

THE ADELAIDE ROCK 'n' ROLL CLUB

The First 20 Years (part 4)

The year 2001 – it was the Adelaide R'n'R Club providing the drive that generated revived interest and enthusiasm for 1950's Rock 'n' roll music. The Club members supported country events and festivals such as the Riverland, Waikerie, Wentworth and Burra. Due to the know-how and contacts of Phil Davis the Club became involved in the **SHOUT** stage play at Festival Theatre which included several high profile entertainers including David Campbell as Johnny O'Keefe.

The Club was heavily involved in the Wintersun R'n'R Festival at Coolangatta. We participated in the street parade with 50 or so of our members and an elaborately decorated float which rivalled the local clubs. We performed well rehearsed skits and created a friendly rivalry with other clubs – Paradise Rockers and Footloose Rockers. The Club was into everything that helped to promote and encourage R'n'R dancing. The foundation of our Club was 50's Rock 'n' Roll but that did not stop our members from supporting the Swing Dance Workshops conducted by the Swing Dance icon Frankie Manning during his visit to Adelaide in 2001. Swing dancing was the fore-runner from which our R'n'R dancing evolved.

At the 2001 AGM a new Committee was elected with Phil Davis as the President. The Club continued to be involved in all things Rock and Roll. People associated with the Clovercrest Hotel organised what was named the **Top Gun Dance Contest**. This was beneficial to R'n'R so the Club became involved in providing both sponsorship and judges for the competition. The resurgence of R'n'R music in Adelaide no doubt influenced the organisers of **BUDDY THE MUSICAL** to bring the stage play to Adelaide Festival Theatre in 2002 – in the past Adelaide was often overlooked for such events. The popularity of R'n'R music was at an all-time high and the Adelaide R'n'R Club was a major contributor.

A special Committee was formed in 2003 – it was called **SWINGSHIFT** and was a subdivision of the Adelaide R'n'R Club. They held club nights on the fourth Friday of every month and organised events to cater for the swing scene people and for the many Club Members who were interested in Swing Dancing.

In 2004 Barbara Hann was elected Club President, replacing Phil Davis who had done a wonderful job during his 2 years at the helm. With Phil's assistance the Club had developed a relationship/collaboration with radio station **COAST FM**. In July 2004 the first Personality Profile article appeared in our magazine. The article featured the one and only Tommy Kaye – Presenter/DJ of **SIX O'CLOCK ROCK** – the radio program heard every Saturday night on **COAST FM**.

The success of the Festival continued.

In 2005 with Richard Przesniak as the head of the Festival Sub-Committee the Club donated \$22,000.00 to the selected charities, Cora Barclay and Novita Children's Services. The same two charities shared the Club donation of \$24,000.00 the following year, 2006.

The Festival had developed into the second to largest R'n'R Festival in Australia. It attracted visitors from W.A., Victoria, N.S.W., Queensland, Tasmania and country S.A.

The following two years 2007 – 2008, the Club donated \$13,000.00 each year to the various selected charities.

The Adelaide R'n'R Club was putting its skills and love and passion for that wonderful era of music and dance to good use – helping those less fortunate.

As the originators had intended the Festival was providing much needed financial assistance to disadvantaged children.



The hard working Festival Sub-Committee presented the cheque each year at the **VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE.**

In 2007 the Club moved to its current home the Anzano Social Club, managed by the loyal Joe Fiala, who continued his sponsorship of the Adelaide R'n'R Club. Tuesday the 18th September was the first Club Night in the new Clubrooms. The beginning of a new era.

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