

Presidents Report 2012

As we enter the 25th year of our clubs existence, I would like you all to think about the following.

In the last twelve months, we have learnt over 51 new dances. This means our talented and dedicated teachers learn and teach almost one new dance a week. There are currently 445 Circles, 90 Lines 355 Partners in our current repertoire This is without noting a further 200 circles, lines and partner dances that we dance at our marathons.

Take a minute, and think about watching a new dance on a “you tube” video.

Well, often that’s the only resource the teachers have to learn and translate the dance into a cohesive lesson for the Nirkoda dancers. It is a constant pleasure to experience their high standard of teaching and the consistency of their steps. This skill and attention to detail is astounding.

Denise, Judi, Ilana, Margaret, Mary, Rosie & Rita, we are all in awe of your dedication to the club and its members. It is a labour of love and you all have our respect and admiration in return.

Every technical aspect at Nirkoda from computers, to DVDs, to the maintaining and updating of all our equipment is in the capable hands of Martin Imber. Quietly behind the scenes, he spends countless hours working to help our teachers run the classes smoothly.

Martin never seeks praise, but we wish to single him out tonight as a valued volunteer and member of the Nirkoda family. Nothing is ever too much trouble and it is always achieved, sometimes even before we have asked. (Presentation of a card)

Over the past year, we have held some wonderful parties and marathons. They included celebrating Cup day, Australia Day and most of the Jewish Chagim.

It’s at these parties that all levels come together to celebrate “Israeli dancing” with the different styles and diverse music. I wish we could inject the joy and passion for dancing we feel to all ages. To thrive and prosper we need to encourage the younger generation to join and this will help us to move into the next decade.

In the last financial year we had one hundred and fifty four members slightly less than the previous year. We are hoping that more people will join this year and take advantage of the pricing for our camp in October. We would appreciate any suggestions for getting new members.

We remember some of our Nirkoda members. We lost Gravin Robinson last October and have named the Best Purim costume in his honour. Margaret has forged on with her constant devotion to our club. We were thrilled to see her get an award from the council for her outstanding devotion and efforts. The support of her Nirkoda friends has helped her enormously during this time. We are a wonderful group of people who will always support each other during good times and bad times.

We are excitedly preparing for our up and coming camp in October. After the combined Rikud Oz, we saw the energy that a team of people can create. At Nirkoda we together are a fantastic team.

Sagi Azran & Avi Perez have both been chosen to provide us with a great mix of youth and experience. The venue, hotel, hall, great food and of course top quality choreographers, promises to provide you all with an exciting, energized and fun fulfilled dancing weekend.

Our committee has formally met for six meetings. This is not including the thousand of emails and telephone conversations. The committee members are positive, hard working individuals who work together in harmony and with little ego. The club and its members are their priority. We have a great division of labour and everyone is always willing to cover for each other.

We keep our prices down, our quality up and everyone's dedication to Nirkoda is amazing. Many thanks go to Annette, Denise B, Hillary, Michal, Michelle & Natalie.

Our finances have been interesting this year. We have already converted the amount needed for the choreographers into US dollars. We took advantage when the rate was favorable. All the funds in the bank are used for the club members wisely. Our costs have risen with the changing economy and this in turn has created a smaller nest egg. We are keeping a watchful eye on our expenses and Natalie will go over all of this soon.

We have applied for a small grant from the Glen Eira City council and will find out in September if we were successful.

We have an excellent relationship with our two hall providers and St Aloysius is probably the only hall we have found to have the sprung floors acceptable for dancing and we are very happy.

The challenge to you our members is to think about the future of your club and work to towards its success. Help us bring in more people to this cohesive family at Nirkoda.

Let's show everyone why we are a unique club who is about to celebrate a quarter of a century of dancing!

Thank you all for your support.

Denise Setton