

# GRAPEVINE



Volume 26 Number 2 October / November 2014

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 7:15pm with a 60 minute dance lesson, followed by general dancing until 9:15. 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)**.

**Prez Sez** from John Bardill

G'Day and welcome to the end of another successful year. At the outset I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee who, in addition to their own everyday personal, family and professional commitments, have worked hard throughout the year to keep everything running smoothly.

Similarly the efforts of Palenque and Jennifer in mounting Introductory courses at Bassendean and representing the Group at the market place need to be acknowledged as does Jennifer Eyre continuing with the Mundaring Group. Little has changed since the last Grapevine in May/June. We have had another successful André workshop and several theme parties one of which was Saturday's successful 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Declining membership numbers and the reasons for it continue to be a source of concern. Our strategies to attract new members have been boosted by advertising in the local newspapers. We even have top billing on the Ausdance web site! Without question the performance group continues to keep our presence in the public light. Overall the results of our efforts can be measured as a handful of telephone enquiries and an occasional visit by interested members of the public wanting to see just what it is we do. No one said it was going to be easy. We have had several new members join us this year and I take this opportunity on behalf of all members to welcome them and trust they will continue to enjoy the fun and challenge International Dance provides for us all. Once again thank you to one and all for your support. Apologies and acknowledgement to anyone I have not extended an appreciation to for their commitment and efforts throughout the year, or events missed.

"Thank you ballboys; Thank you players; Thank you umpires".

To one and all have a safe Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

I hope to see you at the AGM on 24 November and at the various Christmas parties.

All the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

**Dates for Your Diaries -**

**Saturday Christmas Party**  
**13<sup>th</sup> December at 10 am**  
**St Margaret's Church Hall, Nedlands**

**Monday Christmas Party**

**Put on your Xmas gear. Bring a plate and a drink to share**

**15<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm start for 8pm**

**live music with The Last Five Coins**

**St Margaret's Hall, Cnr Tyrell&Elizabeth**

**\$10 for members and non-members**

**Last dancing sessions 6<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**Last Hills session Friday 12<sup>th</sup> at 09:30.**

**Dancing restarts Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> & Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

**Events since the last *Grapevine***

**Saturday Group 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

The Saturday Group celebrated 13 years of dancing on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. Most of the regulars met to make it a very enjoyable event. It seems like only yesterday that it kicked off!! Well done to everyone who has supported the Saturday session over the years and particular thanks to John and Jenny Bardill who have been stalwarts of the Group and have put in so much effort with great enthusiasm.



## Supporting Hora Shalom Partner Dancing

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, Eve and Palenque taught three dances at the Hora Shalom Saturday afternoon partner dance session.

**Zot Yerushalaim    This is Jerusalem**  
**Cholot Midbar        Desert Sand**  
**Gan Hashikmim      The Garden of Sycamore**

A note from Sara: Israeli partner dances have been a very important part of Israeli dance, since the birth of the Israeli dance movement in the early 1940's. Not everyone likes partner dances, and some people have problems with the idea, but as an Israeli dance teacher, I like to try to keep some partner dances alive. So many thanks to Eve and Palenque who have done such a good job in reviving these three dances. Shalom Sara. Why not come and join us; after the Perth International Saturday session.

The photo below shows our illustrious teachers sporting their thank you presents - Hora Shalom T-shirts. A big thank you from Sara.



## Down by the Riverside

Well actually down by Matilda Bay! As part of the Queen's Birthday week-end celebrations members headed for the river on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. for some dancing in the fresh air. It wasn't warm, but then neither was it cold. We were a bit light on in terms of dancers but a good time was had by all, especially by Pam & Martin's 3-yr old grand-daughter, Tessa. Matilda Photo below ↓



## Red Faces 2014

Red Faces took on a different image this year, being at the hall, which we divided with red curtains, creating a lovely red glow and cosy atmosphere - I was delighted with the result. You will remember we have always held this event in our own homes, starting at my place, then Eve's, then Pat's - this time it was so different, resulting in not having to turn anyone's home upside down and inside out, and allowing more room for performers and audience - I found it to be a great venue and I am sure a relief for Eve and Pat who have been such wonderful hosts in the past.

Jenny and John Bardill and Peter offered to help me set up, but goodness me THEY DID IT ALL! Not only setting up but also cleaning up afterwards, John and Jenny taking on the stage management, the lighting and the music, and John the MC-ing - it makes me wonder "what did I do?" When the concert was over I looked around and everything was gone - the dishes, the chairs and tables, the music player, speakers, the curtains - everything! - even my keyboard was packed up. So a HUGE THANK YOU to the Bardills and Peter for the enormous amount of work that they put into this great night, to Debra for making the curtains, and to Art for recording the whole event, which will soon be available for our viewing.

And a HUGE THANK YOU to all the performers who dreamed up so many entertaining items, which included the now famous opening number Can Can, followed by the so cute Pirate Shanty, the very engaging children's numbers with comedy sketches, song and dance, piano and violin recitals, then the adults took over with some crazy song and dance numbers, a jungle tale, some whacky instrument playing, a little bird story, an exotic dance duo, a bed-time story, some ukulele/song players and the very funny PJ's.

Some pretty good talent there.

There were quite a few absentees this year with many of our members travelling overseas, so next time we might pick a date later in the year - say October-ish when everyone is back home.

It was all good, so once again Thank you everyone - see you next year.

Leone

## It's All in the Words!

The favourite dance from André this year by a long way was Bakapayim. It had only a few words, with a nice sentiment, which translate to:

"Clap you hands, Clap your hands.  
This is the moment to love.  
One must be happy, life is a gift"

## News from our Travellers

As usual, quite a few members and friends of the Group have been travelling in 2014 to "countries that are not Australia". Thanks to all the contributors to this issue of *Grapevine*, John Whaite, Pat Charlton, Gisela Gmeinder and Martin and Pam Williams. Fuller versions of the following summaries are on the Group's web site.

**Tony Hoar** was recently heard from helping someone to celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in Bali. Likely to be back in Perth before you read this!!

**Gisela** headed for Munich in August and soon joined her brother for a week of hiking near Filzmoos in Austria, before travelling home to Erlangen to visit with siblings & her sick mother.

She's also been labouring, renovating an apartment - which included shifting rubble, trimming bricks and jackhammering floors!!

The labouring will be interrupted by a 4-week trip to Ecuador in November including a 10-day cruise around the Galapagos Islands.

Then it will be back to a cold Germany for Christmas and the Christmas Markets. She is dancing at the 'Tanzhaus Erlangen' and still dancing the Tango.

She's due back in Perth in mid March.

**Louise** and Laurie: At the time of the last *Grapevine* they were in Ethiopia. After returning home and sorting out some health problems for Laurie, the intrepid pair recently headed off for Rajasthan, on their way to Nepal for some trekking. Pam Gunn had a call at 5 am on 7<sup>th</sup> November to advise that she should have "no concerns about the safety of Mr and Mrs Scott". Which means that they avoided the recent catastrophic Himalayan avalanche and that resulted in the deaths of over 40 trekkers and sherpas!

## Beginners' Course

Palenque & Jennifer trialled introductory dance classes in Bassendean on a Wednesday night this year. In term 3 they ran a course as part of the Town of Bassendean Leisure Class series. They had 5 registrations, but numbers dwindled and the class won't be able to continue in the present format. They may consider changing evening for next year. They'll see how much energy they have!

**John Whaite** spent several months at festivals in France, Barcelona and at a gypsy festival in Serbia. Here John shares some of his 'picture'. See details [on-line](#).



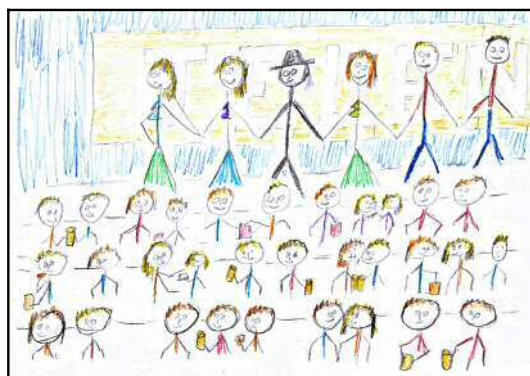
↑ Le Son Continu festival - John dances outside the Chateau d'Ars



↑ Gennetines Grand Bal - dancing "Polka with Horns" from Lithuania



↑ Tortosa Renaissance festival - dancer Ibrahim Assan



↑ Gucha Trumpeter's festival - dancing at the back of the stadium

**Pat Charlton** I went to the “Grand Bal de L’Europe” Festival, at Gennetines with Laurel in July - the 18<sup>th</sup> to the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>. We met up with Martin & Pam and John Whaite, who were also there. This festival has a long tradition and is attended each year by thousands of people.

The festival site has many enclosed dance areas, halls and stage areas. Dance workshops are held throughout each day with “bals” held in the evenings. Workshops typically run for two hours with 6 or 8 run concurrently. At night various bands/musicians play live dance music which large crowds of people dance to. It’s all very full-on and there are many and varied teachers. In the day dances taught included dances from different regions of France, and other dances such as Hungarian, Israeli, Greek, English and Irish set dances. These vary from year to year. Music is played live with instruments including guitar, hurdy-gurdy, piano accordion, violin and mandolin.

Food is available on-site and the food tent and outside tables offered a chance to meet people. Not all were French with many people coming from England, Germany, Spain and other countries. Despite language differences, communication was good and a relaxed friendly atmosphere was enjoyed. **Pat**

**Martin & Pam Williams** We toured France, Spain and Portugal by motorhome. Portugal was our new country for 2014 and we visited many out-of-the-way places that are off most travellers’ itineraries.

We had a few challenges - things such as a flat battery, loose fuses, a shredded fan-belt, a PC that would not boot up, a blown inverter and spillages. C’est la vie!

In 4-months away we covered 10,950 km on good roads and with good drivers on the whole - so much better than Perth drivers.

The key **dance** event was the ‘Grand Bal de L’Europe’ held near Gennetines, in central France. We’d been there 4-years ago so we knew what to expect! An intense 8-day dance extravaganza involving hundreds of workshops and ‘bals’ that ran from breakfast time to well into the early hours. Lots of focus on French dance but also teachers and workshops from Turkey, Israel, Romania, many UK regions and (our favourite) Greek.

We saw so many wonderful places that we can’t remember half of them!! Some favourites include the cathedral at Amiens, reflections of Argenton in the river Creuse, the old town of Ainsa, Albarracin, the cliff-top city of Cuenca, the twin windmill sites of Campo de Criptana & Consuegra, the fascinating town of Almagro and the fabulous hilltop convent/castle of Calatrava la Nueva. Cordoba, Avila and Segovia were brilliant too.

Details and some pictures linked on-line.

## **André’s Workshop 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

André Van de Plas came to Perth on the first weekend in July and as usual stayed in Cottesloe as a house guest of Eve Blair. This location allows him to take coastal walks and to have coffees by the beach, thereby combining his twin loves of our beaches and teaching Perth International Folk Dance.

André is a gifted and charismatic teacher. For months prior to his visit, people had mentioned him using words such as “this is one of André’s dances from previous years” which then echoed through the magnificent St Margaret’s church hall.

André did not disappoint the group during the one and half days that he taught. He is a kind man with a rarely found ability to teach complex folk dances in a simple way, which helps keep peoples’ attention.

André commenced teaching by giving a brief history of the dances to be taught, including their country of origin (e.g Sardana Curta from Spain, Dona from Bulgaria). Then he placed large cards with the name of the dance in the centre of the room. This helped to reinforce the name of the dance and keep the group focussed. Step by step he methodically took us through simple dances suitable for beginners finishing with more complex dances on Saturday afternoon

July is traditionally our coldest and wettest month here in Perth. However, we were warm, happy and learning dance from André. We feel very privileged to learn from one of the best international teachers. The sun shone brightly at lunch time on Saturday and in the afternoon André taught us new dances, including the more complex but nevertheless popular Israeli dance Bakapayim. Again, he patiently broke the dance down into sections and sequences and people were able to grasp the dance in its entirety. His enthusiasm never wavered.

André is passionate about international folk dance and likes coming to Australia. On the Saturday night Bev kindly invited members to share a meal with him at her beautiful Swanbourne home. Bev’s shoes-off policy in the home meant that a prize was on offer by Bev and her family for the best slippers brought. Eve took out the chocolate prize and promptly shared it with the group, with her fluffy sheep slippers – a rather impressive gift that she had never previously worn! André is a keen soccer fan and was of course very interested in the fortunes of the Netherlands in the World Cup - there was a quarter final game on that night at 4am Perth time, which he got up early to watch!

**Rebecca Coghlan**

André taught 12 dances, the favourites being Sardana Curta (Spain) and Jiana Lui Ana (Romania) which both got 6 votes and Bakapayim (Israel) which got 10 votes from attendees.