G R A P E V I N E

Volume 33 Number 1 December 2021

Grapevine is the newsletter of Perth International Dance. Dance sessions are held Monday eve. & Saturday afternoon at Dalkeith Hall, Waratah Ave in Nedlands; Friday's [9:30am - 11:00am] in Glen Forrest Hall; Mondays [12:30 - 2:30pm] at East Fremantle Tennis Club, Jerrat Dr. and in Albany. Details on http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/ or email info@perthinternationaldance.org.au

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Committee Changes - the 2022 committee is:

John Bardill	Chairperson
Jenny Bardill	Deputy Chairperson
Maria Jenkins	Secretary
Jenny Currell	Treasurer
Anne Griffiths	
Louise Scott	
Martin Williams, and	
Pam Massey	

Restart Dates for 2022

Saturday	8th January
Monday	10th January
River Group	Monday 31stJanuary
Hills	Friday 4th February

Party, Party, Party - Christmas Party Dates

Monday 13th with the Last Five Coins - yes, live music. Starting at 7:15 - be there, don't be late and please bring a plate to share.

The theme is **Starry Starry Night**!

Friday Hills Party - 10th December 9:30am

Saturday Party 18th 1:45 - 4:45

The theme is '**Baubles and Bells**'

Thanks John ..

With a new year and a new Committee and a changing of the guard it is an good time to say a big thank you to John Whaite.

The covid pandemic impacted on all aspects of the community including recreational activities such as folk dancing.

During his tenure as Chairperson, John enabled the group to survive the lockdown and restrictions, by his innovative use of technology e.g. zoom dancing workshops with himself and Jenny Cuŕrell presenting dance favourites.

His use of regular zoom commitee communication also enabled his supporting committee to discuss and decide matters related to the group.

Our many thanks and appreciation John and the outgoing committee for their hard work and endeavours.

John Bardill

Are they Robots or Daleks?

When we danced at the Multicultural March event at the Perth Town Hall this year we included a slide show of folkloric costumes. Searching for suitable pictures to use reminded us of those wonderful shots of ladies in long elegant costumes gliding across the stage. They seem just to float!

We may not have floated quite like them!

Check out these links of Berozka performing Birch Tree Dance - Berozka and Березка

2021 Chairperson's Report

Last year was a challenging year for PID, and despite the challenges, we survived quite well.

What started many years ago as a small group of people with no formal structure, getting together once a week to learn simple dances, in a hall hired on a handshake, dancing barefoot to audio cassette recordings and money collected in a jar is now an Association with a community obligation, seven sessions most weeks, contracts for hall hire, music licensing, insurance and a web presence.

Last year, things were complicated by Covid. This year, we saw the end of our use of St Margaret's Church Hall. Our home for many years, the church ended our lease and we had to find another venue. After evaluating more than a dozen halls, we settled on Dalkeith Hall, with occasional relocation to Nedlands Uniting Church Hall. I think we now realize how fortunate we were with St Margaret's Hall!

Covid has impacted our activities. We lost the annual workshops with visiting teachers, which rallied members and other dancers alike and helped with recruitment. Social distancing prevented hand holding which changed the whole dance experience. Hopefully vaccination will soon allow us to return to normal. Covid also complicated billing and session management, and I'd like to acknowledge the exceptional effort put in by our Treasurer.

We survived the year, with a manageable financial loss. Unfortunately, we've made no progress on our Association's sustainability.

We have a core of older dancers who are highly skilled and keep our sessions exciting, but our aging membership has consequences - we see attrition of dancers, dancers are more cautious about going out at night, dance preferences become less flexible, and dancers are less capable. Without our core dancers we are nothing, but it is a challenge to find new dancers who can comfortably join this group. Our performance group has gone into hibernation, our membership numbers are dropping. The Association's future is quite unclear, but I'm encouraged by the enthusiasm of my fellow dancers.

I'd like to thank the committee for their efforts over the year, as well as all the many others who contributed beyond dancing, and also thank those members who have put their names forward for the 2021-2022 committee. I'm looking forward to another year of our wonderful dances. **John Whaite**

2021 Treasurer's Report for the AGM

2020-2021 has been another interesting year. Restrictions due to Covid continued to interrupt our dance sessions with the agreement by committee to cancel dance sessions if masks were required as well as some cancellations due to lockdowns.

After many years dancing at the St Margaret's Church Hall in Nedlands we were no longer able to use that hall and an extensive search for a new hall resulted in us dancing on Monday evenings and Saturdays in the Dalkeith hall from January 2021. Unfortunately this resulted in a change for the Saturday session from morning to afternoon which may have affected our attendance. Numbers have been gradually declining at both of these sessions throughout the year but we still attract enthusiastic dancers albeit less of them.

Due initially to the restrictions on the use of cash in the early Covid times we now have a billing system whereby dancers are billed at the end of each month (or two). Around two thirds of dancers now pay their bill online, the remainder still paying in cash. There seems little desire to return to paying cash for each session so the billing system has remained. Thank you to the dancers who pay promptly, especially those who pay online, making the job of money collection quicker and easier.

In addition to our Dalkeith sessions PID now has regular groups running in other venues around the state, in the hills, East Fremantle and Albany. Bills for all of these different halls come on different billing cycles and by different modes adding another layer of complexity.

Due to Covid restrictions we had no workshops with visiting teachers this year but through Folk Dance Australia we managed to enjoy some overseas teacher's workshops via Zoom.

Our year end cash (~$8,000) is around 40% of annual turnover (~$20,000). There were no changes to fees during the year.

The number of members at 30 September was 45 a decrease of 7 from the previous year.

In my report to the AGM the value of assets was approximate. Many of our assets have no financial value (notes, tapes, videos etc), and there is no firm basis for costing many items. Many are life-expire. dever, do not materially change our financial position.

Treasurer **Jenny Currell**

Performances 2021? Well Almost!

The year just finished was peculiar for various reasons; Zoom was used a lot, we had no Graduate sessions, no Contradance and only one performance. Some would say that it might be our last performance. All ladies costumes have been transferred down to Albany, so the wardrobe is some distance away. Be that as it may, that single event,was a good one. It was part of Multicultural March in the Hollywood Tuesday Morning Shows, coordinated by Bernard Carney at the Perth Town Hall. We presented eight dances in a tour starting in Greece, heading to Poland and going clockwise via Romania, Bulgaria, Armenia and Turkey before ending in Israel.

There were eight dances and eight dancers and I think we all thoroughly enjoyed it! So did the large audience apparently.

Thanks to John Bardill, Pam Gunn and Tony Hoar for taking photos and videos.

Picture and item >>>> *by Martin Williams*

How Colourful was that?

Several PID members attended Yuthika Juniper's funeral service at Fremantle Cemetery on Friday 17 November.

It was a very non-standard funeral; we were asked to wear bright colours, and I think we suceeded there!

A song by Paul Simon, and Imagine by John Lennon led on to the large congregation singing 'She Loves You, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah'. It was great and it was very Yuthika!

She was an elegant dancer and a cheerful and kind person. She danced with us for years, attended several workshops and was in all our social activities. She was once married to the renowned West Australian painter Robert Juniper, she had been an ABC announcer, and was a keen Orange person (sanyasin).

In her final years she suffered from dementia but she always seemed to be smiling.

Always smiling *photos - Martin Williams*

←←←← Identity Parade

One of the first times that I remember Yuthika was at Fiona's beginners' course in 1993. To be honest I think that I was the only real beginner in the class - it being a ploy to get me into International Folk Dancing!! Yuthika, who attended with her daughter and granddaughter was with Devamarg at the time - do you recognise anyone else in the picture?

←←←←

W.A. Dancers went to Europe & Beyond!

Well, not really. Just like everyone else in Western Australia, PID dancers were confined to barracks in 2021. But we did manage to briefly escape on 5 separate occasions during the year, with the help of Folk Dance Australia (FDA), which organised 5 Zoom dance workshops, visiting Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Israel, Macedonia, Romania, and on to Armenia, Russia, Turkey and Cape Verde. In Perth, financial support from FDA allowed its members to set up Zoom facilities in a community hall, so that dancers could join most of the workshops as a group class.

In the course of this stimulating trip, we engaged with some wonderful teachers, as well as with dancers across Australia. In March, we met Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu, who charmed us with some happy and energetic dances from different parts of Romania. Their intimate knowledge of the country and its dances made us feel as if we were there, although none of us, including Sonia and Cristian, were.

In May, we once again saw Dorien van de Belt, who had visited Perth during a trip around Australia in 2019. Dorien shared two unusual dances from Albania and Armenia, as well as two of her favourite Bulgarian dances.

In June, Ira Weisburd introduced us to a potpourri of dances and countries, beginning in Greece, and then travelling to Macedonia, Romania, Israel, and Kurdistan. As is often the case with Ira's workshops, the dances were a mix of both traditional dances and modern choreographies, mostly by Ira himself, or in collaboration with other choreographers.

Gergana Panova, whom we met in August, immersed us in Bulgarian dance and culture. Gergana is a dance researcher, as well as a teacher and choreographer. She was able to show the style of the various regions that dances came from, as well as point to their source in a particular village. To celebrate her first online workshop for Australians, Gergana choreographed a new dance for us, using traditional steps, to Gulab Forka, a song from the Rhodopi mountains.

Tineke and Maurits van Geel presented dances from various countries, ranging from the Balkans to Russia, Armenia and Cape Verde. Most of the dances were based on their own research among various minority communities, particularly Roma, with Tineke and Maurits choreographing a unique collection.

Although perhaps not the ideal way to learn new dances, the workshops were stimulating and enjoyable, and have helped to expand and refresh PID's collection. They were also a boon to teachers, who now have a treasury of new dances to share.

The workshops did not happen without some risk and pain, however, particularly on the technological front. They required a complicated set-up of internet access including wi-fi, cameras, speakers, projectors, and cables galore. Many thanks are due to John and Jenny Bardill, as well as John Whaite, for organising all the logistics and technology. And when we got these right, we were still sometimes challenged by poor internet reception, and in some cases poor syncing of visuals and sound.

In the end, it was definitely worth it, as we have learned that it is possible to connect, as a group, with the wider international dance community, which augurs well for future events.

Maria Jenkins

.. and a Zoom footnote from Eve ...

I did 'attend' three of this year's Zoom sessions, one at home in Cottesloe, one in Pemberton and one at a hall in Floreat.

In general, I found that the space that the teachers were demonstrating in was inadequate, it being difficult to see the form of the dance.

I enjoyed Sonia and Christian's zoom but the others not so much. The choice of dances is of course difficult with such mixed attendees and they can't adjust on the day, but the 'bird' dance at the Floreat zoom was a shocking choice by any metric.

Eve Blair

... and zooming your way very soon .. .. ..

Hills Group 2021

Friday Dancing in the Hills has continued through 2021 with breaks for school holidays and brief Covid-induced restrictions. I have been back running the group for much of 2021 and have thoroughly enjoyed it, including the after dance café sessions.

We've had a small but enthusiastic group with 8-10 dancers most weeks and the group is slowly but steadily increasing its repertoire. We've welcomed Bruce and Georgina as new regulars and have had a few visits from a young brother and sister who travelled all the way from Joondalup!

Spring in the Hills event - Photo - John Bardill

The annual Spring in the Hills event in late September was perhaps the highlight of the year with plenty of flat-landers joining us for dancing and lunch in my garden. **JennyC**

A mix of cultures? - Hills and Flat-landers

Albany 2021

International folk dance in Albany in 2021 has consisted of two sets of classes during school term time when I don't have other commitments like kid's birthday parties to run or illness in the family! Classes for kids and their families have been on Friday afternoons with a small attendance, athough it doesn't take many families to have enough for a dance circle. Kids attending with either their mum or grandma have been in the age range of 5 to 11.

Adult classes on Saturday mornings have been somewhat more regular with generally between 8 to 12 attendees, all women and mostly in the over-45 age bracket. However in term 4 I've had one young mum with a bub on the hip attending, which reminded me of my dancing with my own two as bubs, who are now too heavy to lift (one definitely, the other almost!).

Hopefully between adults and families, we'll be able to perform for Harmony Day in Albany in March, 2022.

As it happened I organised two special event dances in 2021 – in mid-July during Perth's mini-lockdown and first narrow escape from Delta Covid. This was supposed to be a dance with The Last Five Coins and as part of the Shanty Festival. However, given the lockdown situation in Perth, The Last Five Coins were postponed along with the festival until October, and the event ran instead with a small live music set from two of my local friends – Lilli on guitar and Jen on flute.

After a stressful last minute advertising process, we ended up with a comfortable number of dancers, about 20, with a few non-dancers watching. There were some kids and a couple of highly energetic Shanty men who rocked up for a new experience. The event seemed to be enjoyed by all involved. We started the dancing with Epimeno from Greece, Rond d'Argenton from France and Savila se bela loza (Serbian) - this created quite a riot as the kids lead lines twisting around and through other lines like the grapevine tendrils of the song! Then Jen and Lilli, despite short notice and only two rehearsals, played beautifully: Koce Berberot (Macedonia), Boanopstekker (the Netherlands), Nigun Atik (Israel) and Lo Brisa Pe - a kids dance from France. After a tea break in which Jen's daughter Ruth entertained on fiddle, Damon and I performed the Tarantella to Jen and Lilli's music. Then we got into a set of partner dances with Fjaskern (Sweden), D'hammerschmidtgazelln (Germany - the blacksmiths dance - that I thought was particularly appropriate in style for our boisterous Shanty men visitors!, Jiffy Mixer (USA) and the Turkish Bulbul Oy. We finished up with Miserlou and Tsakonikos from Greece.

Adje Jano - Albany Shanty Festival - pic: Conner Luff

Albany Shanty Festival

Finally the Shanty Festival arrived at the beginning of October and the re-organised dance event ended up bigger and better than the original planned. We danced at my regular dance hall – the Uniting Church's Albert Hall on Duke St – still bedecked with some props from a movie filming a few years ago. We started with a performance from the local Tara Academy of Irish Dance, followed by calling of a longwise set Scottish dance and then The Last Five Coins took to the stage, Russell, Mark and Jenny, together with two local musicians I had organised to add to the sound – my friend Jen on flute and sometimes clarinet or guitar, and her friend Cathy with lovely double bass. The musicians had only played all together once before they took to the stage – rehearsing in my studio the previous day – but it didn't show!

This time we had a much bigger crowd with at least 40 dancers at any one time including many Perth dancers visiting for the festival. In fact, as many either misinterpreted the program and arrived late or had other festival events to get to and left early, I think we had at least 70 different people dancing throughout the 3 hours of the afternoon.

Adje Jano - Albany Shanty Festival - pic: Conner Luff

The dances were danced in two sets with a tea break between.

Dances in the first set were:

Pravo Trakisko Choro - Bulgaria

Koce Berberot – Macedonia

Rond d'Argenton – France

Nigun Atik – Israel

Fjaskern – Sweden

Hora Medura – Israel

Sao Roma – Rom Gypsy

French waltz

A Break and a Birthday

We had a tea break where Jen's daughter Ruth gave us some intermission fiddle music with the support of Jen – to keep the atmosphere. Then I was given a beautiful rendition of the birthday song, by the whole crowd, as the dance had almost coincided with my birthday – a very lovely birthday present!

I was also very pleased to have almost my whole family down to dance and celebrate with me (Eve, two brothers: Carl and Julian and my Dad David and his wife JuLi). It was also great to have Sara, Miranda and lots of other Perth dancers there - and I really think everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously!

Tarantella picture - Conner Luff

We started the second set with a performance of Tarantella by Eve, Carl and I - we changed partners half way through - and Martin and Pam joined us. Then dancers who knew it (including my Albany group and the Perth dancers) were invited to dance Somogyi Karikazo. It must be one of the biggest Somogyi circles I've danced in – and was hugely enjoyed by everyone!

Somogy Karikazo Conner Luff

The second set of taught dances consisted of:

Boanopstekker – the Netherlands

Cercle Circassien – France

Lo Brisa Pe – France

Ajde Jano – Serbia/Macedonia

D'hammerschmidtgazelln – Germany

Miserlou – Greece

Tsakonikos – Greece

Somogy Karikazo *Photo - Conner Luff*

There was a funny moment during Cercle Circassien. I realised as I was demonstrating with Eve that we were both dressed in girl's costumes! So on the spur of the moment I decided the easiest way to clarify things was to strip off my skirt and apron – leaving only my bloomers to make it clear I was dancing the male role. Those bloomers are designed as underwear though, so despite being well covered to the knee I felt quite exposed!!!

Palenque Blair

Exposure à la Cercle Circassien! Photo: Martin W.

You can find more photos from the Albany dance session on the PID-Photo web-site

It's All in the Words!!

With a recent dearth of visiting teachers we've been a bit starved of material for this segment in recent times. With lots of Zoom sessions this year we finally have something worth including. Most of the words of new dances are a bit fawning but the words that go with *Vdol po Vologde* are more interesting. It's a Van Geel dance that was taught by Jenny Currell in December. The words are from a poem by Olga Fokina. Vologde is a city some 350km NNE of Moscow.

The Lyrics of *Vdol po Vologde* translate as:

A blizzard rages over Vologda…
I was away from home for a couple of weeks
The blizzard over Vologda Is angry with me.
I am a reveller
Oy, little blizzard, keep raging!
Now we're going the same way after all
Let's go more slow! Let's talk calmly!
Don't push me or pull me on the ice –
I won't go on my knees.
Let the guilty admit
I won't hide the happiness in my eyes
It's useless to try to frighten me

Ask me many questions,
Ask me about Sasha, about Sasha!
I will tell you, you don't have to ask me!
Oy, far from Vologda, far away,
I fell in love – I'll never forget him
Not just anybody,
But a golden lad, little Sasha. Okh! Okh!

And for those who know the dance, so that's how they spell the final sigh in Russian!

Source - translation adapted from
http://www.folkdancecamp.org/assets/VdolPoVologdeSFDC2017.pdf

Perth International Dance wishes all its members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

We hope to see you very soon, dancing!!

Dancing at the River

2021 was our first year as a regular class at East Fremantle and we started with the prospect of enough shut downs to challenge the term 'regular'! Fortunately, we missed very few classes and managed to add a number of new dances to our repertoire while increasing our group numbers by more than twice the dancers. Oh…and did I mention the view?

Mid year saw the introduction of an FFFF or Friend for Free Four weeks over June and July and to follow on from that 2022 will start with an FFFF or Friend for Free February, try saying that fast! The plan is to start the year with revision and re-teaching our existing dance repertoire, where needed, before introducing new material in March.

In place of an end of year party, we opted for a Welcome to Summer celebration on November 29th, with dancers from the Hills Group and Dalkeith increasing our circle. After dancing, we shared food, drink and stories on the deck overlooking the river…that view!

On a personal note, I'd like to thank Jenny Currell for stepping in to teach the Hills Group for the better part of what has been a very busy year. I will be back in the Hills in 2022 sharing the teaching with Jenny. Thanks also to Trish and Paula who have helped out where needed and to the River Group. Teaching such a lovely group of people has been an absolute pleasure and I look forward to another year and more…and what about that view?...come and see it for yourselves and join us for a dance or two.

See you in the dance, **Jennifer**

News from Tuna in Turkey

Tuna emailed to say that she misses us all and misses dancing on Monday night!

She is currently doing a Masters in Agricultural Economics, hoping to focus agricultural cooperatives. She is planning to return to Perth for a 4 week visit in late March 2022 The flight is booked and is hoping not to have to quarantine!

Some thoughts on our dance sessions

Some dancers feel that we learn too many new dances and lose the old favourites. There are always different ways to look at why people come, or don't come to our dance sessions and what they get out of it.

Here are a few of my recent thoughts. I'd be very interested to hear if people agree, disagree or would like to tease these ideas out further.

It appears, to me at least, that our dancers, our clientele:

1. Like the challenge of learning new dances even though they may not retain them for long, that it is more a case of the process rather than the goal, the journey rather than the destination and that it is the combined mental and physical challenge that appeals.

2. Get bored easily - they don't want to do the same dances too much; this relates to the first point in that the learning challenge is a large part of the attraction.

3. Want to be entertained, and somehow the teaching sessions do that, mostly

4. Mostly don't remember dance names and hence can't request dances but are happy to do a variety, some of which they will remember or at least recognise, and

5. Even though there is a definite pleasure to be had from dancing dances that have been mastered previously with others who have done likewise, this appears to be less of an attraction to people given there are often more people at the teaching part of the sessions than the 'request' part.

Depending on other peoples' agreement, or not, with these observations it may help to focus our sessions and how we promote ourselves to others.

Comments and discussion invited.

Jenny Currell

Please talk to or email Jenny or one of the Committee or email your thoughts to *news@perthinternationaldance.org.au*