



# Let's Talk Folk Dance

Membership network email update and musings on local folk, historical, traditional and community dance  
[Folkdance.org.nz](http://Folkdance.org.nz)



**Hi Everyone,**

Happy New Year - 2017 is here and festival season is upon us. We just need the festival weather!!

See the November 2016 news sheet for details about the upcoming Auckland Folk Festival Dance programme - I'm looking forwards to dancing away the long weekend. There is live music for all dance sessions which is wonderful and highlights that musicians are keen to play for dancers. Make the most of these fabulous musicians – create dance events and invite them to play.

I'm also eagerly anticipating the Kyriakos Moisidis Greek Dance workshop in Auckland over 1 -2 April. *In 2007 I travelled to North-Eastern Greece with Kate Goodwin and the 'Maenads' and we attended one of Kyriakos' summer Greek dance workshops as part of that trip. Kyriakos was a great teacher and the attention to the cultural aspects of the dance, traditions, music and costumes was very interesting.* The FDNZ is supporting this workshop and our website has further information <http://folkdance.nz/events/2017/kyriakos-flyer.pdf>

If you're looking for a taste of Latin American folk dance in 2017 contact [folklorchilenolatino@clear.net.nz](mailto:folklorchilenolatino@clear.net.nz)

Happy dancing in 2017

Regards Fiona

## MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT... Our Esteemed Editor

**Kieron Horide-Hobley wants the first word in 2017...** Twenty years ago this year, I accepted a call for help with the FDNZ Newsletter. Elaine and others led the way with a few early editions, and established it as a publication in the National Library with its own ISSN. However, it was recognised that someone dedicated to its production was needed, and I realised my technical skills would come in handy. Following from the success of the Ruritanian Roundabout, I switched to an A5 booklet format. I took the liberty of putting my beautiful new wife and me on the front cover – folk dancing of course! In 2003, we returned to the easier-to-produce A4 format, renamed as **Folkdancers' Own** following Kate Goodwin's competition-winning suggestion.

Over the years it has been a vehicle for capturing memories, recording activities, sharing knowledge, and provoking thought. The role has been a privilege, as it has been supported by so many people. It relies heavily on your writing in, so please keep sharing! It takes a number of weekends out to produce each edition – over 40 pages sometimes, so between work and other commitments, these days I manage about one edition a year. We fill the gap with monthly news sheets such as the one you're reading. Early on we also set up a **website**, which I still maintain with hosting and support from Volker. This has undergone a redesign only once, and now is rather dated. I have on my to-do list writing of a brief for someone with better skills than I for visual design. We have one or two offers to do this design, and might consider others in case those don't work out.

The coming edition will feature the Rhythm & Grapevines event in Gisborne last year, some retrospective thoughts, and we look forward to Kyriakos in Auckland in April. **I look forward to your contributions!** [Ed: Hopefully you'll get lots of articles Kieron!]

## ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING IN AUCKLAND

The **English Country Dance group** has been meeting for 20 years to enjoy a social form of set dancing that includes a wide range of styles. Sets can be for two, three, or four couples, or "as many as will" and can be squares, circles or rectangles or long lines. We have progressive sets which mean we will dance with many different people during an evening. English Country dance includes the kind of dancing seen in TV series and movies such as Poldark and Pride & Prejudice. Although some dances were first recorded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the repertoire has grown down the centuries with new dances continuing to be added right up to the present day. English Country Dance is only moderately energetic and does not involve complex stepping so is well suited to people who haven't danced before or who don't have a high level of fitness. The beautiful music and intricate figures of some of the more complex dances keep the 'regulars' coming back for more.

We also have an Early Dance Class and often have workshops or other events during the year – see our **website** [www.englishcountrydance.org.nz](http://www.englishcountrydance.org.nz) or **Facebook** page English Country Dance – Auckland for details. If you are **in Auckland on the second Friday of the month** we would love to see you at St John's Church Hall, Church Street, Northcote, Auckland (except January). [Ed: Thanks Karen and Beth – I've always enjoyed the occasional visit on a Friday for a celebratory dance event and love seeing your group in costumes at dance parties.]

**Update from your committee:** It's a new year and we want to know all about new dance initiatives up and down the country – especially if they relate to folk, traditional, or historical dance. A Facebook page is coming soon along with some 'rules of engagement'. We are also keen to know if there is demand for a 'Teacher / Tutor Development session' that we can run alongside the Greek workshop - the Sunday afternoon has been mooted. **Email your thoughts to** [secretary@folkdance.org.nz](mailto:secretary@folkdance.org.nz)

**EMAIL  
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