

Jose Garrido-Palacios originates from Spain and after migrating to Australia in 1961 his family settled in Geelong in the mid 1960's.

Jose has been dancing since 1994 and achieved Silver Medals in Standard, Latin American and New Vogue.

He first competed in Dancesport in the recreational section in 1997 but decided that competition was not for him at that stage.

Karen began dancing in 2002 and achieved gold medals in all three styles.

Jose and Karen met in 2005 and together they decided to take up competitive ballroom dancing. They started in the recreational section in 2007 and then became registered competitors in 2008.

Together Jose and Karen progressed through the grades winning various competitions in Standard, Latin American and New Vogue and were five times Australian champions through the grades. They reached B grade in Latin and A grade in both Standard and New Vogue before they decided to concentrate on the Standard style only.



They have been finalists in the Open level in the Australian Dancesport Championships since 2013, each time placing in the top four; the best result being 2nd in 2016.

In March 2022, they obtained 3rd place in the Masters 3 Open Standard, at the rescheduled 2021, 75th Australian Dancesport Championships held in Bendigo.

They still enjoy competing and hope they can pass on some of their knowledge in the teaching classes they hold.

Along with providing the music and dance program here at the Ballroom, Jose and Karen currently run **Take the Lead Ballroom Dancing**, which includes:

Social Dancing on Mondays, 7:30pm at the Ballroom

Advanced class on Tuesday 7:00pm, Vines Road Community Centre

Beginners and Intermediate classes on Friday nights, from 6:30pm, Grovedale Community Hub.

Private tuition by appointment, contact Jose 0401 673 221