

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).

LAST CHANCE

ANDRE VAN DE PLAS WEEKEND

Another fabulous workshop with an excellent visiting overseas teacher! How could anyone miss out? Belcho's weekend was practically a sell-out and only a few places remain for Andre's weekend at Bickley Brook on Friday 28 to Sun 30 June. If you haven't already booked contact Peter Fallon (w 360 2232) or Leone (364 9591) quickly. The cost is about half what you might pay in other states!

A few vacancies are still available for individual sessions for anyone who can't stay overnight.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY REUNION PARTY by Paula Day

This was the launching of our celebrations, held in St Margaret's Hall in Nedlands on

Saturday 4 May. For myself it was a case of lots of familiar faces plus lots of new faces, while for others it was truly a reunion of old friends. Mary turned up looking quite exotic and helped make the evening very colourful. While some danced others enjoyed sitting and reminiscing. As usual there was a delicious array of food and plenty of it. For those who still had some space left in their stomachs there was an enormous anniversary cake organised by Bernie. Later in the evening we witnessed gifts being presented to the Whaite and Blair offspring for being members of PIFDG their whole lives, and of course to Eve as a founding and perennial member

Following this we were treated to a variety performance show which included our two N.Z. guests Fiona and Sharon doing an Israeli dance, those naughty can-can girls and boy, a bracket from the performance group, and the piece-de-resistance The Pavarotti Sisters (Paul and Joyce Wolfe, Pam Massey and Bernie in spirit). What a brilliant piece of lyricism this was! But not to be outdone, Devamarg and Yutika decided to rest their bottoms on a table top which consequently went arse up and the remainder of the anniversary cake went almost face down in a heap on the floor.

All in all it was a great celebration. Special thanks must go to Joy for her time and energy, plus all who assisted with setting up and clearing up. Well done everybody!

BELCHO'S POINT PERON WORKSHOP by Art Diggie

On the weekend of the 10 to 12 May PIFDG converged in unprecedented numbers [Ed: 40!] on Point Peron for a weekend of dancing, chatting, eating and pillow-case larceny. Belcho Stanev was specially imported to lead the effort, and he succeeded admirably as we all knew he would. In sessions on Friday night, Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning he taught a broad selection of Bulgarian dances ranging from fairly sedate to fairly impossible. My personal favourite was the left-stepping dance "Laviata (?)" but I'm prepared to accept that there may be alternative opinions.

The food, company and dancing at the Saturday evening gala banquet and ball were of the highest order. The occasion was distinguished by brief visitations from a well primed troupe of Bulgarian dancers most of whom have hopefully recovered from their injuries by now, and a contingent from the Italian chapter of Folk Dancers Anonymous, who were kind enough to make us aware of where we are all headed. The award for the most diaphanous dress (a competition which I would like to see the club encourage) goes to Eve. Because of the general high standard it would be unfair of me to declare a most memorable dish, but I am going to do so anyway to whoever made the strudel, with an honourable mention to Fiona and her spontaneous caramel bananas.

I'd like to be able to report that there were plenty of scandalous goings-on but unfortunately I didn't run across any, and given the Group's well-known talent for keeping itself informed I can't believe that I wouldn't have heard about it if anyone else had. I did notice a couple of mattresses pulled together in one of the rooms, but as at least two of the occupants were married, and to each other as well, I'm prepared to give them all the benefit of the doubt.

On the whole the event was primo, and sometimes also magnifico (although occasionally, I think it has to be admitted, it wasn't quite as piano as it really should have been). The participants did a fine job of softening the place up before the bulldozers arrive and the last people there managed to avoid being held hostage for the return of the above-mentioned bits of manchester, so I think it is safe to declare the weekend a raging success. Many, many thanks to the organisers and to Belcho.

THE FINAL FLING

by Pam Gunn

About twenty nostalgia-minded members gathered at Pam and Martin Williams' place for a relaxing evening on Sunday 19 May to wind up the twentieth anniversary celebrations. We were treated to the cinematic techniques of President Pam and of Bernie with their 1984 and 1985 portrayals of the now sadly defunct Ethnic Music Festivals at Hyde Park. Of course the PIFDG featured prominently and it was interesting to spot prior performance members like Sue Hall, Ross Lander and Fran Napier as well as considerably thinner versions of present members! As these films were of the silent variety, we also had fun supplying the tunes to the dances we could recognise.

With the 1990's came video, courtesy of John, Martin, and Bernie. Mihai David's memorable workshop of Romanian dances in 1991 was followed by bootscooting at Pt. Peron and performances at Toodyay and Fairbridge Festivals. Art will never now be able to forget his appearances on stage in white socks - the show must go on (even if the shoes didn't).

Our history was brought right up to date with footage of our recent party night at Pt Peron and it was great to re-live the performances of the old OPAS "men" and the Pavarotti Sisters, as well as to know that a last lingering shot of our favourite camp has been captured for posterity.

Many thanks to Pam and Martin for once again supplying their home for one of our gatherings.

COMING EVENTS

Mon 29 July BULGARIAN THEME NIGHT

Mon 30 Sept RUSSIAN THEME NIGHT

A CASE STUDY OF AN INTERNATIONAL HOUSEGUEST FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HER HOSTESS by Paula Day

On a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon I arrived at Perth Domestic Airport to find my International Houseguest nowhere in sight. Then, just as she was leaving a message on my answering machine, we spotted each other. Run with arms outstretched, contact, hugs, kisses, laughter, explanations. My mate from N.Z. had arrived for a three week, dance-filled holiday. Mind you, with so many pieces of luggage (some of which was inadvertently dumped on top of my 15-year old dog that was lying sedately on her back seat) this particular Kiwi could have managed to stay O.S. for months without wearing the same outfit or pair of shoes twice. Several times I thought how considerate it was of her to inject money into our great State via certain boutiques and market stalls too.

Over the next three weeks the walls, floors and ceilings of 17 Kingston Avenue resounded to the marvellous dancing, singing, piano and recorder playing of The Houseguest. How delightful to be a hostess to such talents! My old dog would have been equally delighted I'm sure except that now, sadly, she can only read lips.

Each day and evening as I continued the grind of work and meetings The Houseguest was either biking, training, or being chauffeur-driven to her constant stream of engagements. By the end of the first week she was fairly tired. By the end of the second week she was very tired, and by the end of the third week she was downright knackered. Well, that's what happens when you're a popular person with lots of friends.

On one particular evening The Houseguest and I ventured to South Perth for a belly-dancing lesson as part of the Dance Week events. No muscle-toned, G-stringed show-offs in these classes. Voluptuous curves rejoicing in their womanliness overflowed exotic skirts and necklines. The Houseguest and I swayed, twisted, shimmied and seduced a fire extinguisher (who the fire extinguisher represented was left entirely to our individual wild imaginations!!) like we have never done before or since.

For an entire day The Houseguest was a special visitor at my pre-school in Kelmscott. In the morning with some 4 and 5 year olds and again in the afternoon with some 4 year olds she led us through a set of songs and dances from Russia, Holland, Indonesia and China. All of the topics and actions were designed to be universally familiar, and the little kids as well as we big kids had great fun. Have you ever tried to imitate a macadamia nut or a rolling pin?

I'm glad to write that leg and buttocks muscles have now fully recovered from The Houseguest's three-hour Twentieth Anniversary workshop held in Nedlands on Sunday 5th May. This was, not surprisingly, a fabulous event that was extremely well attended by PIFDG members. What did she teach us? Something Greek, something Israeli, something else, something else and, no doubt, something else as well. I can't remember, but it was fabulous!

Before dawn on Saturday 18 May The Houseguest and I, after not very much sleep, were all again at Perth Domestic Airport. Only one additional piece of luggage, and although each piece could have been used for practice by an Olympic weightlifter, everything was still under the limit. After much reminiscing over a cup of tea and lots more hugs and kisses The Houseguest and I waved farewell until she was eventually out of sight. How wonderful to have such a friend,

TARANTELLA

Copyright Bernie Maginn

I remember, I remember when I first a-
came-a to Perth
I missa my village-a dancing so much it
really hurt.
My-a Mama, Mama mia, Mama mia she
say-a to me
You go down-a to the Peninsular - its-a
just like Napoli.

But when I got downa I gotta big shocka,
The music she didn't seem right
They were doing a hora right there on the
floora
They were doin' it all bloody night.

There-a was Eve and Peter, they couldn't
be neater
As they whirled around-a the floor
David Lane did a shuffle then out broke a
scuffle
Joy Hill hadn't paid at the door.

Bringa plate-a, bringa plate-a, there's a
party night-a next week
So I went anda made a lasagne, thena
they told me it shoulda been Greek

Now I refuse-a to shave-a my armpits -
itsa just a matter of pride
In any case when I dance a mistake, it-a
gives-a me somewhere to hide.

Well itsa taken me years, nearly 20 in all
But I reckon I just got it right
Now I dance-a the Hambo, the Hora, the
Tango
Itsa ny turn-a to go on all-a night.

I've learnt dances from Russia and
Sweden and Prussia
And even from OWSTRAYLIAR
But my favourite tune which I dance
night and noon...
Would have to be Tarantella!!

I remember, I remember, when I first a-
came-a to Perth
I missa my village-a dancing so much it-a
really hurt
My-a Mama, Mama mia, Mama mia she
say-a to me
You go down-a to-a the Jersey Street
Itsa justa like Napoli.

WORTH THINKING ABOUT

Dear Perth International Folk Dancers,
Wonderful things happen when everyone
cares.....thank you for all your
enthusiasm and wonderful dancing. The
parts of my holiday that I shared with
were all great fun. Treasure the comradie
that you have together and may 1996 (and
the next twenty years) be filled with
dance and more dance. Haere Ra from
New Zealand. Fiona.

ABSENT FRIENDS

PIFDG was very pleased to receive
faxed greetings from Oklahoma USA
from former PIFDG teacher Frances
Young and husband Roger who would
have loved to be present at our twentieth
celebrations. Frances has a foot problem
at present so ^{is experimenting with seeing} ~~is experimenting with seeing~~
if rest may improve it. Good luck,
Frances, and congrats to Roger on
achieving tenure at the university.

President Pam has gone north for the
winter, AND the spring, AND ? Come
back - all is forgiven! Don't leave us!

Vice-president John is also flitting around
Australia for a few weeks.

Secretary/Editor Joy leaves on 3 July for
about four months in Europe where she
has sussed out the Israeli Machol Europa
and has warned the Greeks that there'd
better be some dancing there, too.
Committee Member Tony Hoar is also
going overseas to Brittany, Ireland and
Kuwait. Is there anyone left on the
committee in Perth? [Ed: It will probably
function even better!]

POSTSCRIPT EDITORIAL NOTE

Editor Joy apologises for the technical
quality of this edition of Grapevine, and
also that some articles are omitted. She
had printed a draft copy at half past
midnight one night, made some
corrections by hand, and by morning it
had all vanished off the computer. There
was simply no time to re-type it all.
*it is very literally cut and pasted -
again after midnight!*