

GRAPEVINE



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October 2011

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 10am with a 1 hour dance lesson before morning tea and general dancing. There is also a Friday session at 9.30am at Mundaring Scout Hall. For more information please call John (0438 980 603) or Palenque (0423 834 439).

President's Report 2011 AGM

2011 seems to have flown by and I think has been quieter from a PIFDG perspective than the previous year. However, there are still a few things to say:

Workshops

Les Derniers Trouvères, the French Medieval band, visited again and we held a well-attended dance on the Nedlands foreshore on Sunday 30th January in very odd weather – the tail end of a cyclone was crossing the coast at Perth, and we had calm, overcast, humid weather, followed by a raging storm of mosquitoes! Poor Marie was almost eaten alive while playing the bagpipes.

An advanced workshop was taught by John and Jennifer in May as part of Dance Week – with Balkan and Armenian dances taught. This was well received by members who enjoyed a challenge.

We had one major weekend workshop with André Van de Plas as usual in July. The workshop was back at our normal St Margaret's Hall and had very good attendance despite the absence of the winter travellers.

Jennifer & Jenny ran a beginner's workshop in Denmark at the beginning of October. Sadly, despite good advertising, the numbers were low. However it was apparently enjoyed by all who attended.

Jennifer and I tried to get a beginner's class started in Bassendean in second term. However poor registrations meant that this course didn't go ahead at all.

We have had Monday party nights including:

- 🌐 The Christmas Party with Last Five Coins in December,
- 🌐 A 'Welcome to Winter' party on the 30th May,
- 🌐 A Mediterranean Party night on 29th August, that John and Palenque taught at.

The Saturday group celebrated its 10th birthday in September with an "Alphabet" themed party. Party planning included the selection of dances for each letter of the alphabet to be danced on the day.



Saturday 10th Birthday party-goers ↑

Performances

We danced at Fairbridge Festival with a Balkan Dance with the Last Five Coins again this year. We also danced a short performance at Belmont Harmony Day Concert in Kewdale on 13th March, which was well received by the relaxed crowd.

Lastly there was the St Margaret's Day Performance on 13 November, where the eclectic mix of Scottish, English and Hungarian dances as requested.

In February Palenque did two farewell gigs with The Flying Carpathians before they went their separate ways as a band. The Saturday evening 5th February at Kulcha and Sunday 6th Feb at Mandurah Arts Centre overlooking the water. Many people got up to dance at both events, though the audiences were very different!

Palenque has sent out email news and Palenque started a Facebook site for anyone who is interested in maintaining contact in this way. We



have also produced only one hard copy Grapevine again this year. Thanks very much to Martin who has stepped in to pull this together, since returning from his extended European tour.

Unfortunately despite the increased rates for attendance at classes this year, we have not noticeably increased income to cover the higher hall costs. As a result we have been slowly whittling away the available savings despite admirable Treasury duties by John Whaite. The committee has voted to put class attendance costs up again this year, by one dollar per class across the board. This is proposed for implementation in January 2012.

Bad news; Cyndie has recently resigned as Secretary of the committee for personal reasons. Therefore at this AGM I hope we will have another volunteer for Secretary. I am also shortly, if not already, rather busy with a new responsibility – looking after a baby, so have resolved to hand over the Presidency position for the year, to someone who can put more energy into the leadership than I expect to be able to. Therefore I am asking you to consider nominating for one of these positions. The committee meets about 4 times in the year, and deals with business by email whenever possible.

I'd like to thank all those who have been on the Committee this year. Your time has really been appreciated. Special thanks to John for taking on the Treasurer's role, also to Cyndie, Jennifer, Jenny Currell, Jenny and John Bardill, Carolyn, Deb, Jo and Bev. I am willing to remain on the committee and will put whatever energy I can, into continuing to support the Group.

Events coming up: Christmas Parties: 10th December and 19th December with Last Five Coins

Palenque Blair

Some dates for your diary

Invitation

Monday Christmas Party

Monday 19th December

St Margaret's Church Hall

With live music by the *Last Five Coins*

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

7pm start for 8pm live music

Pre-sale \$8 (\$10 for non members)

At the door Members \$10
(non-members \$12)

Saturday Christmas Party
Saturday - 10th December
10am, St Margaret's Church Hall,
Nedlands

AGM – Monday 28 November
8pm, St Margaret's Church Hall,
Nedlands

André July 2011

André's workshops are like putting on a well worn jacket. You know that it will be comfortable and that it will do the job.

André's calm manner and impeccable English (enlivened by a few memorable phrases such as 'on your spot' to remind us that for him English is a second language) put everyone at their ease.

His choice of dances ensured that everyone, even the newest beginner, accomplished some of the dances, particularly those taught on the Saturday morning. His excellent teaching and frequent repetition, the result no doubt of a working life of primary school teaching, ensured that the majority of dancers grasped all the dances in his repertoire. The repertoire, as usual, was a mix that covered many European countries, this year's UK/US contribution being a lively Irish quadrille that will serve us well at parties. Also as usual he asked us to vote for our favourites of the dances taught - the scores are shown on the next page. It can be seen that the Israeli dances, Rokdim El Ha Mayim one of the more complex dances taught at this year's workshop, was a clear favourite.

Eve Blair

Some of the André work-shoppers



Scores for Andre's 2011 dances

Dance	From	Votes
Rokdim El Ha Mayim	Israel	16
Momino Choro	Bulgaria	9
Tora Ora	Israel	8
Valle Vajres e Korces	Albania	8
Ako Umran	Macedonia/Bulgaria	5
Al Je Lijepo	Croatia	5
Cosnencuta	Romania	4
Mavromata	Greece	4
The Muirsheen Durkin	Ireland	3
Hora de Munte	Romania	1
Bobik Dzjour Mi Era	Armenia	1

Some of the dances are available on Youtube, including 'Rokdim' – check them out

Rokdim [Watch Choreographer Rafi Ziv](#)
Cosnencuta [In Romania in the Snow!](#)

Thanks are also due to Eve who once again hosted a Saturday night party for André work-shoppers.

Red Faces - Blushing, yes, but no Brides

Red Faces was held on 10th September at Eve's home. Sadly Eve wasn't there as she was down on the farm picking nuts, but she very kindly lent us her home for the occasion – thank you again Eve. We have been doing it there for such a long time that it's hard to imagine having it anywhere else - the atmosphere is so perfect.

It was a good night - once again our folkies came up with the goods; some lovely items - some well rehearsed and some dreamed up at the last minute. I loved it all. Some call it daggy but that's why it's called Red Faces - I love the way our folkies get creative and make a contribution, so when it all comes together it is a night full of entertainment and fun. I was brought up in the country (Waroona) where my mother played piano in the local dance band, and she used to organise plays and concerts and similar to what we are doing, so I am sort of carrying on the tradition - I guess that's why I love Red Faces.

John set up his video camera and took some great shots which he has put onto DVD. Copies available for loan. Thanks John - and thanks to all those who took part. I hope we can do it again next year.

Leone

Teaching	Monday	Saturday
Nov and December	John	Sara
January	Sara	Jenny
February	Palenque	Jennifer
March	Jennifer	John

Subject to change

The Day The Queen Dropped In

On 29 September, during CHOGM, the Saturday Group were delighted to have a surprise visit by HRH Queen Elizabeth II. It seems a friend of a friend of a friend knows Leone, so Her Majesty had a recommendation. She also mentioned over tea that "We checked out your website - can't be too careful when you're the Queen."

John, who was teaching, immediately recognised her crown and invited her to join a nice gentle hora. Nina and Leone took her hands, and after a few frowns and puzzled looks she picked it up and began to relax. By the end, she was chatting enthusiastically with Leone and Nina about singing, corgis, playing piano, state secrets, red faces and who knows what else!

John demonstrated the hand movements from Irena Staneva's Rodopsko, and we all laughed when she said "Beautiful, but let's be clear. We are the queen here!"

Next was tea break and money, and she was so happy when we told her that the first time was free. It seems that it's a never ending hassle, trying to show that the Royal family is prudent, and "... every little bit helps!" A nice cuppa and more chatting, and she suddenly exclaimed "Is that the time? We're flying out today, and we want to be early, what with the Qantas industrial action and all!" "No worries ma'am!" said Leone, "Qantas always looks after its customers. Stay and watch one real dance."

So the group, with Leone leading, danced Zhensko Shopsko Horo, while HRH looked on with admiration and amazement. "Oh bravo, that's jolly wonderful, but I fear I shall never be able to join in a dance like that." Leone replied "Not everyone has to do the same thing, ma'am. You keep up your queening, and I'll keep up my dancing, and next time you're down this way you can join us again." After a quick hug, HRH left.

It was a wonderful experience for us all, and Leone now has a new Facebook friend. Hurry back, ma'am.

From our social reporter

It's All in the Words!

We continue our series with the words of a dance that Eve revisited in September, '**Jeg gikk meg ut i lunden grønn**', originally taught to us by Fiona Murdoch during her workshops for the Group's Silver Jubilee in 1998. The dance is from Norway – the title translates to 'I went out into the green grove'.

Here are the words:

*I went out into the green grove
And there I met a beautiful girl.
Do you want to be my sweetheart
And come home with me?*

Chorus:

*Sing "fadderi," sing "fadderalla,"
Sing "fadderi" and "fadderalla lei."
"Do you want to be my sweetheart
And come home with me?"*

*In eight days you will have your answer,
When I have asked my mother and father.
Then, if you still want me,
Then I will be yours.*

*But when eight days were over
The girl has taken another man.
She wrote me a letter
She betrayed our friendship.*

*Goodbye my father, farewell my mother,
Adieu my sister and little brother.
I am leaving for foreign lands
Never to return*

Source: Fiona and [Stockton Group Folk Dance Camp](#)

News from Massey-ville - both sides of the coin!

When Pam Massey left Perth 5-years ago to look after her mum, yes 5-years ago, she said "I'll be back"! Maybe, but not yet, and over those years she's had lots of visitors; enough to keep a visitor's book. In putting together *Grapevine* we asked Pam and her guests over the last year to put a few words and pictures together – here it is! Starting with Pam's view.

Pam's Pitch

My Perth visitors over the last 12 months kicked off with Berni Maginn & her brother Paul from London. This was almost exactly a year ago: 15th Oct actually is written in my visitor's book – a present from Glynda on one of her

visits! (must be due for another visit by now Glynda!). So we're talking Oct 2010; they stayed for 2 or 3 days in the B&B up the road as there was 'no room at the inn'. (The 'inn' having only 3 beds and little floor space!!!) I took them on the now infamous '2CV tours of Dorset'. One particularly different thing that happened with them was that as we walked over a ploughed field near a cliff top, we found a big ammonite fossil. This is the Jurassic Coast - the only other heritage listed coastline in the world besides the Great Barrier Reef.



Bath anyone - the Roman Baths in Bath!! ↑

Next off the PIGDG block was Cyndie, in April of this year. She had already done the Dorset tours, so this time we met in Bath, & stayed in the YHA for a couple of nights. We did the main Bath sites, but the highlight for me, and quite likely Cyndie as well, was our cross-country day trip to the very old & pretty thatched village of Lacock in Wiltshire, often used in films. We explored & laughed our way through every village en route! On ya Cyndie!!



Pam & Cyndie alongside the Roman Baths ↑

In June it was Pam Gunn's 2nd visit, & I joined her & her brother & his wife & their friends on a

62' long boat on the Kennet & Avon Canal. They had a week and I joined them for 2 days in Berkshire. Loved it! A new experience for me and as Paula Day has been known to say when harvesting rice in Nepal (as you do!) "when was the last time you did something for the first time in your life?" Locks etc!! Then Pam came back to Dorset with me but unfortunately wasn't well & spent the whole time in bed till I drove her back to her brother's in Surrey.



Looks like a wind-up to me! ↑

In between Pam G, came French, German & English visitors, but the next PIFDancers were the Williams's at the other end of the English 'summer'. This was a fleeting visit with Pam W's uncle from Bournemouth, 45 minutes away. We had caught up at the Gennetines festival in France last year, but we had another quick catch up on the decking outside the lounge-room, while mum & uncle chatted together.

To quote their comment in said visitors book, 'Blown away by the mellowless & yellowness of Spitfire Close!'

Love having visitors & catching up with all you PIFDiggers! SO WHO'S NEXT !!



The scene in Pam's hall - the ducks have it ↑



Doesn't look very narrow does it?! ↑

Pam Gunn's Perceptions

I went to see Pam Massey during my trip to England in July. We were on a narrow canal boat, part owned by my brother Rob, on the Kennet Canal between Hungerford and Aldermaston. Pam M. had great fun working the locks, steering the boat and eating!



I was sick from the time Pam joined us on the boat 'til after she dropped me off at my brother's house 4 days later. Of course I was really glad that she took to canal boating 'like a duck to water' and was able to take over my share of lock duties and boat cleaning at the end of the trip, while I lazed around trying to regain energy and stop coughing! Just what friends are for!

Cyndie's Side

Pam and I met in Bath, she driving her little green car [not the CV] from Dorset and me arriving by train after visiting my twin in Cambridge. We stayed in the attic part of the YHA hostel climbing stairs too narrow to cart a suitcase, and from there we explored Bath and the countryside: narrow roads leading up and down dale, the narrower the better and off the usual highways. As we kept driving around in circles looking for the nice village we had seen the day before we kept seeing a sign post to 'Holt'. We never did find the village itself.

Another memory is of Pam sharing a posh lunch at the tearooms of the Bath museum. The tiny portion of... was it paté or vegetable roulade? I can't really remember as it disappeared so fast!! Later there were hefty meals at taverns where the local ale and produce were the norm.

This pic of Pam tells all in the canola which now grows in patches all over the UK and Pam's love of yellow.



We turned up with yellow crocs and a yellow Tour de France broly – The Massie matched the crocs and trumped the broly with a Tour mac – *un imperméable* – given to her last year in France by her friend Jo. ↓



The tearooms of the Bath museum ↑

Williams' Witterings

We made it to Crossways in our motor home early in August, fitting Pam in between our return from Europe and a wedding in Berkshire. We picked up an uncle in Bournemouth – who Pam M described as one of the last 'true gentlemen' and we spent an afternoon surrounded by yellow – the yellow ducks actually won out over the 2CV's!!

We loved the old style clockwork winder on the back of Dolly – her 2CV, although the car looked as though it had spent too much time parked near the sea!



Look out for a more detailed insert with this Grapevine of Pam and Martin's Six-month Sojourn to Europe this year.

Other 'trippers' this year include Jo (South America) and Tony, who's just returned from 3-months in Japan. Ask them about their trips, and ask Cyndie about **the wall** too!

Memberships 2012

As we approach the end of the year it's time to think about renewing your membership for 2012. Some members already have!

Forms available at dance sessions

Let's face it!!

Check out the Group at <https://www.facebook.com/Groups/144961015564127/> A pre-requisite is that you already have a Facebook account.