



Let's Talk Folk Dance

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



Hi everyone,

Kate Grace has set the membership of FDNZ a challenge with her thoughts this month in the adjacent column - Kate says "I am interested to know

- what is it you are looking for in dance?
- What are the benefits for you?
- What do you like/dislike?
- What pushes you to dance?
- What stops you from dancing?"

You can engage in this thoughtful conversation through the Les Belles Vilaines dance group's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/belles.vilaines>

I agree that from time to time it is really useful to stop, take a step back and think about why we do what we do – or put another way- dance what we dance. It helps our conversations with potential new dancers and reinforces our purpose .

Let FDNZ take a step for you and provide you with the umbrella view of Folk Dance in NZ with our newsletter Folkdancers' Own. Currently available on our website there's plenty to read about at http://folkdance.nz/news/pdf/FDNZ_2016-1-col-print.pdf [Thanks Kieron]

Coming up

Here is the link to the registration form for the September Rhythm and Grapevines Folk Dance Festival in Gisborne.....
<http://folkdance.nz/events/2016/rhythmgrapevines-poster.pdf>

Happy Dancing - Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT: Kate Grace dances in

Dunedin and is the Director of Les Belles Vilaines - *Kate says* "I am reading an interesting article (in French) about the evolution of dance and it makes me wonder what you guys think about dancing and what the activity means for you. My personal journey with dance started in the 80s with West African dance (start of the popularity of the first African drum and dance teachers establishing in Europe) and contemporary/contact dance. I was also very involved in French/European traditional dancing. With dances every week in many villages, it was very easy to have dance as part of my life. When I think about all these dances, they had a common quality: they were old, they had a cultural meaning and they were a group experience. Some of the French regional dances are couple dances but they are hardly ever done twice with the same partner. In the 20 years I've lived in New Zealand, I've tried to share my passion - first by teaching/performing African dance for 13 years; then by teaching French dancing for 5 years; and finally by widening the repertoire to European historical dance. The dances I do are still old, they still have a cultural meaning and above all they are still a group experience. As I am not really a social animal, I see dance as a way of interacting with various personalities. Functioning in a second language seriously limits subtle perception/expression, so dance is also a reminder of the diversity of people who surround me. I am always amazed by the many ways of living, holding the body, relating, expressing, or whatever dance makes you do... I can understand the point of dancing with the same partner, but I know this would rapidly bore me. [See *Kate's challenge in the adjacent column -Ed*]

SATURDAY MORNING DANCING AT COX'S BAY [CENTRAL AUCKLAND]

A small group of dancers has a frequent class on Saturday mornings from 10am - 12pm with a relaxed lunch or coffee to follow at one of the many local cafes. It's held at the Cox's Bay Kayak Club, a small building on the water's edge, where we dance with a panoramic view of the constantly changing tides, boat movements & seabirds wading. [Ed: *Are there hornpipes in your group's repertoire Lindsay?*]

Leadership of the session is shared by Bronwen, Gwen, Murray & Lindsay as each is available. Numbers are small, but over the winter some more vigorous dances make for a great warm-up.

Guest Tutors have come along every now and then - including Amy and Julia from Joy dancers, Robin Perry with the Tauranga group teaching Greek dances.

In Gwen's words: "Our Saturday class has welcomed the teaching/ leading by Julia and Amy from the Joy dancers who have responded to requests to come and lead a Saturday class for the last 3 years. Everyone dances with a smile on their face when Julia and Amy lead! We also welcome Bronwen who leads the dances with skill and an amazing repertoire. Lindsay & Murray are the stalwarts for maintaining the class 1-4x a month with a little support from me and our few regulars as well as our very welcome occasional visitors from afar" **Further details are in the FDNZ Newsletter and website - contact Gwen Mann.**

Update from your committee: The AGM is coming - keep an eye out for the requisite documents which will be placed on the website soon. You can join in person at the Rhythm and Grapevines Folk dance festival weekend; sit at home in comfort with a cup of tea and join by Skype for an hour; or let someone else be your voice and join by proxy. **If you can't find the info – then email FDNZ's webmaster Kieron at editor@folkdance.org.nz**

**EMAIL
UPDATE
July 2016
#6**