be provided.

Dancing starts at 7.30 pm

Rambling Eights "Comic Capers" Camp

It is not too late to register for a fun weekend of dancing, sport, and socialising at Lake Perseverance Recreation Lodge.

The camp runs from Friday 7th March until Sunday (after lunch) 9th March.

Accommodation is in comfortable cabins with en-suites. All the meals are provided. Dance sessions will include workshops and general dancing as well as Round Dance sessions.

Sporting activities will include Tennis, Table Tennis and Bocce.

All this plus the company of friendly Square Dancers for just \$105.00 or \$59.00 for children under 16 years.

David or Faith Ph. 32631408,

A Fact.

I know you believe you understand what you think I said but I am not too sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant.

Square Dancing Society of Queensland Inc.

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Square Dancing Society of Queensland Inc will be held on 16th February 2008 at Baptist Church Hall, Innes Street, Geebung commencing at 9.30am.

The Agenda is as follows;

1. Chairman's opening remarks
2. Apologies
3. Appointment of Returning Officer and Scrutineers
4. Minutes of previous AGM & business arising therefrom
5. Correspondence pertaining to AGM & business arising therefrom
6. President's report, including a resume of the operations of the Executive Committee for the preceding year.
7. Treasurer's report including the audited statement of income & expenditure, assets & liabilities & mortgages, charges & securities affecting the property of the Society for the preceding financial year.
8. Election of Executive Committee & other Officers
9. Appointment of 2008 Society Patron
10. Special business (if any)
11. General business relative to the AGM
12. Date of next meeting & closure.

A young boy had just got his driver's license and enquired of his father, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up from a C to a B Average, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

Well, the boy thought about that for a moment, and decided to settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks they went into the study, where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud. You've brought your grades up, and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, and participating a lot more in the Bible study groups. But, I'm real disappointed, since you haven't got your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment, and then said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair also."

To this his father replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

STEPPING OUT WITH CLOGGING

FIRST THINGS FIRST (as they say)!

Thanks to all those who organised, and took part in, the marvellous round of Christmas celebrations which were a spectacular end to 2007.

The generosity (donation of prizes and buying of tickets) of the combined Brisbane Clogging Clubs shone through with a great result from the Christmas Raffle which resulted in a donation of \$460.00 going to the Cancer Council of Queensland's Pink Ribbon Day. The CCQ have expressed their thanks for our support.

Super staying power from the 'Get Rhythm" Clogging Team saw our activity Showcased to a wide audience including two performances per day for five days straight at the Lord Mayor's Christmas Concerts/Parties in the Brisbane City Hall.

Many of the events Clogging participated in last year will see repeat appearances this year- The Brisbane Eisteddfod, Urban Country Music Festival in Caboolture, Toyota Country Music Muster at Amamoor (it's near Gympie, but you knew that), the Ipswich Show, Shopping Centres and the Brisbane Queen Street Mall, School Fetes, Community Awards events, and anywhere else which will get our activity out there.

The most frequent comment from audience members wherever we danced was "You looked great, and you were having so much FUN!"

WELL DONE, GIRLS AND GUYS!!

The much-loved Clogging Camps- Aussie Clog and Storm King- will be on again for your dancing pleasure.

The ACA National Clogging Convention will be held in Sydney at Narrabeen in mid-September.*

Of course, let's not forget the Club nights where it all comes together in the form of fun, friendship, a bit of frivolity, easy exercise, music and lots of dancing (and they say wishes don't come true!) Early February sees us up and away for '08.

Have to go now and practice a new dance.

Keep in touch, either on the dance floor or any other way that suits you (see below).

Frances

FRANCES LOOK O.A.M.

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4102

PH: 07 3391 6526, EMAIL: lookdon-
frances@bigpond.com

News from Queensland Round Dance Association.

Another year has started and by the second week of February, all the round Dance Clubs will be back in full swing.

The A.G.M for Q.R.D.A. will be held, together with the quarterly meeting:

WHEN: Saturday 1 March, commencing at 2pm

WHERE: St Joachim's Parish Hall, Crown St
Holland Park.

These meetings will be followed by a short dance session to select Queensland's nominations for the showcase and experimental dances at the upcoming National Convention.

With this year's National Convention in Brisbane *Round Dancers* are being offered their first opportunity to round dance for the whole weekend.

This will be a great event, Round Dancing during a whole convention and it should not be missed – The dancing sessions will be planned to cover all levels.

The weekend after the Convention will also be a big event when Kurt and Tammy Warlock hold an International Dancing Session. Kurt and Tammy are among the very best in teaching ability so all dancers should plan to attend.

Details of all these events are available from your Round dance club leaders.

David Pitt.

Insanity is doing the same thing the same way
and expecting different results.

Abraham Lincoln.

Very few noteworthy achievements come
about by coincidence.

Bob Timmons.

Advice is seldom welcome and those who
need it the most always like it the least.

Lord Chesterfield.

In a crisis that forces choosing among
alternatives, most people will choose the
worst possible one.



RAMBLING 8S GRADUATED OF 2007
 :From left to right;Peter & Sharon-Lee, Kevin, Robyn, Sarah,
 Karen, Jason, Dianne, Marilyn, Val and John.
 David and Faith standing at the back.

Rambling Eights Christmas Break Up Party

Our break up dance night for 2007 was also our graduation night. We were fortunate to be “graduating” 11 dancers on the night but we have 7 more certificates to hand out in February to dancers who could not make it to the last dance of the year. It is pleasing to see that some of these dancers are young people; some have other family members dancing while others have re-entered the activity after a break. We look forward to moving along in the New Year to consolidate the mainstream moves and try some other variations. As there were several new faces who came along to our “Friends Night” in November, we are planning to introduce more dancers to the square dance movement and the enjoyment we have at club level. Rambling Eights is open to accept new dancers early in the year. We will involve them as soon as they come along in the Friday nights dancing and the other “Home Group” get togethers we plan to hold. New dancers or friends of prospective dancers came get more information about starting with us by phoning David or Faith, 32631408, or Maurice & Sharyn 33986874. or Ursula. 32772380. Our first night back at Salisbury is Friday 1st February.

The first and great commandment in business is: Don't let them scare you.

Elmer Davis

Conceit may puff a man up, but never prop him up.

Ruskin.

Curiosity is one of the most permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect. Samuel Johnston.

Please pardon all the quotes but this BBB is going out without any requests for any contributions. NM.

Countdown!!!

125 and counting

Yes – we're on the countdown now...as of 1st February 2008, just 125 days to go till the event of the year.....the **49th Australian National Square Dance Convention**.....

Dancing in the Land of the Lion King.

Have you registered yet? If not be quick! Register before the price rise on 1st March.

This convention is shaping up to be bigger then ever with extra halls for square dancing plus more sessions for round dancing and clogging with international Callers and Cuers and much more. A shuttle bus will run between venues during the convention. Don't forget your togs for dancing in the indoor heated pool.

There is plenty of accommodation within close proximity to the main venue. The main venue has dormitory style accommodation on site and catered meals are available.

What more could a dancer want?? A great location, ample choice of accommodation, terrific venues, a chance to meet up with square dance friends not seen for a while and make new friends too. All this and more happening at the **49th Australian National Square Dance Convention**.

Just Can't Wait – Brisbane 2008.
See you there!!!

THE NORTH QUEENSLAND SQUARE & ROUND DANCE CONVENTION.

The 30th North Queensland Square & Round Dance Convention is on the May Day weekend, May 2nd to 5th this year. It is being held at the Pavillion in Malanda, about an hour and a bit south-west of Cairns.

Guest Caller and Cuer are Nev and Bev McLachlan with supplementary spots for local callers and cuers. The program includes Mainstream and Plus with a Fun session (I hope). There may be a "Mystery" bus tour on Saturday and Sunday morning but this is reliant on bookings (none so far). To date we have had about 30 early bird bookings including some from SE Queensland plus one from Washington, New Zealand and Rockhampton.

Although Malanda's accommodation is now fully booked, Yungaburra and Atherton are a small 15 to 20 minute drive away. Malanda is on the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland, in altitude it is the same as Toowoomba but we enjoy a liberal rainfall and can only be called GREEN!

There are lots more information on this website for those who want to know more. <http://www.30th-nqsd-convention.org.au> or just phone David on (07) 40966557.

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).

Hello Fellow Dancers

Happy New Year to you all. A quick reminder to you that there is NO January Social. First Saturday Social for 2008 is on February 16th and we will be testing the Pavilion again. This is the venue for the NQ Convention and I want to try out my "new" sound gear and the FM transmitter. I have collected a number of \$10 radio sets to offer in May but the test is important.

Convention is proceeding well. The airfares for Nev and Bev have been booked and paid for. Signage and furnishings well on their way. I have been working on a token for registered dancers and will be approaching a trades person tomorrow for more materials.

To date we have had 30 something Early-Bird Registrations. The number on your receipt is also your badge number at the Convention. It is also your lucky door number for prizes over the weekend. Of the Registration, we have several from SE Queensland, one from west of Rocky, a New Zealander and a tentative USA enquiry. (She's dating a Brizzy lad).

Malanda is booked out for accommodation! Even the caravan park - I suspect I've even got 2 vans in my backyard! DON'T PANIC! Atherton and Yungaburra are only 15 minutes away and there are plenty of Homestays in the area. Unlike larger places like Cairns and Townsville, Malanda's 1,200 population gives you 100Kph highways between. Added bonus for dancers booked in Malanda limits: Local Taxi has offered a \$5 fare between Venue and accommodation. Great for anyone at the Lodge but probably silly if you are at the Pub (almost across the road).

The Bus company STILL haven't got back to me regarding the Mystery Tours - at this rate I may have to drop it! There is now a public bus connection between Atherton and Malanda on School days, so connection through to Cairns is possible. You would arrive Friday afternoon and return Tuesday morning. I plan to have more accurate times on the web site once I clear up a couple of problems with the computer.

Happy Dancing

David GH Smith

Phone 07 4096 6557

Email: dsmith@c130.aone.net.au

<http://www.30th-nqsd-convention.org.au>

WHAT SOME PEOPLE THINK.

In the covering note that went out with the Dec. 07 Bugle I wrote:

'Before you download the Bugle please do a little job for me. No, I don't want anybody else's opinion; I WANT YOUR OPINION.

*In a few short words write what you consider needs to be done to help Square Dancing. **Just take a minute to think about it and then do it.'***

This is just a part of those opinions, actually about one thousand out of about fifteen thousand words, a few too many pages for this Bugle. I have not 'gilded the lily' at all but I have amalgamated some opinions. I have written of all points in the singular regardless of them being mentioned multiple times.

Please keep in mind; the following is not necessarily my opinion or any particular person or any organization but it is a fair and accurate version of the majority overall opinions expressed in the replies. There are more opinions supplied and

they will be forwarded to the new executive without revealing the origin of the authors. Unpublished opinions received will, I hope, be in future Bugles.

IMAGE:

Get rid of the word 'square' when talking about the activity. The image generated from the word 'square' is not good. Square dancing needs an 'image' overhaul. Find a new name or a new way to describe what we do that has fresh sound to it.

(E.g. Dancing 8s)

People fear they would be seen as simpletons if they participated in the activity. This peer pressure is usually from persons who have never tried or been involved in this type of activity & thus are uninformed about the subject.

SIMPLIFY THE DANCE PROGRAM

Program needs to be easy to learn and easy

to teach and a lot shorter than twelve months. People will not make such a long commitment these days.

Teaching needs to be inclined to getting new dancers thinking for themselves early in the learning process.

Go back to basics.

MAKE IT ENTERTAINING

Callers should make it more fun and less strict and should use more modern music. Get people to have FUN. When people have fun and enjoy the experience they will return.

LEARNING

Don't mix learning dancers with easily irritated existing dancers.

We need to have "Special angels" who are willing, patient and understanding when assistance is needed with new dancers. The "lingo" that goes with the movements may also need interpreting. Truly friendly dancers don't frown when someone makes a mistake.

Good dancers are very understanding and supportive of new dancers reassuring them that all participants make mistakes at times.

We need to be MORE flexible in our learners' nights/days/ week days/ week-ends. Learning at any time a new dancer appears.

CLUBS

Create a welcoming culture of fun, friendliness and inclusiveness at your functions for all dancers but especially for any new dancers.

It is up to the club hierarchy as well as all members to make events fun.

Encourage new dancers to attend 'other nights' of mainstream/plus. This has the great advantage of letting new dancers get to know the club members early and creating a loyalty and commitment to the club.

Club leaders need to promote the social side of the square dance activity.

If we paid more entrance fee the callers & club revenues could be used for promotion

The free 'come and have a look/try' nights are very good. Perhaps then appoint a buddy from the club membership to each new starter. Someone who will encourage them to come along and dance with them as they learn.

PROMOTION

Target group should be the early retiree's 55. Promote as a social sport or a physical recreational activity, not just square dancing.

Emphasis that this hobby is mentally stimulating and requires concentration, cooperation, coordination and friendship.

Has anyone looked at the "scientific" benefits of square dancing? E.g. Health benefits, coordination skills, brain function etc.

Get community leaders and hierarchy, Governments to promote a positive image.

Cultivate a journalist or someone who is good at getting publicity and make that publicity expansive.

We also think you need to use the local free community newspapers and if possible get articles in about special events/conventions that happen locally.

Being single is seen as big problem. People thinking that they need a partner to start or to be involved. It should be emphasized that this not the case.

Really go all out to get onlookers to come to the National Convention in Brisbane and see what this activity is all about.

ADVERTISING

Advertising needs a major overhaul. Weekly notices in local community newspapers, community radio, promotional dances etc. Word of mouth is important (with an emphasis on the fun and fitness aspects).

WHAT DOES NOT WORK

Demos don't work; very few dancers have been recruited from them.

Promotions, flyers, advertising etc. won't get and keep new members.

CALLERS

The callers could be held responsible for starting on time & providing entertaining calling etc. This should include using new material.

Another problem is the quality of callers; this sometimes damages the image even further.

We need to pay callers (if they perform professionally) equal to or better than the minimum hourly wage rate.

Teaching has to encourage new dancers to start and think for themselves early in the process.

Callers need to stress gentleness and style to beginners. This would increase the numbers of

learners, induce dancers to stay involved and vastly improve dancing.

THE DANCERS

Dancers need to have a good understanding of the basic program, which means more time in club before attending big dances.

ADMINISTRATION

Every level of the organisation needs to encourage new clubs, callers and dancers even those who do not fit the status quo. Good leaders/callers have been known to quit because of criticism from the hierarchy.

We need to encourage potential leaders and yes they are a threat to the status quo, but without leaders we won't get new members.

Stop trying to destroy those who have the potential to bring in new members.

There needs to be a major re-vamp of the controlling bodies to look at what they can do to foster the development of this wonderful activity with its Physical, Mental & Social boosting benefits.

Do we look at having a "pilot" program and test out innovative ideas in a "safe" environment?

You may have an opinion you would like to air on these subjects or other subjects about the betterment of our type of dancing. If you want it in the BBB please submit your correspondence in either Word or Works format and indicate if you wish your name attached to the article. The address is on the front page, bottom LH corner.

Noel Miller.

Sunday Afternoons

PLUS SQUARE DANCE

(APD - DBD) for experienced PLUS dancers

commences on

Sunday 3rd February

Followed by

Sunday 2nd and 16th of March

then every 1st and 3rd Sundays

of each month in 2008 at 3:00pm

caller

Kay Walker

LEARNING and REFRESHER

PLUS

programme commences on

Sunday 2nd of March at 1:00 pm

for information contact

Kay 32028378

Aaron 33780825

admission

\$6

Girl Guide Hut

32 Ellen St.

Oxley

I am really appreciative of all who contributed their opinions as requested. Why do I ask for dancers opinions so much?

At times when a question is asked about attendance or what the dancers' want or some other such question one often hears ; "We / I know what they want".

I am of the opinion that such a reply is convenient but sometimes false. Your replies could illustrate what some of the dancers want / think etc.

If I have anything to do with the Bugle after the AGM there will be more requests at times for dancers opinions about variety of subjects.

This does not mean that all or any responses can be acted on but at least those charged with making decisions about square dancing in Queensland will have some idea of what some dancers think and that can't do any harm.

I have no idea where this type of correspondence could lead but it would help make the Bugle interesting.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU CONTRIBUTORS.

NOEL MILLER

A full list of dates is available at <http://www.achoppe.com>