



Grapevine is the newsletter of Perth International Dance. The Group has recently been 'meeting' and dancing via Zoom and hopes to return to its normal Monday and Saturday dance sessions at St Margaret's Church Hall in Nedlands and Friday's in Glen Forrest Hall. PID supports Covid19 safe practices.

Check us out on <http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/> or email [info@perthinternationaldance.org.au](mailto:info@perthinternationaldance.org.au)

## A New Era

We ended the last *Grapevine*, Christmas last year, with a short article entitled 'end of an era'. That was part of our farewell to our old amplifier/mixer which had died. We also reassigned the old purple speakers to heirloom status and retired them to the PID hall of fame.

Well, we're now very much in a new era - the era of Covid19. Who saw that one coming in their crystal ball - whatever happened to 2020 foresight??

This is a catch-up edition of *Grapevine* that includes:

- News from the Committee
- Our last dance sessions
- Morphing to Zoom
- Some thoughts about the lock-down
- Getting back to dance sessions

### .. .. and don't forget to check on-line

Things are really fluid at the moment - so look out for further emailed advice and don't forget to check on the PID web-site.

<http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/>

## News from the Committee

This year we have a Committee with many new members, who were just learning about the scope of its role when Covid19 appeared. The Committee was faced with a fast moving situation, needing an almost constant stream of decisions about how to respond.

The first major issue was that we were in the middle of preparing for the workshop to be presented by Marius Ursu in late March. In the event Marius and his wife decided to return home part way through their tour of Australia, and not visit Perth. The Committee nevertheless purchased the resources from the east coast workshops, so that teachers will hopefully be able to learn and teach some of the dances. We also made contributions to

Folk Dance Australia and Marius Ursu for the losses incurred by them as a result of the cancellation.

In the meanwhile, the Committee also developed an approach to holding classes under the Covid19 distancing rules. However by the end of March new rules prevented holding classes at Nedlands altogether. Shortly afterwards John W and Jenny C developed 30 minute dance videos which members were invited to follow in Saturday morning Zoom sessions during April and May.

At the time of writing the Committee is finalising new arrangements for the Nedlands classes, taking account of recently relaxed Covid19 guidelines.

Our way of operating has been very different from the past. Rather than meet every two months, we have met many times via Zoom. Although this method has been a little difficult to adjust to, it has proved very useful in dealing with these difficult circumstances.

## Committee resignations

The Committee has reluctantly accepted the resignations of Eve Blair and Patricia (Trish) Eyre from the Committee.

## New members

The Committee is pleased to welcome 5 new members to PID: Emmanuelle Daw, Michaela Hill, Julianne Kenny, Valerie Lucs-Hill, and Libby Patrizi.

## Maria Jenkins; PID Secretary

## Thanks to Retiring Committee Members

Unfortunately, both Eve Blair and Trish Eyre have resigned from committee. I'd like to thank them both for their contributions.

Everyone knows Eve's contributions to PID, as the original and continuing teacher, and as instigator of the Graduates dance sessions.

Eve brought vast experience to the committee, and will continue as Graduates co-ordinator. While a relatively recent addition to committee (in PID terms), Trish brought her expertise in associations and committees to assist Martin Williams to produce our current Rules of Association, a formidable task.

As Performance Co-ordinator, Trish has fielded enquiries and improved the organisation of the role. She also made significant contributions to our Romanian workshop (unfortunately abandoned due to Covid-19) as part of the Promotions Sub-committee, including vetting the Midland Junction Arts Centre. She reached out to the Romanian community and managed to involve the Honorary Romanian Consul in our event.

I'm pleased to say that Trish will continue as our Performance Co-ordinator, and on the Promotions Sub-committee.

Thank you both.

**John Whaite; PID Chairman**

### Our Last Dance Sessions

In the face of a lot of warnings at the debut of corona virus in WA the group continued its dance sessions for as long as possible. Our last Monday session was 16<sup>th</sup> March and the last Saturday session was on 21<sup>st</sup> March with some 15 dancers, many fewer than the Saturday before. These last sessions were good but it did seem strange with no hand holding, lots of 'distancing', lots of space to move and to rush for the hand sanitiser!

Check out the following from Jenny Currell - the Hills approach to social distancing:-



The declaration of no more dance physical sessions came as a bit of a shock to many of us. It seemed suddenly serious and created a vacuum that needed to be filled ... ..

### ZOOMing into Zoom, slowly ... ..

... .. well that vacuum was filled by Zoom but not before a lot of hard work by a small number of people, particularly by John W and Jenny C.

All the world seemed suddenly to be using Zoom. The name says it all and very quickly there were 300 million Zoom sessions each day! Since the start of the epidemic usage has gone up by 2900%. And it's still free, although the free sessions cut off after 40 minutes.

Not that that made it much easier for our teachers. How do you solve synchronisation problems between the video and the audio? Which dances to teach, how many and what level of difficulty? Which audience to target?

After some trials and a lot of tribulation our Zoom offering started on 25 April with six dances, pre-recorded to solve the synch. problems. We had 15 participants.

### Dances that Zoomed our way in the first 2 weeks

25 April	2 May
Opsa	Esmer
Cumbia	Fado Portugues
Damat	Zajecharka
Aptal	Ya Da Kalinsuhku
Poloxia	Hastayim
Raghse	Kritikos
	Glasat Na Pirin

### What are your thoughts on the lock-down?

It's interesting to listen to different views on Covid19 and the lock-down. For those who have lost their jobs it's a disaster, for others it's a 'stop the world I want to get off' moment. So, for you, is it a chance to catch up and take stock; to enjoy a period with less hassles and less demands on your time, or is it a time to sit at the PC browsing the catalogues and ordering things on Amazon? Which describes you better?

What we'd like to do over some of the next issues of *Grapevine* is ask you to tell us what Covid19, the lock-down and the post-period period means to you. So email us soon and give us your perspective. Just briefly with a couple of paragraphs, maximum 200 words.

We'll print some in the next *Grapevine*. Ed