

# GRAPEVINE

Volume 7, Number 5, December 1996

---

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. The evening begins at 7:00pm with a one hour dance lesson, followed by general dancing until late. For further information please call John (444 4736) or Joy (386 7438)

## Message from the President

As we enter a new year I would like to thank the outgoing Committee for all their hard work in 1996. In particular I would like to thank Pam Massey for presiding over the very successful twentieth year celebrations. The Pt Peron workshop by Belcho Stanev; Fiona Murdoch's workshop and the 20th anniversary party at St Margaret's Hall; and the many other supporting events will long be remembered. So too will the bumper editions of *Grapevine*, so special thanks go to Joy for her hard work in this area.

I am pleased to welcome Art and Yutika onto the new Committee, and I look forward to their support.

One of the events that I personally enjoyed last year was the Summer Solstice at South Beach in Fremantle and this year on the 22nd December at 6pm will be your chance to join us to watch the sun disappear over the horizon on one of the longest days of the year. BYO and be prepared to dance on the grass.

Don't forget to use the suggestions box on a Monday night. Situated on the table near the door, this can be used to suggest new or revised dances, or it can be used to suggest changes to how we do things, or suggest activities for 1997. Do you, for instance, want to have dance notes prepared and circulated? Would you like another beginners course in 1997? Would you like us to arrange more advanced workshops over a week-end? Please let us know via the suggestions box. Then follow up by talking to one of the Committee members. Thanks.

In the next *Grapevine* I would like to pose the question 'why are we here?'. No, not from a philosophical viewpoint, but asking 'what are the objectives of the Group?' Think about it!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. See you soon, I hope.

**Martin Williams, President of PIFDG**

## Christmas Party

PIFDG will celebrate the end of its twentieth anniversary year with a Christmas Party at our final Monday night for 1996 on 23 December. Please come and help us to celebrate, even if you have not been to dancing recently - we'd like to see you again. Make the evening go really well by wearing Christmas colours or by wearing something ethnic. The normal theme night format will be followed, so bring a small plate of finger food to share while we socialise during a longer-than-usual break from dancing. A great chance to catch up with old friends.

The regular Monday nights will recommence on 6 January 1997.

## Programme for 1997

The Committee is currently considering events for next year. Belcho Stanev will be back in Australia in 1997 and is scheduled to be in Perth in May and we hope his workshops will attract as much interest as they did in 1995 and 1996. At this stage no decision has been made as to whether the workshops will be residential or not, or where they will be held, so we would like to hear what your preferences are. Options are to hold the event in Perth or away from the city; to conduct residential workshops or to have daytime attendance only. Let us know what you would like. This will help us in our planning.

Belcho's sessions will be a great introduction to his 'Dance Balkan' seminar, an event covered elsewhere in *Grapevine*.

André Van der Plas will only be in Australia for two weeks in July 1997. As this overlaps with the Balkan trip we will not see André at PIFDG workshops in 1997.

At this stage we are anxious to arrange some other interesting events for next year so please let us know your ideas. Bush walks or advanced workshops by our regular teachers are two suggestions. What do you think?

## Joining the Fremantle Street Parade

On 10th November, the Performance Group took part in the annual Fremantle Street Parade. We've danced at lots of festivals and stages, but nothing quite like this.

It was very exciting in the parade - some of the floats were fantastic, as were some of the costumes, and the noise of the Samba percussion group was incredible. We had a sound system in a shopping trolley, with a 100 watt amplifier, but it really wasn't very impressive compared to the competition. Still, it looked silly enough to be an authentic part of a parade. We were thinking of using a pram at one time, but when the trolley was decorated with Bulgarian aprons it actually looked a bit like a pram, and Martin pushing it looked like a mum - not!

Our choreography was arranged so that only two or three people danced at a time, to allow the others to rest. This turned out to be a very sensible approach since the temperature reached 35° while we were walking, although it would have been better to have had a few more people dancing at a time, to give the performance more impact.

One good thing about it was that we were all in different costumes, so we had a chance to use our imaginations, as well as the odds and ends of costumes that we had as souvenirs etc.

There were a couple of other little hassles - we didn't have a suitable banner to show who we are (although Pam Williams ran around handing out PIFDG leaflets), and the organisers put us in the motorised part of the parade, so we ended up nearly running down the street to keep up with the floats. But we didn't get run over!!

Anyway, in all it was a lot of fun and a sharp learning curve, it was good to have Julia and Lizzie joining us, and I hope we do it again next year with that bit of experience behind us. And thanks to all the dancers who spent hours rehearsing, and Martin and Pam for their support on the day.

John Whaite; Vice President

PS from Martin ... I always thought the streets of Freo. were flat but I can now tell you that they are not! The camber and the worldwide law of supermarket trolleys kept me on my toes!!

## 'Dance Balkan' - Bulgarian Trip 1997

We are hoping that one of the highlights of our 1997 programme will be a Balkan trip to dance at four different Bulgarian centres, led by Belcho Stanev. Belcho, who is one of Bulgaria's most respected and experienced master dance choreographers is no stranger to PIFDG, and he will be back in Perth in May 1997, for workshops and to finalise details of the trip which is planned from mid to late July; currently 12th - 26th are suggested dates.

To make up the numbers and keep the costs down we intend to join up with other Australian dance groups.

The trip will involve the miniature treasure chest town of Koprivshtitza, the Piran mountain area, the Rila region and the Rhodopo Mountains. At each centre, dances of the region will be taught.

This could be our ethnic event of the decade, so if you would like to be part of it please contact Joy Hill for details (386 7438). **Be in it!**

## A Life Sentence!!

At the 20th anniversary Great Reunion Party, the Group presented its first life memberships to founder member **Eve Blair**, long-time Treasurer **Peter Fallon**, and to teacher and contributor **John Whaite**. Congratulations and thanks to all three life members for their great and continuing contributions to PIFDG.

## Absent Friends

Whilst some of our recent travellers such as Pam Massey, Tony Hoar, John Whaite and Joy Hill have recently returned to Perth, others have taken the opportunity to go international (how appropriate!).

Eve and Palenque Blair recently departed for Mexico and Europe. Eve will be back in February, but Palenque plans to be away for about twelve months, mostly in France. We will really miss Palenque who has added extra depth to our teaching ranks over recent months.

Louise Scott has followed husband Laurie to Mali until at least July. She would love to hear from friends while she is away. (address available from Pam Gunn or Joy Hill).

We wish all the above travellers bon voyage and a safe return.