

# GRAPEVINE

Volume 4, Number 2, September 1993



Grapevine is the newsletter of the Perth International Folk Dance Group. The group meets Monday evenings at the Wembley Scout Hall in Jersey Street, Jolimont. The evening begins at 7:00pm with an hour dance lesson, followed by general dancing till late. For further information, contact John (444-4736) or Fiona (242-5652).

## Editorial

It's been quite a while since the last Grapevine, so there's lots to report about activities throughout the year. My thanks to Pam Massey, Paula Schneider, Pam Williams and Fiona Murdoch for contributing all the articles and from saving me from having to make up much more than this paragraph!

## Point Peron Weekend Workshop

### Pam Massey

Is this an account of the next Point Peron workshop, or the last one, you may ask yourselves?

Well, it's the last one, only it all happened so long ago I'm going to have to make it all up!

I do recall however that it was a very enjoyable weekend - as usual, and that when I arrived late on Friday evening I had missed the dancing and Debbie's mum's Israeli photos. Carolyn and I made the mistake of sharing the same-dorm-different-section with **children!** We foolishly thought they'd be asleep when we tiptoed in at midnight. They no doubt thought they were having an adult-free-fun-night! We listened to them singing and chatting happily for the first hour, but when they launched into 'Ten Green Bottles' at 1am, the fun was over...

The Saturday morning started with Fiona leading a 'warm-up' to some lovely music. She then continued to teach some of the dances she and John learnt on their Eastern Block Safari -93. John had his turn too, throwing in the now well known, and well loved 'O PAH's!' (that's O-PAH, not FO-PAH). Eve taught us some couples dances later in the day, and everyone worked hard and worked well, and had fun doing it. Thank you to all our teachers.

Lunch was the usual delightful array of saladie things we have on these weekends away; a good selection of cheeses and bread and umteen other extras you don't necessarily have with your every day salad at home (not if you eat at my house anyway!) The evening meal was another gourmet

delight. Everyone brought a plate, so we had about 25 dishes to choose from.

It was Brenda's 40th birthday again (how many 40th's has she had? ed.), so we all burst into song as we burst over dinner.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and thank Peter Fallon and June for all the time they put into this most important ingredient of our weekend: It's been noted, digested, even written about, so thank you both.

## Theme Night - Back to Mexico

### Paula Schneider

"Arriba! Arriba!" were the sounds heard throughout the evening of the Mexican theme night. Several hombres and señoritas danced their way through many dances including the Carnavalito (a line dance), la Raspa (a couples turning dance), Matlachines (an individual dance) and la Cucarache (a cockroach flirting couples dance). The occasion was festive and there were lots of 'chips and dips' for all to feast upon. There was one young, barefoot hombre, with a sombrero about as big as he was. He took a bit of a siesta during the fanfare. No banditos accosted the guests on their way home as another theme night came to a close.

## Theme Night - International Night

### Fiona Murdoch

August 30th was an International evening with everyone dressing up in their favorite ethnic costume. Colourful display - great food. The Performance Group treated everyone to a brief display of their latest programme. Congratulations to John Whaite for the choreography.

Next theme night will be Monday November 29th. We haven't decided on a theme as yet - but possibly Israeli or Turkish - Middle Eastern of some description.

## **Basic and Not-so-basic Technique Courses based on reports by Pam Williams & Fiona Murdoch**

During June and July, Fiona held a Basic Folk Dance Technique Course at Studio One in West Perth on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 10:00am.

The course introduced dancers to the most commonly used steps, movements and hand-holds. A variety of dances showing diverse styles were included to illustrate each week's topic. Each hour and a half session allowed time to focus on the key points of the lesson.

It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, even though the early start was a bit of a struggle for many (some even arrived clutching their toast!).

The course progressed logically and included dance etiquette, styles, rhythms, handholds and formations as well as a wide variety of dance steps. Extensive, illustrated notes were provided to complement the practice and the techniques taught were incorporated into 14 popular dances. Notes on each dance were supplied and a tape of the music was available to copy.

Thanks to a well planned and organised course and Fiona's excellent instruction and patience, we all emerged at the end with vastly improved skills and confidence. Enthusiasm was such that Fiona was persuaded that we needed more, and so the 'Not-so-Basic' Techniques course started on the 20th of July, and ran for another six weeks.

Fiona said, "It was great to have such keen and enthusiastic participants and I thoroughly enjoyed teaching the sessions. Highlights were seeing the emerging confidence of dancers and the three part harmony singing of 'sto me omelelo' as a vocal instrumentation for the dance of the same name! Such hidden talents!"

A Back-to-basics Workshop is planned for mid-October to revise some of the dances learned. If you'd like to know more, contact Fiona - either on Monday nights or at home on 242-3652.

### **The Singing Project. Fiona Murdoch.**

Several people have expressed an interest in learning more of the songs which accompany many of the dances in the group's repertoire.

Fiona is keen to explore this interest and is proposing a six week project to 'workshop' some of these songs. It would entail a once-a-week get-together of enthusiastic vocalists at Fiona's house, probably on Wednesday evenings about 7:30-8:00pm, commencing early October.

Song leaders would be recruited from within the dance group to teach and lead songs. A workshop would follow to put voices and feet together. No fee would be charged for participants in the project, although cakes and biscuits for supper would be welcome!

All interested singers, especially drones, please contact Fiona.

### **Performance Group.**

Our performance group is looking snazzier and jazzier with the addition of the latest fashion accessories, baskets, hats and scarves. Fashion designer Bernie Maginn is to be congratulated. Bernie's latest innovation is new baggy pants for the men, with plenty of room to swing a pawn-broker.

The new performance group programme has been extensively choreographed by John and includes:

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|-------------------|---|
| Tarantella        | - an Italian dance set to a medieval Spanish tune |
| Chasapiko         | - a greek butchers dance                          |
| Ajsino            | - from albania                                    |
| Sitno Zhensko     | - women's dance from bulgaria                     |
| Kutsta            | - a limping dance from bulgaria                   |
| Hora in Dua Parti | - from Romania                                    |

The performance group will next be appearing at the Toodyay Folk Arts Festival, on Saturday 2nd of October.

### **Resources.**

If any past or present member of the group has lurking in their cupboards any of the following - Dance notes, booklets, music cassettes, costumes, advertising stuff - which belongs to the group, please advise Fiona. She's trying to catalogue all the group's resources.

### **AGM**

Yes, it's that time of year again. The PIFDG AGM will be held after the lessons on Monday, 22nd of November. Be there if you don't want to be elected.