



Grapevine is the newsletter of Perth International Dance. The Group has recently been 'meeting' and dancing via Zoom and has begun to return to its normal Monday and Saturday dance sessions at St Margaret's Church Hall in Nedlands and Friday's in Glen Forrest Hall with some restrictions. PID supports Covid19 safe practices. Check us out on <http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/> or email [info@perthinternationaldance.org.au](mailto:info@perthinternationaldance.org.au)

## Committee News

The Committee has been working hard as the restrictions have lifted and the rules have changed - seemingly every week. We're pleased to say that things are now moving quite quickly in the right direction and we are slowly working towards our normal dancing lives! The Zoom sessions already seem like yesteryear and even the session at the river, covered below, now feel like a long time ago ..... and our Saturday afternoon 'Intro to International Dance' sessions restarted on 4 July at St Margaret's. A 4:15 start for one hour.

A reminder that we've recently had 2 resignations from the Committee and we would really appreciate anyone putting their hand up for one of these positions. Please talk to one of the committee or email us if you're willing to give it a go.

Things are still pretty fluid at the moment - so look out for further emailed advice and don't forget to check on the PID web-site. <http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/>

## Ready, Set ... Go!!

As we said in the last *Grapevine*, the second in this special Covid19 series, we did restart the dance classes at Nedlands on Saturday 30th May. Monday sessions followed on 7th June.

In this issue we cover those hop, step, steps back to dancing at St Margaret's, some of the background to those extra Zoom sessions and some more of your thoughts on lockdown.

Confinement seems to have triggered a flurry of poetry-writing and we include some of those poems in this issue. There's also an old one from way back when!

.. and a reminder that the new teaching roster for the next few months is:

	Monday	Saturday
August	Eve	Maria
September	Jenny C.	Sara

## A Stepping Stone .. . . . at the river

One PID's first moves out of lockdown was at the river on 10<sup>th</sup> May. It coincided with Mother's Day so numbers were not as good as they might have been but it was an opportunity for about ten dancers.

It's remembered here in rhyme by Pam Massey:

So pretty at Matilda Bay  
 With lots of people there  
 The sun shone on Mothers day  
 but there was space enough to spare

So we dodged around the gumnuts  
 Dancing on the grass.  
 Tripped over a nutcase  
 and fell on my arse...

Music was contagious  
 Picnickers liked it too  
 As we danced our mix of dances  
 In passer-by full view....

Our social distance circle  
 Where no-one touched at all.  
 But 10 of us went dancing,  
 & we all had a ball!



## Wow, That was a long Month's Teaching!

The teaching schedule for this year had Maria teaching on Saturdays in March and all went well at the start of the month. Normal distancing and lots of hand holding until the rules changed.

The session on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> did go ahead, albeit with a much smaller number of dancers, lots of personal space and lots of hand washing. I think that that's when the hand sanitiser first made its appearance.

The rest of March was a write off and after the lockdown and the Zoom sessions Maria finally got to finish her March teaching on 30<sup>th</sup> May!!

Definitely the longest teaching month that we've ever had!!

Maria's dance descriptions ... ..

### Svatba

A dance from the Pirin region of Bulgaria, taught by Belço Stanev at a workshop in Bulgaria in 2010. The name means 'wedding'.

### Papatya/Gul

A Turkish dance taught by Ahmet Luleci, a Turkish teacher now living in the USA, at a workshop held in Canberra in 1999. Papatya means 'wildflower' and Gul means 'rose'.

### To Milo

A Greek dance choreographed by Tineke and Mauritz van Geel, and taught in Canberra in 2013. The title means 'The apple', and the song begins: 'When the apple falls to the ground, people do not put it in their mouth. They will throw it anywhere, let it wither like a soul.'

### Siciliano

A couples dance from the island of Sicily. It comes from the Hakketon collection of dances.

Maria Jenkins



Maria ending her March teaching - Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May

## Zooming around

The course of folk dance never runs smooth. Not with all the hops, lifts, shimmies, yemenites etc. Except maybe those gliding Russian dances. But any hint of smoothness was despatched by Covid-19.

Suddenly our highly anticipated Romanian workshop was gone, along with all our regular classes, and much of our social life.

Who had heard of Zoom before the pandemic? Not a lot of PID dancers! Within 2 days of the start of the lockdown, dancers were recommending Zoom sessions. It was time for an old dog to learn a new trick (and not get up to its old tricks?).

When we first tested Zoom, it was awful. It took some time to find our 'least ugly' strategy - to create a video and play it back over Zoom. After we had the thumbs up from our crash test dummies (aka the PID committee), we went live on Saturday 2 May.

It was a short run of only 5 sessions before we could restart Nedlands, but it was eventful. We had several visitors who we rarely see - Steve Hubbard from Adelaide, Michaela Hill from Melbourne, Palenque from Albany - and some of us joined the Adelaide group Zoom sessions. The Adelaide mob danced Somogyi Karikazo slightly differently to us - their version matches the notes, but ours is good for our village.

We also started using Zoom for committee meetings and chat sessions. Again, it was awful when we started, but with a little experience we found it usable. It lacks the richness of facial expressions, and it can be confusing when everyone wants a say, but on the other hand it has the convenience of internet shopping, and we don't need to book and pay for a venue.

We'll probably continue to use Zoom for committee for a while, and we now have lots of material ready for the second wave.

So, thanks Jenny Currell and PID committee.

Welcome everyone to 2020!

**John Whaite**

PID's **Final Zoom** session .. the fifth .. held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May .. featured the following dances .. ..

Hora Fetelor
Bachkovsko Horo
Sibirski Chorovod
Hora In Doua Parti
Tamzara
Ikriotikos
Glasiat Na Pirin

Well done teachers and everyone who Zoomed in!

### **Thoughts on the escaping the lockdown .. ..**

Not really a big problem for me and in fact quite a relief in many ways. Getting out into the garden and into the fresh air was more than people in flats or in most of Europe could do. In France they were fined about \$200 for being out on the street without a signed declaration!

It was a time to do things, to attack that forgotten list of projects and not to feel guilty or obliged to do certain regular things.

I have missed flying off on our annual "let's go off for a few months and avoid the winter" type trip, but not the stress of the planning.

The lack of traffic was great and the cheap petrol was really good although frustrating with nowhere to go. All history now as the roads seem to be as busy as ever!

The lack of aeroplane noise overhead and new habit of fewer shopping expeditions just have to be good. I'm just not a shopaholic; I know what I want to buy and when I want to buy it. If I was honest I'd have to admit to having enough clothes to last a lifetime.

Yes, I missed dancing and a library that operated normally but I never did use bars, restaurants, barbers, betting shops, tattoo parlours and all those other 'essential' services. Oh, and I don't do sport so I didn't miss that :->

We had a lot less unsolicited phone calls - and a lot less spam for some reason. Intuitively you'd think it would be the opposite.

I'm still working my way through that long list of projects!!

**Martin Williams**

### **Pam Massey's - Second 'See19' Poem**

Do you see19 things  
This virus kills. Our planet brings.....  
Open eyes while life is still  
And learn from this. It's not a drill...

Air is clearer, water too.  
Virgin's grounded. What to do?!  
UK under bluer sky  
Venice waters, just think why.....

India sees stars for first time  
Pollution clearly is a crime.....

Now its very clear to see  
Its not all about economy.  
Life goes on. We grow our own:  
Self-sufficiency from home.

So please lets not return to ways  
unhealthy in our former daze....  
of greed & wealth & take take take  
We've one more chance for goodness sake...

Lets do it now and do it well  
Once we're over this dark spell.  
Kinder folk & planet cleaner  
Healthier, and living greener.....

**Pam Massey**

### **COVID 19 and ME!**

I have to say that, so far at least, the C19 pandemic has not negatively impacted my life in the slightest. In fact, I have enjoyed spending more time at home and meeting up with one friend or another for walks and bike rides. At home I received and forwarded more videos on Whatsapp than ever before, I learnt how to connect with Zoom sessions and was doing this several times a week and when out of the house I visited some places in Perth for the first time. One of the things I have done each week is watch a performance in the Virtual Music Lounge on the Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic website. A few years ago I did one of their expeditions around the Galapagos and so I regularly receive their emails. The Virtual Music Lounge is a weekly live stream with an artist/s who have performed for L.E./N.G. in the past. The home countries these artists have streamed

from are Ireland, Rapa Nui, Trinidad, Scotland, Iceland, South Africa, French Guiana, Fiji and Sweden. Our Perth time zone means that the live stream is at 4am each Friday. Twice I made the effort to watch the live stream but, seriously, it is not conducive to my sleep needs and so now I view the recorded sessions. C19 has negatively impacted professionally and financially on a few friends of mine, which is not good. But from adversity springs creativity and innovation and it has been exciting to hear about so many amazing things done by individuals and businesses in Australia and around the world. Finally, I would like to thank John and Jenny for their wonderful and generous spirits in regard to our virtual PID sessions!

**Paula Day**

### **Our Last Performance !!**

The Group did manage to squeeze in one performance before the Covid19 curtain came down. The 20<sup>th</sup> February wasn't a day to forget not just because it was our last performance but because it was about 38°C; so, so hot. The occasion was part of Curtin O-week - the uni-orientation day which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> reason that we had a small audience - they were checking out their courses. We were melting!



We did however enjoy dancing the following programme put together by Jennifer:

W Moim Ogradescku (Poland), Opas Horo - the ladies and the men's versions, (Bulgaria), Jiana de la Tilisca (Romania), Ovide Yerik (Armenia), Hopa Horonu (Turkey), Ajšino Oro (Macedonia & Albania) and Salamati (Israel).

### **Workshops or no Workshops - 1**

2020 was to have been a special year for PID with not just one but two workshops. Sadly we had to cancel the Maius Marcu event in late-March when he and his wife had to return home. We do however have the music and the notes so we have been learning many of their dances at classes.. More to come!

### **LOCKDOWN**

So silent these nights  
With Party bars closed  
Upside down chairs seen through windows  
Trains pass empty of passengers  
No ambulance sound  
So silent these nights

The sun shines on our outside patio  
Orange roses as centrefold  
The cat curls up, fur well attended  
Leaves of the Robinia fall  
Leaving its signatures in the blue sky  
As birds land now seen

My grandson is texting  
[I can honestly hear him]  
Faces square off in our writing class zoom  
A strange clash of words  
As we learn an old etiquette  
Raise your hand –like in school

Children play hopscotch  
A piano next door hints of Ravel  
We do se do down the footpath  
And wave from our safe borders  
Smiling at strangers  
This new way of touching

But in those far lands  
Brazilian coffins make dominoes  
Brave Italians sing from balconies  
Their loved ones held captive  
Silenced by ventilators  
Under eerie blue lights

Our world breathes again  
With our antipodean escape  
We watch from safe couches  
Those loved ones out there  
And we long for the day  
They are silenced no more.

**Cyndie Innes**

### **Workshops or no Workshops - 2**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 workshop, Armenian / Gypsy, in November with Tineke and Maurits van Geel also had to be cancelled. But fear not, you can join in with this years US Stockton Folk Dance Camp - virtually. Check out details in <http://www.folkdancecamp.org/2020-virtual-stockton-folk-dance-camp> **July 11th - 18th**

And if it's Armenian culture that you are after then check out the five half-hour programmes on SBS On Demand:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1709195331620>