

ACA Reports, 2011 AGM – Cairns Queensland

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Australian Clogging Association Incorporated Presidents Report 2011

Gosh how time flies, another ACA convention is upon us, and I’m sure that this one, the first in Cairns & the 16th we have held, is going to be a great one.

Along with another convention comes another AGM for our association and as this is the end of my 3 years as President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked with me during this time.

For the first 2 years I had Kathy Hedger and Jan Collins as Secretary and Treasurer, and then this past year there has been Kingsley Dawes and Jasmine Dawes filling those positions after taking over in Bendigo.

These positions are by no means easy and probably the hardest on the committee. My thanks to you all for the wonderful and thorough job you did.

To Frances Look my Vice President, thank you for your help.

The cue sheet checkers, Olive, Jenny, and Irmgard, what would we choreographers do without you ladies, the job you do is greatly appreciated, and made as easy as it can be with the help of our great Clogging Dictionary, made possible by Philip Farry, ably assisted by his wife Donna, what a job they do keeping this up to date. A huge job as there are always new steps being thought up that have to be included – Philip you ‘created a monster’, but one that anyone who has tried their hand at choreography loves, it makes our job so much easier.

To everyone else who has helped in any way over the past 3 years while I’ve been in office, my thanks to you also.

These jobs are voluntary, and a lot of you have other ‘paid’ jobs that you have to do as well, and on behalf of all Cloggers I would like to say a very big thank you for the job you do to keep our association running smoothly.

The Leaders who work tirelessly all year to teach the ACA Dance List, and think of new routines to teach all year, and finally the dancers who let's face it without you, we would have no use for any of the above, THANKS EVERYONE.

Finally I would like to say on behalf of everyone who gets our wonderful newsletter each month a big thanks to Julie Ann Clarke who gets all the bits and pieces of news together, always pesters me for my report, and does a mighty job of getting this magazine ready for the printers so that we all have something to keep us up to date with what's happening. If you don't get this magazine then you are not a member of our association and I would strongly urge you to join, along with this and other benefits you also get to vote at the convention for the state showcase winner.

I would like to wish all the incoming committee members good luck, I'm sure you will all do a great job, and enjoy your time helping to keep our Australian Clogging Association running smoothly

In the mean time remember 'Happy Feet are Clogging Feet'

Cheers

Kaye

Australian Clogging Association Incorporated Treasurer's Report 2011

This was my first year as ACA Treasurer and I would like to thank first my predecessor Jan Collins for all her help and kind assistance in finding my feet in the role, also my partner Martin Bruce (aka Stretch) for all his help and support and my beautiful daughters Rosemary and Verity for their patience when I would disappear into the front room to sit on the computer for what seemed like hours at a time!

As the financial year of the ACA is 1st May to 30th April, the time frame for having the books of account audited has been quite tight. A new Auditor had to be appointed and it is expected that the audited statements will be ready for presentation at the AGM to be held at the 16th ACA National Clogging Convention in Cairns. Due to advice received from the Auditor, the financial statements will not be posted to the website but will be made available to members via email or hard copy.

At the end of the ACA financial year, the Convention fund stands at \$51,406 and general account funds at \$2,526. The Convention fund continues to provide \$5,000 grants to the conventions each year.

As mentioned previously, when making payments to the ACA all members are requested to return membership forms or include at least surname and preferably membership number on their bank transaction to ensure that payments can be allocated to the correct person.

Jasmine Dawes June 2011

ACT Annual Report 2011

Clogging is alive and well in the ACT. Silver Soles Cloggers Inc, being the bigger club (41 adults, 44 juniors), is very active within the community (including Floriade and the Country Music Festival). Capital Cloggers Canberra is still a small club, but good at organising successful social events, most recently in Binalong and Bundanoon. Louise (Silver Soles) also runs a small club in Bungendore NSW, while Kathy (CCC) runs a small club in Yass, NSW, with dancers from both outlying clubs visiting Canberra for extra classes and events. 3 Silver Soles dancers also toured

the USA with an Australian dance group and visited Eric Bice in Anaheim, teaching Australian choreography to an appreciative class.

My term as ACT rep is up, but I have enjoyed it. Unfortunately, I won't be attending the convention in Cairns (first one I've missed in 11 years!), but I'm sure you'll all have a wonderful time. There is interest from both clubs regarding my successor, though a formal nomination hasn't gone in - it will no doubt be sorted out at the AGM.

Happy clogging!
Lorraine Peisley

NSW Annual Report 2011

It seem like this year is going so fast, and here we are on the eve of another Clogging Convention. Unfortunately I can't make the Cairns Convention, and I will really miss catching up with friends, learning new dancers, and just enjoying spending time with people that love the same activity as I do.

So my report starts with Coastal Cowboys / Strictly Cloggers. They have just hosted a brilliant weekend at Riverwood Downs. Although very cold, the dancing kept us warm, along with organized trivia, mini olympics, workshop, lots and lots of beautiful food, great friendship and lots of laughs.

Bundanoon was another great successful weekend with lots of our cloggers enjoying their time there. I believe the consensus is that we will alternate the weekends from year to year between Riverwood and Bunadoon. It is always fun to meet with our fellow Cloggers.

From Aunty Maz, The Bunyah Country Cloggers is the only club she has. They preformed for the Bunyah Tennis Ladies Biggest Morning Tea and she is happy to say that well over \$4000 was raised for Cancer Council. Fantastic effort for such a small community. Maz is not going to Cairns either....She is always missed.

David and Ditta from Totally Clogged, celebrate their 10th Clogging Anniversary. The 6th of July is actually the date they started Totally Clogged 10 years ago. To celebrate they are having an evening function and are inviting all the people that have danced with them over these years. People that have been to 1 day beginner workshops and also all the kids that have done clogging as a co-curricular activity at the Grammar School. Of course the current dancers and other cloggers who would like to come. The teenager group are writing a dance to demo and teach at the evening. The Kids group have 13 girls and 1 boy from year 3 and 4 doing a demo on the night. It will be on the 23rd of July from 5pm at the Junior Hall Blue Mountains Grammar School Wentworth Falls.

Also Ruth Krix tells me that she has had her club, Krix Cloggers, 22 years this year. It is wonderful that we have such beautiful people that are willing to pass on their talent, and keep us Clogging.

This year we had two submissions for the 2011 Showcase, it would be great to have more submissions next year. I know that there is more talent out there. As this was my first year as NSW Rep, I really didn't know what to expect or what to do, so I would like to thank Leanne and Jason for their support in explaining the path I should take. I am happy to Rep NSW next year.

Good luck NSW on your Showcase LOVE STORY, wish I could be there. Have fun

Roseanne Goggin

Queensland Annual Report 2011

It is less than half way into 2011 – but what a busy year it has been to date! With the 16th ACA National Convention in Cairns now only three weeks away, final preparations are in full swing. Nina, Chris and the girls from Paradise Cloggers have worked tirelessly to ensure the weekend goes smoothly and every Clogger who attends has a wonderful experience in the beautiful North Queensland paradise that is Cairns!

Whilst all Queensland Clubs have pledged their help and support at the Convention itself, we need to make special mention of the Sun City Cloggers, Townsville and C.Q. Cloggers, Rockhampton who have spent many hours helping the Paradise Cloggers organize and make decorations for the venue. Jenny Neal recently spent a lovely, long weekend in Cairns. She would have us believe it was all in the name of programming and organizing the workshops!

Our Clubs in Queensland are thoroughly enjoying learning the new dances which have gone onto the ACA National Dance List this year. Several Clubs have started new beginner groups with special mention of our two Bundaberg Clubs who again this year have attracted many new Cloggers.

Most Clubs have availed themselves of lots of opportunities to present Clogging to the unconverted at Regional Shows, School events, Festivals and Fairs, Retirement Villages, and fund raising functions for the Flood Victims earlier this year.

Visiting Cloggers are always very welcome at our Clubs, and several Clubs this past year have enjoyed the company of visitors from interstate.

The Brisbane Demo Team, “Get Rhythm”, under the leadership of Frances Look and Stephen Hope once again strive for excellence as they “gear up” for Senior Idol 2011. They have previously attained great results and we wish them success again this year as they showcase Clogging to large Brisbane audiences.

Earlier this year, we were saddened to hear Joan Whyte’s husband, Bruce, had passed away after having been ill for some time.

Queensland Cloggers look forward to once again renewing many friendships in Cairns at the forthcoming 16th ACA National Convention. I am sure all who attend will not only have a great weekend of Clogging but will also take home with them many happy memories of magical Cairns and it’s beautiful surrounds.

Dell Sutcliffe

ACA Queensland State Representative

SA State Report 2011

SA still has three clogging clubs but one of them has changed its format. Cathy and Andy of C&A Cloggers have ceased teaching classes but continue with choreography workshops on Saturdays.

Blueridge Mountain Cloggers

It has been a busy year for Blueridge Mountain Cloggers, turning 10 and having a workshop to celebrate, with special guest, Kellee Ramirez, from Sacramento, That was a lot of fun and organising.

Also been busy getting everything ready for Cairns and trying to get things done for the Convention in Adelaide in 2012; advertising, venue, etc. A big thank you to everyone who has been involved, as planning a convention involves a lot of work and everyone has done a great job. Michael Carroll and the club hope to see everyone in Cairns.

Adelaide Bluegrass Cloggers

Irmgard added another venue to the existing four last year but reluctantly had to abandon the Aldinga class, after twelve months of trying to recruit new cloggers.

Sharon Bailey continues to do a great job with the Gawler group, a truly fun-loving bunch, who have performed demo's, run the highly successful combined clubs SA Christmas Social, and a Bunning's Barbecue Stall, the profits of which have helped to swell the 2012 ACA Convention budget.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Friday night classes have benefited from the support of assistant teaching and cueing by Leigh Huckel, Sharon Bailey, Pat Stewart, Justin McKenzie and Di Schutz. Having now "finished" my Secondary School teaching career, I am grateful to have such a fabulous way of keeping life interesting. We look forward to seeing everyone in Cairns and another great year of dancing and friendship.

Irmgard Huddy

Adelaide Bluegrass Cloggers Inc

Victoria Annual Report 2011

After the hustle and bustle of last year's convention in our state, it has been so nice to return to normality and simply enjoy our classes though it took a while to come down from such a "high".

Although I must say that so many clubs working together towards that common goal in Bendigo, somehow brought about a unity and respect for everyone's contribution that we just didn't want to lose. We now have plans to bring all our clubs together on a more regular basis to support each other and promote clogging throughout the whole state.

Quite a few clubs have new beginners this year, some starting them during specialised workshops or at certain intervals, and some accept new cloggers weekly, fitting them in either before or after regular classes.

Many clubs have had their regular demo's throughout the year, mainly fundraising for various local and National charities and taking part in community events including festivals and fetes.

In regional Victoria, clogging has featured in Star Quest, Country & Western, Multi-Cultural and U3A Concerts. Our great aim this coming year is to encourage more young people to discover the joys of clogging.

We are looking forward to Cairns and the wonderful camaraderie that convention brings out in everyone, not to mention the fabulous dances and the chance to explore an area not all of us have seen yet.

We also are looking forward to "Clog into Spring" weekend in September at Anglesea with Nev & Cheryl. Always a fun time and another chance to catch up.

A very big thank you to all the dedicated instructors throughout Victoria.

Bev Kilpatrick

WA Annual Report 2011

34 WA Cloggers will be attending the 16th ACA National Convention in Cairns.

Western Australian cloggers have enjoyed tapping their way through another year! Recruitment of new dancers continues to be challenging. Special thanks to all WA cloggers who put their hand up for doing club demos. Doing the dances that are enjoyed at class and taking them out to the world! The venues can be so different to the familiar hall, the sound a bit tricky for hearing the cues and you notice the step you're doing is different to what the other dances are doing! You don't care, you're having fun! The spectators notice you are "free styling" but smiling and having a good time! They reckon they might give clogging a go! Thanks so much for promoting clogging and supporting your leaders both in and out of class.

No new clubs to report, but Jo-King cloggers have now established a class in Kenwick (moved from Cannington) on Thursday nights with dancers from the Urban Cowboys Line Dance club. There have been a couple of breaks with the continuity of this class but they will get back into full swing after this convention.

Esperance Bay Cloggers has enjoyed tapping through another year but with a little bit less agility with backs and joints - there's a bit more cheating with Catawbases, Down Turns and three quarter turns! They've enjoyed having some visiting cloggers and are keen that travelling cloggers include Monday nights in Esperance when they plan their drive across to the West! Esperance Country Cloggers have been joining the "Bay" Cloggers but are still keen to resume classes for their club in the future.

Southern Cross Cloggers have been enjoying introducing nine new learners to their crazy group of cloggers! Nothing special to report this year but the continuing camaraderie of clogging! ... and the occasional tiara! You just can't predict this lot!

West Coast Cloggers are clicking along with small dance groups and some beginner cloggers learning on Monday nights. Bob and Carol have moved to Townsville and enjoying dancing with Jan, so it will be fun catching up at the convention. West Coast have 5 dancers (plus 2 retired clogger supporters!) travelling to Queensland. Steve and Diane are excited to be attending the Cairns convention after having missed a few years of conventions.

Jo-King Cloggers are travelling well with numbers stabilised at about 10-15 regulars. They have 7 members travelling to Cairns. Kingsley and Glenn performed a clogging demo at Kings Park in conjunction with the Urban Cowboys Line Dancers. Jo-King cloggers have their 22nd Birthday just prior to heading off for the clogging fun in Queensland.

Kaye's Cloggers in Morley and Rockingham Cloggers have been tapping along nicely with 3 new beginners in Morley - husband and wife combo Rachael and Andrew were inspired by clogging demos at Canberra's Country Music Festival.

The Rockingham class is growing steadily. A demo at the Baldivis Fair in November has become a regular event over the past few years. A club demo was also part of the Rockingham 'Have A Go Day' sponsored by the Seniors Rec Council of WA.

The annual Rockingham Roundup is in November and all cloggers are encouraged to join this fun day. There will be 10 dancers from Rockingham going to Cairns for this year's convention.

The Western Australian clogging fraternity always welcomes travelling cloggers. Please make contact with club leaders who would love to hear from you!

John Clark - ACA State Rep WA

NEW ZEALAND Annual Report 2011

Clogging continues in New Zealand. While our numbers remain a bit static, the faithful are there at class every week. Teachers continue to be challenged with new dances, or maybe choreographing new steps.

It's great to hear that there are some new teachers and cuers' emerging. Nicole McHaffie stepped in when needed to take over as Convener for the Nelson convention, and also kept the classes going teaching and cueing for a few months. Now Suzanne Brewerton is back in NZ she has got caught up in cueing and teaching also. Samantha Rutherford is with the Auckland Rhythm Cloggers and has been quietly cueing and teaching for the last 2 to 3 years. Susie Evans also with Auckland Rhythm Cloggers, started cueing this year and is doing really well. All these new cuers will be helping out with cueing in Nelson.

Our convention is once again in Nelson over the weekend 29th to 31st July. Cheryl Holland leader of Bayside Cloggers is our guest instructor. I KNOW she has some great dances for us. Getting the cue sheets sorted via email caused us both plenty of laughter. We're looking forward to you being with us Cheryl.

2012 and our convention will be in Auckland. Instead of August, September or October, we are ready for a MAY weekend. Yes, an autumn convention 4th to 6th May 2012. Come for an April Autumn holiday. Auckland days are still very warm, and stay on for the convention. Our guest instructor hails from USA. To check out who, pick up a Registration pack, – in fact we'll even take your money! please be sure to take some Registration packs for cloggers not here in Cairns, there are plenty available this weekend

There will be 9 cloggers from NZ in Cairns this weekend. We're looking forward to meeting up with everyone again AND enjoying some warm sunny days.

From all NZ cloggers, our best wishes and thanks to the Cairns convention committee for a successful weekend. We know we're going to have a great time.

Jean Watford

New Zealand State Rep

Cuesheet Checker Annual Report

Basic, Basic Plus & Easy Intermediate

Most ACA Choreographers have become accustomed to typing up their cuesheets under the ACA formula now. The levels sent to me have become (on the whole) "A Thing of Beauty and a Joy Forever", with just an occasional one page effort creeping under the barbed wire. Of course, they get severely repulsed by the defenders of the "Full Page for Quick Cues & Full Page for Step Explanations" Brigade. Same old reasons still apply:

Not enough margin, font too small for easy cueing, no room to add any missed step explanations, THIS ONE'S FOR ME - I need a space to print the ACA stamp easily. It comes off the computer as a square space. It can be reduced or made larger but it's gotta go somewhere on that sheet and it'd be nice to be able to see it! I'm too computer illiterate to fiddle it into boxes etc. so spare a thought for the old girl, please!

All of the Cuesheet Checkers would appreciate a response when returning a cuesheet stamped to the Choreographer. The question was asked at the last Leader's Meeting "How can you know where it has been changed". We try to give that information in the email the stamped cuesheet is attached to. I always like to know if any changes I have made are considered okay and ask

that the stamped cuesheet be checked and danced before sending the 'okay or not' email. It's YOUR **DANCE** though it has to be ACA correct to be stamped and we can always have another go, if not.

MOST IMPORTANTLY – Please delete both pages of your unstamped cuesheet from your computer when all are happy with the stamped one. This is to prevent anyone accidentally sending the old step explanations with the new STAMPED quick cues as they are often not the same.

Some years ago, there was a long discussion at a Convention leaders meeting on varying the speed of music for dancing at functions and I believe it was agreed that the Choreographers should give an indication of that on the cuesheet. This seems to have almost fallen by the wayside and I think it should be revived. Perhaps just a simple “The speed may be varied – suggest ??” (We don't all know the music)

At least, everyone's got some guideline that the music could need varying and a suggestion to what extent. Thankfully, I notice some do say “Normal Speed” when no change is required. Remember, we can dance whatever speed we like at club.

We have all been constantly alert for any anomalies that exist in the dictionary and quite a few have been corrected. Leaders can submit anything they feel is duplicated under another name etc and we'll give it a thorough investigation. DO NOT send these to Donna. She is very adamant that she is the “Dictionary Secretary” only and will only change anything when instructed by “The Terrible Trio”.

I know that most of these things have been discussed by me in the past but repetition is always a good thing. You're bound to get to a new person every so often. Be aware of how much the ACA dictionary can assist you in writing a dance. It's available for a very nominal sum from Donna and Philip Farry and is constantly updated with new steps thru your email.

Happy Convention Olive Borovsky ACA Cuesheet Checker

Cuesheet Checker Annual Report

Intermediate

I don't have much more to add than what Olive has already said, she has pretty much covered it all.

Most cue sheets I receive are in the ACA Format now. The levels are pretty good most of the time. The one thing I think we need to take more consideration in, is the speed of the music when choreographing any dances. Some dances just really shouldn't be danced at full speed, yes, we can do the steps but does it really sound any good? I think it has become imperative to put the speed on at least Int & higher dances. I don't really want to have to listen to the music of every cue sheet sent to me so if the speed is on the cue sheet it would give us an idea .

Like Olive, I appreciate getting an email to say that you have received the cue sheet, and that you are either happy or unhappy with the changes made.

Happy Clogging Jenny Neal ACA Cue Sheet Checker (Int)