



President's Report - April 2016

The month of April - Foolish or not? Certainly last month was running a little crazy... Easter, being a movable feast has arrived earlier, so consequently there has only been a 2 week gap following our Long Weekend at Portarlington.

The atmosphere and the camaraderie of the Instructors and the dancers allowed Portarlington to be particularly special this year. The impromptu demo of Patient Heart by Gordon and Caro was one of my highlights of the Saturday evening social, apart from the appearance of a special guest, a super star even, our very own Vaseline... Introducing a new focus on Victorian Choreography proved to be a popular asset to the weekend. I thank Lu Olsen, Linda Pink, Kevin Formosa and Stephen Paterson for giving their free time on Sunday afternoon to workshop their dances. My praise must surely go to Gordon Elliott (who is like a glass of wine Improving with age) The stamina, the quality of your workshop and the numbers in attendance for your Friday social only proves what a true master you are. Our committee and helpers worked so well as a team, streamlining the entire weekend. 'Thanks' seems like such an ineffectual word, but for me it means such a great deal. A total of \$250.00 was raised from Sunday's request social and workshop, which will be donated to the Relay for Life, Cancer Council of Victoria.

I write my latest report, in anticipation of a great effort to be raising monies for The Royal Children's Hospital, Good Friday Appeal. I have ascertained an interview with Neil Mitchell on 3AW Radio. Each year the generosity of you all is outstanding. The hard work and planning of Marion Adams does not go unheeded. The Marathon was originally started by Helen Burnett from Country Fun Bootscooters in 2002 and continued to run for 3 years raising an amount of \$23,826. The FOLD (Fellowship of Line Dancers) ran the event in 2005/6 raising \$1,455. The VLDA took over the responsibility of running this event in 2007 and, over the years, have well and truly surpassed the \$110,000 (combined) What a gallant effort from the support of all our Line Dancers.

Keith Davies, our Ball Coordinator Is compiling lists of dances to be included in the Program and what a job this would be. Please submit if you haven't already done so. The planning of this, our 20th Gala Ball, is a huge undertaking by Keith. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact him. The price of the Ball has not increased in amount. I should also rule that there is a cost of \$20 for children and non-line dancers.

I would suggest to professional members to apply for sponsorship for any promotional Line Dancing event. Sponsorship application can be submitted via the secretary or committee and we will process accordingly. Owing to a majority vote within the committee, at this stage we will not be sponsoring the TV Channel Digital 31 dance show by Glen Brittain.

I make mention of several birthdays among the Clubs: Hamilton Bootscooters and Wetlands their 20th, DJ's and River Country their 21st & Borderline celebrating their 16th. What a great achievement!

Our next meeting is to be held at Ormond Uniting Church on Saturday, May 7th.

Pauline Greenwood
VLDA President

