

Presidents Report - July 2015

Dear Members, Tonight, after a wonderful 5 years, I will hand over this great role to another privileged member. Before this happens, I would like to summarise the highlights and my thoughts from the past year.

For four (4) years, we have been principally based at St Aloysius Hall. This was a great move, and it has enabled us to dance on a sprung floor that is knee friendly for most of our aging bodies. We have been able to enjoy the comfort of either air conditioning or heating. Birch Street Hall is still being used on Thursday mornings and is also air-conditioned.

Despite the rise in rent at this hall and supply costs, we have chosen to not increase the membership and class prices for now. We have a steady amount of money in the bank and it has enabled us to allow our dancers to enjoy the extra benefits such as workshops and purchase new equipment. This is despite a rise in many costs.

Our tech master Martin, helps us keep our audio visual in shape and we have recently purchased a new laptop computer due to technical issues with the older model. Martin showed his expertise during Rikud Oz. Some of the other groups were lauding his praises and using his knowledge to arrange the music. Martin, we know you are definitely unique and we value your continual efforts. (We wish you a speedy recovery & please accept this card from us)

Our membership numbers are consistent. The attendances at all classes provide a good crowd for both individual attention and a happy atmosphere.

The \$5 partner special for the last hour that was introduced in August last year, has been well received.

Each year, and for the benefit of you, our members, we continue to have a few free nights and we have not increased the cost of our party nights. The committee has voted on an added benefit for parties to cost \$5 and to include a supper!

In October last year, we hosted an excellent workshop weekend with Nona Malki & Tamir Shalev. We received wonderful feedback from the previous Melbourne workshop. Our new format is both flexible and easy for most of the dancers in the Melbourne Community.

Nona & Tamir provided us with a great teaching mix, using their own unique professional dancing style.

We hope to run another event like this in 2017. All the Melbourne Israeli dance groups have agreed to only host 2 major events each year, with each group taking turn.

Our tradition of a Purim Party prize in honour of Gravin Robinson, is always well received. There is a buzz in the air and great effort is shown in the costumes. This year there were

lots of celebrity Television characters visiting our dance night and the atmosphere was great. We have fun and it gives us an opportunity for some silliness, which we all enjoy. Our recent Greek night was also excellent.

Margaret still maintains her HUGE presence providing a cheerful and happy welcome to all members and visitors at the door. We cannot thank her enough for her invaluable guidance.

During the past year, our fantastic and devoted caring teachers have given us the opportunity to learn approximately 50 new dances and this does not include the constant revision of ALL dances. Why are our teachers considered to be so good? I think it's because they do things for the club, not for themselves. They have one on-going rule for all at Nirkoda - Families come first!

If they change something in a class it is for our benefit, to improve an aspect of our dancing. The fine tuning of class structure is done to incorporate the abilities of the class members. They listen to suggestions and care about the members. It's certainly not for money, or fame but for love of dancing and Nirkoda. We thank all the teachers for their devotion to us, and their determination to make our Club the best, and bring out the best in us. (round of applause)

Rikud Oz 2015 required extra committee work from Judi & Denise B, and we commend them for the way they did this, the cooperation between the groups has never been better.

Lastly there is the committee. Good news committee, we are extending your contract, and doubling your pay! We have a great team and their duties are performed well and with a smile.

Thanks to Annette, Hillary, Jack, Natalie, Michelle, Naomi, and the teacher reps, Denise & Judi.

Michelle is standing down after some years, and we thank her particularly, for her efforts.

Everyone has the clubs best interest at heart, and it's a pleasure to have worked with you.

Denise Setton