**TSDAV Dance Composers' Competition 2025**

The TSDAV Dance Composers' Competition was held at the National Folk Festival in Canberra over Easter. The event ran for 2 hours in the Coorong from 12 noon on the Monday. And we thank the National Folk Festival for their continuing support of this event.

Our judges this year were Sheree Greenhill, Judith Baillie, and Lyn Ansell,

and the presenters were Paul Wayper and Don Richmond.

The judges pronounced the **Beatrice Klippel Memorial Trophy** for **General Social Dance** should go to **Cecilia Johnson** of **Melbourne** for **“*The Murray Princess”*** *-*

a 3 couple longways set with representation of the paddle wheels on either side of the set. The **VFMC Perpetual Trophy** for dances for more **Experienced Dancers** was **awarded jointly** to **Peter Foster** of **Canberra** for **“*Stellar Promenade”***a 4 couple square set involving a newly devised move the “Stellar Promenade”,

**and** to **Keith Wood** of **Sydney** for **“*Lightning Ridge Opals”***- a 4 couple longways set presenting the progress of fossicking or mining the rock to the final gemstones.

The dances this year were as varied and challenging as on previous occasions. We had keen dancers ready to tackle them, and dances were judged anonymously. Comments from the dancers were collected, and winners pronounced, and names of the devisors announced after the judges had made and given their decisions.

Paul presented: *The Thylacine Lament* by David Wanless, *Stellar Promenade* by Peter Foster, *The Murray Princess by* Cecilia Johnson, *Lightning Ridge Opals* byKeith Wood, and *What the Duck* by Norm Ellis.

Don presented: *Bundanoon Waltz* byKeith Wood, *Gabriele* by Patricia George, *George's Jig* by Cecilia Johnson, *Grinding the Gears* by Peter Foster, and *The Winding Way* by Kathy Potter. *George's Jig* was commented as a potential for the VFMC Perpetual Trophy in a close battle for that award.

George Ansell announced the winners of the competition in the Farewell Concert on the Monday, presenting a trophy to Peter Foster and Keith Wood. Cecilia Johnson was unable to attend, and the award will be presented to her later.

MC for the event - George Ansell