

# Australian Callers Federation



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## CallerLink

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Australian Callers' Federation

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Opinions expressed in letters or articles are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect that of the A.C.F., CallerLink, nor of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to condense, omit or re-write all or any part of material sent to CallerLink for publication.

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# ACF Chairman's Report.

Hello fellow callers.

We are at the time of year where we should look forward to hanging up our microphone for a spell. We all need time to recharge our batteries. I for one have always looked forward to the break and put my square dancing brain in neutral.

In the last issue Jeff Garbutt previewed a miniature recorder, called the IC Recorder. I purchased one soon after. And I can tell you, it is a little wiz. It enables me to record my entire evening's program. I go home and I download it on "Goldwave". (While it is doing that, the battery is being recharged by the computer.) This allows me to not only listen to my performance and critique myself, I can also select a worthwhile song or hoedown and save it for future use. It is also small enough to fit in the top pocket of my shirt. The quality is outstanding. You can record in mono or stereo.

I recently used it to record our Callers AGM. Brilliant. I could pick up our partners laughing in the other room. No more bulky machines to carry with you if you want to record your evening. It is basically an MP3 player recorder with a chip that holds 1 GB of data. With discount and a 3 year extended warranty I paid \$249. Well worth it.

I can also vouch for the quality of music derived from attaching a Beringer UCA202, which is mentioned in this issue. There is a significant improvement with the added benefit that you don't wear out the headphone plug in your laptop which is attached to the motherboard. Once broken, guess what! A new motherboard will be needed.

This leaves me, on behalf of all the members on the Board, to wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas time. And may 2009 bring you more dancers and greater enjoyment from the activity called Square Dancing.

Jeff Van Sambeek  
Chairman

## *Editor's Ramblings*

There are sure some confusing times around. It wasn't that long ago when we were bracing ourselves for more petrol price rises but now they are heading back down. It wasn't that long ago when interest rates looked like increasing – now they are on the way down. It wasn't that long ago when we were asked to slow down on spending due to inflation – now we are being asked to get the economy moving again by spending more. Are you confused? Well you needn't be! The fact is that everything has a natural rate with short terms trends superimposed on the background. When variation from that natural rate goes too wide we need an adjustment period, (generally recession), to settle back. After a period of deflation back to the natural background rate we start another uphill rate. There are opportunities that can result from depression. Such as relearning the fundamentals of good money management and getting in low with good investment opportunities that will soon be heading up.

So it is with square dancing. And for those who have endured the hard times of a depressed dancer market they just need to look for the opportunities coming up. We have had to relearn the fundamentals of what makes square dancing so good. We have learnt from mistakes of the past and can be smarter about riding the next wave.

Now looking at potential past mistakes and future opportunities:

- § Have we been spending too much time on dancer precision and not enough time having fun?
- § Have we been concentrating on the interests of clubs only and not supporting the general health of the movement?
- § Have we been concentrating too much on doing more intricate figures and less time on good flowing dancing?
- § Have we been targeting specific age groups and missing other opportunities?

I'm not saying I've got all the questions about what we could have done better or all the answers about how we can do better. But I wanted to seed some ideas to get you started. Agree with me – that's nice, but what else can you think of? Disagree with me – that's great, I want you to disagree – but what are your ideas? Whatever you think – we all need to contribute!

My challenge to you as we end this year and go into the next is this: “What were we doing wrong before? What are about to do during the upswing? How can we help to make Square Dancing grow? Who can we encourage to join the growing movement?”

And I leave you with a Christmas Present! We already have dancers out there! They are former dancers from years ago. They didn't actually leave us permanently! They actually got distracted by other more pressing demands such as career and family. There are many dancers out there that can enjoy how much fun they had when they were younger. There are many people out there who used to dance when they were teenagers and are now at a loose end. Their kids have grown up and moving out of home for lives of their own. Do they want to stay at home at become babysitters to their children's children? I think not. We have just the right product for them! I know – I'm starting to get them at my own dances, Not a flood yet – but they have started! So get out there and let them know what you can offer. Let them know that Square Dancing is just as much fun now as it was when we were all kids!

Happy Christmas everyone! And all the best for the New Year.

Jeff Garbutt

**The next exciting issue of CallerLink comes out in February 2009 !**

**If you have material you would like to be considered for publication, please submit it to the Editor or your state rep by 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 at the latest. State co-ordinators – get your reports to the Chairman. It's your newsletter – and you can make a difference.**

## A LETTER TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS IN ALL CLUBS

Town & Country Squares have trained a large number of dancers over the past nine years. Most of them are still dancing today. Noel & I have tried hard to make our Clubs happy & welcoming to all dancers, whether they be beginners or experienced.

Recently, we invited some of our “newer” dancers from our Ipswich Club to attend a “fun” morning on Russell Island. Noel calls there every second week & it is a friendly Club. It was a great atmosphere, people from other Clubs attended and of course, other callers. We had checked that our dancers knew most of the Mainstream programme. They were naturally shy & hesitant, intimidated by the numbers. However, in the first square, some of our dancers were pushed & shoved about by a few people who deemed it their duty to advise them that they should learn from **their** own particular caller. What a cheek! They were in a strange Hall, with strangers, practically being told that they were “not good enough” .So much for a “fun” morning. Thankfully the few who “knew it all” were in the minority and I’m sure their Caller would have been embarrassed had he known.

Some of our members were upset and it took a lot of convincing to even keep them as dancers. They were advised by well meaning people, to go & dance in other Clubs, with other Callers. How could they be sure of a welcome at any Club, after the way they were treated? We do encourage our members to dance at other Clubs, whenever possible.

Our members have visited David Pearce’s,” Rambling Eights” Club more than a few times, where they were welcomed in true “Square Dance” fashion and thoroughly enjoy dancing there. They have also attended “Carina Carousel’s Birthday Dance where they had a fantastic time & joined in the party spirit & enjoyed the hospitality that was offered. Thank you, Graham Brandon, Shirley and all their members.

We have at least 2 and ½ squares, of brand new dancers this year. We also have a square or two of experienced dancers. We are trying hard to build numbers up.

The kind of attitude displayed by the few will certainly sound the “death knell” for Square Dancing altogether, if it is allowed to permeate the Square Dance Scene.

Will you please help with more positive encouragement when newer dancers are trying to familiarise themselves with our favourite pastime?

**Footnote:** Would Callers, please ask that your members remember the “Etiquette of Square Dancing” and treat “newer dancers” with respect, before there are no new dancers coming through to keep the Clubs going! Just remember, we were all beginners once!

Merle & Noel McKenzie,

TOWN & COUNTRY SQUARES

# RESULTS OF BASIC/MAINSTREAM PROGRAM BALANCE VOTE RESULTS

**CALLERLAB - The International Association of Square Dance Callers**

Date: September 29, 2008

TO: Mainstream (MS) Committee Members

FROM: Jerry Reed, Executive Director; for Tom Rudebock, Mainstream Committee Chairman

SUBJECT: HO LOG 08-0804-001 (Basic/Mainstream Program Balance) (Final Report)

Dear Mainstream Committee Members,

The CALLERLAB Executive Committee has requested that the Mainstream Committee review and consider a more equitable balance between the Basic list of calls and the Mainstream list of calls. The purpose of this HO LOG is for the MS Committee Members to review and respond to the question of where the division between the Basic Program and the Mainstream Program should be. As you know the currently there are 51 calls on the Basic list and 17 calls on the Mainstream list. Balancing the lists would not change the total number of calls, nor the order in which the calls are listed, in the combined Basic– Mainstream Program.

The result of this HO LOG is:

1) A total of 95 committee members responded (43.8% of the committee)

2) 86 sent in their idea as to where the split between Basic and Mainstream should be and nine abstained.

The vote breakdown is:

Between Calls 21 & 22 1

Between Calls 25 & 26 1

Between Calls 28 & 29 2

Between Calls 29 & 30 4

Between Calls 33 & 34 12

Between Calls 34 & 35 4

Between Calls 35 & 36 3

Between Calls 38 & 39 2

Between Calls 39 & 40 1

Between Calls 40 & 41 8

Between Calls 41 & 42 1

Between Calls 42 & 43 1

Between Calls 44 & 45 2

Between Calls 46 & 46 1

Between Calls 47 & 48 3

Between Calls 48 & 49 1

Between Calls 49 & 50 1

Between Calls 50 & 51 1

Between Calls 51 & 52 36

Between Calls 52 & 53 1

As you can see the majority voted for the split between calls number 51 and 52. Tom Rudebock, Mainstream Committee Chairman, will reactivate the Mainstream Proposed Teaching Order Ad-Hoc Committee. The committee will be charged to review and provide comments regarding the results of this HO LOG. After review and action by the Ad-Hoc Committee additional action will be submitted to the full Mainstream Committee, as required. The Executive Committee will also be reviewing the results and will provide input to Tom.

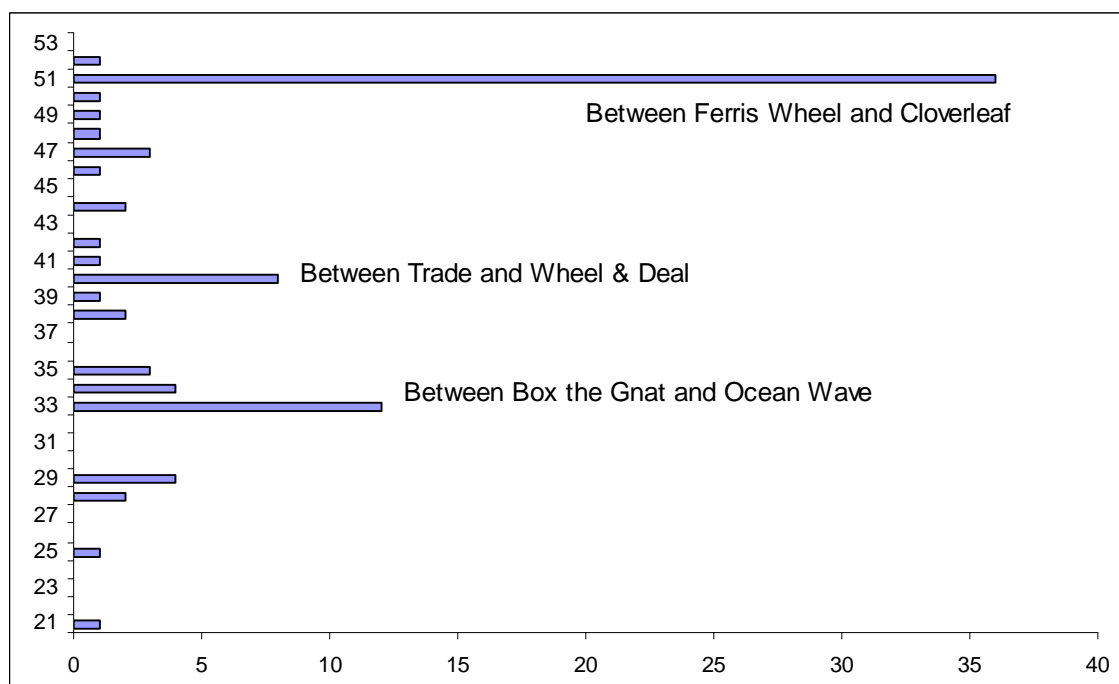
Thank you to the Members who responded. Your input is very important.

Jerry L. Reed, Executive Director

for Tom Rudebock, Mainstream Committee Chairman

## ANALYSIS OF BASIC/MAINSTREAM PROGRAM BALANCE VOTE RESULTS

On a bar graph the results of the vote look like this:



The suggested split as voted by the membership is no real surprise and neatly divides the Basic/Mainstream list in half. Quite a logical result really. But is it sensible or sustainable?

It is interesting that there were also two other split points that polled good results.

At the 1994 Callerlab Convention there was an alternative teaching order list based upon a more logical thinking for teaching order. I reckon this is a benchmark event on our thinking, (Maybe not the first such list – but a good reference point in history). There have been other suggestions made which have made slight variations of The Vancouver List (1994), but they are not too dissimilar and attempt to teach the mainstream program in a more logical order.

The current list of moves on the Basic/Mainstream list is based upon historical lists. The vase list was based upon common agreed common use moves in the early 1970s. As new moves were accepted and added they were simply added to the end of the list without regard to where they really fitted. As a result there are some moves they are in fact easier to teach and use than some of our historical moves at near the end of the list.

Recent teach list have been published in recent time which are variations of the “Vancouver List” that have been used successfully. These variations are all based upon the combined total list of mainstream moves based upon some logic instead of order of addition to the program.

In the early 2000s Callerlab (membership) voted that the Basic Program as a stand alone program did not need to exist anymore. At about the same time many callers became comfortable with their variation of the Vancouver list and started using the moves more logically. Unfortunately we didn’t have the foresight to re-sort the mainstream list into a more logical order.

More recently Callerlab (membership) realised that we did need a stand alone Basic program so agreed to put it back in place. This now leaves us now with the decision to be made of where to split the Basic/Mainstream balance. But the decision is not that easy. How can we reconcile working with a teaching order that has moves traditionally Basic moves recommended as being taught towards the end of Mainstream?

I reckon that before the two lists can be separated we first need to re-sort the list of moves into a more logical order. Only then can we really truly split the two programs apart and have Basic as a truly sustainable program that will hold an attraction to a large population of dancers. I'm not saying that we should lock into a rock solid teaching order list first – but we need to come to an agreement of which moves:

- Need to be in Basic as a stand alone program. AND
- Need to be left until the full Mainstream program.

Once we have done that I believe the split between Basic and Mainstream will be easy to come to an agreement that will fit most of the square dance community.

For the record - my personal vote was to have the split between call **“40 The trade family”** and call **“41 Wheel and deal” (the third highest vote), with the suggestion to move the “Circulate Family” into basic and move the “Thar Family” into mainstream.**

## **SPIN THE TOP WITHOUT SWING THRU**

Many dancers, (and I suspect callers), forget that “Spin The Top” is one stand alone move and does not have to be used directly after “Swing Thru”. Also may people forget that “Spin The Top” does not have to start from an “Ocean Wave” but can be used from “facing couples” as well. As with all these “forgotten definitions” it is probably only came out of practice. So I reckon we should use both these forgotten skills a bit more such as these examples

4 Ladies Chain – Heads Pass The Ocean – Extend – Spin The Top – Spin The Top – Hinge – Scoot Back – Swing Corner – Promenade

4 Ladies Chain – Heads Pass The Ocean – Spin The Top – Boys Run – Bend The Line – Pass Thru – Circle To Line – Star Thru - Pass Thru – Swing Corner – Promenade

Heads Pass The Ocean – Extend – Spin The Top – Spin The Top – All 8 Circulate - Hinge – Scoot Back – Swing Corner – Promenade

Heads Spin The Top – Swing Thru – Extend – Swing Thru – Boys Run – Couples Circulate – Chain Down The Line – Chain her back – Promenade

Several years ago Global Music Productions released a tune with a very elegant figure on Yesterday's Songs (GMP 924). Some dancers tend to have problems with it – but it starts from what dancers would consider to be “normal” for STT and I really think it is the “All 8 Circulate” with boys in the middle that really throws some dancers. All that it takes is careful metering of the delivery of calls that will make it successful. (Try calling “girls circulate, boys circulate” instead of “All Eight circulate”):

Heads square thru 4 - Right and left thru - Swing thru - All eight circulate - Spin the top - Square thru 3 - Swing corner - Promenade

Even the old overused figure of “Swing Thru – Spin The Top – Square thru 3” can be spruced up a bit with a simple swap of “Swing Thru/Spin The Top”:

Heads Square Thru 4 – Spin the Top – Swing thru – Square thru 3 – Partner Trade – Allemande Left – Promenade

Of course we need to remember that “Swing Thru – Spin The Top” and “Spin The Top – Swing Thru” are not equivalents and cannot be used interchangeably without a “Right and Left Thru” equivalent.

STT would also seem to work well to switch between lines and boxes:

(Normal Boy/Girl) Line – Spin The Top – Boys Trade - Boys Run – Wheel and Deal (Is Equivalent to circle  $\frac{1}{4}$  )

## **A QUICKIE TRIPLE ZERO**

(By quickie I mean I only just thought it up on the run, nothing else.)

Working on the loose definition that a “Swing Thru” can be thought of as “Those who can” turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  right then “those who can” turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  left. From any parallel wave:

Set up – In facing end person U-Turn Back (This removes that person from participation in the next stage)

Action - Swing Thru (3 people only) – Swing Thru (3 people only) – Swing Thru (3 people only)

Get out – Out facing end person U- Turn Back (Puts that person back into action).

## **Japanese Banking News**

Following the banking crisis in the US & UK, uncertainty has now hit Japan.

In the last 7 days Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank announced plans to cut some of its branches.

Yesterday, it was announced that Karaoke Bank is up for sale and will likely go for a song, while today shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived.

While Samurai Bank is soldiering on following sharp cutbacks, Ninja Bank is reported to have taken a hit, but they remain in the black.

Furthermore, 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

## EXTERNAL SOUND CARDS



Unfortunately many computers are not designed for recording good quality music from turntables, cassettes or even minidisk decks. Even computers with good quality sound cards still use a 3.5 mm stereo socket for music input. But one doesn't really need to spend big money to turn computers into good quality sound devices. For about \$100 or less there are a range of external sound cards on the market that plug into the computer USB port. They make it possible even for cheap and nasty computers to be used for good quality music recording to computer. These are also dual purpose units for both recording and playback of music. Two such devices are the Edirol UA-1X and the Beringer UCA202.

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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of each odd numbered month.

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

## 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](mailto:turnertempos1@bigpond.com)

Working with Callerlab Guidelines for Caller Training/Advise

**BRIAN HOTCHKIES PROFESSIONAL TAPE AND RECORD SERVICE**

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Phone/fax 02 43920336 Mobile 0407 290010 E-mail [bah@idl.net.au](mailto:bah@idl.net.au)

### **C-Bar-C & Seven C's Records**

David Cox, POB 9393, Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie, NSW, 2444  
Phone - 02 6582 5330 Mobile - 0414 360 848 [dgc@aapt.net.au](mailto:dgc@aapt.net.au)

**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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David Smythe 138 The Esplanade GOLDEN BEACH Qld 4551 Ph 07 5492 1254 Fax 07 54923522  
email [davidsmythe@netspace.net.au](mailto:davidsmythe@netspace.net.au)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
[dgc@aapt.net.au](mailto:dgc@aapt.net.au)

**GRAHAM RIGBY'S GOLDEN COLLECTION** – Graham's new double CD of our dancing heritage featuring over five decades and beyond. Just \$20 plus postage.

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### WANTED - MEMORABILIA

I would like written material & photographs that can be placed on the ACF website. Some people have sent records & newspapers, I thank them for this, but articles & photographs would be better suited.

E.g. articles on: Fred Burn, Cyril Edwards, and Graeme Whiteley from Tassie. Les Johnson, Eric Wendell, Ron Jones, Tom McGrath, Vince Spillane, Ron Whyte, Les Schroder, Jack Murphy, Wally Cook, Ron Mennie, David Hooper, & there are numerous others you could help me out with.

I will be putting something down on Colin Huddleston & Allan Frost & some other South Australian callers. Please help out by supplying some history from your state for the ACF website.

Regards Jeff Seidel

# Squares 'round Australia

## Western Australia

Thank you

To my entire executive for the dedication and hard work they have put in to the task of taking care of the day to day running of our association and their willingness to respond to any task asked of them.

Thank you

To the retiring members of my executive. I have absolutely no idea how we will ever replace you, your input has been invaluable.

Thank you

To the Society Executive who have shown a real desire to work with our association this year and made our path to a much happier union between our two bodies one much easier travelled.

Thank you

To the Simms family for their input with our banner from design to manufacture and eventually making a gift of our banner from the family was a truly wonderful gesture.

Thank you

To those who perhaps didn't see eye to eye with some of the decisions made by the association and whilst at the time it may have seemed that having these points brought to our attention was a little hard to take, it has only served to make us more aware of each other and the need to work together.

Thank you

To the partners and families of our members without whose support we simply would not survive.

Thank you

To all my fellow association members for allowing me the honour of chairing this association for the last 2 years and for being as supportive to our association as you have been.

Thank you

To all the dancers I have called to over the last 12 months for allowing me the absolute honour of wearing the title "Caller".

Thank you (And I promise it will be my last)

To a very special group of very close friends who have and continue to help me through the most challenging time of my life!

"All of you"

God bless

Kevin Kelly

W.A. State ACF Co-ordinator

## **New South Wales**

All N.S.W. Clubs are organising their Christmas parties.

The Square Dance Society of NSW have organised a Christmas party for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 at Beecroft, with Round dancing in the afternoon and Square Dancing at night, with a variety of NSW Callers.

I hope you have all had a fun year of dancing.

I want to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Andy Lown  
NSW ACF Co-ordinator.

## **South Australia**

We have nothing to report from South Australia. Our Callers Association wishes everybody the very best for the Christmas season, & a prosperous New Year.

Regards  
Jeff Seidel  
S.A. State Coordinator

## **Victoria**

Hi everyone, it has been another quiet month or two in Victoria from an association point of view, although November does become a little busier. We have the VSDA Dinner Dance which the VCA program the square dance part of the evening. At the time of writing this report, we are getting ready for that.

Also, we have our final meeting and workshop for the year. As previously done, this month's meeting will be at the home of one of the executive. I would like to extend a big thank you to Mike and Lorraine for allowing us to use their home.

In October there were a few birthdays around the clubs and since our last report Westgate Square Dance Club has had a change with Frank Kennedy (the founding or original caller) taking back the reins and merging the club with his Newport club to become Westgate Newport Square Dance Club. It is great to see this club was not lost and will continue to dance, all be it under another name.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a great Christmas and safe New Year and we are looking forward to gearing up for the 50<sup>th</sup> National next year.

**Howard Cockburn**  
**ACF Coordinator**  
**Victoria**

## **Tasmania**

Greetings from Tasmania. Christmas is upon us! Our state Christmas Dance is just a week away. Where has that year gone?

Clubs will be closing their doors for a few weeks over the break but one of note will close & not reopen next year. News of Fred & Joyce Jones closing Bass Strait 8's has been confirmed. Their final club dance will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December and then they plan to tour in their caravan interstate prior to settling down somewhere. Fred has given a lot to squares in Tasmania and leaves a hole that will be difficult to fill. His beginner's classes were always well attended and he has been responsible for introducing squares to many northern Tasmanians. We thank Fred & Joyce for their dedication to their dancers, the various associations and their support state-wide. We all wish them happy times ahead & hope that we meet up in a square at some stage in the future

Tasmania is set to have a "Grease Lightning Time in 2009" at the State Convention on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March next year. Graham Elliott is the official guest caller for the weekend. Registration forms will be circulating from next weekend. An open invitation to all callers/dancers is extended to our interstate friends. Anyone wishing to join us may contact me & I will forward forms and information on accommodation etc.

Don't forget Graeme Whiteley's celebration dance next year in May – 50 years of calling is certainly worth throwing a party for

Merry Christmas to all – may it be a happy one

Yours in squares,

Di Austen  
ACF State Coordinator  
Tasmania

## **Queensland**

The QCA shared with the Society of Qld Inc. in conducting the Gala Dance (incorporating the Amateur Caller Contest) on Sat afternoon 11<sup>th</sup> October followed by the Sunshine State Round Up. Our congratulations go to Samantha Mackenzie for her win in the Amateur Caller Contest.

Very sadly we learnt of the passing during the past quarter of Tom Philip on 23 Aug., David Rogers on 28 Sep., and Laurie Miles on 4 Oct., These bereavements have been extremely heavy on all of us and our deepest sympathies go to the surviving members of their respective families. We have lost some fine members and their passing is a significant loss to the Square Dancing activity. The QCA members wish all of their Interstate friends a very Merry Festive Season.

David Smythe  
Queensland State Coordinator