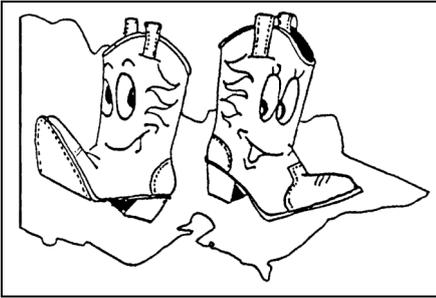


October 2010



VICTORIAN LINE DANCE ASSOCIATION

PROMOTING & SUPPORTING LINE DANCING ACROSS VICTORIA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I'm writing this report from sunny Mildura during the 10-day Country Music Festival. There are plenty of things to do here with workshops in line dancing and partner dancing, and socials at various times of the day and night. If you are into country music there is plenty of music to dance or listen to with some 20 venues featuring about 100 country singers and bands. Our group like dancing to live music as well as CDs, so we been travelling around to various venues seeking good music and dance floors. We have enjoyed doing dances like Tonight We Might, Rhyme Or Reason and Flip Flops (to name just a few) to other songs. Even did one of my favourites, Unchained Melody, to a lovely song that I had never heard before – fitted the song perfectly!

When we dance to the artists here at the festival many of them are surprised at the versatility of line dancers to be able to find a dance for almost any song they sing. I always cringe when some say they are going to sing 'one for the line dancers' ... this usually means Bootscootin' Boogie! One singer said 'I'm going to sing a slow one now, I hope the line dancers are OK with that'. It turned out to be a waltz and the only problem with that was choosing *which* waltz we would do. Cha chas, rhumbas, waltzes, rock 'n' roll, swing, irish, mambo – you name it – we do it! By the end of the night I think we had changed that singer's perception of line dancing.

**

Here are some important dates for your diary for the VLDA's big three events for 2011. The Gala Ball will be on Saturday June 25th, and after the success of the Ball at Springers Leisure Centre this year, we have decided to return to the same venue next year.

Portarlington will again be held during the March long weekend from Friday March 11 to Sunday March 13. It is a good time to consider booking accommodation for this great weekend of line dancing which will again feature workshops with Gordon Elliott.

The Good Friday Marathon of course will be held on Good Friday which is April 22nd. The venue is yet to be decided.

**

Congratulations to Linda for her first Newsletter last month and I look forward to reading, as always, this edition. Please remember the Newsletter is YOUR publication and I know Linda would welcome your input relating to line dances and line dancing events.

One of my major challenges as an instructor is to continually choose, from the many line dances that are released, the dances that I will teach. Of course I can't teach them all (nor would my classes want me to!) and making the choice can be difficult. Will the classes like the sequence of steps, the music, or indeed, does the dance flow with the music? Is the dance too hard, too easy, or does it have too many turns?

A great source of available dances is the list of dances submitted by instructors that are published in this Newsletter. However this list is *what is being taught* and, not necessarily, *what is being enjoyed* by dancers on the floor (hopefully there is a very strong correlation!). I'd love to hear from all the non-instructor VLDA members what dances you are enjoying at the moment and have enjoyed so far throughout this year. Please send me an email (president@victorianlinedance.asn.au) with your thoughts and I'll let you know next month what you say.

Until next time, keep enjoying your dancing.

Keith Davies
President