

GRAPEVINE

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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 York Weekend Workshop - August 1994

A very successful dance workshop was held in the Old York Hospital (now a Youth Hostel) in York on the weekend of the 13th and 14th of August. In the PIFDG tradition it featured good dancing, good company, good food and interesting accommodation. Those of us who arrived too late to help with setting things up were allowed to share a giant dormitory. We all diligently stayed awake all night to chaperon each other, but in spite of our best efforts there were reports of items of clothing turning up in mysterious places on Sunday.

A highly convivial selection of dances were reviewed or taught. They were in a wide variety of styles and ranged in difficulty from fairly straight forward to somewhat fiendish. I can now do a bordering on respectable version of Kmotsoani which had previously eluded me, and my Opas is much improved.

Thanks to Eve, Sara and John for their magnificent instruction and to the several organisers and sundry helpers all of whom are entitled to pat themselves on the back, or alternatively to have someone else do so during the course of 'two buckets of water'.

[That report comes to us from Art. Due to Joy's diligence and doggedness in persuading members to contribute to Grapevine, she doubled up. The next report comes to us from Leone- Ed.]

Nearly 30 members, plus sundry children, traveled to York to take part in this great weekend event at York's Old Hospital. The atmosphere was wonderful, from the time people started arriving in dribs and drabs until the great cleanup prior to departure.

Workshop sessions were taught by Eve, Sara and John, who all gave an enormous amount of time and energy teaching some beautiful dances throughout a very busy programme. It was great and we thank them.

Brenda also taught us some easy songs and dances, with

great patience in the translation. Thanks Brenda - we all enjoyed it very much.

The Grand Ball took place on the Saturday night - a lot of fun, and during this event the T-shirt competition took place at last, with the end result that we will stay with the original design but the colour will be red instead of blue. Also many names were offered as suggestions for the performance group, with no result as yet - further thought will have to be given to this. Thanks to Sue Wildman for organising both competitions.

The accommodation was not exactly 5 star, but then neither were the prices, so what we were provided with was excellent value and I didn't hear any complaints (except for the dance floor, which was VERY hard to clean due to its rough surface). Some of our menfolk/folkmen did an excellent job on their hands and knees removing the scuff marks.

The food was great, with plenty of everything, and absolutely marvelous dishes being provided by some excellent cooks among our members. Also, all members shared all duties extremely well and in great spirits. A very big thank you to Peter Fallon's friend June, who came, stayed and worked practically non-stop during the entire weekend while the rest of us were having fun. We do appreciate her tireless efforts and the manner in which June kept the preparation of food so well organised and presented, and the constant cleaning up afterwards. And we couldn't stop Peter Fallon from getting in there and making sure everything ran smoothly.

Thanks also to Peter Thomson for transporting and setting up the music equipment and thanks to Joy for booking the venue.

Overall, the weekend was very successful and a great opportunity for some members to get to know each other better. I personally loved it and would certainly do it again.

Toodyay Folk Arts Festival 1994

Over the recent long-weekend in October the PIFDG Performance Group participated in an hour-long dance concert along with the Hungarian dancing duo of Joseph and Katherine. They performed to an audience of quality rather than quantity who appreciated the variety of dance selections and costumes. Art's avant-garde footwear was particularly appreciated during one of the dances.

Aside from one or two small collisions in the Scandinavian routine (no fatalities) and a minor disagreement concerning the appropriate footwear for the Balkan dances, things went well (if there were any problems in the Israeli routine, I didn't notice them by my mind was pretty thoroughly numb by that time). The starts of the show, and belles of the ball, were unquestionably the Petit Pois (which includes Sue Wildman who, while not a poi, is certainly petit, and Peter Carter who in complete contrast definitely in a poi but stretches the concept of petit into previously unfamiliar territory). They provided a display of ankle twirling the like of which Toodyay has never seen before, and which no doubt would have completely erased the idea of football from the minds of the Eagles's supporters had they only known.

Many thanks to the choreographers who in order of appearance were Eve and John and Sara and Eve, to Bernie for the superb costumes, to WAFFO for their flawless accompaniment of the Scandinavians (perhaps we can talk them into doing the whole lot some time), to Joe Trefeli and Katherine Vajda for their first class job of keeping the crowd happy while we changed, to the performers without whom the whole exercise would have lacked much of its presence, to our loyals, adoring, and eagle-eyed fans, and to my automatic washing machine which has restored my white socks to 90% of their former glory.

A little later in the day John hosted a "Learn to Dance Internationally" workshop for children and accompanying adults. Again it was a case of quality rather than quantity, but those of us kids who joined in had a really fun time!

On the Sunday there were more dance sessions to tempt us. John taught some Greek dances for beginners and later Eve taught Israeli dances to the accompaniment of the Red Sea Pedestrians. Very well attended was Dance for Dancers with Mara and LLew Kiek - Bulgarian dancing to authentic accompaniment. Mara's singing and dancing standard is high and she insists on precision - this became mind-blowing for some when one dance had 22 beats to the bar.

Ya Sas! Hello!

Want to understand the psyche of Zorba? What possessed him to dance? Let's attempt to find out at the Greek Night coming up at 7pm on Monday 31 October where there will be music, dancing, wine and food. Visit your nearest Greek deli or continental supermarket for supper ideas. Create a Greek costume, and bring along a few drachmas (\$5 worth for the evening). And who knows, you may discover a wayward Greek god or goddess!

Eh Lah! Come!

York Dance Camp Survey

Did you enjoy the York Camp in August?

Well, those who took the time to fill out a survey did. This was the second survey and there were few responses - probably most things had been said in the earlier Point Peron survey.

The questions and answers for this survey were:-

What did you like most about the camp? Socialising and revising dances were top answers, next was the advanced dance session, also rating were new dances, Romanian dances, the singing workshop, hot water, a lovely town and walks, getting away from Perth, great food and drinks, the party, the fine weather, and the flexibility to do what you want.

What did you like least? The camp wardens officiousness - lots of rules and always poking their noses in, the cold weather, the showers, the dance room had poor acoustics and was slightly small. (Nobody mentioned the dance room lino but a lot of people talked about it - it turned to a white powder underfoot, and it took ages to clean).

What changes would you like to see? More people stay to the end to help clean up! Yes, yes!! Other suggestions were that we don't use the venue again, teach more dances, and make sure we revise the singing (sorry about that Brenda).

Did the camp meet your expectations? Yes. Was the information sheet clear and accurate? The info sheet didn't seem to be as readily available as in previous years, apart from that it was fine.

Did you attend all workshop sessions? Any thoughts on workshop start/finish times? Most people were worn out before the end of Saturday, another missed the singing to

take a break, and one thought the workshops should have been longer to get in about 50% more dancing!

Is the camp good value? Yes!

Would you attend next year? For more time or less? Yes, the same.

Any other comments? Thanks to all involved for a great weekend.

In summary, a good weekend with good company, the venue had a few problems and we should see if we can get a better one, and the extra challenge dance session was popular with many - we should have one in all future camps.

Workshops for 1995

If our plans all come to fruition we will have three great workshops in 1995 - Belcho Stanev in late February, Point Peron on March 17-19, and Andre Van de Plas on 24-26 June.

Belcho Stanev is the Bulgarian dancer/choreographer who ran the dance camp that John and Fiona attended in 1992, and many of our current favourites are from him - Kutsata, Opas, Devoiche, Gankino to mention a few. He is also an incredibly fine dancer, a delight to watch, and this will be a rare chance for us to see authentic Bulgarian dance style.

Some of us have seen John's video of the camp, and the universal impression is that Belcho is simply extraordinary.

Point Peron, could there be a better place to spend a weekend? Make sure you put it in your 1995 diary ASAP. Revision, new dances, difficult dances, we're sure to go over Belcho's new material, tennis, swimming, drugs (Bex), rutsenitsa and roll, old country and eastern, we've got it all.

Andre Van De Plas has been visiting Australia for several years from Holland, he brings lots of interesting dances from all over Europe, teaches them brilliantly, and brings good music and notes. Andre has been to WA before but usually he only tours the eastern states where he leads the Folkdance Australia folkdance teacher training course in Sydney. Some of the favourites from Andre are Paduretul, Birledeanca, Chassapikos, Kotsaris, Yass, Tsakonikos, Tropnalo Oro, Mussette Waltz, Zvarniara, Bela Sicko Oro, and many more. This year we're hoping for a weekend workshop, maybe in York or another residential camp, and we expect that everyone who has been to one of Andre's workshops before will want to be at this one. Don't miss it.



The Perth International Folk Dance Group farewells Fiona.

What is the Sabor?

The Sabor is a folk festival that is held every 5 years in the village of Koprivshitsa in central Bulgaria, and is acknowledged as THE Bulgarian dance festival. It will be held in July 1995, although we don't know the exact dates yet. Cost is about \$US 1000, and Koprivshitsa is a magical place, set in the mountains where the Turks couldn't be bothered invading, it has some truly unique traditional buildings. If you can afford it, do so.

Future Theme Nights

When there are five Mondays in any month we celebrate by having a party theme night on the fifth Monday. We try to create extra atmosphere by dressing suitably - either in folk costume or in colours of the flag of the particular country, and we bring food and drink appropriate to the country. If you have any ideas or a brilliant suggestion for a Theme Night do please give your idea to one of the committee, for consideration.

Recent theme nights have featured Turkey, Israel and France.

Le Theme Night? Magnifique Naturellement!

Madames et monsieurs came out in abundance recently to enjoy the ambiance of our French Theme Night on the fifth Monday in August.

Amongst other things, Madame Eve taught us how to stomp down a clay floor with gentle rhythm and finesse. There was, as were all of the dances, accompanied but the talented quartet of musicians called "Bourdon" who played for us throughout the evening with their violins, double bass, piano accordion and hurdy-gurdy.

Connoisseurs provided an array of gastronomic delights, enhanced by vin de la France. And as if our senses weren't in raptures already, suddenly a chorus of Can-can girls burst onto the scene! These belles were a true spectacle, although personally it was the sole beau who caught my eye! [I don't write them, I just print them. Ed]

Merci to all who participated in the evening and created a splendid night of entertainment.

Coming Events

Mon	31	October	Greek Theme Night
Mon	21	November	Annual General Meeting
Mon	19	December	Christmas Party
Mon	9	January	First dance night for 1995
Fri	17	March	Pt Peron weekend workshop