



Grapevine is the newsletter of Perth International Dance. Dance sessions are held Monday eve. & Saturday afternoon at Dalkeith Hall, Waratah Ave in Nedlands; Friday's [9:30am - 11:00am] in Glen Forrest Hall; Mondays [12:30 - 2:30pm] at East Fremantle Tennis Club, Jerratt Dr. and in Albany. Details on <http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/> or email info@perthinternationaldance.org.au

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Committee Changes - the 2024 Committee:

Martin Williams	President
Jenny Bardill	Vice-President
Paula Day	Secretary
Jenny Currell	Treasurer
Berni Maginn	
Pam Williams	
Pam Massey	
John Whaite	

Last year we had an unfilled vacancy on the Committee. This year we welcome back John Whaite. John has continued in recent years as technical advisor to the Committee.

Check out [Past Committee Members here.](#)

All Our Yesterdays!!

This old performance photo, included in the last *Grapevine*, was from 1990.



Check this one out - it's a lot more recent:



Restart Dates for 2024

Saturday	6 th January
Monday	8 th January
River Group	Monday 29 th January
Hills	Friday 12 th January

Party, Party, Party - Christmas Party Dates

Monday 18th December

with live music from **The Last Five Coins**

Dalkeith Hall; Starting at **7:15pm**

Don't be late and please bring a plate to share.

Dress to an Australian Bush Theme



Hills Friday Group End-of-Year Party

Friday 8th December - Dancing 9:30-11am

Followed by lunch at Clare's place 1745 Coppin Rd (Cnr of Mucciarone Lane) Parkerville

Please bring Food for a shared lunch.

Saturday Party 16th December 1:45 - 4:45

Don't forget to read ..

--- the Holiday Supplement published with this edition of *Grapevine*.

Travel tales from:

John and Jenny Bardill - Texas

Pam Massey - New Zealand

Gisela Gmeinder - New Zealand

Martin & Pam W. - Western Europe

2023 President's Report

The last time that I wrote a President's report was back in 2004. That was a year of sound finances, with a few performances and with falling Monday attendances. The Saturday group was three years old, Jenny Currell had just started the Hills Group and Palenque and Laurel ran a beginners' course. I'd been the President for eight years and was handing over to Palenque.

That seems a lifetime ago, particularly so, as it was a year when Andre van der Plas visited! He ran successful workshops with 36 attendees.

Fast forward to 2023 which has been a low-key year in many ways. The Saturday Group celebrated its 22nd birthday - who can forget those 'tramps'? The Hills Group is in its 19th year and enjoyed another 'Spring in the Hills' in October. Perth International Dance, itself, has just finished its 47th year!

There was one small performance locally, although Palenque did have several performances in Albany and in Katanning.

It was also a year when, sadly, we lost Yves Moreau, another choreographer whose dances we have enjoyed for many years.

As normal, thanks go to the Committee and others who helped out along the way - unlocking the hall, putting the equipment away, providing cake etc.

The PID Secretary and I were away for several months, so extra thanks go to Jenny Bardill for holding the fort, and to Paula who was acting secretary.

Attendance at our core Saturday and Monday sessions has fluctuated but on average has been reasonably stable. Membership itself actually increased this year and overall we made a profit for 2022-23.

The beginners' course that finished early in the year was successful .. but where are they now?

With the small number of dancers we dropped Monday teaching in favour of playlists and that seems to have worked well, although it only serves to demonstrate the gap in experience and interest between our two main groups.

My specific thanks go to our regular teachers, Maria, Jenny, Peter, Eve and Sara and to Jennifer for running the group in Fremantle and to Palenque and her dedicated group of dancers in Albany. It was a year that saw John Whaite withdraw from dancing - we hope to see him back dancing in the not too distant future.

Christmas with the Last Five Coins seemed to go very well. Join us for another celebration this Christmas on 18th December.

I hope that you have enjoyed your dancing in 2023, I thank you all for your support and wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year!

Martin Williams

2023/24 PID Treasurer's Report

With the waning of Covid concerns session attendance has stabilised during 2022-23.

Membership has increased for the first time in several years and the group made a profit for the first time in several years.

The Beginners Course held in Dalkeith early in 2023 had good attendance and boosted the group financially but resulted in little effect in terms of ongoing new dancers.

For most of this financial year the Monday evening session has been just a playlist dance session with little teaching and as such the group has not been paying a teacher. This has resulted in significant cost savings.

The monthly billing system has remained and is generally working fairly well with the majority of dancers paying by direct debit making this job easier for the Treasurer.

Dance sessions continue to be held at Dalkeith Hall on Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings, as well as in the hills, East Fremantle and Albany.

Our year end cash (~\$8,900) is around 40% of annual turnover (~\$21,000). There were no changes to fees during the year.

Jenny Currell Treasurer

Saturday - 22nd Birthday party

A few tramps turned out to help celebrate the Saturday Group's 22nd birthday party on 16th September.

The scruffy ones were supported by quite a few others who obviously felt that the theme was a bit *infra dig*!

Spot the true tramps in this photo if you can!



Photo: Martin Williams

PID Hills Group 2023

International dance is alive and well in the Hills with Friday morning dance sessions gradually increasing in attendance. With a record number of new dancers joining us during the year, and most of us not even noticing when school terms are, we were finding the frequent term breaks disruptive so are now dancing throughout the year. Jennifer and I continue to share the teaching and running of the Hills group.

We welcome new dancers Tony, Ildiko, Mary S, Margie and Chloe to the group this year and welcome Sarah back after many years off dancing. We are particularly fortunate to have Ildiko join us. She is a lovely dancer who is Hungarian and has moved to the Hills recently from Queensland where she had been teaching International Dance.

During the year, with the help of Louise, I created a 'Hills International Dance' Facebook page and have been posting links to videos of some of the dances introduced to the Friday group. Attracting Ildiko to join us was one of the early successes of this Facebook page.

This year has seen the addition of a half hour 'challenge' session prior to the regular session for our more experienced dancers. This has been fun, keeps our more experienced dancers challenged and has attracted a couple of other long-time dancers to join us.

We still enjoy gathering at the local café after our dance session for a cuppa, cake and chat.



Spring in the Hills was held on Friday 13th October this year and we had a record 33 dancers at the hall with a good contingent of flatlanders joining us for a great variety of dances. Most of these people plus a few extras joined us for lunch in my garden. The weather cooperated and was perfect on the day.

Jenny Currell

Dancing at the River - 2023

Starting with 'Friends for Free February' (easier to write than to say) 2023 has reached its conclusion rather too quickly! Time has done its thing and danced right out the window!

This year has seen a number of our group leave for extended holidays, returning recharged with tales of places seen and experienced to the full. We have, as usual, followed the school holidays, taking a break between terms and returning refreshed and keen to add more dances to our ever-expanding repertoire.

We celebrated what is fast becoming a River Group tradition, Christmas in July with a small group of regulars at the end of the month. It is always fun to break out the decorations and to have extra time to share a cuppa, food, and conversation with group members and visitors. We were relieved (pardon the pun) that the change from septic to mains sewerage at the hall occurred without issue and was completed during the term break.

Unfortunately (or maybe not) the last couple of months have seen us dancing outside on the deck on more than one occasion, as the hall floor was too dangerous for dancing due to a botched resurfacing. While the deck is not as spacious, the sea breeze is very welcome on warmer days and it has, so far, been on days when we are fewer in number. A few weeks later we were assured the surface was better. Not enough, but problem solved! with stocking socks over half the soles of our shoes we can pivot and we get traction with our heels! There are still days where the deck is a better surface option but we are adaptable and with the sea breeze, we can't complain. Life is good.



So, as we see the old year out, best wishes from the River Group. May 2024 bring much happiness, good health and as always we hope to... ----see you in the dance

Jennifer

Albany Group

The Albany group has been running throughout 2023, with both adults classes on Saturday mornings and family classes on some Friday afternoons (not term 4 – as everything gets so hectic at that time of year!)

We started the year with a performance at the Australia Day Binalup Festival at Middleton Beach on 26th January – where 11 dancers (including 5 kids) danced. We performed Hora Medura (Israel), D'hammerschmidtg'selln (Blacksmiths Dance from Germany), Fado Blanquito (Portugal), Koce Berberot (Macedonia) and the Ukrainian waltz Oj Maju Maju.

Then we got people up to dance some easy dances. We danced on the grass under a marquee thankfully as it was hot. This event bolstered our numbers a little for 2023 which was nice.

An expanded group of 15 Albany dancers also performed at the Katanning Harmony Festival in March. This time we had six kids and 9 adults and we just fitted on the raised stage where we performed before the Roztiazhka Ukrainian Cossack Dancers amongst many and varied cultural groups. We danced again on the street stage (i.e. bitumen!) and got the audience up to join us – we even convinced a few members of Roztiazhka to join us for a couple of dances. One member of the Albany group, Liuda, is Ukrainian born and bred, and Liuda made Ukrainian floral and ribboned head dresses for all the female dancers! This really added to our costuming and makes for quite a spectacle! As it happened, we were asked at short notice to dance at Harmony Day in Albany also – so we used the performance in the square outside the library as a dress rehearsal for Katanning's Festival the following weekend. The event in Albany was really lovely – with several other cultural groups, all still in their costumes, joining us for the join-in dances, so that we had a huge circle of dancers on the lawn!



The fun continued in October with The Last Five Coins invited down again for the Shanty Festival to hold a multicultural dance in the Albany Town Hall. The Last Five Coins played with local Albanite Cathy on double bass. Lots of visitors as well as locals enjoyed the Sunday afternoon. The Albany dancers performed Hora Medura. The hall provided a lovely atmosphere, and it was fun, but overall it felt too short!

On the 9th December we'll go out for lunch after dance in preparation to wind up for the summer break – though the last dance session will be Saturday 16th December.

We've been accepted to perform at Katanning Harmony Day Festival again in 2024, so think about coming and joining the multicultural fun on Saturday 23rd March 2024 – it has a lovely friendly vibe – and they have the most awesome adults or big kids playground in Katanning and a hotel/restaurant converted from an old flour mill that is very interesting!

A few Albany dancers are also planning to dance at the Fairbridge Festival to be held on 5-7 April 2024 in Pinjarra. We are going under the name of Pidida Dance (Perth International Dance & International Dance Albany). Pidida means 'have to' in Estonian, and was selected as a stage name to encourage everyone to join in the workshops. Look forward to dancing with you there.

Bonne Annee 2024!

Palenque



Katanning

Photo: Damon Annison

Local Performances 2023

The only local performance this year was at Shenton Park Tennis Club on 11th August:



When we danced at Multicultural March in the Perth Town Hall in 2021 we thought that was our last performance and most of the dance group's costumes were transferred to Palenque in Albany. But when Ruža, who used to dance with us a bit years ago, turned up late one Monday night and very persuasively convinced us we needed to come and dance at her tennis club function. She swooned when we did a Croatian dance! Eve agreed to pull it together. I got the Hills group's costumes from Jennifer and in the end it all worked out beautifully.

The funny part about this was that we got dressed at the Bardill's house while they were in the US and sent them a picture saying "guess where"? My sister and brother-in-law were house-sitting there at the time.

It was a fun night where we performed and led join-ins of mostly Croatian dances. The tennis club crowd were very enthusiastic and joined in with great gusto. They provided us with a meal and it was all most enjoyable and they were very appreciative.

Jenny Currell

Jenny Currell - Life Membership

At the AGM on 25 November Jenny Currell was presented with Life Member of PID in recognition of outstanding and sustained support of the objectives of the group.

Jenny has made a huge contribution to the dance group over many, many years; many decades, really. Significant work both visible and behind the scenes.



Photo: John Bardill

She initiated the Hills Group in 2004 and ran it single-handed for many years. She has done a sterling job as Treasurer over the last 4 years. She was on the Committee for eleven years between 2004 and 2014; five of those as Secretary.

She has been a performer since the late eighties - 1980's that is -- check out the picture on the front page.

More recently she has been a mainstay of our teachers, Monday's, Saturdays and Friday in the Hills.

Well done Jenny, well deserved!!

Martin, on behalf of the Committee

Suggestions?

Don't forget the Suggestions Box that's kept at Dalkeith Hall!!

Quite a few things have changed in the last year, some you may like and some you may not, so if you have any suggestions please put them in the Suggestions Box - the new Committee will discuss them and get back to you.

Can You Hear Me?? Can you hear me!?

A visit on 20 Oct. to Dukat's international folklore festival, hosted by Perth's Serbian community.

Peter, Pat, PaM, Maggie, Maria, Maureen & her Turkish friend. (Paula, Margaret, you should have joined us!)

In previous years it had been hosted in a great venue albeit on the Woop-Woop side of Gosnells!

And it has been a great event! - But this year they lost that hall at the 11th hour & had to quickly find another. Good! Cos they found one closer to all our homes!

But oh dear...Much smaller. I mean MUCH! The performers were on stage instead of on hall floor, so visibility was ok, but the sound!!! 🗯️ DEAFENING! If you weren't deaf when you arrived, you would have been when you left! Pam Gunn, wish you were there to sort them out!! I asked the mixer on stage several times to turn it down & he didn't...Said he'd been 'on the floor, & its not loud'. Obviously had too much exposure himself & lost the reality of 'loud'!

Suffice to say the volume spoiled the whole evening. Plus no atmosphere in that hall....(tho the food was better than last year!)



Dancing!? Oh yes!.....Some good. More little kids dancing this year. Good to see them learning & keeping their culture alive, but they obviously lacked the quality of the Russians Serbians Croatians Macedonians, Spanish individual, & this year additionally African & Scottish! Peter could have blended in with his bagpipes!

Actually, the sound was so bad that several of us left at half time!

Peter & Maria stalwarts said the 2nd half had the best performers, who had come over from Adelaide, to perform to by-then a half empty hall...Very sad....Peter said they sang a-cappella, & Maria said they were superb!

The program had some thirty items. A few pictures included of what you missed....

Pam Massey



A Good Way to Spend Your Birthday!!?

Felix, Eve's grandson, was spotted busking at Fremantle Markets on Saturday 24th November. **On his 12th birthday.** Apparently he made about \$40. Nice birthday present, along with that family trip to Rotto!

Can you remember what you did on your 12th birthday??



Photo: Pam Massey