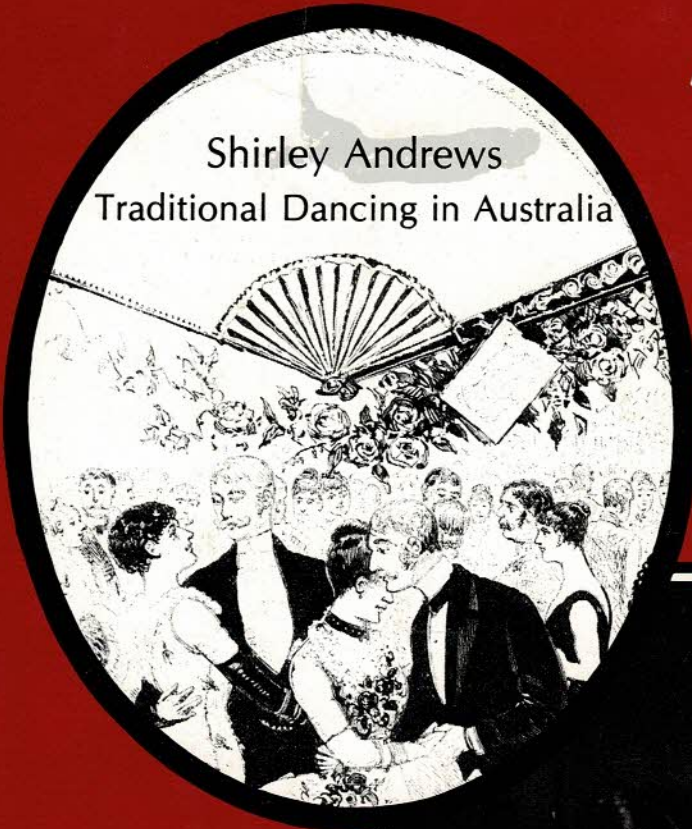


\$10

Shirley Andrews
Traditional Dancing in Australia

Take Your Partners



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Dancing and singing have been essential to the party spirit for as long as man can remember — and the settlers to Australia were no exception! *Take Your Partners* traces the history of traditional social dancing in Australia from the days of the First Fleet. Many of the dances have survived or been revived by the various Folk and Bush Music clubs throughout Australia and form their repertoire.

As new clubs spring up and more and more Australians discover and enjoy the lively dances of their ancestors there is a demand for more dances. In this book are detailed instructions (with diagrams of difficult steps) for 68 dances plus variations, together with a complete glossary of the steps used. These instructions can be followed by anyone who has a minimum knowledge of folk dancing. There is also the melody line of the music for 29 dances with notes and instructions for musicians, and suggestions for well-known tunes that can be played for the other dances and for alternative tunes.

Dances described include the folk dances brought out by the early settlers and danced here, the quadrilles and closed-couple dances characteristic of the nineteenth century and the Old Time (sequence) dances. The last chapter describes the kind of music used in the old days and how this can be adapted for present day use.

This is the first comprehensive study of Australian dances. Originating in a pamphlet published by the Victorian Folk Music Club it has expanded over the years as the author's researches took her to more and more libraries (the earliest days could only be researched through printed sources) and she found yet more elderly informants who could describe to her the dances and dancers of their youth. As *Take Your Partners* is concerned with the history of social dancing in Australia as well as its practice today, it will be of interest to history students as well as to dancers and would-be dancers and musicians of all ages — to all those who are or would like to be involved in the renaissance of traditional dancing in Australia.



Shirley Andrews took a leading part in the organisation of the first two national folk festivals in 1967 and 1968 in Melbourne. These national festivals have been held in different capital cities ever since and have been successful in spreading the knowledge of early Australian dancing throughout the country.

She has always been interested in dancing and was a pupil of Edouard Borovansky. She appeared as an extra with the Colonel de Basil's Covent Garden Russian Ballet Company in their 1939-40 season and danced in early performances of the Borovansky Australian Ballet Company. Shirley Andrews started research into early Australian dances for the Victorian Folk Music Club in 1959. Over the years her investigations have taken her to all parts of Australia and to the United Kingdom and Europe from which so many of these dances came. A founder member of the Victorian Folk Music Club she is also a member of the Folk Lore Society of Victoria and The Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria.

Front cover — A contrast in dancing styles. The artist captured this limp and languid action at a Melbourne Mayoral Ball (*The Australasian Sketcher*, 27 August 1883). Today's dancers prefer to copy the more vigorous style characteristic of the old woolshed dances. The photograph by Trevor Voake is of the dancers at a Geelong Folk Club Ball in 1977.

Rear cover — Elegant little programmes were essential at any formal dance. This unusual one opening out like a fan is in the La Trobe Collection, State Library, Melbourne. Designed for an elaborate ball held in 1867 during Prince Alfred's visit to Ballarat, it had an illustration of the guest of honour on the reverse side, and featured some of his favorite Scottish reels among the dances listed.

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