

GRAPEVINE



Volume 37 Number 1

December 2025



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 Mandurah on Wednesdays and in Albany.

For more details see: <http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/> or email news@perthinternationaldance.org.au

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There were fewer overseas travellers in 2025 but we still have a few Holiday Supplements on-line on the PID Web-site:

www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/grapevine.html

Committee Changes - the 2026 Committee:

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

We are very pleased to welcome Jenny Shah to the 2026 Committee.

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

Restart Dates for 2026

Saturday	10 th January
Monday	12 th January
Hills	Friday 16 th January
Sunday	18 th January
River Group	Monday 2 nd February
Mandurah	Wednesday 4 th February

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

Christmas Party Dates

Saturday 20th December
PID Christmas Party
with live music from The Last Five Coins
with some playlist dances
at Dalkeith Hall starting at **7 pm**
Don't be late and please bring a plate to share.



***The Hills Friday Group End-of-Year Party
was held on Friday 5th December
Some photos in the Hill's Group Report***

The Sunday Session end-of-year picnic was held on the South Perth foreshore on 7th December

Check with your session teachers for details of other end-of-year celebrations.

This photo is of the large crowd at last year's Christmas Party – were you there?



2024 was the first time that we had a combined party for Saturday and Monday and it seemed to be a big success. Our Christmas parties have been free since 2015; in 2014 they cost \$10 for members, both the Saturday and Monday parties.

T-Shirts

One of the major initiatives that came to fruition this year has been the redesign and sale of new T-shirts. It seemed to take an inordinate amount of effort. Thanks to Jenny Currell for her persistence; it's been going through the mill since April 2023!!

The quality is good, sizes arrived as expected, nice range of colours – in fact, as you can see, all things bright and beautiful!!

They were delivered this time last year, in time for Christmas. There are 44 of them out there somewhere. Thanks to the Committee for agreeing to subsidising purchases to the tune of \$6 each.



Do You Know your Opsa from your Opas?

How many dances do you know by name and how many dances could you lead; on your own?

One of our strengths in depth is that we have so many dances to choose from.

On Mondays since teaching stopped in mid-2022 we have danced 340 different dances. On Saturdays this year alone, 66 dances have been taught from 19 countries and 188 different dances have been danced after teaching.

The downside of having lots of dances is that so many dances are lost and not many are known well or done properly. And all the time more dances are being taught.

The Committee and the teachers are looking for ways to address the various issues. Some possibilities are 'teach fewer dances' or 'reduce the teaching time'. **Let us know your ideas.**

Whatever the solution, it really helps to know the names of your favourite dances and what the steps and the patterns are.

And, oh yes, Opsa (Op Sa, actually) is from Serbia. Opas is from Bulgaria – a Belcho dance.

Monday Dancing at the River

This year has been a very relaxed one with a number of our group coming and going, either on holidays or due to illness, so our classes have been smaller than usual.

We have been so laid back we even forgot to celebrate Christmas in July!

The group has a large enough repertoire that some dances have been forgotten. As is usually the way, the first dances you learn are the ones that stay with you, so we have started to go over all the dances we have learned to date...in alphabetical order. We made it to 'L' on December 1st. 'H' was a busy day with all those Horas!

Next time we'll go by country!

This year end we will have our usual class, (have to get to 'Z') and for the first time ever we'll head to a local Cafe to wind up.

The dancers at the River Group will give anything a go and I don't think there is one dance they don't like as a group. Which makes it easier for me when it comes to the playlist for the day.

A big thank you to Peter for his support throughout the year and to all the River Group who make Monday lunchtime worth missing lunch for!

Best wishes to all of PID and lovers of dance, for a wonderful festive season and an even better 50th anniversary year in 2026.

Jennifer Eyre December 2025

ID Parade - Familiar Faces? Maybe Not!

The long and the short of it! Do you recognise these two unlikely characters who were spotted recently posing as survivors from the sixties?



Celebrations 101 – Golden Anniversary

In 2026 we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary! We think that getting to 50 is a really big achievement. Not many dance groups manage it, although the Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group in NSW celebrated their 50th earlier this year. They were co-established by Kaye and Bert Laurendet – if you remember, Kaye was here for a workshop in 2019 to present André van de Plas's last dance collection.

Details of their 50th were included in the FDA's August *Footnotes* and according to the December issue they were congratulated in the New South Wales Parliament and the feat was recorded in Hansard. So there's our challenge! Get 'mentioned in dispatches'!

We're not too sure what form our celebrations will take but there will be at least one big party. There's a small group looking at it. Let us know if you have any ideas and if you'd like to be involved.

I've listed below some of the happenings during past celebration years:

1986 - 10th

That was the year that we welcomed André van der Plas for the first time. There were at least six performances, Monday nights moved to the Scout Hall in Wembley and there was a notable party at Cafe Folklorico in North Perth, for which Peter Fallon made the cake!



1996 - 20th

A 'Great Reunion Party' was held at St Margaret's Hall on Saturday 4th May at which Eve Blair, John Whaite and Peter Fallon were made life members.

We had three visiting teachers, Fiona Murdoch came from New Zealand; Belcho Stanev came for his second Perth trip for weekend workshops at Point Peron in May and André van de Plas, in

Perth for his fourth visit, conducted workshops over a June weekend at Bickley.

There were five Grapevines with lots of reminiscences and history. Overall there were fewer performances that year but we did dance at the Toodyay, Fairbridge and Nannup music festivals, at the Jewish Festival in the Octagon (UWA) and PIFDG joined in the Fremantle Festival for the street parade.

.. And Oh, yes, it was suggested that we change the name of the Group!



2006 - 30th

That was the year that Peter Fallon resigned as Treasurer after 25 years; André arrived in July for his 11th visit and The Last Five Coins helped us to celebrate at a residential camp at Pt Peron. With 60 people there it was well attended but somehow it lost \$775. How much did that cake cost?



2001 - 25th -- Silver Jubilee

Kakophani, our in-house band played at the 'Reunion Party' in May 2001 which coincided with Fiona Murdoch's 'Silver' week-end workshops. The party is remembered by some for Yuthika's cake abuse; she sat on the end of trestle table holding the cake. The table collapsed and the 21st cake landed on the floor; it was quickly rescued, resuscitated and eaten.

Eve held a "Founder's" workshop in August and we hosted Tineke van Geel for Armenian weekend workshops in October.

There was a bumper six *Grapevines*, again with lots of reminiscences. It was also a notable year with the launch of the Saturday Group in September, proposed by Joy Hill in January.



2016 - 40th

It may not seem like nearly ten years ago but that was the last big celebration.

We finally changed our name to Perth International Dance in January that year.

In July André van de Plas made his 20th visit to Perth and there was a big, big 40th Anniversary Celebration party held in November with performances from Hora Shalom, Soulleado and Turkish Australian Culture Group (compliments of Tuna). Lots of flags too!

There were 23 entries for the 'design a mug' competition which was won by Boriana Todorova from the local Bulgarian community.

There were regular Contradance sessions coordinated by Steven Janowiecki.

There were few performances but we did parade around Fremantle again during their festival.

There were only two Grapevines that year but each one ran to twelve pages and included contributions from some twenty dancers on what the dance group meant to them.



2026 - 50th – follow that!! We have a lot to live up to!

The Hills Group at 21 - Report Card for 2025

In 2025 time has been marked by holidays away, grandchildren being welcomed, new dances being taught, friends visiting and of course the all important café dates.

This year the Hills group celebrated its 21st birthday. Once again we welcomed Spring with dance followed by a shared meal at Jenny's. It is always a treat to share the day with PID members from other groups.



Glenn Huxtable has returned to dancing, prompting us to revisit or teach older dances, some of which predate our 'young' group. We also recently welcomed Kim to Fridays and look forward to dancing with her in the New Year.

For 3 weeks in September and again in November we had the opportunity to learn some new dances from Keren, an Israeli dance teacher visiting from the East. We are grateful to have Jenny to revise Keren's dances and keep them as regulars on our playlist.

On 5th December we celebrated our end of year at Libby's, dancing under fans on her terrace overlooking Gidgegannup farmland and sharing lunch on the lawn under the trees in her beautiful garden. Thank you Libby for hosting us again this year.



While we do enjoy a coffee after dancing at a local Cafe it is always a delight to spend time together in such beautiful surroundings as Jenny's and Libby's gardens.

We are truly fortunate that Jenny Currell started the Hills Group 21 years ago and look forward to sharing dance with all of PID into the future. Best wishes to all over this festive season, we look forward to PID's 50th in 2026.

Jennifer and Jenny

International Dance Albany – 2025 in review

We've had another successful year in Albany.

We started this year again with a performance at the Binalup Festival on Australia Day. We had 14 dancers including Felix and Hanna and two other girls, the remaining performers were women, including Brigitte (who many of you may know from Perth French dancing).

We danced each term numbers varying from 5 to 12 dancers from week to week. Family dance only happened in term 1 in the lead up to harmony day events, with a couple of one-off sessions later in the year.

In March, the group performed again for Harmony Day in Albany followed by the Harmony Festival in Katanning. Twelve dancers danced in Albany before a slightly smaller dedicated group headed to Katanning.



In Term 2 Palenque was asked to teach dance at St Joseph's School, a local Christian school, for their Harmony Day celebrations. This was very well received, and has enabled her to advertise directly to that school community.

Palenque organised dances with live music in July – for both the Bunbury Shanty Festival, and the Albany International Folk n Shanty Festival. The Bunbury Shanty dance was fun but not well attended. However the Albany Multicultural Bushdance (sic) had about 70 dancers through the door and fairly completely filled the Town Hall that at the time was in the middle of having the lovely wooden floor re-surfaced and so was being protected until complete – hence the funny looking white and black floor in the pictures. The musicians were Last Five Coins – Russell, Mark and Jenny, joined by local

flute/clarinet player Jen and double bass player (and ballroom dancer) Madeline Winton.



Palenque and several of the dancers from her group have also enjoyed supporting circle dancer Amanda who, having returned to Albany from Tasmania, began running evening sessions monthly on or around the full moon in 2025. Called "Dance on the Green" these are often held outside.

The Albany dancers finished up the year on Saturday 13th December with dancing and a bring a plate shared lunch at the Albert Hall (grandly named!).

Finally, looking forward, Palenque has been applying for grants to hopefully organise a "Multicultural Bushdance" as part of Albany's bicentenary celebrations. This is likely to happen on 5th September in the Town Hall (on the new wooden floor). If anyone wants to plan a visit for then, it'd be great to see you!

Palenque – December 2025



See the last page for some extra Albany photos

Mandurah report - 2025

Dancing in Mandurah began this year with a beginners' workshop held in late January, to assess and try to generate interest in a regular class. We built on the popularity of a concert by the Last Five Coins, with dancing by PID dancers, at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre late in 2024.

Following the workshop, we decided to start an easy dance class in February, at Mandurah's Leslie Street Centre. The Centre has a very nice hall, with a sprung wooden floor and air conditioning, and has a pleasant outlook to the Mandurah estuary.

In the leadup to the start of the class, we put a lot of effort into publicity, distributing flyers around Mandurah, using Facebook pages, the local radio station, and eventually, a paid advertisement in the Mandurah Times, with the financial support of PID. While this last was expensive, it proved to be the most effective strategy, as most of the dozen or so people who began the class had seen the paid advertisement. During the year we have had a number of people come and try the classes, and we now have a good core of around 12 regular dancers.

We enjoy many dances from different countries. Currently the favourites include Hulu, Musette Waltz, Sa O Roma, and Oj Maju Maju. Many of the dancers like to sing to the music as we dance, which is lovely to see; and hear! We also enjoy socialising as we dance, and there is a lovely happy atmosphere. Our Christmas party was held at the hall on 3 December.

We would like to thank PID for its support of the class, and wish everyone a happy Christmas and summer holiday.



Photo: Christianna Bluett

PID Mandurah Group - Christmas 2025

Maria and Jennifer

Sunday South Perth - 2025

The Sunday dance session has run successfully in South Perth for all of 2025 with a small but enthusiastic group of around 8-12 people. We have a fun time doing a bunch of International dances as warm-ups followed by generally more challenging Israeli dances. Jenny Shah and I have each taught a number of dances during the year, some of which I learned at recent workshops in Sydney and Melbourne. We usually follow the session with dinner locally, with a lovely little Japanese restaurant in Como becoming a firm favourite. The year finished off with a delightful picnic by the river with an array of scrumptious food.

Jenny Currell

May 2025 - Birthday Girls

Three birthdays were celebrated at Saturday dancing on 3rd May, although not everyone looked too happy about it!



Sara has been struggling with her eyesight this year and we were really pleased to see her at the Hora Shalom end-of-year party recently – dancing as stylishly as ever. We wish her all the very best for her continued recovery.



Sara - Sunday 14 December 2025 - Hora Shalom

Photo: Martin Williams

President's Report PID Year 2024 - 2025

One year on, one year older - the Hills Group turned 21 – their second coming-of-age. The Saturday Group almost forgot its 24th birthday! Next year we will celebrate our nominal golden anniversary; we're Going for 'Gold' in 2026! PIFDG actually started in 1971 or 1972 or 1973; no-one's quite sure. I have put a lot of effort into drafting an anniversary book, a timeline, collecting videos (including Red Faces) and putting together an annual on-line photo album – yes one for each year!

Special thanks go to our regular teachers, Maria, Jenny C, Eve, John, Jennifer and Jenny Shah. Sara hasn't taught this year due to health issues. We send her and all our dancers who are struggling with their health our very best wishes.

Membership is up and attendance at Dalkeith Hall on Saturdays is steady. Thanks to Peter for his work on the playlists.

Monday continues as a no-teaching session and still has an enthusiastic core of dancers. Thanks to Pam W. and Jenny C. for preparing the playlists and to John W. for converting them for easy input into iTunes on the computer. Thanks too to Jenny and Eve for teaching an occasional 'feature' dance. We're still hoping to encourage a few more dancers on Mondays – we did after all have Tuna and her sister arrive from Turkey one Monday!

Thanks to Palenque and her dedicated group of dancers in Albany. The only performances we've had this year were down in Albany and in Katanning – well done Palenque.

We took up Sara's suggestion to invite Roberta Schuchmann from Brazil to teach us some Israeli dances. The early May session was well attended and had a good vibe. She taught with great energy and great speed – it was a highly aerobic hour!!

Maria and Jennifer are now running a new Wednesday term-time session in Mandurah after a successful workshop in January. Jenny Currell and Jenny Shah are still sharing the Sunday South Perth class.

More thanks to JC for organising the new T-shirts and to the fashionistas for parading them regularly! Sessions now have a fresher and brighter look!

Another Spring in the Hills in October; I think there were more 'flatlanders' there than Hills people – thanks again to Jenny Currell for sharing her garden for the traditional shared lunch.

As normal, my thanks go to the Committee 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.

I hope that you have all enjoyed dancing with us in 2025, thank you for your support and I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year! Our 50th year.

Martin Williams

Treasurer's Report – PID - 2025/26

Dance sessions continue to be held at Dalkeith Hall on Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings, as well as in Glen Forrest, East Fremantle, South Perth and Albany. A new session in Mandurah began with a 6 week introductory course starting in late January and has now become another regular session. PID now supports regular international dancing on most days of the week. The group also supported the Grand Bal which ran a limited number of sessions in North Perth during the year.

During this financial year the Monday evening session have been just a playlist dance session for our more experienced or energetic dancers, and continues to attract a small but enthusiastic group. With only sporadic teaching this session has not been paying a teacher. Saturdays continue to have an hour of paid teaching with the various teachers generally teaching a selection of dances for a month. Saturdays made a small profit whilst Mondays effectively broke even. All of the other sessions provide a small profit to PID.

The monthly billing system for the Dalkeith Monday and Saturday sessions 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 PID. The accounts show losses for some groups but this is 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 30% of annual turnover (~\$29,000). There were no changes to attendance fees during the year, however teacher payment was increased from \$30 to \$40. Our main regular expenses are hall hire and insurances.

During this financial year we organised a new print run of our iconic PID TShirts. PID subsidised the cost of the Tshirts for members by ~\$500. This is reflected in the 'Promotions' category. We sold all 48 Tshirts that were printed.

PID made a negligible profit in 2024/25 and had 54 financial members plus 8 life members – an increase on last year.

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 2025

Suggestions?

Don't forget the Red Suggestions Box that's kept at Dalkeith Hall. Put your suggestions in for 2026 – for our 50th year and your ideas for our celebrations.

Gisela - Putting Adventures on ice!

A mishap on ice (not the powder but the frozen water version) landed me with a complicated fracture in ED that required surgery. I got casting (not the Hollywood but the Plaster of Paris type) for a couple of weeks and a colourful splint for some more. Going for gold a year early!



Thank God for hospitals and a functioning right arm and two feet. Still not everything can be done one handed - and I was glad for a little bit of help from my friend, and had strangers in the street tie my shoelaces.

But the feet could walk, operate an exercise bike and step through dances after a couple of weeks.

Will I go on ice again? Not this season, and if I do it will be decked out with wrist splints, knee braces and hip protectors - should I also add a helmet and mouth guard? Perhaps!

Gisela's European Trip

Another trip to Europe in September and October; the perfect time to escape some of the spring 'fever' here in WA and enjoy early autumn at the other end.

The journey took me to familiar places rather than exploring new or exotic destinations.

The visit was primarily family-focused. The family members were spread out a bit – siblings, grand / nephew and nieces - taking me to:

Schaffhausen – Switzerland (think Rhinefall and vineyards)

Bordighera / Riviera – Liguria / Italy (think beaches, mountains and everything Italian)

Koblenz – Rhineland / Germany (think castles, villages and more vineyards)

Nürnberg – Bavaria / Germany (think traditional architecture, forests and local festivals)

I got around by train which took me through many different landscapes and across countries and was truly enjoyable in itself.

Thinking of my previous experiences on ice I can confirm that the Italian variety is much better and much safer!



Altogether all worthwhile in spite of the long haul at the beginning and end. I had chosen Qatar via Doha again as I experienced them to be a pleasant and efficient carrier.

Except there was something different with the flight map on the screen in front of me – Israel and its cities were missing and there was just blank space instead. Strange – the country and towns are there yet they were simply wiped out of existence on the passenger map.

Has anyone else noticed this on any other airlines?

Gisela

Want to read some more travel tales? Check out the Holiday Supplements published with this issue of *Grapevine* on PID-Web.

If you feel that it's currently a bit hot for dancing then maybe we should try this!



Extra photos from 2025 on the last page

