

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 & 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

Paula Day

Welcome to the first *Grapevine* for 2004. Is time passing by more quickly these days, or am I just showing my age? Speaking of age, I went along to some of the Northbridge Parklife Concerts put on by Kulcha in Russel Square and what marvellous events these were, enticing all age groups to get up and dance to the vibrant sounds from our multi-cultural community.

In this edition you will be enjoying articles by Laurel who writes about a celebration of Brittany, by Martin who writes about the Nannup Folk Festival and Tony who gives us glimpse of the culture of Japan.

There will also be dates of wonderful, upcoming events for dancers and culturally discerning persons. Where P.I.D. members are concerned these are one and the same!

By the time this newsletter is available to the masses Pam Massey will, hopefully, have returned safe and sound from her latest adventure, this time involving something French and very dear to her oddball sensibilities. Also, during her time away she assisted Laurel with French dance workshops at this years National Folk Festival in Canberra. Well done you two!

Red Faces 2004

This popular event will be held at Eve's home on Saturday 26 June, 48 Florence St, Cottesloe.

There's an amazing amount of talent in the Group so now is the time to strut your stuff. Start working on your song, dance, poem, dance or whatever. Leone can advise and provide assistance on musical backing or whatever. See you there!!

P.I.D. Party Nights & Themes

These special Monday nights are lots of fun, particularly when people come along and dance in some colourful, theme-related clothing. Any amount of effort makes a difference! Bring a plate of food to share and a delightful time will be had by all.

May 31 st	LATIN
August 30 th	ISRAELI
November 29 th	Theme to be announced

André van de Plas

André will be back in Perth over the week-end 3rd/4th July. This will be the 20th anniversary of his first dance tour of Australia, so come along and help him to celebrate this milestone. André teaches a wonderful selection of dances from many countries, with a well-planned balance of moderately easy dances to the more complicated. He always includes a variety of styles from different countries. Be there !!

Yaron Meishar Workshop

This is being organized by Hora Shalom c/o Sara, and will be held at Hackett Hall in Draper Street, Floreat.

Times ;	Sat. 22 May,	10am-1pm & 2-5pm
	Sun. 23 May	10am-1pm & 2-4pm

Cost ; \$65 or \$55 concession

Early Bird \$60 or \$50 by May 1st

Including Saturday night party, the theme of which is 'black and white'.

Nannup 2004 – Labour Day

There's something about Nannup over the Labour Day week-end; it's the time for March flies and the time for heat. Nannup is sufficiently inland that it avoids the sea-breeze and over the years our dancing has coincided with some scorches. Anyone who danced in 1994 in the sun on the street outside the Hotel in 44 degree heat will attest to that. Well this year was a bit kinder; there were no March flies and at least half the week-end was OK temperature-wise. In recent years the Group has performed out-of-doors and dodged the gum-nuts and the dust. This year saw us inside the Town Hall. Very many thanks to all the performers. We danced on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday we had a good and enthusiastic crowd, but Sunday it reached 37 and was too hot. The crowd obviously thought so too because they were somewhere else!!

Sunday in Brittany

Photograph→ →

This special all day event was put on by Souleiado French Dance Group on Sunday 29th February on one of the hottest days of the year! It was sponsored by Perth International Dancers, many of whom gave up a lot of time to help out on the day and to attend rehearsals to present a very handsome dance demonstration.

The morning session saw the North Perth Town Hall full to the brim with people from all walks of life united by an interest in the culture of Brittany, North Western France. Souleiado children danced *Pour Bien Danser* and *La Gallette*, while the adults performed *Dans Oignon*, *Gavotte de Pont-Aven* and *Kost ar c'hoat*. In between we heard from 3 different speakers on different aspects of Breton life. The crepe-making demonstration was very popular at morning tea-time as were the displays of Breton goods. Nearly the whole hall joined in to do an An dro which wound around the place to the tune of the biniou and bombarde (bagpipes & oboe combination)

After a sensational lunch provided by La Tarte and Breton cider we moved on the dance workshops which were very well attended too by many people I'd never met before. The heat got the better of us in the end and we began to flag after experimenting with dances like *Suite de Gavotte des Montagnes*, *Avant Deux de Travers*, *Ronde de Landeda* and *Dans Plinn*.

The Last Five Coins got the *Fest Noz* going that evening with Laura on vocals singing in French and Breton – quite an achievement as this language is difficult! Again, we had the support of many Perth International Dancers. Laurel and her French friend Claire did two Renaissance dances from the court of Reine Claude de Bretagne. We danced until we dropped and consumed gallons of Breton cider in between dances along with French specialties like *rillette*, *terraine* and *saucisson* on bread to soak it up!

Thanks to all of you who helped and participated.

Laurel de Vietri



Inbe Matsuri

Tony Hoar

On a cold, clear Friday night last October, I stood with some Japanese friends watching a long line of flickering bamboo torches making their way towards us through the nearby town of Inbe. We were part of a group of townsfolk and visitors, gathered on a field at the foot of a large hill on the edge of town. This was the beginning of the Bizenyaki Pottery Festival. As the procession arrived, the long bamboo torches were stacked into a heap and soon a huge fire was blazing, lighting the scene and warming the onlookers. Then, eight or so of the potters, dressed in long white robes, made their way up the hill in the darkness still carrying their bamboo torches. Some time later the trail of little lights reached the summit and a new bonfire burst into flame like a distant beacon.

That marked the end of the formal part and made way for the festival celebrations. Then the food stalls opened up and the music began. The most impressive was the taiko drumming. Looking extremely athletic and attacking their drums as if there would be no tomorrow, the drummers produced complicated rhythms that were probably heard in Tokyo.

I heard the Taiko drums again a few days later at another festival in Kurashiki south of Okayama. It was a night festival set in an old traditional village, with candles and white swans drifting serenely on a winding canal. From a Buddhist temple on an adjacent hill, high above in the darkness, the drums echoed across the valley.