



*Welcome to the Dreamtime*  
**2021**

**A submission to host the**  
**62nd Australian National**  
**Square Dance Convention**  
**Darwin – Northern Territory**



# ***Provisional Committee of the 62nd Australian National Square Dance Convention Darwin NT***

It is with much pleasure that we submit a bid to host the 62nd Australian National Square Dance Convention in Darwin, Northern Territory.

It is proposed to hold the Convention from Monday 28 June to Friday 2 July 2021. The steering committee is considering using Marrara Indoor Stadium in Abala Road, Marrara. This venue was used in 2011 with great success and the dancers are looking forward to returning to NT in June 2021.

A national square dance convention is held every year in a different state in Australia. Northern Territory has only held one convention because there are no square dance clubs in NT to organise the function. In 2011 a committee was formed, with representatives from each state in Australia to organise the national in Darwin. A budget was created with 450 dancers estimated to attend. We got that number and held a very successful convention.

A convention is traditionally held over 5 days, with day one being for meetings of national and state bodies. On this day, there are some overlaps of meetings so more than one meeting room is required. A hall is required for dancing, which will be used every afternoon and evening of the convention. Besides square dancing, there is round dancing (similar to cued ballroom dancing), and clogging (similar to tap dancing). A second hall is often required, to accommodate these other styles of dancing and higher levels of square dancing. In Darwin a second hall was not used due to lack of suitable venues with wooden floors.



In 2011, the Decorations Committee created a crocodile head and brought it up in pieces, to be reassembled in the hall. This crocodile successfully hid the sound technician, who operated the laptops, records, tapes and other devices used by Callers in Square Dancing and Cuers in Round Dancing and Clogging. The theme for 2021 has not yet been decided, but the decorations will still fill the hall. The staff at the stadium were impressed at the way the hall was transformed with the decorations.

The main day features an opening ceremony. In 2011, the committee were lucky enough to arrange a spectacular dance of local indigenous dancers. Conventions always like to use local talent, either from dance schools, or something unique to the area.



In 2011, the Convention was opened by Ali Mills, a local Elder from the Larrakia Tribe. Ali stayed to watch the square dancing and was keen to try it. In 2021, we will again source a local elder, if possible, to open our convention and acknowledge the traditional owners of the land.

A National Square Dance Convention always has a post convention reception to acknowledge the work of the Callers, Cuers, Committee and State Presidents who have put in so much work during the year. In 2011, this reception was held at Crocodylus Park. The reception is held after the dance, so it ran from 11pm until 1am. In that time, guests were offered snacks, drinks and were invited to enjoy the native fauna.



It seems that not every one is a fan of the local wildlife! However, the evening was a success, despite it being the coldest night that year!



All delegates were given a gift, and again, this was sourced from a local indigenous community—Aboriginal Bush Traders. Clapsticks and decorative oven mitts were well received by the delegates. The clapsticks were painted by the Bagot Community artists as part of an art development project.

In 2021, the committee will source a new venue for the post convention reception, and again we will be looking for a uniquely “Darwin” experience.





Each Convention has a theme. In 2011, the theme was 'Dance A While With A Crocodile'. Dancers are encouraged to 'dress' to the theme on one of the nights. The committee advertise the convention the year before with a display appropriate to the theme they have chosen.

Dancers come from all over Australia and internationally to attend a convention each year. Many of them are retired and they bring their caravans and spend many weeks on the road each year. Most dancers will take the opportunity to visit Kakadu, Uluru and other spectacular sights while they are in Northern Territory. Some dancers will take the Ghan either to, or from, the convention. Dancers will be looking for accommodation, car hire, restaurants for the week and longer as they take the opportunity to incorporate the convention with their annual holiday.

In 2021, we are hoping to provide different experiences to our dancers. We would like to find an outdoor venue, that is well-lit, with a safe surface, to have a dance on the final night of the convention. The Boat Club provided a wonderful venue for meetings, which could be used again or there may be another venue that would be more suitable.

Square dancers ages range from 11 to 90. They enjoy mixing and dancing with each other. Our dancers swear that square dancing keeps their minds and bodies active. Each dance bracket lasts 15 minutes and in that time they move constantly and have to concentrate on doing what the Caller tells them. They are required to work with 7 other people, so team work plays an important part in keeping a square moving.

Families are encouraged to attend and there are a number of families that have 3 generations dancing together. In 2021, the committee will provide a creche for younger children at no charge to the family in an effort to reduce the cost of tickets and encourage them to attend. The ticket price is an important part of decision-making for dancers attending conventions, so the lower the ticket, the more dancers we will have attending.



The official committee for this convention will be elected at the Perth National Convention in April, 2018. At that time, the steering committee will pass on its ideas to the new committee and the countdown will be on to June 2021.

*Darwin 2011 Committee in State colours*

Any help, advice and support from your organisation would be most welcome in helping us to reduce ticket prices.

Sincerely

Lorraine Davey

Secretary—Provisional Committee

61st Australian National Square Dance Convention—Darwin 2021

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# Draft Program—One Hall

## Day 1

1:00 to 4:00	National Convention Board Meeting 1	Meeting room 1
4:00 to 5:00	Extraordinary General Meeting	Meeting room 1
7:30 to 8:00	Rounds – pre Square	
8:00 to 10:30	Mainstream Squares, Rounds: - Trail In Dance	

## Day 2

9:00 to 12:00	ACF Board Meeting 1	Meeting room 1
9:00 to 12:00	National Society Meeting	Meeting room 2
9:00 to 11:00	ARDA Annual General Meeting	Meeting room 3
11:30 to 1:30	ARDA General Meeting	Meeting room 3
12:30 to 2:00	Review Editors Meeting	Meeting room 2
2:30 to 3:30	Solo Dancer Meeting	Meeting room 2
12:30 to 3:00	National Callers Meeting	Meeting room 1
3:00 to 4:30	ACF Board Meeting.2	Meeting room 1
7:00 to 7:30	Rounds – pre Square	
7:30 to 11:00	Mainstream Squares Session, Rounds, Opening Ceremony	

## Day 3

10:00 to 12:00	Clogging Session – separate venue	
12:00 to 2:00	Plus Session	
2:00 to 4:30	Round Dance Session, including Showcase	
7:00 to 7:30	Rounds – pre Square	
7:30 to 11:00	Mainstream Squares Session, Rounds: Dressed Sets Parade	

## Day 4

9:00 to 12:00	National Society Annual General Meeting	
12:00 to 2:00	Mainstream Session	
2:00 to 3:30	Plus Session	
3:30 to 4:30	“A” Level Session	
7:00 to 7:30	Rounds – pre Square	
7:30 to 11:00	Mainstream Squares Session, Rounds: Theme, Closing Ceremony	

## Day 5

9:00 to 12:00	ACF Get Together	
1:00 to 4:00	National Convention Board Meeting 2	
12:30 to 2:30	Mainstream Session	
2:30 to 4:30	Advanced Rounds	
7:00 to 7:30	Rounds – pre Square	
7:30 to 10:30	Mainstream Squares Session, Rounds: Trail Out Dance	

Meetings are in BLUE, dancing sessions are in BLACK

If a suitable second hall is available then there will be extra sessions of Mainstream, Plus and A Level programmed on days 2 to 5. The draft program, above will be varied to suit the new balance.

62<sup>nd</sup> Australian National Square Dance Convention

**ESTIMATED RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS (DRAFT - 350)**  
**(December 2017)**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>
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**REGISTRATIONS**

	<i>Number</i>	<i>@</i>		
Dancing -				
Adult				
Early	325	\$135	43,875	
Standard	45	\$160	7,200	51,075
Junior	5	\$75		375
Less Refunds	-25			-3,125
Child-care		Free	0	48,325

**OTHER**

Advertising (in Program Book-let)		\$25	100	
Interest Earned			600	
Stall Fees	4	\$50	200	
Subsidy - Child-care			1,000	
Sundry			0	1,900

**TOTAL RECEIPTS**

**\$50,225**

<b>PAYMENTS</b>
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**VENUE**

Main Venue	5	\$1,800 per day	9,000	
Meetings Venue			1,000	
Decorations/Set Design			1,200	
Equipment Hire (Sound)			7,000	
First Aid			800	
Opening / Closing Ceremony			600	
Resurface Venue Floor			5,000	
Staging			3,300	27,900

**PROMOTION**

Advertising/Publicity/Website			2,800	
Convention Packs	350	\$2.00	700	
Presentations / Gifts			1,000	4,500

**HOSPITALITY**

Child-care			1,600	
Post Convention Reception			5,200	
Refreshments			2,000	

**ADMINISTRATION**

Archive Material			100	
Audit Fees			500	
Credit Card Charges	1.9% to 2.2% plus card reader \$59		790	
Insurance			900	
National Board Levy	350	\$2.00	700	
Photocopying			100	
Post Box Rental/Postage			800	
Printing -			2,100	
Ribbons/Badges	350	\$2.50	875	
Telephone			600	
Year Pins	350	\$1.50	525	
Sundry / Stationery			1,035	17,825

**TOTAL PAYMENTS**

**\$50,225**