



President's Report - October 2020

A few words from your President...

Firstly, a Happy Belated Fathers' Day to all the fathers in our line dance family. I hope everyone celebrated as best as they could with the current situation. Zoom, Skype and FaceTime have become the norm these days to see our loved ones and I hope the distance did not deter your celebrations.

As I'm writing my report, news is that we have 11 new cases today. It's certainly a great number, seeing that we had over 700 at one point, and it's looking optimistic that a change is heading our way. I don't want to jinx matters either, but I believe we must trust that all this lockdown has had a positive effect. I know I'm looking forward to the time when we can see our friends and family and get to move past 5km. I haven't seen my grandchildren since March as they live in Perth and I'm holding out for Western Australia to open their borders... then I'm outta here!!

On 19 September, through the massive efforts of Stephen Paterson and Tim Gauci, we had the Come On Victoria let's Dance social which was streamed live on Facebook. A separate Facebook page was created for this event which saw over 1,800 people sign up to watch what I would call an epic event. The event ran from 1pm to well over 9pm and saw the talents of Stephen, Maddison Glover, Matt Coleman, Lu Olsen, Elaine Montgomery, Caro Stoll, John Bishop, Willy Sharp, Pauline Greenwood, Linda Pink and Tim Gauci lead of brackets of 7 dances each. And if that wasn't enough, we had Golden Guitar winner Ashleigh Dallas perform live as we paused for dinner. The whole day had a strong message of love, positivity and support and Ashleigh topped it off with her lovely rendition of songs with lyrics relatable to our current times. Thank you once again to Stephen and Tim for organising this event. There were lots of sore feet I hear and happy hearts that went to bed that night!

On the note of thanking people, I must take the opportunity to thank Karyn Cunningham for her lovely contributions to the newsletter. Karyn writes well and her photos accompanying her articles have been a highlight to many.

The next few weeks should be interesting, let's hope our numbers continue to fall and we get to slowly resume life as we once knew it. In all likelihood, it does not look like we will get to resume classes anytime soon so bring on 2021 please. I can't believe how this year has turned out for Victorians but what doesn't break us, will only make us stronger.

Spring is in the air, so it's been lovely gardening and getting some sunshine. It's amazing how blue skies and a sunny day can lift one's spirit. Take care my friends and stay safe. Reach out if you need help, we are all in this together.



Sumi Sivalingam VLDA President