

Volunteer & Friends Newsletter

March 2021



From my Office Desk as the Competition & Volunteer Officer

I hope you all enjoyed St Patrick's day and you all found a pot of gold, at the bottom of the rainbow. Since my last newsletter I have had a few busy weekends – I had my own Calisthenic Solo Comp out at Founders, I have been to the ABBA concert at WCPA, I have also taken Charlotte to Playschool at Founders & continued to work on my backyard with my partner David. Plus, I have been unwell, had no voice for 7 days so I was very quiet, some would say that is a blessing.

Work wise the entries have now all opened, which is a bit exciting, so let's hope we can all come together to enjoy the comps, from July 18th to October 30th. I have listed below the dates / times & venues for your reference.

Just a reminder I am available for any volunteer who would like to pop in for a chat & cuppa every Thursday between 10am & 1pm, love to see you. I will take this opportunity to say Happy Easter to you all & I hope you all have a relaxing time spending time with your friends & family.



Competition Dates:

ACU Debating Cup Challenge:

Heats: Monday, July 26th to Friday, 30th July
Semi Final: Monday, 16th August
Grand Final: Monday, 23rd August
Venue: ACU Connors Hall

Celebrating Chopin:

Sunday, July 18th
Venue: Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

Schimmel Pianoforte:

Monday, July 19th to Wednesday, July 21st
Venue: Diocesan Centre

Instrumental Solo's:

Thursday, July 22nd & Friday, July 23rd
Venue: Diocesan Centre

Speech & Drama:

Wednesday August 4th to Friday August 6th
Monday August 9th to Wednesday August 11th
Venue: Diocesan Centre

VBL ~ Victorian Bands Championship:

Date: Saturday, 14th August & Sunday, 15th August

Vocal:

Monday, August 16th to Saturday, August 21st
Venue: Minerva Space, BMI

Choral Contest:

Open Sections: Sunday August 22nd
Primary Schools: Monday, August 23rd
Secondary Schools: Tuesday, August 24th

Freemason's Bands & Strings:

Saturday, August 28th to Saturday, September 4th

The Arts for All

Monday, September 13th to Wednesday, September 15th
Venue: "The Farm" Ballarat Specialist School

Herald Sun Aria:

Heat 1 & 2 ~ Friday, September 10th
Semi-Final ~ Saturday, September 11th
Grand Final ~ October TBC by Herald Sun
Venue: Heats & Semi Final - HMT
Grand Final – TBC

Energetiks Dance Competition:

Wednesday, September 15th to Saturday, October 2nd
Troupes & Groups Weekend ~ September 18th & September 19th
Venue: Her Majesty's Theatre

Australian Calisthenics Competition:

Tuesday 5th October to Saturday, October 30th
Venue: Her Majesty's Theatre

April Birthdays



7th ~ Katrina Southhurst

11th ~ Nick Mantinich & Keith Murdoch

27th ~ Alex Ball, Allanah Crameri, Paula Forbes & Jill Filmer

29th ~ Laura Hudson

10th ~ Lyn Bowman & Sharon Richardson

14th ~ Kel Hobby

28th ~ Allison Boucher

30th ~ Cain Wright



Archive Talk



This time in 2020, we were about to have our talk with our wonderful Archive Team consisting of David, Lynda, Tarja & Silvia. This team are our quiet achievers who are constantly working behind the scenes in preserving the wonderful history of Royal South Street.

So, what a wonderful way to celebrate both our 130 years of Competition and our team, by coming along to see how important their work is. Please, come along to meet & listen to our wonderful team.

Bookings are essential as I can only have 20 people per session, plus enjoy a cuppa with us as well.

Date: Wednesday, 21st April 2021

Venue: South Street Office, Eureka House

Times: 10am to Midday or 1pm to 3pm

Remember bookings are essential, either by phoning 5332 1054 or email julie@royalsouthstreet.com.au

Volunteers Required for Heritage Weekends



We as a team are going to be doing a display for the Ballarat Heritage Weekend (which actually goes for 4 weekends in May), venue to be advised. I am looking for volunteers to help the staff man the stall over these weekends, if you have a few hours to spare & would love to help us, the team at South Street would be very appreciated of your time to help promote South Street. Please let me know if you can help us out.



With the return of our competitions this year to the famous raked stage theatre all volunteers will need to do 2-hour training sessions, this will include both front & back of stage with the COVID Procedures that are now in force. For those of us who will be working over the weekend of 12th & 13th June for the Graceful & Calisthenics auditions you will be required to attend one of the following sessions: Bookings are essential as there is limited spaces available.

Tuesday, June 1st

1pm to 3pm

Or

6pm to 8pm

Please contact me either on 5332 1054 or via email: julie@royalsouthstreet.com.au

Getting to know our Volunteers.



Rosemary Butterworth
Assisting with office work

Rosemary started to help us out in the South Street office in November 2019, and of course then we went into lockdown in 2020, so she could not help us out, but Rosemary is now back helping us once again 2 mornings a week. In the past Rosemary was an Import Manager. Why does she like to volunteer, she told me it is because everyone is welcoming & it is lovely atmosphere to be a part of?

In her spare time Rosemary does knitting/crochet, gardens, travel & eating out. Her 1 dog & 2 cats always make her laugh with their never-ending hi-jinks.

If she could be anyone else, she could not think of anyone living but thought of her long dead Great Great Grandmother Ellen Butterworth who lived in Ballarat from the 1860's till her death in 1899 but would only like to be her for one day. How amazing is this, her most cherished item she owns is old letters written by another ancestor who was a drover in the 1870's.

Favourite meal is anything Thai or Italian, favourite movie is "The Birdcage". Rosemary does not really have a favourite book but something gardening. Favourite destination to travel to would be Port Douglas, Queensland, or Maldon.

Special Interest Story

Gwenda Lucas



My association with Ballarat and the Royal South Street Society goes back a long way.

My mother's family lived in Ballarat, when my grandfather was working at the Ballarat School of Mines. My grandmother used to sing at RSSS, and Mum and her 7 siblings used to go along to hear her – her brothers rather reluctantly!

When the family moved to Melbourne, Mum attended one of Miss Vera Hopton's calisthenic classes in Clifton Hill, and so began our family's love of Calisthenics.

As a 6-year-old, I started calisthenics at West Thornbury Presbyterian Club, which was one of the many Bosworth classes. My two sisters, Carol and Dianne soon followed. Mum became involved as Secretary, and dressmaker “extraordinaire”!

Several of our pupils went on to a higher level at Clifton, and became successful teachers, and adjudicators. When the Club closed 10 years later, we were delighted to find that a new club was opening at Croxton Methodist Church, in our neighbourhood. Many of us moved to the new club, only to find it was taught by Enid Feltham, who had temporarily closed her Regent College classes in North Fitzroy. How lucky were we!

The work was different and much more difficult, but very exciting. As many of her Regent pupils followed Mrs Feltham to Croxton, it was only a year later before they convinced her to restart Regent – the rest is history!

I competed with Regent for 12 years; but with my youngest sister in the Juniors, I attended her classes as well, and took on some administrative tasks – a role which gradually grew and lasted for 40 plus years! Mum and her good friend Wilma Pasco looked after costumes and stage props – they weren’t as glamorous and as large in those days!

Mrs Feltham used to supply teachers/coaches for a number of Church Clubs; and ran an annual competition for them. I soon became involved in this when I started teaching at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Club in Reservoir in 1960. After 5 years, I moved to the Church of the Ascension at Macleod, and also started a class in Greensborough – Thornleigh C.C.

After 10 years at Thornleigh, with 150 pupils enrolled (including 70 Sub Juniors); I passed the Club on to another coach, as I had become too busy working with Regent and the V.C.T.A. – now known as the V.C.C.A. However, I continued to teach the Seniors at Heathergene for 4 more years.

When I started teaching, I joined the VCTA, and it was not too long before I found myself as Secretary – a role I held for 14 years before becoming President for 4 years. This meant I became involved in the VCTA Competitions, which later became the State Championships after the formation of Calisthenics Victoria Inc.

When Diane Synnott created the Pupil Skills Program, a new National Association was formed – The Australian Society of Calisthenics – to administer the Pupil Examinations; and to establish a National Club Team Competition which alternated between Melbourne and Adelaide for several years. This was a wonderful opportunity for our Championship and Div.1 teams to compete against the best teams from interstate. I served as President during this period.

With the formation in 1986 of Calisthenics Victoria Inc; I served as Junior and Senior Vice President, and Secretary until 1997 when I became Director of Competitions – a role which encompassed overseeing the State Championships; the regulation of all of the other competitions; the Grading of teams; and the Victorian State Teams.

When the Australian Calisthenic Federation was formed in 1987, I was asked to become a Victorian delegate and served on the Board for many years. These were exciting years, as we were able to welcome the smaller and more remote States to participate in “the Nationals”. This helped them to develop closer links with coaches from Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, and to lift the standard across Australia.

Over the years, Calisthenics has given me many wonderful experiences, life-long friendships, and amazing memories. The development of the routines, the creativity of the coaches; the flexibility of the pupils, and the continual raising of the standard of work, was very exciting, and each year we wait

with great anticipation for the competition season to arrive to see how high the bar has been lifted by our brilliant coaches and their amazing and very talented pupils.

We all hold special memories of “South Street” – but some of mine would be the competitions at the Civic Hall, the flooding of the dressing room after a storm; the elephant in a Calisthenic Spectacular falling off the stage into the orchestra pit – and No – it wasn’t part of the choreography; the snow we sometimes encountered; the heavy rains which caused chaos and an evacuation at Her Majesty’s a few years ago; and the brilliant and exceptional items which have graced the stage; but most of all would be the wonderful friendships we have made with members of other Clubs, and especially the members of the RSSS Committee, plus the staff and volunteers who all give so much of their time to ensure the smooth running and continuation of these wonderful competitions.

Thank You for your dedication which enables us all to enjoy these competitions. We look forward to many more years at “the Comps”!

Happy Easter

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