



Let's Talk Folk Dance

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



Hi everyone,

No doubt everyone is thinking about end-of-year events / Christmas dance parties / summer festival dance opportunities.

Be sure to take photos, jot down some memories and plan to share it with us all in the FDNZ Newsletter.

Check out your local 'creative community websites' or similar as touring performers start to advertise their itineraries for the summer. I'm looking forwards to the London Klezmer Quartet who are performing all around NZ in January and who say they love to teach klezmer / freylach dance as part of their concerts.

Speaking of Klezmer – I had fun at Machol Pacifica Israeli dance festival which was held in Hamilton over Labour Weekend. Such passion and enthusiasm for dancing was lovely to see. I enjoyed catching up with 'old' dancing friends - which after all is what these weekends are for. Congratulations to the organising team.

Now's the time to be inviting your "maybe I'll come dancing with you sometime" friends to the dance parties – start whetting their appetites for dancing in 2017

Happy Dancing - Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT: Rosa Trancoso is a new member of FDNZ. Rosa tells us about "My meaning of FolkI arrived in NZ three years ago. It was my first experience away from home, and although a very desired one, I struggled to find myself in a new culture. I used to do European Folk Dances, and I knew I wasn't going to have them here, at least in the same flavour, which was perfectly fine since the purpose of moving is to be in a different place. So I said to myself, "ok, new culture, new dances, let's do it!" and started with the more trendy styles. I truly enjoyed them, but something was still missing. That's when I joined Dance Folkus in Hamilton, and, surprise to my heart, I finally felt like home! Although the dances are the main reason that brings us together (and the friends you make in the process), what makes me want to come back to Folk, is that it's focused on sharing and meeting, not competition, not performance. It's a place where you can be yourself and just enjoy moving to the sound of a multitude of instruments and rhythms. It reminds me there are so many different ways to experience the world, and that can be shared with dance and music.

So, I stayed in NZ. When living down South, I danced with the wonderful French Dance group from Dunedin. In September, I went to Rhythm & Grapevine Gisborne Festival and had the most gratifying experience by seeing everyone enjoying Portuguese dances as much I do! Thank you everyone for being so happy!! I loved the whole festival, dance and music-wise. Had the opportunity to meet people from all around the country and hopefully soon go to another festival (yes, now I want more!). I just moved to Motueka and still on the look for other "folksies". Just let me know if you are around and want to dance, because Folk is what people are, our roots as human beings wherever we are in the world. And we will never be able to stop dancing them ☺ " *[We love your Portuguese dances Rosa!..Ed]*

DANCING IN CHRISTCHURCH Irene (Farandol President) and Katy (Chief Dance Instructor) tell us about their group... Christchurch's Farandol group dances on Friday nights at the Somerfield Community Centre in Studholme Street, from 7.30-9.30 p.m. The first night for newcomers is free, then \$2 a night thereafter. Great value! There are usually 18-24, sometimes more, dancing each Friday, aged from around 10 to 80 plus years.

In the last few weeks we have again enjoyed the presence of Paul Wagner and Cindy Schlosser from the USA. With every visit to Christchurch, they have brought new dances to share. This time Paul taught us W moim ogródecku (Poland), Ne klepeći nanulama (Bosnia), and Vallje e Rrajces (Albania).

On Labour weekend a small group of us performed a couple of dances at the newly reopened Great Hall at the Arts Centre, as part of the Musica Balkanica choir's latest concert.

Those who attended the national workshop/camp in Christchurch in April will recall young Todor Kazakov arriving straight off the plane from Bulgaria. He is now back home, but as a result of his time here a Bulgarian family (Ganka and daughters Igljika and Dimana) have become very welcome Farandol regulars.

Our final night and dance party for the year will be December 9. After a summer break, we'll be back dancing on February 3, 2017. *[Thanks Irene and Katy - so thanks to Farandol the earth moves in Christchurch for folk dancers as well!...Ed]*

Update from your committee: It's business as usual as the committee agrees an action plan for 2017. The Teacher Training sub-committee is interested to know who is looking for some support with dance teaching tips / skill development - is there interest in a dance teaching skills seminar of some sort in 2017. **Articles wanted for the next FDNZ newsletter - email FDNZ's editor Kieron at editor@folkdance.org.nz**

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