



# 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,

Ta da! .....FDNZ has launched its Facebook page 'Folk Dance NZ' Many, many thanks to FDNZ member Rosa Trancoso for being the page administrator.

We encourage you to 'like' the page and to invite your facebook friends with an interest in dance to 'like' it as well.

It is a public page in order to support FDNZ's objective of bringing awareness of folk dance in NZ to the general population, both here and overseas.

Members are able to post events, comments, photos, etc about folk dance activities they are involved in; or share related information of interest to members of FDNZ.

As it is a public page there is a benefit that anyone can see it without having to sign up to facebook.

We ask that you ensure the postings are folk-dance related and that there is no commercial activity that does not benefit FDNZ directly.

We also request that if posting photos / videos you take responsibility for ensuring this is acceptable to the subject(s); and that tagging is avoided.

Be aware of copyright and intellectual property aspects.

Otherwise use it and enjoy ò ò ò Fiona

**MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT...** Fiona Murdoch of Hamilton is on the FDNZ 'Round Robin' circulation list for the [US] Society of Folk Dance Historians Folk Dance Problem Solver. This is an annual publication purchased by FDNZ on behalf of members that provides in-depth analysis of the background and variants for popular folk and social dances – it is particularly useful for teachers as it provides context, history and often rationale for the diverse versions of ostensibly the same dance. It is compiled by Ron Houston who posed a thought provoking comment in the 2017 publication that I thought worth sharing with you all i.e. *"How much dance authenticity should we sacrifice for the sake of recreation?"*.

He responds that it is important to *"dance what you enjoy, but know what you are dancing; and please call it what it is"*. For example a traditional dance choreographed for performance is a very different beast from its (often very simple) original form; but may be more fun, and therefore the modified form becomes 'authentic' in a recreational setting. I agree all folk dance teachers should be encouraged to 'know what they are dancing'. FDNZ members can help. Use the new facebook page to pose queries and share opinions. [Ed: Any FDNZ member can join the Round Robin Circulation list for the publications retained by FDNZ – check out the Members' Page. You do have to pay the onward postage to the next person and commit to a timely process.]

## DANCING AT WELLYFEST FDNZ member, Noel Armstrong, kicked up his heels at the Wellington Folk Festival over Labour Weekend....

A robust and varied dance programme was available to participants at the Wellington Folk Festival this Labour Weekend at the Brookfield Centre, Wainuiomata. A fun welcoming Friday night ceilidh kicked off the weekend with a mix of contra, ceilidh and barn-dances.

The formal workshop programme started with Social Dances of an earlier era with Jonathan Berkhan. This took the form of 3 figures of the Lancers, the Scottishe and Sir Roger De Coverley. The morning session was completed with Salsa Dance with Hawkes Bay band Fuego Latino. The afternoon programme was rounded out with Gary Alford offering South Island barn dance favourites including some written by the late Phil Garland.

Some 120 energetic dancers took to the 'floor' in the marque for the Saturday night ceilidh dance with the delightful banc, Chilli Jam, with caller Noel Armstrong and guest Gary Alford.

All women's side White Rose Morris got Sunday off to a bright start. Predominantly danced to polkas, tutor Elizabeth Allen led dancers through frolicks, heys, sidings and gypsies in a garland dance from the North West, a Molly dance from the Fens and a short stick dance from the Welsh Borders.

Many of the dance genres showed a good degree of common origin. An example was the Irish Set Dancing workshop run by Noel Armstrong. These dances are based on French Quadrilles which are danced to Irish music meters, in this case Slides and Polkas.

The weekend of fun dance workshops was completed by Cashy Yates with the intricacies of 7/8 timing in a Balkan Dance workshop with music from a combination of the Wellington based Mehana and the ubiquitous Chilli Jam.

[Ed: Great to see past FDNZ president Cashy still dancing irregularly! FYI FDNZ is coordinating the Saturday night dance at the Auckland Folk Festival January 26 – 28<sup>th</sup> 2018]

**Update from your committee:** Great to see the Facebook page finally take shape (thanks again Rosa). The committee has received support from FDNZ expert members Sue and Sonja to provide a set of audited FDNZ accounts. Committee member Jane Luiten is building interest in on-line folk dance teacher training support options; and taking the lead in providing exciting options for a 2018 dance camp / workshop - so keep an eye out for further details. Tell us what helps you get more folk dancing!

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