

# NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

## WebCoordinators Report 2020

Apart from some general housekeeping and making pages more accessible via Tablets and Mobile devices, and updating the regular Square Dance publications, not a lot has changed.

Our old site somehow got corrupted (*again*) and without spending an estimated \$1000 to recover it, I decided to drop it completely and redirect it to our current site.

After the disagreement over the accounts that I made claims for last year, I went and did a full audit of what services we had and what domain names we owned.

The results were interesting, even to myself.

It appears that we have many domain names spread over many suppliers, hence the confusion last year.

1. squaredanceaustralia.com (Original)
2. squaredanceaustralia.com.au (A Duck era)
3. squaredanceaustralia.net (Current \*)
4. squaredance.org.au (Changed – 2019)
5. squaredanceaustralia.org (Current)

Currently being used are no: 5 squaredanceaustralia.org which is where the main site is and No: 3 squaredanceaustralia.net, where all the data such as Convention Archives, Publications etc. are housed.

The reason for this is that these later files are very big and slows down the main site. This way the main site will load quicker and be more responsive.

All the other sites are now pointed back to the main site. That is, if you go to any of these you will always end up at squaredanceaustralia.org.

After much toing and froing, I have managed to get all these domain names in the one place and under one account.

The next question is, do we need all these names?

I would like to note here that we still get about 10% of our hits from No: 1,2 & 4, and the cost is about \$20.00 per year each (average).

Hosting:

This is currently done by "Hostgator", it is cloud based and maybe not the cheapest and so far the Uptime has been very good and the customer service is good as well.

I am always looking for better options come renewal time, but lower cost usually means inferior service or support.

Another great thing about this hosting plan is that, we are able to offer Conventions and Clubs space for their own sites at no extra cost as we have the capacity to host 100 websites on our current plan, thus saving hosting costs.

As a side note: For the personal websites that I look after, I use "SiteGround" and this is an option that may be beneficial to us as it includes free daily back ups, something to consider going forward.

#### Software:

We currently use "WordPress", this is a very powerful CMS and is used by most of the Forbes Fortune 500 companies such as its power and security, and what's more, it is Open Source, meaning its FREE.

However, that is just the foundation. We also have to use plugins, of which some are free, some we have to either purchase or in some cases rent.

These are the things that let us create pages, menus, photo albums etc.

Until recently we have been fortunate to have the assistance of a web design student from South Korea, she was very knowledgeable and a great help. She also used our site for the basis of her degree.

Unfortunately we no longer have her input, but as we are now up and running, major changes are not required.

#### Back Ups and Security:

All our sites are currently backed up weekly to two locations, this is done by a separate program and the cost is about \$50.00 per year.

As a point of note, Our website is also fully compliant with the latest privacy laws in Europe (*about to be introduced here*).

As another side note, clubs that run their own website should be aware of these new compliance laws.

So what does it cost us to run our website each year?

This year there has been quite a few one of costs that were associated with getting all the domains into one account and sorting the billing out.

In the past I have paid these myself as I have done for many years and just made one claim a year for reimbursement,

This has worked well until last year where I was left out of pocket.

So this year I thought I may as well just not even bother making a claim, Which I haven't. Any invoices that I get from now on will be forwarded direct to the Society for payment.

Sorry it has come to this, but to be denied genuine claims is in my book, just not on.

I do have one request,

I would love to get input from other societies or dancers on what they would like to see on our site.

I do have some ideas and almost anything is possible given the resources.

To finish on a brighter note.

I really enjoy keeping the site up to date and are happy to continue doing so.

Kevin Thomas

Web Coordinator

2019-2020