

**Marjorie** was raised in Colac and moved to Geelong in 1955, where she met Graham Kavanagh. Graham and Marjorie decided to learn to dance before attending a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party.

They started their introduction to Ballroom Dancing at Mrs. Silvia Kelly's Lavender Dancing School, which was located in McCann Street where Market Square Shopping Centre now stands in Geelong's CBD.

Dancing soon became a major passion for Marjorie and Graham. After learning the basics, they went on to complete Bronze, Silver, Gold, Star, and Oscar ADS (Australian Dancing Society) Medals in Ballroom Latin, New Vogue, Modern (Standard) from 1958.



They started competing in 1960 and worked their way through Amateur Championships to Open Amateur then Australian Professional Championships. They achieved their first win in Open Amateur in 1963, later winning Australian Professional New Vogue Championship over two consecutive years, 1967 – 1968.

They retired as undefeated Australian Champions after winning the 1968 Professional Championships.

In 1962 they became ADS Student Teachers and achieved the ADS Teachers Diploma in 1969. During this time they judged many ADS competitions. They started teaching Ballroom Dancing professionally in Geelong in 1967.

Graham and Marjorie were married in 1963. Robert Richey (husband of Dancing with the Stars judge Helen Richey) was their best man. During their competing years they made many long term friends with many prominent competition dancing couples.

In 1969 the Kavanagh's travelled to the United Kingdom, having daily lessons from seven times World Champions Peter and Brenda Eggleton.

Following the birth of their son, Craig, they retired from Ballroom Dancing competition and judging.



In 1970 they began what became a 43 year lease of Ashby Hall, in Malone St, Geelong. Over this time they attracted large numbers to their social dancing classes, medal classes, and private lessons.

They also tutored many of Geelong's high school Debutant Balls, and trained couples for the Australian Dancesport Championships.

In the 1970's Graham and Marjorie ran the Geelong Dance Festival at The Palais, in Moorabool St, Geelong.

Sadly, Graham Kavanagh passed away in December, 2011.

Marjorie continues to enjoy teaching Ballroom Dancing.

As well as providing music and dance programmes regularly at the Geelong Ballroom Dancing Club, Marjorie currently operates Kavanagh Dance Academy at 122 Ballarat Rd, Hamlyn Heights.

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings as follows:

Introductory Lessons from 6.00pm

Beginners 6.30pm

Intermediate 7.30pm

Advanced 8.30pm

Private lessons by appointment

Specialising in Wedding Dance tuition.

For further detail, phone Marjorie 0400 081 413