

President's Report 2017

G'Day and welcome to the end of 2017 this being the end of the great 40th year of existence in September and the beginning of our 41st year of operation. Only another 9 years to our 50th. What shall we do to celebrate then?

At the outset I wish to thank all the members of the Committee who 'stepped up to the plate' and kept events and activities moving throughout the year.

In particular to Martin for his work on PID's Constitutional compliance with the Dept. of Commerce, and the production of yet another stellar edition of the Grapevine and to John W for his administration of the PID the Website which keeps us all well informed and up to date.

To our teachers a huge thank you. They do make life so much easier learning and reviewing all those simple to complex dances with those unique rhythms.

A big thank you to Palenque for her initiative, time and effort in coordinating a new program of dance classes for the "Youngsters" (ages 3 to 7) held throughout the year. We are currently trialling additional interactive dance sessions which are designed to re-visit complex dances and old favourites. Many thanks to Eve (trailing at Nedlands) and Jenny C (trailing at Glen Forest) for this initiative and their coordination. To Jennifer E many thanks for taking up the teacher roster at short notice and for maintaining the Mundaring group.

It has been a busy year with two major and successful weekend workshops being conducted by Ira Weisburd & our regular favourite Andre van de Plas.

We also enjoyed a short Hora Shalom workshop evening with Oren Ashkenazi.

As well as various theme party nights which included singers from the Turkish Australia Culture House (TACH), we had a combined evening of dance with the Macedonian Community dancers -thank you Tuna for coordinating this event. It was a fantastic evening. Thanks to Steven Janowiecki for his enthusiasm and success in promoting Contradance (now a St Margaret's event) and to our fellow folk dance travellers - Hora Shalom and Souleiado all of whom contribute enormously to the enjoyment and variety of folk dance. Appreciation is extended to our long time friends The Last Five Coins who provide us with music which always adds to the atmosphere of our major events.

What would a year gone by be without Red Faces and a successful one at that - "och aye the noo it wus guid bonnie wee Leone".

The Saturday group celebrated it's 'sweet sixteen' year.

Numbers at all dance sessions i.e. Monday, Saturday and Friday sessions in Mundaring, have been increasing which augers well for 2018.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

John B 'The Prez'