

VRRDA Hall of Fame 2018

ANNE TRUEX

Anne's interest in dance stems back to her childhood, when as a young girl, she grew up listening to classical ballet music, and attending many performances of the Australian Ballet Company, and the Bolshoi Ballet.

Anne's mother had been in the ballet corps of the Borovanski Ballet Company, based in Melbourne, and had toured Australia and New Zealand with the company, until she married.

Anne also went to many classical music concerts, musicals and plays, describing this as her 'cultured' side. On the other hand, she also went to many rock/pop concerts, seeing artists like Suzi Quatro, David Cassidy, Wham, Paul McCartney and Wings, Phil Collins, Paul Simon and many more!

When Anne was a teenager, her older sister was in theatre, in shows such as Jesus Christ Superstar, where she was dance captain. Her sister would teach Anne the dance steps, as she was training new members of the cast. Anne loved doing that, and on weekends, would make up dance routines to show her parents.

However, even though Anne loved to dance, she was too scared to take dance lessons in case she looked silly. But at the ripe old age of 34, a work friend dragged her along to rock'n'roll lessons.

She remembers it very well. Her first lesson was on a Sunday afternoon in October 1994 at the VRI Hall in Traralgon, with teacher Jeff Beck of Starr Belle Dance Studios. He taught rock'n'roll and ballroom, and Anne had a go at both dance styles. She was well and truly hooked from the first minute!!

By the time she reached the Intermediate class, Anne had friends asking her to run practice sessions to help them learn the steps. Not long afterwards, Jeff was involved in a terrible car accident, and was unable to teach. **Anne was asked to take on Jeff's classes for 8 months following his car accident, and was eventually asked by Jeff to permanently take the classes.**

In the early years, Anne went to many dance lessons. She began attending Lakeside Rockers classes in Sale taught by John and Heather Jarman; drove to Melbourne for lessons with David Harrington and Annette Rook, Adrian Spadaro, Andy Zamitt, Sharon and Bruce Elder, Glenn and Rachel Dellafiore,

Jon and Zoe Hannon, Rockin' Susie, Kevin and Carol Ross, Swing Patrol, and the world-famous Frankie Manning, and Marcus and Barbl.

In 1996, Anne opened her own dance classes in Traralgon. She created a newsletter, and the club Latrobe Rockers was established. She thought this was great, because now she could share the workload, instead of having to do everything herself.

In 2002, Anne decided to run dance classes independently, and started teaching under the name of 'Hooked On Rock' in Traralgon. Peter Field helped teach the classes. Her friend Dale Holloway helped Anne with classes, naming the dance group and designing the logo.

Anne has also taught lessons in Morwell, Boolarra, Tyres, Churchill, Traralgon South and Sale, and has successfully reached out to the smaller communities in her area.

Anne has run Hooked on Rock classes and social dances for many years. She has also organised demonstrations at many community events, entertaining crowds at school fairs and community festivals, elderly citizens homes, hospitals, and business functions.

Anne currently teaches dance classes with her husband Rein Hermens, who does a fabulous job helping out with the lessons, but she knows 'he would rather be fishing'.

Some of Anne's greatest achievements:

1. Teaching continuously for 20 years, with class sizes averaging between 30-70 people every Monday night. Over the years, some of her classes were as small as 15, and some had up to 150 keen dancers! This is when she realised she needed a microphone to teach!
2. Anne's proudest moment as a teacher was watching her dance group perform a demo routine in front of world-renowned Swing dancers and teachers, Marcus Koch and Barbl Kaufer, who were visiting from Germany in early 2000. Marcus and Barbl have contributed enormously to the Swing dance community for over 25 years. Their teaching and performances have influenced many dancers worldwide, and some of us here tonight attended their workshops when they visited Australia.
3. Running her annual rock'n'roll dances: one mid-year, and one at Christmas. This year, Anne also plans to run a New Year's Eve dance.

4. Organising demonstrations for community events and groups, e.g. nursing homes, school fetes, business functions, and fund-raising events.
5. Attending, and teaching workshops at many festivals, e.g. Wintersun, Cooly Rocks On, Ararat, Barham, Sale, and more recently, Gippy Rocks.
6. Meeting so many wonderful people, who share her love of music, and rock'n'roll, and who have supported her over the years. Special mention to Dale Holloway, Sharon & Kees Van Vliet, Diane & Peter Field, Jill & Lindsay Macklin, Tracey & Colin Matthies, Alan Pump, Sandi Smith, and her husband Rein Hermens.
7. And being inducted into the 2018 Hall of Fame!

Ladies and gentlemen, the VRRDA is honoured to induct Anne Truex into the 2018 Hall of Fame...

Annette Niven
VRRDA Secretary