

## ACF Get Together 2026

Thoughts and planning for the ACF Get Together at the 66<sup>th</sup> ANSDC in Hobart started 2 years ago in Darwin. The Program Manager was approached and we were advised we would have a room for our function at the Old Woolstore in Macquarie Street. This venue had been used at prior conventions and was considered to be a convenient location, given its proximity to the dancing halls.

Closer to the event, we were allocated an Events Manager by the Woolstore: Cristina. Various options for the catering were passed onto the board – the final decision being a Traditional Breakfast for \$29.50 per person or \$16 per child under 12. This cost was passed onto non-members, but offered at no cost to invited guests, overseas callers, ACF members and their partners.



Closer to the date, Cristina made everything easy. She was flexible with seating and numbers – right up to the day prior to the Get Together. We had 83 Registrations.



On the day the Breakfast itself was amazing. Better than advertised (I think). We had a buffet of bacon, scrambled eggs, poached eggs, hash browns, sausages, tomato, baked beans, mushrooms, cereals, bread, pastries and fresh fruit salad with Greek yoghurt. (and more) There was plenty to go round and many went back for seconds.



Expressions of interest were received from 3 up and coming callers, via their state associations or State Coordinators. Time was allocated following the breakfast for these people to call to a set of dancers and be critiqued for the purpose of assisting them with their journey of self development as callers. Closer to the day that number had reduced to 2: David McMeechan (WA) and Jason Nicholson (NSW). David and Jason both chose to call a singing call and even under the pressure of calling to a room of their peers, they both did a fantastic job. David Todd, Matthew Mills and Chris Froggatt watched and listened intently and were very happy to have been

involved in the critiquing process to give feedback both verbally and in writing to both David and Jason. Congratulations to both of you – we enjoyed your calls



Following the caller session, one of Tassie's up and coming callers – Debby Kemsley, put on her theatrics hat and made a simple 'Simon Says' type game into a fun game that involved everyone in a fun knockout game until the last man was standing. Between Frank Mathews and Kevin Kelly, Kevin won 'hands down' (no pun intended hehe). Following that, an improvised version of 'Grab the Mike' was played – going around the room one table at a time. This had everyone searching their memory banks for a song that contained the key word and sing it before another table was invited to take over. (how quickly can you stand up and sing a song with the word 'window' in it?)



The Table Quizzes had a few people guessing: Is that a star or a ginger bread man? The answer was Star Promenade, so maybe it was a picture of a walking star and a pathway? Another Table Quiz was a geometrical question and it was interesting that 2 separate answers were found, though one was not 100% technically correct, it's great that we had people in the room who enjoy that kind of puzzle. The stand-out Table Quiz would have been Paul's questions about the professions of some of the people (mainly) in the room. With 2 lists of professions to choose from, the aim was to match the profession to the name and the name sometimes had more than one profession! Tricky. This quiz certainly had people out of their seats, circulating and talking to each other. We learned a lot about each other today.



#### Recommendations:

As per the Board Members Handbook guidelines, the invitation to this function was advertised in 2 editions of Callerlink prior to the event. Once the program for the 66<sup>th</sup> ANSDC was published, it was evident that most callers had not registered for this ACF Get Together, so an invitation was extended via email to all members. Paul and I found the guidelines to run an ACF Callers Get Together was well documented in the Board Members Handbook. For future conventions, it may be an idea to add to the guidelines: that the invitation be attached to Callerlink as a separate file rather than included in the body of the newsletter.

We enjoyed bringing this year's ACF Callers Get Together to you. Our aim was to encourage people to mix and get to know one another better. Hopefully we achieved that

Paul and Di Ashton