

AUSTRALIAN DANCING BOARD CO LTD
MEMBER WORLD DANCE COUNCIL
A.C.N. 002 795 986 A.B.N. 96 002 795 986

Ballroom Dancing was introduced into Australia in the early 1900's and showed a strong increase in popularity from the mid 1920's. Over the next twenty years Dance Palais opened up all over the country which included in Sydney - the St George's Hall, the Ginger Jar, The Red Mill and the famous Trocadero. Melbourne had its Silks Ballroom, Leggetts Palais, The Palais Royale, Trocadero and a little later the St Kilda Palais. In Adelaide - Carmichaels Palais and the Palladium, while up on the hill in Brisbane was the home for the famous Cloudlands Ballroom. Perth was the city for the well known Embassy Ballroom. These famous venues ensured that the fast growing ballroom dance population was well catered for.

As the demand for tuition grew more and more dance studios came into being and a number of dance associations were established which provided a service to the dance studio proprietors. Among the earlier of these associations were the Federal Association established in 1931, the Commonwealth Society established in 1933 and the Australian Dance Society established in 1944, the Modern Ballroom Teachers Association and the Victorian Society. The Society of Australian Teachers of Dancing was inaugurated a little later in 1945.

These Associations co-operated and syllabi were established to cater for Professional teaching examinations which in turn recognised the teacher's knowledge and ability by the issuing of professional diplomas. Then came the promotion of competition dancing. Professional teachers and demonstrators were brought out from England to assist in the development of performers.

One of the earlier Australian Dancers to visit England was the Late Micky Powell who returned home so full of enthusiasm he immediately planned to return to England with a team of Australian Dancers. This dream was fulfilled in 1950 when the first international contest took place. Australia versus England.

Early in the 1950's further Associations were formed, one of which was the Australian Council of Dancing Organisation. It became obvious that some form of control was required. In England an Official Board had been formed and was proving to be of great value in the control of ballroom dancing in that country. Mr Alex Moore in his wisdom saw the advantage of forming the International Council of Ballroom Dancing for the purpose of development and improved international relationships and standardisation.

During the following years three Australian organisations became conscious of the need to form the Australian Dancing Board. In 1964 these organisations - the Australian Dancing Society, Australian Council of Dancing and the Federal Association worked together to formulate the constitution for standardisation and control of ballroom dancing in Australia. Due to these efforts the Australian Dancing Board was successfully formed and was invited by the International Council of Ballroom Dancing to become the Official Australian Member of the ICBDE England. In 1966 the Australian National Dance Association successfully applied to become the fourth member of the Australian Dancing Board.

In 1976 the ICBDE granted the Australian Dancing Board the right to conduct the 1980 Worlds Professional Championship which climaxed 16 years of progress and consolidation for the A.D.B.

Further progress was made and to fulfil the aims and objects of the constitution of the Australian Dancing Board full membership of the A.D.B. was granted in 1978 to the Academy of Teachers of Dancing, the British Dance Association, the Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing, the Society of Australian Teachers of Dancing and the Victorian Council of Dancing. 1978 also saw Life Memberships to the A.D.B. initiated.

The further promotion in Sydney in 1984 of the Asian Pacific Championships gave Australian Ballroom Dancing further impetus. Both the 1980 Worlds and the 1984 Asian Pacific Championships set new standards for international promotions in Australia and is a monument to the energy and promotional skills of Life Member, Mr Robert Wrightson A.M. 1984 also saw the legal incorporation under corporate law of the Australian Dancing Board. This resulted in a name change to THE AUSTRALIAN DANCING BOARD CO LTD

In the years that followed the Australian Dancing Board worked towards consolidating competition dancing with the control of age groups Juvenile, Junior, Adult, Senior and Masters while grades for E-D-C-B-A were established. Then in 1988 the Australian Dancing Board set about organising a further major event The Official Bi-Centennial Commemorative Ballroom Dancing Championships. Together, with a dedicated organising team, Mr Les Newman OAM, Chairman of the Australian Dancing Board and co-ordinator for the championships presented very successfully the Bi-Centennial in Brisbane in July 1988. The Bi-Centennial Year was also the year that the ADB HALL OF FAME was inaugurated. The inductees into the Hall of Fame from 1988 up to 2007 include:

THE A.D.B. HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES				
Category	Era		Category	Era
A Lifetime of Outstanding Service to Dance				
Ethel Sheehan*	pre	1930-2000		
Harry Brooks*		1931-1998		
Sam Gilkison MBE*		1931-1998		
Joe Loves*		1931-1992		
Mickey Powell*		1931-1967		
Robert Wrightson AM		1941-present		
George Weiss*		1931-1978		
J. Sandy Robertson*		1931-1996		
Sadie Hawkins*		1931-1993		
Mrs Gwen Wallace		1941-present		
Outstanding Competitive Performance (Couples) Professional				
Linda* & Arthur* Cornwell		1941-1960		
Robert & Pamela Courts		1961-present		
Alf Davies & Julie Reaby		1941-present		
Kevin Gibson & Shirley Saunderson		1941-1960		
Jack* & Joyce* Bosley		1941-1960		
Frank South* & Muriel Watts*		1941-1960		
Robert & Shelda* Wrightson		1941-1960		
Ray & Margaret Reeve		1961 present		
Dorothy & Norman Gonsal OAM*		1951-present		
Outstanding Competitive Performance (Couples) Professional				
Cedric & Valda* Meers		1941-present		
Outstanding Competitive Performance Teams				
The 1985 Perth Formation Team		1961-present		
The 1966 Amateur Touring Team		1961-present		
Outstanding Competitive Performance (Couples) Amateur				
Richard Foley & Kay Waterman		1961-present		
Jason Gilkison & Peta Roby		1961-present		
Greg Smith & Marion Alleyne		1961-present		
John & Carol Kimmins		1961-present		
Outstanding Contribution to the Growth & Achievement of a Dance Society				
Dorothy Gladstone*		1931-1960		
Eileen Kane OAM*		1931-2001		
Fred Barber*		1961-1981		
Fred Jenyns		1961-present		
Jack Keating*		1941-1978		
Hope Rylie*		1941-1975		
Doreen Costello		1951-present		
Outstanding contribution to the Development of a Specific Dance Style				
Barrie & Joan Marr		1961-present		
Neville Boyd OAM		1961-present		
Penelope Cay*		1931-1960		
Joan Allen		1950-present		
Outstanding Contribution by a Person Outside the Ballroom Dancing Profession				
Todd McKenney		1961-present		
Fred Evans		1961-present		
* Denotes the late				

The ensuing years saw the International Council of Ballroom Dancing England undergo name changes. The ICBDE changed to the World Dance & Dancesport Council and more recently the WDDSC made the change to the World Dance Council Ltd. The Australian Dancing Board Co Ltd together with 59 International Countries remains the only Australian Official Member of the World Dance Council Ltd.

Life Members of the ADB as appointed following the introduction of Life Members in 1978 including the intervening years to 2007 are:

Honorary Life Members:

Mr F. Jenyns

Mr L. Newman OAM

Mr R Wrightson AM