



AUSTRALIAN ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION INC.

~ QUICK REFERENCE ~

Volume 2026/2 AUGUST Edition 25/08/2026



This is YOUR ARDA Newsletter, containing important information.

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Attachments to be emailed with this ARDA Newsletter:

ARDA Conference 2027 - Registration Form

SARDA 2026 Festival details

QRDA 'Rounds By The Sea' - Registration Form

ATTENTION ALL ARDA MEMBERS - Change of Domain

We have been requested by the internet authorities to change the domain for the ARDA website. The new Domain is:

rounddancing.au

The new address for the ARDA website is ...

<https://www.rounddancing.au>

You will need to update the addressing for any bookmarks you may have to pages on the website.

Tony McDonald, ARDA Website Manager



AUSTRALIAN ROUND DANCE

ASSOCIATION

~ Newsletter ~

Volume 2026/2 AUGUST Edition 2/2026



~ DISCLAIMER ~

ARDA accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies, and reserves the right to alter, cancel or otherwise modify in any way, matter contained in this publication. The opinions expressed are merely those of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of ARDA.

CONGRATULATIONS *Karen and John HERR,*

Recipients of the Roundalab prestigious SILVER HALO Award

Sincere congratulations to our ARDA overseas members, Karen and John Herr, such worthy recipients of the Silver Halo Award presented at the 50th RAL Convention.

Karen and John live in Denver, Colorado, USA. They conduct several round dance clubs and teach at least three times every week. Karen and John came to Australia in 2013 as Roundalab Clinicians to provide Australia's first RAL Mini Lab at our ARDA Conference that year.



SILVER HALO AWARD 2026

Karen and John Herr

The AWARD Speech Roy Gotta read out before presenting John and Karen Herr with their Silver Halo Award at the 50th Roundalab Convention.

A while ago, I was looking over the list of Distinguished Service award recipients published in every Journal. I was surprised, and dumfounded, that a particular couple was not listed as a recipient of that award, or any other awards, for that matter. That is about to change.

This couple started cueing and teaching in 1987. Over the last 39 years, they have made significant contributions to Roundalab and the round dance activity.

Locally, they have 4 round dance clubs, cue for over 10 square dance clubs, and run year long round dance classes. They are members of their local round dance council and their state square and round dance association, having served on the board of directors of both. They have also mentored numerous round dance leaders in their area.

They have choreographed over 36 round dances, including a Roundalab Round Of The Quarter, and 2 ROQ runners up.

On a global level, this couple has taught their own Cued/Teacher schools in multiple states, multiple times. They have taught dances, and put on clinics, at conventions and festivals throughout the United States and other countries. As mini-lab clinicians, they have brought round dance education to many parts of the world, while, at the same time, representing and promoting Roundalab.

Speaking of Roundalab.

They joined in 1987.

They spent 12 years Serving on the Board of Directors.

They served 10 years on the Executive Committee.

They served as Chairman of Roundalab from 2008-2010.

They are mini-lab clinicians and have presented at least 5 mini-labs in multiple countries.

By now, I'm sure you know that I am referring to John and Karen Herr. But wait, there's more!

Their work on committees is legendary. Here is a list of committees they have not just worked on, BUT HAVE BEEN CHAIRMAN OF. Keep in mind most of these were more than one year terms as Chairman.

- Awards and Recognition Committee*
- Phase 3 Manual Committee*
- Phase 4 Manual Committee*
- Teaching Progression Committee*
- Nominating Committee*
- Ad Hoc committee for Argentine Tango*
- Ad Hoc committee for Merengue*
- Convention Education Committee*
- Convention Manager*
- Education Coordinator*
- NEC Liaison*
- ICBDA Liaison*

In addition to all of the above John developed the software which allowed Roundalab to be able to put its figure videos on USB drives and thus allow teachers to have the videos on their laptops. He also developed a software program to simplify cue sheet writing.

I have not yet announced which award they are about to receive. Let me read you the criteria.

[*Cont'd on next page.*](#)

SILVER HALO AWARD

Karen and John Herr

Cont'd from Pg.3

An award presented to RAL members who have made sustained, outstanding contributions to round dancing and who have made a significant impact on the round dance movement on a national and/or international level through, but not limited to, training other teachers, improving teacher curriculums, outstanding choreography, introducing new rhythms, teaching at festivals, clinics, and seminars, and/or filling leadership positions in round dance organizations.

Notice in the description, it says and/or. In other words, contributions in any of those categories may qualify a member for this award.

John and Karen have not just contributed in one or two of the categories, but all of them!! Training other teachers (schools and mini-labs), improving teacher curriculums (teaching progression), outstanding choreography (ROQ), introducing new rhythms (Hesitation Canter Waltz 2009), teaching at festivals, clinics, and seminars (too many to list), and/or filling leadership positions in round dance organizations (BOD, Exec. Comm. & Chairman Roundalab).

It is now an honour, and a pleasure, to present John and Karen Herr with Roundalab's most prestigious award the SILVER HALO.

Thank you to Paula Armstrong, for providing this document to enable the wonderful achievements of our overseas ARDA members to be shared with you all.

Speaking with Karen recently, Karen revealed a procedure to correct a spinal problem is about to be undertaken and on behalf of ARDA Committee of Management and you, the ARDA members, we send our prayers and best wishes to you Karen for a speedy and full recovery.

Information from Secretary, Bev

2027 SHOWCASE & INTERMEDIATE NOMINATIONS

This is a reminder of the close off date for nominations for both

**2027 Showcase Nominations
&
2027 Intermediate Nominations**

30th NOVEMBER 2026

ARDA State/Territory Representatives have the responsibility of submitting nominations on behalf of their State or Territory.

If you are involved in this process best to have your input to your representative earlier, rather than later.

Please get your thinking caps on and also please look further afield than a Two Step. This rhythm is getting very top heavy as you will have seen by the Survey that was distributed Recently. The Intermediate needs to be a little more than a higher phase cue and do. Talking of the Survey that was recently sent to every dancer registered to attend the 67th ANSDC that ticked they would attend round dance sessions have you completed your survey AND cuers who have registered to cue have you completed your survey? Work will commence on the programme for the 67th after the closing date ie. 30th November.

Bev McLachlan, ARDA Secretary



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi to everyone - hope you are all well and enjoying your dancing.

The ARDA Conference for next year is well in hand and will feature Randy & Marie Preskitt as our international teachers for the event. A social wind-down dinner is also planned for the Wednesday evening at the same venue as the Conference - more details as they come to hand.

Randy and Marie were in Buderim in 2016 for the Caller-Cuer Conference and stayed for the National Convention. We were fortunate to be provided additional round dance sessions which allowed ARDA to use their teaching skills during these extra sessions.

It is great to see most states hosting round dance weekends, and the main upcoming function is the South Australian choreographers weekend held on October 2-4 - for more details contact SARDA President, Shirley Bates or Les Tulloch.

The new website is currently a work in progress and hopefully it will be up and running in the near future - it will also have a members' only section as well as public access to some areas.

At our recent management committee meeting, there was some discussion about possibly bringing John and Karen Herr out again in 2028 for the ARDA Conference. John and Karen were here in 2013 to lead the RAL Minilab, a first for Australian round dancing.

Finally, a well done to WA for hosting our Education Officers for two days of teaching immediately prior to their State Convention. All the hard work is certainly having benefits and seeing a resurgence in round dancing in the west.

Cheers
Chris Heyworth
ARDA President.

A note from Secretary, Bev ...

Due to Incorporation.
Taken from the AGM Minutes 2025.

Moved Bev McLachlan, second Glen Cassar that those members renewing membership, or joining ARDA for the current 2025/2026 membership year, will have their membership extended until 28th February 2027.



NEWS to HAND

QUEENSLAND Round Dance Association QRDA

QRDA will hold their **GALA BALL**, *and that means dress SPARKLY*, on
Saturday **26th** September 2026

Logan City Square Dance Centre,
161A Magnesium Drive, Crestmead ... commencing at 7.30 pm.

Find your Sparkles and ROUND dance the night away.

ROUNDS BY THE SEA 2027

**Rounds By The Sea
May 2027**

Don't miss out on this wonderful teaching weekend with Paula and Warwick.
Flyer attached to this ARDA NEWSLETTER

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA Round Dance Association SARDA

SARDA will hold their **ROARING TWENTIES SPRING FESTIVAL 2026**, over the weekend of

2 - 4th October, 2026
Clovelly Park Memorial Hall
16 York Avenue, Clovelly Park

Seek out some 'roaring 20's' outfits and come and be part of this super weekend.
Flyer attached to this ARDA NEWSLETTER.

SARDA - ARDA Representative

Please note this position is now held by Anne Tulloch - atulloch3@bigpond.com

I would like to take a moment to say 'THANK YOU' to all those who hold or have held
positions on
the
ARDA Management Committee
ARDA Sub Committee
Held the role of State/Territory Representative ... well done and THANK YOU.

Hi to all fellow Round Dancers

It has been an immensely rewarding few months for Round Dancing here in Western Australia!

Our very First Round Dance Extravaganza

We put together our very first **Round Dance Extravaganza**, a teaching event based on the successful workshops Paula and Warwick have presented in other states.

We danced and learned through Thursday and Friday workshops, with a Thursday evening dance as part of the program. Registrations exceeded our expectations, which was wonderful, but it also meant we needed to move from our usual P&R Rounds dance hall in Bassendean to a larger venue. **Midland Town Hall** proved to be an excellent choice for our needs.

Paula and Warwick were outstanding in their teaching, and everyone came away having had a wonderful experience.

Bruce and I also benefited enormously from Paula and Warwick's guidance in teaching techniques, giving us plenty of new ideas and skills that we can now put into practice.

A very special **thank you to Paula and Warwick** for agreeing to travel all the way to the West to make this event possible. Your contribution was very much appreciated.

50 Years of Our State Convention

We deliberately chose the Extravaganza dates to lead into our **State Convention**, where we celebrated 50 years since the first Convention was held in the metro area.

Round Dancing was well represented throughout the Convention, with both Bruce and I cueing Rounds, together with Paula & Warwick. The program also included an **Introduction to Round Dancing** on the Sunday, led by Paula and Warwick, giving more dancers the opportunity to discover what Round Dancing is all about.

Thursday Round Dancing — Three Years On!

Our Thursday Round Dancing continues to attract many enthusiastic dancers, and we recently celebrated **three years since I first introduced this beginners' class**.

It is hard to imagine where those three years have gone!

Our dancers have progressed from Basic Waltz and Two-Step to **Rumba, Cha Cha, Foxtrot and now Mambo**. They have learned an enormous amount along the way.

The learning curve for me in teaching these rhythms has also been immense, challenging at times, but incredibly rewarding.

Special thanks must go to **Carol Simondson** for her mentoring, encouragement and assistance throughout this journey.

Carol stayed with me during and after the Extravaganza and Convention, and there we were with laptops open, dancing around my tiny kitchen while Carol cued songs that were new to me!

It was **HUGELY rewarding** and certainly a memory to treasure.

P&R Rounds Beginners

P&R Rounds commenced a new Beginners Class in June, with an amazing **22 dancers attending**. They continue to welcome around 20 dancers each and every week, which is extremely encouraging.

Bruce Gillett, with Debbie's support, is an excellent, patient and thorough teacher, and the group is progressing very well.

Bruce and I are now sharing the weekly program, alternating responsibility for the Senior hour and then the Intermediate group.

It has certainly been challenging for us both, but we have now settled into a pretty good pattern and are enjoying seeing the dancers continue to progress.

Pink Ribbon Fundraiser

October will see the return of the **Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Research Fundraiser**.

Last year's event was hugely successful, so we are doing it all over again!

This will be a **free dance**, with fundraising activities throughout the day. There will be **Rounds, Squares, Line Dancing, Clogging, games and a shared lunch** — plenty of fun while supporting a very worthwhile cause.

Several of the members have unfortunately had falls recently, so we send our warmest wishes for **speedy recoveries** to everyone who is unable to join us on the dance floor for a while. We hope to see you back dancing again very soon.

There is certainly plenty happening in Round Dancing here in the West, and we are excited about where we are heading.

And after the success of our Extravaganza, I think it is time for a slight change to our motto...

Keeping Round Dancing THRIVING in WA!

Marilyn

State Representative — Western Australia



More

NEWS to HAND

VICTORIA - Round Dance Association of Victoria Inc.

SOCIAL DANCE

'Spring Fling'

27th September 5.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Senior Citizens Centre

[PANDA Rounds hall]

Cnr Erica Avenue & Genista Avenue, Boronia

5.00 pm - 8.00 pm.

VICTORIA - KINTYRE Round Dance Club

An AFTERNOON OF ROUNDS

*Plus some squares **

The afternoon will mainly be rounds up to Phase 4 with a variety of rhythms.

We would love to have you come visit KINTYRE.

Sunday 15th November 2026 - 1.30 - 4.30 pm

Werribee Masonic Hall, 223 Watton Street, Werribee

[off street parking]

\$12.00 pp .. Cash only

Tea/Coffee provided - please bring a plate to share.

Contact Carol 0400 354 445 carol_simo@bigpond.com for more details.



WELCOME to all our new ARDA Members

If you have some news to share; a story to tell or photos to share ...

The deadline for the final edition of the ARDA Newsletter

25th NOVEMBER, 2026.

Sincere CONGRATULATIONS

Sincere CONGRATULATIONS
To

Paula and Warwick ARMSTRONG

A Thousand Years
Phase IV Rumba 2013
Choreographed by Paula and Warwick Armstrong,
The International Choreographed Ballroom Dance Association
Has voted as
HALL OF FAME
DANCE
2026

Sincere CONGRATULATIONS

Sincere CONGRATULATIONS

Les and Anne Tulloch

On your recent RAL Award

**Certificate in Recognition of
30 years of Teaching Round Dancing.**

Presented to you at the 50th RAL Convention, 2026

Editor's Note ~~

All articles and photos in this Newsletter have been printed as a matter of courtesy and interest for all. Refer to the 'Disclaimer' on the front page.

In order to reprint articles from this Newsletter, and as a matter of courtesy, permission should be sought from the Editor.

If permission is obtained the appropriate recognition should be given to the author/source of that information.



Showcase Nominations over the years

1978	ANSDC Perth, WA		Presented by
	Jazz Me Blues	TS	Queensland
	Let's Cuddle	TS	South Australia
	Wildflowers	TS	Tasmania
	Groovin'	TS	Western Australia
	Tuxedo Junction	TS	New South Wales
	Bali Breezes	*?	Victoria
1979	ANSDC held in Brisbane, Qld		
	My Little Corner of the World	TS	New South Wales
	Love In Springtime	WZ	Queensland
	Little White Moon	TS	South Australia
	Die Lorelei	WZ	Tasmania
	?		Victoria
	Till Somebody Loves You	TS	Western Australia
1980	ANSDC held in Adelaide, SA		
	June Night	TS	Tasmania
	Fun-Time	TS	Western Australia
	Shantytown	TS	South Australia
	Chilli Sauce	TS	Queensland
	Rose Room	TS	New South Wales
	Ruby Ann	TS	Victoria
1981	ANSDC held in Hobart, TAS		
	Callahan	TS	New South Wales
	Goody Goody	TS	Queensland
	Maple Leaf Rag	TS	Tasmania
	By the Light Of the Silvery Moon		Victoria
	Rainbows	TS	Western Australia

.... More in the future

*? Denotes - no record of the rhythm, but one could assume these were Two Step.

Just saying

Deadline for the final edition of YOUR
ARDA Newsletter is

25th November, 2026

VALE

Bev Croot

Bev Croot passed away after a short diagnosis to AML, Saturday 29th August. She had most of her family surrounding her during the five days she was in hospital. It was a very peaceful passing.

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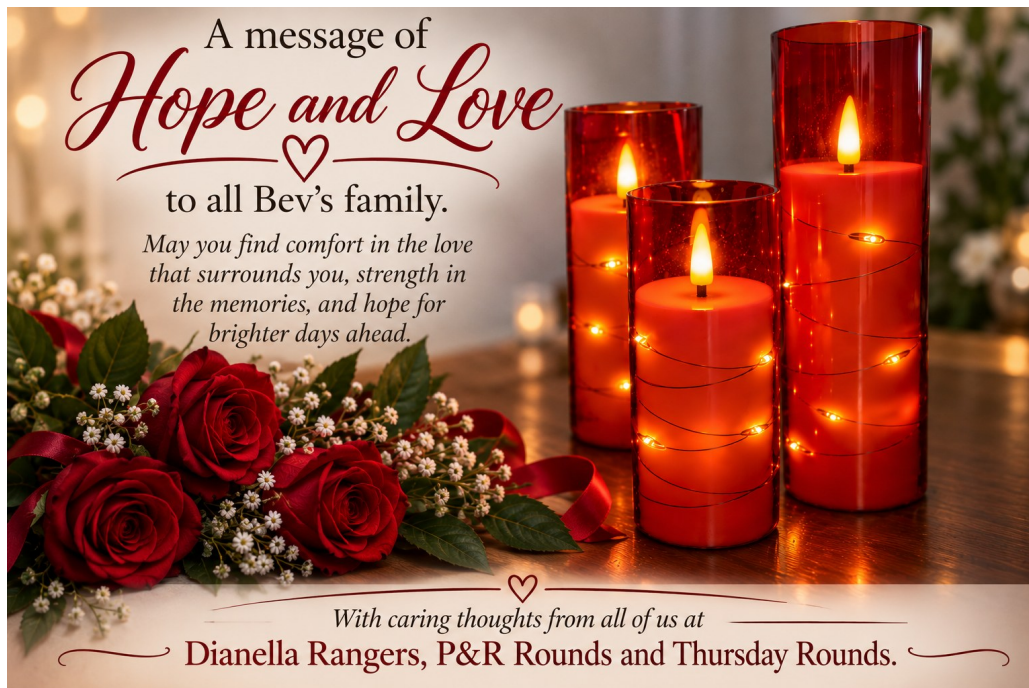
From Marilyn ...

Bev firmly entrenched herself in our Square Dance and Round Dance community in 2018, and she took to dancing like a duck to water.

When she discovered Round Dancing, she embraced it whole heartedly. Her ability to remember the moves was amazing, and she was always willing to help and encourage others along the way.

Bev belonged to two groups, Dianella Rangers and P&R Rounds, where she became a much-loved member of both. Everyone appreciated her patience, her guidance, her wonderful smile and, above all, her natural charm.

For me personally, Bev was so much more than a fellow dancer. She was my mentor, my all-round good buddy and someone I knew I could rely on at any given time. Her friendship meant the world to me, and I will miss her more than words can say. She leaves behind many wonderful memories, both on and off the dance floor, and I feel very fortunate to have called her my friend.



VALE BEV CROOT

On behalf of the ARDA Management Committee and ARDA members, our sincere condolences are extended to Bev's family and her best friend, Marilyn van Sambeeck.