

GRAPEVINE

Volume 5, Number 1, February 1994



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 Joy (386-7438).

The first (and hopefully not the last) Grapevine for 1994.

Dance Fees.

Monday night dance fees have risen from \$3 non-members and \$2 members per night, to \$5 and \$3 respectively. Please remember to put your money in the tin by the tape player.

Membership Fees.

And speaking of members, membership fees are \$15 per year (or \$10 if you are a student, a pensioner, under 18 or unemployed). They were due at the AGM in November, so if you haven't paid Peter Fallon already, please do so soon. You may cease to be a member if you are unfinancial for more than three months.

Resource List.

We have almost completed a list of all the resources owned by the Group. Joy will maintain a book of loans and returns. Please see Joy if you wish to borrow any PIFDG resource.

Announcements.

We now have a notice board, at the south end of the scout hall. Please check the board regularly for important announcements and notices. Of particular interest right now are the guidelines for requesting dances - please limit yourselves to two dances at a time and give other people a chance to get their requests on the whiteboard before adding more.

A member of the committee will fill the kitchen sink at the beginning of each evening. Please wash your cups and glasses when you finish and put them away in the box. This will save a lot of work for whoever is left to close up each night.

Teachers:

Thanks to Fiona for teaching during January and Eve for teaching during February. John will be teaching in March, Sara in April and Eve in May.

Theme Nights

The first theme night for 1994 was a Turkish night on Monday the 31st of January. Further theme nights will be organised for the 5th Monday of any month with such an abundance of Mondays.

Pt Peron Workshop.

The world famous PIFDG residential dance workshop at Pt Peron is on again! This year it will be held from 7pm Friday March 18th to 2pm Sunday March 20th. You will learn Turkish and Israeli dances, Bootscooting (country line dance that John learnt during his recent US trip) and there will be a requests workshop.

This is our only residential workshop for the year, so mark it in your diaries and don't miss out. Please bring a dish to share for dinner on the Saturday night.

Performances.

The Performance Group has been booked for an evening at the Cafe Folklorico, Friday the 1st of July. This will be a major undertaking for the performance group, to dance and entertain for a whole evening.

The latest plan is to break the evening into a series of mini performances, each by a group of four or five people. Not only should this spread the effort among more people, but it should also make it easier for the smaller groups to get together for rehearsals.

We will be presenting background and performing dances from three regions, as well as teaching dances from each. There will be many other surprises, plus a prize for the best costume.

Other performances include Nannup on the 5th or March, and Dance Week early in April.

T-Shirt Design Competition

There will be a competition for a new T shirt design, to be judged at the Pt. Peron weekend, the prize will be a free T-shirt.

Here are some things to keep in mind while working on your design:

- 1) It would be great if the performance costume colours (blue/yellow/maroon) were incorporated, but this is not essential.
- 2) Printing costs increase with each colour used, so incorporating the t-shirt colour into the design will reduce costs.
- 3) A choice of t-shirt colours may be available if the colour is not incorporated into the design.
- 4) The design must be visible when the t-shirt is tucked in.
- 5) The Group's name and logo should be used for continuity between designs.

Muscle Stretching Exercises.

So it's not the ultra marathon, and it's not the Olympics, but that doesn't mean that Folk Dancing can't hurt. Folk dancing places no less strain on cold muscles than many other sports and activities, but we often forget the fact because we aren't decked out in lycra tights and raebocks! It's most important that you take care to warm up by stretching your muscles and ligaments before throwing yourself into a furious Rov Brachot!

There is a sheet of muscle stretches floating around - if it's not on the notice board, ask a committee member to put a copy there.

Au Revoir Fiona!

We are all very sorry that Fiona Murdoch has left our group to return "home" to New Zealand. She has been with PIFDG for 6 years and will be greatly missed. Fiona first came to the group after seeing an promotional leaflet in 1988.

She had been travelling around Europe and had become interested in international dance through joining in public dance groups in street festivals.

The first night she came to PIFDG, the dance *Hai* was being taught, and she was hooked! Shortly after that Sheffi held an Israeli workshop. Fiona's skill and enthusiasm became valuable very early and within a year she was teaching some Scottish dances to the group. Her mother is a Scottish Country Dance teacher in NZ and Fiona had nearly completed her Scottish Dance Teacher training.

In 1991 John and Fiona received a grant from the Department of the Arts to go to Sydney for a teachers workshop. They spent a week learning to be Folk Dance teachers and two weeks visiting Dance groups in Adelaide, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

Fiona has been involved with the performance group since 1988. She has been a regular Monday night teacher and has led many workshops at Folk Festivals and Point Peron as well as special ones like basic skills and singing.

Bernie and Fiona designed and sewed the current performance costumes, poring over books and buying material together.

In 1992 John and Fiona spent six months hunting dances in the wilds of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Romania, Greece and Bulgaria.

With the skill and insight she has accumulated, Fiona will be an asset to any dance group in New Zealand, but we are sure we will see her back with us sometime. She is loved by us all and has formed some special friendships here, as shown by the large number of friends from PIFDG who came to see her off and dance their farewell at the airport on February 2nd.

Thank you, Fiona, for everything you have done for us, and for sharing your skills and enthusiasm - you have made a great contribution to folk dancing in Perth. We will always be delighted to welcome you back again.