

## Presidents Report July 2011

We spent many happy years at Booran Road. Our first year at St Aloysius has been a good move for Nirkoda. We have simplified our lives and organisation by now only having two venues. The centrally located Birch Street has a new kitchen and is a smaller intimate venue for our Thursday classes. Saturday s, Sundays & Tuesdays will continue at St Aloysius.

Over the summer our attendances on Tuesday evenings and weekends increased due to our new air conditioned hall and this has been consistent over the past year. The loyalty of our members is outstanding. The floor at St Al's is becoming settled and we have sorted out the storage and kitchen areas. We have a small request to you all to help keep the kitchen tidy and use the cups clearly marked in the Nirkoda drawers.

March 2011, Rikud oz was a wonderful weekend, both socially and dancing. Our teachers put in so much time and prepared us so well for this great event. The success of this workshop shows us that all the groups can work well together to advance Israeli dancing in Australia. The dancers showed their enthusiasm with the large numbers who came.

Thank you to Judi and Denise for attending so many meetings and helping to make the camp such a success. Many months of preparation were needed to make it all possible. Nirkoda benefited financially from Rikud Oz and this money will be used wisely. Rikud Oz will repeat in 3 years, 2014.

We have held a number of parties in the last year, for the festivals and other holidays. We only charged normal fees for these events and Nirkoda appreciates your loyalty and in return does cover the expenses for food and other supplies at these events.

Always most enjoyable are the dress up events where the spirit of fun and relaxation permeates the room. There are great photos of our events on our website and Facebook page. Our marathons are "renowned" and we thank you all for your support and for bringing only happy feelings into our hall.

Martin Imber is a brilliant behind the scenes worker who works continually for Nirkoda. He keeps the communication going and is our techno wizard for our website and computers.

It amazes me how much work and effort is expended by our teachers to achieve the high standards we enjoy. They give up many hours of their time to select, learn and polish dances they teach to us. They organize their lives around the group, and not the other way around. (Except for a brief period this year it seemed when many of them left the country!) Their support is exemplary. We are blessed with such devoted wonderful teachers. Thanks Denise, Judi, Ilana, Margaret, Mary, Rosie & Rita.

There are also those able and enthusiastic members who can step into the middle to mirror the teachers. "Kol hakavod" to you and we hope that one day you will join the teaching fraternity just like Mary Hoenig recently did.

Another devoted member to Nirkoda, Yonat..... donated a collection of her own ceramics last year for us to sell, with all proceeds going to the club. It was a thoughtful and generous act which netted us \$400. Yonat has since returned to Israel. We miss another of our lovely members Lilach who also returned to Israel at the end of last year.

We had two performances this year, both done by the Thursday morning group. One was for Chanukah, at the Caulfield Hospital, and the other at the Over 50s show at Kingston Town hall. Thanks to Margaret & Mary for presenting such an enthusiastic and able group of dancers to the wider community. I feel this is a target area, where we can gain new members through the wider Melbourne community and involve them in our club.

I would like to thank all the committee and volunteers who help make the group run. This year a new bunch joined the roster on Tuesdays which worked very well, allowing them to get involved. For such a busy group of people it is always easy for me to find a volunteer to do a job, to bring food, to run an errand. We have such a warm and welcoming cohort of members, it's always a pleasure to see everyone make new people feel at home, introduce them to others, and offer assistance.

The committee has been a very loyal and hard working crew, and we have fruitful discussions to try and improve the way the club runs. Thanks to all of the committee who do any task that I assign, and are always helpful and positive for the good of Nirkoda. This last year's group comprised Annette, Denise B, Hillary, Marlina, Michal, & Natalie. We are all women who work, and it shows, "if you want something done, ask a busy person".

Our main challenge has been over the large job of the treasury. Right now, we have it divided up and we believe that it needs 2 people to handle this enormous task and get the job done professionally. Together we have finetuned a lot of the accountancy for the benefit of Nirkoda. We are not accountants and it is like running a small business, and for this job to be done correctly, it involves time. Matthew ( my son) has been doing the MYOB this year, while he was studying. He has given this committee suggestions to help us track our money better. Thanks to Matthew for all the effort and support.

The 2010 camp in August with Sagi Azran proved a winner. Sagi's personality, skill and involvement with the group, made for a wonderful weekend. Many positive comments were received about this camp, atmosphere, food and accommodation. The "magic" tee shirts we printed have been a great success, its lovely to see the members proudly wearing them.

Upcoming camp 2012: As requested by the members, we are having a teacher run camp. We have booked Mt Martha/ Mornington venue again as it proved such a wonderful combination. Please put the date in your diary 12-14<sup>th</sup> October, as it will be a fantastic tailor made" weekend. We know you will enjoy it!

I would like to finish my report by encouraging you all to take a small but active role in your club. We are unique, and we want to keep you all happy and provide you with the best dancing experience possible. Nirkoda needs you to be an ambassador for our great and friendly club...bring a friend and give a little time "Many hands make light work"

Let's work together to make 2011/2012 an even better year for all of us at Nirkoda

Denise Setton