

GRAPEVINE

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Grapevine is the newsletter of the Perth International Folk Dance Group. The Group meets Monday evenings at **St Margarets Church Hall in Nedlands (Cnr Tyrell and Elizabeth)**. The evenings begin at 7:00pm with a 90 minute dance lesson, followed by general dancing until late. For further information please call John ((08) 9427 4258 (wk) or Martin (9445 2072).

Editorial

Martin Williams

Following the frenzy of half a dozen *Grapevines* last year, 2002 has been a sleepy year, at least in terms of words. So here goes with some words to 'write' those 'wrongs'!

The **Saturday Group** is now getting more established with numbers increasing after Laurel did a local letter drop with some new flyers. Thanks Laurel! And thanks too to John and Jenny Bardill for coordinating the group recently and for babysitting the new sound equipment. We have now bought a metal cabinet to store the equipment at the John Leckie Hall so no more transporting the gear to and from the hall each week. Thanks also to David for getting this and for painting it for us. Thanks too to the various teachers including Penny Vyse who stood in on the Saturday of the **Fairbridge Festival** when the teachers and most of the Committee were absorbing the sights and sounds of the wonderful 10th anniversary of the Festival. Our congratulations to Steve Barnes and his crew for once again packing the week-end with wonderful acts. The Perth International Folk Dance Group contributions to this included the **Eurodance** segment at Saturday lunchtime and an **Israeli** segment in the afternoon. Both were to live music which as one of the dancers I found both challenging and rewarding. Eurodance was backed by The Last Five Coins. The Israeli bracket was with Klezmeritis, a group from Melbourne including Ernie Gruner, Ron Hansen and Phil Carroll, with special guest Reuben Kooperman. The dances went well, very well considering the group and the dancers only met for their first rehearsal at the Festival. The audience participation and enthusiasm when it came to the teaching had to be seen to be believed! Well done to all the dancers and teachers and a particular thanks and congratulations to Palenque who choreographed our dances. Thanks also to Sara who was a mentor for the Israeli dances, and to Laurel and her group, Les Enfants de Provence who joined us for Eurodance.

Our performance at Fairbridge was the filling in a sandwich of events. The week-end before saw us up at Hillarys Boat Harbour for the **SunSmart** dance

event. There we danced Hora Medura, Smogyi Karikazo, Kreutz König, Tarantella, Chassapiko and Joc din Slatina, the same dances as Fairbridge although the order was different. The Sunsmart performance was a real test with a small stage and canned music that kept jumping!!

The week after Fairbridge saw the Group performing Joc Din Slatina, Tarantella and Dans Cu Suçitoare (the 'stick' dance) as part of the **International Dance Day** at the Cultural Centre in Northbridge. This was enthusiastically received by a big crowd.

Well done to all of our performers and again to Palenque as choreographer. Some photos from the various events are included with this issue of *Grapevine*.

What's coming up?

Enough of the past, let's look forward to some events coming up in the future. Check out the flyers.

Xenos

Monday 17 June

Flushed with the success of dancing to live music from Perth and Melbourne bands at Fairbridge, we are pleased to announce a special Monday night event on 17 June when Xenos will be at St Margaret's Hall. Xenos have a great following in Melbourne and are preceded by a huge reputation as performers of gypsy and Macedonian folk music. While they are in Perth they are also performing at Kulcha. We are hoping for a good turnout for this unique event in our calendar, and hopefully on your calendar!

Beginners' Course

Starts 22 June

It's over 12 months now since we ran our last beginners' course so we are starting a short series of dance courses in late June. Starting on 22 June the four 90 minute sessions will be held immediately before the Saturday classes. With a 9am start this will delay the normal Saturday start time by half-an-hour. The cost of \$40 will include four weeks of tuition, membership of PIFDG and an option to join in with the Saturday session. Tell your friends!! Please help to promote the event at your local library or school.

Please come along and support the Saturday class; John Leckie Pavilion, Melvista Ave (nr Loton St) Nedlands)

André van der Plas

27 - 28 July

We will be hosting André in Perth later this year. He'll be here presenting workshops over the week-end of 27-28 July. He will only be here for the week-end so please come along and support us. Don't delay until the Monday or you'll miss him!! The workshops will be held at the Star of the Sea Hall on Stirling Hwy [2 McNeil St in Peppermint Grove, just north of the Grove shopping centre]. The start will be 10:30 on the Saturday and 10am on the Sunday.

Those of you who have been to André's workshops over the years will know that he has a great style, wonderful teaching methods, chooses good dances with good tunes and fabulous choreographies. If you have not been to one of André's workshops please don't miss this opportunity, he's never let us down yet! Put the date in your diaries and look out for the flyer. There is a **Party Night** on Monday 29 July. Sadly André will have left for Sydney by then.

Cajun Classes

Start 29 June

John Whaite will be running a series of Cajun classes down at Fremantle starting on 29 June and running until 23 August (no class on 27 July). Contact John for more details on 9427 4258.

Dance Workshops in France

Tales of Laurel de Vietri's January trip

Apart from spending time with my children who now live in Aix-en-Provence and Paris, I had some enriching experiences in the world of dance while I was in France over the Christmas holidays.

Gabrielle and I travelled up to the Auvergne from Aix for a weekend known as Le Bal du Cochon (the pig ball) put on by the dance and music group, "Les Brayauds". The weekend consisted of 3 three-hour bourrée workshops over the Saturday and Sunday, terrific workshops for advanced dancers, and a ball on the Saturday night which went all night. The ceremonial killing of the pig on Saturday morning meant that we had wonderful meals all weekend of grilled pork, blood sausage, and various other Auvergnat specialties and local wines and juices.

I also visited Limoux, a town in the Gascogne region, for an all day dance course in branles of the Ossau Valley in Bearn. What luck I had to spend 3 days there while they were in the midst of their Carnaval celebrations! They celebrate Carnaval from Jan 6th through to Mar 30th and I was welcomed by their magical procession of costumed musicians and dancers, masks and confetti, in an ancient rite which was far from the commercial Mardi Gras celebration

held in Nice, and the celebrations continued for the whole of my visit. This was a real bonus on top of a rewarding workshop by the director of the Occitanian Conservatory of Traditional Dance and Music of Toulouse, Pierre Corbabin.

Before I left France I went to an international dance class in Paris with Monika and her group "Danses d'Ici et d'Ailleurs". We danced 'Shetnya' from Serbia, 'Halleluya' from Israel, 'Zonaradkos' from Greece, 'Kalon Koritz' from Greece, 'Opa Tsupa', a Romany Gypsy dance, and a Jewish Swedish dance whose name escaped me. These were all new to me and it was a very enjoyable evening. The group is restricted to circle dances since they dance around a cement pylon in the middle of the floor!

This Year's Monday Night Teachings

The year has started with the usual flurry of dances taught on a Monday night. Some are new, but many are old favourites that have got lost somewhere along the way. Many thanks to our teachers for all of their efforts this year.

Preumblata de Femei	Romania
Nigun Atik	Israel
Sabrali sa se Sabrali	Bulgaria
Djurdjevica	Serbia
Gankino Choro	Bulgaria
La Sardane Curta	Catalonia
Drianovska Racenica	Bulgaria
Branle de la Vallee D'Ossan	France
Mardi Gras	France
Enleio	Portugal
Hasual	Israel
Hora Chatina	Israel
El Hamayim	Israel
Debka Alon	Israel
Ajara	Israel
Tsur Chassidi	Israel
Hayara	Russia
Hoi Nare Nare	Armenia
Asmar Agchik	Armenia
Zawajuni	Israel
Chukanoto	France
Avrameanca	Romania
Rond D'Argenton	France
Traca Traca	Romania
Sborenka	Bulgaria
Borrowdale Exchange	England
Madro	Bulgaria
Batuta	Romania
Bela Kawe	Caribbean