

The Banana Benders Bugle

JULY 2008

Dancing in the Land of the Lion King Our National Convention



The Arena and halls around Chandler and Cleveland came alive to the sound of excited and happy Square Dancers from June 5th to 9th.

Over 1000 dancers and callers registered for the 49th National and from all accounts they all thoroughly enjoyed the Dancing and calling.

Dancers were spoilt for choice as 5 venues were used for Squares, Rounds, Clogging and Contras at several different levels. Many hours of dancing meant quite a few sore feet, but a foot massage was available in the foyer (many took advantage of this lady's comforting hands).

The committee, who have spent hundreds of hours in preparing Decorations, Programs, Sound equipment and may other necessary details, can hold their heads high. The 49th National is an event of which they can be proud.

Dancers came from all States of Australia (including New Zealand), and from several overseas countries. There were more than 50 Japanese dancers and callers. It was a great experience to dance with them but difficult to hold a long conversation with most of our Japanese friends as they understood little more than the square dance commands. They were very gracious and good dancers and easy to smile back at. I believe dancers are already planning to reciprocate with a visit to Japan so they may dance at their clubs.

As we wind up for another year, the "Golden West" reminds us that we should plan to "Go for Gold in 2009" This will be the Golden Jubilee of National Conventions.

Contributed by David Pearce

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Reproduced courtesy of

Roll of Honour Award.

The National Square Dancing Society of Australia do, from time to time, present worth recipients with The Roll of Honour Award.

To receive one of these awards the recipient has served Square Dancing in an outstanding manner at all levels of the activity over a number of years.

At the 49th Australian National Square Dance Convention held at Sleeman Sports Complex, Brisbane Barry Chandler, Chairman of the Convention Board, on behalf of the National Society made three such presentations.

Sandra and Leighton Bloomfield, the convenors of the 49th. National Convention were two of the recipients.

They have worked tirelessly for the success of this Convention and their efforts have been justly rewarded. Leighton is the recently retired President of the Queensland Society and is the present President of the National Square Dancing Society of Australia. Sandra has for many years been the Queensland editor for the South Pacific Review and the Librarian for the Queensland Society

The third recipient was Steve Turner, probably the most well known caller in Australia and one of the most popular callers. Steve's efforts on behalf of Square Dancing are appreciated and welcomed over the length and breath of this country.

Congratulations to all three new inductees in the Roll of Honour. Well done.



“THANK YOU”

We wish to offer our sincere gratitude to all the people who willingly gave of their time and effort to assist us in the organisation of the 49th Australian National Square Dance Convention – the programmed callers and cuers, and the volunteers who assisted in any way. We would particularly like to thank Margaret Baines, Bruce and Dolcie Laurenson and Val Kenneisen and their teams for the fabulous decorations.

To our dedicated Committee members and their teams, we wish to give a very special “Thank You” for their hard work over the last three years – it was a pleasure working with such a great team.

Leighton & Sandra Bloomfield
Convenors 49th Australian National Square Dance Convention



BURLEIGH SQUARE DANCE CLUB

invites you to their

18th. Birthday Party And YOU are invited.

Fancy dress is optional

Saturday, 12 July 2008

commencing at 7pm. Maher Hall

42 Matilda Street, Burleigh Heads, Gold Coast



For further information,
Joy on (07) 55 233 047
Karen on 0415 832 137.

Come and help us celebrate!

Tugun Twirlers

We have enjoyed the company of dancers and caller Jan Hay on their way to and from the National Convention. Our party night on 30th July is in the theme of a Masked Ball night so don't forget your mask.

The next outing for some of our dancers will be the Martin Klibble Memorial Dance in Mackay.

Fortunately our club numbers are being augmented by some of our 'wondering' dancers returning home safe and sound from their "walkabouts".

Yours in Dancing
Corinne.

Saladbowls

Kay has settled into calling at the club and enthused us with her style of calling. It is great to see some of the former club members back and dancing again.

It is also a change to be round dancing to cued rather than experience a live cuer – hopefully Linda will be back to give us back "live" dancing.

Despite the cooler evenings, we are still dancing over 2 squares. By the time you read this we will have had our soup night and will be looking forward to our Christmas in July on the 25th. July.
Chris Heyworth

CANE COUNTRY SQUARES

Several of our members attended the National Convention and brought back wonderful photos of the stage decorations and stories of the enjoyment of the dancing programme. It was good to have Michael and Rachelle Mills dance with us on their way back to Rockhampton after the Convention. Michael's calling always adds variety to our club's dancing.

Shirley has started a new class for Advanced dancers with help from the experienced ones. While learning our Round Dances, Advanced dancing, Mainstream classes and Club activities we are a busy little club – it keeps boredom away and is all good exercise.
Pam Garson

Su Wong marries Lee Wong. The next year, the Wongs have a new baby.

The nurse brings over a lovely, healthy, bouncy, but definitely a Caucasian, WHITE baby boy.

'Congratulations,' says the nurse to the new parents. 'Well Mr. Wong, what will you and Mrs. Wong name the baby?'

The puzzled father looks at his new baby boy and says, 'Well, two Wong's don't make a WHITE, so I think we will name him...

Are you ready for this?

Sum Ting Wong

PINE RIVERS SENIOR CITIZENS

Our last dance May Montage attracted 76 dancers, all of whom had a great time. We also had 10 different callers to keep the night moving, and interesting. Our next dance will be on 30th.

August and the theme is "Triple A" (Actors, Angels or Animals). That leaves plenty of scope for ideas to dress in the theme. Even if you don't want to 'dress up' come along and see what every one else is wearing.

Quite a number of our dancers attended the National Convention at Chandler, and had a great time (for some it was their first convention). Congratulation must go to Margaret and her 'gang' for the wonderful decoration of the main hall. It was fabulous. I happen to know that one of our dancers now has one of the cute lion cubs in her lounge room.

We would like to thank Tom Philip for running the club on the Tuesday after the convention as Margaret was tied up with the dismantling of the display and Jan was at the Mini Lab at Greenmount. It was quite a novelty for our dancers to have an afternoon with a male caller.

Many thanks also go to Lorna Warburton for dusting off some of her records and helping out. Looking forward to seeing you in August.

Happy dancing
Jan Hay

If you are on the net and you wish to brush up on your square dancing try www.saddlebrookesquares.com You might find it interesting.

An older, white haired man walked into a jewellery store one Friday evening with a beautiful young girl at his side. He told the jeweller he was looking for a special ring for his new girlfriend. The jeweller looked through his stock and brought out a \$5,000 ring. The old man said, 'No, I'd like to see something more special.' At that statement, the jeweller went to his special stock and brought another ring over. 'Here's a stunning ring at only \$40,000' the jeweller said. The young lady's eyes sparkled and her whole body trembled with excitement. The old man seeing this said, 'We'll take it.' The jeweller asked how payment would be made and the old man stated, 'by cheque. I know you need to make sure my cheque is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday to verify the funds and I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon,' he said. Monday morning, the jeweller phoned the old man. 'There's no money in that account.' 'I know,' said the old man, 'but let me tell you about my weekend! All Seniors aren't senile!!!'

MORETON BAY SQUARES

What a great month we've had ! It started off with a superb, fun evening spent with our "Sister Club" Pine Rivers Square Dancers. It was well worth the drive to Kallangur to be part of such a happy-go-lucky group of dancers. Thank you, Margaret Baines and assistants, for perpetuating this "5th Saturday" dance for Beginners & Mainstream dancers. We'll be there again August 30th !

The National Convention at the Sleeman Centre during the Queen's Birthday weekend was a massive success, according to members who attended as volunteers, dancers and/or spectators. Beginners were impressed by the spectacle and competence of the dancers and thus inspired to progress their dancing skills. Congratulations to all those involved in organising this onerous task for producing a highly successful event.

The Convention brought our old friends Nellie & Alec (now living in Hervey Bay) and Carol and Charles (of Mackay, soon to move to Russell Is.) back to the area and it was a delight to have them with us at our Saturday dance following the Convention. So a wonderful morning was enjoyed with our visitors, more new Beginners and the "Birthday Girl" Merle McKenzie. A most enjoyable morning enhanced by the chocolate birthday cake!

A date for your diary - at our recent Quarterly Meeting it was decided our "Island Theme" dance will be held Saturday 4th October 10am - 2pm. But don't wait till then, come and join us any Saturday 9.30am - noon at Russell Is. Rec Hall.

For more info ring Patsy-May 3409 5576 or email pmponing@redzone.com.au

23rd ANNIVERSARY DANCE AUGUST 1st, 2nd, 3rd 2008

FEATURING

Graham Elliott

At the Sunshine Coast Square Dance Centre, Buderim, Queensland

Week-end Dance Ticket Mainstream only \$ 20.00

Mainstream & Plus Dance Ticket \$ 35.00 Full Week-end Dance Ticket \$ 40.00

Session Ticket \$ 8.00 each session available at door

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY	7.30 pm	Welcome Dance (MS)		
SATURDAY	10.00 am – Noon	Advanced Dance (A1)	1.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Plus with Rounds
	7.00 pm – 10.30 pm	Rounds (first Hour) Mainstream	10.30 pm	Bonfire & Entertainment
SUNDAY	10.00 am – Noon	Plus Dance	1.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Mainstream with Rounds
	7.30 pm – 9.30 pm	Advanced Dance (A2)		

SEPARATE MEAL TICKETS ORDER AND PREPAY BY 23RD July 2008

SATURDAY DINNER
Served at 5.30 pm \$ 10.00

SUNDAY CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST
Served from 8.00 am \$ 8.00

SUNDAY LUNCH
Served at 12 NOON. \$ 8.00

BOOK EARLY = LIMITED POWERED SITES AVAILABLE FOR YOUR CARAVAN, CAMPER OR TENT

Camping Costs are additional

For Registration and Reservation for Meals and Sites

Contact the Sunshine Coast Square Dance Centre Nev & Bev McLachlan

Phone (07) 5445 1238 Fax (07) 5445 6742 or write to PO Box 248 Buderim 4556

Email NevBevMcLachlan@bigpond.com

SUNSTATE & BRISBANE CLOGGERS PRESENT AN

AUSSIE CLOG WEEKEND

AUST. CHOREO TO AUST. ARTISTS

KINDILAN Outdoor Educ. & Conference Centre

Cnr Days & German Church Roads, Redland Bay Qld (just 35 minutes from Brisbane CBD)

JULY 25th, 26th & 27th, 2008

Friday 7.30pm to Sunday lunch (check in from 5pm)

* **THREE HALLS: ONE EXCLUSIVELY FOR BASIC PLUS LEVEL WORKSHOPS**

* **1ST HOUR EVENING DANCES: 1ST HALL -EASY LEVEL CLOGGING – 2ND HALL - HIGH LEVEL CLOGGING. (EASY ACCESS UNDER ONE ROOF BETWEEN HALLS)**

FUN DANCES, DEMOS, COMBINED CLOGGING THEREAFTER.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS EVENT A SEPARATE INFORMATION & ENROLLMENT FORM IS AN ATTACHMENT TO THIS BUGLE

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).

Round Dance Corner



Curt and Tammy Worlock

For Round Dancers, this would be the best Convention ever. With two separate halls available for Workshops and general dancing, the Round Dancers, numbering over 130, attempted to dance over 220 rounds, take part in about 8 hours of workshops, and still be involved in the main Saturday Night at the Chandler Centre. The organisation behind the scenes and the excellent programs of rounds selected by Bev. McLachlan and her committee was appreciated by all who took part. One feature of this convention was the attendance of dancers who have never square danced but paid for full convention tickets because of the Round Dance availability. Also, they were exposed to basic square dancing for the first time.

The feature guests teachers, Curt and Tammy Worlock were a great hit with those present. The way they taught the moves and then demonstrated them in the complete dance sequence will live long in the memories of all who attended this convention.

For some photographic memories, see our web site:
www.rounddanceqld.com

SUNCOASTERS - BUDERIM

Question - Can you ever have too much of a good thing??

Answer - Not when it's square dancing and, oh boy, have we had a feast lately!!

First there was our Red Hot night when the dancing just kept going all night without pause or letup. As dancers became tired they left the floor and were replaced by others. We danced basic, mainstream and plus with rounds thrown in for good measure so there was much coming and going as different levels were announced, although some hardy souls danced non-stop the whole night long.

Nev was ably assisted by Sid Leighton and David Pearce who also made the most of the opportunity for a pre-convention trial of the sound equipment. It was a really great night as evidenced by the fact that some people were looking significantly weary as they headed home.

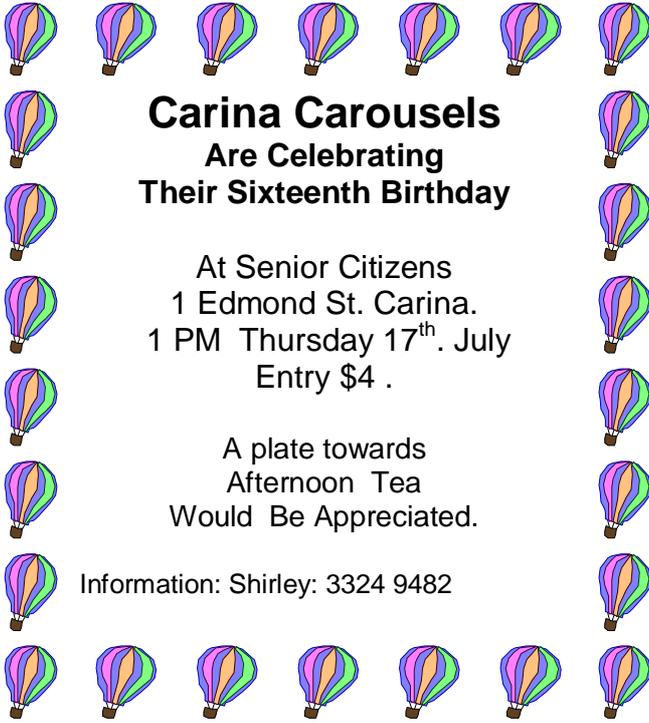
Next, of course, was the 49th National Square Dance Convention and where can I find the words to describe it?? Queensland, you can be proud of your committee, your callers, your dancers and your facilities. It was a fabulous event; every last tiny detail was planned and executed with great skill and wisdom. As I circulated and tried to talk to as many interstate and overseas visitors as I could, I found their responses to be unanimous - words like great, fantastic, superb, and wonderful were repeated again and again.

Round dancing in particular was very well done with the separate venue for those who want to do only rounds but some pre-square dance rounds in the main hall for the ones who want to do both. Clogging attendance was less than anticipated which was disappointing for the cuers who had put a lot of work into the program.

The facilities at the main venue were great and I enjoyed the availability of meals, snacks and drinks at all hours and being able to browse among the stalls offering a wide variety of square dance clothing and accessories. Even the rain didn't seem to dampen spirits; we were all having such a good time we barely noticed it.

Perth will find this a hard act to follow but I'm sure they will rise to the occasion and put on a great convention in 2009 - see you there!!

Robi



**Carina Carousels
Are Celebrating
Their Sixteenth Birthday**

At Senior Citizens
1 Edmond St. Carina.
1 PM Thursday 17th. July
Entry \$4 .

A plate towards
Afternoon Tea
Would Be Appreciated.

Information: Shirley: 3324 9482

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting. Well for example, the other day I went into town and went to a shop in George Street. I was only in there for about 5 minutes. When I came out there was a cop writing out a parking ticket. I went up to him and said, "Come on mate, how about giving a senior a break?" He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. I called him a creep. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tyres. So I called him a piece of dog dodo. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote. Personally, I didn't give a damn. I came into town by train. I try to have a little fun each day now that I'm retired. It's important at my age.

STEPPING OUT WITH CLOGGING

A couple of important dates in our Clogging calendar- and you are all invited to come along and cheer on the Team! Sooo, here is the diary food-

Sunday 6th July is Get Rhythm Dance Team's Heat for the SENIOR SUPERSTARS 2008 CONTEST. Venue is the Sandgate RSL Club, 50 Keogh Street, Sandgate. (Keogh Street is between Brighton Rd. & Southerden St. near the Lagoon). It all starts at 2 p.m.

On Tuesday morning, 19th August, we will be part of the SENIORS' EXPO at the Strathpine Community Centre, Mecklem St. Strathpine. Tuesday's programme starts at 9 a.m, and we're on at 10 a.m. The Expo is quite an event, with over 30 stalls, plus special presentations through until 3 p.m.

There is a Monday (18th August) programme which starts at 10 a.m. and finishes at 2:30 p.m. Admission is FREE both days.

Great to see some of the Clogging community from interstate and outside Brisbane in town for the National Square Dance Convention.

Aussie Clog camp at the end of July sure to be another cracker. Still time to register- Olive and Redland Bay await you!

Dancing is good for the sole.
Have fun, Frances
FRANCES LOOK O.A.M.
PH: 07 3391 6526; EMAIL: lookdonfrances@bigpond.com;
WEBSITE: www.cloggingaustralia.com

INVITATION FROM EVVIE JOHNSON

Evvie Johnson wishes to invite both past and present members of Salad Bowl Squares, and all members of sister Square Dance, Round Dance and Clogging Clubs to attend an afternoon and evening of Friendship, Dancing and Reminiscing, in celebration of the life of her beloved late husband, Peter.

Date: Saturday, 16th August, 2008. Venue- Thornlands Palais, corner Cleveland-Redland Bay Road and Island Outlook Ave., Thornlands.

First session: 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Socializing and Easy Dancing.

Second session: 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Clogging, Rounds and Squares at various levels.

Admission: Dancers \$5.00 per Session, Non Dancers \$2.00 per Session.

Tea, coffee, water and disposable cups supplied. Please BYO soft drinks and nibblies.

A plate of food for sharing during the break between the two sessions would be much appreciated.

To assist with the organizing of this event, please advise your Caller/Leader if you wish to attend. Please register with one Caller/Leader only.

HEAR 'n' THERE with Graham Brandon

What a Wonderful 49th. National Convention!!
Great Organisation, Great Decorations, Great
Dancing BUT most of ALL, Great Renewal of and
Making of Friendships.

One in particular for Margaret and myself
was a Canadian couple, David and Margaret
Gilchrist, from Didsbury, Alberta.

We first had the pleasure of meeting them
at the First Canadian National Convention,
Edmonton, in 1978. They have attended three
Australian Nationals: we have attended five
Canadian Nationals and had the pleasure of
meeting with them on those eight occasions.
Yes, that's thirty Years of letters, Christmas cards
and Dancing Friendships ALL by chance of a
meeting at and through Square Dancing.

What a Wonderful Happening. Yes, Square
dancing is TRULY "Friendship Put to Music."

Were you aware that there were at least
two attending and dancing, and in my case,
programmed families of three generations at the
Convention?

Number one: The Williamsons: Round
Dance Cuer Linda and husband Owen, their
daughter Donna and Donna's son Lachlan and
daughter Shannon.

Number two: The Brandons: Caller(?)
Graham, wife Margaret, their daughter, Round
Dance Cuer Bev McLachlan with their son-in-law
Caller Nev McLachlan, their granddaughter
Clogging Cuer Jaylene McLachlan and their
grandson Clogging Cuer Benjamin McLachlan.

Are there any other three generations?
I know there's lots of 2's.
It seems the Families who PLAY together STAY
together.

The McLachlan's, and to a smaller degree
the Brandons, are involved with Volunteer Sea
Turtle Research, and Nev and Bev have just been
presented with an Award from the Environmental
Protection Agency for their Volunteer effort: Nev
thirty-eight years, Bev thirty years.
They met through Square Dancing.

What a Wonderful Activity in which we are
Involved!

We must STRIVE to maintain its longativity.

Who would want to lose it?

Graham Brandon



**Three generations of the Williamsons
and a little friend, Georgia.**

The Square Dancing Society of Queensland inc.

The Management Committee of the
Square Dancing Society of Queensland
inc.

will be meeting at
LOGAN CITY SQUARE DANCE CENTRE
161A Magnesium Drive
Crestmead
On Sunday 13th. July at 1 P.M.

Financial Members of the Society are
invited to be present if they so desire.

THANK YOU.

I did not notice too many cameras around the
dance floor at the Convention but believe me,
they were there. To all who sent in photos to
the Bugle, THANK YOU.

It is a little difficult covering all bases at times
but if the opportunity arises in the not too
distant some of those photos may appear in
the BBB.

TUGAN TWIRLERS

MASKED BALL

7pm. 30 JULY

Tugan Progress Hall
Golden Four Drive
(Near Tugan Pub)

What Makes a Good Dancer

Reprinted from 'Stanford Quads Newsletter' Author Bill van Melle

Dance small.

At most Plus clubs, squares tend to spread out. That makes for sloppy formations, causes you to take longer than necessary to complete calls, and can make it hard to find the people you should be working with. A square can dance in 12 feet square without undue discomfort. This is a hard habit to pick up, but it pays off well.

What these first four points really come down to is "formation awareness." Notice that in each formation, there are 8 specific spots on the floor which you can be in, and 4 walls you can be facing. For example, in a ¼-Tag (the name of the starting formation for PING PONG CIRCULATE, from static squares: after heads pass the ocean) there is a wave down the centre, and a couple on the outside. The couple should be lined up with the centre of the wave and holding hands. If you aren't in the wave and aren't in the couple, or are facing a corner of the room, something went wrong with the previous call. If the formation is waves or columns, the dancers should be standing in a perfectly rectangular 2 x 4 array, not skewed, or with people sticking out. This is especially important in a T-bone formation (some dancers facing head walls, some side walls).

One thing to do to improve your dancing is practice knowing exactly what formation you are in. After each call, think "I am now number 3 in the column," "I am the in-facing end of a right-hand wave," or "I am now the rightmost end in the line."

Thinking about the formation may also help you to keep it smaller by anticipating the little adjustments needed to get rid of the excess space in your square.

This leads into an advanced topic in formation awareness, what Challenge dancers have come to call "square breathing": the expansion and contraction of the square as calls put more or fewer dancers into the same space. Failure to "breathe" is a common reason that squares grow too large. For example, on RELAY THE DEUCEY or SPIN CHAIN THE GEARS (MS: SPIN THE TOP twice), the square starts in waves (ideally close together), but expands (breathes) to accommodate the intermediate 4- or 6-person wave that forms at right angles to the original formation. But by the end of the call, the formation is again parallel waves. So as the call ends, the square should contract to pull those waves back close together. If it doesn't, and the next call is something like FOLLOW YOUR NEIGHBOR (MS: SCOOT BACK), the in-facers have a long way to walk to find the person they're to cast with (MS: Arm Turn).

CATHOLIC GASOLINE

Sister Mary Ann, who worked for a home health agency, was out making her rounds visiting homebound patients when she ran out of gas. As luck would have it, an Exxon Gasoline station was just a block away.

She walked to the station to borrow a gas can and buy some gas. The attendant told her that the only gas can he owned had been loaned out, but she could wait until it was returned.

Since Sister Mary Ann was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. She looked for something in her car that she could fill with gas and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, Sister Mary Ann carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with gasoline, and carried the full bedpan back to her car.

As she was pouring the gas into her tank, two Baptists watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said, 'If that car starts, I'm turning Catholic.'

The new Supermarket near our house has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain. When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and witness the scent of fresh hay.

When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying.

The veggie department features the smell of fresh buttered corn. I don't buy toilet paper there any more.

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter .

"What are you doing?" She asked.

"Hunting Flies" He responded.

"Oh! Killing any?" She asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 Females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone.