

Extract from the New Zealand New Year's Honours List 2025

For services to dance: *The King's Service Medal*:

Ms Fiona Murdoch has introduced communities to folk dance across 30 years and is an accomplished tutor of international folk-dance.

Ms Murdoch has studied and collected many folk dances, including dances of the Celtic Nations, Balkan and European countries, and historical period dances including Regency and Colonial dances, amongst others. She was a member of the New Zealand 'Maenads' Dance Group which performed in Greece in 2007 and has facilitated many folk-dance workshops and events. She founded Dance Folkus in Hamilton in 1994 and has been teaching these various styles of dance throughout New Zealand. She has choreographed folk-dance demonstrations at the Hamilton Gardens, Waikato Museum, Auckland Folk Festival, National Folk Dance Camps, as well as invited and ticketed private events. An inaugural member of Folk Dance New Zealand in 1995, she has previously served as President and is a Life Member. Ms Murdoch was awarded the Hamilton City Civic Award in 2013 for her contributions to community dance.

Photo of Fiona taken at PIFDG workshop at Point Peron

