



Australian
Callers
Federation

SECRETARY

Nev McLachlan

PO Box 248

BUDERIM QLD 4556

AUSTRALIA

Tele (07) 5445 1238

Fax No (07) 5445 6742

Email: NevBevMcLachlan@bigpond.com

REPORTS BOOKLET

FROM

National Callers Meeting
49th Australian National Square Dance Convention

BRISBANE
JUNE 2008

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - JUNE 2008

Hi everybody.

Several items of interest have appeared over the past twelve months that will no doubt attract your interest once the finer details have been worked out by the members of the Board.

Many callers are now stepping up their use of technology by utilising things like (digital) mini disc players, lap tops and memory sticks. Many callers still use the old vinyls. This of course leads to a dilemma of sorts when preparing for the sound at a large function. Does one make provision for every aspect of equipment in use or what? This question has been put to the members of the Board and will be discussed further at our next Board meeting in June.

The Board's ultimate resolution, if any, will be just a recommendation that will be put forward to the National Board for consideration and adoption if they see fit to do so.

The other item of interest concerns the use of split level callers who currently may not qualify to be programmed for the higher program they may be calling at their club. Submissions have been made by two Board members in David Smythe and Margaret Betts. These recommendations have been discussed by the Board members and will be ratified at our next Board meeting also.

This has been a relatively quiet year for the Board, for a change. It goes without saying though that member participation has been most important in matters raised and I am glad to say has been very productive. For this I thank all the members and in particular those who may be leaving the Board this year. Thank you for your contribution.

It would be remiss of me if I did not thank Howard Cockburn and his MiniLab committee for the hard work they put into organising this 3 day event following this year's convention. It was at times very difficult to assess whether it could become a goer or not. They persisted and their endeavour has paid off in what should be a very interesting MiniLab conference. I hope you were able to make it. If not, I am sure the next issue of CallerLink will bring you up to date with the points of interest.

The tireless work of secretary Nev McLachlan must also be mentioned. His experience at this level is unsurpassed and deserves the greatest accolades from us all. It would be difficult to replace him. (Who wants to replace him?)

Perhaps a word of gratitude would be appropriate in thanking Jeff Garbutt for his efforts in producing our CallerLink every 2 months. He has been doing this forever it seems. Thanks Jeff. It seems you were born to the task.

Until the next issue, enjoy your hobby and "call" as if no one is watching.

Cheers
Jeff Van SamBeeck
Chairman

ACF TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE 08

Our opening balance at 1st May 2007 was \$16,234.97. The majority of income was from both membership subscriptions and APRA. Membership and APRA membership had increased over the last 12 months. MiniLab registration fees including the official dinner and some accommodation payments equated to \$12,600. Interest earned over the previous year has been \$108.21.

Major expenses have been APRA, consisting of \$10,361. The cost of the ACF brunch in Adelaide was \$704. Payments for MiniLab to the resort are currently sitting at \$1,200. The balance will be paid after the conference and will appear on next years report.

The '**Other**' item listed for \$100.45 was CallerLab membership renewal.

CallerLink publication costs for the last 12 months were just under \$2,600. This is up from the previous year by \$300.

Our closing balance is \$30,616.56 - which equates to a profit of \$14,381.59. This is due to a MiniLab incurred costs not being distributed at this stage. The conference centre and air fares for CallerLab guests will swallow a big chunk of this profit.

Our investment account earned interest of \$532.43 over the last 12 months. This account has a closing balance of \$11,416.25.

Our combined overall balance now stands at \$42,032.81

The ACF books have been audited by Tony Bowring.

David Brown
ACF
Treasurer

1-May-07 TO 30-Apr-08

ACCOUNT No ONE

OPENING BALANCE \$16,234.97

INCOME

Donation	\$1,150.00
Subs / APRA	\$15,950.00
Badges	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Seminar	\$15.00
MiniLab Conference	\$10,835.00
MiniLab Tea	\$900.00
MiniLab Accomodation	\$864.00
Interest	\$108.21

SUB TOTAL \$29,822.21
\$46,057.18

EXPENDITURE

Bank Charges	\$50.00
Callerlink Costs	\$2,599.23
Photo copying	\$186.20
Functions	\$0.00
APRA	\$10,361.59
Phone Calls / Internet	\$225.00
Badges	\$14.15
Seminar	\$704.00
MiniLab	\$1,200.00
Accountant Fees	\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00
Other	\$100.45

SUB TOTAL \$15,440.62
 NET TOTAL \$30,616.56

BANK BALANCE \$30,616.56

VARIANCE \$0.00

Unpresented chqs	Number	Amount	Total
			<u>\$0.00</u>

I have examined the ledger, receipt books, deposit books, cheque books, bank statements, payment requisitions and supporting documents of the Australian Callers Federation for the period 1st May 2007 to 30th April 2008. In my opinion the Financial Statements for that period give a true and fair view of the financial position of the ACF as at the 30th April 2008.

Tony Bowring CPA
 26/5/08

CALLERLINK EDITOR'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2008

There is not much new to say that I haven't said in previous reports, but here I go anyway. I reckon that being editor is the best job one can have in the ACF. It gives one an opportunity to communicate with many callers and make friends. It allows me to hopefully make a difference and share some ideas. I thank everyone who helps me especially Tracie who helps me get copies posted, all the contributors, and our hard working treasurer who pays the bills.

I ask this every year – but it is important so I'll say it again – please contribute. Our newsletter is only as good as our contributions. I am constantly looking for material for Callerlink and have run dangerously close to having nothing to use on a couple of occasions. So please, everybody, give me an over-supply of raw material so that I will always have something to use. Don't wait until the last moment – if you have an idea start something. If you stall with writing your idea – don't give up – submit what you have and I'll help you finish it off.

Since 2000 our costs have naturally been increasing. The average cost of an issue has increased from \$1.60 to \$2.70 and the average price per page has increased from 11 cents to 18 cents per page over the last 8 years. But remember:

- The number of members who receive hard copies has fallen from 200 to 124. This has an impact on the total cost. The cost of printing per page is based upon the number of pages printed. Lower quantities attract a higher "cost per page" than "higher quantities". So as we reduce the number of hard copies, we are actually increasing the unit rate cost.
- Out of control petrol prices has affected the cost of everyday consumables – and paper is no exception. This is the main factor affecting price rises in general and would be having a far greater impact on our printing costs.

Considering these two factors I would venture to suggest that costs are in line with price rises for any consumable item.

I think it's time to start some succession planning for the future. This has been a great journey but I feel that I'm going stale. I would like to hand over the editor's job in June 2009. Membership should have someone who is fresh and will throw some renewed vigor into CallerLink. I truly think that the overall good of the newsletter would be better served with some new blood and I am therefore giving a year's notice. I will of course be available to help the new editor phase into the job.

I thank you all for your support this past year. It has been fantastic being trusted to put this newsletter together.

Jeff Garbutt
June 2008

STATE REPORTS

TASMANIAN STATE REPORT

Tasmania could do with some more dancers and perhaps some more callers as we do have clubs that are in decline. However, we also have some success stories so it's not all bad.

Glenn MacLaren of the Launceston Square Dance Club celebrated 25 years of calling since the last report and although we could all do with more dancers, the club is strong.

Cyril Edwards of Cygnet Swingers will reach his 25 year calling milestone this year but the club is way down on numbers & relies on visiting dancers to have a set.

Graeme Whiteley's Tassie Twirlers is strong with an extremely loyal club membership & he and his club will celebrate their 50 years next year.

Kae Jenson's Northwest Coasters attracts new dancers easily and has 3 different levels of beginner's classes happening at the moment but she battles to keep them as long term dancers and club nights are small.

Hobart has had a long recess, only just this month resuming on a fortnightly basis from the Christmas break. Again clubs are small in numbers.

Our big event for the year was the State's Convention. This year it was held in November instead of the traditional March/April, 18 months after the previous one, instead of just 12 months. Numbers were down but there are various reasons for this – we did not have an advertised guest caller and it was a northern state holiday only. Still, it was a very well run convention & those who did attend had nothing but praise for the organizers.

The TCA AGM saw all positions being maintained by current office bearers: namely Steven Weeks - President, Glenn MacLaren - Vice President, Diane Austen - Secretary Treasurer, Glenn MacLaren state training officer. Looking forward from here: - two new trainees were welcomed to the association, one trainee has moved up to Cat 2 status, and one of the state's Cat 2 callers was graded at the state convention to attain Cat 1.

Re-elected President of the TCA Steve Weeks is keen to boost the profile of callers in Tasmania & has the full support of his committee and members to make this happen. With not only positive thinking but also positive action, 2008 is shaping up to be a great year

THE NSW SQUARE DANCE CALLERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

STATE REPORT 2008

In August 2007, we held our State Convention at COROWA, all who attended had a great time.

Following our November 2007 Callers meeting at Wollongong, we had a Seminar on Sight Calling, demonstrating an easy sight resolution method. At night we held a dance to celebrate 40 years of continuous dancing in the Wollongong area.

Most Square Dance Clubs close for a Christmas/New Year break, one exception in 2007 was the Greenwich Swingers, who decided to give their beginner group some more tuition.

At our February 2008 meeting we had Gwen Norris give an informative talk on Marketing.

Our plans for 2008 include more seminars on a variety of subjects, in order to attract more Callers to our meetings. Like other States we are finding a lack of Callers coming in to the Activity.

Andy Lown.

VICTORIAN REPORT TO THE AUSTRALIAN CALLERS' MEETING BRISBANE 2008

Last December we mourned the passing of David Hooper, a founding member of the ACF. His expertise will be missed.

After several years of running successful variety nights the profits of which went to the oncology unit at the RCH, the VCA decided to have a break last year and not to run one this year. There is a great deal of commitment required and we felt it was time to have a rest.

While the VCA currently has 20 members, 16 of whom are running clubs, meeting and skill development session attendances are down to about four or five members. This year, our hall hire cost increased dramatically, so we have decided to meet in our homes. For those who have attended, we have looked at the delivery of singing calls and tried to improve singing calls with which members were having trouble.

The VCA continues to program the VSDA run functions.

QLD STATE CALLERS' REPORT

49th Australian National Square Dance Convention - BRISBANE

Over the past twelve months, the Q'ld Callers' Association has been maintained by a very pro-active Executive with the support of its membership of 72 callers and partners. It has a truly State Association Executive with a Northern Vice-President (Kevin Clive) from Townsville, a Secretary (Michael Mills) from Rockhampton, a Vice-President (Matthew Mills) from Bundaberg, a Caller Training Officer (Alan Evans) from Logan City, a Treasurer (Rod Dinte) and President (David Smythe) both from Caloundra.

The QCA web site, www.squaredanceqld.com, has been enhanced to allow members access to the minutes, and training notes from the many and varied training sessions that the QCA conducts. During the past year, seven training sessions have been held throughout the State with one in Logan City serving the Brisbane metropolitan area, two in Caloundra servicing SE Q'ld, one each in Maryborough and Bundaberg serving the Wide Bay area, one in Rockhampton servicing Central Q'ld, and one in Cardwell servicing North Q'ld. The Q-Call publication, prepared by our web-master, Matthew Mills, assists to keep members informed of updated information and meeting minutes and reports.

The QCA has moved smoothly throughout the past year without any problems. The year saw many highlights with:

- the sharing of the wonderful hospitality of Maryborough on the 2nd weekend of August when we took our Quarterly Meeting and Training Session to the country areas,
- the memorable 28th Q'ld State Convention in September 2007 was at Morayfield, just north of Brisbane. This event was superbly hosted by the dancers of Caloundra and Caboolture. The financial success of the State Convention has assisted the QCA to sustain our caller training programs at no cost to our members.

We were extremely saddened by the loss in August last year of Val Rigby, and our sympathies remain with Graham and, in each of our hearts, for the loss of a matriarch of Square Dancing in Q'ld. In April, this year, a huge step forward for Square Dancing in Q'ld was achieved by a very rewarding Joint Meeting of the Executives of the Square Dancing Society of Q'ld Inc., and the Queensland Callers Association.

David Smythe - Q'ld State Coordinator

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE REPORT 2008

Jeff Seidel

The South Australian scene has been somewhat quiet with a lower number of callers than we would like.

This year we have had two clubs turning 35 years old. One 37 years old is now sadly closing, as it's caller Clive Bates is on the sick list. Both "Wild Frontier" and "Shooting Stars" clubs have celebrated 35 years while "The Weavers" club has celebrated 37 years.

The "Weavers Club" was started by Roger Weaver back in 1971 and was then known as the "Seacliff Weavers" as Seacliff was the suburb in which the club was formed. Allan Frost then called for the club when Roger moved to Port Lincoln a couple of years later. Allan called for about eighteen years at the club before retiring. Don Muldowney, and then Colin Dandridge followed until Clive Bates finally picked up the microphone. Now, sadly Clive's health is fading and the club has decided to close its doors for good.

As I have said before we in S.A. are sadly lacking callers, and recruiting them seems even harder than recruiting dancers. We have a few that enjoy a singing call now and then, but a serious contender we do not have.

Thanks to Les Tulloch we have revamped our constitution to accommodate our numbers and our needs to operate our association here in S.A. This was passed just prior to our AGM which was held in April 2008. There was no change to officers for the association.

President: Graham Elliott.

Secretary/Treasurer: Les Tulloch.

ACF Coordinator: Jeff Seidel.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA CALLERS REPORT 2008

The West Australian Callers Association has had a productive year with a continued membership of 21 Callers, 4 trainees, 1 Round Dance Cuer

Education has been high on the priority list with;

- The Callers partners discussing 'the ups and downs of being a Callers/Cuers Partner'.
- A segment on TEMPO, different types of rhythms, and having a closer look at the most desired measure of beats per minute that appealed to most dancers for comfortable dancing.
- Ways to expand sighting singing call modules
- CAWA conducted seminars for newer callers, club presidents and partners with Microphone and Equipment techniques to help with stage presentation and announcements.

Recently our Callers Association held a Swap Meet that was designed for members to bring vinyl's, equipment, etc they wished to sell. It was a great idea and something worth repeating.

How technology has progressed over the last decade with cassette players, multi-track recorders and reel to reels becoming obsolete.

Days of old, a visiting caller would turn up with Vinyl's in hand and expect to use a turntable. As there is now a multitude of choices we have put together a list of each clubs sound source to prepare visiting callers.

At a recent Callers meeting, we put the question to callers, "How long has it been since you have been to a caller's school, clinic or workshop".

Actors, sport legends all have trainers to try to keep abreast with changing times and techniques.

Let's all re-think and open our minds to new ways and enjoy the Mini-lab in 2009.

The Callers Association presented all members with a membership jacket and those attending the National here in Brisbane will be wearing them with pride.

Looking forward to another productive year especially with the 50th National S/D Convention held in Perth next year. See you all there.

Steve Turner

REPORT ON ACF – CALLERLAB LIAISON

ACF BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS, BRISBANE, JUNE 2008

The past twelve months have again seen very little activity with respect to CallerLab initiatives for the Overseas Advisory Committee and direct ACF involvement.

In the general arena there has been what I would call “minor” ballots over this period covering topics;

- Updates to definitions of Star Promenade, Split 2, Half sashay, Turn back family, and DoPaso. Results not issued but I see a revision of the B/MS definitions has just been issued for review.
- Voting on removing teach times from B/MS teaching lists, (defeated) moving dancer naming to Preface rather than on list (carried).

It was interesting to note on that last ballot that less than half the MS committee voted.

The Overseas advisory committee is still in existence and has a new chairman – Joe Kromer from Germany.

For interest, the following countries are represented:

- Sweden, Denmark & Norway
- England
- Australia, & New Zealand
- Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, and Switzerland
- Japan
- Czech Republic
- Taiwan
- Germany

We have yet to see how the OAC can be more effective and perhaps one of the things I need to think about is the aims of this committee and how we make it work for us. I welcome any practical input from our members at any time.

We often have views on the program structures and decisions that have been made and it is a challenge for the OAC to convey ideas given there are separate program committees. It is also hard to voice an opinion if we don't have many CallerLab members. The weight of numbers argument is difficult to counter. I encourage non CallerLab members to re-assess each year and members to sign up for program committees. At the end of the day it's the number of votes that counts.

It is a good opportunity to have three CallerLab representatives with us this week and we look forward to the MiniLab and some lively discussions.

Graham Elliott
OAC Representative June 2008

PROGRAM ADVISORY PANEL Nev McLachlan June 2008

As part of the formation and review of National Convention Programming Guidelines, it was recommended that a Program Advisory Panel be formed. With the acceptance of the Guidelines, the PAP became a reality and was appointed in 2007 with its terms of reference set.

The PAP consists of 3 Board members - one from the area/state of the present convention, one from the area/state of the next convention and one from the area/state of the immediate past convention.

Those appointed in 2007 were SA Jeff Seidel, Qld Nev McLachlan and WA Steve Turner.

As of this convention one member will stand down (Jeff Seidel) and be replaced with a representative from the hosting state for the 2010 National Convention (Victoria).

The agreed terms of reference are:-

1. to liaise with the programmers of future National Conventions
2. to interpret eligibility guidelines
3. to advise and recommend on best programming practices.
4. to validate caller eligibility where required.

Following our appointment in 2007, this panel made contact with the Programme Manager for the 49th Australian National Convention, Glenn Wilson, and agreed on methods where by the panel would review the draft program. PAP report continued

This occurred at regular intervals and all recommendations made by the panel were implemented.

PAP report continued;

Glenn was extremely co-operative and welcomed the opportunity of input by other experienced programmers.

The National Convention Board has been approached as to the inclusion of these methods and recommendations into the Convention Manual as a means of ensuring a balanced and fair programme.

**CORRESPONDENCE REPORT CHANDLER CENTRE, BRISBANE
INWARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Callerlab	Acknowledgement
APRA.....	Invoice
APRA.....	Final Notice
National convention Board	Banner
ACCC	Guideline Review for copyright
Tony Alessi	Website enquiry
Jeff Seidel.....	David Hooper
David Cox.....	Ethics enquiry
David Cox.....	ACF Forms
Darren Taylor.....	Website enquiry
QCA.....	Silver Microphone nomination
NSWCA	Silver Microphone nomination
TASC.....	Silver Microphone nomination
VCA	Silver Microphone nomination
Glenn Wilson & 5 Callers	Digital Music
Jeff Seidel.....	Items for General Business
David Brown	Board assistance
Jason Dean.....	Update

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Tony Alessi	Website details
David Cox.....	Ethics enquiry
NSWCA	Ethics enquiry re David Cox
Board Members	Service
State Asscn.....	Board Composition
.....	Board Nominations
.....	ACF & APRA renewals
Numerous	APRA renewals
National Convention Board	Program Guidelines.