

VRRDA Hall of Fame 2016

GORDON JONES

Gordon Jones, affectionately known as DJ Flash Gordon has been a fixture of the classic Rock'n'Roll dancing scene for as long as most dancers can remember. He has made an enormous contribution, providing us with many hours of entertainment over several decades.

His love of music developed as a teenager, and he would travel into the city every Saturday morning from Clayton to add to his collection of 45s.

Most of us here are... shall I say, experienced enough to know what 45s are, but I'm sure there are many younger people here tonight who do not know what 45s are! (They were a vinyl disc that single music tracks were released on. They were called the **45** or **7-inch**, the name came from its play speed, 45 rpm, and the diameter, 7 inches (18 cm). They were released in 7 colours for different music styles and black was for 'popular' music.

Gordon loves working as a DJ promoting the music of the rock'n'roll era.

He worked with DJ Jeff in the early days, was a member of Just Rock in Kilsyth, and learnt to dance at Fourmost, with Kevin, Carol, Barry and Nicky.

He is held in high regard in Melbourne and throughout regional Victoria, not only because of his consistently high quality DJ skills but also because of his friendly, warm approach.

Gordon has the ability to personalise his stage presentations so that audience members feel included. He has the incredible knack of remembering names and individual characteristics. By including this information in his role as DJ, he helps to create a feeling of inclusion and this has contributed to the development of the Rock'n'Roll dance community for a considerable number of years.

Before the VRRDA started using live bands to play for the Championships, Flash Gordon was also the Association's DJ of choice, always doing a fantastic job, and playing some great dance music.

Gordon is also noted for his wonderful fundraising efforts, and has organised events to help out families who are doing it tough, or who need a helping hand. He has also been part of the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal on many occasions. He is a true ambassador for promoting rock'n'roll to the wider community, and I'm sure you would all agree, is one of the friendliest people you could hope to meet in our community.

As well as being a highly skilled DJ for the regular Rock'n'Roll community, Gordon has been providing dance opportunities for teenagers and young adults with special needs for many years. At his 'Turntable Discos' in Bayswater, Gordon has been able to provide a supportive program that encourages young people to enjoy the pleasures of this wonderful activity. He has also provided services through the Allabilities section of the community to assist people with special needs.

Some of Gordon's greatest achievements:

1. Raising funds to send a 13-year old girl, Keisha, on the trip of a lifetime with the little time she had left in this world.
2. Performing in The Big Swing @ The Forum Theatre in Melbourne.
3. Performing and acting as DJ at the Palladium Room at Crown Casino.
4. Meeting his beautiful partner, Gillian in 1982.
5. Meeting many wonderful people, and seeing their smiles and happy faces when they dance to his music.
6. And passing on his love of music and rock'n'roll...

Ladies and gentlemen, the VRRDA is honoured to induct Gordon Jones into the 2016 Hall of Fame...

Annette Niven
VRRDA Secretary