

# GRAPEVINE

Volume 20 Number 1

Christmas 2008



Grapevine is the newsletter of the Perth International Dancers. The Group meets at St Margaret's Church Hall in Nedlands (Cnr Tyrell & Elizabeth) on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. Monday evenings begin at 7pm with a 75 minute dance lesson, followed by general dancing until late. Saturdays begin at 10:30am with a 1 hour dance lesson before morning tea and general dancing. For more information please call John (9427 4258 (wk)) or Martin (9326 6077 (wk)).

## President's Report 2008

2008 has disappeared in a blur! Before the AGM that Vice President Steve will handle very ably I am sure, we have our second workshop weekend for the year – with Fiona Murdoch over from New Zealand to teach the group. I am very sad to miss it as I'll be overseas! I hope the rest of you enjoy it.

The PIFDG year started with Christmas Parties – with Last Five Coins playing for the Monday party.

Three dance sessions have run successfully through the year: Monday nights, Saturday mornings and Friday mornings in the hills with Jenny Currell. We have had 38 financial members in 2008.

The group invested in a laptop system for the Monday group in January, with the intention to trial it and replicate it for the Saturday group if/when successful. Thanks to Jenny Currell and Andrew for doing lots of homework on this and finally organising purchase. Huge thanks are due to Jennifer Eyre who spent many hours copying all our CD's into the music database in iTunes on the laptop. There is still a little clean-up to do of the database, but otherwise it is running quite smoothly. The Saturday group considered using the same type of system, but the lack of remote control for the laptop sent them back to the CD player – we will be investigating to see if we can run the laptop with a remote control.

The group was invited to perform for two events: a free multicultural event in the park in Gosnells – we danced with little rehearsal with music group Trio Alegra, on the invitation of Laura – fiddle player. Lots of fun was had by all, despite issues with the musicians volume. We were also invited to dance at Fairbridge Festival with Last Five Coins in April – again workshop and performance went down very well. A new choreography was worked up by

Jennifer and myself to a Last Five Coins piece known as "Three Slips & a Jig"

In April we organised a pair of Pontian workshops at the regular Saturday morning session time. Some very interesting dances were learned including the one that they had performed for us in November at Point Peron.

The performance at Fairbridge brought a few people in to the Beginners Course that ran through May and June on Saturday mornings. Thanks to John Whaite and Sara Freidman who helped me teach the 8 week course.

In July we had Andre Van de Plas visit for a weekend workshop that went down very well – we are still dancing the dances. The favourites were: Blue Racenitsa, Liya, Sde Prachim and Aparanee par.

In September the Saturday group held their 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday party (Floral theme) – to almost record numbers. This was followed after much discussion by a vote to move the Saturday session from the John Leckie Hall to the St Margaret's Hall with a change of start time to 10.30am. The issues were that the floor was not sprung and thus was not healthy for knees, and the winter Minkey Hockey season finally got on everyone's nerves too much! Hopefully the new venue and new time take the class from strength to strength!

Thanks very much to the 2008 PIFDG committee: Steve Hubbard (Vice Pres), Martin Williams (Treasurer), Jenny Currell (Secretary), and committee members Leone Pitman, Nina Thompson, Anne Griffiths, Jenny Bardill and Eve Blair. I look forward to working with the 2009 committee.

Happy Dancing,

**Palenque**



The floral theme was well in evidence at the Saturday Group's 7th birthday party on 6th September



**Next Event: Point Peron 8-9<sup>th</sup> November with Fiona Murdoch**

Dust off your dancing shoes and sleeping bag and send in your registration for Point Peron. See separate flyer or use the tear-off section on the next page of *Grapevine*. It should be a superbly fun weekend.

And another one for your diary:

**Christmas Party Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
St Margaret's Church Hall**

With live music by the *Last Five Coins*

Join us for another great Party Night, bring a plate or drink to share and dress Christmas-y

7pm start for 8pm live music

**Teaching Schedule**

	<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Saturdays</b>
November	John	Sara
December	John	Jenny
January	Jenny	John
February	Eve	Palenque

Subject to change

**Fiona Murdoch, with Linda Blyth**



Picture taken when Fiona was last in Perth to run some workshops for the group.

**It's All in the Words**

Here we continue with our series that looks at the words of some of our regular dances. This time Nigun Atik and Jovano, Jovanke, as taught at Point Peron in 2007 by Peta Lithgo.

Jovano, Jovanke,  
You sit by the Vardar, Bleaching your white linen,  
Bleaching your white linen, my dear,  
Looking at the hills.  
Jovano, Jovanke,  
I'm waiting for you,  
To come to my home,  
And you don't come, my dear,  
My heart, Jovano.  
Jovano, Jovanke,  
Your mother, won't let you go,  
Come to me, my dear,  
My heart, Jovano.

Source: Peta Lithgo – see also  
[http://www.dunav.org.il/lyrics/jovano\\_jovanke.html](http://www.dunav.org.il/lyrics/jovano_jovanke.html)

## *Jenny Currell's Dancing Travels*

### **Israeli Dance Camps – New Zealand 2007, Melbourne 2008**

In Sep last year I attended the New Zealand Israeli dance workshop with choreographer and teacher Shlomo Maman in Nelson. It was a wonderful event and Shlomo a great teacher. The highlight was a session on stage choreography in which Shlomo directed and cajoled some 32 of us into a complex choreography of one of his dances we had just learned. There were people going every which way but after a couple of hours we had the semblance of a performance, and perform it we did, later that evening! Jenni Chohen and I met dancers from many different dance groups across NZ who all get together annually for this special event hosted by a different region each year. We learned about 10 dances, one of which I have taught to the Saturday group - Chatul Rechov a song about an alley cat looking for love! After the camp I had a few days R&R including a great day sea kayaking in the Abel Tasman national park and a soak in hot pools in Hamner Springs followed the next day by sleet, snow and an earthquake! A memorable trip.

I also attended the Hora Israeli camp in Ballarat earlier this year with choreographer Rafi Ziv. We had a record WA contingent of 3 – me, Jenny Shah and Margaret. It was enjoyable despite the cold. We learned lots of dances and had a nice trip to Daylesford on the way back to Melbourne.

### **Balkan Dance - Gary Dawson in Queensland**

On the way back from New Zealand I attended the Bamedan (Balkan and Middle Eastern Dance Camp) in southern Queensland. It was in the main a belly dance and drumming camp but Gary Dawson was there to teach Balkan dance and nearly all of his workshops were accompanied by live music courtesy of Lindsay Pollack and friends. Gary visited and conducted workshops for us in Perth many years ago. He taught mostly village type dances from Macedonia and surrounding areas, but some with a few tricky steps and plenty of challenging rhythms. I also attended a session of Gary's in which he spoke at length about the history of eastern Europe in relation to dance styles, customs and dance evolution. I found it quite fascinating and since have followed up on some of his information in preparation for a similar presentation I gave to a seniors group in the hills recently.

Point Peron 2008 – 8th – 9th November

## **Weekend residential camp**

### **Guest Teacher Fiona Murdoch**

#### **Theme: *Land of the Long White Cloud***

Fiona is an active and founding member of Folk Dance New Zealand. She danced, taught, performed and choreographed with the Perth International Folkdance Group in the 1980's and 1990's when she was a great asset to the group. Fiona has trained in a number of dance styles and has been involved in a variety of ethnic, traditional, and international folkdance style workshops, master classes and festivals, both in Australasia and overseas. This has resulted in her acquiring an extensive and varied repertoire of dances drawn from Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia, Asia Minor and the Middle East.

**When:** 10am Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November

To 2pm Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Where:** Pt Peron Camp School,  
Point Peron Rd, Rockingham

**What:** Overnight Camp in Dormitory  
Accommodation included  
plus Saturday lunch,  
Saturday dinner  
Sunday brunch  
plus workshops & other events

(BYO Bedding, Booze and dancing shoes)

**Who:** All present, past and future members and friends of PIFDG

**Cost:** \$70 for the whole weekend, \$5 discount for members

\$5 early-bird discount for payment on or before Mon 13<sup>th</sup> October

**Why:** To have a good time!

Use your imagination and the theme to dress for Saturday evening.

✂ Tear off this portion and return with payment

Please register and pay by one of the methods below

- By Direct payment to PIFDG BSB 806 – 036 account number 25282 quoting 'PTP' and your name in the payment details.
- To Treasurer Martin at a Mon dance session (or his rep. at other sessions)
- By mail to PIFDG, 86 Hardey Rd, Glen Forrest, 6071 with cheque to Perth International Folk Dance Group.

I wish to attend the PIFDG 2008 Pt Peron Camp

Cost is \$70 for full weekend (includes accommodation, meals and activities as described)

I claim a \$5 members discount / \$5 earlybird (paid by Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Oct) discount so am paying \$\_\_\_\_\_

My special dietary requirements are: \_\_\_\_\_

\*I understand the need to dance within my capabilities and that I dance at my own risk

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Point Peron Program:** ✂

**Saturday**      9am-10am      Arrive and settle in  
                          10am – 12:30  
                          Workshop with Fiona Murdoch  
                          1pm                      Lunch  
                          2:30pm – 5pm  
                          Workshop with Fiona Murdoch  
                          6:30pm-late  
                          Dinner, Entertainment, Dancing

**Sunday**            9am – 10am      Tai Chi with Jo  
                          10:30am            Brunch  
                          12 – 2pm            Dance            Revision,  
                          Review, Requests

Dorms to be vacated by 10am please

For more information please contact Jenny on 9298 0969 or 041 88 99 391. Ask for our detailed flyer with map.

See you there!

✂

**Friday Morning Hills Class Update**

I would love to say my hills group is going from strength to strength but that is not quite the case. We have a dedicated and loyal group of six of us and from time to time we have a few visiting dancers or a new beginner who comes for a week or two. Somehow it seems hard to get these new ones to keep coming – if only they would all turn up at the same time! We celebrated our 4th birthday in July and now have quite an extensive repertoire – how time flies. If you're not busy on a Friday morning and fancy a drive in (or visit to) the hills please come and join us.                      Jenny C.



Shlomo Maman in Action, choreographer, teacher & director of the huge annual Israeli Karmiel festival.



and ... Jenny - sea kayaking in the Abel Tasman national park - nice!

