

# **Annual Report: MFS Irish Set Dancing Group (ISD) 2025-6**

## **Summary**

A stable and positive year:

- Weekly class numbers averaged 20, and we gained four new regular dancers.
- More dancers actively participated in additional ways, eg volunteering for supper duty, learning/practicing to call dances, and assisting with the October dance weekend.
- End of year surplus of \$217 (taking into account the hall-hire subsidy agreed at the MFS 2025 AGM).

## **Weekly classes (North Canberra Baptist Church Hall)**

40 classes were held over 4 terms (equating to ACT School terms).

Several free ½ hour beginner/refresher classes (before the regular class) were held whenever we had a couple of people interested. We have found that new dancers are more likely to become regulars after gaining confidence at these ½ hour classes.

NCBC increased hall hire from 1 July 2025 by more than the usual margin. The increase was not passed onto Groups (2025 AGM decision) until 1 January 2026, at which time, all Groups reviewed their entry pricing. ISD applied a small increase of \$1 for the 2026 calendar year.

## **19th annual dance weekend (Hall Pavilion, October 2025)**

Attendance at this year's event totalled 91 (including one person from the USA). Kevin and Carol Monaghan from Bassingstoke in the UK were our invited teachers. Overseas teachers bring a different teaching style and repertoire to our usual local experience. The benefits are sustained and/or new attendees each year, and new dancers at weekly classes.

The Ian Hayden and Friends Ceili Band gave us fabulous music to dance to at two ceilis.

The informal Friday social and dancing evening at the Canberra Irish Club, continues to be a popular start to the weekend (first trialled in 2023).

Financially, the event resulted in a short-fall, largely as a result of booking cancellations due to illness. However, as has been our past experience, the event led to new dancers at weekly classes. Increased attendance/revenue from weekly classes fully offset the short-fall, and produced a small net surplus for the financial year.

## **Succession planning**

The organising team for the weekend was expanded prior to the 2024 event to ensure there are enough interested and experienced people to maintain the event into the future. The additional team members in 2025 were Gabrielle Mackey, Jennifer Wilson, Paula Harrison, Michelle Weston and Peter Stringfellow - thank you!

## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to Paul Wayper, our lead teacher, for his continuing enthusiasm and skills, and for actively seeking new ways to teach and attract new dancers. Thanks also to all members of the Group. Great to have so many willing to take on new roles and/or help with the admin, and for generating new ideas to keep our activities relevant and refreshed.

ISD Group 2025 (core) organisers: Paul Wayper, Christine Briton, Bec Tarrant.

Christine Briton  
15 July 2026