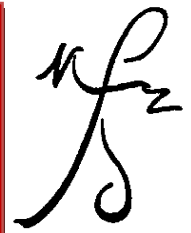




Let's Talk Folk Dance

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

Read more at.....Folkdance.nz/members



Hi Everyone,

I've sung "Happy Birthday" to dance groups a lot lately - and in September it was a Happy 40th to both the Ruritanian network In Auckland and Farandol in Christchurch. How fabulous to see the camaraderie that folk dance engenders and that persists over the decades. Both celebration parties were very enjoyable events - thanks to the organisers. Next year FDNZ turns 25 - so a silver anniversary for us - and more Happy Birthdays!

The Ruritanians hosted a very special commemorative day on the 21st September - remembering the wonderful dance repertoire learned from Andre Van de Plas over the years. Many tutors shared their favourites with workshop participants. There will be photos and stories in the next newsletter .

Coming up:

- Labour weekend - Welly fest and Machol Pacifica - both in Wellington .
- Contra Dance in Gisborne - 2/3 Nov
- Steam Punk Victorian Ball Thames 9 Nov
- Monthly Contra Dance and Celtic dance events in Auckland
- regular Regency Dance parties in Dunedin

A reminder: if posting photos / videos on our Facebook page please take responsibility for ensuring this is acceptable to the subject(s); and that tagging is avoided.

Happy Dancing
Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT..... We asked members who attended the recent Teacher Training Day in Auckland for any feedback. and have shared some thoughts. - Beth said:"*I enjoyed the day very much, and after teaching folk dance for what seems like forever, I found there were still tips to pick up. Also it was encouraging to see that sometimes you are on the right path. It was also a joy to be working with people who are equally passionate about recreational folk dance. The day ran smoothly and all three tutors had much to offer, gleaned from their own experiences. The day certainly didn't drag - on the contrary, it all went too fast"And Jenni commented..." I really enjoyed meeting with other teachers and picking up useful tips (such as how to teach dancers the grapevine step)."*

[Ed: FDNZ is willing to run more training days if there is demand]

DANCING ON ...YOUR HOLIDAYS

If you are planning a holiday overseas make sure to include some dancing!

Folk Dance NZ gets regular notifications of various folk dance festivals under the 'MAKFOLK or FOLKORE Umbrella which hosts multicultural dance festivals in several locations around Europe. These festivals are well organised, and bring wonderful spectacles of diverse traditional dance styles and costumes. They often run over several evenings with a different programme each evening. We also receive marketing for folk dance tours, traditional dance workshops, or dance cruises operating across the world. Some FDNZ members are regular attendees and can be contacted for advice. We circulate some of this information in the newsletter and occasionally on facebook and on our website. Perhaps you might research what is happening in or near your holiday destination and take advantage of the experience. If you are planning a trip and want to incorporate some folk dance, get in touch with FDNZ members and see if there is something of interest.

If you can't align with an organised event, sometimes it is fun to contact the local folk dance group / cultural dance group and see if you can observe. Often this will be a performance troupe and they are very willing to let you just watch a rehearsal. Or it may be a club and casual participants are welcome – you never know, you may make new friends with your shared interest. Often repertoire taught in NZ is a shared repertoire in many places and you may find some old favourites that everyone knows.

Or why not try something different? The local information centre / website will have a list of recreational dance classes. We recently attended a Salsa / Bacata / Merengue class in Greymouth – it was fun; had similar steps to folk dance moves; was warmer than sitting in a wet campground; and we increased the numbers so everyone was happy! When on holiday in New Caledonia, the resort hotel nearby offered dance classes in the evening for free - the night we went, it was a packed dance floor so we watched. But it seemed that anyone was welcome and there was a good mix of ages with both locals and tourists dancing.

In the Pacific region there are annual dance / cultural festivals that are well worth making the effort to time your visit to coincide with these. Tahiti has a big Polynesian cultural competition called HEIVA in July; and in September - the Tuela Festival in Samoa is a cultural delight. And of course for your 'Staycation' you could also go to Te Matatini or Poly Fest as well.

[Ed: First – find the dancing – then plan the holiday!]

Update from your committee: Thanks to everyone who dialled in to the recent AGM. **We have a new President...Jane Luiten from Gisborne – Congratulations Jane.** Jane has already got the committee busy on key topics raised in the General Meeting that followed this year's AGM. We can't do everything, so if you have secret skills you might be willing to share please let us know. The AGM minutes will be on the website for you to read shortly.

**EMAIL
UPDATE
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