

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 St, Jolimont, except public holidays. The evening begins at 7:00pm with an hour dance lesson, a further half hour revision, then general dancing till late. For more information, contact Joy (386-7438), Pam (277-4462) or John (444-4736).

May Folk Dance Party

On Monday 29th May, instead of our usual Theme Night we decided to test the waters with an International Night. Eve, John and Sara taught dances from around the world. It was a very successful night - well attended, with some new faces and some who had been before and came back again, which was great. We hope to see more of them in the future. Many thanks to Eve, Sara and John for the lovely classes, and to all members and friends for joining in and making it such a happy occasion.

Israeli Night - 31 July 1995

After "testing the waters" with our May Night, and while awaiting the results of our questionnaire, we have decided to revert to a theme and hold an Israeli Night for our fifth Monday in July.

Sara will be teaching us some of her beautiful Israeli dances. Eve may possibly teach as well. It is sure to be a great night.

As usual, we have publicised the event in the local papers and hope the members will also spread the word among their friends too.

Also we hope you will dress up accordingly (ladies try to wear a skirt) and if you can't find anything Israeli-ish maybe you could wear something blue and white. Please also bring a plate of Israeli food, and come along and enjoy the fun. Cost is \$3 for everyone, see you there.

Beginners Lessons

We are hoping that PIFDG will shortly conduct a series of six or eight weekly lessons geared for beginners. If you are interested, please contact Joy on 3867438 so that we can try to arrange a mutually convenient time and starting date.

Warm Up

We would appreciate it if dancers could try to arrive by the starting time of 7pm as we would like to have "dancing warm-ups".

PIFDG 20th Birthday

PIFDG will be 20 next year, so dust off your party dresses and put on your thinking caps! The committee is after ideas from all PIFD'ers as to how we can celebrate our anniversary. Top of the list, naturally, is a reunion party with as many 'old' dancers as we can contact. Some are overseas, and it would be lovely to see those familiar faces and feet on our shores again. Various suggestions have been put forward that could make up a week of varied entertainment! We want to consolidate some ideas by next committee meeting and get long-distance invitations out. So if you have any suggestions and thoughts please contact one of the committee (Peter's not on the phone and John is away):

Pam	277-4462	Joy	386-7438
Leone	364-9599	Tony	367-4392
Sue	330-6731	Palenque	386-3535

Overseas Visitors

1995 has been a vintage year for PIFDG for visits by outstanding overseas folk dance teachers. First there was Belcho Stanev from Bulgaria and then Andre van de Plas from Holland. Maybe they'll both be able to come again next year? Meanwhile enthusiasm is high among the group and there are several newcomers. If you haven't been for a while, we'd love to see you again.

New Norcia Workshop Reports

Two members have written about their recent weekend at New Norcia - President Pam Massey and brand-new member Annelies:

New Norcia Workshop by Pam Massey

New Norcia, for me, was a great weekend. What a place! Interesting architecture on the outside, intriguing lay-out on the inside, with beds, dorms and cubicles scattered all over the place, that took two hours to explore, and all weekend to navigate! And oh, the chapel! My arrival is the evening, to look at it lit up from the balcony, and hear that wonderful soprano voice in perfect acoustics, kept drawing me back for peaceful reflection all weekend!

Thank you, Peter, for thinking of such a wonderful venue!

Friday evening, which is often just a time when people drift and settle in, was a delightful social evening full of comradeship and humour, and, I felt, an excellent atmosphere to welcome our new members Sandra and Annelies in (I don't know how they felt about this!!)

Andre I found to be calm, even-tempered and tolerant teacher who only had to pull us into line twice - once to the clatter of not-so-tiny feet, and once to the clatter of jaws (and no, it wasn't Pam M...) He had some novel terminology for teaching; some was in plain Dutch like Schijnbeweging, which means 'swaying'. Some was in Double-Dutch, like vice-versa. And then there was a "quicke" which I'm sure none of us will forget! - Carolyn might have a few words to say on that as she admits to sneaking into the men's dorm at 2am and was seen creeping back into the ladies' dorm in the morning!!

Our Saturday evening dinner-dance was as fun, filling, delicious and energetic as always, and some people dressed up for the occasion. Of particular note was Marion's footwear ON YA MARION! (good to have you back).

We learnt 14 new dances, which is to be commended, especially if we manage to remember them all!

Thank you Andre, and everyone, for a great weekend.

My Weekend at New Norcia by Annelies Vogels

As I am a complete novice to International Folk Dancing I was filled with enthusiasm when I heard that Andre van de Plas^{was} giving a weekend of teaching and it was to be held in New Norcia. I had driven past many years ago and thought how nice to spend a few days there. It was a long but beautiful scenic drive. It took me one and a half hours - my motor bike has diarrhoea; it just passed everything!

As I arrived I was greeted by friendly faces and was made welcome, was introduced and shown over the place, and found a comfortable corner room. At 8.15pm at last Dancing with the great Maestro Andre van de Plas. The dancing and music was not what I was used to - the beat, rhythm and timing did get me somewhat confused at times although Andre's double dutch didn't help says I (also Dutch) but overall I found it beautiful music to dance to with a group. Learning all day Saturday I was relieved that the evening was more relaxed with a beautiful evening meal. It was a cosy friendly family atmosphere as though I'd known them all along.

Absent Friends

John Whaite flew off to Bulgaria on 25 June and will be returning at the end of August. He's attending the Sobor Dance Workshop week where he may meet up with Belcho Stanev.

Pam and Martin Williams are still tripping round the world, last heard of in the States visiting Paula's parents after having been to Montreal and Quebec in Canada.

Kristina, our short-term German visitor, returned to Germany on 5 July and sends "warm greetings to everyone and thanks for making her feel so welcome".

Pam Massey caught up with Sue Keating in Melbourne, who also send her love to everyone. She's settled into her new job, studies and relationship and is very happy and is working hard - even fitting a little dancing in between the studies! Also saw Helen Bainbridge in Sale, Victoria (East Gippsland).

Not so absent! Paula Day's stopped tripping around the world, has returned with many an interesting tale to tell.

Bernie, Pam, Louise and Laurie are all back and I expect if you were to bale them up they could come out with an interesting tale to tell too!

Gisela Gmeider is off to Germany for seven months and will be based in Erlangen. She is returning in February next year after visiting Thailand for about a month.

Art Diggle has gone to his native Canada for a month - timing his visit to coincide with this parents' 40th wedding anniversary.

Francine Giguere, who was so helpful in being able to translate for Belcho Stanev, is leaving Perth for a year in Montreal where her husband is taking sabbatical leave. She will also be visiting Bulgaria to participate in folk dance.

With all these members overseas, perhaps PIFDG should open a branch in Canada or Bulgaria.

Coming Events

Mon 31 July	Israeli theme night
Fri 13 October	PIFDG at Cafe Folklorico
Fri 27 to Sun 29 October	Toodyay Folk Festival