



Grapevine is the newsletter of Perth International Dance. The Group meets at St Margaret's Church Hall in Nedlands (Cnr Tyrell & Elizabeth) on Monday evenings from 7:15 and Saturday mornings from 10:15 am. There is also a Friday session at 9.30 am in Glen Forrest Hall, Statham / Marnie.

Check us out on <http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/> or email [info@perthinternationaldance.org.au](mailto:info@perthinternationaldance.org.au)

## President's Report 2019

On behalf of all members, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the committee members and dance teachers, who in addition to their own personal everyday personal/family and professional commitments, have worked hard throughout the year to keep everything running smoothly and engage in activities to promote Perth International Dance.

It was business as usual after the 2018 AGM. A new committee was elected, and we enjoyed an end of year Christmas party with our friends the Last Five Coins. We ratified the new Rules of Association with a tweak here and there. Many thanks to those who were involved in the formulation of the final document, in particular Martin Williams.

The New Year however was shattered by the news that our dear friend André Van De Plas had passed away. André had been coming to us for a great many years, teaching the dances he had collected from around the world, in his own unique and inimitable way. His workshops were each year's look forward to event. We shall miss his colloquialisms such as 'look to me'. André will always be remembered through the music and dances he taught us.

Kaye Laurendet, André's Australian connection, was invited to travel to Perth to present the music and dances that he was planning to do in June/July this year. The event, held in October, was highly successful and was a great opportunity for members to celebrate André's life of music and dance.

The Promotions subcommittee coordinated by Paula Schneider, is working hard to promote all things P.I.D. Thank you to Paula and her team.

The Perth International Dance Hills chapter is going from strength to strength with numbers slowly but surely increasing. Many thanks to Jennifer Eyre and her support crew of Jenny Currell. This is the group's 15<sup>th</sup> year in operation. Talking of which it was the Saturday group's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. You have to ask yourself - where did that time go?? Contradance continues to be a popular monthly event, with a fabulous group of musicians providing the music. This group conducted a short Workshop at Fairbridge this year. Many thanks to Jenny Bardill.

The performance group is now holding a regular monthly practice session. It is open to all members. The objective for this initiative is to be well pre-

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pared for those occasions we are invited to perform. There has been several performances held by invitation this year.

The Graduate class continues to function on a monthly basis. Many thanks to Eve for being the powerhouse of this regular session. It is a great way to revisit and/or learn the nuances of new dances.

The Introductory Sessions conducted by John Whaite continued each week on Saturday afternoon. Many thanks to John for his continued commitment to this endeavour.

Perth International Dance held a Macedonian theme night which was well attended. Members danced to the music of touring Macedonian musicians/singers. It was an energetic and interactive night enjoyed by all.

Palenque is setting up 'shop' in Albany and commenced a workshop for children and adults in Albany in November. Palenque has our support and best wishes with her endeavours to get folk dancing up and running going forward into 2020. With the departure of Palenque, the Youngsters workshops have been taken over by Michelle Goldblatt. These sessions will be held during School holidays where there is a greater flexibility of time. Thank you Michelle.

Next year is shaping up to be a blockbuster year with two workshops planned. Lookout for announcements.

Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all.

JohnB



Editor: Martin Williams

## In this Issue of *Grapevine*

- Reprinted articles from Footnotes on our André Tribute workshops
- Thanks to John and Jenny Bardill
- A \$5 dance session initiative for 2020
- A new 'Introducing' feature
- The New Committee for 2020

... and look out for the holiday supplement - travellers' tales - look out for it on the web-site

## A Big Thanks to The Bardills!!

On behalf of the whole Group I would like to say a big, big thank you to John and Jenny Bardill. Jenny joined the Committee in 2003 and has been Vice-President for many years. John joined the Committee in 2011 and has been President for the last seven years. Both have provided great support for the Saturday Group since its inception - that's 18 years. Jenny has co-ordinated the teacher programme for many years - not always easy and often a bit of a heartless task. More recently she has coordinated Contradance from the PID perspective and has provided backup support when the Treasurer has been away. Her behind the scenes support has been excellent.

Both John and Jenny have provided a valuable link between PID and St Margaret's church in terms of overall liaison.

Committee members are certainly going to miss their hospitality as they have hosted most of the meetings at their house over many years. They are both standing down from the Committee this year, so well done both, many thanks and we hope that we will see you back when you have recharged your batteries!!



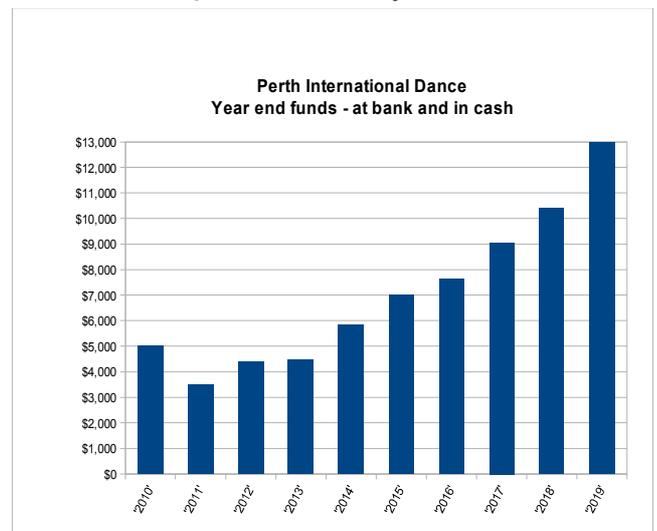
## 2020 - A New Committee

This is also a time to welcome the new Committee of John Whaite, as 'Chairperson', Trish Eyre as 'Vice', Maria Jenkins as Secretary and Jenny Currell as Treasurer, supported by Eve Blair, Leigh Richmond, Louise Scott and Margaret McHugh as ordinary Committee members. Louise returns from her overseas trip on 28 January 2020.

## Cheaper Dancing in 2020 !!

At its final meeting of 2019 the outgoing Committee supported a proposal to reduce the cost of Monday and Saturday dance sessions to \$5 per member per session starting in January 2020. This brings it into line with Contradance session costs. That in itself was not the key driver behind the decision.

For nine years now PID's cash and bank holdings have increased year on year, standing at \$13,137 at the end of the dance Group's 2018/19 year:



Over those years it has been claimed that PID needed a buffer to cover equipment failures, new PC's etc. In recent times we have bought 2 new PA's and a new PC and funds continue to increase.

Some members preferred allocating the money to a scholarship or funding an overseas trip to collect more dances or to upgrade the performance costumes.

With the hall hire rate increasing in January the situation will need to be monitored carefully.

Let us know what you think. Ed

## Introducing ... Maria Jenkins



Maria has been dancing with us now for around 6 months arriving from Canberra where she was both a dancer and a teacher. It is always great when a good dancer arrives in the group especially when they know many of 'our' dances and they like many of our favourites. She likes dances from the Balkans and some of her favourites are from Bulgaria .. such as Bavno Horo and Dospatsko.

She has also had a long-term interest in Greek dances, and for many years ran a monthly Greek dance afternoon with Folk Dance Canberra. In pursuit of her dance interests, she has attended many dance workshops over the years, both over east and overseas: in different regions of Greece, as well as in Albania, Romania, and Bali, where she met some of our PID members.

Maria came to Perth for family reasons - her son's family lives in Mullaloo and her daughter's lives in Singleton. After a solid search, Maria recently found her new home in Meadow Springs - she'll be moving in after Christmas. However she does bemoan the likely travel time to dancing - much longer than she had to do in Canberra!

Maria says she is very excited to have joined PID, and she enjoys the great variety of dances done at our regular classes. She finds it refreshing to be doing dances at a range of levels - from beginner to advanced - all in the one class. This is different to the Canberra arrangements, where classes are organised by level - beginner, intermediate and advanced. As there are many PID dances she doesn't know, Maria often feels like a beginner herself!

Of course, she misses her dance friends in Canberra, so she was particularly thrilled to catch up with Kaye Laurendet at our recent workshops, whom she has known since first meeting her at one of André's workshops in the 1990's. Maria also completed Folk Dance Australia's Teacher Training Course, which was moderated by Kaye. Despite the sadness of losing André, Kaye's workshop took Maria back to Bowral, where for many years, east coast dancers met for their annual weekend get-together with both André and Kaye.

Maria has just joined the PID Committee as Secretary, where she hopes to put some of her public service experience and her experience on Folk Dance Canberra's committee, to good use.

### It's all in the Words

For this issue we've used a dance from André's 2019 'One More Time' programme; the Lebanese dance 'Al Bint Al Shalabyia', 'The Girl from Shalabyia'.

We dance very few dances from Lebanon and this was the only Lebanese one from André in all of the 724 dances that he brought to Australia!! It was also our favourite dance in the set that we learned from Kaye Laurendet. Check out the article later in *Grapevine*.

*The Girl from Shalabyia*  
*Her Honey Coloured Eyes*  
*I love you from my heart, oh my heart*  
*You are my eyes*

*Under the arch*  
*My lover is waiting*  
*Breaking my thoughts, oh loved one*  
*It is hard on me*

*You appear in the distance*  
*Wounded heart,*  
*days on the mind they come and go*

*Under the pomegranate tree*  
*My love talks with me*  
*Sings songs to me, oh my eye*  
*and flirting with me.*

.. .. so nothing very philosophical there! It does sound nice when you hear it though!

## Dancing in the Hills ... ..

As 2019 is coming to a close, I have taken some time to reflect on the blessings of being a member and teacher of the Hills Dance Group.

This year has passed so quickly that it feels like we have been standing still! Our group waxes and wanes as holidays are taken, (we welcomed Shirley back after a year in Scotland), injuries are repaired, art exhibitions prepared, (congratulations to Louise), and new grandchildren appeared, (congratulations and welcome). But over the year our numbers have remained consistent...no one really wants to miss our morning coffee after dancing! Important for many reasons, among them is our desire to promote local business. These get togethers are the glue that keeps us together, helping us to grow stronger; we belong to something that means more than the fabulous dances and music that we are fortunate to share, though that is the primary reason we are together.

After much synchronising of diaries, our spring party was held on October 18<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed 6 or so of our 'flatlander' friends and after dancing we went 'up the hill' to Jenny Currell's for a shared lunch in her garden. Surrounded by trees, flowers and wildlife we communed with nature and each other. As always there is a reluctance to leave, but there will be another spring. It is hard to believe we celebrated our 15<sup>th</sup> year in the Hills this year, (time is doing that thing again!) and we are all grateful to Jenny Currell for her persistence in keeping the group going in the early years.

I am once again teaching at Kalamunda High School with John Whaite. These classes have been going for 4 years now with much success. I have managed to build an excellent rapport with the Italian language teacher who is very enthusiastic about the cultural exchange and whose students always receive us with respect and an energy I wish I could tap into.

Our final event for 2019 is our end of year party on December 6<sup>th</sup>. After dancing at Glen Forrest Hall from 9.30am we will travel to Clare and Dave Williams' home in Parkerville for a shared lunch. Usually "we weather the weather whatever the weather whether we like it or not!" But in Parkerville we have the luxury of choice between a shady veranda hidden

behind citrus trees, or an air-conditioned interior. As always, the day will be made more pleasurable by the people who attend. A big thank you to Clare and Dave for their hospitality.

I take this opportunity to thank the Hills Group for another wonderful year; you are a very special group of people. Thank you also to our 'flatlander' friends who have made the journey on more than one occasion to join us in the dance.



May you all be blessed with a wonderful holiday season and a continued love of the dance.

**Jennifer**

*Scene at Jenny C's house at the spring party!!*



## .. and - dancing on the South Coast .. ..

Since my move down south earlier this year I have started international folk dance sessions in Albany.

We have started small, with a few families and up to five adult dancers at a time attending some Friday afternoon classes at the very grandly named Albert Hall on Duke Street.

It has been great to see Joyce and Lex after many years; since their move to Denmark.

The intention is to run more sessions in 2020, including a Saturday afternoon planned for 11th January - so save the date and come south for a visit! If you are interested please email me [palenqueb@gmail.com] or call me on 0423 834 439

My thanks to PID for supporting our new Albany classes.

Happy dancing!

**Palenque**

We were asked by Folk Dance Australia to write an article for their *Footnotes* magazine about Kaye Laurendet's visit to Perth for our recent workshops. In the end we wrote two articles which we have included here with their permission.

### One More Time!

#### Perth's Tribute to André van de Plas

One more Time! Perth's Tribute to André van de Plas! Yes, the winner was .. .. Perth!! We were the first to learn and dance most of the dances in André's nascent 2019 programme ... but to quote from Dickens 'It was the best of times and it was the worst of times!' After André's very untimely and tragic death Perth International Dance cancelled its planned winter workshops and invited Kaye Laurendet to come across to Perth to present the programme that she and André had been working on. Our workshops, held on 5th and 6th October, were the best of times - great teaching, good dances and getting together with many fans and friends of André - and the worst of times - as it reminded us that this was the end of an era. No more André; never again will we hear him utter those signature phrases -- 'one more time' and 'look to me!' As most of you will undoubtedly know, Kaye Laurendet worked with André for thirty years organising his Australian tours and preparing his annual dance notes. But more than that; she described André as one of her best friends and that was very moving. Kaye's teaching showed what a superb ambassador she is to promote André's dances and to continue his legacy. These new dances are the final part of his legacy to us - his memory will live on! We learned 10 new dances which were very Andréesque! At times it seemed like a big Balkan banquet; a starter of Greek and Turkish, a main course of Romanian and a sprinkling of Macedonian and Bulgarian for dessert. As usual there was a spread of dances from simple to challenging, from the charmingly bucolic De Secerat to the fast and furious Gjusevska Râčenica. This time there were more irregular rhythms, not only the usual 7/8 with the slow at the beginning or end of the bar, but as if to remind us that Bulgaria alone has at least 80 documented time signatures André threw us a 9/8 (SSSQS) from Macedonia, an 11/8 (SQQQQ) from Bulgaria and 9/16 (QQQS) from Greece. Some really interesting rhythms to get our brains and feet

into! We kept the ritual at the end of the workshops of asking dancers to choose their favourite dances with the following results:

Dance name	Country	Perth Score
Al Bint Al Shalabiya	Lebanon	11
Braul Lui Ion din Slatina	Romania	10
Gjuševska Râčenica	Bulgaria	9
De Secerat	Romania	7
Moma Odi Za Voda	Macedonia	6
Damat Halayi	Turkey	6
Sfarlis	Greece	5
Piyan Ot Merak	Bulgaria	4
Rosen der Liebe	Germany	3
Edno Maloj Mome	Macedonia	3

The Râčenica was fast, even with the slower version of the music - great dance though; and the second part of the Romanian dance from Slatina was a real challenge with the steps not just crossing the music but being half a bar behind the music!! We can't wait to see the DVD! So the winner by a short head was André's first dance from Lebanon! By the time this *Footnotes* is published many of you will have had the chance to learn, dance and score the dances yourselves so you can compare your favourites with ours. With these ten we now have a total of 294 dances that André brought to Perth - from 51 countries! For us the workshops were the end of an era. For 21 years André had made Perth his first port of call in Oz, usually arriving from a holiday stopover in Bali. We had become used to him trying out his new dances on us and we felt that it was fitting that Perth was the first Group in Australia to see and learn these dances. Kaye presented Perth International Dance with a copy of the André book prepared by Lesley Rose of Folk Dance Canberra (FDC). The book is a collection of memorabilia including translations from the Dutch booklet prepared for the funeral. At the FDC Memorial Day last July, copies were presented to Margreet (André's dance partner on his videos), Marijke (his sister) and Kaye. Kaye bought one to present to us at our workshops thanks Kaye!

Kaye surrounded by most of the dancers at the Perth André van de Plas Tribute workshops Our workshops were attended by nearly 40

dancers, many of whom had known André over many years and who thought of him as a friend. Overall it was a very successful weekend and one that we will remember for a long time - thank you Kaye!

**Martin Williams and Eve Blair**



and the second article from *Footnotes* ... ..

## FAREWELL TO ANDRÉ

Perth international Dance (PID) remembered André van der Plas in a series of workshop sessions in early October. André was a folk dance legend and we were pleased to be the first to experience the dances he chose for his Australian tour. The first session of the workshop started on Saturday morning. Lots of eager dancers and helpers arrived early at the registration desk. The hall was decorated with photos from all the workshops over the 21 years André visited us. We all had a few chuckles when looking at ourselves then and now. Kaye Laurendet was welcomed in typical Perth style and then we were quickly learning several dances and kicking up our heels. A quick stop for morning tea and a quick review and then it was lunchtime. The second session on Saturday afternoon brought more dances, a few more faces and more review. By the end of the afternoon we had learned lots of dances and learned them fairly well, we thought. Many praised Kaye's teaching style and presentation. Several people said that it was done in a true André style and requests were made that she come back again. Saturday evening found us at a pot luck supper watching André's DVD of the dances taught and generally just relaxing and chatting about our times with André over the years. The Sunday session found us revising the dances we thought we knew. We learned ten of the 12 dances available and the remaining two dances were taught at our weekly classes in the weeks following. Our favorites from the

weekend were Al Bint Al Shalabiya (Lebanon), Braul Lui Ion Din Slatina (Romania), De Secerat (Romania) and Gjusevska Racenica (Bulgaria). The feeling that someone special was missing from our weekend was evident at times. Many knew André over our 21 years together. But there was also an atmosphere of celebration. We count ourselves very lucky to have known this folk dance legend with a life full of dance, travel and friendship, leaving a catalogue of dances as an ongoing tribute.

**Paula Schneider** - Promotion Subcommittee

## Teaching Programme until mid-2020

	Monday	Saturday
Nov/Dec	Jenny C	John
Jan 2020	Peter	Jenny
February	John	Sara
March	Jen C	Maria
April	Eve	Jen E
May	Eve	Jen E
June	Peter	John
July	Jen E	Peter

## Albany Performance

As a lead up to starting international folk dance sessions in Albany, eight of us performed in May on Harmony Day - part of a sustainability fair - in the Town Hall square in York St.

Paula Day who was visiting a friend initiated it and it was well received. We danced Asino Oro, Rustemul, Ovive Yerk and Muhtarin Oglu Ali - Palenque coaxed quite a few of the audience to join in with Yaylalar and Alunelul after the two performances.



## End of this *Grapevine* and the end of an Era

PID's amplifier/mixer gave up the ghost recently and has been replaced by two new PA units. Thanks to all who lent equipment and who researched and organised the new gear. This means that our old purple speakers will go into the PID hall of fame - or was it the museum. Are they safe we ask ourselves!!