

## **E-Z Moving Square Dance Club History**

E-Z Moving Square Dance Club was established in 1988 by Joan and Reg Jordan. Joan and Reg were members of the Essendon Square Dance Club in Maribyrnong where Reg was the trainee caller under David Hooper's mentorship. Reg established quite a following of dancers that enjoyed his singing style and choreography, and so they decided to start up a club closer to their residence in Glenroy. Originally dances began in the kindergarten hall in Kent Road, however after about 6 months, due to Joan and Reg's popularity, a larger venue was sort, and that was the Uniting Church Hall in Wheatsheaf Road, where the club remained until its closure.

During this period, club activities included trips to the national conventions in Brisbane, Perth, Canberra and Adelaide. Also to state conventions in Broadmeadows, Albury, Shepparton, Morwell and Sale. Other activities included car rallies, camping trips, progressive dinners and many visits to other clubs which resulted in a steady stream of visitor on club nights.

In 1994, Joan and Reg decided to retire from full time calling as Reg had retire from work and they wished to relocate to Bendigo to be closer to family. The club was then given over to Sylvia Gajek, and Ken Lazarus, who had both been trainee callers since 1990. Many of the club activities continued, such as attending conventions both national and state along with the club's renowned social focus. The club also ran beginners classes each year to introduce new people into square dancing and its many benefits. Some square dancing luminaries that E-Z Moving can lay claim to are Lorraine and Tim Lowry.

In 1995, Barry Wootten took up the position of trainee/co caller at E-Z Moving. Barry had also been a one-time trainee at Essendon Square Dance Club under David Hooper, and was a very fine singer and accomplished musician. The administrative and greeting duties of the club were mainly performed by Christine Birrell, with able assistance of other club members when called upon to do so.

## E-Z Moving, Save The Last Dance For Me

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The club was renowned for the decorations that were displayed at all the club birthdays. Even to the last, the decorations were lavish and spectacular, with dressed themes that all who came, knew what to expect. The club went to Spain, to England, to Space, to the Outback, to Mardi Gras, School days and many other themes over to 26 years. And the memorable suppers. Club members all pitched in and helped in the kitchen to ensure all our visitors had a night to remember, and we remembered too. We celebrated the club's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1988, with special guests, Joan and Reg Jordan.

With the coming of the new millennium, our numbers started to wane, we had some young couples start having families, some people move away from the area, and none of us were getting any younger. It became hard to attract people to dancing compared with passive entertainment such as pay TV and the internet, however we always managed a few sets to dance, and even more smiles. In 2008, the club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In 2009, Michelle Lazarus, joined the club to assist in the greeting and administration of the club with our sons, Bailey and Sean. In 2012, sister Molly-Mae also joined in and was a great joy to all club members. We could still manage two sets regularly and with visitors, sometimes more. The club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013.

In 2013, the club informed that due to financial situations within the Uniting Church, the building was to be demolished and the land sold and would not be available for holding our dances. Some alternatives were found, although at an increased cost, and with the diminished number of regular club members, the sad decision was made to close the club at the 26<sup>th</sup> birthday dance. Our last dance was not a sad affair, all decorated, all fun, knowing we had been part of something very special in the annals of square dance history.

A very special mention to two of the most loyal club members any organisation could hope to have, Lia and Chris Ward, from the first dance to the last, from the time the door opened until it was locked to go home, they were there. We can't thank you enough.