

Perth International Dance President's Report 2016

G'Day and welcome to the end of 2016. Our 40th year, a wonderful milestone. With nothing more than an enthusiasm for global folk dance it is truly a remarkable achievement that this small community group has stayed together for forty years doing what they enjoy most – international folk dancing.

To mark the occasion we had a party – and what a party it was. Thanks to Palenque for coordinating requested music to start the evening with a lot of favourite tunes, all of which set the mood for the evening. Our own performance group as well as our friends in the Hora Shalom, Soulieado dance groups participated in making this a memorable occasion. Members of the Turkish Australian Culture House (TACH) similarly contributed a memorable performance with our thanks and appreciation. It was fitting that the live music was provided by our friends The Last Five Coins and a huge thank you to them. But more on that in the Christmas edition of Grapevine.

Earlier in the year we had a Coffee Mug Artwork competition to mark the 40th Anniversary occasion. Thanks to John W for his hard work and clever craft work. Later in the year we had Calico Bags produced with the PID logo printed on them and issued to members on party night. Thanks to Jen B for her creative hard work and for the hall decorations; cake, and catering with Pat's assistance. A special edition of Grapevine containing a host of memories and pictures was produced by Martin. Another Christmas edition is to be produced. Thanks Martin for a significant historical and informative classy product. Congratulations to all who contributed to the success of this occasion - the 40th anniversary.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee for their support and untiring efforts to keep things running smoothly during what has been a busy year.

Our website is superb thanks to John W's energy and creativity. Progressively members have been encouraged to refer to the website for all group announcements/communications. Oh, and John's a good treasurer too.

Our dance teachers continue to do a sterling job improving and maintaining our relative dance skills. We need them to remind us of the music and the steps that go with it. Sure some of us could muddle through our memory banks and dance something like the original dance but isn't it easier with someone guiding you?

The Mundaring chapter continues to develop and has been active in teaching and performing at various community events in them' thar' hills. Congratulations and keep up the good work Jennifer E.

PID is now supporting Steven Janowiecki in his endeavours to introduce us, and the wider community, to Contra Dance. The St. Margaret's Hall stage has never been so packed with musicians doing what they enjoy most – playing music. It is a wonder to behold. Thanks to Steven also for designing and implementing a group business card. Your enthusiasm and networking skills are greatly appreciated.

The 29th February was a Leap year themed evening but there wasn't much leaping. It was too hot!!! A Turkish night was well supported by those dressed in a wide range of "Turkish" costumes. We also had some visitors from the Turkish Australian Culture House (TACH) community who were most impressed by our range of Turkish music and our skills in dancing them. We similarly had a Greek theme evening which was another enjoyable and well supported evening. Theme evenings ended the year celebrating with quite a few scary and hilarious costumes.

This year, Perth International Dance along with Hora Shalom, Souleiado and Contra Dance were invited to the annual St. Margaret's Pudding Fest fundraiser to demonstrate several dances from their respective repertoires. Palenque, Eve, Laurel, Steven and Sara all taught simple dances and encouraged audience participation to the live music of several musicians from the Last Five Coins. This event was as much a public relations exercise in introducing parishioners to the hall users as it was to provide a variation to the annual theme of bacchanalian feasting.

Another entertaining and invigorating workshop was held 2nd & 3rd July by Andre. Andre taught 10 dances, and left with our thanks and a gift of 2 of our PID coffee mugs. Our thanks to Eve for hosting Andre during his stay with us.

And of course each year in passing would not be complete without Red Faces. There were some talented performances as members, friends and family showed their hidden talents. Many thanks to Leone for another memorable evening.

The Saturday group celebrated its 15th birthday and like any good party, there was lots of food and easy dances.

Overall a busy year. If I have missed anything or anyone – apologies.

Have a safe Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

John Bardill