

# NEW SOUTH WALES



## *Let's Go Dancing*

**APRIL  
2020**

**Volume: 4**

**Issue: 3**



*Happiness is making the most of what you have!*

**ENQUIRIES  
1800 643 277**

The Square & Round Dance Association of NSW Inc.

Presents:



**Bucketts of**

**Fun in**

**2021**

## **The 41<sup>st</sup> NSW State Convention Gloucester N.S.W.**

**WHERE:** The Gloucester Basketball & Recreation Centre

**WHEN:** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April, to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021

**FURTHER OPTIONS:**

- ##** The Welcome Dance & Spit Roast – Thursday Evening
- ##** The Barrington Tops Coach Tour – Monday

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!**

**You can also download a Registration Form at:  
[www.sardansw.com](http://www.sardansw.com)**

# What's Happening

Welcome to this month's edition of Let's Go Dancing.

A message from the Governor of NSW, Margaret Joan Beazley, AC, QC-"At that time we were hoping for rain, which came, but we also keenly understood the need for ongoing support for our drought and bushfire-affected towns and regions. Whilst the need for that support hasn't diminished, I doubt that any of us anticipated the added challenges that we now face with the rapid spread of COVID-19.

It is essential that we all continue to work together and follow the Government's advice and that of NSW Health as to what we must do to reduce and hopefully arrest the spread of the virus.

This is a time to be moderate and considerate. There is no need for panic. The shops are open and household goods need to be available for everyone.

So, take care of yourselves, be sensible and responsible, and look out for the most vulnerable members of our community."

I'm sure we all agree with the sentiments expressed by the Governor at this time. Reach out and keep in touch with all the members of your club and square dancers everywhere. I have taken lots of articles from past magazines to share with you this month which I hope you will enjoy.

Articles, pictures and news would be appreciated to put a smile on everyone's face and make the world a happier place. Now, find a comfortable chair, sit back and enjoy reading the April issue of Let's Go Dancing.

Till next time.

Ros

"Dance is your pulse, your heartbeat, your breathing. It's the rhythm of your life. It's the expression in time and movement, in happiness, joy, sadness and envy."

– Jaques D'Ambroise



# Square & Round Dance Association of NSW Inc.

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Find us on:  
**facebook.**

<https://www.facebook.com/NSWSquareDancing/>



## NSW President's Report

We have all been bombarded with information regarding the Corona virus even to the point of supermarket shortages on everyday items such as toilet paper. So there is no need for us in the square dance community to reiterate the media reports.

Even if it's not mandated by government to restrict clubs from meeting you need to evaluate the average age of your club and seriously consider the recommendations set out by government health authorities.

Square dancing is a close contact activity and so it is difficult to dance and maintain recommendations of "social distancing" and minimising physical contact especially with people at higher risk of developing serious symptoms, such as older people. Our dancers generally fall into this category of most at risk. For these reasons please consider what your club needs to do in order to survive this difficult time. Are you going to continue your dance or temporarily close?

I will be temporarily closing the Mountain Devils dance and reviewing the situation as information comes to hand. I believe we have a duty of care to our dance family.

If you do decide to hold your dance you may want to follow the suggestions listed below:

1. Wash hands after every bracket
2. Use hand sanitizer often, although soap and water washing is best.
3. Avoid hugs and handshakes. Just a smile and a welcoming greeting.
4. Don't touch your face or anyone else's face.
5. Don't come to the dance if you have a cold or are unwell.
6. Avoid sharing microphones for announcements.

Regards

David



# Club News

## **CARPENTER & CO**

Caller: Gary Carpenter

Well, at the time of writing, Carpenter & Co have decided to keep dancing, enforcing strict hand hygiene. As restrictions and quarantine measures change, so may our status. Everyone has been told to monitor the club's Facebook page to keep up to date. Even the new 4m<sup>2</sup> per person should allow for 4 squares attending. 2 weeks after Riverwood Downs we needed to cancel the dance due to expected flooding. It has been an interesting start to the year. Bruce, Yvonne, Brendan and Lucy are in isolation due to OS trips at inconvenient times. Some others are self isolating due to medical issues. Stay safe everyone and we'll see you on the other side of Covid19. Washy Washy, No Sneezy.

## **CLASSIFIED A**

Classified A dances will be suspended in April. We will evaluate the situation in mid-April to decide if we extend the suspensions.

## **HENRY KENDALL SQUARES**

Caller Les Heaton

What a start for 2020, club closed on the first night back, now club closed for at least five weeks, maybe longer as we are dancing in a Retirement Village. Dancers are appreciating the decision to close as most of the information is conflicting, everyone especially the journalist's appear to be experts on the subject of the virus. A shame the National Convention had to be cancelled due to the outbreak throughout Australia, I feel sorry for the logistics to return the fees to all the dancers. It appears most clubs are closing for a period during the crisis, we hope every one is staying safe and not fighting over rolls of toilet paper as seen on TV. This is a great time for callers to ramp up their choreography and maybe add a couple of new tunes, and the dancers can even dance a movement in the lounge room, try doing grand square by yourself!!!. See you on the dance floor when it's all over.

## **HILLBILLIES SQUARES** Beecroft.

Callers: Vickie and Steve

Our Square Dance is closed for now of course. And they have postponed the convention and I know how much work is gone into that.

We visited Arrie and at the time she was bright and bubbly. Happy Birthday to Maureen and Betty. We have no other news for now.

## REMINDER TO NSW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

### Memberships Expire on 30th June 2020.

Renewal forms will be sent to clubs for collection.

Members receiving posted magazines will receive their forms by post.  
Early payment would be appreciated to support the operation of the Association  
which includes insurance and provision of the magazine.

For further information contact:

Barbara Doust, Membership Secretary  
12 St Pauls Crescent, LIVERPOOL NSW 2170  
Ph: (02) 9602 6377



### NSW Lucky Membership Draw

**Metro:** 2572 Panther Squares  
**Country:** 4029 B-Bar-H

Winners please contact Barbara Doust  
on (02) 9602 6377  
or write to: 12 St Pauls Crescent,  
Liverpool NSW 2170



### SQUARE DANCE ACCESSORIES

Jouko



**Phone (02) 9625 9900**  
**Email: [squaredance@hotmail.com](mailto:squaredance@hotmail.com)**





# Club News

## **MOUNTAIN DEVILS**

Caller: David Todd

Like so many other clubs we have temporarily suspended dancing in the interest of safety and the well being of our dancers. Just prior to closing we enjoyed Panther Squares 29th birthday theme night with Nola the nun, Helen the Hawaiian and Lynda the Little Lemon Clown among others. Life, certainly is crazy and 2020 has delivered bush fires, floods and now the COVID-19. Take care, be kind to each other. Hopefully the uncertainty will soon be over and we can join together again and dance up a storm!

## **NEWPORT OCEAN WAVES**

Newport has called a temporary suspension, as Brian Hotchkies has to self-isolate after his NZ trip. We have also done a bit of advertising with an advertorial on a local magazine - Pittwater Life - with good results, so far. Time will tell if we have hooked some dancers.

## **PANTHER SQUARES**

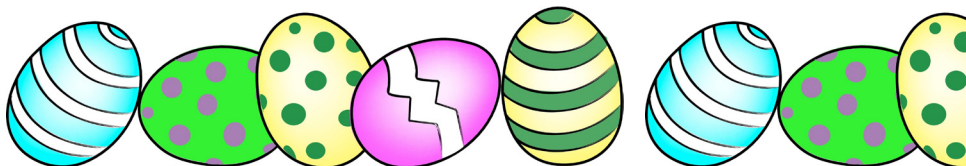
Caller: Maree Huffadine

Panther Squares unfortunately went into recess after our last dance on Wednesday 18th March. We hope to return in May if possible but all members will be informed by e-mail, phone or Facebook. Circumstances in our world are changing daily and we wish our club members and dancing fraternity generally, a very healthy and safe time ahead. Birthday wishes to anyone celebrating before we return.

## **SOUTHSIDE ROUNDS**

Cuer: Ed Coleman

We have informed dancers that we would be suspending dancing until at least end of April. We will evaluate the situation in mid- April to decide if we extend the suspensions. Accordingly, the SSR birthday will be deferred until after we recommence dancing.





# Words of Wisdom by Patty Greene

Square Dance Caller and Entertainer

Dear beloved square dance family,

What strange times we are going through. Dances and major events are being cancelled and postponed hourly it seems. Clubs are choosing to go dark for a bit in order to protect their members. Some are being forced to go dark because their facilities are being temporarily shuttered or restricted. Some are going to keep on dancing as long as they can. I have been asked by more than one person what I think. So here you go: We are one big massive Family. We are "Friendship set to Music." We are uniquely poised to be a HOPE-filled community. We already support each other during our every day walks of life. We need to stay that course and be beacons of hope in our square dance community, our families, and in our larger circles.

Contrary to some of the swirling conversations going on out there, I don't believe that this is the death toll of our activity. We are entering into a little sabbatical until we are on the other side. We are NOT alone. Groups all over the world are making these same difficult decisions. Many of you are tired. This is a chance to rest, regroup, re-energize and jump back in when the time is right. We should be supporting our leaders as they make these difficult decisions, supporting our fellow dancers and callers/cuers/promoters as they make decisions as best as they know how. Not everyone is going to be happy no matter what decision is made.

The Family SHOULD be gracious, kind, and understanding of the difficult decisions that are coming down the pike. There's no need to second-judge, disrespect, or bad mouth the decision-makers or the events. Trust me, those making the decisions are already agonizing over what to do. How about practicing some kindness? Too much judgement and insightful language out there. Don't add to it. Err on the side of being kind. The Family should be respectful of our dancer's decisions. If they choose to stay home for a bit, that's their right. Everyone is choosing their response according to their own circumstances and believe system, from "the sky is falling" to "just gonna live my life".

Be kind and gracious and let them know that you understand with no judgement. Assure your dancers that they will be welcome with open arms when we get back in the swing of things. Reach out to your members. Get emails from everyone & just check in. Get together in small groups for a meal. Maintain connections with new dancers and experienced dancers alike.

Be giving and forgiving. When things start to return to normal, support your clubs, your events, your weekends. Welcome people back to the gatherings of our family. Look forward with hope. Don't sabotage by lamenting. Reach out to your students who will have been gone for a bit. If you have to start at Circle Left again – DO IT! Be patient with those who are hesitant. Welcome people with a smile, a handshake or a hug. Support your leaders as they restart activities. I love my square dance family. I love them to infinity & beyond. I will love them during & after this current global crisis. I will be ready to jump back in with open arms & a rested spirit when we are able We've got this.

# Club News

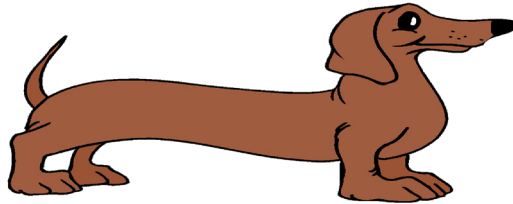
## SUMMERLAND LARRIKINS & NORTHERN WAVES

Caller: Frances McAlister

Due to the coronavirus COVID 19, both clubs have closed as from March 14. A few members phoned asking if we would continue, then the Prime Minister's statements asking people to minimise contact. So the decision was made to cancel. Hoping to return April 16/17. The Larrikins birthday is postponed to a date to be advised. Happy birthday to Di (Waves) and Mary (Larrikins).

## WESLEY SENIORS

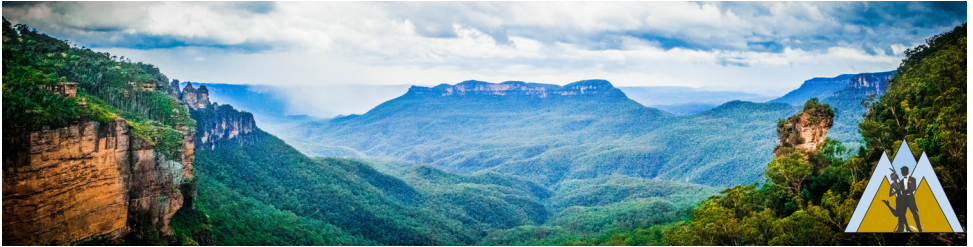
Wesley School for Seniors square dancing is currently closing due to health safety. During Term 1 Margaret had a fall resulting in a broken hip...now on the road to recovery. Barbara has been in hospital now on the road to recovery as well. In the interim our kind ladies Margaret Cochrane and Pattie Hayes have stepped in to Barbara's position and are so successful and well liked it looks as if it will be a permanent arrangement.... Thank you girls . Barbara is very grateful. Anyone planning to visit us please ring before hand until further notice.



There was a Dachshund, once so long,  
 Who hadn't any notion  
 How long it took to notify  
 His tail of his emotion;  
 And so it happened, while his eyes  
 Were filled with woe and sadness,  
 His little tail went wagging on  
 Because of previous gladness.

### NSW METROPOLITAN CLOGGING

<b>THURSDAY</b>	WEST PYMBLE	Hillbillies Cloggers	Vickie Dean	9979 5736
<b>FRIDAY</b>	HURSTVILLE	Hillbillies Southsiders	Vickie Dean	979 5736
<b>SATURDAY</b> Morning	GUILDFORD	Strictly Cloggers	Jason Nicholson	Colleen 9727 3483



## 61st ANSDC Update

As most of you would be aware in the interest of everyone's well being and safety we had to cancel the 61st Australian National Square Dance Convention. At the moment we are working our way through cancellations and finances. Please be patient as there are many complex issues to resolve.

To dancers who still plan on travelling to the Blue Mountains over Easter and enjoying a break please be aware that some activities have been modified to fit government directives and this will continue to evolve. I have copied part of an article from the Financial Review 20th March 2020 to share with you.

"With five accommodation properties in the heart of Katoomba, including Echo Point Motel and Blue Mountains Backpackers, Equeva Group has about 600 beds to fill a night. "They're down on bookings by about 70 per cent," Cronshaw says, adding this is true of virtually every hotel in the area. Given Easter is the second busiest time of year for the Blue Mountains behind the Christmas/New Year period, the community has some small ray of hope. Cronshaw operates Fantastic Aussie Tours (FAT), which runs the Blue Mountains Explorer Bus.

Some tourists who had booked to attend festivals that are now cancelled are still honouring their hotel booking for a weekend in the Blue Mountains.

He acknowledges we're all in the same boat. "It's a fine line – yes people want to isolate and are scared of the virus, but on the other hand, there are not many people up here – and the air is fresh and healthy."

The committee are to be congratulated on their hard work and dedication over the last three and a half years and whilst it is disappointing the welfare of dancers has to be the first priority. Our world has been turned upside down and is still spinning but we will all come out the other side.

Best wishes to dancers everywhere, stay safe and healthy.

David & Rosalind Todd  
Convenors

## Rules of Square Dancing (100 years ago)

Thanks to Maureen Fitzgibbon for this gem which was given to her by Robyn Fairhall.

1. Every lady is to come with a clean handkerchief with name marked.
2. No lady is to dance in black stockings, nor have her elbows bare.
3. No gentleman will dance in a great coat unless his under one is torn.
4. No whispering to be allowed. If anyone shall be found to make insidious remarks about anyone's dancing, he or she will be put out of the room.
5. No gentleman will appear with a cravat that has been worn more than a week or a fortnight.
6. Long beards are forbidden, as it would be very disagreeable if a gentleman should happen to put his cheek beside a lady's cheek.
7. Those ladies who have not got white stockings and black morocco shoes will not be admitted under any pretence whatsoever. Two old ladies will examine all who enter.
8. No gentleman must squeeze his partner's hand, nor look earnestly upon her; and further he must pick up her handkerchief, provided it were to fall, the first denotes he loves her, the second he wishes to kiss her and the last that she makes a sign for both.
9. To prevent tearing of the planking no gentleman will dance in nailed shoes or boots.
10. No lady will dress her hair in tallow candle nor must she have a bunch of hair sticking up on top of her head.
11. For distinction sake, the master of ceremonies is to wear a red coat, buff small clothes, black stockings and green shoes.
12. No lady must appear with a veil on even if it is turned aside, as the gentleman will not have the opportunity of looking at her face.

So wipe off your chin, pull down your vest, dance with the girls that you love the best.





## Solo Dancers

With doom and gloom happening throughout the World maybe now is the time to be cheerful. It will soon be a year since Wilma Flannery – a Square Dance caller and also a solo dancer – passed away. Wilma was never without a smile on her face and she was always cheerful and laughed a lot. At the end of her regular Newsletters she added jokes and interesting pieces of advice or information. Perhaps we can take a leaf out of Wilma’s book and look on the bright side to get us through this COVID19 dilemma. It’s disappointing that many clubs needed to close for a few weeks and the National Convention was cancelled but because our activity is hands-on and we dance in close proximity to each other it is best to be safe rather than sorry. Hopefully everybody will be OK and will bounce back when this virus has gone.

The following is taken from the Reader’s Digest “Laughter the best medicine” 1998 Book –

A woman hurried into a shop, picked up a can of fly-spray, handed it to the assistant and asked, “Is this good for wasps?” After looking at it for a moment, he said, “No madam. It will kill them.” (Mary McDowell)

Sign in a store window: “Any faulty merchandise will be cheerfully replaced with merchandise of equal quality” (Martha Jane B. Cartlett).

Last one – Three barbers ran shops in the same street. The first barber put up a notice in his window stating, “I am the best barber in town.” Seeing this, the second barber put up a notice, “I am the best barber in the world.” Not to be beaten, the third barber put up a notice which simply read, “I am the best barber in this street.” (Brian Treasure). Take care and stay safe.

Keep on Smiling and remember “Laughter is the best medicine”

Phone 0409457342 or email - [ejboyd@bigpond.com](mailto:ejboyd@bigpond.com)

Eileen Boyd (Tamworth Cloverleaf Dancers)



## Recipe

A new suggestion for dinner to be served with grilled chops .....

Grate cauliflower...dice bacon...chop coriander and parsley...cook potatoes and sweet potatoes roughly ..mix together with milk and sour cream and a creamy mustard.

Bake mod oven 15 - 20 mins.

# The First Australian National Square Dance Convention

This article was taken from the Square Dance Review June 1960.

Earlier this year, following an announcement that Square Dancing would be featured in the National Eisteddfod in Canberra, Frank Gilfelt stated they would like to hold a convention in conjunction, providing sufficient people were interested. We advertised that a convention would be held, at the same time advising Frank that we thought it would be a little late to get many there. Frank replied that in view of the short notice he agreed and that Canberra would just be the host to those who went down for the weekend.

After what happened in Canberra, we can confidently say--"We have just held the first Australian National Square Dance Convention!"

Following the Eisteddfod in the afternoon, a square dance round up was held at the small ACT town of Hall. (We mean it when we say small-the round up probably trebled the population). As the hall was a few miles out on the Yass Road from Canberra, all car drivers were requested to meet at the flashing lights just north of Civic. The locals must have wondered what was happening when a convoy of no less than thirty cars headed out of town and turned onto the Yass Highway.

About 180 people attended, thirteen from Brisbane, twenty from Newcastle, about seventy from Sydney and the rest from Canberra. Ron Jones was the caller of the evening together with guest calls from two Brisbane, two Newcastle and three Sydney callers. Two other Sydney callers were also present. The evening was the most spectacular square dance night ever held in Canberra. It was voted a huge success by all and far exceeded all expectations. It concluded in the early hours of the morning.

Graham Rigby, caller from Brisbane, thanked the Canberra people for their hospitality and forecast that this would develop into the major square dance event of the year. Our president, Bill Rolph thanked everyone for coming. Next year the Society will provide financial assistance to assure the success of the event. He forecast that next year three sleeper carriages will be put on the end of the Brisbane Express. These will join other carriages in Sydney to make a special train to Canberra. A similar arrangement will happen from Melbourne and possibly Adelaide. These trains will remain at Canberra for the weekend and the people will sleep in them, thereby eliminating the accommodation problem in Canberra. Special classes, picnics etc will be held as well as the Eisteddfod and the Saturday night roundup. The result will be a truly National Square Dance Convention for Australia.

Reprinted again from ASR April 2016





## NSW CLUB DIARY WEDNESDAY

### **B-BAR-H**

Caller: Brian Hotchkies 0407-290-010 02 4392 0336

Warnervale Community Hall Cnr Warnervale & Virginia Roads, Warnervale

Weekly 6:30 A1. 7:30 Mainstream & Plus

### **CLOVERLEAF DANCERS**

Contact: Max

0411 501646

Kootingal War Memorial Hall 8A Denman Avenue Kootingal NSW 2352

Weekly 7.30pm Basic & Mainstream

### **DANCE AROUND**

Cuer: Terry Lee

0418 275 409

West Ryde Public School 6 Endeavour St West Ryde NSW 2114

Weekly 7pm School terms only Easy/Intermediate/High

### **FOREST FROLICKERS**

Contact: Helen

02 9451 8777

Forest Kirk Uniting Church Cnr Fitzpatrick Ave West & Warringah Rd Frenchs Forest 2086

Weekly 7.30pm Basic & Mainstream CD Club

### **GUYS & DOLLS**

Caller: Tedda Brooks

0412 835 685

Corrimal Uniting Church Hall Cnr Russell & Underwood Streets Corrimal NSW 2518

Weekly 7.30pm Basic, Mainstream & Plus

### **PANTHER SQUARES**

Caller: Maree Huffadine

02 9610 2523

Surveyors Creek Community Ctre Ballybunnion Terrace Glenmore Park NSW 2745

Weekly 7.30pm Basic & Mainstream

### **SUSSEX/SHOALHAVEN**

Caller: Jan Johnson

02 4402 9038

Wandandian Progress Hall Princes Hwy Wandandian NSW 2540

Weekly 7pm Rounds & Squares-Basic, Mainstream & Plus

### **TARTAN PROMENADERS**

Contact: Geoff

0407 449 384

Cardiff Senior Citizens Hall, 52 Harrison Street, Cardiff NSW.

Weekly 7pm Mainstream & Plus

### **WESLEY SENIORS**

Contact: Margaret McAlpine

02 9389 3191

220 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000 CD's Daytime

Weekly Mainstream 10am till Noon Teaching Rounds and Basic Experienced Square Dancing 12noon -1pm. Beginners 1pm - 3pm

## NSW CLUB DIARY THURSDAY

### **CARPENTER & CO**

Caller: Gary Carpenter

0429 827 793

9 Anzac Road Tuggerah NSW 2259

Weekly 7pm Basic & Mainstream

## NSW CLUB DIARY THURSDAY

- NORTHERN WAVES**                      Caller: Frances McAlister                      0407 663 017  
Lismore Heights Sports Recreation & Community Centre 181 High Street Lismore 2480  
Weekly 4.30pm                      Basic, Mainstream & Plus
- THE RED BARONS**                      Caller: Barry Wonson                      02 4229 4059  
East Hills Baptist Church Cnr. Forrest Road &, Lehn Rd, East Hills 2213  
Weekly 7.30pm    A1 & A2 Please call first to confirm.

## NSW CLUB DIARY FRIDAY

- KNEE DEEP SQUARES**                      Caller: Chris Froggatt                      0421 133 518  
Jannali Community Hall Cnr Jannali Avenue & Mary Street Jannali NSW 2226  
Weekly 7.30pm                      Basic & Mainstream
- MOUNTAIN DEVILS**                      Caller: David Todd                      0411 888 515  
Glenbrook Public School Woodville St, Glenbrook NSW 2773  
Weekly 7pm                      Mainstream & Plus
- SAINTLY DEVILS**                      Caller: Margaret Piper                      0402 227 966  
Drummond School Hall Cnr Rusden & Niagara Streets Armidale NSW 2350  
Weekly Rounds 7pm Squares 7.30pm Basic, Mainstream & Plus
- SUMMERLAND LARRIKINS**                      Caller: Frances McAlister                      0407 663017  
Alstonville Uniting Church Hall 60 Main Street Alstonville NSW 2477  
Weekly 7.30pm                      Mainstream & Plus
- WESLEY SENIORS**                      Contact: Margaret McAlpine                      02 9389 3191  
220 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000 CD's Daytime  
Weekly 10am-12noon    Plus

## NSW CLUB DIARY SATURDAY

- CLASSIFIED A**                      Caller: Brian Hotchkies                      Lynn Ed 0429900454  
Berowra Uniting Church 4/6 Alan Rd, Berowra Heights NSW 2082  
3rd Saturday 8pm                      A1 & A2
- TUMBI COUNTRY**                      Caller: Brian Hotchkies    0407-290-010    02 4392 0336  
Kariong Community Hall Cnr. Woy Woy Rd and Dandaloo Street, Kariong NSW 2250  
2nd Saturday 8pm                      Mainstream & Plus

# NSW CLUB DIARY SUNDAY

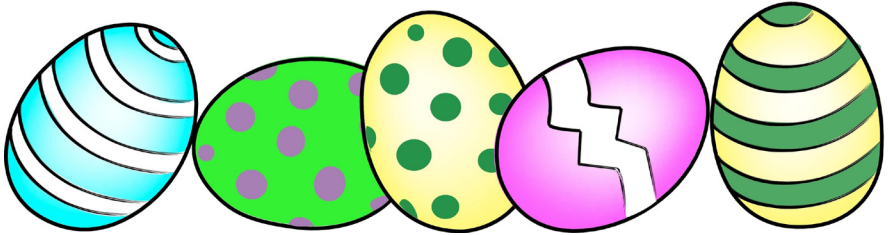
## OUTBACK GRAND SQUARES

Caller: Arthur Johnson 0427633841

Gulgong RSL 64 Herbert St, Gulgong NSW 2852

1st and 3rd Sundays 1.30pm ring to check.

Basic and Mainstream



## Left Hand Ladies

An article in the February issue raised some questions about Left Hand Lady Dancers. Sometimes it feels like we're splitting hairs.

As a two sided dancer (I swing both ways) I feel that when I square up in a particular spot, that's how it is. Trying to 'fix' squares causes more issues than it is worth. I myself have gotten into hot water trying to accommodate male or female dancers by changing sides.

What is important though is to respect people and remember floor etiquette and common courtesy.

When a two ladies couple joins a square they should be made welcome. I say this because at times there are 'looks' and it has occurred that Boy/Girl couples left a square to make up a new square with other Boy/Girl couples. Not nice.

I myself was taught that it only takes one person to start a square and never to walk past an unfinished square. If eight people want to dance with each other they need to get up as a square, it saves embarrassment for those who are filling squares, only to be told that the spot is already taken. Basic Square Dance etiquette, which is readily available on the web.

When it comes to Lady Lefties, without them, many clubs would no longer exist. A Lady Lefty should not have to apologise, explain or defend her position. Perhaps we could use Beaus/Bows and Bells/Belles across the board?

(By the way, how often would it happen that two men are 'left-overs'??)

Taken from ASR April 2014

# Square Dance Banners

Have you ever taken a look around at the wonderful club banners on display at a National or State Convention? The arena is often draped with banners of varying colours and styles, catching the eye of visitors and dancers alike. Thanks to the talents of square dancers, the club banner helps to tell the world a little bit about our activity.

## Different Themes

You can't help but notice the great variety in the banners - some are quite large while others are small, some are put together by talented dancers and some look very professionally made.

I have noticed something else interesting in the changing styles of club banners over recent years. For a long time the themes for club names and banners were largely Western such as spurs, boots, wagon wheels and "ranch" style names like B-bar-H and S-bar-B. Square Dance steps were also popular such as promenaders, allemanders, swingers etc. and locations (bays, mountains, city names). Recently this range has been expanded to include animal themes like dolphins, birds, dinosaurs and frogs (of course). Plenty to choose from.

## Identity

The style and theme chosen for a club banner often reflects the personality of the caller or club leaders. This in itself helps to give the club an identity, and the members something to relate to. There is no doubt that a club banner picturing an attractive young couple dancing conjures up a different image to one with a picture of a hay bale, an octopus or a stallion. Most banners are designed with a desirable image in mind.

## Banner Raids

It was once popular for clubs to get a group together and pay a visit to another club. Different to individuals paying a casual visit, the club members would prearrange with the other club that they were coming, and make a special event of it. And sometimes the visit was combined with a banner raid!

Local rules varied, but usually the visiting club could only claim the banner if they outnumbered the host club members on the night (often determined by counting club badges). This was always done in fun and never as an attempt by big clubs to dominate small clubs. It was a good way to encourage visitation between clubs and to stimulate interest and enjoyment of square dancing. The banner was never really stolen, but handed over by the host to be proudly displayed by the "new owners" at their club.

## Retrieving A Stolen Banner

To retrieve the banner, a return visit had to be made by at least one square from the original club. The return visit was also usually prearranged to make it a special night, however any dance held by the club would be eligible under banner retrieving rules. A lot of fun can be had with inter-club visits, but if any club does not agree with banner raiding, they should not be forced into participating. **Chris Froggatt** Review 2000

## The Real History of Yellow Rock??

Choreography today consists of many moves that have been developed, documented and carefully defined by our governing boards for worldwide conformity. There is one notable exception ? "Yellow Rock." You will not find "yellow rock" in the documented square dance lexicon but it is a recognized caller command. Some square dance places, have the symbolic "yellow rock" at the entrance to announce that "friendship is spoken here."

According to the world wide web no one is quite sure of the origin of the yellow rock tradition, or even if it was, or is, peculiar to square dancing. Myth has it that many kindred souls proclaimed that a friendly embrace was as precious as a boulder of gold, hence, the "yellow rock" tradition was born.

However, reading the latest issue of "Behind the Mike" I came across this article by Barry Wonson & Mel Wilkerson who claimed that: "At or around the mid 1800's – through to the early 1900's, during the time of the "gold rushes" in western United States, when someone struck "yellow rock" it meant gold and riches. (both sources agree here) It was a time of jubilant celebration, often with everyone adjacent to the land parcel of claim tenure suddenly benefiting from location of the strike. This was a joyous occasion as many "rushers" were just living from day to day. Usually a token was given to the corner claim owners so that they could stake the next claim along a creek or river with the assay department and have better luck next time. This was known as giving a "yellow rock" to the corner and celebrating with a hug and a drink. The term yellow rock became known as the celebratory hug with someone other than a partner claimant.

The most common form of community celebration dancing at that time was the form known as 'square' or 'barn' dancing. Of course it was only a matter of time until the term 'yellow rock' was added to the general routines in dances as a celebratory measure at the conclusion of those dance routines. Dance prompters of the day incorporated the term to mean give someone (other than your partner) a hug.

Now of course, if you got this far and have done your research; you will know right off that I (Barry/Mel) just made all that up. But hey, this is as good a story as any!!!!

"Yellow rock" is called, sometimes frequently, by many callers when dancers are assembled in a square and preparing to participate in a bracket. At hearing the command, dancers turn to their corner for a brief, but friendly embrace. It is a great icebreaker when there are unacquainted dancers in the square, and even if there aren't. It is the one universally recognized call for which no detailed definition is required.

Fact or fiction, what do you think???? (Taken from Let's Go Dancing April 2018)

## Internet Sites

SQUARE DANCE AUSTRALIA	<a href="https://squaredanceaustralia.org/">https://squaredanceaustralia.org/</a>
ARDA	<a href="http://www.rounddancing.org.au/index.html">http://www.rounddancing.org.au/index.html</a>
ACF	<a href="http://www.aussiecallers.org.au/">http://www.aussiecallers.org.au/</a>
ACT SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY	<a href="http://www.squaredancecanberra.org">http://www.squaredancecanberra.org</a>
SARDA NSW	<a href="https://www.sardansw.com/">https://www.sardansw.com/</a>
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/NSWSquareDancing">https://www.facebook.com/NSWSquareDancing</a>
NORTHERN NSW	<a href="http://www.nnswsda.com/">http://www.nnswsda.com/</a>
QLD SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY	<a href="https://www.squaredancingsocietyofqueensland.org">https://www.squaredancingsocietyofqueensland.org</a>
SQUARE DANCE VICTORIA	<a href="https://www.vstda.asn.au">https://www.vstda.asn.au</a>
SA SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY	<a href="http://www.squaredancingsa.com/">http://www.squaredancingsa.com/</a>
TAWS	<a href="http://www.taws.info">www.taws.info</a>
NEW ZEALAND S & R	<a href="http://www.nzsquaredance.webs.com">http://www.nzsquaredance.webs.com</a>
CANADIAN S & R	<a href="http://www.squaredance.ca">http://www.squaredance.ca</a>
BRITISH SQUARE & ROUND DANCING	<a href="http://www.ukssquaredancing.com">www.ukssquaredancing.com</a>
EUROPEAN WEB SITES	<a href="http://eaasdc.de">http://eaasdc.de</a>
TRAVELLING IN EUROPE	<a href="http://www.benzcenter.de/RouteSDC/locations.html">http://www.benzcenter.de/RouteSDC/locations.html</a>
JAPAN SQUARE DANCE ASSOCIATION	<a href="http://www.squaredance.or.jp/">http://www.squaredance.or.jp/</a>
CALLERLAB WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.callerlab.org">http://www.callerlab.org</a>
SQUARE DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY PROGRAM	<a href="http://www.callarama.com">http://www.callarama.com</a>
<u>A Great Website For Dancers To Use Between Classes</u>	
<a href="http://www.tamtwirlers.org/tamination/info/index.html">http://www.tamtwirlers.org/tamination/info/index.html</a>	



## Australian National Square Dance Conventions

62nd Convenor: Marilyn Van Sambeeck  
24th-28th June 2021 Marrara Stadium Darwin

63rd Adelaide

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION BOARD

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Executive Secretary: Anthea Matthews, 18 Sinai Place, Lockridge WA 6054 (08) 6278 1957

Treasurer: Bev McLachlan, Qld, (07) 5445 1238

ALL WEB SITES WILL BE ACCESSED FROM THE NATIONAL HOMEPAGE (SEE BELOW)

SQUARE DANCING AUSTRALIA HOMEPAGE

URL: <http://www.squaredanceaustralia.org>

E-mail: [admin@squaredance.org.au](mailto:admin@squaredance.org.au) or

Info Line 1800 643 277 Free Call from Mobiles & Landlines

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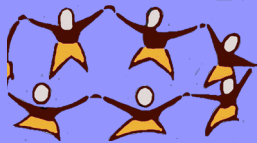
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E-mail: [admin@squaredance.org.au](mailto:admin@squaredance.org.au) or

Info Line 1800 643 277 Free Call from Mobiles & Landlines

### EMERGENCY CALL FOR MEDICAL AID



- 1 When a dancer goes down, a second dancer attends him/her.
- 2 Remaining couples join hands and take a step backward. This will allow the injured person and attendant air and room.
- 3 Raise joined hands as high as possible in the form of an arched circle.
- 4 On seeing this signal, the caller or hall monitor will immediately place an Emergency Call for Medical Aid.

### REMINDER

The electronic copy of the Australian Square Dance Review is available **FREE** if you wish to be notified when it is available go to <https://www.squaredanceaustralia.org/nat-soc/publications/review/subscribe/>. Available February, May, August and November

### DISCLAIMER

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April 2019 Henry Kendall Squares  
Les & Joyce Heaton



April 2019 Summerland Larrikins  
Wilma & Del



April 2019 Just Bliss Squares  
Rhonda, Jim & Beverly



April 2018 Carpenter & Co  
Carole, Gary & John Carpenter

The new and past president of Square  
Dance Society of NSW May 2014



Twelve of the original  
Panther Square members  
April 2012



Demonstration at the Entrance Country Music Festival in  
NSW April 2013

