

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2013

I have served for three years as President of Nirkoda – our very own club in our comfortable hall.

Nirkoda reaches out to the wider community and always tries to meet the needs of every dancer and member.

We try to bring the joy of dancing to people of all ages and origins by participating in performances for local communities. Performances at St Michaels Aged Care, Kingston Harmony Day, and Jewish Care, were all successful and well received. We recently farewelled Christine Clinch one of our members who is moving overseas and had a great day dancing at her church gathering.

In recognition of our community involvement we received a grant of \$500, from the Glen Eira Council. We purchased performance costumes which will enhance the look of our dancers on stage. We have a variety of sizes, to suit a variety of figures for women and for men. These costumes will last us for some time.

We also invested in a comfortable new wireless combination headset & microphone for the teachers. Right now, our finances are healthy and shortly, we will provide you with this information.

In October 2012 we had a successful Beach themed camp down the coast in Mornington with Choreographers Avi Peretz & Sagi Azran. This weekend took months of planning and was a great success. Both Avi and Sagi were responsive and terrific to work with, but more importantly, the spirit of the weekend was wonderful.

All our parties and special events have been well attended. We managed to trial Phoenix Park Hall on Australia Day and it will be used for our Rafi Ziv workshop in October.

Our workshop this year will be an inclusive program of sessions and will begin on the Friday night at St Alys, with a dance session after our Shabbat dinner. We will continue at Phoenix Park on Saturday afternoon and Rafi will teach new dances at every session including Saturday night, Sunday afternoon & Sunday evening. The Tuesday night session will be held here at St Alys. Prices for each session will be very reasonable for members. Please spread the word....it will be a great weekend.

To mark Nirkoda's 25th Anniversary, we are in the process of planning a huge celebration on the Cup weekend. We need your help and ask if you could please bring any Nirkoda memorabilia (such as photo's or other) to help make this a very special night. We would also appreciate ANY assistance, and if you want to be involved, please speak to Marg, Mary or Annette.

In the past 12 months, we have run two new beginners courses. After the initial "gold pass" program it was pleasing to see how many joined and have still continued with their dancing. We had 151 members at the end of the last financial year, similar to what I reported the previous year.

After many discussion and meetings, the format for Tuesday nights has been altered to include a beginner's mix early in the evening. We have put our Thursday night beginners on

hold until we evaluate this session further. Our Beginners are making excellent progress and are staying to watch and in turn, it encourages them to learn new dances. It's wonderful to know that our members have always been warm and welcoming to our new dancers. Recently, a lady complimented me on how friendly our members were, which she said doesn't happen at every club. Friendliness is part of our club!

We have also had a couple of well attended Partner Revision nights in Birch St helping us utilise the Thursdays. Having a partner's bracket on Tuesday night has also been a recent innovation and adds atmosphere to the evening. We are making progress with Teacher training and are always planning for the future.

Our members are all volunteers who willingly assist in the progress of our club. The committee, consisting of Annette, Denise B, Hillary, Jack G, Michal, Michelle, & Natalie have all put in many hours of work above and beyond what is needed. There is no pressure, no ego, and no issue, it is all just cheerfully done, and for this we thank you. Thanks also to Marlena who updates the membership, and to all those who are always assisting with the door roster, or purchasing of food.

A big thank you to our on call Tech Guru Martin, who is always there to help with any music or equipment issue.

Lastly, I must praise our teachers who are the backbone, spine and brains of the club.

Denise, Judi, Ilana, Margaret, Mary, Rita & Rosie.

I have thought of some words to describe you, but even the words are inadequate to explain what you mean to us and the club.

Devoted, patient, enthusiastic, approachable, caring, consistent, affectionate, thorough.

Talented, eagle eyed, encouraging, nurturing, methodical and musical. (these are a few of our favourite things!)

Special mention to the marvellous Margaret, who despite having no car for months, has managed to be at every dance session. She is constantly keeping us on our toes and making sure that the club runs smoothly at all times. Margaret you are a legend!

For all these things and many more we are grateful for your dedication to Nirkoda.

We look forward to many more years of success and hope you will all join us to make this year a very special celebration of a wonderful club.