



Let's Talk Folk Dance

Membership network email update and musings on local folk, historical, traditional and community dance

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Hi Everyone,

Did you dance at Summer Festivals? I've just returned from WOMAD where there are always opportunities for dancing – we danced French waltzes to the eccentric Cymbalobylette as it toured the site and boogied to a very diverse range of music from 'rock & rollka' - a Polish polka in disguise with the Warsaw Village Band; to smooth salsa with La Mambanegra from Colombia

Coming to Kyriakos Moisidis Greek Dance workshop in April? Your dancers will love a taste of sunny Greece as we move towards winter! Remember that FDNZ sponsorship keeps the fee low <http://folkdance.nz/events/2017/kyriakos-flyer.pdf> If you miss him in Auckland – check out a folk dance group near as he is teaching and travelling about afterward.

The NZ Folk Dance network is spread out – but many of us hate to miss a party – tell us when you're having a special night / celebration / dance party – as we may be in your town that night! There's nothing worse than finding out after the event and bemoaning "If only I'd known..."

Also – if convenient and you know you're going to be in a town that has a folk dance group – get in touch. It's lovely to have visitors to share the fun and meet others.

Regards Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT... Ann Dugmore from

Tauranga is off to be seen in authentic homemade garb and accoutrements, celebrating folk dancing from very early days.... As a re-enactor in, mostly, the Medieval period, it has always been very important to me to include dancing. It would have been an important leisure activity. The trouble is, there is very little extant music and choreography to support what we do. But the manuscripts from my particular time period of the fourteenth century show plenty of images of dancers: maidens, mummers and courtiers. So we have to be a bit creative with the limited facts. I try and take every opportunity to dance medieval-type dances, mostly at re-enactment fairs such as the recent Tauranga Faire and private re-enactment functions such as NAAMA (National Association of Ancient and Medieval Arts) where I can meet other early dance groups I wish I lived in Auckland (not!) so that I could dance with the Early Dance Group in Northcote!

Recently, at the Whakatane Food Fair 'my' group danced at the Medieval Feast they put on in Ohope. We did 12 dances but broke it up into segments interspersed with fighting. Outside we danced the more lively village dances amongst our authentic looking tents. Inside we produced a 'Courtly bracket' and a 'Mummer's bracket' Where we wore masks. The food and drink must have gone to their heads by then because this was warmly received and they asked us for an encore! *[I've shortened Ann's fascinating essay, plus illustrations, as felt it deserved the 'big' newsletter for more 'meaty' read - so this is just a taster! It's interesting to see how people are enjoying folk dance in a variety of situations - Ed]*

DANCING A CEILIDH IN.....HILLSBOROUGH

Anne-Marie Forsythe highlights opportunities to kick up your heels once a month in Hillsborough, Auckland - It's been said that Ceilidh dancing is like barn dancing to 18th century Scottish music! Don't worry, we have updated our tunes since then but the fun is definitely the same. This is the dancing you will find at weddings, birthdays, anniversaries... basically any excuse for a party in Scotland. A friend was practicing his piping in a park in Glasgow recently and a ceilidh sprang up around him! The largest ceilidh of all has to be the annual Hogmanay Ceilidh in Edinburgh - these people know how to party!

The Hillsborough Ceilidh Club is our 'come and have a go' club. Have a go at dancing - no special skills, shoes or partner needed. Two left feet are fine - the more chaotic, the better! Have a go at calling a dance, or have a go at playing in the band. All ages are welcome to come and enjoy this fun family activity. Our repertoire includes all the well-known Scottish dances (and a few not-so-well-known ones), as well as a smattering of dances from the Irish or other traditions.

We meet at 7.30pm on the last Friday of every month except December and January, at St David's in the Field, Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough, Auckland. \$5 per person or \$10 per family, supper included. *[It must be said that without Anne-Marie's driving force behind the growth of Scottish Fiddle groups in NZ, that such Ceilidh Clubs would not exist – they are a wonderful 'incubator' for young and old & new dancers; and great for families..Well done Anne-Marie and team...Ed]*

Update from your committee: No new news but we are thinking hard on the various topics raised at the AGM. Does anyone have time to help Kieron with some aspects of the newsletter as he is working through a particularly busy patch... we want to share all those great stories you're sending in (hopefully!!) **Share them in the newsletter – send to editor@folkdance.nz**

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