

Annual Irish Set Dancing Weekend, Hall Pavilion, 7-9 October

Now in its 12th year, this popular event attracted around 95 people from SA, Victoria, NSW and the ACT for a weekend of workshops and ceillis and of course, great craic!

The official opening was made by **Mr Graham Hartnett, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Ireland**, at the gala ceili on Saturday evening. Graham was accompanied by his wife Peiyu and his two delightful young daughters, and the family stayed for supper giving us time to chat further with them. Graham has been instrumental in facilitating sponsorship for our event by the Embassy of Ireland. We wish to place on record our very grateful appreciation for this grant from the Embassy of Ireland.

Local band '**Hoddle**' provided the music for three ceillis held over the weekend. People commented on their beautiful music, great instrument mix and that they would love to hear them again. Very pleasing for the organisers as we like to support local musicians wherever we can.

Saturday and Sunday workshops featured learning specific sets with **Marie Brouder** (Melbourne) and **Nora Stewart and Martin Largey** (local), and - for those who are familiar with ISD terminology - 'wheelbarrows and highgates' with **Kirsty and Richard Greenwood** (Melbourne). Who knew there were so many? As is usually the case, the workshops were not just about learning but about having fun and socialising while enjoying music and dance.

The weekend ended with the traditional Sunday evening at King O'Malley's before bidding farewell to new friends and old, with a promise to meet dancing somewhere again soon.

The organisers would like to thank MFS Committee for the use of the Tim Keeble memorial stage. It worked well in the space, and was elevated just enough for the musicians and callers, while keeping them close to dancers.

We would also like to record a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped out over the weekend in many different capacities. Without your help we would not be able to put on a quality event or make it as accessible for our interstate participants. A special note of thanks goes to those volunteers who worked to improve the floor of the Hall Pavilion prior to the event. See the photo of the 'worker bees'.