

13th Annual Irish Set Dancing Weekend

Around 90 dancers from NSW, Victoria, and the Canberra region kicked up their heels at the 13th annual Canberra weekend held at the Hall Pavilion 6 - 8 October.

The event was officially opened by His Excellency the Ambassador of Ireland to Australia, Breandán Ó Caollaí, who attended the Saturday night ceili with his wife, Carmel and several friends. The Ambassador and party stayed to socialise with us over supper and join in some of the dancing; a real treat. The Embassy's sponsorship and support is very much appreciated; increasing the 'standing' of the weekend and helping to attract more dancers.



The three ceilis held over the weekend were danced to the fab music of the Jimmy Mullarkey Ceili Band. No matter how weary we may have been after a full weekend of dancing, once the Band started it was impossible to remain seated.

The Friday evening ceili was dedicated to our very dear and honoured friend John McCauley who very sadly passed away on 23 September. We danced a number of John's favourite sets over the weekend in his honour, sharing our memories and stories of him.

Workshops on Saturday and Sunday covered a variety of sets, a ceili dance, a half-set and stepping embellishments. There was something for everyone with teachers James and Sally Garner (Sydney), Liz Carter and Kate Crowley (also from Sydney) and our own Paul Wayper.

And to keep the energy levels up, yummy suppers and morning teas, and hot and cold drinks.

Thank you to all who came along and who helped to make this year another resounding success. A special thank you to all the many volunteers who gave extra in many different ways. We wouldn't be able to run the event without your contributions.

A few testimonials:

We all enjoyed the weekend thoroughly.

It is lovely having three live music ceilis and the Jimmy Mullarkey Ceili Band is a great band.

Everyone is so pleasant and friendly so there is a great atmosphere all weekend. Loved it!!!

