

GRAPEVINE

Volume 13, Number 2, May 2001



Grapevine is the newsletter of the Perth International Folk Dance Group. The Group meets Monday evenings at **St Margarets Church Hall in Nedlands (Cnr Tyrell and Elizabeth)**. The evenings begin at 7:00pm with a 90 minute dance lesson, followed by general dancing until late. For further information please call John ((08) 9444 4736) or Martin (9445 2072)

SILVER JUBILEE EDITION

COMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 6 May	1.30 - 5pm	Old dances Revisited
Mon 7 May	7pm	Special Monday night with live music by Kacophanes
Sat 12 May	10am - 1pm }	Fiona Murdoch's workshops
	2 - 5pm }	
Sat 12 May	7.15 pm	PIFDG dinner at Abyssinian Restaurant
Sun 13 May	1.30- 5pm	Fiona Murdoch's workshops conclude
Mon 2 July	7pm	Greek Party Night
Sat 7 July	10am - noon	Beginners' Course starts
Sat 18 Aug	10am - noon	Saturday Group starts
late July or early Aug		Founder Eve Blair's 1/2day workshop
October		Tineke van Geel's workshops
April 2002		Belcho Stanev's workshops

AND IT'S SILVER FOR PIFDG!!

We've made it - we've reached our silver anniversary. Yes, we know it took us twenty- five years but we're there! PIFDG is celebrating 25 years of continued dancing and there will be special events throughout the year - the first being the Reunion Dance Party on Saturday 5 May featuring the live music of the Last Five Coins.

We hope that all present members will participate and that we will see the return of some previous members and also welcome new-comers. You're never too old or too young to do international folk dancing. Our youngest present participant is not quite two years and we also have some seniors.

Many Happy Returns to PIFDG.

Those Purple Speakers - A Very Potted History

PIFDG began mainly because of a pair of purple speakers! On New Year's Eve 1975 Eve Blair, just arrived in Australia from England, France and the USA, met Swedish folk dance teacher Kris Druid-Sutton and her husband Bob who had been teaching international folk dance here. Kris and Bob were leaving Australia but didn't know what to do with the purple speakers they had been donated by the WA Folk Federation. By May 1976, inspired by the fate of the purple speakers and knowing international folk dance which was then very popular on university campuses in USA, Eve had begun teaching. Thus PIFDG was born with Eve being acknowledged as it's founder.

Those Purple Speakers - A Very Potted History (cont)

In May 1986 there were celebrations for the tenth anniversary, followed by big celebrations for the twentieth in 1996. PIFDG has met regularly on Monday nights for twenty-five years now in a variety of halls and performed at a huge variety of events including to an audience of eight thousand at the 1998 Oz Concert and even made a group visit to folk dance in Bulgaria. Long may the tradition continue.

FOOD

That's caught your attention!

And it's food without effort, too!

Instead of our usual practice of all bringing a plate to share for dinner and a party after Fiona's workshops on Sat 12 May, PIFDG has booked the whole of the Abyssinian Restaurant for the Saturday evening. The Abyssinian is Perth's ONLY Ethiopian eatery. Its dining philosophy is based on the traditional ritual of eating from the same plate, which signifies friendship and loyalty and is most clearly demonstrated in the form of "gursha" - putting food from your hand into the mouth of your companion. Ethiopian dishes are characterised by the variety of spices used to give them their exotic taste. Vegetarian dishes are a staple of the cuisine.

We have negotiated a special price of \$25 for the set/party 3-course menu (which has some choice) and which represents excellent value. The set/party menu includes special Ethiopian bread, tea/coffee, corkage and GST. Individual dishes may also be ordered with tea/coffee, dessert, corkage etc being extras.

It is essential to book your place early with a deposit of \$10 to Joy as the restaurant has limited seating capacity. There is also space for dancing for those with some energy left. The proprietor will be wearing Ethiopian costume and is looking forward to our visit - particularly the dancing! So please dress ethnic of some sort.

Date: Saturday 12 May

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Abyssinian Restaurant
192 Hampden Road, Nedlands
(east side, near Karella St)

Night parking at Starwon Internet
Cnr Hampden Road and Karella St, Nedlands

Deposit: \$10 to Joy by Mon 7 May please.

BYOG

STOP PRESS - NEW PIFDG VENTURE

PIFDG committee has decided to form a Saturday Group to cater for those who would enjoy a less challenging and more gentle dancing environment than our regular Monday nights. The Saturday Group should be particularly appealing to newer members and beginners. Regular Monday night attendees will also be very welcome.

The format will be similar to Monday night ie teaching by our regular teachers followed by requests.. However, at least in the early stages, requests will be limited to dances which have actually been taught on Saturdays.

The Saturday Group will follow on after the Beginners' Course and will take place on alternate Saturdays only. It is envisaged that there will be some party days and also mixing of the Monday and Saturday groups.

Please call Joy (9386 7438) or Leone (9364 9591) soon to register your interest.

Venue: St Margaret's Hall'
Tyrell Street
Nedlands

Date Begins on Sat 18 August and on alternate Saturdays thereafter.

Time 10 - 12 noon

Cost \$3 members/\$5 non-members with a reduction for those who pay for 8 weeks in advance.

BEGINNERS'/REFRESHER COURSE

The Beginners'/Refresher Course for 2001 will commence on Saturday 7 July and run for six weeks. Time will be from 10am to noon. As this year's course will be the forerunner to the new Saturday group, the course will also be a refresher course for those who have already done a Beginners' Course. Please register your interest with Leone or Joy.

OLD DANCES REVISITED

There is such a huge variety of international folk dances that it is easy to forget details of many of them. We hope that many people will take the opportunity to have a fun afternoon revisiting dances we once knew and which will be taught by a variety of people on Sunday 6 May at 1.30pm.

The cost is normal Monday night ie \$4 members or \$6 non-members

Fiona Murdoch's Workshops

Fiona was member of PIFDG for several years until returning to her native New Zealand in 1994. Long interested in dance, she visited Bulgaria in 1992 to attend the Summer Folk Dance School in Varna where the principal teacher was Belcho Stanev. Fiona became one of PIFDG's popular teachers and also conducted very successful beginners' and singing courses. She is fondly remembered for her delightful personality and her ability to choose and teach dances which become very popular with the group. She is returning for our Silver Jubilee celebrations and is giving weekend workshops on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 May. These will be very good, happy workshops which should not be missed. Pay Treasurer Peter by 7 May and get your early bird discount.

ALL THE EVENTS MENTIONED IN THIS GRAPEVINE WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST.MARGARET'S HALL - EXCEPT THE ABYSSINIAN RESTAURANT DINNER.

For further information contact Joy (9386 7438) or Leone(9364 9591)

Fairbridge Revisited

Eurodance

This was a combined effort involving PIFDG, Les Enfants de Provence and Last Five Coins and Friends at Fairbridge Festival 2001 – a great success with much audience participation and lively performances to stirring traditional airs. The dance stage was filled with enthusiastic participants of all ages learning how much fun it can be to dance *Pravo Trakijsko Horo* and *Lo Brisa Pe* and the popular Catalan dance, *Jota Klavellinera*. We all sang along in French to *Rond D'Argenton* as we wove around the stage and the Turkish *Yaylalar* got people in as usual.

Les Enfants de Provence and the PIFDG performance group performed some more showy dances including *La Moisson*, a harvest dance from Provence, *la Chapelotte*, a bouree from Berry where every lucky man has two women, and the Italian *Tarantella*. Last Five Coins and Friends were Russell on the fiddle, hurdy-gurdy and bagpipes, Tom on the bagpipes and flute, Jenny on the flute and recorder, Steve on the mandocello and Dave and Mark both on accordion. They gave a diverse and magical performance in backing the dancers and making this show one of the highlights of the dance stage at the festival. Thanks to choreographers John, Laurel and Palenque and to all participants.

PIFDG Performance

Certainly another highlight of the festival was the very dynamic performance of PIFDG – two sets of lively dances from all over the world including the Israeli *Mehera*, the Romanian stick dance *Dans cu Sucitoare*, and *Telefonski*, the Balkan/Dutch dance created for modern audiences! The imaginative figures presented by the dancers and the colourful selection of dances captured the audience and were evidence of much preparation as well as great stamina. Congratulations to Palenque on her choreography and to all participating dancers.



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