



Grapevine is the newsletter of Perth International Dance. Dance sessions are held Monday eve. & Saturday afternoon at Dalkeith Hall, Waratah Ave in Nedlands; Friday's [9:30am - 11:00am] in Glen Forrest Hall; Mondays [12:30 - 2:30pm] at East Fremantle Tennis Club, Jerratt Dr., Sundays in South Perth, in Mandurah on Wednesdays and in Albany. For more details see: <http://www.perthinternationaldance.org.au/> or email news@perthinternationaldance.org.au

It really must be time for a *Grapevine*. How did we get so deep into 2026, our anniversary year, without one?!!

This issue of *Grapevine*, summarises some of the events and happenings in the year that we celebrate the fiftieth year of PIFDG/PID.

- **Gold!, Gold!, Gold!**
- Fifty Year History – The Book
- Fifty Year History – The Party; 1st August
- Fifty Year History – The Film; 23rd May
- Fifty Year History – The Speech from Eve
- Mandurah Meet and Greet Session
- New Dance Group QR Codes



In The Beginning!

The year dawned with lots of ideas about a number of celebrations throughout the year but it was made clear at the first Committee meeting that it was to be a small number of celebrations. Maybe it's our age!

Much to the annoyance of many members a small number of events and a small number of dates meant that they were also easy to miss. So, if you missed out on some of the key events please accept our apologies!

You can't please all of the dancers all of the time!

New QR codes

We have new codes for the PID Home Page and for our current classes. Creating these codes used to be free and easy but more recently they have come with a catch and are proprietary in one way or another.

These new codes were created by John Whaite who found an independent source of free and non-proprietary QR-codes.



PID Home Page



Dance Sessions

Fifty Year Anniversary Party – the colours, the costumes and the invited dancers made it a very special 50th anniversary party



▲▲ John Whaite with dancers from Vito Horo
Photo: John Bardill



▲ Members of LADO-Perth & Mark Bozikovic

What a Difference Ten Years makes!

Some things have changed – check out these two photos!



Above -- taken in 2016 at our 40th anniversary party
... and this one below taken this year that also proves that the Armenian performance costume doesn't change



Is the Group attracting new members? Who do you think this young ballet dancer is?



Meet and Greet Sessions

One of the things suggested by the Committee for our 50th year was to have a meet-and-greet session at each of our satellite sessions.

No doubt there will be a Spring in the Hills event in October but so far only Mandurah has managed such a get-together.

Albany is a bit far and the Shanty Festival weekend in July was deemed a bit cold for a mid-winter trip and the problem with getting a grant to coincide with the Albany Bicentennial in September didn't help.

So the first of our "Meet and Greets" was in Mandurah on 10th June and it went really well. It was a chance for the relatively recently-formed Mandurah group to meet some of the central cast of PID on their home turf to show that we do exist and to make them feel more part of the dance group.

Overall there were thirteen dances done in the session and it was an interesting mix of dancers and visitors from central casting, with the current president and vice-president along with the treasurer, two past-presidents, a past-secretary and a one-time committee member. A really impressive representation!

After the dancing we retired to The Hummingbird Waterside Cafe on the Terrace for drinks, an early lunch and some socialising.

Thanks to everyone who attended and to Maria and Jennifer for their organisation.



List of 10th June Dances

Jacku	Chile
Nigun Atik	Israel
Damat Halayi	Turkey
Davorika Dajke	Serbia
L'Homme qui Marche	France
Hira de la Nunta	Romania
Hulu	Israel
Samba Mixer	Germany
Muzette Waltz	France
Miserlou	Greece
Hora Pe Gheata	Romania
De Secerat	Romania
Tsakanikos	Greece

Fifty Year History – The Film(s)

The dance group has an impressive collection of over 3,500 dance videos collected over the decades from visiting teachers and on overseas trips. These are a great resource for our teachers but a great many never see the light of day. The same can be said of the many others covering parties, rehearsals, performances, workshops and, of course, Red Faces.

Several dancers, including Gisela, suggested that we unearth some of them and give them an airing. So on 23rd May after the dust had settled on the normal Saturday dance session we gathered in Dalkeith Hall to watch some films.



The audience didn't include Gisela as she was away but it did include some blasts from the past such as Joyce and Paul Wolfe. Pam Massey's old screen may have been small but it was big enough to appreciate some golden oldies and classics, including:

2016: PID's 40th Anniversary party

2016: PID's 40th party performance by Turkish Australia Culture House

1997: Rehearsal for Joondalup Folk Festival

1998: Point Peron – Yaldati and Tagadi – Fiona Murdoch

1994: Toodyay - Cancan and Hora in Doua Parti

2011: Red Faces - 'France' – Berni, Nina & Paula

2002: Red Faces – 'San Jose' – Paula, Pam Williams, Debra Harwood and Marcia Hadlow

1999: PID Oz Concert Australia Day Performance at the old Entertainment Centre in Wellington St.

2006: Fairbridge performance - Muhtarin Oglu Ali

2018: Turkish Republic Ball Performance by Eve and Palenque Blair

2023: Perth Town Hall performance; Salamanti and Rustemul

2014; Cannington Harmony Day - 'Pink Panther'

2021; Floricica Oltenearca demo led by Eve
and a couple of classics:

2019: Red Faces - Paula Day - Charlie Chaplin

2002: Red Faces - Swan Lake – 'Little Cygnets'
with Martin, Art, Tony and Peter

**Please let us know if you'd like another film
night before the end of the year.**

Fifty Year History – The Book

I think that it was Pam Gunn back in April or May of 2025 who gave me a copy of the book produced for the 25th anniversary of The Working Voices Choir by Eversley Mortlock, and suggested that we do one for the dance group.

Saying 'yes' led to over a year's hard work, collecting material, chasing and checking dates, doing drafts and involving so many people, including many dancers who had long, long ago left PIFDG and PID!!

It was mainly pieced together over about six months and around Christmas we got quotes for printing from a number of commercial printers. Talking to Maureen Humpage one day at dancing she suggested using UWA., which was a brilliant idea. They were much cheaper, very professional and, very conveniently. just down the road in Shenton Park.

One of the biggest jobs was proof-reading and thanks go particularly to Pam Gunn and to John Whaite for their help with that.

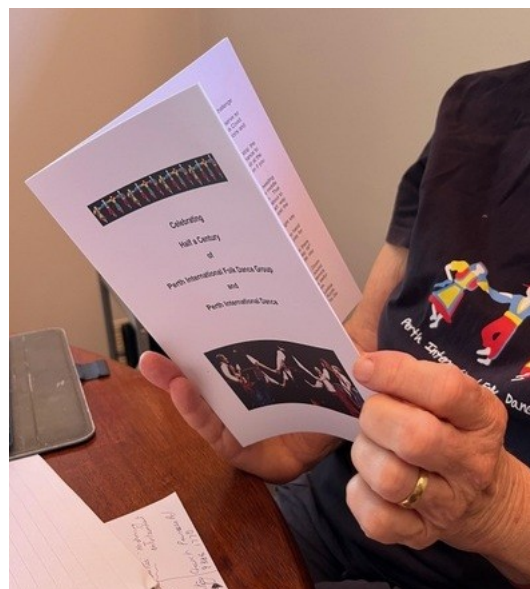
So on 15 May 2026 sixty copies were printed by UniPrint, the publishing arm of UWA.

At \$10 each they sold quickly, with the last few being snapped up at the 50th party on 1st August.

We did register for an ISBN [978-0-646-73663-1] and a copy now resides in the WA State Library.

If you have spotted any mistakes please let us know. We're going to do some corrections, add a few pages about the anniversary party and a picture or two and print some more. We're not sure how many.

This picture of Jenny Bardill reading the proof copy and promoting the book, appeared on the PID-Web home page for a few months.



Martin Williams

Fifty Year History – The Anniversary Party

WOW! What a fabulous party! A superb celebration – just look at that crowd:



John Leckie Hall on 1st August saw lots of old friends, lots of dancing, great music from The Last Five Coins with a complementary playlist from Jenny Currell.

It was a fitting way to celebrate half-a-century of international folk dancing in Perth and Western Australia.

The performances, the costumes and the join-in dances were a feature. These included:

- Erika Muzenic and friends from LADO-Perth who led [Seljančica](#) and [Kriči kriči tiček](#) from Croatia.
- Boriana Todorova and her dancers from Vito Horo with [Makamliisko Horo](#) followed by a superb, but challenging, set of Bulgarian dances for us to join in with.

They were ably supported by our dancers:

- Palenque & Eve Blair with [Dans Cu Sucitoare](#) - the Stick Dance from Romania;
- Eve, Palenque and Jenny Currell with [Hassapiko](#) from Greece;
- Jenny Currell and Palenque, dancing the [Armenian Ovive Yerk](#) and Im Gousan Es;
- Peter Fallon, John Whaite and Martin Williams with Opas from Bulgaria.

Truly, truly 'international' and great fun!



The Vito Horo join-in dances, all Bulgarian, were [Kate Kate](#), Puichenca, [Aide Jano - Melnisko horo](#), [Mlad Terziya](#) and [Varnensko horo - Retro kocek](#).

We did several of our standard dances, such as [Ajde Jano](#), same names, same tunes, but different steps – that was really interesting.

The food was good and the cake had to be seen to be believed - organised and paid for by Peter Fallon – many, many thanks Peter!



Superb taste too. The cup cakes, alternately capped with "50's" and our logo in icing, were also Peter's idea:



A special thank you to the catering team including John and Jenny Bardil, who looked resplendent in their matching gold waistcoats, Maeve and others who worked tirelessly all night.



Thanks also to the team of early arrivals including Martin and Pam Williams who decorated the hall and laid out things like the photo albums, old Grapevines and our collection of dance costume and jewellery books.

Fifty Year History – The Speech by Eve Blair

Hi Everyone, thank you for coming to this amazing celebration.

I've been asked for a few words as I'm sometimes credited with being the PID founder.

That's complicated, so I'll begin at the beginning.

In the 1970s I lived in Louisiana for three summers with my West Australian husband. At 90°F, 99% humidity for 9 months of the year that's not to be recommended even before global warming, but I found the Swamp Stompers (an International dance group) in an air-conditioned hall at the Louisiana State University, and I was hooked on International Folk Dance. After some encouragement, David (husband) came along and also got hooked, primarily on the music. Then he got a job in WA which for him was 'back home'. David told me there was no International Dance in Perth, so he proposed that he collect the music and, when we got to Perth, I should teach the dance.

The Swamp Stompers were incredibly supportive plying us with many hours of music which David recorded on reel to reel tapes and stacks of dance descriptions.

When we did get to Perth we found that under the auspices of the WA Folk Federation, a Swedish woman, Chris Druid-Sutton, was teaching international dance on Monday evenings to a small group at a hall in Museum Street assisted by her husband Bob. However they were leaving imminently to provide humanitarian assistance overseas, leaving us with 2 purple speakers (donated by the Folk Federation) and one still current member, Pam Gunn.

But I had never taught a dance in my life!

I must have practiced Ciuleandra 100s of times before finally hitting the floor in Museum Street.

I had no formal dance teacher training, but I had watched my mother teach ballet for 18 years. Something must have rubbed off because it seemed to work, though David had to remind me that here people were primarily coming for fun, rather than perfecting dance technique – ballet teachers are notoriously strict and most UN gentle.

Dance teaching turned out to be the easy part for me. Running an organisation was not. No one thought of insurance back then, the only outgoing was the hall hire which we used to divide between the number of people who attended on any Monday night.

I remember feeling intense gratitude when Peter Carter offered to take care of the money.

With occasional tweaking, like coining the name 'Perth International Folk Dance Group' off the cuff at a public performance when I was asked 'How should we introduce you?' things continued for a few years, my teaching sometimes augmented by visitors.

Then we learned we could apply for Arts Council Grants to fund things like music systems or attendance at overseas workshops. But to be eligible we had to be incorporated - to have an AGM and a committee with elected office bearers like President, Secretary and Treasurer. A committee was duly created and I was asked to be the President.

I found I really did not enjoy telling people what to do. I remember John Whaite asking me why, because it was 'just the same as running any small business'?

But I didn't want a business, large or small: I just wanted to dance, preferably with other people. So I left the committee.

However to survive for half a century a group needs a lot of organisation: organising injury insurance (which now covers many ID groups in WA), organising publicity, venues, workshops, visiting teachers, performances, costumes, communication with members, managing expenses and social events including lots of CAKE as well as maintaining archives, evidence of which is all around us.

So achieving this venerable age is entirely due to the dedication and tenacity of many committee members over the years. For example, the current committee is responsible for tonight's event.

I really salute you:

May I suggest a round of applause for all committee members past and present, I thank you all.



Was Franco proposing something to Eve?

The Golden Party Programme

Gold is the colour that is associated with anniversaries and there was plenty of gold on show on the night including on the programme:

50th Anniversary Party - 1st August 2026
John Leckie Hall, Melvista Ave. Nedlands

Draft Programme

6:00 Meet & Greet - arrivals to complete a name tag please
music - background playlist

6:15 Brief introduction - followed by dancing
Playlists and The Last Five Coins

7.15 Performances - Demos and join-in dances - 10 - 15 mins ea
*Croatian - with Erika Muzenic - from LADO-Perth
music by Mark Bozickovic and Russell Johnsen
PID - Dans Cu Sucitoare - Romanian - Palenque & Eve Blair
PID - Hassapiko - Greek - Eve Blair, Jenny Currell, Palenque
Bulgarian - Rodina Performance - Vito Horo with Boriana Toderova
PID - Armenian - Jenny Currell, Palenque
PID - Opas - Bulgarian - John Whaite, Peter Fallon, Martin*

8:15 Group Photograph
Food: - Shared BYO savory dishes

9.15 Formalities
*Thanks, speech by Eve Blair and acknowledgments
Desserts and cake!*

Dancing - favourite dances - over the decades
The floor is yours - a mix of playlists & The Last Five Coins

10:00 End of party

*Music Provided throughout by The Last Five Coins and playlists
Programme subject to change*

Please note that hall will be available from 4:30pm until 10:30

One of the things that we've spent a lot of time and energy on in recent years is collecting, organising and promoting archival material such as photos and videos. Overall, we think we've done quite well but it is predicated on having the photos in the first place. Back in 2016 for the 40th we were lucky to have Rebecca Coghlan who took lots of photos. Ten years before that at the Pt Peron anniversary workshop it was Mary Woodward who took lots of superb photos.

This year we were really lucky to have Franco Smargiassi. Franco has a number of roles - including being the vice-president of WAMA - the WA Multicultural Association - as such he sends out information on events such as our events. We promoted our anniversary through him and we guess that piqued his interest and he came along. He did a great job and a few days later he sent us a collection of about 270 quality photos and 55 videos. Thanks Franco.

Some of his photos are in [this link](#) and videos are on the PID Web-site at [Photo and Video page](#)

We did get our own back and took this photo of Franco while he was up on the stage. On this occasion he had competition in the photo-taking stakes!



Franco Smargiassi - photographer at large for the evening
David H caught in the act too

Talking of Books!

On one of the tables at the party we displayed the Group's collection of books - some of our assets. I'm not sure that many there had much time to look at them soooo

.... we're going to put them in the locked gun cupboard at Dalkeith and make them available for loan.

The titles are:

Folk Costumes of the World

Folk Art of Europe

Costume Patterns and Designs

Folk Jewelry of the World

Time-Line of World Costume

- from fig leaf to Street Fashion

They will be kept at the hall for a while.

Let us know if you would like to borrow them to take a closer look. Most of them are quite large and quite heavy!!

Traveller's tales

Regular readers of the final issue of Grapevine each year will probably have got used to having stories and pictures from our dancers' trips abroad. A bit of indulgence did I hear!?

This year we are including a non-standard travel tale. Louse Scott is one of our regular travellers with past Grapevine tales coming from Ethiopia, Madagascar, New Zealand and from Nepal; she and Laurie were there again in March this year where they took these stunning pictures:



In early July they set off again to go trekking, this time to Ladakh. That's about as far north as you can go in India and it's part of Kashmir. As if the area isn't disputed enough between India and Pakistan, you've also got the border with Tibet to the north. Probably not the cleanest place in the world but ideal for trekking – the altitude in Ladakh varies from a low of 2,550 m to over 7,700 m.

Louise got as far as Singapore airport before tripping over her shoelace and fracturing her kneecap. That's at about 4 metres above sea-level and probably, clinically, in one of the cleanest places on the planet! Not realising the damage they flew on to Dehli where these pictures were taken:



The Unwanted Birthday Present

We had planned to return to Ladakh after thirty years - to rediscover its mountains, monasteries and Himalayan trekking. Instead, on my birthday, I received an unexpected present: a broken kneecap and a fast-track ticket to hospital.

Our Himalayan adventure suddenly became surgery, recovery and an extended stay in Delhi. Laurie found himself promoted from husband to nurse, cook, porter, travel agent and chief problem-solver - all without applying for the job.

Yet India had other treasures in store. First came the magnificent Taj Mahal, quite understandably one of the Seven Wonders of the World, followed by the beautiful Lotus Temple. At the National Museum, in Delhi we travelled even further back in time, discovering treasures from the Harappan civilisation, one of the earliest urban cultures of the Indian subcontinent.



And Delhi? The city we had always imagined as an overcrowded, polluted hell-hole surprised us with leafy neighbourhoods, jungle-like urban forests, monkeys, squirrels and countless birds.

Most memorable of all was the extraordinary kindness of the people who helped us when we needed it most.

Eventually, after receiving world-class medical care, we came home—grateful, wiser and slightly amused. The journey we never planned became an adventure we will remember for far more than the broken limb that, thankfully, is healing.

Louise Scott – North Perth

Fifty Year History – Resolutions

Thanks to Louise for sharing her stories with us – we all wish her a speedy recovery. We hope to see you back at dancing soon Louise – with your shoe-laces tied tightly!

Two more photos of Louise in Delhi.



More Celebrations coming up!

The focus in 2026 has been on the PIFDG/PID 50th year golden anniversary but this year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Saturday Group.

Congratulations to them – I'm sure it will be made into a special event – maybe with a cake or two and perhaps a special guest.

Look out for more details in the PID-Weekly News and always check the PID Web-site for updates.

A Few More 50th Party Photos



Hundreds more photos and lots of videos on the web-site!!

That ballet dancer photograph!

So, did you guess who the young ballet dancer was – the photo on Page 2?

It was Trish Eyre in Grade 3 at about 12 or 13.