

# THE ADELAIDE ROCK 'n' ROLL CLUB

## The First 20 Years (part 2)

Dance demonstrations to some of us had become what seemed like a weekly occurrence and by the end of 1995 knowledge of the Club's existence was wide spread. Tuesday Club nights were well attended and the Sunnybrae Restaurant held a regular and very popular Sunday night dance. Our clubrooms became known as the "home of Rock'n'Roll" here in Adelaide.

Membership numbers were steadily increasing and the enthusiastic volunteers who formed the committee organized special events for the members. Articles of two such events were included in Newsletter No.5 February 1996. They read as follows:

### CHRISTMAS FORMAL DINNER/DANCE

Our Christmas Dinner Dance was held in November 1995 at Sunnybrae Farm Restaurant and was attended by approximately 130 of our Club members. Our theme was "formal dress" and how different our rock 'n' rollers looked on the night dressed up in their formal gear. One of our members attended in top hat and tails. We danced the night away to the music of Fahrenheit 451. Father Christmas made a popular appearance armed with his Christmas sack and stocking giving a small surprise to children and adults.

Many thanks go to the organizers of the night and raffle donators (Susie Kratil, Pauline Carey, Wayne & Joylene Eckert, Ken & Loretta) and raffle ticket sellers Narelle and Chad. A great night was had by all and the Club hopes to make this an annual event.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLLING

On the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1995, a few of our Rock 'n' Roll Club members gathered on the back of a truck with our deck chairs and torches to sing Christmas carols. Dressed in our chrissey gear off we went with our carol song sheets (thanks to Ken) to sing and spread the Christmas spirit. We commenced singing in the suburbs travelling to the Brewery display and the city centre. Our Christmas cheer was shared with street crowds and we were greeted with waves, claps and cheers. Thank you to Terry Kolbig for organizing and driving the truck and to all Christmas carollers. We would like to make this an annual event and would like to hear from anyone who would like to participate. We hope this year will be as much fun as last year. More details in a future edition of our newsletter.

*By Narelle Kolbig.*

The members wanted a say in how their Club was managed and so a steering committee was formed to guide the Club to the first Annual General Meeting which would provide the members with the opportunity to vote for the persons that they chose to represent them on a democratically elected committee. The AGM was held at Sunnybrae on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 1997 and the following people were elected for a term of one year.

**President:** Terry Kolbig  
**Vice-President:** Rob Victory  
**Secretary:** Dianne Kolbig  
**Treasurer:** Loretta Kristan

**Committee Members:** Ken Burgess  
Annette Gleave  
Avril Binnetti  
Marlene Wilson

**Public Officer:** Steve Westmacott

## The First 20 Years (cont.)

Through the efforts of Terry Kolbig the Club gained a major sponsor in Australian Air Express.

Karen Finn, the State Sales Manager for AAE attended a Club night and presented the Club with a cheque for \$1,000.00. The Sponsors banner was displayed on the night showing our Club emblem in conjunction with the name and logo of our sponsor.

(The \$1,000.00 donation was used to purchase a PA system and CD player for the Club.)

The banner was to be displayed at all future functions conducted by the Club. Allen Buckley the Chief Executive of AAE attended the Christmas Formal Dinner/Dance and sent a letter to the Club which read in part as follows:

*I travel Australia and indeed the World regularly and attend many "World Class" events. Let me assure your very capable Committee that the entire evening would rate most favourably with my experiences and in particular two (2) professionally run functions by paid staff at the Melbourne Crown Casino in the past two (2) months. .... Well done.*

The Club was well and truly established and structured. Annual special events were created and are still in place today. Member's birthdays were listed in the Newsletter and the member's number lucky draw was started.

Dancing demonstrations were the main source of Club promotion and a formal dress shirt, for both men and ladies, with the Club emblem embroidered on the back was produced. The "up market" clothing and couples dressed in matching outfits and colours were an impressive sight for the onlookers and "general public".

This was also a time when groups of enthusiastic Club members (often 50 or more), would travel to and participate in country and interstate festivals – Wakerie, Wentworth and especially Wintersun in Coolangatta.

The second AGM on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1998 saw some new faces on the Committee: Lynne Flaherty, Avril Binetti, Gino Binetti, Errol Brooks, Shirly DePalo & Bruce Valladares. This was soon followed with the third AGM on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1998 when the elected Committee was as follows:

**President:** Bob Braithwaite  
**Vice-President:** Errol Brooks  
**Secretary:** Helen Till  
**Treasurer:** Grant Pickert

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ROCK 'N' ROLL  
Club*



**Committee Members:** Ken Burgess  
Avril Binetti Shirly DePalo  
Gino Binetti Tim Hosszu  
Bruce Valladares

During the eighteen month period under the leadership of Terry Kolbig the Club became solidly established and experienced steady growth and stability.

----- to be continued -----