

Jaybee Squares - Club History

The club began as Jaybee Squares on 16th May 1984, when Jack Burgess took over Graeme Breydon's club in Chapel Street St. Kilda. The new club, which derived its name from Jack's initials, prospered for some time at St. Kilda until the hall was demolished and the dance moved to Glenhuntly. The move resulted in the loss of some regular members, so a beginner's class was conducted but without great success. Then a demonstration dance was conducted at the Wheelers Hill Uniting Church Hall with such success Jack was asked to organize regular dances there.

He did this on a fortnightly basis. At the same time, the Glenhuntly based club was not progressing as desired so members agreed to close this club and establish the dance at Wheelers Hill.

The new club was established as the Jaybee Square Wheelers Square Dance Club on 10th June 1987 with a significant difference - in that a committee administered the club, with members having the final decision in all club activities.

The club flourished until September 1988, when Jack had a heart attack and died. This was a big shock to the club, which could have folded, but the committee decided to keep dancing utilizing the talents of various callers until a permanent replacement for Jack could be found.

On 16th May 1989, Mike Davey, who with the help of Lee McFadyeon in his early years, took over as caller, developing his talent until he is now one of the best callers in Australia. The club has not looked back since moving from Wheelers Hill to a church hall in Glen Waverley and then to the current home in Notting Hill.

As reported in Squares Around Victoria 2010