

# GRAPEVINE



Volume 15 Number 1, June 2003

Grapevine is the newsletter of the Perth International Folk Dance Group. The Group meets Monday evenings at St Margarets Church Hall and Saturday mornings at the John Leckie Music Pavilion both in Nedlands. The evenings begin at 7pm with a 90 minute dance lesson, followed by general dancing until late. For further information please call John ((08) 9427 4258 (wk) or Nina (9385 3689).

## Introduction

## Palenque Blair

In this issue, the first *Grapevine* for the year, and the first ever compiled by VP Palenque, we continue to survive without President Martin. Pam and Martin currently gallivanting around Europe until September.

We report on a great start to 2003 with performances at Nannup, Fairbridge and very shortly at Kulcha (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June with Tears to Picketty live music). We have also had a successful Bulgarian and Romanian workshop from Palenque in May and lessons with our visiting friends Frances (and Roger from USA, ex PIFDG members) and French guest Huguette Roy. Most importantly, we have André Van de Plas visiting us from Holland in July to teach a weekend workshop on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Ciao, Palenque

## Group Events Winter 2003

### Workshop with André Van de Plas

André – our favourite international guest teacher, will teach a weekend workshop on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July. As usual, the Saturday morning session will replace the Saturday class and should be suitable for beginners.

André's repertoire is international, and in the past he has brought dances from China and elsewhere, though like PIFDG he tends to specialise in European, including some Israeli and American. Many favourite dances have been originally taught by André.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Sessions: 10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm each day

St Margaret's Church Hall, Nedlands

Weekend Cost: \$55 (members), \$65 (non-members)

\$5 discount (concession),

*\$5 discount before end June*

**Saturday** 12<sup>th</sup> July - no normal class

**Monday** 14<sup>th</sup> July - revision of André's dances

**Party** 8pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July (see below)

## Last Five Coins Dance Night

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 8pm St Margaret's Hall,  
cnr Tyrell & Elizabeth Sts, Nedlands, BYO, \$8**

## Huguette's Visit

## Laurel de Vietri

Huguette Roy, French dance teacher extraordinaire, graced us with her presence on Monday nights and Saturday mornings during March and April of this year to teach us some new dances. She said that her visit to Perth was greatly enhanced by her involvement with dance groups such as PIFDG and with musicians like 'The Last Five Coins'. She gave her time and expertise without asking for payment, but went back armed with gifts and T-shirts and wonderful memories from 'PIFDG' and 'Souleiado'.

The last time she taught at PIFDG was in 1992 when she was 64 and still very much into folk dancing in France. Her passion at the time was mostly for the dances of Gascogne and Berry. For the past seven years, she has turned more towards music and her accordion playing, but she still enjoys her Biodanse and Danse Libre lessons in Avignon.

We soon realised that Huguette hadn't lost her touch as a dance teacher and her poise and elegance was evident to all. We were fortunate enough to have 'The Last Five Coins' accompany us during her lessons and that added to the ambiance of those dance sessions. We enjoyed relearning "Argeers" which is danced in France although it is set to John Playford music and we finished each session with "Long Dans" from Sweden. Some of us also learnt a "Swedish Scottisch".

Huguette taught us many French dances to add to our repertoire. These included « Bourrée de La Chatre », « Bourrée Droite du Pays Fort », « La Brande D'Ardent » and « Bourrée de Reuilly » all from Berry. Among the Gascogne dances we spent most time on the « Rondeau », doing both the couples version and the chain version. We were also lucky enough to have Huguette lead some of the dances during our "Eurodance" at Fairbridge Festival.

Russell Johnsen of 'TLFC' held a party at his place for us to dance with Huguette and the band. We had

delicious food and continuous music and dancing. We listened and watched as Huguette played her diatonic accordion and taught the members of the band some new waltzes and bourrées. As we wound around Russell's back yard in the 'Swedish Long Dans', I realised that Huguette was building up quite a following with the musicians.

At the bal folk organised to celebrate Huguette's visit we put those dances into practice and also had a go at "La Sacristain", "Passe Rue", "Valse Coupé", "Cercle Circassien", "La Courante Alsacienne" and the popular couples dances from France which we always love. I have fond memories of Palenque and Eve whirling around the floor at high speed in a Polka when everybody else was worn out, of dancing a 3-temps bourrée with Tony to that great Auvergne music, of that flirtatious 2-temps "Bourrée en ligne" with Huguette, of reverse waltzing with Gisela, of all the children criss-crossing the floor in the "Passe-Rue". Thanks must go to 'The Last Five Coins' again for providing non-stop music.

### Fairbridge Festival

**Glynda Ward**

Fairbridge Festival seems to get better and better. For those uninitiated folk, Fairbridge is the music festival which is held every year in April at the historic Fairbridge Village just north of Pinjarra. This year we scored an extra day compliments of Anzac Day, which was on the Friday.

This year I seemed to spend most of the Saturday at the dance stage, firstly dancing with PIFDG in the morning and again later in the day when Last Five Coins accompanied us for "Eurodance". In between I compered a dance concert comprising the belly dancing Ghawazee Girls (who were also attended by some boys!) and the Seychelles Cultural Group. The Last Five Coins are a versatile group as they also accompanied the dancing G.G.'s. All dance performances were well attended and when the opportunity arose audience members didn't need to be cajoled into getting onto the dance floor for a bit of a bop themselves. Later in the evening Cahoots Cajun Dance Band (How could I not mention them!) had lots of devotees (old and new) jitterbugging, two-stepping and generally having lots of fun on the superb dance floor which is brought in especially for the festival to cover part of the basketball court.

Some other highlights of the festival were the very entertaining Martin Pearson, the magician, singer, musician and all round performer extraordinaire Mic Conway who was ably supported by local band the

Sultans, Akasa a four part female accapella group, Bernard Carney's Beatles night (a tradition), and Monsieur Camembert who unfortunately I didn't get to see due to extreme fatigue (but Palenque saw and greatly enjoyed, especially once people had been sparked into dancing – ed). I also enjoyed what I saw of Fred Smith who spent much of his time working in PNG and whose songs are influenced by his contact with the local people. I could go on and on, but I won't....except to say that Fairbridge Festival is one of the best festivals of its kind in Australia (many performers from east were saying The best!) so if you haven't been, do think about making the short trip down the SW Highway next year.

### Saturdays

**Jenny Bardill**

The Saturday Group continues to flourish with fluctuating numbers due to family, work and holiday commitments. We continue to enjoy a variety of dances thanks to our regular teachers. We were recently privileged to have Huguette revise some of our French Dances. The winter season brings with it the Minkey Hockey, and subsequent parking hassles. The smell from their sausage sizzles does wonders for our concentration. However don't be put off by this. Please feel free to come and join us for lots of fun and exercise.

### Cajun

John is currently running a Cajun course on Saturday afternoons in Fremantle, 2-4pm, and he'd love to see you there (contact John on 9433 2027 for details).

*NB: There will be no Saturday Morning Group or Cajun on July 12th due to André's workshop.*

**In Memory:** June, a long time non-dancing helper at workshops, passed away this week. She will be missed.

### Teaching Programme for 2003

The preliminary list of dance teachers for the rest of 2003 is:

|           | <i><b>Mondays</b></i> | <i><b>Saturdays</b></i>                     |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| June      | Palenque              | Jenny                                       |
| July      | John                  | Laurel(19 <sup>th</sup> &26 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| August    | Laurel                | John  |
| September | Sara                  | Laurel                                      |
| October   | Palenque              | John  |
| November  | Laurel                | Palenque                                    |
| December  | John                  | Laurel                                      |