

# GRAPEVINE

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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

Day

Paula

Welcome to this mid-year edition of *Grapevine*. What a busy couple of months it has been for our legs and arms, especially with the André van de Plas workshop in July and for those of you who also participated in the Yaron Meisher workshop in May. But don't let them stop now, there is lots more coming-up!

## Beginners/Advanced Courses

King Street Arts Centre, King Street, Perth

Thursday 9 September – Thursday 14 October

The beginners' programme will start at 6pm, finishing at 7.30pm. The advanced programme will start at 7.35pm, finishing at 8.35pm. A rehearsal for Perth International Dancers will follow from 8.40pm until 10pm. These courses will cost \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members (\$45 will include PIFDG membership until the end of the year).

## PIFDG Party Nights and Themes

August 30<sup>th</sup> GREEK

Xmas Party 20 December

Our previous party night, which was spectacularly Latin, saw many faces come out of the woodwork to enjoy the vibrancy and colourfulness of the occasion. With the world's attention being focused on the host nation of the XXVIII Olympiad, let us aim for another wonderful night of celebration!

Note that November 29<sup>th</sup> is likely to be reserved for the AGM.

## Dance Fever

If you love to dance or want to learn, WA's best dance instructors will set you in motion.

10 hours .. 7 styles .. a whole day of dance  
Dance Fever indeed!!

Fremantle Town Hall, Saturday 4 September

Please see Palenque or John if you wish to assist with their sessions.

<http://www.webinthehills.com.au/dance>

## Teaching Programme

Dance teachers for the remainder of this year and for early 2005 are:

Month	Monday	Saturday
September	Palenque	Jenny
October	Palenque	Laurel until 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov.
November	Eve	John
December	John	Palenque
January	John	Laurel

## Red Faces 2004

After shuffling around a few dates we finally managed to hold our RED FACES night on Sat 26th June - at Eve's home - thanks again Eve - a great hostess and the best mulled-wine maker in the West.

Once again it was a very successful night with some great entertainment - it is becoming quite obvious there is some real talent among our Group, and also that being such a group we are able to pick out features from dances we are all familiar with and turn them into something else. Continued →→

**Who am I?** On the Treble Cove ski-field in NZ? See article inside and more pictures on page 4.



Also making little sketches drawn from our own experiences, making it extremely good fun for everyone. There is a bit of everything - fantastic. Move over Australian Idol. Thanks again everyone!

I would like to have another try using St. Margaret's Hall next year and wonder if you would all be agreeable to this idea:. My suggestion is that each one of us buys a curtain or pair of curtains or material from Op Shops - in colours of Red, Orange, Pink, Yellow, Purple Mauve - all plain colours - not patterned - and then screen off a corner of the hall with these curtains - we would need the help of our menfolk to figure out a way of hanging the curtains. They could then be put away each year as property of PIFDG and used again and again, if it works, and if we can create the right, cosy atmosphere. This would take the pressure off Eve, and also there would be more room for the Saturday group to come in and join us if they wanted to. What does everyone think of this idea?

Cheers everyone, *Leone*

### **André's Workshop**

According to the attendance list pinned on the wall, we have now completed nine André workshops over a period of twenty years. And congratulations to Peter and Carolyn on attending every one!!

André is remarkably and delightfully unflusterable. He maintains a calmness throughout. He gently and subtly introduces us to new steps and before we know it, we've done it! [How did that happen?]

As always, he produced a perfect balance of easy/intermediate to intermediate/challenging and with an excellent variety of styles from Romania, Israel [including one couple dance], USA [line dance], Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia, Italy, Russia [gliding along like our Georgian dance] as well as a French – Romanian mix which was an interesting combination. Fifteen dances in all!

It was well attended at St. Margaret's Hall with some new faces as well as the regulars. Welcome o'new faces [as opposed to Red Faces..... that's another story]

On Saturday evening thought was given to 'what shall we do?' and it was decided that dancing all day and partying all night [or part thereof] might be a bit too much [poor old ducks].

Restaurant was considered but eventually it was settled. We invaded Eve's place [again], which was

an excellent idea – thank you Eve – especially as André was staying there.

So we all took a plate, ate, danced and sat down..

Sunday morning was, no, not dark glasses and heavy eyelids. It was a mixture of beanies, gloves, scarves and even a thick quilted jacket. It was a comical sight seeing people dancing in a circle dressed up like an Antarctic expedition.

Now we're back to Monday evenings and revising André's dances while they're still fresh [ish]!

See you there!

*Pam Massey*

### **Winter in New Zealand**

#### **Question:**

What makes a good holiday in the middle of the year?

#### **Answer:**

Hiking up mountains, soaking in hot springs, visiting friends, skiing in fresh snow and – yes of course – dancing!

**Machol Pacifica** was held from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> July in Hastings on the East Coast of the North Island for about 100 participants which hailed mainly from New Zealand itself as there is a strong following of Israeli Dancing. A handful strayed across from Australia and I believed myself to be person who had travelled the farthest – until I met a four-person delegation from Singapore. They specifically came for the dance camp – plus a holiday of course – and stuck together with identical T-shirts at each session.

The camp was conducted in a boy's college called Lindisfarne at the edge of town, in generous grounds with various grouped purpose buildings in their typical pleasing architecture and wooden finish.

The co-ordinators of the event had worked hard to make it happen and had functioned as travel information centre as well for those further afield. I was grateful for example for being put together with a dancer from Auckland to share the trip in her van to the venue. Breaking down half way only added interest to the journey and allowed us to get better acquainted. We made it to our destination the same night after all.

A dinner plate had been kept and finding a bed was the most pressing task. There were rooms with six

beds and an en suite bathroom, well finished and furnished but with little privacy. I found a larger dorm style room instead with about 20 cubicles with their own desk and reading light and settled for that with about four others. The temperatures were fairly chilling and piling five blankets on top of me did create a lot of weight but not necessarily warmth. But sleep comes to those who are sufficiently tired.

The camp teachers were Shmulik Gov-Ari and Moshiko Halevy.

I will quote some of their background information, which was printed in the January issue of Rokdim Yechefim (kindly provided by Yvonne / Editor).

### ***Shmulik Gov Ari***

Born in 1957 to an observant Yemenite Family in Nahariya, Israel. Attended the Wingate Institute in Israel obtaining a degree in Physical Education specialising in dance, where he later became head of the folk dance department.

Shmulik has created over 150 Israeli folk dances and many particularly for children. He worked with the ministry of education in Israel to develop dance programs for the school systems and has conducted workshops all over the world. He also created performance pieces on stage, in music festivals and on television.

Shmulik is currently working as a cultural ambassador to the Jewish Community of Greenwich, Connecticut developing programs, which incorporate dance, music and Jewish themes.

### ***Moshiko Halevy***

Moshiko is the son of an old Yemenite family. He was born in Jaffa (then Palestine) and his first introduction to dance was in 1949 studying classical ballet, character, modern and jazz dance. In 1954 he joined the Yemenite Dance Theatre 'Inbal' working for six years with their principal dancers. He participated in their two successful world tours and began choreographing folk dances. He created his first dance in 1959 (Debka Uriya). The Cultural Department of Arabs appointed him as instructor and advisor in Israel for minority groups in 1966. He taught in Holland for three months in 1968. In 1971 Moshiko was invited to be the Inbal Dance theatre company manager and led the group on their successful United States tour. Many of his dances are clearly influenced by minority groups and based on Oriental/Arabic motifs. In 2003 Moshiko was elected president of the Irgun Hamadrachim, the professional organisation in Israel that represents

Israeli Folk Dance teachers in all aspects. Moshiko has produced several recordings on his own MIH label.

So I was to meet those two distinguished dance teachers over the weekend!

The sessions were held in two adjacent halls, one the larger gym and a somewhat bare and sterile environment. The other a very attractive wood panelled smaller hall normally used for assemblies and ceremonies. The teachers moved between the two venues and taught concurrently in the morning and afternoon sessions, whereas in the evening all gathered in the gym for the social dancing.

**Morning:** Concurrent teaching of dances by Shmulik and Moshiko

**Afternoon:** Workshops

Shmulik: Working with children

Moshiko: Choreographing

**Evening:** Social Dance including revision – dances taught with Shmulik and Moshiko during the morning.

My initial reaction was surprise that there was no formal dance teaching in the afternoon but I soon appreciated the workshop (Working with children), which was very much educational and fun. Shmulik drew on his rich experience on how to encourage and teach children and gave us stories as well as a practical example by the way he dealt with some children present in this session.

Many present were active dance teachers and agreed that those workshops were far more valuable than learning a few additional dances.

The generous and tasty catering and good company added to the very successful weekend. I met two old friends. Rae Storey from Auckland who had been to Bulgaria some years ago for Belcho's seminar with some of us. And of course our old group member and friend Fiona Murdoch, now very settled in Hamilton.

It was Fiona with whom I travelled on to Hamilton after the camp and whose hospitality I enjoyed for a few days. Fiona is busy in her career and our arrangement was that she provided my shelter and I supplied her with a couple of dinners, it worked very well for both of us.

Near Hamilton (50km) is where Hobbiton is/ was – for those who are Lord of the Rings fans. Apparently the empty holes in the hills can now be viewed by tour for a price, I was not tempted and was content with the memories of the movie.

Next stop was Christchurch on the South Island with Air New Zealand. Thanks to fog in the morning in Auckland my flight was so late that I missed the start of André's session there (Friday night), but not for his full day session the following day. It was a pleasure to cross paths again and I surely appreciated the top-up of what he had presented to our group in Perth. The four Singaporeans too had made their way to this workshop and it was like seeing old friends again.

Next stop was Dunedin down at the bottom of the East Coast and the first NZ town settled by 'Scottish migrants'. I checked in the library's register of community groups, which confirmed what I already had been told. No International Dance groups in Dunedin but five Scottish ones instead, four of which meet on a Monday night – as I found out late on Monday. So I made contact with the remaining Tuesday group and was kindly invited to attend with transport arranged by two long-time members, Scottish Mary and Jack. The group was most welcoming and friendly, and although the dancing felt somewhat sedate in comparison it was very enjoyable.

Just down from Dunedin is the Peninsula, home to a colony of Royal Albatrosses and also NZ's only 'castle', really more of a grand home but worth a visit.

The Peninsulas 'High Road' offers sweeping views and a firm walking surface – I managed 20km's one day, felt sore afterwards but with no regrets.

The best was kept for last. The Southern Alps and ski fields around Wanaka and Queenstown. Whether looking up to the mountains or down from them, either way it presents a wonderful panorama. I explored the ski fields of Treble Cone (see picture on page 1), Cardrona and the Remarkables for a few days and hiked around lakes and up a couple of peaks on the 'rest days' in between. Images from the 'Lord of the Rings' came very alive again. But that aside the natural environment was truly a tonic and therapeutic, and NZ altogether literally a very refreshing break.

*Gisela Gmeinder*

By the way they have an active International Folkdance Group in Singapore, so if anyone is passing through they are very happy to have visitors.

contact details for the Singapore Group are

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[mollylsk@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:mollylsk@yahoo.com.sg)



Gisela on the top of Mt Roy out of Wanaka; Brrrrrr!!



Gisela with Schmulik



Gisela with Fiona at Huka Falls outside Taupo