



Let's Talk Folk Dance



Membership network email update and musings on local folk, historical, traditional and community dance
Folkdance.org.nz

Hi everyone,

I'm so looking forwards to dancing with old and new friends at the Rhythm and Grapevines festival in September – hope to see you there

Ana Maria's comments on sharing her heritage will have resonated deeply with many people – she also included some wonderful quotes.....

'Dancing with the feet is one thing, but dancing with the heart is another'.

Unknown and

'Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body'. Martha Graham

So true Ana Maria!

What's coming up...

- **Rhythm and Grapevines Folk Dance weekend 23 – 25 September**
 - Register now
 - Book your accommodation
 - Bring your friends
 - Make music as well as enjoy dances
- **21 – 24 October – Israeli Reunion Weekend** Hamilton
 - Register now – the weekend will only be held subject to minimum numbers
- **WOMAD** Early Bird tickets on sale

I was really pleased to read in the latest Ruritanian Roundabout (Auckland Folk Dance magazine) of a new International folk dance group emerging....great to see that energy supported by Auckland members

Happy Dancing - Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT: Dance Folkus

dancer, Alec Calderwood, shares his 'Man Thoughts' - I first started folk-dancing after I met Fiona Murdoch (I was in my early 40s), although I had been able to do Scottish ceilidh dancing since being taught at school in Glasgow every year; my dancing abilities have increased since meeting Fiona! Like other activities, a significant benefit is of course the opportunities for friendships, events, travel, dress up in costume, and occasionally perform in public. New skills and confidence are often developed and it is neat to see that happen with others also. As for the dances themselves my personal preferences are the kind of dances where you can lose yourself in the rhythm and repetitive patterns and flow, allowing me to enjoy the music, refine the movements and actively interact with the people, occasionally show off; dances such as the French Bourree, laride etc, Veritat (occitan), Greek line dances, Meillionen (Welsh) all come to mind as typical of that. Patterned dances such as Regency, quadrilles etc I like also - a great chance to get into character of the period, and seeing everyone else getting dressed up - I have always enjoyed fancy dress parties. I really really enjoy the varied and exotic music. Dances with complex patterns I personally don't like so much as they require too much concentration on "what comes next" to really enjoy the music and movement, and the challenges of getting "leg-tied". Folk Dancing has given me a greater appreciation of music and dance in general, and the opportunities to participate in new choreographies from old and diverse traditions. [Ed: thanks Alec for your perspective on what you enjoy about folk dancing – it pays to let your husband have the first word!]

THE LATIN AMERICAN BEAT IN FDNZ

FDNZ's newest Committee Member Ana Maris de Vos Sánchez (from Chile / Auckland), loves sharing her Latin American heritage

In 1999 I started the Folklore Chileno Latino dance group in Auckland, performing dances from South America and Spain. I dance Spanish and Flamenco as a solo dancer. I teach dances from South American and Latino.

For the last seventeen years the Folklore Chileno Latino has been performing in Auckland at different Multicultural events, Ethnic Festivals, Flamenco shows, private functions and women's group events. We have also supported and organised fundraisings in Wellington and Auckland.

Our experience dancing for diverse communities brings many satisfactions. Usually people give positive feed-back for our performances, which strengthens our confidence and makes all those hours of practice and passion worthwhile!

As a director of Folklore Chileno Latino, I can report that we feel privileged to be able to meet many other dance groups - each of which brings a little piece from their countries, colourful costumes, amazing music, exotic movements and friendship.

Throughout the years we have made friends from around the world. We support each other, increase our network, enhance our dance lives and share delicious traditional food!! For me also dancing helps, to keep in touch with my culture, bringing many memories from my youth, family, friends celebrations and gatherings. Also I keep in my heart the most memorable memories of my first steps of dancing, taught by my dear father. People have told me many times that when I dance: "you became another person...." Keep dancing!!! Ana Maria de Vos Sánchez

[Thanks Ana Maria – we're hot on the Latin American beat now with the Rio Olympics! -Ed]

Update from your committee: We're getting ready for the AGM and trying to think of wonderful ways to engage all you passionate folk dancers out there. Don't forget that if you really wanted to be at the AGM but sadly are otherwise committed- you can delegate a proxy vote - go to our website for the forms etc <http://folkdance.org.nz> . Have I mentioned that we need a Secretary for FDNZ? [yes I know I have,.....but it's important!]

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