

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014:**

We come to the end of another year. It doesn't seem that long ago that we had the last AGM when I somehow got myself elected President. Be that as it may the year has passed very quickly.

At the outset I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee, who in addition to their own personal everyday personal/family and professional commitments have worked hard throughout the year to keep everything running smoothly and engage in activities to promote International Dance. Without their commitment to fulfilling their respective committee roles Perth International Dance would not function.

The committee has been very active putting in place some innovative changes and generally steering the group through what has been a 'steady as she goes approach', to the year. Membership numbers are steady this year but remain an ongoing concern. We have had several new members join us this year and I take this opportunity to welcome them and trust they will continue to enjoy the fun and challenge International Dance provides for us all. Both Monday and Saturday groups have experienced peaks and troughs in daily attendances. Mundaring has experienced a more dramatic loss of members.

What is the solution to attracting new members? The committee took on board various submissions submitted at the start of the year, suggesting strategies as to what could be done to maintain/boost current membership numbers.

The committee considered all submissions and made the following modifications:

1. Monday evening session times
2. Teaching/social dance format.
3. Committee Meeting Minutes posted on the notice board for all to read.
4. Committee Member Names and Roles similarly posted on billboard along with teaching schedule for the year.
5. Monkey Survey is in the process of being developed by Palenque (Thank you for your time and effort). What the survey is designed to do is gauge the reasons why members are not attending or simply leaving and not returning. It should come as no surprise that injury, illness, travel and competing personal and community interests are the likely outcomes of this survey and will continue to be largely responsible for membership decline over the coming years. Perhaps the questionnaire responses will shed a different light on reasons for membership decline.
6. In addition, the committee increased its advertising activities in efforts to attract newcomers. Posters were posted on shopping centre billboards the most effective type being posters with tear off tabs with the group's contact address/numbers which demonstrated that people were interested enough to take our contact details. Designer leaflets promoting coming events which were distributed largely at Fairbridge and regular entries in the Post classified ads were also features of our promotion efforts. Many thanks to Bev for her time and effort in coordinating these publicity arrangements.

In the same vein, other avenues of promotion that endeavours to keep/put Perth International Dance in the public eye is the website which was administered by Jenny Currell. This is an ongoing review and update function and many thanks to Jenny for her time and efforts. Similarly many thanks to Palenque for her setting up and administration of the PID's Facebook page. Members are encouraged to utilise this avenue as much as possible and tell/send the page site asking their friends to become PID Facebook friends. Perhaps out of that we may get some expressions of interest.

Both Palenque and Jennifer Eyre were engaged to teach International Folk Dance in schools throughout the metro area this year. This kind of community involvement is to be applauded. It presents yet more opportunities to promote and develop community interest in International Folk Dancing especially among the young.

Fairbridge was held on the last weekend of April. Perth International was represented by John W; Palenque; Jennifer Eyre and Jenny Currell who were registered teachers/workshop leaders. By all reports the Festival and the Workshop was lots of fun, well attended by all ages, but did not attract new members. Many thanks to the group who offered their time and energy to register and attend on behalf of Perth International Dance.

A Beginners course was set for 18<sup>th</sup> May to the 29<sup>th</sup> June but was cancelled on the first day due to insufficient numbers enrolling. Disappointing but we'll try again next year. Thanks to John W for volunteering to conduct this event.

Andre was the visiting choreographer engaged for a workshop in July this year. Andre is always well received and appreciated for his teaching excellence and knowledge and this year was no exception. In his usual effective way he presented and taught us a range of interesting and some challenging dances. On behalf of the group as a whole, I extend the PID group's appreciation and thanks to Eve for hosting Andre's stay, particularly the welcoming evening meal at her home. To Palenque also, many thanks for coordinating Andre's visit. As always the food was great and Deb did a great job with catering for the occasion.

In April we had an April Fools Day Party (29<sup>th</sup> April), and similarly held a "Christmas in July" party. Once again Santa took time out from his busy toy making schedule to pay us a visit. Both events were well attended and catered for by bring a plate to share. Then we went to Greece on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> for a Greek night which was always going to be a guaranteed energetic, fun evening.

On Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> September we had a "Political" party theme celebrating the Saturday dance group's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. It could be said that by the time we got to this party, everyone was so over politics, politicians and elections that there was little interest in anything political, but a few members did make the effort to demonstrate their political preferences. Another stellar "Red Faces" evening was coordinated by Leone in August with the able support of Pat and others. Many thanks to Pat for hosting the evening at her house, and to the members who performed. To Leone another Oscar for Best Director and Producer. Perth International Dance was represented at the Darlington Arts festival on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. A group of about 10 attended and a number of spectators participated in the 30-40 minute time slot we were allocated. Thanks to Jenny C. and Jennifer E for the coordination.

One of our innovations this year was Saturday morning's session "Picnic in the Park" in June (at Matildas Bay) and a Monday evening "Dancing at Matilda Bay" session. Both occasions were attended by a reasonable number of members. Whilst the events did not attract new members it did entice a few members of the public to join in the dancing. This may be a great opportunity to attract more attention, perhaps new members and to further promote PID. With the benefit of this year's experience we should repeat the events again next year. On behalf of the committee many thanks to all who supported these novel events and to Jennifer Eyre for the use of her sound system on both occasions.

Once again thank you to one and all for your support throughout the year. Apologies and acknowledgement to anyone I have not extended an appreciation to for their commitment and efforts throughout the year, or events missed.

To one and all have a safe Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

**John Bardill**

**President**