

## PRESIDENTS REPORT 2014

We begin with our memorable **workshop in October** last year with Rafi Ziv. This proved to be a huge success within the Israeli Folk Dancing community.

Our pricing structure, the flexibility of individual session prices and the location added to the attendance, and therefore the vibrancy in the hall. Other dancing groups have recently followed our format and this has shown us that we were on track listening to our members suggestions.

Rafi was a delight, a true gentleman and a fun teacher. He has such an easy going manner and his warmth endeared him to many. We sold the music and dances from the workshop on USB sticks, which have been branded with Nirkoda logo. These have been well accepted and will be used for future events. We were very happy with the result of this workshop, which in turn generated a profit.

We had a huge attendance and a great Reunion at our **25th Birthday Party**.

It was pleasing to see all the old faces, and special thanks must go to Margaret for personally approaching so many people. Some dancers returned to dancing after this event. The certificates we presented will continue to be issued on subsequent birthdays. We would like to acknowledge and remember people who have contributed to our unique dancing club.

Margaret's 80th birthday in January was a lot of fun. She was appreciative for her gift, her delicious home made aka Naomi cake and we, were in turn thrilled to celebrate this milestone with her. Not many 80 year olds would be teaching dancing and we know that she is "one of a kind".

**Our ongoing community dancing & charities events** need to be noted. We danced for Mitzvah day at Jewish care, at the Bialik fete, for a Bnai Brith function, for volunteers for do Care, and for the Cancer Council tea. These events both showcase our dancing to the community at large and have attracted in new members.

We had four and a half thousand (4,500) attendances by members at classes last financial year.

All of our classes are busy and buzzing. The number of members was 163, with an increase of 12 over the previous year. The dance "taster" of 3 free sessions helped to bring a good group of beginners for 2014. The early Tuesday session at 7pm run by Rosie, Chris and other teachers, is now very well attended. Thursday's mornings, has a strong core group, and Sunday nights are growing with people coming from other clubs. Saturday afternoons are busier than ever.

We purchased new equipment this year. A new Data projector was purchased and as with all technology, the replacements are cheaper and better than the original. Our Tech master/guru Martin keeps all these things running smoothly. He fixes and tweaks and teaches people how to use the new devices. Without you Martin, we would be sunk!

Our newly qualified teacher Chris brings her own style to the group. She is definitely our BEST quiet achiever, and her repertoire, her patience and her ability to convey steps is very much appreciated by all the members and teachers.

We were all very sad that Ilana withdrew from teaching at Nirkoda. Despite all efforts of the teachers and committee to communicate and mediate this situation, Ilana has chosen not to return to teaching at Nirkoda.

After so many years of her devotion, dedication and support to our club, thousands of hours spent dancing and teaching, we hope she will one day return to us.

Her contribution to our club has been truly valued, and we sent her a letter to that effect.

Our group is a voluntary organisation with a committee of members. It is up to you to participate in the club, no one can be forced. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful committee, consisting of Jack Ginger, Natalie Taft, Annette Bagle, Hillary Herson, Michelle Fisher, and Naomi Rassaby and Denise Borghi as the teacher's representative.

We are working more efficiently, with fewer meetings, but obviously more emails. This is also indicative of how harmoniously we all work together.

It's such a pleasure to work with such a lovely bunch of people, that I am prepared to do it again if you will have me.

And finally, last and of course not least... I must thank all of the teachers.

Whenever we come to dancing we know that each class will be fun, well structured and professional. Each member gets individual attention. You always have a smile and a nice word to say to people. The standard of our club Nirkoda, improves every year. We have a great repertoire of up to date dances.

Chris, Denise, Judi, Ilana, Margaret, Mary, Rita & Rosie. We have had another amazingly successful year and on behalf of all the members, we thank you for your dedication to our club.

Our next exciting workshop will be a combined Israeli Canadian event. We have Tamir Shalev and Nona Malki coming to run a local weekend, just like last year.

We hope you all support this event and bring your friends. There will be ample flexibility and social gathering for all. We always look forward to memorable moments and of course a fun filled year of dancing.

Denise Setton