

Annual Report MFS Irish Set Dancing Group 2018

Key activities in the financial were regular classes, end of term mini-ceilis, and the 13th annual set dancing weekend.

The Group's activities achieved a surplus of \$1,212 for the 2017-18 financial year.

Activities

Wednesday evening classes were held during ACT School terms at the North Canberra Baptist Church Hall. Weekly classes usually achieved two sets plus, ie 16-20 people. MFS members make up 95% or better of class attendees. The Group continues to offer free beginner/refresher classes which encourages new dancers to become regular class attendees. The first two classes for new dancers are free. Ticket prices remained at the same level as the past two years (\$8 for MFS members and \$9 for non-MFS members). There continues to be a very good response to the option to advance purchase 10-class passes which reduces the ticket price per class to \$7 for MFS and \$8 for non-MFS members.

Four end of term mini-ceilis were held. These add an extra social dimension which draws participation from a number of additional MFS members whose primary dance interest might be elsewhere, and who are not regular attendees at ISD classes.

Members of the Group continued to participate in the activities of other organisations, notably in Sydney and Melbourne, helping to increase the profile of the Group and MFS and to attract interstate participants to MFS events in Canberra.

13th Annual dance weekend

The annual dance weekend held at the Hall Pavilion, Hall Village, is the key event of the group attracting around 100 attendees from the local region and interstate. The program included workshops with experienced interstate and local teachers, and three ceilis with music by the Jimmy Mullarkey Ceili Band.

The Group now has an established relationship with the Embassy of Ireland, receiving sponsorship of \$800 in 2017. The Irish Ambassador to Australia officially opened the event and with his wife and a small entourage, stayed to mingle with participants over supper. This relationship and sponsorship is expected to continue in future years.

The financial objective of the event is to 'break-even'. A small surplus of \$437 was achieved.

Administration

Organisers for the financial year were David Arnold, Paul Wayper and Christine Briton (classes) and David and Trish Arnold, Paul Wayper, Kate Armstrong and Christine Briton (annual dance weekend).

Acknowledgements

The ISD Group wishes to acknowledge and thank the MFS Committee for its ongoing support and promotion of ISD activities.

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