



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



Hi Everyone,

There's been so many dance events of late and a hardware issue (my computer as well as my knee joint!) that I'm getting behind on the e-news in 2019. So time to get cracking.....

Hot on the heels of the annual Ruritanian Winter Warm-up this month are some memorial and anniversary events happening in Auckland:

- Andre Van de Plas memorial dance workshop on 21st Sept
- Ruritanian 40th Anniversary dinner on the evening of the 21st

Do you want to know how to call a ceilidh / grow your folk dance group / deal with those tricky situations in class? Also in Auckland that weekend on Sunday 22nd September is FDNZ's Tutor development / refresher day – open to anyone who is either teaching recreational folk dance or who wants to learn some tips and tricks. The day is **FREE** and will feature our very experienced guest tutor Frank Broekmans.

Moving south, the celebrations get hotter with Farandol's 40th Anniversary celebrations on Saturday evening the 28th September.

Heading west, if you haven't been to the Australian National Folk Festival in Canberra with its 4-day dance programme - then maybe Easter 2020 is your opportunity. Early bird tickets are on sale now.

And then...rather than us moving far north, the fabulous Tineke and Maurits Van Geel are returning in September / October 2020 to lead two workshops for Farandol and for FDNZ (a residential camp).

Check out the FDNZ website / Facebook page for all the details....happy dancing and 'see' you at the AGM.....Regards Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT... Jane Luiten provides some feedback about dancing in the 19th Century as part of the Dance Folkus quarter century celebrations....Twenty-five years of Dance Folkus and you know it's going to be a cracker – unmissable! And so it proved. Returning to Hamilton (where this folk dance thing for me all began) is always a bit of a homecoming. It feels so good to be among familiar faces and to dance with friends I used to see weekly for ten years or more. The 25th anniversary ball at the Meteor this June, nineteenth-century styles, was magical. A tribute to Fiona's long experience of what makes a dance night rock: a versatile dance list, an accomplished band, expert dance calling. And all that attention to detail: the lights, the dance card, the supper, the photo shoot. Fiona has a knack of making everyone rise to the occasion – and we did! Who would have thought a full-length hooped dress would feel so GOOD! Folk dancing is a highlight of my life. On the dance floor is where I feel most alive, most joyous, most free, and most connected to others. Thank you Dance Folkus for all those years of fun, friendship and dance. [Ed: *Hey – it's fabulous to have dancers return. Thanks for coming Jane – and for your kind words*]

DANCING IN.....KATIKATI Katikati is the home of the 'Dancing Divas' who were seen spicing up the 2018 Thames Steam Punk Festival as part of the street-entertainment. Exhibiting a fun choreography with colourful outfits and matching mini umbrellas, the Dancing Divas were fun to watch. So I approached them with a view to having a chat later about their dance group. Well, later became much, much later but I now can tell you about the 'Dancing Divas'. ...

Established and led by Lynne Roberts, this recreational dance group of divas, enjoys learning dances from various genres. Lynne says her main focus is to provide low impact dance styles that suit people of all ages and abilities and that are 'do-able'. Lynne commenced dancing as part of her teacher training and early on could see that dancing for leisure was going to become an important aspect of life for everyone. From teaching creative dance to children to now teaching adults, she leads the Dancing Divas through low impact Gypsy, Eastern, Bollywood, Art Deco, Steam Punk, and Spanish Fusion Dancing – all with firm roots in the folk dance styles and repertoire she learned as a teacher.

The group performs regularly for fun and sharing their enjoyment and are quick to point out that they are not professionals. It appears Lynne has a wide range of choreographies to suit their presentation style – they like to mix it up for variety – and can be seen at community events, private events, rest homes, garden clubs and the like anywhere from Waihi to Tauranga – and of course in Katikati.

I was interested to know a little bit more about 'Steam Punk Dancing'. I learned that there are Steam Punk bands (Abney Park and Steam Punk Giraffes' were two of Lynne's favourites) that provide the musical inspiration for her choreographies. Lynne described Steam Punk Dance as "Victorian in style with formal movements combined with automaton / puppet / mechanical / clockwork movements. And circles within circle. I was intrigued so I will be checking out those bands on Youtube.

The Dancing Divas meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30pm / Wednesday and Friday mornings 10 – 11.30am and beginners are welcome. If you want to contact Lynne her details are: 07 549 0847 / 027 222 3627 or lynneroberts.katikati@gmail.com

[Ed: *Does anyone know any other recreational dance groups within the folk dance whānau that may be of interest to members? Let me know and I can get in touch*]

Update from your committee: AGM time is here again... we're working to nail down a time on the weekend of the 7 – 8 September most probably – possibly the 15th September. We will use an electronic networking approach again so you can all join in from the comfort of your own sofa. Please keep an eye out for the formal notifications. Please also check that your membership is current and invite any other enthusiastic supporters of folk dance to join up and join in – it's only \$25 to support FDNZ in it's endeavours. We need your support at the AGM as well as throughout the year.

**EMAIL
UPDATE
2019 #3**