

Welcome to the end of a busy and eventful year. Year 2017 ended with the regulation party times and visits by a PID member called Santa Claus. The Monday Night session enjoyed a banquet of food and dancing to our favourite band, The Last Five Coins. The Saturday session similarly enjoyed a banquet of food with family, friends and lots of children. No one could ever accuse us of not eating well. As always, my thanks and appreciation to committee members for their support throughout the year. The patience and guidance of our teachers as always is to be applauded. Where would we be without our teachers. Probably on the dance floor asking ourselves "how does that go again"? To our teachers I say – we need you so stay healthy! It could be said that 2018 was a year of significant events. For example, to comply with the new Associations Incorporation Act 2015, we were required to 'adopt' or 'adapt' our Constitution to the new rules/regulations. Many thanks to Martin for the long hours he spent adapting the New Model Rules to our constitution, and to other committee members who contributed to the discussion. In the end the committee decided to adopt (subject to membership approval) the Model Rules with a tweak here and there. Perth International Dance conducted a workshop at this year's Fairbridge Folk Festival, in conjunction with The Last Five Coins. Coordinated by Eve, Palenque and John W, it was as always, a well-coordinated and successful occasion. Our one and only astrophysicist Steven Janowiecki, committee member; musician and contradance guru, returned to the USA. Steven's superb networking skills brought together a host of musicians to provide us with live music at the Contradance sessions which he also introduced. PID is now sponsoring the Contradance sessions. We shall miss his "provocative" commentaries, corrections and wise counsel on committee. Then there was that volcano (Mt Agung all 2628 km away) that caused us to cancel our annual workshop with Andre still stuck on Bali. Top marks to the teachers who picked up Andre at Perth airport on his way through to Adelaide and spent several hours receiving instruction on some of the dances he was planning on teaching. Sadly, the annual Red Faces event was a watershed event for Leone who is stepping down from the role of co-ordinator. Pam Massey stepped up to coordinate this year's event. Thanks Pam for a job well done. Congratulations and many thanks to Leone for her many years of enthusiasm and coordination of this social event. Any member with the same enthusiasm as Leone, may wish to continue it into the future as a social occasion, but not as a PID event. Congratulations to Jennifer E. for continuing to promote and develop the Hills group. Their group numbers have steadily increased this year. Their enthusiasm and dancing skills match those of the "lowlanders". The "Introduction to Folk Dance" sessions continued to try and attract and encourage potential new members to join our regular sessions. Thanks to John W for his tireless support of this concept. For those who welcome a challenge of the more complex folkloric dances the 3rd Sunday of the month vigorous, advanced sessions continued this year. Many thanks to Eve for her this initiative (and energy) and to Jenny C for her support. To Palenque our appreciation for her continued promotion of the Youngsters Dance. We had a short Polish Folkdance Workshop on Monday the 29th October which was arranged by Trish Eyre. Thankyou Trish for your initiative and coordination of what was an enjoyable and successful evening. By the way a great stand in secretary for Martin whilst he was away earlier this year. PID has been invited to do various performances throughout the year. As we all know, our performers spend hours of their precious personal time rehearsing making sure they always put on a professional performance. Their commitment and performances are greatly appreciated. Apologies to anyone missed or events not acknowledged.

In closing I offer some pearly quotes for 2019 "There are shortcuts to happiness - dance is one of them." – Baum or "Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while were here we should dance." Anon. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.