

# GRAPEVINE



Volume 15 Number 2, November 2003

Grapevine is the newsletter of the Perth International Dancers. The Group meets Monday evenings at St Margaret's Church Hall in Nedlands (Cnr Tyrell & Elizabeth) and Saturday mornings at the John Leckie Music Hall in College Park off Melvista Ave. The evenings begin at 7pm with a 90 minute dance lesson, followed by general dancing until late. Saturdays begin at 10am with 1 hour dance lesson before morning tea and general dancing. For further information please call John (9427 4258 (wk) or Martin (9445 2072).

## Introduction

## Palenque Blair

This is the second *Grapevine* for the year. 2003 seems to have rushed by with performances at Nannup, Fairbridge and Kulcha and workshops by Palenque in May and by Andre van de Plas in July. We also had lessons with our French guest Huguette Roy, and a Dance night almost on Bastille Day with Last Five Coins the very same weekend as Andre's weekend workshop. Andre's workshop went down well at our familiar hall. Thanks to Eve who hosted him, but more about the workshop later.

## Group Events Summer 2003-4

### AGM

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November **8pm** (short lesson 7pm)

St Margaret's Church Hall, Nedlands

### Saturday Christmas Party

20<sup>th</sup> December, 10am – 12 noon

BYO finger food and drinks

John Leckie Music Hall, College Park, Melvista Ave

### Monday Christmas Party

22<sup>nd</sup> December, 7pm til close,

BYO finger food and drinks

St Margaret's Church Hall, Nedlands

**SUMMER BREAK** - No classes will be held on:

**Saturday** 27<sup>th</sup> December or 3<sup>rd</sup> January

**Monday** 29<sup>th</sup> December

**2004 SEASON begins:**

**Monday** 5<sup>th</sup> January

**Saturday** 10<sup>th</sup> January

### Peter's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dance Party

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January

St Margaret's Church Hall, Nedlands

Live music, BYO finger-food supper to share!

## Breton Fest Noz (*Night Feast or Bal*)

with The Last Five Coins

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> February, details to be advised**

**Sunday in Brittany – dance, music, information, entertainment, participation, displays and fun!**

**Laurel de Vietri**

For anyone who wants to find out more about Breton culture, Brittany's place in the world today, Breton traditions including dance, music and costumes, this day is a must. Discover *Kan Ha Diskan*, the *Bagad*, *Dans Fisel* and the *Gwen Ha Du*. Learn from the experts, participate in the workshops and let your hair down at night.

Mark Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> February in your diaries (it's a long weekend) and look forward to a morning of talks interspersed with Breton Dance demonstrations, an afternoon of Breton dance workshops (beginners and advanced levels), followed by a Fest Noz with The Last Five Coins. Go Celtic for a day, enter into the dance trance of the Fest Noz with live and recorded music and carafes of cider in true Breton style. Please contact Laurel for more info on 9448 8179.

**Andre's Visit**

**Laurel de Vietri**

André was whisked in and out of Perth for the weekend of 12-13<sup>th</sup> July this year in a flurry of new dances and to the delight of his WA followers. Thanks to Eve for hosting André and to everyone involved in decorating St Margaret's hall in the theme of international hats and scarves that gave the workshops some ethnic ambience to suit the occasion. Thanks also to Nina for the catering and Jenny B. for collecting André from the airport.

André presented dances from Serbia, Romania, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Israel, Bulgaria, the UK and other countries. Some dances, like *Koce Berberot* with its catchy tune and funny song about a Macedonian barber/musician and the *Turkish Esmer*, have been danced weekly ever since July. The graceful arm movements of the Armenian dance *Yaman Yar* made it instantly attractive to us, although they presented some challenge at first when combined with the footwork.

The two Israeli favourites were *Chopi* and *Slosha Tranim* and Sarah helped us with the translations of the beautiful poetry which had been made into the song for the *Slosha Tranim* dance. We all loved *Alunelul de la Godenesti* from Romania and can add that to our list of *Aluneluls* that we already dance.

The Saturday morning group has been dancing the English dance *Heads or Tails* since André's visit. This is a great dance for a large group. In the typical style of English folk dances, each figure runs very smoothly into the next, and its racy rhythm just beckons one to dance.

The Saturday night being close to Bastille Day was the perfect opportunity to have a celebratory dance. André and all the workshop participants enjoyed the music of 'The Last Five Coins' as we danced some of André's old dances along with some French favourites and other dances we love to do with the band. It was also our turn to teach André some dances! We anticipate André will be back for more and we look forward to his next visit, which, if I remember rightly, will be a milestone visit to Australia.

## RHYTHMICITY

by Paula Day

If you find yourself in London and your entire body feels the need to move to some kind of groove, then get it to Brixton to the MAMBO INN. This is where my friends Karen (a jazz and R & B singer) and her partner Muchi (extremely cute guy) took me recently. Also in our party were my girlfriend Heather, who was dead keen to move to the groove, and my partner David, who is a member of the No Movement Movement. You can imagine how much moving to the groove he did!

On our way to the Mambo Inn Karen warned Heather and me that men come over and just grab you and start dancing. Fantastic, we said. Yeah, brilliant! We arrived at a rather insignificant looking building, went through a doorway next to the corner pub and up a rather shabby flight of stairs. The first room we came to was very large with dim lighting, a bar down one side and DJ at the far end. The music was fabulous. Entirely African rhythms filled the place while people on the dance floor looked so enviably rhythmical. Then up another flight of stairs to the next room where the rhythms were entirely Latin. Laterality was required here, as spectacular bodies did spectacular things with their hips, and everything else for that matter. Muchi called this The Show Offs Room. Personally, I was spellbound by their abilities. Up some more stairs and we were in a smaller room

where a guy with an accent and very mobile hips was instructing would-be movers and groovers. Heather and I joined in for a few minutes but then decided it was too basic even for us. So it was back to the African room where moving was however the rhythms made you groove. It was non-stop music, and for me non stop dancing, and yes men did come and grab us frequently. What a marvellous night of rhythmicity!

## Saturdays

Jenny Bardill

The Saturday morning group celebrated its 2nd Birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. Members brought a variety of food and a good time was had by all. It was great to have the company of some Monday night members though unfortunately not the Saturday group founder Joy Hill. Thanks to all the teachers for their great efforts during this time. The Saturday group, though sometimes small in number, remains highly motivated and enthusiastic about folk dancing.



Thanks to Laurel who took the photograph

## Teaching Programme for 2003-4

The preliminary dance teachers' programme for the next 6 months is:

	<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Saturdays</b>
November	Laurel	Palenque
December	John	Laurel
January	Palenque	Laurel
February	Eve	Laurel
March	Palenque	Jenny
April	John	Palenque
May	Laurel	Jenny
June	Eve	John
July	John	Palenque
August	Palenque	Jenny
September	Sara	John