



President's Report : November 2009

Well another month has flown by and many instructors are planning their final socials for the year. This issue is full of Christmas socials so get ready to find those Santa hats you packed away last festive season and plan go along to one or two!

Congratulations to those instructors and dancers that took part in the Mildura Country Music Festival line dance socials and workshops. The Wentworth Club, as well as other venues around Mildura, was full of keen dancers, which by the end of the festival were just about worn out but very happy just the same. It was great to dance to so many popular dances from the present and past (some we had to reach deep down into the memory banks!) and catch up with friends. And when we weren't dancing there was plenty of good music to listen to from the many talented 'independent' artists in the Aussie country music scene.

A couple of weeks ago the Bendigo Mustang Bootscooters hosted a Gordon Elliot Workshop and two very enjoyable socials. The Marong Hall was an excellent venue and Tina did a great job up on stage leading off the dances. Congratulations Dot and Tina for organising a great weekend.

Every now and then I know that line dancers feel that they are being bombarded with lots of new dances. Spare a thought for your instructor who has to learn and select suitable dances for you. Just this last month there were four instructors running workshops in Mildura, then there was Gordon in Bendigo, and today I have just come home from the latest VLDA Workshop. My head is spinning with about 100 new dances from these workshops alone with only a couple of months of teaching before we wind down for the Christmas/New Year break. No wonder I have to sometimes ask my class "how does this one start?"

Last month I mentioned the Portarlington Line Dance Weekend which will be held over the March Long Weekend, 5th - 7th March 2010. I am mentioning this again just in case you need a reminder to book your accommodation if you plan to stay overnight. The Portarlington weekend features four socials (Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights, and Sunday morning) and two workshops with Gordon Elliot (Saturday morning and afternoon).

At the last meeting of your VLDA committee we set the 2010 dates for meetings and workshops and these are listed in the month's Newsletter. Lorraine has done a great job co-ordinating the last two workshops but she cannot do it alone. INSTRUCTORS - she needs YOUR input into what dances you have taught your classes and you think are worthwhile sharing with other instructors and members. You don't necessarily have to teach them at the workshop, although that would be preferable. The purpose of the workshop is instructors working with one another and other VLDA members to share dances that are going around and popular with classes.

Committee also discussed the idea of producing a special CD of newly choreographed dances by Professional & Associate members for distribution to instructors. Some members who have choreographed dances have asked for help with getting their dances known and we felt this was one way we could help. So if you have a special dance you want to have included on such a CD get in touch with Lorraine.

Well, that's it for this month. In the meantime, enjoy your dancing - and try to remember to dance *in lines* - sometimes we tend to dance all over the place and forget we are supposed to be *line dancers*.

Keith Davies
President

P.S. Thanks to all those folk who have wished me well in my new role as President - your wishes are appreciated.