

AUSTRALIAN LADIES

This was written in 1967 by a Canadian, Bob Campbell, to commemorate the success of the Newcastle Colleges Scottish Country Dance team in a dance competition. The four ladies in question were Jean Conway, Lorraine Dyball, Margaret Grey and Elma See. In the voting for the "dancers' dance" at the 2005 National Folk Festival this was the most popular dance in the colonial/bush dance scene in Australia, just tipping out Posties Jig.

Formation: Longways set of 4 couples, 3 couples dancing (*see Note*).

Music: 32 bar reel.

BARS DESCRIPTION

- 4 First couple crosses over by Right hand, then casts off two places.
(*Second and third couples step up on bars 3 and 4.*)
- 4 First and third couples RH star once around.
- 4 First couple lead up set holding Right hands, cross back to own sides, cast into second place.
(*Third couple steps down to accommodate this insertion.*)
- 4 First and second couples LH star, ending in own lines but with first couple in second place.

Going into Orbit

- 4 First couple cross over by Right hand, then cast around their corner to their right (clockwise) to face each other up and down the set.
Meanwhile: second and third couples set once and change places with partners by Right hand across the set.
(*First lady is now between second couple facing down and first man between third couple facing up; second and third ladies are in the "man's" line and their partners are opposite in the "lady's" line.*)
- 4 First couple cross up and down the set by Right hand, then cast around their corner to their right (clockwise) to face each other across the set.
Meanwhile: second and third couples set once and change places by Right hand, man to man and lady to lady, along their lines.
(*All ladies are now in the "man's" line and their partners are opposite in the "lady's" line; third couple is at top of set, first couple is in second place, second couple in third place.*)
- 4 First couple cross over by Right hand, then cast around their corner to their right (clockwise) to face each other up and down the set.
Meanwhile: second and third couples set once and change places with partners by Right hand across the set.
(*First lady is now between second couple facing up and first man between third couple facing down; second and third couples are now in their "proper" lines.*)

- 4 First couple cross up and down the set by Right hand, then cast around their corner to their right (clockwise) to face each other across the set.
Meanwhile: second and third couples set once and change places by Right hand, man to man and lady to lady, along their lines.
(All couples are now in their "proper" lines; second couple in first place, first couple in second place, third couple in third place.)
- 32 Repeat all above, with Couple 1 leading from second place, dancing with couples 3 and 4, while couple 2 stand out in first place.

Note: Couple 4 stands out in fourth place for first 32 bars, couple 2 stands out in first place for second 32 bars.