

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2010

Well we come to another Convention, and another year of clogging has passed. It doesn't seem that long ago that we were all meeting in Perth and getting ready for a weekend of learning and fun, along with the tired feet, and brains that by the Sunday were over run with new steps and routines. Bendigo was a whole year away. We have seen changes to our ACA Membership which now includes insurance, I think this is a great addition and hopefully it will encourage lots more dancers to become members of this association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee, who have worked hard all year to keep everything running smoothly, and carried on when I was unable to attend the meetings due to distance, but email and the wonders of computers allow us to keep in touch. I know our Secretary Kathy, and Treasurer Jan are both taking a well earned rest after this convention, the work that they do has been really appreciated. To the new committee members who are going to be working for you all to keep the association going I would like to say a big thank you, as without people to continue this work we wouldn't have an ACA. To the wonderful people who organize our weekends throughout the year, like Storm King and Aussie Clog, along with others, thanks to you too, as these weekends give us all a chance to meet up with one another, and have loads of fun. They are not easy events to put together, and I'm sure that all the dancers who attend appreciate your hard work. To all our leaders who keep the clubs running, and keep all of us entertained, and sometimes frustrated with some of the steps – Thank You, it keeps us off the streets. The choreography of our own leaders and dancers, is a credit to you all, and the work that goes into this is made so much easier thanks to the wonderful Step Dictionary that we have, courtesy of Philip and Donna. The accreditation program for our leaders, is something that's been well received, with new participants going through and others getting up to a higher level, being assessed at most of our major weekends. Congratulations to all those who in the last 12 months have put themselves through this, I know it can be very nerve wracking at times. Lastly I would like to say to you all, enjoy this 15th National Convention put on by our Victorian friends, and remember, Cairns is only 1 year away. Good Health and Fun Clogging for the year to come. Kaye

Australian Clogging Association Incorporated **Treasurer's Report 2010**

The audited financial statements for the ACA's financial year 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010 are attached. I have included comments about notable items in 2009-2010 but I would be happy to answer any other questions that may arise from members.

Overall, the Association's finances are in a healthy state. At the time of writing this report, the bank balance was over \$8,000 in the general operating account. Member Funds grew by over \$10,600 in the 2010-2011 financial year; consisting of \$1,700 in general funds and \$8,900 in convention funds. Well done to the 14th National Convention committee for returning an incredible surplus of over \$14,000 from the 2009 Perth Convention!

At the end of the ACA financial year, the Convention fund stood in excess of \$52,000, which is greater than its 2004 establishment value. The fund has now purchased sound equipment and provided \$5,000 grants to seven successive conventions and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Bank interest was considerably less than the previous year but this was simply a reflection of the drop in interest rates. The current \$50,000 term deposit, which matures on 23 October 2010, is earning a healthier return of six per cent.

Income from membership fees was less than the previous year but this is essentially a timing issue. We stopped offering a discount for two-year memberships in 2010, so most people whose membership was due only renewed for one year and there had been a lot of members who'd renewed for two years in 2009. The number of members remains constant – for all those new memberships signed there are similar numbers of lapses. Most renewals have now been received for 2010-2011. Receipts are no longer issued unless requested and this has saved a lot of administrative effort on the part of the Treasurer and Secretary.

A number of deposits received directly to the ACA's bank account remain unidentified. 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 acknowledged. The description that appears on the payee's bank statement has a limited number of characters and it is unnecessary and unhelpful for identification purposes if they are used up with descriptions like 'membership fees' as this does not help to identify the payment.

Insurance costs have almost doubled because the committee agreed to take out accident insurance for all ACA members. This is automatically included in the membership fee. Previously our major insurance cost was public liability.

Cost of member rewards and gifts was significantly less than 2009 because the committee decided not to purchase a member gift but instead provide accident insurance cover. In addition, 2009 costs had been inflated by the purchase of a large stock of badges and pins that will continue to be used over many years.

The committee decided not to restock any merchandise items this year. It was recognised that we were holding far too much stock last year. Furthermore, the committee agreed to run down stocks as much as possible and only keep a small number of items. There is very little mark-up on the items and they are sold as a service to members, rather than as revenue for the ACA.

Newsletter production and postage costs have reduced because the committee decided to reduce the number of editions from six to four per year. In addition, increasingly more members are opting to receive electronic versions. The committee has recently decided to increase advertising rates to \$30 per full page, \$20 per half-page and \$10 per quarter-page.

As this is my final year as Treasurer, I would like to thank members for supporting the Association and for mostly paying on time, not bouncing cheques or giving dodgy credit card details. Best wishes are extended to my replacement who I'm sure will do a great job.

Jan Collins

15 August 2010

NSW Rep Annual Report 2010

In trying to put together a report for this meeting I had a look at what I had to say last year. There wasn't much that has changed.

I did hear that the Coastal Cowboys/Strictly Cloggers trip to Norfolk Island started with a near-death experience. The weather wasn't the best for trying to land a large aircraft onto a postage stamp sized runway. Even a seasoned traveller described the landing as a white knuckle event.

Glenda Prowse tells me that between the National Conventions last year and this year, South Coast Stompers will have done 23 demos, each about an hour long, at 8 different venues in the Batemans Bay/Moruya area for 8 different groups. They normally do about four different costume brackets. Bravo South Coast Stompers.

I heard from Ditta Dann about a weekend event that was held in Tamworth in May. Clogging was only a small part of this weekend this time, but Ditta hopes it will become a bigger event for our activity in the future.

As for me, I have decided to take a sabbatical from most of my dancing commitments. I have resigned from all my round dance activities and only continued with one (because Jason is hard to say "no" to) clogging class at Bunyah. I will always have the pleasant memory of my last cueing engagement at the NSW Square Dance Society Hawaiian Night. I was working with Vickie Dean who was wearing a hula skirt. Fabulous. Sorry I piked out on the hula skirt Vickie... I owe you one.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me. I hope to be back one day.

Happy clogging
Marilyn Lambden
(Aunty Maz)

South Australia State Report 2010

Adelaide Bluegrass Cloggers Report:

Thanks to a wonderful group of people and some brilliant helpers, Adelaide Bluegrass Cloggers has celebrated another successful year, our 16th. This year we have added another venue south of Adelaide in Aldinga. This small class contains some very enthusiastic cloggers. The advanced class in Hove has grown to fifteen dancers. Sharon is doing an excellent job in teaching the Gawler class, and assisting with Ingle Farm, while Leigh Huckel, a relatively new clogger is already teaching beginners at Ingle Farm. Pat Stewart, the SA state rep. assists with teaching at Aldinga, Christies Beach and Hove. Their help has been greatly appreciated especially when Irmgard's dicky knees play up. Linda Threadgold, our secretary and treasurer still regularly commutes from her home in Couch Beach on Yorke Peninsula.

SA clogging clubs take it in turns to select a showcase dance for the convention, and as it was our turn this year, we ran a choreography competition culminating in a workshop where Irmgard taught all eight entries to the dancers. Dancers did not know who had choreographed the eight final dances. The winner was Pat Stewart whose Easy Intermediate dance, *Poker Face*, received a huge majority of votes. We hope you like it as much as we do.

This year we have performed demos at the new shopping centre at Hallett Cove, Seaford Shopping Centre, Aldinga Central, Aldinga Community Centre and finally a really big demo in Marion Shopping Centre at the Marion Learning Festival, which was all about healthy living. Channel Nine took some footage of our performance of *Pick Up the Fiddle*, which the reporter said would be shown along with a brief interview, in late November as part of a program called *Out of the Ordinary*.

We are excited to announce that Clogtober is back on this year, Our previous venue, Tatachilla, was unfortunately sold, so this year we will be at Nunyara Retreat and Conference Centre in Belair in the Adelaide hills. Thanks to the local and interstate cloggers from Victoria and ACT who have already registered.

We have begun fundraising for the 2012 Convention by supporting and running socials and workshops, with plenty more to come.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's National Convention in Bendigo.

Blueridge Mountain Cloggers Report

Well the Blueridge mountain cloggers haven't been up to a lot this year just learning ACA dances as more of the class are starting to venture out and go to conventions. We have had a couple of mixed socials so we could catch up and dance with the other clubs in south Australia which is always fun. We are now gearing up for the convention in Bendigo with our show case practices in full swing.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Bendigo

Tasmanian Annual Report - 2010

From the general statewide clogging perspective, nothing has happened or changed in Tasmania over the past twelve months.

Philip Farry

Victorian State rep report 2010

Hi All

Hope you all have a great 2010 Clogging Convention in Bendigo.

We in Victoria have been busy organizing the ACA Convention 2010. We have chosen to go country this convention and Bendigo in Regional Victoria will play host for the big event. The committee has spent tireless hours to prepare the weekend for your enjoyment, and we all have our roles to play to make this convention a happening thing, we are arranging a great opening ceremony with some surprises by some local performers. Our guest Instructor for the 2010 convention is Scotty Bilz well known to many of us.

All clogging groups seem to be cruising along nicely with many groups having new Cloggers starting and enjoying the world of clogging. (Group reports to follow).

We are looking forward to catching up with all our clogging family in Bendigo.

I would like to mention that we have one of our favourite clogging teachers starting a new group West City Cloggers run by Neville Flegg and he kicks off the classes on the 1st September 2010 Good Luck Neville

Group reports

Bayside cloggers

Not much has been happening at Bayside Cloggers we have been busy with convention stuff. Next year I am teaching as guest instructor at the NZ Convention in July. I hope to have some beginners starting after the convention this year. We are madly working on the dance list for the convention. Still have our regular cloggers (about 12 every week).

Cheryl Holland

Hazelwood Wild Dog Cloggers

We really haven't been doing anything except class, however I have got 5 new students, so my class has gone from 10 to 15. That's pretty exciting. They have injected some new life to the beginner hour of our class.

Robyn Dossett

Stompin' Cowboys

We are currently fundraising for the 15th Convention in 2010. We are running a raffle which will be drawn on July 26th and we are doing a chocolate drive. For the second half of this year we will be running another raffle which will be drawn at our Christmas break-up social.

Each of our classes has had a trickling of new cloggers coming in to join us and discovering that clogging is a lot of fun.

Cheers for now

Shirley

Dixie Doozles & Golden Plains

Dixie Doozles/Golden Plain & Clogging Cats have all had a productive and enthusiastic year.

We have attracted three new Cloggers and presented four performances (Demos.) in **Ballarat** and **Geelong**; with quite a few costume changes which adds to the enjoyment of the audience. An enjoyable year of Clogging.

VAL

Country Cloggers

Country Cloggers have spent the time since the last convention generally doing what we always do, dance for fun, and to entertain others.

Only a few new beginners this year but keen as mustard and looking forward to their first convention.

Nursing home demos keep us on our toes and gives us a profile in the community, as well as give confidence to those new to performing for an audience. We have had some Cloggers of old, re discover their love of dancing after long breaks away and they have enjoyed finding renewed energy levels. Its doesn't seem like we have done much, but we have learnt so many new dances and gained so uch confidence in attempting the challenges og higher levels and I think we are pleased with ourselves, looking forward to even more challenges in the next year.

Bev Kilpatrick

Rainbow Cloggers

We have been rehearsing for our "Space Invaders" demo for both Frontier and also the Convention. Sixteen of us in the Demo and everyone is really excited – great new costumes which should look very effective! Monday nights going well, and our last beginners class started about 4 months ago and have learnt 5 dances so far. All looking forward to the Convention in September and being part of the Victorian Showcase demo "Not Fair" when it is danced at the Convention.

Terry anne

Well that's all the reports I have from Victoria enjoy then 2010 Convention and we will see you all in Cairns in 2011.

Lindsay Rogers

Victorian State rep.

Queensland State Report August 2010

Our large family of Cloggers in Queensland continues to grow in both numbers and enthusiasm. At state weekend functions and at the annual ACA Convention, we are now seeing more dancers on the floor at Intermediate Plus and Advanced Levels and many more of our dancers are 'having a go' at cueing. Two Clubs which have been inactive for some time have now officially closed their doors whilst Fancy Shuffle Cloggers, under the leadership of Gail Ross, are now clogging in Bundaberg.

Once again during this past twelve months Cloggers have taken the opportunity to attend Storm King, Aussie Clog and the Gympie Muster. We thank the Convenors of these functions and their helpers for the tireless work they put in year after year to give both Queensland Cloggers and our fellow Cloggers from interstate the opportunity to renew friendships and have a great weekend of dancing and learning new Workshop Dances. Cloggers from Howard, Childers, Gin Gin, Bundaberg, Gympie and Rockhampton have again this year enjoyed Social Days of Clogging together. The Gympie Muster continues to attract interested participants at the fun "Beginner Teaches".

In May this year, the Brisbane Demo Team "Get Rhythm" again wowed the audiences at the Urban Country Music Festival with their demonstration. They, and many other Clubs throughout the State, promote our great form of dance at Regional Shows, local fetes, Service Clubs and Senior Citizen Groups – just to name a few. Many Clogging Club members also give very freely of their time to give enjoyment, with colourful performances, for residents at Aged Care and Retirement Facilities throughout the state.

Clogging has again gained valuable publicity through the news media whilst Frances Look somehow manages to find time to write interesting articles which appear in the Square Dance Magazines.

The community spirit of Clogging continues to benefit several wonderful charities. The combined Brisbane Clubs, with their pre-Christmas efforts, topped last year's donation to help Breast Cancer. The Townsville Sun City Cloggers, under the leadership of Jan Bennett, this year raised \$2,100.00 at their morning tea as part of the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea Promotion. Judy Fraser, a tireless worker from the Club, has again this year been responsible for a lot of the work organizing this magnificent effort.

It has been a very busy year for Nina Annand, Chris Anderson and the Paradise Cloggers in Cairns as they "gear up" with plans for the 16th ACA National Clogging Convention to be held there next year from 1st to 3rd July. This will be a great opportunity for Cloggers throughout Australia to holiday in this truly beautiful, tropical North Queensland city.

Queensland Cloggers look forward to renewing friendships in Bendigo at the forthcoming 15th ACA National Convention in Bendigo.

Dell Sutcliffe

ACA Queensland State Representative.

Western Australia State Report 2010

We expect 29 WA Cloggers to be attending the 15th ACA National Convention in Bendigo.

The Western Australian clogging fraternity have been tapping and clicking along nicely for another year! For some of us it is another year of creaking along with our ageing joints!

Recruitment of new dancers continues to be challenging. Leaders are always grateful for the loyal support of their regular dancers who brave all weather to have fun with the dancing and camaraderie of clogging.
Special thanks from all leaders to our helpers – set up, pack up, demos, fundraising, treats etc!

There was much sadness in the WA clogging when Ted Hudson passed away earlier this year at 90 years of age. Ted was still clogging in his 88th year and is an inspiration to all who knew him. After his clogging ceased due to health reasons, he still maintained occasional contact with his Southern Cross Cloggers buddies at dance sessions.

The Annual Rockingham Roundup is scheduled for 20th November. Travelling Cloggers – please check your schedule in case you are able to attend. There will be lots of WA Cloggers supporting this event. Contact Kaye with any enquiries.

There have been a number of club demos this year that have attracted new dancers. Each beginner is a potential clogging leader of the future! As with clogging groups everywhere, we are challenged to find club dancers to cultivate as potential leaders. Encouraging cueing and basic choreography might also foster new clogging leaders.
No new clubs to report, but next year is always a chance!

Esperance Bay Cloggers was very pleased to have visiting Cloggers Lesley Marx and Lyn Dell include clogging amongst their activities when visiting beautiful Esperance. A good excuse for supper treats!
Esperance Country Cloggers are currently dancing with the “Bay” Cloggers but keeping a watch on hall availability to resume classes for their club.

Southern Cross Cloggers recently changed halls in Mandurah. They have 12 new dancers over 2 classes who are progressing well. A number of dancers have been away travelling over Winter.

West Coast Cloggers are quietly ticking along with small dance groups, but enjoying the clogging.
Steve and Diane are unable to make the Bendigo convention but are planning on being at next year’s convention in Cairns.

Jo-King Cloggers report 8 new and returning Cloggers following last year’s convention in Perth and batches of 4 and 15 for new learner classes.

They will soon be commencing a Thursday class in Cannington.

Jo-King Cloggers came into being as a merged club with leaders Joanna Buswell and Kingsley Dawes.

Including time with their original clubs, they have been dancing continuously for 20 years and so celebrated a spiritual 20th birthday in June!

One of their dancers Suzanne is returning home to New Zealand. They hope to see her in Cairns in 2011!

Kaye Cloggers and Rockingham Cloggers are clogging along nicely with last year’s beginners becoming accomplished dancers. Beginner dancers have starting in Rockingham.
Demos have continued to be part of the club activities with more planned after return from Bendigo.

John Clark
ACA State Rep WA
28/8/10

ACT Representative’s Report – September 2010-09-01

With only two clubs in the ACT, the report will be brief.

Silver Soles are continuing to grow, now with more than 80 members from toddlers through to seniors. They perform regularly at Floriade, the National Folk Festival and the Multicultural Festival, as well as entertaining our seniors and the general public at various community events. Their close relationship with ‘DanceEdge’, a local dance school, has meant that clogging is now included in the school’s program, so much so that when their dance team visits the USA later in the year for their Disneyland performance tour, they will also visit Eric Byce, one of our past convention guest instructors.

Capital Cloggers Canberra is a much smaller, but still strong, club. The Collector Pumpkin Festival was a different venue for a demo, and proved to be a fun day out with a very appreciative audience and an invitation to come back again. Numbers have varied through the year, with beginners coming and going, visitors from other clubs, and members tripping off around the world.

One highlight this year was the social dance organised to decide on the showcase dance. Both clubs travelled to Yass to join the Yass Country Cloggers for a day of dancing at the local CWA hall. It went very well, with everyone enjoying the dancing and then a shared lunch and a good chat. There was an overwhelming ‘can we do it again?’, so plans are in the works to try and squeeze another dance in before the end of the year. Many thanks to Kathy Hedger, leader of CCC and Yass Country Cloggers, who books the halls for us and provides the equipment and programming.

All in all, clogging is alive and well in the ACT.

Lorraine Peisley

New Zealand ACA State Report

Bendigo convention and there will be 14 cloggers from north to south of New Zealand. From Auckland there will be 9, from Motueka 2, from Nelson 1 and from the deep south Invercargill 2. After convention we are all staying on for holiday time either in Victoria or NSW. Hope it's warmer than home.

Napier, the fruit bay on the East coast of the North Island is where Bay Cities Cloggers reside and they are hosting the NZCA convention this year 24-26 September. John Bishop will be our guest instructor so we are looking forward to a great weekend.

Diary late July 2011 for the NZCA convention in Nelson once again. Georgie Higgs leader of the Nelson Cloggers and her team are busy planning the weekend. Registrations packs will be available at Bendigo.

As you can see, we continue to enjoy clogging and encourage beginners to join us whenever we have the opportunity. Please visit the NZCA webpage www.nzclogging.webs.com for club info contact and convention news.

Jean Watford
NZACA State Rep

CUESHEET CHECKING REPORTS (2009 – 2010)

BASIC, BASIC PLUS & EASY INTERMEDIATE

I'm very pleased to be able to say that very few cuesheets sent to me for checking and to be ACA stamped, have not been presented in the accepted formula and most have required very little correction. Having the choreography given to them in a uniform, familiar layout, makes teaching new dances so much simpler for leaders and their cuers.

For 2010, up to August. I have ACA stamped 22 Basic/Basic Plus and 43 Easy Intermediate Cuesheets.

Probably the most difficult task when checking cuesheets, is trying to ensure that steps already in the dictionary are not appearing under another name. I'm sure we would all be grateful for any assistance in this, if any disparity catches your eye. If we all keep working towards fixing any duplicates, it can only make it easier when writing our clogging choreography. So keep in touch with your cuesheet checkers. Donna is very amiable to making corrections to the dictionary but only after it has been verified with consultation.

Remember the availability of the ACA Dictionary from Donna and Philip Farry for a very nominal sum. It's a wonderful aid to your clogging progress.

Happy Convention

Olive Borovsky
ACA Cuesheet Checker

INTERMEDIATE

There is not a lot that is new or different to report. The format on most cue sheets has continued to improve remarkably. Once again I would like to congratulate the choreographers on the improved standard of cue sheets, it makes checking them so much easier. There have been one or two 'hairy' ones, but on the whole the standard is great. Most leaders seem to be using the ACA Dictionary from Donna & Phillip, for which I am forever grateful. As in past years, I can not recommend this highly enough. It makes life so much easier. It is still the best \$30 you will spend. Philip supplies constant updates with new steps from the submitted cue sheets & is always ready with good advice if you get stuck using it.

For the statistically minded, there have been 52 cue sheets checked in Intermediate level since March 2009 to June 2010.

The most common mistakes are still the same -

In the heading :

- Sequence – Sometimes a repeat section is left off the quick cues – sequence verifies 'parts'.
- Number of beats to wait before dancing
- Any variation desired in the speed of the music should be mentioned here.

Quick Cues Page:

- Number of beats in 'parts' eg PART A (32 beats) – Should match count of steps in that section..
- Number of beats in 'step' eg. 8 COWBOY – Also necessary for cuers who call to the count (sight cueing- when not dancing).

Please dance your choreography a couple of times before you send it through to be checked at any level. It's amazing how many are checked and then they come back with 'it should turn Left not Right', or 'with that step I end up out the hall I will have to change it'. Also be aware of the steps you are putting together, ie: –Walk it over & Rocker. (Samantha) Twisty Four & Chain (Red Rooster). At Intermediate level this should really be written as the 8 beat count.

Once again I would also like to make a suggestion that a time be put aside at the convention to hold a 'How to use the ACA Dictionary successfully' seminar. It is amazing how many people who have the dictionary still don't realize how to use it to its full potential, those new to either choreography and/or computers have got the basics of it but need a bit of tuition on the finer points.

I am sure if we ask nicely Phillip & Donna would be happy to do this!!

I look forward to another year of checking the Intermediate level cue sheets. I still am in awe that we can continue to come up with so many different combinations of steps.

I hope we will all continue to enjoy our wonderful form of dance and share our skills, with spirit and fun that clogging is all about, for many years to come.

Jenny Neal
Intermediate Cue sheet Checker

ACA Website Report – 2010 AGM

The ACA Website is updated with new Diary and Event information when required, however the remaining content has not been updated for some time. I am keen to refresh the look and feel of the website. During 2008 a call was put out for contributions of photos to be used on the site as a marketing tool but no response was received. If the ACA wishes to utilise the website to promote Clogging within Australia, photos are essential. The committee may wish to consider hiring a professional photographer to obtain some promotional shots.

The number of visits to the website is averaging 5,400 per month, which is an impressive number for a small organisation but we are not utilising the full potential of these visits. Other uses of the site have been considered in the past such as online ordering of merchandise, blogs, forums and a cue-sheet database, which have not eventuated. My suggestion is that the ACA re-evaluate the website and its purpose so that a clear direction is available for the site's development. I am happy to drive this re-evaluation.

With regards to the hosting of the site, the email accounts of committee members were transferred to Google in 2009 which has significantly reduced the amount of SPAM reaching each Inbox. With strategic use of these accounts, another major benefit will be a smoother transition of information when committee members change. Hosting of the actual website continues with SmartyHost and has recently been renewed until the end of 2011. Site management with SmartyHost has been very easy and efficient.

Some Statistics:

Average Number of visitors to site =

1,300 per week

Average Time spent on each page = 1 minute

Bounce Rate = 50%

(half of the people who view the homepage leave without viewing anything else)

Most popular pages viewed:

1. Homepage
2. Dance List
3. Cue Sheets
4. National Convention
5. Events
6. Club Diary

Top referrers to the website:

1. Direct (i.e. visitor types address into their browser)
2. Google.com
3. Bing
4. Yahoo
5. Facebook
6. Google.com.au
7. Ask
8. Bendigo Tourism

Top location of visitors:

1. United States (60%)
2. Australia (15%)
3. Russian Federation (11%)
4. China (6%)

Top Search Terms resulting in visits:

1. australian clogging association
2. clogging Australia
3. clogging
4. clogging cue sheets
5. australian clogging
6. www.cloggingaustralia.com
7. aca clogging
8. australia clogging association

David McGrath