

PERTH INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

**Presented to WA Legislative Assembly 15 October 2026
by Jonathan Huston; Member for Nedlands,**

For five decades the Perth International Folk Dance Group has been at the core of promoting cultural diversity, interacting with numerous ethnic groups and connecting to the wider Western Australian community.

Founded in 1976 by a small group of passionate dancers, the group has grown into a vibrant organisation that continues to share the joy of international folk dance with people of all ages and backgrounds.

While the dance group focuses on dances from The Balkans and Israel it has more than 900 dances in its repertoire; from over fifty countries. Over half a century it has involved more than 400 people in its activities from many walks of life.

Through weekly classes, workshops, weekend camps and social events, they have built a strong, inclusive community grounded in tradition and movement. From a group originally meeting at one location – they now run classes in six locations including Mandurah and Albany.

Their impact has reached far beyond the dance floor. They have performed almost 200 times at all the major and minor Western Australian folk festivals (including Toodyay, Fairbridge, Nannup and Nanga), at the National Folk Festival in Canberra, numerous Harmony Day events and at an Australia Day celebration in 1999 to an audience of eight thousand people.

They have also supported community, school and multicultural events; RSL, Multi-Cultural March (City of Perth) and supported multicultural arts and earthquake relief in Turkey.

This milestone would not have been possible without the tireless work of the long-serving volunteers, all honorary positions. I would like to acknowledge the Committee for their governance and hard work and thank them for their ongoing efforts.

I would like to register my congratulations to the Perth International Folk Dance Group for 50 years of community support, resilience and cultural pride.

May their legacy continue to grow one step at a time.

Drafted by Martin Williams as PID President; discussed and agreed with Jonathan Huston, the Lower House member for Nedlands on 10th August 2026 at his offices at 1/160 Hampden Rd, Nedlands. Read to Parliament 15 October 2026 as part of local 'statements'.