

The Banana Benders Bugle

Volume 1

Issue 3

June - July 05

My Scribble

Calendar of Events

When articles are submitted we have to do a little editing at times. All efforts are made to keep the integrity of the article but it is only when one has a go at putting together one of these newsletters that you realise all the compromising facts you face.

Without the dancers who contribute to the 'Bugle' there would be no newsletter. The comments, questions and obvious appreciation of the effort that is going into The Bugle told us at the Society meeting that Queensland dancers have been looking for such a newsletter for some time. The Bugle is yours; please use it.

LAST TRY: About twenty-five clubs have completed and returned their surveys circulated twelve months ago. The Review Sub committee would like to express their appreciation to those clubs who have responded.

We are not Big Brother. The Society will only ever see an overview of the information supplied in the survey. We need some idea of how clubs operate, how many dancers there are in this State, how the Society can help to cut the cost of operating and look at insurance options. The Society is trying to improve its performance. At present it is working in the dark. Please help and complete the Survey or at least let the Review Sub committee know why you have not returned your club's copy of the Survey.

It is anticipated that The Bugle will begin to operate on a financial basis next year. Hopefully by then we will have established a network of email addresses to which this newsletter can be delivered so that all clubs in the state 'are on line.'

The next publication is due to go out in August. Time to get your contribution ready to tell what your club has been up to and what you are planning. Have fun and be kind to one another.

Noel Miller.

10-13 June	Nth. Qld. Square & Round Dance Convention.
24-25 June	Rocky Twirlers Birthday Dance.
1 July	Rambling 8s Christmas in July
2 July	S Bar B. Christmas in July
23 July	K-Dee Round Dance Evening, St Agnes' Hall, Mt Gravatt. 7.30 pm.
15-17 July	Martin Klibbe Memorial Dance.
20 July	Gumdale Christmas in July
5,6,& 7 Aug.	Buderim Caravan & Camping Week end.
19-21 Aug.	Round Dance Week End
26-28 Aug.	Round Dance Week End
8 Sept.	S Bar B 52 nd . Club Birthday
21 Sept.	Gumdale. Lets go Country
22 Sept.	Final Ashgrove Rosebowl Hoedown. S Bar B Square Dance Clubs
1 Nov.	Gumdale Melbourne Cup 10am - 2 pm.
2 Nov.	Gumdale Derby Cup. Ladies' Day

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

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Ph. 3841 6619

Reproduced courtesy of

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Councillor for McDowall Ward
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Email: mcdowall.ward@ecn.net.au

THE LAST GOLD RUSH FESTIVAL

I have been asked many times in my travels whether the " Mothar Mountain Gold Rush Festival " is going to held.

The Club made its decision last year that 2004 was the last and there has been no change to that .

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge the input of the Club members, dancers from all points including overseas and Callers who came from afar to the festival. It was these people coupled with the fact that few changes were made over the years that helped to keep it so popular.

For the Club it was very pleasing that the 2004 festival went off so well. It was good to go out with a top festival.

Thanks again to all who helped in any way that made the Gympie Mothar Mountain Gold Rush festival what it was..

Yours in Square Dancing ,
Bruce H. Best

MOTHAR MOUNTAIN

Mothar Mountain dancers will be attending the Goomeri Pumpkin Festival on Sunday 29th. May.

This is an annual long time commitment where Mothar Mountain dancers put on some demonstrations and general dancing in the Hall of Memories. Local callers and any visiting caller would be welcome.

Seven members of the club attained their 'three score and ten' this year and a the event was celebrated with a cake and a good time.

Congratulations to Edith, Pat, Patricia, Mavis, Jesse, Hazel, Doug and a big thank you to Dawn for supplying the cake.

D. R. Edwards.

33rd EXHIBITION ROUND UP

HOSTED BY

Bar K Ramblers Circle W

Square Dance Club

Will be held on

Saturday 9th July 2005

At the

WHITES HILL COMMUNITY HALL

Formerly Camp Hill High School

Caller Nev McLachlan & Local Callers

7.00 p.m. Rounds, 8.00 p.m. Squares & Clogging brackets

Giant Hamper Raffle, Lucky Door Prize & Supper

Canteen for light refreshments.

Enquiries Nev & Bev McLachlan

Phone (07) 5445 1238 or Fax (07) 5445 6742

Email NevBevMcLachlan@bigpond.com.au

Townsville

BEST WISHES to George Cook of Sun City Square and Round Dance Club in Townsville who came off second best after an unfortunate run-in with a chicken.

Seems George tripped over the little feathered fiend at his home, took a fall, and believe it or not walked around with a cracked femur for fortnight until a sudden movement early one morning saw a break happen and George off to Hospital.

Home now, and going great guns like the trooper he is, George has been spied sharpening up his axe. As the saying goes- you can't keep a good man (or chicken) down.

DON LOOK

Mackay.& District

The President of the Society Leighton Bloomfield and wife Sandra were recent visitors to our club. Sandra ran a well received Clogging workshop on the Saturday afternoon. Owen Klibbe called on the Saturday evening dance.

Our very nomadic dancers were visitors to the opening of Rockhamptons Dance Centre and will attend the State Convention in Brisbane while others will travel to Townsville for the North Queensland Square Dance Convention on the long weekend.

Dancers Ross Muller and Chrisitine Townsend are about to return home from their honeymoon in the north and Greg and Lynette Downing will attend their daughters wedding in Brisbane on the long weekend

Dancers are looking forward to the Martin Klibbe Memorial Square Dance Week-end, 15,16 &17th. July. Beautiful winter weather in Mackay and cheap airfares will entice dancers from the southern states. Preparations for the weekend are in place for a great FUN weekend with Jeff Seidel at the microphone.

For further information

Phone: 49597350

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Maryborough Hoedowners Square Dance Club.

Recently we had an "expression of Interest" night , and a few people came along to see what square dancing was all about. The next week we had 8 young people and one adult come along, so a "Beginner's Class " was started. They are progressing well with our Caller David Habler. He has the patience of "Jobe". We are all feeling young having the younger ones with us. They seem to have a ball.

David Smythe visited on 30th April, and though small in numbers we made up for it in enthusiasm Our Monday night "Plus" Workshop has proved popular, dress is informal, so all you Southerners who travel for the winter come along and join us. We had 2 Canadians drop in on their journey South. Wednesday mornings at 8.30 am. sees the "Line Dance" Group enjoying themselves.

All this takes place at St, Thomas' Church Hall on Cnr. of Pallas and Garden Streets, Maryborough.

In May we celebrate the Birthday of Marie Wilson. Marie who has seen over eighty eight years and is dancing strongly. As well as square dancing she does Scottish dancing, Marching, and Tai Chi. Marie was awarded the Club's appreciation award at our recent Birthday Dance. Congratulations Marie.

Regards Helen Meyer. Secretary.

Bon Bon Western Creations

Bonnie Morgan,
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Kilcoy Qld 4515

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HAVE YOUR NEXT WESTERN STYLE SHIRT, SQUARE DANCE SKIRT AND PETTICOAT MADE TO ORDER. CHOSE FROM YOUR STYLE OR MINE IN WHATEVER COLOUR YOU FANCY.

ROUND DANCING with the STARS?

The popularity of dancing shows on TV seems to have had an effect on this year's beginners group. Instead of the usual 10 to 20 people who turn up to a first night of beginner's class, this year has seen an explosion in at least two of our Brisbane clubs.

Valentine Rounds had 160 people turn up to their first night, causing dramatic changes to the way the teaching would proceed. Two separate time sessions were established and an extra night was introduced to cope with the influx.

Val and Ken Bolton did not advertise the class as such; a friend wrote a half page article in the local press about them and mentioned the date the class was to start.

Allemander Rounds had a similar experience with standing room only on their first night. Over 140 people turned up, and this number has now been split into Monday, Thursday and Friday night classes. Four weeks on, about 45 couples are still attending and seem keen to continue.

Paula and Warwick Armstrong placed a simple ad. In the local paper saying "Learn to dance" and mentioned the rhythms to be taught. Some of the Monday classes are even taking an interest in Square dancing that follow their lesson.

It would seem that many people are keen to learn dancing if we give them the opportunity.

Extract from A-Round Queensland. Q R D A. Newsletter, April '05.

Queensland Round Dancing Association.

An easy level of Round Dancing is being organized to cater for the big influx of beginners we have had this year. It will be in the Camp Hill School of Arts Hall on Saturday, 18th. June. Any Square dancers who enjoys an easy level round dancing (without getting too serious about higher level dancing) might enjoy this dance. They would certainly be made welcome. An evening of easy level rounds is something that most square dancers would not experience. They are usually restricted to a bracket of two dances at a time between squares. Paula Armstrong; 55463493, or Val Bolton; 32751558 should be contacted for more details.

Your in the betterment of dancing
David Pitt; Secretary, QRDA

STEPPING OUT WITH CLOGGING

There were excellent spectator responses to two recent Clogging demonstrations- one at the Urban Country Festival at Caboolture and the other at the Ipswich Show.

Spectators were enthusiastic at both venues with nearly 300 watching the final session at the Ipswich Show. Enquiries from interested future dancers was very pleasing. The Ipswich Show President and his good lady issued an on-the-spot invitation for us to return next year. WELL DONE AND THANK YOU to all the dancers who took part.

Celebrations aplenty as one of Australia's longest running Clogging Clubs, CHUG-A-LUG, had one wow of a day on the 22nd May for their 18th Birthday. Regulars and visitors converged on the Greenslopes venue, enjoying the usual fun-time so typical of Clogging get-togethers. Thanks to all those who attended, and those who contributed to a super luncheon spread.

Brisbane Combined Clogging Clubs are once again lining up for an appearance at the Brisbane Eisteddfod.

Special Edition Cloggers from the USA will strut their stuff at the Red Cross Hall, Greenslopes on 11-12 June. Local Cloggers will have plenty of opportunities over the weekend to show how good we are at this fantastic activity.

July's calendar shows a big star pointing to The Aussie Clog Weekend at Redland Bay near Brisbane.

WELCOME and GOOD LUCK to Del Sutcliffe, starting up a new Club- "Hooked On Clogging" for Brisbane dancers, and Annie Bradbury and Jan Wyllie spreading the message with the formation of "Country Moon Cloggers" at Torquay (Hervey Bay).

Ever noticed how time flies when you're organising something **SPECIAL**? Well, that's how it is for the Committee in charge of the 10th Australian National Clogging Convention to be held in Gympie in September this year. And what about that 70s Steam Train Excursion on the Thursday under the guidance of Train Master Edith Sandy?

Keep Happy, Keep Clogging

Frances

FRANCES LOOK

Email: lookdonfrances@bigpond.com

20th ANNIVERSARY DANCE

AUGUST 5TH, 6TH & 7TH 2005

FEATURING

Jerry Jestin

From the USA

AT THE

Sunshine Coast Square Dance Centre,
Buderim, Queensland

Early Bird till 30th June 2005

Week-end Dance Ticket Mainstream only \$ 30.00

Mainstream & Plus Dance Ticket \$ 35.00

Full Week-end Dance Ticket \$ 40.00

After 1st July add \$ 5.00 to the ticket price

Session Ticket \$ 8.00 each session available at door

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY	7.30 p.m.	Welcome Dance (Mainstream)
SATURDAY	10.00 a.m. – Noon	Plus Dance
	1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Mainstream
	7.00 p.m. – 10.30 p.m.	Rounds (first Hour) Mainstream
	10.30 p.m.	Bonfire & Entertainment
SUNDAY	10.00 a.m. – Noon	Plus Dance
	1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Mainstream
	7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.	Advanced Dance

SEPARATE MEAL TICKETS

For Catering purposes Please **ORDER AND PREPAY BY 30th July 2005**

SATURDAY DINNER	Served at 5.30 p.m. \$ 8.00
SUNDAY CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST	Served from 8.00 A.M. \$ 6.00

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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

Rocky and Central Qld continues to be a very busy place. Numbers at the three clubs in Rocky are a little higher and the Beginners class run by the three local Callers is going well.

CQ (Central Qld) Square Dance Centre continues to be a fantastic little hall. Please join us some time. You have your choice of three nights in any week.

Rocky dancers attended Snakes Alive and East meets West. Thanks Bundy for such a fantastic weekend. Unfortunately we don't have a large number of dancers traveling to the State Convention however what we miss in numbers we will make up for in enthusiasm.

June Dalliston the Convener of 2006 State Convention recently celebrated her sixtieth birthday. Happy birthday June.

Nev and Bev McLachlan are coming to Rocky June 25//26 to celebrate Rocky Twirlers eighth birthday. This is your chance to enjoy a fantastic weekend with us at the CQ Square-dance Centre.

Rocky will be well represented at Martin's memorial dance in Mackay. Wish you could be there with us in person Marti.

2006 QLD Convention will be held in Rocky and information kits will be assembled in the near future.

See You on the floor somewhere soon.

Rob, Kathy and the Rocky Twirler. 22/5/05

"Rambling Eights hold a camp each year. For the last few years we have taken over the Lake Perseverance Recreation Lodge at Crows Nest. The weekend includes lots of fun, dance workshops, (Square and Round) sports activities general dancing and a memorable After Party on the Saturday Night. Each year we have a theme for the weekend. In past years we have had Back to the Bush, Ides of March, and Wild West. This years theme was "Ship Ahoy" and dancers dressed for the party in elaborate outfits and brought props of sailing ships and ocean liners. Frank Perkins even built a wharf complete with a clock tower. The food is supplied and prepared by professional catering staff, so more time is available for dancing and other fun.

Noel McKenzie helped David Pearce with the squares while Corinne Bradshaw taught and cued rounds.

Watch this magazine for advertisements for the next one in March 2006."

An upcoming Club activity for Rambling Eights is our "Christmas in July Party Night" . We have held this event for several years and it is always a good excuse to get those Christmas dresses and square dance records out in between the December functions. This year the Christmas in July Dance will be held on 1st July in our usual hall at Salisbury.

Pine Rivers Senior Citizens Club

Our last fifth Saturday square dance held on 30th April in the Kallangur Community Centre was in the middle of a long weekend. A few of our regulars were away however all enjoyed a great night of dancing. Our next fifth Saturday will be held 30th July at the usual venue. It will be based on a JUMBLE theme, so dig around in the back of your cupboards, drag out all those bits and pieces and wear them to the dance.

Members of our club also danced as part of a demonstration team, providing entertainment at a number of Respite Centres to the North of Brisbane. These team recently had engagements on three consecutive days, one of which was to be held at Bernie Brae Senior Citizens Fete. Our caller, Margaret Baines was attending a meeting of Square Dance Society and our Trainee Caller Jan Hay had her first solo outing. All went well. Congratulations Jan.

19th May saw us attending "Australia's Big Cuppa" morning tea at Kruger Hall in Kallangur. This is a fund raiser for Cancer Research, and the local coordinator Margaret Longmore, invited the demo team who were pleased to see other Square Dancers in attendance. These formed a second square, and made the event all that more enjoyable. Written on behalf of Margaret Baines by Margie Jones

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 par-

My first national convention

I honestly can't remember my first convention as I was very young. I know I attended the 1962 and 1967 Convention in Brisbane but I mix them up and they were my first two.

My recollection of 1967 was 2 fold. I assisted my brother with his transport duties as an escort on buses to and from venues and will never forget the favourable comments made by Art & Blanch Shepherd and other New Zealand visitors about the great time they were having.

I also remember it as I had my first call at a National. It was the "prize" for winning the Queensland Amateur Callers Contest at the Convention Trail in dance judge by Les Shroeder.

The thing that sticks in the minds of most of us who went to those conventions was the fabulous venues – dancing at Brisbane City Hall and Cloudland Ballroom. Sound and parking was awful but no one cared – the atmosphere was great.

Nev McLachlan.

Actually my first Convention was the 1st Southern Hemisphere Square and Round Dance Convention held in New Zealand in 1974 in January (year of the bad floods in Brisbane). As I had only been dancing for a short while it was very daunting but I had a great time. Switching between the different hand holds was also a novelty. I can also remember the length of my dresses (15 inches if they were that – that was when the frillies where really needed) The atmosphere and excitement of such a large function and it being the first was fantastic. I was fortunate enough to attend the 2nd Southern Hemisphere Square & Round Dance Convention 20 years later in 1994.

My first Australian convention was in 1974 the 15th in Adelaide. Unfortunately I can't remember a great deal about the convention BUT I do remember that the motel that we were staying in the heating system blew up on the Friday night and we froze. The next morning the motel staff were out buying small heaters for all the rooms. I can also remember standing on the top of a hill in the cold cold wind waiting for the bus to take us back to the convention after the evening meal. This was when you got to know about people and also what not to do when organizing a future conventions.

It was also very educating to listen to other callers and to watch other dancers.

Bev McLachlan

The Moreton Bay SQ Dance Club.

Firstly I would like to thank the people involved with the Bugle for this opportunity of being able to read up on other clubs activities special dates etc . I feel this to be a very important way to keep in touch with our fellow members and would take this opportunity to wish the Bugle every success.

As for our little club out here in the bay we are doing very nicely .We recently had our club birthday party, celebrated with gusto with the help of many visitors from the mainland. Coming to us from as far as Morayfield, Ipswich, AcaciaRidge and Gumdale A big thank you to all of those people who helped to make our day so successful.

Our Monday workshops are proving to be very successful as we have welcomed six new members including three men (that's something as men are so scarce). All are learning very fast and looking forward to mixing with our Saturday Club dancers .

Recently our club went over to Australia (excuse the use of an Island phrase) to dance at the special nights for Logan Center, Morayfield and Rochdale clubs . Met up with old friends and new, welcomed most warmly by all and thoroughly enjoyed our time with these clubs

In closing may I just mention our next special day will be **Cuppa for Cancer Morning At Russell Island Hall on Saturday 4th June** Try and make it over we would love to see you all . Regards to all Nellie

Rocky Square 8's

With the cooler weather dancers are more enthusiast about getting on the floor and our three Callers with their different styles make for some great nights.

Several of the members are looking forward to attending the 2005 State Convention at the end of May.

Laurie ,June and a few others are heading north to their Convention in Townsville Queens Birthday week-end.

We hope to make this an extended holiday thanks to Rob being able to do Laurie's club for him. One of the highlights in the near future is the McLachlans coming to Rocky for the Twirlers Birthday at the end of June.

Yours in Square-dancing

June Dalliston

Rocky Twirlers Birthday Dance.

Featuring Nev McLachlan.

24–25 June in Rocky.

Dancing is better in Germany?

We can learn from a country where Square Dancing is flourishing

By John Brant

I recently had an e-mail discussion with a German dancer, Harmut Heiber, who attended the recent Nationals in North Carolina. I asked him to compare dancing in Germany versus the United States. This is how he responded to the question "Is dancing better in Germany?"

"Yes, I'm sorry that I must admit that square dancing abilities, i.e. abilities of the dancers in general are often, not always, much better in Germany than in the USA, and I think it's most often due to the average age of the dancers. In the USA you have an average in the clubs of mostly more than 60 years, our average age in Germany is - there are no official statistics of course - estimated 40-45 years. Of course it depends on the clubs, there are also differences, but in our area (Cologne/Bonn) we certainly have this average; in many clubs in our area we have dancers ranging from 10 to 70 years, so you see, but neither teen clubs nor retired people clubs nor single clubs, that doesn't exist. So we are very happy here in Germany to have those intermingling of ages and sexes and persons. There are certainly some couples (married or not) who only dance with their partner, but rather few. This fact contributes, in my humble personal opinion, to more fun in square dancing. So we dance all together, and this is wonderful. I don't want to offend any American dancer, they are all very nice and friendly, and we had so many kind receptions and meetings and dances with the clubs we visited the last three weeks, but most of the dancers are in the retired age and physically often not able to follow the quick calling of the younger callers. So I think the style of the younger European dancers contributes to more fun in dancing, and I really have this feeling when I come back to Europe dancing in our clubs. I must admit, too, that dancing abilities of our MS and Plus dancers are higher than in the US, because we are trained better, I think, and we are often learning to dance from all positions (APD). There is no rushing to Plus, and we never continue to learn Plus just after having been graduated in MS. I think this is important to know. Therefore we have certainly less dropouts after the MS graduation." - Harmut Heiber

There has never been anything written that tells Americans what is wrong with Square Dancing in America as well as you just read. German callers don't rush new dancers to Plus. German dancers can dance many places to good Mainstream dancing. Dancers learn Mainstream well before going on to other levels. In America dancers are rushed to Plus before learning Mainstream well. We end up with a lot of poor dancers at Plus dances who are breaking squares down on Mainstream calls.

The remainder of the article relates to US exclusively. The part I found interesting was the comparison between the two continents in their respective abilities as dancers and how that comes about. N.M.

Queensland Round Dance Association Inc.

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with

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Location: St. Agnes Hall, Logan Road, Mt. Gravatt.

Cost: For each Weekend. \$ 75 (per dancer)

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For further information contact: David Pitt Secretary, Q.R.D.A.

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