



## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2013

# President's Report - December 2013

Christmas Day is fast approaching. It seems like yesterday when I was thinking about purchasing Christmas presents, the menu for Christmas day and a few days off work. Now it's party time! There are many Christmas socials over the next few weeks so enjoy the festive season and dance the day, or night away.

Many great dances came out of 2013 and I would have to say my personal favourite for the year was "Hurt Me Carefully" choreographed by Ria Vos. If you have access to the VLDA Facebook page, let us know what your favourite dance is for the year 2013.

The Association has been reviewing the overall expenses against the increase in the cost of goods and services. It is never an easy task to increase the cost of membership or the cost of entry to an event and we understand the concern to many when this occurs. When a non profit organization such as the VLDA increases the cost of anything, it is not without deliberation and analysis of the current financial situation. Your Committee does not receive remuneration for the hard work they do and co-ordinators may receive a minimal amount to cover their expenses. To cover the cost of the Gala Ball each year, the Association continues to put money aside into a term deposit account where it can earn a higher interest. Thank you to Sumi Sivalingam, our Treasurer for taking care of the finances. We are always happy to keep you well informed and will continue to do so at our meetings in 2014.

A further note on this topic is with regard to classes. Instructors are always facing a price hike in the cost of a venue, music, website costs etc., plus the time put into preparing for a class. If you are concerned about an increase in the cost of a class or social please always ask your instructor why and they will be happy to explain. Line Dance Instructors are not as well paid as teachers of Zumba, Hip Hop and Ballroom. If a line dance class is \$15 and is 3 hours long then \$5 per hour is great value for any dancer.

This is the last Newsletter for the year so just one more mention before the year 2014 regarding the Portarlington Line Dance Festival. The Friday night social will be organized by the wonderful Gordon Elliot and the theme will be Club Shirt. The Saturday night social theme will be Rio De Port. Rio De Janeiro is the second largest city of Brazil and is known for its carnival celebrations and where the Bossa Nova and the Samba originated. This theme is to encourage the dancers to come dressed in bright coloured clothes. The Sunday night theme is "Bling It On" so we can be shiny, glittering and bejeweled.

I would like to say thank you to Cathryn Proudfoot on her efforts with the Newsletter. Cathryn is doing a great job and we thank her for taking on this mammoth task.

Merry Christmas everyone!  
I wish you health, happiness and prosperity in the coming New Year.

*Nadia Friel*  
VLDA President

