

GRAPEVINE

December 2007

President's Report 2007

Hello again, hope you've had a very enjoyable year – I certainly have with our very full events calendar. I note that a couple of the Monday party nights advertised in last Grapevine didn't actually happen! Things were so hectic! However lots of things have happened:

February: Workshop in Albany superbly organised and advertised by Sara. I followed up with another 2-hour workshop in July while I was working down there – also well received.

April: Performance at the National Folk Festival in Canberra – quite an effort was put in by nine dancers; and Jenny C and Jennifer E did a superb job on new Armenian costumes. Sadly these did not get used for the International Dance Day event cancelled at the last moment due to bad weather.

July: We all enjoyed Andre's visit for the weekend and many celebrated with new Fremantle band The Flying Carpathians on the Saturday night.

August: Red Faces: fun and frivolity at Eve's

September: Saturday Group 5th Birthday party, I gather all had a great time, though I was busy holidaying in Tibet.

October: Roni and I demonstrated our skills with style to about half the Water Corporation for an Annual Celebration – what exposure!

November: Point Peron revisited. Greatly enjoyed by all, even me though I was dragging myself off my sickbed to be there!

December: Don't forget the year hasn't finished yet, and I look forward to seeing you at one of the Christmas parties.

There has been lots of talk about getting a laptop to replace our failing CD players at Monday dancing. Jenny has shown us how well it can work with use of her set-up occasionally. Jenny and son Andrew have put lots of effort in, but agreement on what to purchase just hasn't quite happened yet. We plan to purchase shortly with our savings.

On a slightly sombre note, the hall hire for St Margaret's went up again by ~20% in July this year – so Monday dance nights now rarely break even. On the up side, we no longer have to share the space with Gymbaroo!

Looking to 2008, the Committee is planning a Beginners course in early 2008 if there is sufficient

interest – PLEASE spread the word and see if you can help us get the interest. There are various events being considered and if you particularly liked or disliked any particular events, then please let a Committee member know why so that we can plan to please!

Happy Dancing,

Palenque

Christmas Party Monday 17th December
St Margaret's Church Hall

With live music by the *Last Five Coins*

Join us for another great Party Night, bring a plate or drink to share and dress Christmas-y

7pm start for 8pm live music

What's the Point?

For me the point is that it was another great week-end. Last November we met at Point Peron for the Group's 30th year celebrations. This year was a revisitation, which really lived up to expectation. We had fewer people than in 2006, but that did not seem to matter. The location was great, dorms were good, food was OK – apart from the strawberry mouse that everyone seemed to comment on - and the mix of dance teaching sessions, the visit by the Pontian Group and Peta Lithgo's singing session on the Sunday all made for a very relaxed week-end. The weather was kind, which meant that some hardy souls hit the beach and went swimming. Others tried out Clive's recumbent tricycle on the quadrangle. The Saturday night dinner, with its seaside theme of 'blue and green', and the after-dinner dancing went down really well, helped a lot by having the music cued for play, with no breaks looking for the next dance. Thanks Jenny! We must get our own PC soon!

I've included a few pictures taken over the week-end, which I thoroughly enjoyed. If you were there I hope that you did too. The responses from our 'post-Peron' survey suggest that you did.

Many thanks to all those who helped to make it a great week-end. Roll on the next get-together!

Some pictures from the week-end attached **Martin**

The flies were quite bad and so were the sea bugs!!

GRAPEVINE

December 2007



*Eleftheria
Our
Pontian dance
teacher.*

*After teaching us
at Pt Peron she
drove to
Geraldton to
dance there on
Sunday!!*

Scene at Point Peron – Phil in Pontian Pirate mode!



Peta Lithgo at the Sunday session – singing that is!



Jo Dilly leading the Tai Chi session early on Sunday

Preliminary Teaching Schedule for 2008

	Mondays	Saturdays
January	Palenque	Jenny
February	John	Palenque
March	Eve	John
April	Palenque	Greek/Pontian
May	Laurel	Laurel
June	Palenque	Palenque
July	Jenny	Jenny
August	Eve	Jenny
September	John	Laurel
October	Sara	John
November	Eve	Sara
December	John	John

Subject to change

Weekend At Point Peron

Observations from Leone.

This is just a brief account of my impressions: This weekend was a delightful experience from beginning to end, and while I am finding it difficult to remember all the details I will do my best. The highest points for me were the dances taught by our own teachers, which were just great. The dances taught by the Pontian group I found a bit disappointing and seemed to be geared to beginners, and I felt that maybe they thought we **were** beginners. However they were lovely people, with plenty of style in their dancing – their performance was excellent and obviously a good example of what Pontian Dancing is all about, and a pity they hadn't taught us something in that category.

Our dinner/party was just lovely and so much fun, and so good to see the efforts made by everyone to dress-up with an ocean theme – colours were wonderful, and the table decorations, and hall decorations did us all very proud indeed. I did not stay the night as had to return home to feed Maisie

GRAPEVINE

December 2007

and Dora (my two mazing and dorable cats – dontcha know). But that worked out well, as Sara, Pat, Marcia and I shared a car, and all returned to the camp early the next morning just in time for Jo's Tai Chi class, which turned out to be another high point for me. (must admit the flies were a real pain and Jo handled that plus the sun in her face the whole time – extremely well and it was a really good class.) I wouldn't mind at all if she could start a regular class for any of us interested!!

The next high point for me was the singing class held by Peta Lithgo. I didn't expect much from that but it turned out to be totally absorbing from start to finish. Peta was an excellent teacher - we all responded well, and I couldn't help noticing that everyone was smiling. I was truly disappointed when it ended.

The meals were good – have to say the dinner was over-salted, and while not complaining I would be inclined to ask them next time to back off with the salt and let us add our own. The breakfast was excellent, and altogether I think the caterers were very well organised and well prepared and all the meals were served promptly and enjoyed by all of us.

I can't remember much more but must say it was a lovely weekend – the venue is perfect and the programme was excellent and I would like to thank all the committee members, the organisers, the helpers, the teachers, Peta Lithgo and Jo for their great contribution. I would definitely like to revisit at least every two years, and in the meantime we could start planning what our next theme will be. Any ideas?

November PIFDG weekend at Pt Peron

Nina's View

For me, this weekend felt like a mini holiday – by the sea, away from home with someone else doing the cooking, music and dance with good friends and a “laid back” sea-theme atmosphere with no pressure.

The weather was great too, even if I was too wimpish to go swimming.

I enjoyed the varied program - the old dances and the new.

I'm looking forward to a revision of Sara's Machol Hashabat “*the dance of Saturday*”, with its beautiful melody and graceful arm movements. I'll get them right next time.

Loved Saturday night. My “laid back” attitude literally extended to Clive's wonderful recumbent bicycle. A twilight spin around the bitumen was a little highlight of the weekend for me.

Then Jenny's laptop kept favourite dances coming for hours.

It was still playing as I drifted off to sleep in a surprisingly comfortable dormitory bed.

That was another of my highlights! Nine hours of wonderful, refreshing sleep.

Jo's Tai Chi session [great idea to include that in the program] was almost over when I wandered lazily down to the oval.

Then, another highlight – Peta Lithgo's singing for dances session. It was so well done and just the right length of time. I've had “Jovano, Jovanke” on my mind for days.

I have to mention Sunday Brunch. Those croissants with jam and cream topped off the full breakfast and were scrumptious enough to make me forget the huge, pink “monstrosity” of the night before!

So thanks to people who put in time to make the weekend work.

I'm really glad I went. Nina

It's All in the Words

In this issue we take another look at the words of some of our regular dances. This time Nigun Atik and Jovano, Jovanke, as taught at Point Peron by Peta Lithgo.

Nigun Atik

Literal Translation

*We will return again to an ancient melody
and the song will linger on.*

*When we raise our glasses together
our eyes and hearts will be bright.*

*How good are our tents
because there's dancing there.*

*How good are our tents,
Still we return to an ancient melody.*

Our thanks too to Rachel Lev for the following interpretation more poetic of the above:

*We will again recall a tune of old
A beautiful and pleasing tune.*

GRAPEVINE

December 2007

We will again raise our cups with joyful eyes and hearts

Our homes are happy because the dancing has begun

Our homes are happy as we once again recall a tune of old

... and **Jovano, Jovanke,**

*Jovano, Jovanke,
You sit by the Vardar,
Bleaching your white linen,
Bleaching your white linen, my dear
Looking at the hills.*

*Jovano, Jovanke,
I'm waiting for you,
To come to my home,
And you don't come, my dear
My heart, Jovano.*

*Jovano, Jovanke,
Your mother
Won't let you go
To come to me, my dear
My heart, Jovano.*

Source: Peta Lithgo and Rachel Lev – see also http://www.dunav.org.il/lyrics/jovano_jovanke.html

Finances – Year-end summary

In spite of making a loss of about \$800 on the recent Point Peron weekend, the Group generally had a good year financially. The Group's 'year' runs from October through September, to fit in with the Annual General Meeting and the 3-monthly bank statements that we used to receive. The financial process this year including:

Treasurer duties were transferred to Martin Williams

A new spreadsheet was implemented to record debits and credits. The records now read more like a normal bank statement.

We have opened an ING account to give us higher interest. This also supports money being available at call.

The Treasurer procedures have been documented

On-line banking is now used to pay bills. Regular use of the Rediteller service confirms transactions

Direct payment introduced for payment of workshops and event fees

New cost categories introduced for income/expenditure and for financial statements

Use of a single paying in-book for bank deposits - for easier auditing & recordkeeping

Monthly (not weekly) receipt sheets for teachers – reducing the volume of records retained

Focusing on a few specific events:

Andre 2007 workshops produced a significant return

The Saturday party of the Andre week-end balanced the workshop return

The Point Peron 30th workshop returned a very significant return, even if the 2007 event did not!

Albany workshops return a positive result

Banked funds continue to increase, and at the end of our year we had over \$8,500 in the two accounts. This is money that the members have contributed to over the years, so whatever we use it for should be for the good of the whole Group and particularly for long-term members. See Graph of **end of year funds over past years:**

