



# Let's Talk Folk Dance



Membership network email update and musings on local folk, historical, traditional and community dance  
[Folkdance.org.nz](http://Folkdance.org.nz)

When it comes to 21 years of Folk Dance NZ, it definitely is a case of 'the more, the merrier'!

We will have both a South Island and a North Island birthday party emphasising the Folk Dance New Zealand vision that we want to "get more folk dancing" in all New Zealand.

It will be especially pleasant to celebrate Folk Dance New Zealand's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday amongst 'old' dancing friends and loyal supporters.

We want to learn more about what our members do to engage in dance in their own communities. We'll add social media as a tool to share photos, event notifications, interesting links and other useful tools to enhance our virtual dance network across the country.

We welcome contributions to the biannual FDNZ newsletter and of course, more members to provide our financial base. Don't forget about the support for both novice and experienced dance tutors; the FDNZ costume bank; as well as access to resources about folk dances by folk dancers

Regards, Fiona

## Members are thinking about.....Bronwen Arlington

(arguably NZ's most nomadic folk dancer) dances in Auckland with various groups and is a frequent visitor at other dance groups and events around the country. Bronwen is currently thinking about all the fabulous folk dance opportunities at the minute ...."Folk and Ethnic dancing is happy and healthy.

Already this year: Auckland Folk Festival, Chinese Lantern Festival, Lakeside's Multicultural, Pacifika, Tattoos, and workshops. American Contradancers & musicians shared a busload ["Yellow Bus"] of fun; Joy Dancers -International and Asian- go all year, and now all 2016 classes have started; Israeli, Early Dance, Playford, International, Scottish, & Irish. Then there's WOMAD, Japan Day, Viva Eclectika, and FDNZ / Farandole's "Gary Dawson's" camp in Christchurch. Specialist tutors from overseas are invaluable and heartily welcomed. Last year 3 NZers went to Mykonos for a seminar with Kyriakos Moisides. He is Pontian, and his rich field of expertise encompasses many regions and Islands of Greece. He hopes to be in NZ in April 2017 -around the time of the Orthodox Easter. Let's take this opportunity of utilizing such an experienced and competent master teacher. It's a goal worthy of FDNZ" (Ed: I agree!)

## Dancing in.....Gisborne

**Jane Luiten runs the 'Gisborne Supper Dance Crew'** Jane is a "Yes Let's" folk dancer. She tells us how she got folk dance humming out East...

**Dancing Round the World in Gizzy** - Last Saturday night we held our monthly community dance. We're a mixed bag – Americans, Filipinos, Indonesian, Italian, and South African add to the local Pakeha and Maori heritage – who dance together for a couple of hours once a month and then eat cake. This time one member brought two of her high school students along; and two good-looking young Italian visitors to town spiced things up a bit. The program follows a general theme: simple line dances like Shetnya or Opsa to kick things off; moving into easy mixers (the American promenade danced to Armenian disco to keep things fresh); and then returning to slower lines like Rumelaj, Mombar or Cramillion to finish the night together. Andre Van De Plus' 'Lathos' went down well, and we're also currently learning Strip the Willow. Some numbers we dance to live music, two dancers also being keen musicians. The Italians promised to return the following month to teach the Tarantella.

It's now three years since I took a big breath and began the Supper Dance Crew in Gisborne. My emphasis has always been on the 'folk' part of 'folk dance', choosing easy, accessible dances that can be taught on the spot, my goal to bring community together through dance. Complexity is the casualty of this approach: Allunelul Batut is borderline; Rustemul entirely beyond. I have become somewhat of a magpie with one eye out for anything I can use, or recycle. ...(Continued on page 2)

**Update from your committee:** We have updated the membership form on the website to include on-line banking details. Our 2016 AGM will be in September - you can join either in person by coming to the 'Rhythm and Grapevines' Dance weekend in Gisborne – or joining by skype. Advance planning for 2017 event ideas is underway. We are still in need of a correspondence / minute secretary– if you have on-line access and a spare hour or two a month - perhaps you can help?

**Remember to check the FDNZ website for updates, happenings & contacts - plus as a member you can advertise your dance event for free...**

So don't forget to contact our webmaster Kieron at [editor@folkdance.org.nz](mailto:editor@folkdance.org.nz)

**EMAIL UPDATE  
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