

# 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 and a half of dance lessons, then general dancing till late. For more information, contact Joy (386-7438), Pam (277-4462) or John (444-4736).

## Bulgarian Theme Night

On Monday 30th October our Theme Night will be Bulgarian and our teachers will be instructing in the beautiful movements of these dances. The early dances will be quite simple so it's a good time to bring your friends and get them started. Try to dress up Bulgarian style (colours Red Green and White), and bring a plate. Cost is \$3 for all comers.

## PIFDG 20th Anniversary - by Pam Massey

The PIFDG 20th Anniversary is due in May 1995, and is finally coming together, so get out your diaries, folks!

Saturday 11th May, 1995 at 7 p.m.

FREE! but ... BYOG + plate please.

St Margaret's Hall

Tyrell St (Cnr Elizabeth St), Nedlands.

We will be contacting as many old (metaphorically speaking, of course) members as possible, so hope it will be a great re-union party.

Several good suggestions which we will use between Sat 11th - Fri 24th May 1996 were put forward by members. These include -

- A show of past and present costumes could be worn on party night, so shake off the mothballs!
- Also on party re-union night, anyone wanting to put a 'skit' of sorts together and display, now's your big chance!
- On the Monday night we propose to ask David Hoffman's music ensemble to join us for some LIVE(ly) music.
- We will try to incorporate a Hungarian Tanzhaus night on a Friday, which I believe is similar to our Monday nights only all Hungarian.
- We will have a PIFDG video/film night at a secret location to be revealed when we've selected the lucky person's house!
- We will have an evening out at a restaurant.
- And if Fiona Murdoch is able to come from New Zealand, rumour has it there's a possibility that she may do a dance workshop.

## Performance Group - by Palenque Blair

Recently the performance group has been very busy rehearsing for two upcoming events. On Friday 13th October (our lucky day?) PIFDG are providing an evening of entertainment for the Cafe Folklorico at the North Perth Town Hall.

As in our previous endeavour at the Cafe, there will be three sections to the entertainment. This time, one of these sections will be live music provided by the klezmer band "Red Sea Pedestrians". Sara has organised an Israeli dance performance and Eve and Palenque have put together the third performance of Eastern European dances.

A small group of performers have enjoyed (I hope!) putting the effort into learning some new dance choreographies this year. This effort should be rewarded not only at the Cafe, but also at Toodyay where we perform two weeks later - on Sunday 29th October as part of the Toodyay Folk festival.

Hoping to see non-performing PIFDG members and friends out in force to support the Performance Group and see what we do.

## October Lessons

John will be teaching on Monday nights during October. Fresh from his two month visit to Bulgaria, he will be including these dances - EPEMINO, ARAT (a new version), GRADVSKO (a new version), DOSPATSKO, SEY-SEY BOB, PRAVO TRAKIJSKO, and GAYDANA.

## Warm-ups

To those who attend our Monday night classes, please try to arrive by the commencement time of 7pm, as our teachers will be starting us off with some "warm-up" movements.

## Lessons

To those of you who do not take part in the lessons, please while the classes are in progress, would you use the kitchen for your little chats, as the noise can be rather distracting for those who are concentrating on the lesson.

## A Message from our Foreign Correspondent

Kia Ora Katoa

'Tis a pleasure indeed to have two such fine messengers bearing greetings from Aotearoa to the land of Oz.

I wish you many happy hours of dancing over the coming festive season - I love seeing you all 'tripping the light fantastic' on the videos - keep up the good work with the choreography and the costumes. All the best for your next Cafe Folklorico Extravaganza. About the same time, I will be grapevine'ing madly at 'Machol Pacifica 1995' - NZ's annual national Israeli dance camp, this year being held in Hamilton - Hopa!

I've sent some of the national folk dance/music magazines in case you want to do a dance tour of Aotearoa and need to know what's on etc.

In farewell, I can only but agree with Nietzsche when he says

*"Every day I count wasted in which there has been no dancing"*

Hugs and happy feet,  
Haere Ra ... Fiona

## Beginners Course

The eight week beginners' course, foreshadowed in our last Grapevine, was a spectacular success with about seventeen beginners attending regularly at the two-hour classes held in Fremantle. The main teacher was Sara, with Eve also teaching on a couple of days. The age range was as varied as the dances taught and ranged from nine years to seventy plus! The course concluded on Saturday 14 October with everyone going to lunch/coffee at the new restaurant Granita's in the former Mills & Ware factory. A beautiful gesture from the group was the presentation of flowers to Sara and Eve for their excellent teaching and to Joy for her work behind the scenes in getting the course going.

There was a wide range of dances taught from many different countries. These included SISO VESIMCHOO (Israel), PROMOROACA (Romania), HORA MEDURA (Israel), PRAVO-TRAKIJSKO HORO (Bulgaria), FAREWELL MARIAN (Wales), LAKODALMI TANC (Hungary), LATVIAN WALTZ MIXER (Latvia), ALUNELUL (Romania), ADJE JANO (Macedonia), GUHNEGA (Armenia), ALI PASHA (Turkey), SWEDISH MASQUERADE (Sweden), and WESENI CHORVO (Russia). Many of the group were present on Monday 16 October and we hope that they will become addicted like the rest of us and attend regularly.

## Sara's Israeli Class

Sara is conducting Israeli dancing classes from 10-12 noon, Thursday mornings in Fremantle. Details from Sara on 335 2042.

## Canberra International Folk Dance Association

After a recent visit to Canberra, Joy was instructed by President Pam to write a short article about the folk dance scene there. There seems to be a fair bit of contact between Canberra and Sydney groups. Floriade began during Joy's visit so several ethnic groups including Portuguese, Philippino, Polish, Maori, Thai, Argentinian, Sri Lankan, Lebanese, Samoan and Tongan, Croatian, Czech, Spanish, Cook Islanders, Cypriot and Punjabi groups performed at Floriade. The Argentinian group gave a two-hour workshop.

Joy was most impressed to note that the Canberra International Folk Dance Association actually prints out and distributes to members a list of the dances which will be taught in the coming two months. No more than three dances are taught per night by at least two teachers of whom there seem to be at least six. Any new dance is taught for two or three consecutive weeks. Two incredible similarities are that CIFDA is also celebrating its twentieth birthday next year (but its anniversary is a month later than ours) and CIFDA is having a Bulgarian Night one week before our Bulgarian theme night on Monday 30 October. Bulgarian dance has long been a favorite with CIFDA with many of them attending the Sobor (which John from PIFDG also attended) and dance festivals in previous years.

The Canberra group does not seem to have as many younger members as we do but this seems to be partly because they do not seem to have made much effort to attract any younger members. Most of the regulars are good dancers with a large repertoire as they have all been attending for a long time. Joy was able to impress by saying that PIFDG has an average attendance of about thirty on Monday nights.

If you are heading towards Canberra there is international folk dancing on Wednesday and Thursday nights and more on Tuesday mornings.

## Christmas/New Year Break

There will be no dancing on Monday 25 December or Monday 1 January 1996 for obvious reasons. PIFDG will resume its regular Monday night meetings on the 8th of January, 1996.

## Coming Events

Fri 29 - Sun 20 October	Toodyay Folk Festival
Mon 30 October	Bulgarian Theme Night
Mon 18 December	Christmas Party
Mon 9 Jan 1996	Resume after two-week break
Sat 11 May 1996	PIFDG 20th Anniversary Party

**Dance in Bulgaria - by John Whaite**

I've been asked to write a brief article on my trip to Bulgaria, which is difficult because two months includes a lot of experiences. I could write about the country (beautiful), the economy (in ruins), cafe life (the dominant lifestyle), unemployment (very high), crime (organized or poverty driven), the people (frustrated but kind), but I'll have to stick to dance.

Most dance is in discos or clubs, dominated by western music, but during the evening they have a bracket where they dance a simple horo (to the Greek song Epimeno when I was there), and they play some Turkish music and dance tsiftatelli (belly dance). Bulgaria has a very large Turk minority and the dance has become Bulgarian, with a Bulgarian style.

Traditional dance is hard to find because they only do it on special occasions. I attended the Sabor festival (a five yearly festival) which had 15,000 performers from around the country. Most acts were music or song, but there were many dance groups, usually elderly people or kids. Generally the dances were quite simple, but the style was wonderful. The highlight for me, though, was after the stages closed at 6pm.

The village was alive with bands and circles of dancers, again mostly simple dances that everyone knew, people drinking rakia (brandy) and dancing until 5am. Sometimes a few dancers would break away and do some fancy things, most people just danced the basics but with incredible energy - try dancing continuously for 8 hours on a hillside, and a lot of it was very fast.

I attended a great dance seminar. The dances were good, and the best part was seeing the style, the nuances that change a set of steps into a Bulgarian dance. We learned a variety of regional styles, easy to hard dances, 25 in all, and I'll be teaching my favourites over the coming years I hope.

I also took the time to collect music and costume odds and ends - some of the aprons may be used in the Cafe Folklorico performance, and you'll see other bits at our Bulgarian party night on 30th October. Sadly, antiques were often cheap, and new works weren't available (embroidered shirts were an exception). Few Bulgarians buy these things, although many are proud to own their grandmother's costume. Prices? Shirts \$35-\$60, aprons \$15-\$40, metal belt \$140, treпка (woman's breast thingy) \$130, hat \$25, men's woven belt \$50, CDs \$8.

I also spent 4 days in the Czech Republic, and went to a great festival in a remote village, Liptal. I have an address for a folk dance organisation that can tell you which festivals are on at any time, so if your going there, see me first. Any Monday night at Wembley.

**Fiona Murdoch on Home Ground - by Eve Blair**

A one day course in Sydney was all the excuse for a much needed escape from Perth. I wanted to WALK but New Zealand seemed a bit wet. However thanks to Fiona's encouragement I landed in Auckland on August 17th.

Fiona had very kindly arranged a business trip to Auckland so that she could meet me. Kind but hardly necessary... isn't New Zealand the eighth Australian state? It took me the week's contact with Fiona to appreciate that the North Island is indeed 'exotic'.

My first evening didn't seem exotic, teaching her Thursday night folk dance group. They were very welcoming and organised ladies who served tea and supper about two thirds the way through the evening. They appreciated Hungarian and Polish but were less enthusiastic about the Brazilian Xaxado.

The next day, I retreated to the house after an hour's onslaught of rain and mud having learned why kiwis always walk in shorts. But thereafter the gods smiled: I only needed to start walking for it to stop raining.

Fiona leads a very busy life: practicing at a physiotherapy clinic, running a business consultancy (for physiotherapists), taking a leading role in the development of physiotherapy and folk dance in New Zealand (not to mention medial ethics), as well as teaching her own classes and continuing to improve her own dancing and dance teaching skills.

So I was very pleased when I learned she would nonetheless be able to join me on a week-end walk on the Coromandel Peninsula. We set off on a perfect Saturday morning and despite a productive detour to a garage sale by lunch time we were walking and well on the way to the Pinnacles. (In the New Zealand version they are all on the top of one lump of rock rather than being scattered on a sand plain). That night we shared the hut with the Rotorua bush walking club who, on hearing that I came from Perth asked if I knew Bob Frame ... small world!

And exotic? Fiona made me look at the rain forest, the volcanoes, hot springs, caves, the Maori traditions and culture. I would call Indonesia exotic so why not the North Island ... it has an answer for everything? Yet the people I met were so friendly, down-to-earth and understandable that I felt at home as well. Thanks Fiona for a great trip.

### Absent Friends

Well, PAM and MARTIN WILLIAMS are absent as I write this, but won't be as you read it. By now we'll be hearing about their round-the-world trip; how they met up with Art in Canada, Paula Merriman (nee Schneider)'s parents in Michigan, and cousin in L.A.... and no doubt heaps more! We will also have celebrated Pam's 50th birthday, so I hope she was here for it!

Pam and Martin also stayed briefly with FIONA MURDOCH who is enjoying a busy life in New Zealand. She teaches a small but dedicated group of folk dancers called Dance Folkus which meets on Thursday nights. Dance Folkus is already giving performances after only one year. EVE BLAIR also stayed with Fiona and they went hiking together.

PAM GUNN is in the northern hemisphere yet again, mixing business with pleasure for 6 weeks (returning October).

CINDY INNES is also away for 6 weeks returning October, doing the Silk Road and Pakistan.

MICHAELA HILL finished her Bachelor of Laws degree with Honours at UWA but had to graduate in absentia. Currently working in Canberra in the Legal Department of DEET. Son Edward is visiting grandma Joy in Perth while Michaela goes to Melbourne for a seminar.

### Bob's Birthday Bash

This incredible event will occur on Sat 11 November at Melville. BYO with a plate. Details from Bob 330 1807.

Our hardworking Secretary has asked to use some of the left over Grapevine space for her other job:- This is a free plug for Joy's fund-raising events in aid of breast cancer research which have occupied her full-time, unpaid, for seven days a week recently. Already \$18,000 has been raised.

The Annette Gero Antique Quilt Collection is on exhibition DAILY in the foyer of Allendale Square, 77 St George's Terrace, Perth (opposite London Court). Entry to this stunning exhibition is free but it would be appreciated if visitors were to buy an illustrated catalogue (\$3) and/or raffle tickets (\$2 each). All proceeds are in aid of breast cancer research. Hours of the exhibition are:-

Mon-Fri	7am-6pm
Sat	7:30am-5pm
Sun	11am-4pm