G R A P E V I N E

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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., Sundays in South Perth, in Mandurah on Wednesdays and in Albany.
For more details see: http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/ or email news@perthinternationaldance.org.au

This issue of *Grapevine,* focuses on a few more events and happenings in the year that we celebrate PIFDG/PID's fiftieth year.

- More Gold! Gold! Gold!
- Vale Joy Hill
- Your Say on PID Reaching 50; 10 Years on
- Committee and the AGM - 28th November
- A Trip to the WA Parliament!
- That Missing Film-Night!!
- Party Thanks
- An Update on Berni and Carolyn



Have Your Say

This edition includes some of our members' words and recollections of the last decade. We did the same thing in 2016 for our fortieth celebrations in two bumper Grapevines.

So if you would like to send us your words and thoughts we'll include them in the next Grapevine to round off our fiftieth year.

The next edition should be out before Christmas in time for our Christmas party on Saturday 19th December at Dalkeith Hall.

It's going to be a good one, so be there along with The Last Five Coins and some other special guests!!

Lost in the electronic post!

At the 50th party on 1st August we had quite a lot of talking including introductions and Eve's speech. One thing that we missed out on was much like missing reading a telegram from The Queen. Before the party Fiona Murdoch sent us an electronic card of dancing balloons which for some reason did not get through!

It really is a bit late but here it is .. .. ..

Enjoy the Celebration!

Martin - please pass on the following message at the party:

"Congratulations Perth International Folk Dance Group on the achievement of 50 years folk dancing in WA. While this message doesn't have folk-music, I thought you might enjoy the dancing balloons. From the time I saw a small notice about a folk-dance group in Subiaco on the wall at the Cafe Folklorico, I loved dancing with PIFDG - fantastic people and a very enjoyable dance repertoire. It is fabulous that PIFDG has not only endured for 50 years, but has expanded in its reach, and is now truly intergenerational. Great work everyone and a special acknowledgement to the founders back in the day, and those that have since passed on. Have a wonderful celebration. I'm sorry I cannot be there to join you on this occasion.

May the PIFDG dance on for another 50 years!"



Fifty Year History – The Book – Take Two!

Back in May we published the first version of the fiftieth book and since then we've the sold the first run of sixty copies – well, actually there are one or two hidden away in Albany!

Since then we've made a few corrections to that original version and we're going to get a further twenty-five printed. These will still be available for $10 a copy. We hope to have them ready before the AGM and before the Christmas party on 19th December.

We might offer a copy to new members – what do you think? Let us know if you have any other suggestions.

Soft-copies of the new edition are always available on our home page together with the corrections made in the new version.

Committee Commitment

Once upon a time the dance group used to have a Constitution – PIFDG was incorporated in September 1987. There was no President before that but there was a Committee and at times there seemed to be lots and lots of Committee meetings – around the end of last century they seemed to happen about once a fortnight!

The Constitution remained in place until 1st April 2019 when it was replaced by our Rules of Association (RoA), part of a WA Government initiative.

Under the RoA's we have to hold a minimum of three Committee meetings per year and in recent years there have typically been four. It's not onerous but we do have to have a Committee, it is a commitment! Here's a photo of the 2026 Committee hard at work at its October meeting:



At the AGM on 28th November at Dalkeith Hall there will be an opportunity to nominate for the 2027 Committee, look out for nomination forms that will be emailed by the Secretary.

Also talk to the Secretary if you have any points to raise at the AGM as no questions will be taken from the floor without prior notice.

Our Fifty-Year History was Heard Where?

On 15th October 2026 a small group of us sat in the public gallery in the WA Parliament to hear Jonathan Huston, the independent member for Nedlands, read a statement of congratulations for our dance group reaching fifty.

You can read the statement on page 8 or if you check Facebook you can hear Jonathan reading the speech in Parliament. It will be in Hansard soon.

Our thanks to Jonathan and his office staff.

Here's a photo of us outside after the event:



We have had a few members asking why we invited Jonathan Huston to get involved and there's a simple answer to that.

PIFDG and PID have been meeting in Nedlands since 1998. The Scout Hall that we used in Cambridge, St. Margaret's Hall and our current home at Dalkeith Hall are all in the Nedlands electorate.

Saturday Group – 25 Years on

In addition to being our overall 50th anniversary, 2026 is also the 25th, the Silver, anniversary of the Saturday Group which first met on 8th September 2001.



On Saturday 12th September this year we celebrated that milestone – with ex-President John Bardill cutting the cake! It was a bit wild.



Saturday Group - Silver Anniversary cake photo: Martin Williams

Jonathan Huston the Lower House members for Nedlands joined us for cake and some dancing – he said he enjoyed the dancing and that he will be back.



And a reminder that we have a photo album of Saturday celebrations over those 25 years – look our for it at Dalkeith Hall.

Film Night – Take 2

The thought was there but the Halloween Gods had a different idea! We had the films ready, we had the screen and the projector and an audience. We had the soup, the bread and other food but sadly the hall power failed and locked us out. Thanks to everyone for their efforts – we will be back!

In the event some of us retired to Chez Bardill to make sure that not all food went to waste!



It's All in the Words!

We have danced Ajde Jano for many years, well at least since the André workshops in 1995 – when he introduced it as a Macedonian dance. In 2016 he brought another version, that time from Kosovo. If you talk to people from across the Balkans and ask about 'Ajde Jano' or 'Ајде Јано' they all claim it as theirs.

According to The Society of Folk Dance Historians (SFDH) Ajde Jano was published in 1928 by V. Gorgevich and first presented in the United States by Anatol Joukowsky in 1957. They point to Kosovo as the origin.

Whether it's from Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia or elsewhere, they all agree that it has a 7/8 rhythm and they seem to agree on the words which have not changed over the years or across the Balkans. Here they are: sounds like materialist ideas are out – let's downsize, let's sell everything!

Come on Jana
Come on Jana, let's dance the kolo
Come on Jana,come on darling,let's dance the kolo
Come on Jana,come on darling,let's dance the kolo

Come on, Jana, let's sell the horse
Come on Jana,come on darling, let's sell the horse
Come on Jana,come on darling, let's sell the horse

Come on Jana, let's sell the house.
Come on Jana,come on darling,let's sell the house
Come on Jana,come on darling,let's sell the house

We'll sell them just so we can dance
We'll sell them, Jana darling,just so we can dance
We'll sell them, Jana darling,just so we can dance

Sources: Music at http://www.dunav.org.il/
https://www.sfdh.us/encyclopedia/ajde_jano.html
André van de Plas, SFDH, Balkan Folk Dance

At our 50th party there were at least three different sets of steps being danced to the same Ajde Jano tune, although one of those was Ajde Jano / Melnisko Horo from Vito Horo which is a different dance.



Vale Joy Hill – a Profile of Joy at PIFDG

Joy joined PIFDG in the early nineties and very quickly became involved in planning, supporting and attending residential workshops including Point Peron (1993 & 1995),York ('94) and New Norcia ('95). She didn't always spend the weekends dancing – here she is on 2nd April 1993 doing her embroidery at the Pt Peron residential workshop!

She was also big into quilting in her spare time.



Joy doing her embroidery at Pt Peron residential workshop- 2 April 1993

Joy supported the Group in other ways, after all she was Committee Secretary for eleven years until 2001 and in that role was involved in promotion and also in organising beginners' courses, which were pretty successful.



Seen at Wembley for Fiona's farewell in Feb 1994.

Joy did write several articles for *Grapevine* although two that spring to mind are a long article on 'not dancing for six months' [1999] and on the morals of sacrificial anodes [2001].

Joy did have several traits including being very determined; shown vividly when PIFDG was trying to decide on a new name, she doggedly promoted her preferred name – she just would not let go!

Her heart was in the right place though and her enduring legacy is undoubtedly the Saturday group which she proposed during the 25th celebrations. The new group kicked off in September 2001 together with a beginners' course, also championed by Joy.

The Hill household was very involved in hosting Belcho Stanev on his visit in 1995. Husband Ron said that he had a whale of a time – lots of time cooking and joking with Belcho in German. Ron didn't dance but was considered by many to be PIFDG's mascot. He had a great sense of humour.

She was involved in organising the trip when some of the Group went to Bulgaria in 1997. Here seen relaxing in the hills above Koprivstitsa the site of the Sabor Folklore Festival.



Joy performed with the group in the old Entertainment Centre in the Australia Day Concert in 1999. She was one of the 'Grandma's with Grace' in John Whaite's choregoraphy depicting rural life in a Bulgarian village.

Joy had a stroke at Christmas time in 2021 and died at 94 on 17th October 2026 at the Aegis retirement home in Shoalwater.

We last saw her at dancing on 4th April 2026, Easter Saturday.



Easter Saturday 4th April 2026 - Joy Hill's last visit with daughter Michaela

Some additional photographs of Joy here. https://photos.app.goo.gl/5qkhfZaqWYr3rGcL6

Gisela Gmeinder

It feels that there is less to say 10 years on from our 40th, we may not live as intensely or is it just lived differently? Anyway … here are a few words that come to mind.

I have been invited to contribute a few words on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of our Folkdance Group. It's an honour and a pleasure to continue to be part of a core of people who continue in this proud tradition week after week without fail.

How quickly we went from the 40th to the 50th Anniversary. Some things have changed, some haven't. The Monday night session has continued to greatly motivate me to get out of bed and start the workday in a positive frame of mind - knowing that it would conclude on the dance floor. It does make a difference and I can't really think of anything else I'd rather do that night.

The Dalkeith Hall is bigger than the previous St Margaret Hall and the group is smaller but this no doubt pleases Public Health precautions and the group nevertheless fills the space with music and dance and laughter. Personally I miss Andre's annual visit - his dances, his energy and him as a person but he comes alive again each time we dance one his dances.

And there are always a number of our local teachers to show us the way, including the very original Eve - when she is not down on her Pemberton Plantations.

One might think another 10 years of dancing practice has boosted our capacity to perfect technique and steps and remember some of them well but I am not so sure about that, speaking for myself. However we do know that one is better off in mind, body and spirit for keeping it up - and it's just simply an enjoyable regular part of life, weekly for some, almost daily for others as there is a choice of days, times and venues from the hills in the East to the seaside in the South.

Sadly, some members are no longer attending or with us, others make a concerted effort on special occasions and it is wonderful when they do and revive the buzz and flair of previous years.

There is little in the way of performing and Red Faces events had been retired too. They were great fun but there is still the live stage on which to play out everything from comedy to tragedy.

The big 50th party was the place to be by all accounts but sadly I missed it due to being away at the time, and again couldn't be in 2 places for the film nights.

However there are other occasions for celebrations such as the seasons which come around quicker every ten years and present a good reason to meet, feast and dance.

We also have an extensive treasure trove of film and photos to revisit anytime thanks to many contributions from the group and with Martin in the dual role of President and Archivist in charge of them.

So as long as there are willing feet to move and functioning knees and hips to go with them – even if they are helped by ceramic, steel and titanium - *no gold, no porcelain)* the dancing will go on.

And one never knows where the next revival may come from. Possibly from the energetic and enthusiastic following of the next generation of folk dancers led by Pia and Yamuna, from Freo to Chidlow. And not to forget our Israeli Folkdance cousins who show little sign of tiring either.

So there are options so let the dancing go on - here is to the next 10 years!

Gisela Gmeinder



and a present from Gisela in Sicily 1st November: after the cancellation of the 2nd Film-night



Congratulations on 50 Years of Dancing!

Where has all this time gone!

I can't believe that 50 years have gone by since I tentatively entered that now demolished hall in Museum Street, Northbridge, to see what this dance group was that David Blair had been talking about around the UWA Physics lunch table. That evening in May 1976, a couple of visiting young men, from I think the Ukraine Community, were teaching us very energetic dances involving squats and kicks. Two days later I was so stiff that I could hardly walk and I nearly decided not to return to dancing. However, I am so glad that I persisted for the group has provided so much enjoyment and so many benefits to my life.

Of course, there are the dances themselves and the wonderful music; the opportunities to perform alongside other ethnic groups at festivals and events; a fun way to keep fit; the social occasions and weekend camps which always involved very tasty food; & that amazing trip to Bulgaria in 1997.

Dancing to tricky time signatures has also improved my sense of rhythm in other settings – I notice this at my water exercise classes, and when doing the Elm Dance at Peace Rallies or hand percussion whilst singing.

As well there are all the friendships and connections made via the group that have led to other very interesting projects - from saving the old Peninsula Hotel, co-founding the Boranup Community, joining singing and environmental groups and travelling to more out-of-the-way places including West Papua, Hunza Valley, Madagascar and Ethiopia. (I wrote about these in more detail in the 40th Anniversary edition of Grapevine.)

These days, although I don't get along to dancing so often, it is wonderful to know it is still there to be enjoyed. So, I would especially like to thank all the Committee members and teachers past and present for their time and energy in keeping us going for 50 years!

Pam Gunn

One of highlights of the 50th party was listening to the enhanced Last Five Coins.



The Dancers

The Last Five Coins arriving here to set up in the hall
Where dancers meet from everywhere being ready for the call
Violins and hurdie gurdies just to name a few
Accordion, with guitars and flutes and some recorders too
The percussion plays so steadily and keeping to the beat
As we listen to the wondrous sounds encouraging our feet

When we party on our special nights the food is quite an art
All bought or cooked or stole from mum we can't tell them apart
We surround the table just like siblings jostling for the cake
While new ones stand politely back waiting for a break

But most of all we gather here in town or in the hills
To meet each other every week, so never short of thrills
As our music takes us into places that belong from many lands
From UK, France and Holland on to Israel full of fans
Armenia, Georgia and Greece we love, we take small steps then kick
Bulgaria was my favourite .. Belcho's accent was so thick
Romania now that's a feast one needing to knit feet
Serbia, Norway, Syria and Albania so sweet
Oh there's Russia we will recall its soft and sensuous sound
And they dance in that cold country and in survive the freezing ground !

I always will remember the joy this music brings
The footwork and our friendship.! Driving home my heart soon sings
We'll carry on for ever as many years go by
And when we decide to quit our shoes
We'll be dancing in the sky

Cyndie Innes

News of Berni Maginn and Carolyn Cox

Berni has now moved into a permanent care home in Bayswater. Her visitors report that she seems happy and chatty if somewhat unaware of what is happening.
Visitors often wheel her into the garden in her wheelchair. Apparently she does have a lot of visitors so if you are planning to go and see her it is advisable to contact her friend Jane who coordinates her visitors. Too many on one day tires her out.
Jane is available on 041 591 6755.

Carolyn is mobile but is also in care. She has mild dementia and type 1 diabetes. Her recent problems started with forgetting her insulin injections.

Until somewhere permanent is found she's temporarily at Amana Living in Mosman Park. 08 9462 8541

According to Pam Massey you can take her out or just sit in the garden at Mosman Park, relax and chat. Carolyn no longer has her own phone so there's no direct contact option.
She turns eighty on 22nd November. Snail mail to:

Carolyn Cox; Amana Living
99 McCabe St. Mosman Park 6012

This super photo was taken by Pam Massey down by the river on 22nd August:



After the 50th Party – the Thank You's

After their superb demos and performances at our big celebratory party on 2nd August we thanked Erika Muzinic (LADO-Perth) and Boriana Toderova (Rodina/Vito Horo) and their dancers with gift baskets.
Martin Williams and John Whaite presented a cheese hamper to Rodina the following Wednesday. They were delighted.

As choosing a second hamper seemed to be more difficult, Jenny Bardill visited the shops and made up a box of goodies, pictured here:



Many thanks Jenny! The present was delivered and presented to Erika and her dancers by John Whaite – thanks to him too.



Presented to WA Legislative Assembly
15th October 2026
by Jonathan Huston; Member for Nedlands

For five decades the Perth International Folk Dance Group has been at the core of promoting cultural diversity, interacting with numerous ethnic groups and connecting to the wider Western Australian community.

Founded in 1976 by a small group of passionate dancers, the group has grown into a vibrant organisation that continues to share the joy of international folk dance with people of all ages and backgrounds.

While the dance group focuses on dances from The Balkans and Israel it has more than 900 dances in its repertoire; from over fifty countries. Over half a century it has involved more than 400 people in its activities from many walks of life.

Through weekly classes, workshops, weekend camps and social events, they have built a strong, inclusive community grounded in tradition and movement.

From a group originally meeting at one location – they now run classes in six locations including Mandurah and Albany.

Their impact has reached far beyond the dance floor. They have performed almost 200 times at all the major and minor Western Australian folk festivals (including Toodyay, Fairbridge, Nannup and Nanga), at the National Folk Festival in Canberra, numerous Harmony Day events and at an Australia Day celebration in 1999 to an audience of eight thousand people.

They have also supported community, school and multicultural events; RSL, Multi-Cultural March (City of Perth) and supported multicultural arts and earthquake relief in Turkey.

This milestone would not have been possible without the tireless work of the long-serving volunteers, all honorary positions. I would like to acknowledge the Committee for their governance and hard work and thank them for their ongoing efforts.

I would like to register my congratulations to the Perth International Folk Dance Group for 50 years of community support, resilience and cultural pride.

May their legacy continue to grow one step at a time!

PID Party Performances

Dans Cu Sucitoare – Romania – Palenque & Eve



Hassapiko – Greece – Palenque, Jenny & Eve



Ovive Yerk - Armenia – Jenny Currell, Palenque



Opas – Bulgaria – John Whaite, Peter Fallon, Martin



◄◄◄The words on the left were drafted by Martin Williams as PID President; discussed and agreed with Jonathan Huston, the Lower House member for Nedlands on 10th August 2026 at his offices at 1/160 Hampden Rd, Nedlands, and read to Parliament 15 October 2026 as part of local 'statements'.