

President's Report – July 2013

Oh what a night! The VLDA Gala Ball was again a huge success. A spectacular evening at the Springers Leisure Centre where 729 dancers were in attendance from all over Australia . The event commenced with a workshop by the talented, and forever entertaining personality, Mr Simon Ward.

Simon began with a latin style dance choreographed by Vicki St Pierre from Canada and Rachael McEnaney from the UK called "Be My Baby Now". Simon demonstrated the styling and technique of this dance using the bachata movement and 222 dancers happily followed. There was a lot of fun and laughter as we incorporated the Cuban hip motion into the dance. This dance was followed by a beautiful waltz choreographed by Simon called "My Spanish Love". The workshop was then followed by some popular high intermediate dances such as Hurt Me Carefully by Ria Vos, Run by Josh Talbot, Rhythm of the Night by Simon Ward and I Don't Care by Michael Vera Lobos.

The ball then commenced at 6pm and the place was glittering as dancers dressed according to the theme of the night in Black and Gold. The first dance of the evening was Smokey Places and it looked like every single person in the hall was up dancing. During the evening, our wonderful guests, Maddison Glover and Elise Spinks entertained us with one of their award winning demonstrations as well as a brilliant second routine which included Simon. A video of this demonstration is on youtube and also facebook.

During the evening our surprise guests, the Victorian Champion dancers, the Cowboys and Angels arrived to demonstrate the routine that won two years in a row both the Ashby Cup and also Gold at the Southern State Line Dancing Championships. The Cowboys and Angels are a large dance troupe from Romsey, Victoria and we were extremely happy to have such an awesome group of dancers entertain the crowd.

Congratulations to Lyn Kelly from Rawhide on winning Belle of the Ball. Lyn has won Belle of Ball previously, has been dancing for 15 years and has attended the ball 9 times. Congratulations also to John Rowley from Boots N Us on winning Beau of the Ball. John has been line dancing for 5 years and has attended the ball for the last 5 years. This is the first time John has won Beau of the Ball. Well done to both Lyn and John .

Congratulations also to Keith Davies, our Ball Co-ordinator who had the mammoth task of organizing this great event. Sincere thank you to everyone that helped Keith on the night. A very big event needs a lot of helpers and the Committee is very lucky to have such a wonderful group of people volunteer their time and effort to assist and support Keith on the night.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 27th at St Martin De Porres Church Hall, 158 Military Road, Avondale Heights. At this stage we welcome any expression of interest, particularly regarding the position of Newsletter Co-ordinator. Hope to see you there.

Nadia Friel
President