



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.

For more details see: <http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/> or email [news@perthinternationaldance.org.au](mailto:news@perthinternationaldance.org.au)

## In this Issue of *Grapevine*, December 2024

- Minor Committee changes
- Reports from our satellite Groups
- President & Treasurer Reports to the AGM
- It's All in the Words!
- Monday Nights
- and much more .. please read on .. ..

## Committee Changes - the 2024 Committee:

Martin Williams	President
Jenny Bardill	Vice-President
John Whaite	Secretary
Jenny Currell	Treasurer
Berni Maginn	
Pam Massey	
Pam Williams	

Only one change; John Whaite takes over as Secretary. Our thanks to Paula Day for her secretarial role this year.

Check out [Past Committee Members here](#).

## Restart Dates for 2025

Hills	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> January
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> January
River Group	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February
Sunday	tba



**Our dance group will turn fifty the year after next. Are we all ready for a 50th anniversary?**

## Party, Party, Party - Christmas Party Dates

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**A joint Monday and Saturday Xmas  
with live music from The Last Five Coins**

Dalkeith Hall;

Starting at 7 pm with a 'Meet and Greet'

**Music and Dancing start at 7:15pm**

Don't be late and please bring a plate to share.



## Hills Friday Group End-of-Year Party

**Friday Party: 6th December**

Libby's Place: 668 O'Brien Rd, Gidgegannup  
from 10am.

Please bring Food for a shared lunch

The last Friday dancing - Friday 13th December  
Dancing 9:30-11am

## Don't forget to read ..

... the Holiday Supplements published with this edition of *Grapevine*.

Travel tales from:

*Pam Gunn - Ethiopia & Madagascar*

*Pam Massey - France*

*Gisela Gmeinder - Norway/ Germany*

*Martin & Pam W. - Western Europe*

*They are all on-line - check them out*

## 2024 President's Report

Well, this seems to have been another 'steady as she goes' year. Many regular dancers have had long periods overseas during the year. Pam & I were away between May & August and it's thanks to Jenny Bardill, the vice president, and other committee members who kept it all going.

We are all one year older - the Saturday Group celebrated its 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday, the Hills Group is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year and Perth International Dance, itself, has just finished its 48<sup>th</sup> year. Going for 'gold' the year after next!

Attendance at our core Saturday and Monday sessions seems to have fluctuated a bit more than average this year. Over winter, the Monday sessions dropped to monthly from the normal weekly; the enthusiasm is still there but not the numbers. Monday nights continue to have a focus on playlists as opposed to teaching but it is adapting to suit the needs of those who attend and currently has returned to weekly with one new dance being taught during the session by Jenny Currell.

Looking back to last December, we had a very successful Christmas party with The Last Five Coins - which we hope will be repeated on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> next month with our combined Monday/Saturday event.

January saw a large number of PIFDG people help to celebrate Peter Fallon's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at JB O'Reilly's in Wembley. Special thanks go to Peter who, despite many challenging health issues, has continued his valuable support for the group.

Dorien van de Belt visited us from Holland in March and she taught us a couple of dances on Labour day!

Although we no longer have a regular performance group, a few of us donned our costumes to dance with the Last Five Coins at the Mandurah Arts Festival in September. My thanks to Maria and Palenque for their organisation and of course to the dancers. Palenque did also have several performances in Albany and in Katanning.

October saw another Spring in the Hills - thanks to Jenny Currell for organising that and thanks to all those who attended at Glen Forrest Hall - back there after its refurbishment. This was followed by the usual shared lunch at Jenny's house. Jennifer brought her Mum, Trish Eyre along - Trish had recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As normal, my thanks go to the Committee, particularly during my absence and thanks to the many others who helped out along the way - unlocking the hall, setting up the equipment, organising the music and keeping it safe, flying the PID-flag, providing cake etc etc.

Jenny Currell initiated and ran a new Tuesday evening session with Jenny Shah in Midland. This has now moved to South Perth for a 5-7pm session on Sundays.

During the year, PID formed an association with The Grand Bal de Perth - and a couple of 'Bals' were held at the North Perth Town Hall in April and October.

Membership itself increased again this year and overall our funds are in good shape.

Specific thanks go to our regular teachers, Maria, Jenny, Peter, Eve, Sara, Jennifer and to Jenny Shah who joined the team late in the year. Thanks also to Jennifer for running the group in Fremantle and to Palenque and her dedicated group of dancers in Albany.

It was good to see John Whaite dancing again recently - and we hope to see him back dancing and maybe teaching in the not too distant future.

I hope that you have enjoyed dancing with us in 2024, Thank you all for your support and I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year!

**Martin Williams**

**November 2024**



**DANCE**

## River Group report 2024

The River Group has enjoyed another year of 'dance with a view'. We started in 2020 with an introductory course to fill in when the regular line dance teacher became ill. Line dance never did return to the hall and we continued -... that was 5<sup>1/4</sup> years ago! An anniversary that went by unremarked as it didn't feel that long! We will have to party next year.



Speaking of parties, we celebrated Peter's 70th in January, well we danced and ate cake. Then we had our Christmas in July, we danced and then ate a shared feast. Then we celebrated Trish's 90th birthday, yes she is still dancing! We danced, then, you guessed it, we ate cake. Some of the dances taught this year include: Dana, Karamfiel, Chassapikos, Momino Choro, Sabrali sa se Sabrali, Bordeiasul, Nemoj Kate, Hora Fetelor, Adana and Papouri.



We enjoy good company and a diversity of dance and music. For that we must thank those lovers of dance who began PIFDG nearly 50 years ago and all those who have continued to keep the group alive and well since. Thank you all, my thanks also to the River Group for helping to make dance and teaching such an enjoyable experience.

On behalf of the River Group, I wish you all a safe and happy year end and good health and luck for 2025.

**Jennifer Eyre - December 2024**

## PID Hills Report 2024

International dance in the Hills is still being enjoyed by a small but enthusiastic group with weekly numbers averaging around 8-9 people. Jennifer and I continue to share the teaching and running of the Hills group so we've been adding a diverse range of dances to our repertoire including Adana, Ajsino Oro, Alunelul, Arnautsko Horo, Brasni Tsarvul, Harmanlijska Racenica, HaNer BaRuach, Im Lo.

We still enjoy gathering at the local café after our dance session for a cuppa, cake and chat.

From Easter until October we were dancing in the Darlington Hall due to renovations (mainly to do with disabled access) to the Glen Forrest Hall. That was nice for a change (of coffee shop mostly) but we're glad to be back 'home'.

Spring in the Hills was held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October this year just over 30 people joined us for dancing and/or lunch. The weather turned out to be a perfect spring day for lunch in the garden. The flowers were blooming and the birds singing, so a lovely day.



The Hills group celebrated 20 years of dancing in October. Goodness me, doesn't time fly.

**Jenny Currell - November 2024**

Palenque, Felix, Manuela – Katanning Harmony ↓



## PID Tuesday / Sunday Report 2024

With support and encouragement from Jenny Shah we decided to try a new session of mainly 'more challenging' Israeli dances in the eastern suburbs under the PID banner. The hope was that a mix of PID regulars, the more experienced Hills dancers and maybe some others would attend. Finding a suitable hall available at a suitable time for an affordable cost proved amazingly challenging but eventually we found a small hall in Midland available on Tuesday evening which was perfect. We danced there for several months with a mix PID people, a few from Hora Shalom and indeed a few from the Hills but gradually it became mostly a small number who all came on the train. And then several went off on holiday, including me for a couple of weeks, so we closed it down.

A new idea evolved and in late June Jenny Shah and I started a hybrid class in South Perth on Sunday evening combining a session of easy/beginner International dances with a session of 'more challenging' Israeli dances. We've had many people pass through as new beginners but have three who are keen and have stuck with it. Others have enjoyed the harder Israeli dances, some of which are new dances not done elsewhere in Perth.

Jenny and I have enjoyed running all of these sessions but we probably need a few more regular participants to allow this Sunday session to continue.

**Jenny Currell    Nov 2024**

## PID Photos and Videos

We have had a big, like big collection of photographic material for years, thousands of digital photos, some eleven physical photoalbums and hundreds of event videos, videos that group members have taken.

Add to that all the DVD videos that we have bought from visiting teachers and on-line teaching including Zoom sessions. Then of course there is our extensive music collection, probably the most important of all our resources. In preparation for our golden anniversary in 2026 we have started a new PID-Web page 'PID Photos' to accommodate the photos, albums and some videos and make them more visible. It's a work in progress. Tell us what you think.

Thanks to those of you who have sent us photos to add .. do you any more to add?    [Link](#)

## Performance 2024

We squeezed in one performance this year with The Last Five Coins at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre in one of a series of world music concerts at MANPAC.



Photo: Jenny Bardill

A small but enthusiastic group of dancers performed with the Coins. They made a day of it, having brunch at a café before the event and going for drinks and churros after. Mandurah looked good in the spring sunshine. Dances included Somogyi Karikazo, Zvarniara, Nigun Atik, Miserlou and Tarantella – see photos of Peter Fallon and Palenque below:

Thanks to Palenque and to Maria for their joint coordination.

## Martin Williams



Photos: Mark Labrow Photography – Collage M. Williams

## Suggestions?

Don't forget the Red Suggestions Box that's kept at Dalkeith Hall!! Put your suggestions for improvements to the way that PID works in the box; or just email them to us, We'll discuss them at Committee and get back to you..

## All Our Yesterdays!!

This old performance photo, included in the last *Grapevine*, was from Fairbridge Festival in 1994. We've added the names at the bottom in case you don't recognise them! Sadly, two of them are no longer with us; Sue Keating and Peter Thomson.



Check this one out - it's a lot older:



## Golden Oldie?

Photo of David Lane at Scarborough Beach for the Salsa session – photo from Gisela 10 Nov.



## Nimble at Ninety

Jennifer dancing with her Mum Trish at 90. Trish that is, not Jennifer!



## Treasurer's Report – PID - 2023/24

Dance sessions continue to be held at Dalkeith Hall on Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings, as well as in the hills, East Fremantle and Albany. A new session in Midland ran from January to early June and in South Perth from late June onwards. The group also supported the Grand Bal which ventured away from Chidlow and ran a limited number of sessions in North Perth during the year.

Membership has increased slightly this year and the group made a small profit.

During this financial year the Monday evening session has been just a playlist dance session with little teaching and as such the group has not been paying a teacher. Also Mondays only ran monthly during the middle part of the year due to low attendance but has since returned to running weekly with a small but enthusiastic group. Saturdays continue to have an hour of paid teaching whilst also trialling a system of shared teaching some months. Both Mondays and Saturdays made a small profit.

The monthly billing system for Mondays and Saturdays has remained and is generally working fairly well with the majority of dancers paying by direct debit making this job easier for the Treasurer.

With all other sessions being run under the '5%' model the risk is completely with the session organiser and cannot result in any loss to the group overall. Any apparent losses against these groups are due entirely to the timing of hall hire payments versus transfers of funds from session organisers to the Treasurer.

Our year end cash (~\$9,400) is around 40% of annual turnover (~\$22,500), similar to the previous year. There were no changes to fees during the year. Our main expenses are hall hire and insurances.

Many of our assets have no financial value (notes, tapes, videos etc), and their value does not materially affect our financial position.

**Jenny Currell Treasurer - Nov 2024**



## Albany Group Report - 2024

The International Dance Albany group has had a good year. Numbers have fluctuated but steadily grown with the warmer weather. In March we performed for the Albany and Katanning Harmony Day events and made the front page of the local paper for the Albany Harmony Day.

Also in March were two free sessions in the Town Square for Harmony Week in Albany. Dancing on the grass and then on the stage with a small but enthusiastic group as the sun set and the full moon rose, in perfect conditions!



Photos: Ric Kostera

At the beginning of July Palenque ran a Bunbury Shanty Festival dance with the Last Five Coins and then again for the Multicultural concert series in Mandurah in September with Perth performers. The Families dance session was cut down this year to Term 1, then August and November sessions.

In November also I invited Erika from Lado Croatian Cultural Association to teach the Albany group - over 2 weeks.



photo: Palenque Blair

Erika moved to live in Denmark at the beginning of 2024 and I met her at the Denmark Festival of Voice in June. These were fun sessions and included dancing a gentle dance entirely to Erika's singing.

I've had a few new members join, including Erika, and at times Brigitte (itinerant from Perth) which has been lovely.

Some attendees at the Croatian workshop ↓



photo: Palenque Blair

We are now looking forward to dancing at the Binalup Festival in Middleton Beach on Australia Day, including with some dancers who first joined after seeing us dance there almost 2 years ago.

Thanks to the Committee of PID for supporting our little Albany group. I really appreciate it.

**Palenque Blair - December 2024**



Hanna and Iris

photos: Albany Advertiser



## There's more to Dance!

As we know, there's often more to a folk dance than just the steps. The dances are often very old, they grew out of particular locations, and they have a cultural story behind them.

Take for example, this dance from Romania:

### De Strigat

[Reference](#)

De Strigat is a dance from the Maramures region of Northern Romania. It was taught by Silviu Ciucimis to a group of Australian dancers who attended his workshop in Romania in 2002.

The name of the dance translates as 'to call out' or 'to shout', and highlights a dance custom that is unique to Romania: Strigaturi has dancers calling out interjections in the form of rhyming verses while dancing. While their form varies in different parts of the country, they are generally in verses of between 4 and 8 lines long.

The strigaturi are used in different ways in a dance. At the most basic level, they can announce the order of steps or parts of a dance. At another level, though, spontaneous verses may be created to suit the mood of the event, ranging from commenting on life in the village to the love lives of dancers or spectators. Male dancers might use them to compete with each other, while women might pass comment on the men's attractiveness. Satire and comedy are rife!

There is a variety of ways the verses are performed. Sometimes they are shouted in rhythm or 'sung' across the music by a single person, or by a group in unison, or as a dialogue between two people or groups. They can add colour and entertainment to a performance, by linking the rhythm of the calls to the beat of the dance steps and music.

Talk about multi-skilling!

**Maria Jenkins**

A note from the editor: Did you know that there are words to De Strigat? I looked them up and translated them using [Quilbot](#) and the [Quilbot paraphrasing tool](#).

It appears to be about a young village girl, getting married when she's pregnant, saying farewell to her mother, apologising and seeking her forgiveness! It ends with "a child should not be born to sin against their parents!"

Which leads us on to ... ..

## It's All in the Words

Over the years in Grapevine we have covered the meaning of the words of a number of dances.

Here's a translation of the words of Ambee Dageets from Armenia, one of Maria's dances taught in December:

Creating bubbles in the form of a breast,  
It seems someone's beloved is sitting and crying,  
That sound of crying on the mountain.

That clean, clear water,  
Which coming from the mountain,  
That runs through the pasture and meadow?  
My love could have drunk from that water.

Your beloved came and went,  
She was burning, inspired by your love,  
It was affecting her internally,  
Even the cold water didn't help.

Sources: [Dunav](#) and [Folk Dance Musings](#)

## What's Happened on Mondays recently?

In the last two *Grapevines*, 2022 and 2023, Jenny Currell raised some questions on what you, our dancers, want from our sessions and asked for feedback on the new Monday session format introduced in mid-2022 with a curated playlist and no teaching. That format has continued, although the number of Monday dancers has fallen; the enthusiasm is still there! Over winter sessions were held monthly but have reverted to weekly more recently.

The following represents a summary of Monday dances since mid-2022:

Over 2,400 dances have been done across those Mondays. With Pam W. and Jenny C creating most of the playlists; a big thank you to them! More than 300 different dances!

The top five countries represented over that time are Israel 41.6%, Romania 16.3%, Bulgaria 10.6%, Greece 6.4% & Turkey 4.3%.

24 dances have been done more than 20 times with the top five being Chibuk (40), Salamati (31), Jiana de la Tilisca (30), Bordeasul (27) and Cine are Noroc are (27).

All grist for the mill as we contemplate the future of Monday nights and indeed of all our sessions as Perth International Dance heads towards 2026 and its 50<sup>th</sup> year.