

GRAPEVINE

Volume 6, Number 2, May 1995



Grapevine is the newsletter of the Perth International Folk Dance Group. The group meets Monday evenings at the Wembley Scout Hall in Jersey Street, Jolimont. The evening begins at 7:00pm with an hour dance lesson, followed by general dancing till late. For further information, contact John (444-4736) or Joy (386-7438).

May Folk Dance Party

Monday 29th of May will be our next Party Night. Instead of a theme, we are going really international and will be learning dances from all over. Bring a plate of food with an international flavour, something to drink, and dress in something colourful and folksy. The cost will be \$3.

Andre Van De Plas Residential Workshop

This will be Andre's third visit to Perth. Several of the dances previously taught by Andre have become firm favorites such as Zot Yerushalaim, Ahavat Hadassa, Bela Sicko Oro, Mexican Shuffle, Chassapikos, Holot Midbar, Kirko and Shiri Li Kinneret.

To make Andre's visit even more special we have arranged a weekend residential workshop at St Gertrude's in New Norcia from Fri evening 23 June to Sunday 25 June. New Norcia is a new venue for us and it promises to be a great weekend. On the Monday night 26 June Andre will be revising the weekend's dances.

We do urge as many people as possible to attend the weekend to enjoy the dancing, the change of scenery, and the opportunity to mix with a dance teacher who spends much of his time travelling the world teaching folk dance.

Further information and an application form is available from John (444 4756) or Joy (386 7438). Applications must be received by Monday 19 June.

Pt Peron Workshop report

We held our annual workshop at Pt. Peron on the weekend of the 17th to 19th of March. It was well attended considering so many members were away.

This was a rather special event, with visiting teacher Marika Sackett of the Keskeno Hungarian Dance Company, ably assisted by Maree Kowald. Marika took us through several variations of basic Hungarian dances, finishing off with a basic Csardas.

John and Palenque taught on Saturday afternoon. The prize for the hardest dance goes to Palenque for teaching Fetele de Crihalma, and to Caroline and John for being the only ones to have learnt it.

During the night someone even saw a ghost! While it was a very entertaining story, this same person had to be carried off sick the next day, so this ghost may well have been a hallucination!

Thanks to our teachers, Marika and Maree, John and Palenque. Special thanks to Peter Fallon for once again organising the whole affair, and doing the shopping too. Thanks also to June and Carolyn for the many hours they spent in the Kitchen preparing food and to Joy for following up on everything. Finally, thanks to everyone who came and made it such a success.

Belcho Stanev Workshop

Belcho Stanev, one of Bulgaria's foremost folk dance teachers and choreographers, presented a workshop at the Subiaco Scout Hall on the 18th and 19th of February.

Belcho taught some great dances with the assistance of Francine Giguere who translated for us. Not that much translation was needed, as much of Belcho's teaching was done without words - he showed us, we watched him, and we followed him. Plenty of body language.

He certainly is a great teacher, and not without a sense of humour either. He was quite a performer with many comic moments and lots of laughter. He did make a small criticism of our behaviour. When he needed our full attention we were not always listening and were a bit noisy - something he is apparently not accustomed to. However this introduction to Australian culture has not put him off and he WILL come back again.

Joy and Ron hosted Belcho at their home for a few days. As Ron and Belcho both speak German they were able to communicate and Belcho became part of the family.

It was an unforgettable weekend, not only for the pleasure of Belcho's company and the admiration we felt for his wonderful style of dance, but also for the legacy he left with us - a whole batch of great new dances.

Our thanks to Belcho, to John for organising his visit, and to Joy and Ron for hosting Belcho while he was here. We look forward to his next visit.

The International Touch

We have had many other visiting teachers lately in addition to our workshops. At short notice, John arranged an afternoon workshop featuring Zimbabwean master artist Tichaona Fabio Chiuhandza.

We have also invited special visiting teachers to our regular Monday night, including Lotitia teaching Mexican, Djoko teaching Indonesian and Joe Trefelli teaching Hungarian.

These visits were a real treat for us and no doubt there will be more to come further along the track.

National Folk Festival report

Glynda Ward gave us the following account of the National Folk Festival, she says that there is a more complete version in Town Crier.

"Over Easter I attended the National Folk Festival at the Exhibition Centre in Canberra. The five nights and four days were crammed with folk music and dance of all descriptions. Unfortunately the only dancing I was able to do were a few bush dances at the final party as there was so much else on the programme. I did spot Michaela however, two-stepping to the wonderful Cajun hand, Cajun Aces, from Melbourne.

Some of the highlights of the festival for me were Kavisha (originally from Freemantle) who launched here new CD, the passionate Alistair Hulett who was accompanied by The Hooligans, Cathy Waterson and Roy Bailey who have recently been in WA, Sister Moon, and a capella threesome whose version of 'Brand New Key'. and old Melanie song, had the audience yelling for more. Perth groups Red Pepper, McCool, Press Gang and Sensitive New Age Cowpersons were extremely well received especially the latter who closed the Festival on the Monday Night."

Plaintive Plea

P-L-E-A-S-E. We asked previously in Grapevine if there is anyone with graphic skills who could help out just now and again, sometimes, not too often, occasionally, with graphic design for various applications for PIFDG. If you have some graphic skills, please contact either John or Joy.

Happy Birthday to Us...

Next year is PIFDG's 20th birthday. Our tenth birthday we celebrated with a folk dance party at Cafe Folklorico with lots of former members joining us for the evening. Please give your ideas to a Committee member of how we could celebrate this special birthday.

Presidential Paragraph

Diligent readers of Grapevine will have noticed that the office of President was temporarily vacant. We are pleased to announce that Pam Massey has accepted that role. Tony Hoar has been co-opted on to the committee.

Absent Friends

Pam and Martin Williams left at Easter to fly around the world for six months, via Hong Kong where they met up with Mei Wan, a few weeks in England, and then motor homing around the best scenic spots in the USA.

Paula Day is going around the world in the opposite direction from Pam & Martin. She has already visited Fiona in New Zealand, then on to Canada and England and has recently popped over to France.

Bernie Maginn has nipped off again to Ireland to see if the leprechauns have grown and is also balancing that with a visit to exotic Honolulu.

Not to be outdone, our new President Pam Massey found herself a free ride and is now in Queensland where she is met up with kibbutz friends. After trying hang-gliding over the rain forest even Pam is lost for words!

Bob Frayne is visiting his former homeland New Zealand and is trying to set a personal tramping record.

Michaela Hill returned from a short visit to Europe where Edward turned four on St Patrick's Day (was THAT why everyone was celebrating?). She managed to track down some folk music and dance there. A few days later they left for Canberra where Michaela is working in the legal department of DEET.

A letter from Louise and Laurie Scott from the highlands of Irian Jaya talks of the stunning scenery they have encountered while climbing through remote moss forests. Their plans for starting and eco-tourism venture in partnership with local Dani people are progressing well. They hope to run the first trial trip in January 1996 - so anyone interested should start saving now.

Coming Events

May	Mon 29	May Folk Dance Party
June		
	Fri 23 - Sun 25	Andre van de Plas workshop
	Mon 26	Revision with Andre van de Plas
July		Sabor folk festival in Bulgaria
	Mon 31	July Folk Dance Party Night
October	Fri 13	PIFDG do Cafe Folklorico
	Fri 27 - Sun 29	Toodyay Folk Festival