

Australian Callers Federation



CallerLink

The Official Newsletter of the
Australian Callers' Federation

Number #190

<http://www.aussiecallers.org.au/>

October 2008

Contents

Ø Chairman's Report	page 2
Ø Editor's ramblings	page 2
Ø One of a kind job (Del Reed)	page 3
Ø The programmers job (Glenn Wilson)	page 4
Ø Did you know (Steve Turner)	page 8
Ø Sony digital voice recorder	page 9
Ø Sell, Swap, Buy, Trades and Services	page 11
Ø SQUARES 'ROUND AUSTRALIA (State Co-ordinators)	page 13

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ACF Chairman's Report.

Hi everybody.

It won't be long before we are organising our Christmas parties. Time seems to have accelerated away this year.

Not a lot to talk about this month as it has been nice and quiet on the e-waves. One thing to emerge though, a la Graham Elliott is the subject of holding an impromptu meeting at Conventions for those dancers who may be curious to find out all about calling and what it takes to become a caller.

This is surely a timely subject in view of the decline in callers, several of whom are getting on in years, others who have found it necessary to devote their time to something else. All the Board members who have replied to the email have thrown in their full support.

I am also happy to tell you that Perth has made available a place and time to hold the inaugural meeting at the next Convention. This gives all of us plenty of time to advertise the event in order to stimulate interest in the dancers over the next 8 months.

I would like to remind you all to check the latest update from Callerlab regarding the Mainstream definitions. They appear in this issue so you don't even have to download them. You have them at your fingertips.

I would like to thank Glenn Wilson for his in depth report (further on in this issue) on being a Convention programmer. When you are thrown to the wolves, as many callers are, to arrange a Convention program, is to do so with some trepidation I am sure. Glenn did a creditable job and his itemised breakdown of how he went about it will no doubt be of significant benefit to future programmers.

That is it for now. Keep the flag flying and give your dancers what they deserve; a 100% effort every time.

Jeff Van Sambeeck
Chairman ACF

Editor's Ramblings

With this issue I have just completed the annual update of membership renewals to my postal database. And there is always a chance of something going wrong. So if you don't receive this copy - and you should have - please let me know and I'll fix my database.

We are now into the final few weeks of 2008. And by now we should be well into the planning of Christmas parties and the year ahead. You should already have an outline of when things should happen even if not exact dates. So it is now time to start working on the blanks.

Jeff Garbutt

WANTED - MEMORABILIA

I would like to invite all callers to send articles, photos, newspaper clippings, & anything they feel would add to a "Hall of Fame" style collection of square dance memorabilia pertaining to callers both past & present. Any dancers that you know that have had an impact on the movement either nationally, or within their own state or club please can you pass it on as it would be greatly appreciated. Please send the material to me, ASAP. Thanks!

Regards
Jeff Seidel

"ONE OF A KIND" JOB

Jerry and Del Reed made quite an impression on ACF members at the recent Minilab and made many friends. In fact I would venture to say that Jerry and Del are good ambassadors for both Callerlab and USA. I am told that Del added fun and enjoyment to the daily outings she had with our spouses while we were at meetings. During the convention Del asked me if it would be OK to submit a bit of Jerry's history. Of course I was only too willing to receive it and here it follows:

Here is the article that we talked about in Coolangatta. I want to let you know that we greatly enjoyed the Australian Nationals and the Mini-Lab that followed. The Australian and New Zealand callers were very knowledgeable and dedicated and the dancers were very accomplished and friendly! We had a great time!

Special thanks to the ladies who arranged the outings for spouses at Mini-Lab. What a nice way for us to get to know each other, and lots of fun besides! The bird sanctuary and the "Duck" tour at Paradise Beach were great.

Sincerely,
Del Reed
943 Tamarind Cr.
Rockledge, FL 3295

Jerry Reed didn't know it, but training for his dream job began when he joined CALLERLAB in 1983. He thrived on the annual CALLERLAB convention, and took a leadership role from the beginning by joining various committees, and eventually chairing the Choreographic Applications Committee. Jerry played a major role in the development of the Mainstream and Plus Standards Applications book, and other teaching materials.

Jerry spent twenty years in the U.S. Navy having attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer and then was employed by Lockheed Missiles and Space company. In 1996, while still working at Lockheed as a technical writer, Jerry accepted the position of Assistant Executive Director of CALLERLAB under George White. During this time, he began the long-term project of upgrading the database and learning the duties of the Executive Director. When George died in June of 1999, Jerry took over as Executive Director. In January of 2000, he retired from Lockheed and relocated the office from Rochester, MN to Cocoa, FL.

Jerry sets up the CALLERLAB convention, which is held in a different area of the country each year. He does site inspections, the fun part, and negotiates with hotels several years in advance of each convention. Plans are now in place for the 2009 convention in Kansas City, MO, and for the 2010 convention in Niagara Falls, NY. He does minutes for all meetings, manages Board of Governors and Executive Committee discussions, committee mailings, and voting via E-mail. E-mail, as you can imagine, has become a hugh chunk of Jerry's duties.

Day to day operations are carried out with the dedicated help of John and Gail Swindle, who have been invaluable to the smooth operation of the home office. John and Gail are also long time members of CALLERLAB. Collecting dues, maintaining membership records, music performance licenses, insurance programs, and sales of instructional materials are all part of the mix.

Jerry and his wife, Del, have attended two mini-labs, Darmstadt, Germany in 2002, and Coolangatta, Australia in 2008. Much of the business of CALLERLAB is done by computer enabling Jerry to keep up with his workload while travelling.

The Programmers Job

By Glenn Wilson

Let me say first, that I was asked to write this article. It is not a "How To" but more of a "What I Did" article. I don't pretend to be an expert; there are many of you out there with more experience than me in this area. Many of you spoke to me at the convention and told me that you didn't envy me the job.

I felt I did a reasonable job, but if I were to do it again (not likely), I would be triple and quadruple checking instead of just double-checking. It would be nice to have 20/20 hindsight before the fact. I gave myself 7.5 - 8 out of 10; possibly some of you may have scored me differently.

The basic programme was given to me by the Co-Convenors. I wasn't in on the "Bid" process. A basic programme gets submitted with the bid. I wasn't the programme manger until sometime later down the track

Once I had the "programme shell" it was up to me to fill it up. Workshops, dances, contras and also to work out the timing of each bracket/ session. My timing went like this.

Night-time brackets	20mins (to allow for Round-ups)
Day-time brackets	15 mins (all square-ups)
Contras	20 mins
Workshops	20 or 30 mins

I'm not saying it was perfect but it wasn't that far off. So now I have a programme for 5 nights and 3 days of square dancing at 4 levels.

- Now comes the "easy" part, getting the callers names and putting them in the slots.
- As callers registered for the convention, the registration forms were scanned and emailed to me. I think some of you were meant to be doctors; the writing wasn't always easy to read.
- I created a spreadsheet for all registered callers with all the relevant fields. Name, address, email, levels accredited, Peer grading, etc. etc. This was to be the master spreadsheet; others would be created from it at a later date.
- I checked all data against the ACF website. I realized later that I made a few errors in transposition between the website and my spreadsheet. Now that our website has been upgraded, it won't be as much of a problem.
- Once the registration deadline had passed, I thought I had all the callers I was going to get, but no. I had stragglers drifting in over the next month. If I had had enough callers I may have had to exclude those that registered late. As it was; even with the late entrants I felt I was going to be struggling for enough callers to fill the programme that we had committed to. I even had 1 or 2 pull out at a later date.
- At this point I needed to know what callers were willing to call and at what levels. I sent all registered callers a letter or email so that they could indicate their preferences as well as reserved singing calls for "Theme night"
- Note to self: double (triple, quadruple) check caller's preferences.
- Note to callers: Callers who specify Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights only are not popular with programmers.
- After this information was returned to me, I started making other spreadsheets for M/S, Plus, A1 and A2. Some callers didn't return the information to me, so I assumed they were available for all sessions for which they were accredited.
- So now I have all the callers and their preferences and I know how many spots for each level of dance, now the fun begins for real.

For each level of dance:-

Take the required number of spots and divide by the available number of callers; the answer is your average number of calls. It is acknowledged that a caller who has put in the time to learn extra levels is entitled to the full number of calls at each level according to his/her abilities.

This is where the peer grading system comes in.

- Tier 1 gets twice the average no. of calls at each level that he/she is accredited to call.
- Tier 2 gets 1.5 times the average no. of calls at each level that he/she is accredited to call.
- Tier 3 gets the average no. of calls at each level that he/she is accredited to call.
- Tier 4 gets half the average no. of calls at each level that he/she is accredited to call.
- Tier 5 would be unlikely to have accreditation.

This is all very well if we have an even number of callers at each peer grading at each dance level, but it is probably not ever going to be that easy.

The following are the figures I used.

- Tier 1 gets well above the average no. of calls at each level that he/she is accredited to call.
- Tier 2 gets around the average no. of calls at each level that he/she is accredited to call.
- Tier 3 gets less than the average no. of calls at each level that he/she is accredited to call.
- Tier 4 None registered.
- Tier 5 None registered.

It actually gets harder the further up the dance levels you go. Most A2 callers are Tier 1 callers.

- Accreditation for overseas callers was really hard to do.
- I've been told that we should give them the benefit of the doubt and assume that they can call the levels for which they've registered. I agree, it's good to have overseas callers but we don't want any nasty surprises.
- Some you can do simply on reputation, but others you have to check.
- I checked one caller through his counties caller & cuer association and got an answer.
- Others I just asked around till somebody gave me a reasonable answer.

Other things I tried to do:

- Each Tier 1 caller got a Singer/ Hoedown double on one of the night time sessions.
- I tried to programme MC's to call in the same session as they MC and usually last spot in the session.

Things I forgot to look at:

- State by State breakdown of each nights calling spots.
- The fact that everyone wants to call on Saturday night.

Now that the calculations are all done and everyone is assigned to the various calling spots. It must be time for a committee programme meeting. The relevant people on the committee gather and take a look at your efforts. Various changes were made for a variety of valid reasons, I won't go into those here, they would be too numerous and not at all flattering to me. Just as the meeting was closing, it was noted that the Advisory board meeting No. 2 on the Monday afternoon would necessitate a complete reshuffle of Monday afternoon Plus & A level sessions. Would have been nice to know sooner, do you know who is on the Advisory Board? Neither did I. Reshuffle, Reshuffle, Reshuffle.

The Committee is now reasonably happy with the Programme Time to submit the Programme to the (newly formed) Programme Advisory Panel (PAP). There is a movement afoot to change the name of this panel. After a number of weeks, the PAP lets me know that the Programme is O.K. (time for a Bundy Rum) One of the PA Panel even sent me an email to tell me what a good job I had done (More Bundy) Time to send each individual caller a copy of his calling commitments.

And this is where the fun really started. Up until now, I had been looking at the programme as one big picture; the individual callers (quite rightly) looked at their piece of the picture and let me know where I had made faux pas. Hasty shuffles and re-shuffles were made to accommodate my inexperience at the job.

Thank you to those callers who made accommodations in their calling schedules to cover my mistakes. A few callers rang me at home to question their individual programming and I think I was able to communicate why they were programmed the way they were. Some I changed, because I realized I had short changed them to some extent. When I took on the job I thought I was just writing the square dance programme.

I was very quickly informed that I was not only doing the square dance programme but I was also putting together the programme booklet. This means liaising with the Round Dance and Clogging Programmers. Getting ads from advertisers. Finding all our sponsors logos and also finding all the mandatory things like National Anthem lyrics, ECMA, States Colours, etc., etc., etc. Then formatting the whole thing and realizing that you have an odd number of pages and need to add one so that you've got a book. I sent the programme to the Printer

The printer was a really nice guy. No matter how many changes I sent him over the next week or so, he didn't whinge at all. I must at this point acknowledge my favourite proof-reader Bev McLachlan. Even though a few spelling and grammatical errors still got through, there would have been many more, if not for her. And that's the way the programme happened.

It looks so easy now that I've written it down but believe me, each step was actually a lot more involved than it looks on paper. I hope I haven't bored you too much. Jeff thought you might have been interested in the process I used.

Best regards,
Glenn Wilson

Editor's Note:

I must confess that I was the one who asked Glenn to prepare the above article. I was interested in the process of being a programmer for a National because in my civilian job I do a lot of "process documentation". After reading Glenn's "process documentation" I for one am convinced that I don't ever want the job, especially if it has a job description based upon it.

I think Glenn is being a bit humble when he says "I felt I did a reasonable job". In fact he deserves the honour of the great Australian compliment "It was a bloody good effort". I wish all future National Convention programmers good luck, because you have a tuff act to follow.

Jeff

DID YOU KNOW

By Steve Turner July 2008

After reading through the revised Callerlab's Basic/Mainstream definitions, I found the following which might be of interest.

- All Around The Corner has been renamed "Walk Around the Corner".
- It is allowable to Pass Thru with a left shoulder if so directed.
- If a caller calls "Left Swing Thru" from facing couples, dancers would step into a momentary left hand wave.
- The Ocean Wave rule applies to Mini Waves and Tidal Waves.
- Calls that start from facing couples are also allowable from Ocean Waves. It is suggested during the teaching period, to have dancers back up into facing couples, then step back into the wave and complete the call.
- From a Squared Set, "HEADS SQUARE THRU 3 HANDS". They must retain the footsteps of the Heads. If the caller intends for the dancers to stay in the middle of the set after the above call, then the call must be for example "Move into the middle and Square Thru 3 hands" or "Heads into the middle and Square Thru 3".
- From a boy boy/girl girl in-facing circle of 8, the call is given "Swing your Partner" then every man would swing a girl because Swing requires a man and woman.
- In a Square Set when the original Sides are standing in the Heads position, the caller must explicitly designate "Original Heads" or "Those in the Heads position".
- Modern choreography is moving away from using Couple Numbers to identify dancers. Heads/Sides are now commonly used.
- Those who initially squared up on the left hand side of each couple will play the roll of the BOYS, right hand dancers will play the roll of the GIRLS.
- Some callers emphasize that the commands are given to the men and therefore girls do the opposite action. In modern teaching, that statement is misleading and generally not true. Most calls are defined without reference to gender. Callers should teach & call in a way that doesn't perpetuate this myth.
- ENDS & OUTSIDES and CENTRES & INSIDES are defined as being different pending on the formation in the revised definitions (06.2008.)
- In a boy boy/ girl girl circle, everyone has the right hand palm UP and the left hand palm DOWN.
- The command to "Circle" means to Circle Left
- After the command to "Circle 4" $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ or full around, the couples end up facing each other.
- Two dancers can Circle with each other within the BASIC Program. This is not to be confused with "Single Circle". It is recommended that you do not use the term "Single Circle" in the Basic/Mainstream programs when two dancers are circulating.
- From a Squared Set a "Forward & Back" takes 3 steps, pause, walk back 3 steps. From facing lines it can be as little as a step & a pause, step back & pause.
- Formally the phrase See Saw was occasionally used to set up a left Dosado to a left hand wave. The application of See Saw was voted to be dropped and request callers to use a "Left Dosado" instead.
- All Promenades should be more than a $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way around the square. If a promenade would go less then dancers should add a full promenade.

- In the case of a Wrong Way Grand followed by a Promenade, the man steps to the inside and turns around. The woman steps to the outside and both Promenade in an anti-clockwise direction.
- When a Grand Right & Left is called, men expect to go in an anti-clockwise direction and ladies in a clockwise direction otherwise the command should be “Wrong Way Grand” or “This way Grand Rt & Lt”.
- From a Squared Set, HEADS PASS THRU, ends with the Heads back on the Squared Set spots.
- Pass Thru from a right wave is proper but a Pass Thru from a left hand wave is improper because of the left shoulder pass. Use STEP THRU instead.
- Pass Thru is proper from a couple facing an individual dancer. In this case, the dancer splits the couple having the effect of passing on dancer right shoulder & the other dancer left shoulders.
- Rollaway with a Half Sashay is improper language and should not be used. It’s either a Rollaway or a Half Sashay.
- Ladies In & Men Sashay from a Circle Right will have the men moving to the right.
- The definition of BACKTRACK has been modified to read; “Four dancers that did not do the backtrack continue starring or Promenading single file in the center of the set and the 4 dancers that did the backtrack, will Promenade single file in the opposite direction around the outside of the set”.
- The Courtesy Turn is limited at Basic & Mainstream to couples with the man on the left, women on the right. It is relaxed in Plus and higher levels.

MORE TO FOLLOW NEXT ISSUE

SONY DIGITAL VOICE RECORDER



Recording of club nights has always been a bit of a pain to me. In the past I have used a mini desk deck, which would always do a good recording, but:

- (1) The minidisk was (at one time) my primarily music source and I needed to have a second deck for recording.
- (2) Downloading to music onto computer for editing had to be done in real time.
- (3) So many cables to hook up each time.

So it was with great glee that I discovered this neat little digital note taker that takes the pain out of it.

The name “voice recorder” or “note taker” is a bit unfair because it is probably not the type of device that one would normally consider for live recordings of music. In fact I never considered a voice recorder before because the name of the device didn’t “sound” like it will suit my needs. But after seeing the device Jerry Reed had at Minilab I started to investigate these devices a bit more. It is in fact a very functional device with capabilities close to what one would normally expect of a multi track recording system. Most brands and models are similar and have:

- Auxiliary input for recording from your music system.
- Built in stereo microphone system so you can operate it as a note-taker at meetings.
- USB connectivity to allow quick download of MP3 files back onto your computer (Windows or Mac).
- A variety of recording modes to allow for varying length recording times.
- Good battery endurance, so don't need external power.
- And it all fits into your shirt pocket.

The model I chose was a SONY ICD-UX70 which has:

- 1 GB of memory
- 12 hours recording when using standard stereo mode
- Longer recording times in other modes
- At least 9 hours of battery power from one "AAA" battery.
- High speed USB connectivity for high speed transfer
- Music files in MP3 format
- Built in stereo microphones
- Headphone output for monitoring recording
- Input jack for either a separate microphone or auxiliary source.
- Frequency response 40 to 20,000 Hz
- Sampling frequency 192 kbps

I have encountered one difficulty which is a bit annoying. It doesn't seem to have internal backup power to remember settings like date and time. So if the batteries go flat, the next time you power up it won't do anything until you have re-entered the current date and time. So I've had to buy a separate USB charger to keep the batteries topped up during the week.

It has made club night recording a breeze for me now. I no longer have an excuse to not do recordings. I have spent an average of one month a year away from home now and I have no pool of relief callers to fill in – so it has become essential that I build up a library of recordings for the club. I am also better able to play back, review, analyse, study and improve how I'm doing.

WANTED – NEXT CALLERLINK EDITOR

As advised in my annual report to the ACF: "This has been a great journey but I feel that I'm going stale. Membership should have someone who is fresh and will throw some renewed vigour 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."

So we need a new editor to be appointed in June 2009. Could it be you?

Speaking from a personal perspective it is a fantastic journey to be on. You can learn a lot from this job just by preparing your own articles with the research you do! And you can learn a lot from the knowledge contributed by other caller's articles:

Requirements:

- Good computer skills.
- Ability to stretch one article into at least 2 issues.
- Become a general nuisance to state co-ordinators in order to ensure state reports are submitted.
- Make a general nuisance to potential article authors during lean times.

Not hard really.

Callerlink is circulated every even numbered month. Articles for Callerlink are welcome and can be sent by:

- Post - typed or neatly handwritten to 1 Spinnaker Drive, Australind, WA 6233 – We don't have FAX
- E-mail – jeffgarbutt@gmail.com - in either WORD, PDF, Text or HTML but not PUBLISHER.
- Or submitted Through your ACF State Co-ordinator.

Please remember that articles from other publications are probably subject to copyright and we need to get permission to reproduce them. So if you find an article from somewhere else we need full details of the other organisation including who and how to contact them.

Closing date for articles is the 15th of each odd numbered month.

Recent Callerlinks are available at: <http://members.westnet.com.au/jefffracie/callerlinks.html>

Abbreviations and terminology used in Callerlink:

SS	Squared Set (or Static Square)
L1p	Zero Line (Heads Lead Right and Circle To A Line, historically named 1P2P)
B1c	Zero Box (Heads Square Thru, historically named BOX 1-4)
W1c	Zero Wave (Heads Square Thru and Make a Wave)
L1c	Corner Line (Heads Square Thru and Slide Thru with Sides)
B4c	Lead right box (Heads lead to the right and face the sides)
Normal	Dancers are arranged as normal couples. (Boy in left spot, girls in right spot)
½ Sashayed	Dancers are half-sashayed. (Girl in left spot, boys in right spot)
Mixed-sex	In a group of 4 dancers, 1 couple is normal, the other couple is ½ Sashayed
Same-sex	In a group of 4 dancers, there is one couple of boys and one couple of girls
TWC	Those who can

Sell, Swap, Buy, Trades and Services

If you have anything you would like to advertise in the way of goods and services of value to other callers, please submit it to the editor.

Accredited Caller Coach Steve Turner

Email address turnertempos1@bigpond.com

Working with Callerlab Guidelines for Caller Training/Advise

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DANCE CALLERS – OVER HALF A CENTURY – By Graham Rigby, A tribute to our finest Ladies and Gentlemen at the microphone over five decades. \$12.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packaging. Contact Graham Rigby, PO BOX 2061, Woorim QLD 4507, (07) 3410 0676

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FOR SALE - ALUMINUM SPEAKER STANDS (copy of the Hilton Stands)
6" X 9" TWIN CONE SPEAKERS (replacements for Yak Stacks)
Contact Tony & Yvonne Alessi 87 The Ruins way Port Macquarie NSW 2444 Phone/Fax (02) 65813556 ...email talessi@tsn.cc

FOR SALE: Various equipment including Hilton 100, Minidisk unit, Microphones and other accessories. Contact Tony & Yvonne Alessi 87 The Ruins way Port Macquarie NSW 2444 Phone/Fax (02) 65813556 ...email talessi@tsn.cc

FOR SALE: Minidisk Units -SONY MDS-E10 variable speed unit (rack size)
SONY MD with variable speed via the Hilton modification. David Cox, POB 9393,
Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie, NSW, 2444, Phone - 02 6582 5330 Mobile - 0414 360 848
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The next exciting issue of CallerLink comes out in December 2008 !

**If you have material you would like to be considered for publication, please submit it to the Editor or your state rep by 15th of September 2008 at the latest.
State co-ordinators – get your reports to the Chairman.
It's your newsletter – and you can make a difference.**

Squares 'round Australia

Western Australia

Well this report finds us here in the West very much in “Congratulation” mode. First of we take great pleasure in congratulating Steve Turner on becoming the first Western Australian caller to graduate as a fully accredited Caller Lab Caller Coach. Well done Steve on behalf of us all. Many years ago now Steve expressed an interest in attaining his Caller Coach status and made it known to our local association. Funds were duly set aside to help Steve in the pursuit of his endeavours to assist him with travel and loss of wages/expenses whilst making his way to his eventual goal. Steve’s first units came along quite quickly but due to work, family, square dancing and time commitments his last unit “a very difficult one” was left to be completed for quite some time. However the most recent MiniLab reignited Steve’s burning desire to complete his training, graduate and dedicate himself more to the training and tutoring of others. As one of our training officers along with Jeff van Sambeek we have been fortunate enough to experience Steve’s expertise in this field and I am sure that his abilities as a Teacher, Communicator, Entertainer and Professional will make him very much sought after in his new vocation. Well done Steve on behalf of all the members of the CAWA.

Hardest congratulations must also go to all members of the CAWA and a small group of helpers from one of the local clubs “Happy Wanderers” for a most successful and very enjoyable Callers ball. What an afternoon of fun dancing and entertainment it was. The “Day at the Olympics” theme was a real winner and the decorations, table games and general entertainment was really enjoyed by the 20 plus squares in attendance. Some of the entertainment aspects of the day gave us great insight to the true entertainment value of some of our members, Jim’s fencing/janitor skit was a lot of fun and very creative and Longy’s weight lifting demonstration had a very enthusiastic and pro Australian crowd, more than vocal to say the least. Our representatives from the Olympic Federation Drug Testing Authority – Kevin Fitzgerald and Bruce Gillett were a bit of a worry, however as they didn’t seem to be employing what we might call Basic methods of attaining samples, they were quick to assure us that their methods were very Mainstream and very much what was required for Advanced medical research. Well done all. Next up Chrissy, “Crickey, where did that year go”.

Cheers Kevin Kelly

New South Wales

We held our State Convention at Port Macquarie, over the weekend 5th to 7th September. We had approximately 300 Dancers attending, and visiting Callers from Vic. & Qld.

We had a great Venue (3 basketball courts together) as well as the local Scout Hall. It was a very friendly Convention with a great atmosphere.

The Square Dance Society of NSW hosted a BBQ on the Monday morning following the Convention.

A Meeting of the NSW Callers' Association was held on the Saturday at the main venue, our Chairman for the meeting was Ted Thomas, due to Barry Wonson being away sick. We discussed the Community Dance Program, and made plans for a seminar in 2009 with Steve Turner.

Brian Hotchkies held a Seminar on Set Ups & Get Outs, and Conversions, following the meeting.

Andy Lown
NSW ACF Co-ordinator.

Queensland

Our Training Sessions since the Mini-Lab have been well received and the membership renewal process completed with only the accreditation updates to be completed.

The QCA's Gala Dance, incorporating the Amateur Caller Contest, is on Sat afternoon 11th Oct followed by the Society's Sunshine State Round Up in the evening. This period was been extremely saddened with the passing on 23rd August of a long term member, Tom Philip. Tom was a real gentleman of the Square Dance world and has called at many National Conventions, State Functions and Festivals. Our very warm thoughts have been passed on to Connie whom many of you will know.

DAVID SMYTHE

Tasmania

Greetings from Tasmania. It's raining! A good soaking rain across the state. Now that's got to be good news J

Firstly, a correction from my last report. Graeme Whiteley will be celebrating 50 years of calling at a special dance in May next year, though his club – the Tassie Twirlers will only be in their 42nd year. Graeme started calling well before his club was formed. Looking forward to these golden celebrations – Party!!

Confirmation – The next Tas State Convention will be held on the 27th, 28th and 29th of March 2009. The theme is "Grease Lightning Time in 2009" and the committee had great pleasure in announcing that Graham Elliott has agreed to call for the weekend. Again, all interstate dancers, callers, cuers, prompters & dancers looking to visit our island state will be made most welcome. Registration forms will be circulating soon.

MiniLab – Tassielab. A special meeting was held on a Sunday with an excellent representation of the state's callers, to go over the notes taken at MiniLab. The discussions and ideas that resulted from the points raised made this meeting a very informative one. It was agreed unanimously that more meetings of type would be supported.

Welcome to Ken Marshal – our newest TCA member. Ken came to Tasmania approx 15 years ago and started a club in Burnie which ran for a couple of years. He is thinking of giving it another go. You have the TCA's full support Ken.

What to wear? Well done Gary for raising the controversial subject of Square Dance attire. From talking to our dancers and our callers, there are a lot of differences in opinion. Overall, my perception from those who commented is that dancers at club events may dress as the caller/committee wish, but at a special event – normal square dance attire should be worn where possible. Hope this helps with the discussion.

Cyril Edwards 25 years memorial dance. This dance was set to be a celebration of Cyril's 25 years of calling for the Cygnet Swingers but with his passing just 6 weeks ago, it became a memorial dance. It started off with a small gathering in the dark as the power was off. This made calling and dancing difficult but not impossible. When the power came on later in the afternoon the dancing and the attendance gained momentum. People came from everywhere - both past & present dancers and club members. This was perhaps the last dance to be held at the Cygnet RSL Club for the Cygnet Swingers, leaving behind many years of fond memories. Our thoughts are with Nell & her family.

Di Austen

Victoria

Hi everyone, in the last month the VCA held our AGM and elected a new committee, although the personnel are the same, there has been some movement in the positions. Janice is still the President, with Ralph Weise & Paula Wright taking on the positions of Vice President. Mike Davey is now the Secretary and yours truly is still the Treasurer.

Coming up will be the VSDA Dinner Dance which the VCA program along with the RDAV each year. Preparations are under way for the 40th State Convention next year and Janice & Mike will be the VCA Program Managers for this significant function.

In September, Peter Humphries club Matamoras, celebrated the milestone of 25th years with a birthday celebration over two days. Congratulations to Peter & Sandy and the Matamoras dancers reaching this milestone.

Howard Cockburn
ACF Coordinator
Victoria