

GRAPEVINE



Volume 13 Number 4, August 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)

The Saturday Group

On Saturday 8 September, Perth International Folk Dance Group will inaugurate a second weekly dance meeting, which we hope will become as popular as our Monday Night dance meetings.

It will be known as THE SATURDAY GROUP.
Original, eh?

The Saturday Group will:

- φ Welcome anyone who wishes to dance internationally
- φ Have a similar format to Monday night ie roughly an hour's teaching followed by requests
- φ Specialise in gentler, less challenging dances than Monday nights
- φ Limit requests to dances taught on Saturdays or at the 2001 Beginners' Course
- φ Have the same mix of teachers as Monday nights
- φ Suit those who are not free on Monday nights
- φ Give an opportunity to dance internationally TWICE a week
- φ Be suitable for beginners and those with little experience in dancing
- φ Have tea, coffee, cocoa, caro, decaf, cordial etc included in the fee
- φ Have a low fee of \$5 per Saturday, and be cheaper for members - \$3 per Saturday (Membership \$20 Concession/Students \$14 pa)
- φ Have a special feature of 'Show and Tell' of foreign artefacts and items on the first Saturday of every month.
- φ Be from 10am to 12 noon EVERY Saturday with the exception of Saturday 27 October
- φ Feature Eve and Palenque teaching alternately in Sept/Oct and Laurel in November.
- φ Take place at St Margaret's Hall, cnr Tyrell and Elizabeth Streets, Nedlands except on 1st, 8th and 15th December when it will be held in the John Leckie Pavilion, College Park, Nedlands, opposite Stone Road.

Do come on Saturday mornings – particularly at the beginning to give it a good start. Inquiries to Leone (9364 9591) or Joy (9386 7438)

October - Armenian Workshops with

Tineke van Geel

Over the weekend of 27/28 October there will be some very special workshops lead by Tineke van Geel who is considered to be one of the world's leading teachers of Armenian folk dance. She is being brought to Australia by PIFDG and will also teach at a couple of venues in the eastern states.

Please don't be nervous about coming even if you haven't had much dancing experience. Tineke makes sure that all participants understand her dances.

This will be a very exceptional weekend of dance, it is not to be missed. Particulars of venues and costs will be available soon or contact Leone (9364 9591) or Joy (9386 7438). See Flyer in this issue.

2001 Beginners' Group

An enthusiastic bunch of beginners finish their course for this year on 1st Sept and they are looking forward to continuing their interest at the new regular Saturday Group. Many thanks to teachers John, Palenque and Laurel and to organiser Joy with setting-up assistance from Leone and Nina. Dances taught include *Dirlaka* and *Tsakonikos* from Greece, *Jota Clavellinera* (Spain), *Hojakka Vora* (Norway), *Nigun Shel Yoss* (Israel), *An Dro, An Dro Retourné* and *Rond d'Argenton* from France, *Drianovska Racenica* and *Paidushko Horo* (Bulgaria), *Moj Dragane* (Balkans) and *Gathering Peascods* and *Halfe Hanniken* a 'mixer' from England.

Comings and Goings

PIFDG Founder **Eve Blair** has another claim to fame. Whilst wearing her scientist's hat she and Professor Fiona Stanley have just published a book on the results of their research into the causes of cerebral palsy. Congratulations, Eve!

Michaela Hill has won a scholarship for a month's tuition at the Dante Alighieri Institute in Florence plus her fare to Italy. She leaves late in September with husband Michael and children Edward and Harriet.

Avan Whaite is one of the 34 inaugural intake of students at the new National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne. The training facilities are amongst the world's best. Avan began attending PIFDG as a baby with father John.

As the initiator of the new Saturday group, **Joy Hill** is very sorry to be missing the first of the new venture as she will be in Canberra watching grandson **Edward Hill** in a dance concert.

PIFDG is pleased to welcome as new members several participants in this year's beginners' course - **Laura Bernay, Ann Whyntie, Alison Kenworthy, Julie Cowling** and **Robin Hamilton**.

A French-speaking participant of the Beginners' Course, **Hafida**, typed out the words to one of the popular French dances – Rond d'Argenton. To help non-French speaking members, the chorus goes "N'aurais-je pas tra-la-la, celui que mon coeur demande"

Not only that, **Julie Cowling** and **Laura Bernay** from the Beginners' Course have bought six of the seventeen seats PIFDG that has booked for the LADO Croatian Folk Dance Ensemble which is giving a dance concert at His Majesty's on 14 September. How's that for enthusiasm?

Eve Blair's Anniversary Workshop

To help celebrate PIFDG's silver anniversary, Founder Eve Blair gave a splendid workshop of dances on a very wet Sunday afternoon in August. The large number of members who attended soon got warm and really enjoyed the afternoon.

Eve taught a wide variety of dances from gentle to exhausting and from Romania to Israel via Bulgaria and Greece.

Thank you again, Eve.

Read on for **Joy Hill's Home Hints Section** ➔

Sacrificial Anodes – A Story with a Moral

And what, you might ask, is a sacrificial anode? And what does it have to do with folk dancing? Sit down nicely and I'll tell you. A sacrificial anode is a piece of metal which, when immersed in water, will "sacrifice" itself to prevent more important metal from corroding. Sacrificial anodes are found in the storage tanks of domestic hot water services and in other places. The connection with folk dancing is that I was at the Beginners' Course one Saturday morning when Ron came round to tell me that our hot water tank was leaking like a sieve. Naturally I thought he was exaggerating but on phoning the plumber we were told the bad news. Once a gas storage tank leaks like that it cannot be repaired but there is generally a five-year warranty. It seemed only recently that we had had to buy a new hot water service (and of course it happened while we were away overseas – the second time that has happened to us.)

All through the weekend we frantically searched for the piece of paper that might prove that we had purchased the last HWS within five years, meanwhile having to make do with boiling the kettle for washes and washing up. I seemed to remember the circumstances that we were overseas JUST five years ago when I had to organise and authorise the plumber by long distance phone from the other side of the world. But more bad luck. "How times flies when you're having fun" goes the old saying. We must have been having fun in the last eight years because it turned out to be eight years since we had replaced the hot water service. It had been on a previous overseas trip.

In my book, for an appliance to break down irreparably within three years of a five year warranty expiring is not very satisfactory – particularly as the particular brand is still advertised as giving reliable service "year after year". Strangely, there isn't much choice in gas storage hot water services. There are only three brands, of which one is not particularly reliable and the other two are both owned by the same company. So much for competition. So by Tuesday we had the same brand installed again and celebrated with hot showers all round!

The plumber tells us that the moral is to have the sacrificial node checked and replaced if necessary every three or so years as Perth's water quality is rather rough on metal – particularly because of the droughts we have been experiencing as more ground water has to be drawn. I'm sure that most of us would rather spend about \$140 every three years than \$1000 every eight years. So take my advice and see if your sacrificial anode has sacrificed itself.