



# Let's Talk Folk Dance

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

Read more at.....[Folkdance.nz/members](http://Folkdance.nz/members)



## Hi Everyone,

It's great to read about the dance fellowship and camaraderie that a dance camp such as Machol Pacifica, and last year's Rhythm & Grapevines and other such events offer. These events are the product of careful planning and organisation, but can only really succeed when there is support from dancers for the 'buzz' to occur.

FDNZ is working towards offering you, our members and friends, the opportunity to combine folk dance friendship with outdoor activities, music and dance. A chance to treat yourself to a mini-break in an iconic NZ location and dance workshop all in one. More details coming soon...

We celebrate Rae Storey's completion of her Magnus Opus second generation New Wave Folk Dancing resource - Rae's hard work provides us all with a very valuable collection of accessible dances to use in our classes / groups etc. Just last Saturday night I ran a dance evening for around 40 enthusiastic teens and young adults - Album #3 provides good dance ideas for this age group if you want to develop dance events with young people in your area.

As we head into the festival season, I hope that your celebrations include folk dancing in some form or other. If you've never run a dance party before then FDNZ can help with ideas / resources etc and put you in touch with musicians if needed.

Kind regards  
Fiona

**MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT...** On 24<sup>th</sup> November Rae Storey thankfully finished her next generation New Wave Folk dancing resource, "Go, little boat!" She says..."Ten years ago I could not have imagined that the work itself would take so long. Now it's very exciting. I have beside me a pile of cool little flash drives that can each carry between 25 and 100 dances in video demos, music to dance to, and booklets chock-full of fascinating information as well as the dance notations and teachers' tips.

Yes, some Albums (or all four) will potentially be of value and use to any of FDNZ members, whether you work with early childhood or school-age kids, or run a recreational group of adults. If you are a dancer interested in the whole jigsaw puzzle - such as where your favourite dances sprang from, and sometimes why - the books between them explore a good deal of that - and make good bedside reading for the NZ folk dancer, illustrated by the videos! One special treasure released publicly here along with its' own story is the old Kolo suite of the Auckland Dalmatians, a precious piece of our own cultural heritage. There is also, unfinished, 'A Short History of Folk dancing', which will be (available by email) a free gift from me when (over this summer) I wrap that up too". [Congratulations Rae - time for a well-earned rest. Ed]

The website gives all the details, plus examples of the videos, music and book pages: [new-wave-folkdancing.org.nz](http://new-wave-folkdancing.org.nz)

## DANCING.....MACHOL PACIFICA 2017 NELSON

Held over Labour weekend in Nelson, Machol Pacifica 2017 was a time of fun, friends, food and folk dance. The Wellington Israeli Dance Group gives an overview...

Oren Ashkenazi brought an atmosphere of enjoyment from the start; starting off with a rondo set the scene for a fun weekend. The first dances taught on the Friday evening both had words about G-d, but there the similarities ended. In fact, I don't think you could get a greater variety of styles among the dances Oren taught over the weekend!

Most of the Wellington Group shared a house from "Holiday Houses"; pleasant, cheap and a great way to get to know the members of our group better. Definitely recommend this option.

The Camp programme was a thoughtful balance of dance workshops and other activities; the opportunity to spend time at the famed Nelson Markets was appreciated, as were the morning stretching sessions. And the afternoon session where we had the opportunity to get to know Oren, his background and who has influenced him was a real bonus.

All levels of dancers were included and encouraged. Here are some thoughts from first time attendee Pansy Wee: "It's my first camp and definitely won't be the last! The Nelson team has such a 'servant-heart'...really thoughtful in their planning and execution! It's safe to say the team made everyone feel welcomed and special. I've enjoyed the music and learning more about Israeli dancing but much more than that, I've enjoyed hearing about the inspiration behind each music and dance and listening to the stories of the people I've met....and definitely loved getting to know my dance group better!"

The Wellington Israeli Dance group dance Mondays 6 - 9pm at the Jewish Community Centre in Webb Street.

[Ed: Labour Weekend is generally the time for Machol Pacifica so check out the options on both the FDNZ website and the Machol Pacifica website for 2018]

**Update from your committee:** Have you looked at the FDNZ website lately? We'd like to make it more user friendly - give us your ideas as to what would make it a better 'read' for you. While you're at it - check out the FDNZ the Facebook page and use it to share your folk dance experiences and/or upcoming events. ! Good to see people listing various dance events to share the opportunities for great folk dancing in NZ.

**EMAIL  
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