

Australian Callers Federation



CallerLink

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ACF Chairman's Report.

Hi fellow callers.

To begin with, I want to wish you and your families a very happy new year. May 2009 be for you a year to be remembered.

Did you make a new year's resolution? Anything to do with square dancing and your club? Are you planning to reach some milestone for yourself or your club?

We always start off the New Year refreshed with batteries recharged and ready to take on the square dance world. Setting goals is an important part of conducting any kind of activity, but in particular square dancing. We are being challenged to maintain our numbers, let alone find new dancers. Perhaps you might want to improve your performance as a caller. There are several ways of doing this. One is to record your performances and do an honest critique of yourself or perhaps invite a top caller in your area to do so. Something to think about.

The caller's breakfast at the National in Perth this year is very much in the advanced planning stage. 3 Speakers have been invited to share with us some very important aspects of both humanity and skill requirements. By reading the WA coordinator's report you will understand what I am saying. As the host state, board members of that state organise the function as well as approach local talent and speakers of note to share with us some pearls of wisdom. Not to be missed.

Marilyn and I will be on a 10 week furlough starting 15 February. We are driving in company with my brother and sister in law (with caravan and camper) to the gold coast initially. After they have attended a business seminar, we hope to continue to make our way across to the west coast, all being well. The vice chairman (Steve Turner) will hopefully write the April report. So please no emails until the last week in April.

Until my next report, keep the flag flying for square dancing.

Jeff Van Sambeeck
Chairman

Editor's Ramblings

I was talking with a square dance friend a few months ago about what started him with square dancing and found his experience was remarkably similar to mine. He said that when he was a young lad he was terribly shy and didn't know how to talk to ladies. And what really attracted him to square dancing was he didn't have to do that "pluck up the courage to take that long walk across the dance floor to ask a girl" – all he had to do was get into a round up.

Years ago the boys were attracted to square dancing because it was a less stressful way to get a dance with a young lady. As a result there used to be lots of young men in square dancing. It was considered that boys had to make first contact with the girls and the girls never made advances. So for shy young men square dancing was a good "ice breaker".

In modern times the boys don't have to work so hard to find a girl – so it is not essential to go to a square dance just to meet a nice young lady. And we are now left with finding different selling points to get people interested in square dancing. (We can't turn the rules of "the dating game" backwards.)

I have been told many times that young girls are not attracted to square dancing because there are no boys – and I have also been told that young boys aren't attracted to square dancing because there are no young girls! That sounds a bit like a standard "catch 22" situation! So how do we win in such a situation? The answer ultimately lies into making use of the situation. Once we start feeding in more young men we attract more young ladies – which in turn will attract more young men – which will in turn attract more young ladies etc. The real trick is to start a new trend to kick the process off!

I hope you had a good Christmas break and already fired up for your new year of dance programs, new year of challenges and new year of opportunities.

Jeff Garbutt

Letter to the editor,

In reply to Gary Carpenters article on dress.

Our club has evolved into mostly casual dress even for me (the caller). This came about for two reasons. The first being that in winter in New England, it is just too cold (this year reaching a bottom of **Minus** 12 degrees C) to wear skirts and petticoats (winter sometimes seems to last from April to November). I resisted for a long time, having been trained that a caller should always be in square dance attire if on the stage, until one really cold night my dancers convinced me that they really didn't mind and were quite happy for me to remain in casual dress. This argument would work in reverse for the hotter climates.

The second reason is that some of the dancers don't have enough time to travel home after work and be back in time for the dance. We have gotten into the habit of eating tea at the Services Club together and then going on to the hall. I believe this creates a great social atmosphere for the dancers and they dance and listen better because they feel relaxed. We have an open policy and in the warmer weather some of the ladies often wear full dance attire. I leave it entirely up to them on the night. However if we attend a function elsewhere or have a special dance at home we wear square dance attire unless told otherwise.

I like not having to cart skirts & petticoats around to weekly dances, but do like to get dressed up when attending special events. We already have other skirt options and I have seen them on occasions, but any change is going to be gradual as the people who are dancing now, already have a closet full of clothes they like to wear and won't buy other's unless they need to.

I don't see a problem with giving dancers, especially new dancers who are the ones most likely to bring about change, other options. However people should be neat and tidy, not dressed in clothing that restricts their dancing movements or are dangerous e.g. tight fitting dresses and high heel shoes or thongs (the footwear variety), and not dressed to offend i.e. bare midriffs and T shirts with rude slogans.

Anything we can do to make it easy to introduce new people of any age to our wonderful pass time has to be good.

Marg Betts

3 COUPLE DANCING

This is no joke! There are times when you only have 3 couples. What can you do? Why not dance with them? There are already many two couple routines that have been done so it shouldn't be hard to use couples 1 and 2 for a short time, rest couple 1 and use couple 2 with couple 3, then rest couple 2 and use couple 3 and 1 and so on. Or something like that anyway.

This will give you some ideas of how to fill in time until a fourth couple arrives:

SET-UP – 3 adjacent couples in a classic square with one couple missing, for instance couple number 4 is missing (Couples 1 and 3 facing across the square, with a lonesome couple number 2 standing at the side)

ADJUSTMENTS NEEDED – Not much really, just keep using short two couple modules and exchange the in-active couple around

EXAMPLES

Example (1)

Couple 2 lead right (puts couples 2 and 3 facing)

Right and Left Thru – Swing Thru – Centres Trade - Centres Run – Bend the Line – Star Thru (equals a standard 2 couple zero so far)

Dive Thru – Pass Thru (About time to get couple 1 involved now)

Swing Thru – Spin the top – Recycle – Right and left thru

Now it may be hard to believe but this is now a zero. The set is not exactly the same but the dancers are in exactly the same order, we have achieved a “stir the bucket” affect for the three couples.

Example (2)

This time we'll use swing thru and spin the top the way that many of us probably learnt originally. Just think “those who can turn right then those who can turn left”.

Couple 2 walk across the square, separate around 1 and make a line of three

(We then have two facing lines of 3. No 1 couple has number 2 man in the middle – No 3 couple has number 2 lady in the middle)

Centre people pass thru and make a three hand wave with the opposite couple

Swing Thru (those who can ½ right, those who can ½ left)
Spin the top (those who can ½ right, those who can ¾ left, lonesome girls move up)
Everyone left hand hinge
Column circulate twice, all the boys turn around
Facing couple who can – Right and left thru
The one couple who can – dive thru – lead to the right and California twirl

Once again we have a “stir the bucket” scenario

Example (3)

Can we have a grand square? Of course we can. But this time we’ll probably need to make the dancers to feel like things are a little bit normal. I suggest having normal sides couples and just take one of the head couple out of formation.

Other examples?

I suggest going back to some of your favourite two couple routines then work out ways of how to keep swapping one couple in an out of the process for a while. From 3 couples with couples 1,2 and 3 in normal spots:

1 & 3 Pass the Ocean – Swing Thru – Spin The Top – Gils Trade – Girls Run – Tag The Line
– Face Right – Bend The Line

è (Gives Couple 1 and 3 Facing with Couple 2 Standing behind Couple 1) –
(Couples 1 and 3) Pass Thru -

è (Gives Couples 2 and 3 facing with Couple 1 facing out behind couple 3) -
(Couples 2 and 3) – Touch ¼ - Split Circulate – Hinge – Recycle – Veer Left -
Couple No 1 California Twirl and as a couple take 2 sidesteps to the left –
Everyone Ferris Wheel –

è (Gives us Couple 1 Facing Couple 2 with couple 3 standing behind couple 1) –
Couples 1 and 2 Veer Left – Tag the Line, Face Left – Bend the Line

è (All couples are in sequence one position clockwise of start)

By this time the remaining dancers would have arrived, so you can switch back to four couple dancing.

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS

One year ago (February 2008) - our Chairman put the following paragraph in his report:

Perhaps we should all make a point to contribute just ONE article per year, or even every 2 years. That would keep Jeff happy and off our backs for at least 2-3 years. Seriously though, most callers perhaps feel that they have nothing to offer the more experienced callers. But I am sure that we all have some interesting anecdotes that we can relate to and share with the rest of us. In fact I’ll lead the way by making my contribution this month. (Spontaneous decision)

Our Chairman even set the example by sending several routines which I used in February, April and June. Unfortunately – not many others have followed his example.

Come on everyone! Don't be afraid – send in some of your collection. They don't have to be original ideas or anything special or tricky or surprising – just send me a sample of your normal material and share it around. Some of it may be mundane to you but you'll be surprised at how many people don't it.

Once again – our Chairman (Jeff) is setting the example:

A few modules on circulate and ½ circulate.

ZB; Swing thru – all ½ circulate – centre wave spin the top – all single hinge – all ½ circulate – centre 6 single hinge – centre girls run left – bend the line – AL

SS: head ladies chain – heads pass thru – then cloverleaf – zoom – double pass thru – leaders trade – swing thru – all 8 circulate 1 ½ - boys go ½ more – to Right and left grand

ZL: Touch ¼ - single file circulate – centre 4 box circulate – all single file circulate – girls box circulate, then walk and dodge – those who can star thru – others face in – (lines) Right and left thru – Dixie style to an ocean wave – AL

ZL: Touch ¼ - single file circulate – Centre 4 box circulate – boys run right – centres pass thru – all pas the ocean – recycle – all ½ sashay – AL

Here are a few nice ones to workshop.

Heads Turn Thru - Separate Around 2 To A Line - Pass Thru - Boys Trade - Ferris Wheel - On A Double Track Reverse Flutterwheel - Pass Thru - Wheel & Deal - Double Pass Thru – Zoom - 1st Couple Cloverleaf - 2nd Couple Partner Trade Home!

Heads Star Thru, - Double Pass Thru, - Centres in - Cast Off 3/4, - Pass Thru, - Wheel & Deal, - On A Double Track Ladies Chain, - Pass Thru, - Wheel & Deal, - Centers Sweep 1/4 And Back Away, - Heads Touch 1/4, - Centers Box Circulate, - Those Who Can Allemande Left, - All Right & Left Grand

A couple of gimmicky ones

4 Ladies Chain
4 Ladies Chain 3/4
The Couple on #1 face your corner (original partner)
and Box The Gnat
Square your Set like this
New Heads Square Thru 4
Everybody Slide thru (everybody facing the stage)
...
Bend The Line
Left Square Thru 4
Allemande Left

Side Ladies Chain
Couple #1 with corner Box The Gnat
Heads Pass Thru
Separate go **Around 3 to a line**
Star Thru (All Couples facing the stage!)
Couple #1 California Twirl
Those who can Dive Thru
Zoom
Centers Swing Thru – Turn thru – AL – Face in (Home)

THE SQUARE DANCE PRODUCT SHOP (Part 1)

Just imagine that you are the general manager of a corporation that wants to manage the increasing demand of the latest “hot product” on the market known as “Square Dancing”. How would the manager plan for it. Well I guess the manager would want to know a bit more about the product and find out what products there are to work with, and what is really needed to supply customers in the “square dance product range”?

Wait – did I say “Square Dance Product Range”? Yes I did. Square dancing is not one single product, but a range of products.

Think about it – In the “Cleaning Product Range” you have a choice of Dishwashing detergent, Laundry Detergent, Car Washing and Personal Washing. And these have sub ranges – As an example Laundry you has sub products for front loading and top loading machines.

And so with Square Dance Product Range with major products categories and sub products such as:

Main Category	Dancing products
Modern Square Dancing	Basic (Callerlab) Mainstream (Callerlab) Plus (Callerlab) Advanced (Callerlab) Challenge (Callerlab) Non-Callerlab square dance programs (ACA) Contras Round dancing

Traditional Dancing	Lancers Quadrilles Bush Dances One night stands Contras
Folk Dancing	Lancers, Quadrilles Bush Dancing, Old time square dancing Specified country named dances (Scottish, Irish etc) Reels and Jigs
Related Dance Products	Line dancing, Solo dances Round dancing, Old Time Dances (Ballroom Dances) Country Western Dancing Rock and Roll Dancing One night stands Contras ABC Square dancing program

As you can see from the above there are some overlapping dancing products in column 2. This may look complicated but is not really when you consider other products such as motor vehicles which have Brand names (Ford, Holden, Toyota, Chrysler, Nissan, Mazda etc) – with body types (Sedans, Wagons, Utilities) – which have drive train types (2WD or 4WD) – fuel types (diesel, petrol, LPG) and uses (Passenger, recreation, heavy duty).

CAUGHT ON MY VOICE RECORDER (1)

Remember The Sony Voice Recorded that has been mentioned in the past two issues of Callerlink? Well I've been sneakily turning it on at dances I've attended recently. Here are some samples:

Heads Pass Ocean – Girls Trade – Recycle – Pass Thru – Star Thru – 2 Lines Right and Left Thru – Ladies Lead Dixie Style to Ocean Wave – Boys Slide Nose to Nose with each other – Couples Circulate – Bend The Line – Square Thru 3 – AL – RLG – PROM

4 Ladies Chain $\frac{3}{4}$ - Heads Prom $\frac{3}{4}$ - Sides Square Thru $\frac{3}{4}$ - Circle 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 2 Lines Right and Left Thru – Flutterwheel – Sweep $\frac{1}{4}$ - Veer Left – Veer Right – Centres square thru 3 – The Others Trade – AL – Square Set

Sides Lead To The Left – Veer to the Right – Couples Circulate – Bend the Line – Boys Make A Wave – Swing Thru – Swing Thru double – Extend – Hinge – Girls Trade – Swing Thru – Boy Run Right – Bend The Line – Pass Thru – Wheel and Deal – Zoom – Right and Left Thru – Star Thru – Back Away

Circle Right – Single File – Girls Backtrack 2 times – turn her by the right – AL – PROM

Head Ladies Chain – Promenade ½ - Lead to the Right – Touch ¼ - Girls Fold behind the boy – Boys Touch ¼ - Boys Walk and Dodge – Cloverleaf – Squeeze in between the girls – Lines – Pass Thru – Tag The Line – Face Right – Couples Circulate – Chain Down The Line – Put her in the lead – Double Pass Thru – Face Left – PROM

Sides Pass The Ocean – Girls Trade – Recycle - Pass Thru – Touch ¼ - Girls Fold – Boys make a RH Star – AL – RLG – PROM

Sides Square Thru 4 – Touch ¼ - Scoot Back - Girls Fold Behind the boy – Boys Pass Thru – Star Thru – Couples Circulate – Chain Down the Line – Flutterwheel – Sweep ¼ - Another ¼ - Lines – Pass The Ocean – Recycle – Square Thru 3 – Trade By – AL – Square Set

Sides Star Thru – California Twirl – Circle to a Line – Right and Left Thru – 2 Ladies Chain – 2 Ladies on each end look at each other – and diagonally chain – The other 2 ladies flutterwheel with each other pick up that man and bring him around – Sweep ¼ more and another ¼ more – Make a line of 4 – Lines Up and back – Right and Left Thru – Dixie Style – Boys Slide Nose To Nose with each other – Couple Circulate – Bend The Line – Up and Back – Right and Left Thru – Dixie Style – Boys Slide Nose to Nose with a girl – Girls Slide Nose to Nose with each other – Couple Circulate – Bend The Line – Up and back – Slide Thru – Star Thru – Pass Thru – Tag The Line – Face Me – Up to Middle and Back Merry Christmas – Hold up Left Hand Repeat after me – AL - RLG

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>

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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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

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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

The next exciting issue of CallerLink comes out in April 2009 !

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 March 2009 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

New South Wales

Happy New Year to all.

All N.S.W. Clubs are gearing up for the start of a new Square Dance year. Following our first Callers meeting in March, we plan on running a night of Square Dancing/Round Dancing featuring as many NSW Callers as possible.

This year we are holding a Callers seminar on the Central Coast NSW with Steve Turner, over the weekend 27th November, 2009 to Sunday Lunchtime 29th Nov. 2009. I would like to invite interested Interstate Callers to register their expression of interest prior to 28th March, 2009. Costs to Callers will be discussed at our March meeting.

Andy Lown
NSW ACF Co-ordinator.

Victoria

Hi everyone, happy New Year and I hope that you all had a merry Christmas and enjoyed the festive season. We now put away our Christmas records for another few months. Unless you run a night of Christmas in July, we only get the chance to call our Christmas records once a year.

During this year, Victoria will be celebrating the 40th State Convention. For the first time since 1987 the State Convention will be held in metropolitan Melbourne. With our aging dancer population, it will be interesting to see what the dancer numbers will be during the afternoon sessions. When the Conventions are located in the rural areas, the afternoon sessions are not always well attended. The program managers for the Convention are Mike Davey & Janice Alexander and this will be a challenge for them to come up with some new ideas to encourage the dancers back to the afternoon sessions, but if anyone can, they can.

After our State Convention, most of us will be turning our attention to the 50th National Convention in Perth. Let's hope that the world economic downturn does not affect the number of dancers attending this Convention. I am sure that dancers and callers alike will make every effort to attend the one and only 50th National Convention, they only come around once, so don't miss out.

Then once the 50th National is over, Victoria's attention will then turn to the 51st, I know that the Committee are busily working to ensure that once again Victoria present an entertaining and fun Convention.

Howard Cockburn
ACF Coordinator
Victoria

Queensland

The QCA has been in recess since the last report. We have our AGM and Quarterly Meetings on Sunday morning 15 Feb at Caloundra. This meeting will install a new Executive, including a new President as I am retiring from that position. We expect to see a change in some of the ACF Board Member nominated representatives from the QCA as a result of the AGM. As a member of the MS CALLERLAB Committee, I have nominated the following changes to the MS Program for consideration by that Committee. I stress that these are my individual views only.

(a) Name of Call To ADD - GRAND SLIDE

Reason – It has much better dance timing for the dancers and offers an easily learnt alternative to Grand Square. Grand Slide has been approved by the Australian Callers Federation as the only extra movement for MS dancing at Australian National Conventions since 1986. In Australia it is called much more than Grand Square.

(b) Name of Call To DROP – DIVE THRU

Reason – Dive Thru is seldom called, and its usage, in the main, has been replaced by Pass to the Center. Owing to the apparent increased average age of dancer and consequential limiting mobility of bending, Pass to the Center is much more comfortable and physically less restrictive.

Wishing all a very productive and enjoyable 2009.

David Smythe (Qld State Coordinator)

Western Australia

I trust you all have had a happy and safe festive season and are now tugging at the bit to get started on a new square dance year, if of course you haven't already started. My own club doesn't reopen until the first week in February and missing January is not such a bad thing for 3 very good reasons.

1. Quite a few of our members travel extensively through the festive season, so numbers would be down.
2. January is one of our hottest months, making dancing quite uncomfortable and
3. If you're going to miss a month January is the one to miss because it seems to be much shorter than the rest, or is that just my imagination or the fact that I don't have to go dancing in January.

Talking about extensive travel I sure hope you're amongst the 50 callers, 12 cuers & 3 clogging cuers registered for the upcoming 50th National Convention to be hosted here in Perth and boy are we excited about the prospect of seeing you all here and extending as much as our renown Western hospitality on you all as we can.

Other than making a commitment to the Convention Committee to make equipment, time and muscle available to them on request the other task we are embracing will be the ACF breakfast and we're doing our best to make sure it will be a breakfast not to miss and that will we hope will be remembered for years to come. At this stage the venue will be the Paddington Ale House situated on Scarborough Beach Rd, Leederville only 5 kms from the venue. We are hoping to have 3 guest speakers for the morning who will be talking to us on a host of what we feel will be interesting and informative subjects.

First we have Father Brian Morrison, Roman Catholic Priest, Director of Crisis Care, who looks after the needs of approximately 3000 underprivileged people a week. He works extensively with other world bodies i.e. Red Cross, UNICEF and the United Nations in helping with the needs of our many International neighbours when in need after all types of natural and un-natural disasters. Recipient of The Australian of the Year Award and many other awards both national and international including once being very surprised by Mike Munroe on "This Is Your Life". Father Brian's subject – Dedication and Commitment.

Second up we have Paul Hackett – Manager of Strategic Projects for the City of Swan. Paul has mediated at a couple of our meetings in the past and has a wealth of knowledge especially in the field of Local Government more particularly in the field of Sport and Recreation. His subject – How to approach councils and Local Governments with a view to receiving a positive response.

Last up Mrs. Di Panovios, recently returned to dancing after many years – Senior Occupational Therapist and Mental Health Counsellor to the South West Mental Health Services. Di also has her own very successful private practice in Bunbury specializing in Mental Health Counselling. Her subject – Capturing the new potential dancer.

We probably won't have time to eat and drink (just trickin) but I'm sure as always this will be a great get together and an opportunity to learn and share. Please make sure you are registered. Contact your State Coordinator.

Cheers Kevin Kelly

South Australia

Not a great deal to report. We have a special meeting coming up in February, some of which I had mentioned as far back as the December 2007 issue. We are still trying to entice new callers into our mist. Please see "Agenda" attached for this meeting, as it may give some ideas for the upcoming meeting to be held in Perth this year.

We wish you all the best for this year together with a successful learner's classes.

Regards
Jeff Seidel
S.A. Coordinator

Tasmania

Greetings from Tasmania

Happy New Year! Welcome back to squares. Hopefully everyone has had a relaxing break and is now eager to get back to their clubs.

The big news in Tas is of course the upcoming State Convention in March. Registration forms are available by emailing me at the address below. The committee is doing a fantastic job to ensure this is a very successful, well publicised event. Please tell your dancers that registrations are open till the 20th of February, plenty of time still.

At the Convention in March, the TCA will also be holding their AGM so by the next Callerlink there will be new committee.

Have a safe one, enjoy the summer & lets dance J

Yours in squares,

Di Austen
State Coordinator – Tasmania