

Welcome everybody to the 2017 annual general meeting

We began the year with another 8 week Beginners Class run very ably by Chris and we are happy to see that, as the year progresses, new people continue to turn up. Last year saw the introduction of specific theme nights and we have continued them this year with the Nostalgia night in April and the second Yemenite night in June.

We also had the second Members social night in December - again at the home of Jack and Gita Ginger. All in all, and probably thanks to these initiatives, we clocked up 4669 individual dance sessions for this financial year – an increase of 322 on the previous year (that's a 7% hike).

Nirkoda continues to receive requests from the community for demonstrations of Israeli dancing and it's Margaret and her Thursday morning dancers who invariably respond, most recently at Oak Grange Village Nursing Home. Thank you all for representing the Club.

Now to update you on progress with our big event in November -

The Committee is hard at work at the moment in planning for the Workshop. As some of you may know, we hit an early snag with Nona Malki sustaining an injury and having to withdraw from attending. Thanks to some pretty effective footwork by our well connected teaching staff, we have been able to get Israel Shiker to take her place. Israel has a huge repertoire and has been an active choreographer for a very long time. We are certain that he, along with Sagi, will be a huge drawcard for our Workshop.

As we get closer to November, we will be needing extra help with ticketing, catering, publicity - I hope some of you will be interested in volunteering for some of these jobs.

Now to the best news – apart from the Friday night session which will be here at our home base, the entire workshop including Monday night will be at the Glen Eira Council Auditorium more popularly known as Caulfield Town Hall.

I can't imagine a better place to dance anywhere in Melbourne – the auditorium is not only beautiful, with sprung wooden floors and every amenity you could think of, but is as close to home for most dancers as could be possible. You may wonder why camps have not been held there before? The simple answer is cost. However, as Nirkoda is an incorporated club we are eligible for a community organization discount. Also, as an incorporated organization, we had the opportunity to apply for a community grant from the Glen Eira Council. The Club submitted an application for such a grant in April but we won't hear whether it has been successful or otherwise until August.

Regardless of the outcome, we will proceed with the venue and the workshop as currently being planned. Our expectation is that if we don't get the grant, we still expect to cover all our costs. We hope that you will agree with the Committee in seeing how important it is for the Club to occasionally run these kinds of events. We think it's important to do so that our Club continues to be a dynamic and up to date player in the world of Israeli dancing.

Lastly, we hope that you will all be coming to as many sessions as you are able to – there is nothing quite like dancing in this kind of environment and particularly in a room as beautiful as the auditorium.

Once again, I'd like to thank the Committee for their constant contributions, to the teacher's for their energy and commitment, to Margaret for her efficiency on the door, to all of you who take your turn to help her on a Tuesday night, and to Martin for all things technical.