

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The recent **VLDA Good Friday Marathon** was once again a great success raising \$7946 for the Royal Children's appeal. There were some kind donations from various dancers, clubs, and instructors, including one very generous donation from a dancer who wishes to remain anonymous. We had 180 dancers come along for all, or part, of the day, and by the end of the 12 hours there were some very tired feet.

I personally enjoyed working with the other instructors that were present on the day and I know the dancers enjoy it when instructors work together to make it a fun time. An example of this was the impromptu raffling of Darren Mitchell's and Stephen Paterson's "grandma knickers" for a total of \$60 towards the proceeds.

For those statistically minded folk there were 276 different dances requested of which we would have danced close to 200 with only 4 dances being repeated (by request). The most requested dance was *Mr Whoever You Are!* followed by *Felt Good On My Lips!*, *Best Days Of Your Life*, *I Won't Let Go*, *Man Of My Word*, *Hold On* (all Victorian dances - although the choreographers were present with many of their students so it's not surprising that they were well represented). Other popular dances were *Now & Then*, *If I Had You* and *A Perfect Day*. (statistics compiled by Cathryn Proudfoot)

Thanks to those instructors who led off dances throughout the day. Special thanks to John Ikin, who kindly supplied the sound and video equipment, and to all others who worked behind the scenes manning the door and the trading table, selling raffle tickets, working in the kitchen, and the helpers setting up for the day and packing up afterwards. I would also like to mention the huge efforts of those VLDA Committee members who worked so hard on the day and in the weeks leading up to the event.

Finally I'd like to thank those dancers – many who travelled a long way – for coming along and supporting the day and very worthy cause.

Included in this Newsletter is the Program of Dances for this year's **VLDA Gala Ball**. The program was devised from lists sent to me from 37 Professional and Associate members – a total of 464 dances were requested!! I hope you are pleased with the program and I trust there is a balanced mix of old and new, easy and challenging. There are more split floors than previous years providing dancers with a choice of over 100 dances to dance to. Incidentally, the most requested dance for the Ball was *Hello Dolly* followed by *Oklahoma Boogie*, *As Love Is My Witness*, *Home-ward Bound* and *If I Knew Then*.

Bookings for the Ball in June must be finalised by *May 28th*. Instructors, and others who may be organising groups, please promote the Ball with classes and work towards meeting this deadline. As you would understand, there is much to be organised for the big event and your help in meeting the May 28 deadline would be appreciated. The theme for the Ball is Country Glamour – that is, your best and most glamorous country/western gear.

For country and interstate dancers the VLDA is again providing a bus to and from city motels at a (subsidised) cost of \$15 per head. Obviously we will need to know numbers so that the bus can be organised. If you would like to take advantage of this offer please let our Ball Co-ordinator, Marion Adams, know of your interest and approximate numbers when booking tickets.

I would like to make special mention of the great job Linda is doing with our Newsletter. It is a never ending task as no sooner an edition is finalised work must immediately begin on the next issue. You can all do your bit to make her task easier by submitting material promptly.

Our next meeting is Sunday May 29th at Greensborough. This meeting will feature a Victorian Choreography Workshop – if you have choreographed a dance recently this is an ideal time to showcase it. Details are in this Newsletter.

VLDA members Cynthia Rennolds and Darren Mitchell have launched a new line dance magazine "Oz In Line" this month aimed at an Australia-wide market. The VLDA wishes you success with this exciting venture. The website for the magazine is www.ozinline.com.au.

Until next month, as always, enjoy your dancing!

Keith Davies
President