

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 75 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 (9326 6077 (wk)).

Words from the new President

Well - my first Grapevine as President! What do I want to say? We've had a great start to the year, with a very well attended Xenos Macedonian/Gypsy dance night in April. Laurel, Jenny and I had a very inspiring trip to Canberra for the National Folk Festival over Easter - conducting workshops in Alsatian, Breton and Poitou-vian dancing. We also attended workshops in Scandinavian, Bavarian and Estonian dancing, amongst others. The blackboard dance stage was a new idea to me and a great way to advertise as well as the source of some entertaining hybrids: Morris-Belly dancing!!! Despite some of our regulars disappearing overseas this winter, I hope we will get a great turn-out for André's July workshop - it should be excellent fun as usual!

Palenque Blair, President 2005

Planned Events and key Dates

Bring a Friend night **Monday 30 May**

Free entry for ALL

Members & regulars please bring a plate to share

Please pass the enclosed 'Bring a Friend Night' flyer to your friends. Bring at least one along. This is an initiative to increase numbers. We've tried many beginners' courses but we never seem to keep new dancers for long. Maybe introductions are the way to go!!

Also look out for the following and be there:

André van de Plas **Sat / Sun 2 – 3 July**

Party night **Monday 29 Aug**

Party night **Monday 31 Oct**

If you have a favourite theme for the two party nights then either lobby the Committee or put a suggestion in the box.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to Lee and Gavin for the arrival of Arlo Lee Corfield – details on Page 4.

A New President!

by Martin Williams

After being President for about eight-years I am happy to hand the presidency to Palenque. Overall, from my perspective I have been very happy working and dancing with everyone over those years.

I believe that I have left the Group in pretty good shape but we are facing a few issues. Two of the major ones are:

- ⊗ The average age of Group members continues to rise, and
- ⊗ Monday night hall fees have increased recently by 20%

The second issue is at least balanced by the fact that we have quite a buffer of funds. Our bank account is sitting at a healthy \$7,000 plus. Recently the Monday fees have not covered the cost of the Hall hire of \$45 and teacher costs. At this stage the Committee has decided to maintain existing Monday night fees at \$4 for members (\$6 for non-members). If numbers do not increase there will be increasing pressure to put the cost of Monday nights up. Let us know what you think. If you want to remain anonymous put a suggestion in the box.

With this issue we have included a dance list from 2004, a flyer for André, and a second instalment from Paula Day of her 2004 trip to Nepal. She's been home for some time now but we loved the emails so much that we'd like to share them. They describe camping at 3,800 metres in unheated buildings, and describe the relentless 'upness' of the terrain! So as we head towards winter we thought you might like to read about the cold of other climes. We've also added the first instalment of Pam Massey's travels.

Teaching Programme for 2005

The schedule of dance teaching for 2005 is:

Month	Monday	Saturday
May	Laurel	John
June	Eve	Jenny
July	Palenque	Palenque
August	Eve	Laurel

This schedule is subject to change – look out for later announcements

Our web site: www.iinet.net.au/~currell/dance

A Fabulous Night with Xenos by Martin

Many of the 65 people who spent a Monday night with Xenos in 2002 have talked about it with great enthusiasm ever since. So when Xenos agreed to return to PIFDG after Fairbridge Festival this year there were a lot of happy people. On 18th April St Margaret's Hall rocked to the music of Xenos ably supported by Peter Georgevski and Will (from the Brisbane-based gypsy band Doch). Over seventy people attended and the general consensus was that it was another fabulous night. Billed as a Macedonian & Gypsy night the dancers spiralled in on the Group who played so many of the dances in the middle of the dance floor. Anne Hildyard taught many of the steps before returning to play a sax, a gaida or sing with the rest of the Group. Peter also took a turn teaching some of his homeland's Macedonian dances later in the evening. We heard the caval, clarinet, gaida, bouzouki, sax and lots of drumming. All wonderfully complemented by Anne's singing.

The Hall was nicely decorated with Group T-shirts and bright red and yellow decorations, the colours of Macedonia. Red and yellow scarves screened the stage and in a really nice touch everyone wore a small lapel pin of two pieces of ribbon, one red and one yellow held by a small gold safety-pin. It looked like a laurel and was a nice culturally correct and sensitive touch. Thanks to Jenny Bardill for organising that.

For me the high-point of the night was dancing to their Sa O Roma. We often dance to it on a Monday, the steps are Rumelai, but to dance a ten-minute 'live' version was just wonderful.

All-in-all it was a great night and one that we hope to repeat sometime. Let us know what you thought.

The following photos show the musicians and some of the dancers on the night:



International Dance in the Hills

I have been running a class in international dance in Mundaring for nearly a year now and the small but enthusiastic group have developed a repertoire of some twenty or so dances – with a large proportion of Israeli as that seems to be what they like.

It's great fun but we really need a few more people to join us, so if you know anyone in the Mundaring area who may be interested please send them along. Also, anyone who would like to pop in on a day off or outing in the hills we'd love to see you - 9:30am Fridays, Mundaring Scout Hall, Jacoby St.

Jenny Currell

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Namaste - take 2 –from Paula Day in Nepal

Well, I have flown to and from the Jomsom region of the Himalayas in a 16 seater aircraft and not hit a mountain so I am extremely relieved. The flight from Pokhara to Jomsom goes between snow covered mountains of the Himalayas and is absolutely breathtaking. Going up I sat behind the cockpit and so got a view from my window and also the pilot's. The mountains looked like I could reach out and touch them. WOW! Shortly after landing Dharma and I started our trekking to the town of Kagbeni. This took about 3 hours and the landscape is spectacular if you like barren, remote places, which I love. Geologically, it is fabulously interesting. Most of the way is walking in the riverbed (the museum called it a floodplain) which is very wide and has very fast flowing streams, and the sides of the canyon are super high. Part of it looked like the Grand Canyon in the States. The riverbed is also where goods are transported by pony-trains and donkey-trains, which are very decorative and jingly with bells. There are no cars, trucks or buses and so this mode of transport looks very exotic. A dirt road is underway for buses. Dharma said that the locals want it. Personally, I think it's a great shame because it will change the

nature of the place. Walking from Kagbeni to Mucktinath, which I found extremely difficult and exhausting, was also spectacularly beautiful. And a powerful part of the beauty was the silence. The only sound, at times, was the tinkling of bells from the mountain goats. Looking up meant looking at snow covered Himalayas. The towns in this region are extremely basic, crude and old. There are also buddhist monastries to be visited, where herbal medicine is very much practiced. The people are all Nepali but originated from other parts. Most look Tibetan and the style of dress, particularly with the women, is very regional. No saris in sight. Everyone looks grubby and dusty. The children look like urchins and have the runny noses, but are so delightful and love having their photos taken. There are lots of hotels and guest houses and Dharma always managed to book me into a room with my own bathroom. This was greatly appreciated, although the plumbing in this country is rather diabolical. As we went to higher altitudes it, naturally, got colder and colder. Mucktinath is at 3,800 metres and was bitterly cold at night. The buildings are not heated and I didn't have my electric blanket! After walking back to Jomsom, which was mostly downhill, and staying the night we then did a day walk to the apple capital of Marpha. This is the prettiest of the towns and has more atmosphere too. Our evenings were spent chatting with trekkers from Holland, France, Germany, Switzerland and Israel. Only one other Aussie. I must say that everyone but me seemed like a serious trekker! Everyone we met or passed had all the right clothes and accessories, and many used serious looking walking sticks made of aluminum with a spike at the end. At least I had decent shoes.

Most of them had also done much more, very impressive, trekking too. I fully expected to be crippled by today, but I must have been doing something right because although I am aware of certain muscles, I am fully mobile. Apart from my sick days, today is the only day that I have not done any hard walking ie UP. What a lovely break. Tomorrow it's back to school, which means walking UP again.

Well, I think that's about it for now. Thank you for all the wonderful emails you guys! It's so great to be able to share things with you and receive news and encouragement back. Until next time.

Love P. The Great Adventurer.

Aloha from Hawaii

Pam Massey

Hello everyone! This is the first of my holiday notes for you all to share. Come with me on my trip and enjoy!

It was the longest flight I've ever had. Longer than travelling to England. 6.20hrs to Auckland, 5 hrs in transit in Auckland airport, where I lay down on a bench & tried to rest, till I heard my name paged!! A friend was waiting for me in arrivals!! Great palaver filling in forms to get through & back again all within one hour, but worth it, 'cos she had NZ money and could buy me a cuppa! Was also nice to see her, and have 1 hr of social stimulation, having sat next to a weird woman who was totally 'out of it', and I couldn't get a word or a smile out of her all the way from Perth! Onto the next flight, with 2 seats to myself, 8 hrs something non stop to Honolulu. We flew across the dateline between Fiji on our left and the Cook Islands on our right. At this point I went 'back in time', as I left NZ on Sat, & arrived in Honolulu on Fri! 10.30pm. I did absolutely nothing on the plane. Didn't even read the in-flight mag! Just watched films, ate and slept (sort of). I had pushed myself non-stop till the moment I left Perth, that it was sheer bliss to have nothing around me that I needed to clean, prune, buy or pack!! My inter-island flight out was 6.20am, so I stayed at the international airport, which sort-of stays open. On the outside at least. A lot of it was on the outside. Work desks and even computers! But no comfortable benches for me to stretch out on! All the seats had armrests, which sorta got in the way! That only left the concrete floor. So at 12.30am, after walking up and down with all my luggage, thinking 'there has to be a comfortable bench somewhere', I gave in to the realization that there wasn't! I considered the flowerbeds, which I figured would be softer than concrete, but decided it would not be very good for Australian relations with the U.S., and besides, the sprinklers were on. I have to say, it was the worst nights 'sleep' I have had since 1987 in an Alice Springs campsite waiting for the maids bus to arrive for the national folk festival in the middle of the night,...with my mattress! I found myself a corner that was not in direct electric light, and I wedged my luggage on the trolley into the corner, intertwining all the straps for a difficult get-away by the wrong person, and I lay in front of it on top of my sleeping bag, which I later got into as the temp cooled, which made the concrete even closer!.... It was a quiet corner, and I was told this was a 'security area' and thus the safest place to be. But

all through the night, despite my flight possibly being the last one to land till morning, the announcements kept announcing. No smoking; '2nd hand smoke areas' are not permitted' was the one I heard repeatedly. To whom? Just a few of us hobos dossing on the concrete, and a cleaner flapping (or is that flopping)? around with a mop. Anyway I survived. By 4.15am it became apparent that I was never going to get to sleep, so I got up, rolled up the swag, dusted off the concrete, untangled my straps, and trundled on to a loo. By this time the domestic airport was open and I could check in for my Pacific island of Kauai flight @ 6.20am. I had enough time to relax and buy a cuppa, but would I find TEA, at the Starbuck coffee bar, I wondered. I did. Things were looking up! I went to the departure gate and had about 45 mins to wait. Got chatting with a family from Florida; elderly parents and their 40 something daughter. A pleasant 45 mins passed. We then looked at the time and found it was 6.20am. We hadn't heard our flight announced, so the 40 something went to check. Oops! It had gone!! And my luggage was on it, and my friend was at the other end to meet me! We never fathomed how we missed it, but they managed to get us on the next plane, an hour later. The flight-desk girl said they knew we hadn't boarded, and paged us. I wonder where!? Lucky we were able to back each other up, as she said usually there is a charge for changing flights. Anyway, she'd just been to Perth, and was interested in wwoofing, so another hour passed quite pleasantly! I re-grouped with the Florida family, and ears cocked, we didn't let that departure gate out of our sight! It was a smallish plane, half empty. I found myself sitting next to a rather hunky 20 something white American male, and the 40 min flight was just too short!!! I wish the flight from NZ could have flown that low too, so that I could SEE the Pacific!! We landed. Small airport, and there, open to all, was the carousel in the arrivals, with my baggage still going round and round. It must have got quite giddy by now!! No sign of Jo, though I had asked the flight-desk girl if she could get a message to her, and she did relay that. This is Jo that I briefly met in the Cook Islands in 2001, and we've kept in touch ever since. Just before I left Perth she emailed me and said "this is rather embarrassing as I'm meeting you at the airport, but I've forgotten what you look like"! It really wasn't difficult though, as I was the only one (the first one at least), that stepped out! And she was the only one stepping in!!

So life in Hawaii day 5! Maybe I'll make myself another cuppa before I launch into that one! Stay tuned!!!

Editor's note: Can't for the life of me think how they didn't hear their flight being called!!

Have you been to Dancing Recently?

If not then we're looking forward to seeing you soon!! The number of Group members has been quite steady over the years but the number of dancers has been dropping again recently. The Xenos night was a welcome reminder that there is enthusiasm. Please come along and say hello at our 'bring a friend' night and remember that dancing is great exercise for the winter.

We'll be missing a few regulars this winter. As you know Pam Massey has just left for the UK via Hawaii and Canada, Tony Hoar is away on LSL until November, Joy is in the UK – or was it Greece and Sara is off to Israel soon. So we need you!!

Congratulations ——— continued

Congratulations go to Lee and Gavin for the arrival of Arlo Lee Corfield, born 9:36am on 20th April and weighing in at 3.77 kg. Photo of happy mother and son below:



Hopefully Gavin has fully recovered from his accident earlier this year when he broke both arms playing soccer!! At least now he will be able to join in with those key baby jobs such as nappy changing. All the very best from the dance group!