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SWINGING WITH THE STARS RAISES \$19,000

Local 'stars' danced up a storm at Swinging with the Stars on Saturday night. Guests crowded into The Barn and were wowed by the spectacular show put on by our own Limestone Coast stars to the unique sounds of the Limestone Coast Jazz Band.

The 'stars' Rachael Messenger, Jo Fincham, Lisa McCormick, Carolyn Gazzard, Garth Willoughby, Tim Lowe, Cameron Grundy and Steve Raidis with their partners shimmied and shook across the dance floor performing the Quickstep and Cha Cha.

Judges George Haskas, Gretel Sneath and Christine Whales had the difficult task of picking four stars to proceed to the final. It was so difficult to pick the four finalists that the couples had to perform the Cha Cha twice. The four finalists were Rachael Messenger and Ryan Hinshelwood, Carolyn Gazzard and Jason Coleman, Jo Fincham and Matt Cram and Lisa McCormick and Euan Doidge. After serious deliberations the judges crowned Lisa and Euan the winners, followed in second place by Carolyn and Jason.

While the judges were deliberating dancers from M J Dance kept the crowd in the dancing spirit by performing a Jive.

The Barn was buzzing with enthusiastic support for each couple. There was barracking, cheering and banner waving as the couples put their best foot forward to impress the judges and the audience. The crowd showed their enthusiasm and appreciation of the effort all couples had put into their performances.

The People's Choice award was closely fought with audience members voting by giving a donation, in total the People's Choice award raised \$7,393 and was won by Rachael Messenger from Penola.

Due to the generosity of Channel 7 two spots in the live studio audience of Dancing with the Stars were auctioned along with a nights accommodation at Quest Docklands. The auction was also fiercely fought out coming down to two serious bidders, eventually the spots were knocked down to the successful bidder at \$2,100.

After the official proceedings guests enthusiastically danced the night away to the live music provided by the Limestone Coast Jazz Band led by Graeme Lyall and supported by Dale Cleves and Ron Sandilands.

In total Swinging with the Stars raised a staggering \$19,000 for the Stand Like Stone Foundation. This money will be added to Stand Like Stone's trust funds and the interest made from the funds is distributed in the form of grants to charitable projects in the Limestone Coast.

"We'd like to thank everyone who made the night a success by buying tickets and all the sponsors and supporters of the evening. We'd particularly like to thank the dancers for their commitment and dedication to rehearsals and the entertaining show they provided guests on the night. We've been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm from everyone involved in helping to put on Swinging with the Stars", Stand Like Stone Foundation Chairman, Sue Charlton said.

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