

VRRDA Hall of Fame 2014

JENNY HARTSKEERL

Jenny is someone who has always loved to dance. She first went down to the Bayswater Hotel in 1989, and met Lana Scragg and Mick Gardiner who were running Just Rock. So Jenny started learning rock and roll at the Bayswater Hotel, and then went to Just Rock classes when they moved to the Croydon RSL Hall. She had great fun, and coupled with her love of rock and roll music, it enabled her to really develop her dancing skills.

After a short while, Just Rock opened the Factory in Kilsyth for their classes. It wasn't long before Jenny started teaching, and she began teaching at the Factory. It was a very happy time for Jenny, and she had great fun. Amongst others, she was teaching alongside Lana and Mick, and Irene and Tom Amos. Following this, Jenny then went on to teach rock and roll beginners' classes with Cheryl Harmer at Rock and Soul for a while, and also did some private teaching.

It was at this point, that people started asking Jenny where she was going to dance, so she decided to create a list of venues that people could go to that were interested in rock and roll. In 1989, this list of venues became known as the Rock and Roll News.

During these early years, Jenny wanted a petticoat, but didn't want to pay the price that was being asked for a petticoat. So, what did she do? She learnt to make her own. Armed with her own new petticoat, Jenny began to enter dance competitions. She won some ribbons in the early days, but she always felt too frightened to compete.

So she decided to begin making petticoats and skirts for other people to wear in competitions, or at dances. This was the beginning of her business called Dance with Petticoats, which she also started in 1989. Her business grew, and she also started selling dance shoes, rock and roll memorabilia, belts, frilly knickers, and bobby socks with lace tops, records, and even jukeboxes.

It wasn't long before Jenny's business needed its own space, and so she opened The Rock & Roll Shop in Croydon in 1994. A few years later, she moved a few doors down in the same street and opened a bigger shop because the first shop became too small. Many people who had an interest in rock and roll visited her shop over the years. Like many other people,

Jenny made my first rock and roll petticoat and skirts, and they looked great. **Jenny began holding clothing stalls at many of the rock and roll dances, and festivals, and did this successfully for many years.** Her friendly face was recognized and welcomed everywhere she went, and she ran the stalls with help from her friends, including Cheryl.

Jenny is also a keen classic car enthusiast, and so she bought herself a 1959 Ford Custom line. What a buzz that was! She loves that car. She has completed many hot rod runs and hopes to do more.

As the years went on, the Rock and Roll News just grew and grew, and it became a guide to all 50s and 60s live entertainment venues, and dance classes. Jenny began to include not only rock and roll venues, but also contact details for dance classes, live bands, and DJs, plus many other rock and roll related businesses. The Rock and Roll News is now distributed through 10 businesses or dance classes every month, in addition to personal subscriptions. Where would we all be without our little rock and roll book?

Some of Jenny's greatest achievements:

1. Creating the Rock and Roll News in 1989 to share information with other rock and roll enthusiasts, and being able to celebrate its 25th year of success in 2014.
2. Being able to meet many wonderful people, and make lifelong friends.
3. Creating an opportunity for people to 'strut their stuff' on the dance floor wearing one of her petticoats. Her Dance With Petticoats business is now in its 25th year also.
4. Being able to turn her idea for a rock and roll clothing and memorabilia shop into a reality, and successfully running it for many years.
5. And literally spreading the word that is rock n roll...

Ladies and gentlemen, the VRRDA is honoured to induct Jenny into the 2014 Hall of Fame...

Annette Niven
VRRDA Committee