

# GRAPEVINE



Volume 13, Number 3, June / July 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)

## Dates for Your Diary

Mon 2 July	Mid-year Greek Party Night – 7pm
Sat 14 July	Beginners' Course starts – 10am
4 or 5 August	Half-day Founder's Workshop by Eve Blair – day to be confirmed
Sat 8 Sept	Saturday Group starts fortnightly dances – 10am
Sat 27 Oct	Tineke van Geel workshops - tba
Sun 28 Oct	Tineke van Geel workshops - tba

## SILVER, SILVER, SILVER!!

Wow!!! A sea of scintillating, sparkling, shining, swaying silver stunned all senses at PIFDG's silver anniversary reunion party on Sat 5th May. Everyone responded in their individual ways to the call to celebrate our anniversary by wearing something silver ranging from a silver-encrusted bowler hat to a Roman toga to sparkling cocktail dresses by the courtesy of the most exclusive op shops in Perth. St Margaret's Hall looked magnificent with three rows of silver decorations suspended from the ceiling – silver silhouettes of folk-dancing boys and girls and silver balloons. On the walls were life-size black and white sketches of several of our best-known members which were drawn by Glynda, Gabrielle and Nina.

A banner proclaiming HAPPY SILVER ANNIVERSARY hung across the front of the stage but the piece de resistance was a 16" mirror ball which reflected the sparkling silveriness and sent slowly moving reflections across the ceiling as it rotated. The tables were decorated with silver candles set in intertwined tinsel and ivy on white tablecloths with silver serviettes. Carolyn was the master set designer helped by her team of Laurel, Joy, Nina, Leone, Martin, Tony and Michaela.

At 7 pm about seventy guests arrived - all bearing plates of delicious food and welcomed with a glass of champagne and a silver star (to be applied on the face, name tag or wherever). Many former members came with their families and it was delightful to see and hear all the happy chatter. Former teacher Fiona Murdoch had been brought from New Zealand by PIFDG for the silver anniversary celebrations and Michaela Hill also came from Canberra. Soon the dancing began to the sounds of live music - The Last Five Coins.

During the evening out came a luscious HUGE silver decorated chocolate cake which was cut by Eve Blair as the founder of PIFDG. Our enjoyment of the special decorations was extended by being able to leave them in the hall for our Old Dances Revisited workshop the next day and until half-way through our regular Monday night dance when everyone helped to take them down. The Monday night dance, too, was special as our very own 'Kakophani' (Κακοφωνία) played for some of the dances.

It was a fabulous weekend - all sparkle, fun and good fellowship. Thanks to all those mentioned above and everyone else for helping to make it possible.

## Greek Party Night

And don't forget the mid-year GREEK PARTY NIGHT on Monday 2 July. Yes, it's half way to 2002. Please try to wear blue/white or something Greek and bring a small plate of finger food to share - Greek style if possible. It's a good chance to socialise as well as dance. Everyone should try to bring a friend with them. WILL ZORBA BE THERE?

## **A Trip To Ethiopia** by Laurel and family

A large group of us filled the Abyssinian Restaurant in Hampden Road, Nedlands to celebrate Fiona's teaching weekend. Dancers from PIFDG and their partners, children, and friends shared a meal in true Ethiopian style with the throbbing rhythms of Ethiopian music in the background and that singing which typifies the dance accompaniment of that country - a male singer supported by women with their shrill calls made by very quick tongue movements. Many of us ventured out in ethnic dress which added to the exotic atmosphere of the whole evening and I was most impressed by Peter in his kilt, and Louise and Palenque in Pakistani outfits to name a few.

The children, Isaac and Alia, were delightful as usual and joined in the dancing as we Ali Pasha-ed into the late evening after a rather animated meal of people moving from table to table meeting visitors and sampling other people's food. We shared the flat Ethiopian bread, soup, fish dishes and vegetarian dishes which were subtly spiced and tantalised the palette! Raphael says "I never thought I'd go to a restaurant where I'd be expected to eat with my fingers. The Ethiopian food was great and the hot and spicy dishes warmed us up on a very cold night. I'd like to go there again." Max, who had recently returned from Ethiopia said "The waiters serving us and the cooks were the proprietors and their family and they were dressed authentically in Ethiopian dress. I regret not wearing ethnic dress and look forward to doing that next time. I enjoyed talking to the family about Ethiopia and as I spoke to the women I was reminded that Ethiopian women are amongst the most beautiful in the world."

## **Yves Moreau In Canberra - 2001**

by Laurel and Palenque

In June, Joy, Laurel and Palenque took advantage of cheap airfares to Canberra to take part in a weekend of dance by visiting French-Canadian dance teacher Yves Moreau. Here is a brief report on their experience in Canberra, but first a photo of our travellers with Yves Moreau.

"We danced in Folk Dance Canberra's own hall in Hackett, a large old school hall with a sprung wooden floor and an old school canteen as a kitchen. - the ideal set up! Yves began with easier dances on the Saturday - two 3-hour sessions punctuated by home made and delicious morning and afternoon tea prepared by FDC members.

We learnt 12 reasonably easy dances on the Saturday, quite a few from Bulgaria, but generally a 'buffet of dances' from countries around the world including France, Albania, Portugal and Canada. Seventy people arrived on the first day, far exceeding Folk Dance Canberra's expectations. We all enjoyed, not only the dances, but Yves' jokes and singing as well as informative talks on each dance and Bulgarian culture in particular. We loved the dances and went home only to return after dinner for more dancing at the party night held at the same hall.

On Sunday morning he taught two intermediate dances and one positively tricky Bulgarian dance to the more select group that could drag themselves out of bed on such a cold morning. He spoke of the disappearing smile syndrome which most experienced when complicated arm movements were added to complicated leg movements! A review of all the dances followed that afternoon and finally we indulged in a wonderful Turkish dinner with a beautiful Turkish tango as entertainment after the meal. It's supposed to be all in the physics of the dance, the ease of those movements, but I'm sure the dancers' youth and beauty and their unflagging eye contact had a lot to do with the audience's enchantment.

Apart from the thrill of learning 15 new dances from a world renowned teacher, we also had a chance to find out more about other dancing groups around Australia. Every state was represented apart from South Australia and Northern Territory. It seems that many groups are quite heavily into Balkans/Eastern European dancing and are not so interested in dances from Western Europe. Palenque and I however, found the balance on meeting the talented musician John Garden of 'Earthly Delights' fame and he is worth meeting if one is interested in Western European/Scandinavian/English dancing across a time span of medieval to modern day. PIFDG seems to have a very well balanced repertoire and a strong following compared with some of the states.

We are grateful to all those people involved in the organisation of Yves' 2001 workshops including all committee members of FDC and Folk Dance Australia (Sydney). Our warm welcome in Canberra by everyone including our hostess Michaela also deserves our heartfelt thanks."

### **Yves Again**

by Joy Hill

Being an unpaid member of the workforce I had the freedom to linger longer in Canberra after Yves Moreau's weekend and was thus able to attend the evening with Yves sponsored by the Canberra International Folk Dance Association. Again Yves exerted his magic teaching style and taught five new dances only one of which had been taught at the weekend. One, called Drianovska Racenica (I think), is danced to the entrancing singing of an unaccompanied trio of Bulgarian women. I hope that PIFDG will soon be able to learn this dance. Yves is a stimulating and fascinating teacher and teaches not only the steps but is at pains to give participants a feeling of the style of each particular dance.

Yves was very impressed that three West Australians had travelled so far to attend his workshops. We hope that we have persuaded him to include Perth on his next visit to Australia which may be in a couple of years. At the end of the weekend just as we had put on our warm coats and woolly scarves, he announced that he wanted to take a photo of the Western Australians on his own camera - rather a nice gesture.

### **Cheers!**

by Paula Day

Once again our delightful Kiwi friend Fiona Murdoch joined PIFDG - this time as part of our silver anniversary celebrations.

Usually, she travels with umpteen pieces of luggage but this time she managed to restrain herself somewhat and only arrived with several, the most important bag containing a large duty free bottle of gin. As she was my houseguest I, too, was able to enjoy a G & T or two or three or four....



In between sipping G & T's and tinkling the ivories Fiona was having a wonderful time teaching us a lovely variety of dances from several countries. This occurred over a Saturday and Sunday either side of the Ethiopian dinner. The dances provided some opportunities to move very quickly (?), very gracefully (?), and to a variety of rhythms. A very popular dance was an Irish choreography by an Israeli to Riverdance music which Fiona had learnt in New Zealand.

It was great having Fiona back with us again. Until next time.....cheers!

### **Another Anniversary**

So you think that you've now heard everything about the twenty-fifth anniversary? Perth International Folk Dance Group may like to think that it is unique but the Canberra International Folk Dance Association ALSO celebrated it's twenty-fifth anniversary earlier this year. And CIFDA managed to produce a pretty t-shirt to mark the occasion. Congratulations, CIFDA.

### **Gentle News – new Saturday Group**

As mentioned in the previous Grapevine, PIFDG is beginning a Saturday Group for those people who would enjoy a more gentle and less challenging dancing session than our regular Monday nights. The new Saturday Group should be particularly tempting for beginners and newer members. However, Monday night regulars will also be very welcome. Sessions will be held fortnightly from Saturday 8 September.

The new Saturday Group sessions will be preceded by an eight-week Beginners' Course starting on Sat 14 July. Note that the dates are slightly different from those given in the previous Grapevine. Please tell all your friends about this new off-shoot of PIFDG as it has great potential but needs to be well supported. If there is no Beginners' Course flyer enclosed, please ask Joy (9386 7438) or Leone (9364 9591) for one. Early bird discount applies for payment by 9 July.

## Comings and Goings

We've seen the last of Pam Massey until January 2002 as she skated off (well, flew off) in April to travel around the world. She sent a congrats card from Bavaria for our 25th party.

Art Diggle and Anna Hepworth have gone to Canada for seven weeks to show baby Yves (born Dec 2000) to Art's folks there. Young Isaac, now three, also had to get his own passport for the trip.

Eve Blair left Perth in June for seven weeks in Europe where she has been walking in either Slovakia or Slovenia (wherever Lake Bled is - look it up in the atlas.)

Laurel de Vietri doesn't think she knows enough French dances so she and son Raphael are flying to France for the third year in succession to attend three festivals of French dance and music at Berry, Gennetienes and in the Auvergne. ....What it is to have lots of Frequent Flying Points! Daughter Gabrielle will also attend the festivals as part of a four month trip to France and Italy where she is studying comparisons between village and country life with video, photos and drawings.

Tony Hoar also has the French bug and will be attending the same festivals as Laurel, Raphael and Gabrielle - but NOT the one which is a whole week of nothing but bourees! And Laurel can't even remember whether her legs ached last year!

Palenque Blair can't keep away from chilly Canberra as she is going there to hone her dance teaching skills at the FDA Teacher Training Course for a week early in July.

Michaela Hill will also be doing the Teacher Training Course but doesn't have so far to travel as she already lives in Canberra.

Another traveller to Europe is Susan Blackstone who is going away with her family for six weeks from early July.

Cindy Innes has moved from Cottesloe to a cute little house in Fremantle. She is promising/threatening to have a house-warming some time soon.

Marcia has moved next door to Sara. Freo is obviously the place to be!

Earlier in the year Anne and John Riolfo left the comforts of their home and set off with a 4WD and caravan to travel around Australia till they get tired of it - perhaps in about twelve months time.

To counter all these departures, Louise and Laurie Scott have returned to Perth for a while after two years voluntary teaching in the Hunza Valley.

Stalwart David Lane disappeared over east for more than twelve months. He was sighted briefly in Brisbane but astonished everyone by calmly walking into the hall in Nedlands one recent Monday night. David says nothing has changed. What does that mean?

Trudi McAuliffe has been occupied with an armful of major events such as moving house and doing major renovations, changing Universities, and organising her daughter's wedding. We hope she will soon be able to return as a regular.

And ....

Bernie is off to Ireland in September

Will there be anyone left here to dance?