

Happy 20th Birthday *FDNZ*!

Time goes fast when you are having fun (dancing) - so the saying goes. Long may this continue to be the case, especially for those of us now reaching the time for a gold-card-party! Twenty years on is a suitable milestone in the existence of our voluntary organization to look back at what has been achieved. Many members have contributed their expertise, time and services “by folk dancers, for folk dancers, to get more folk dancing!”¹ We have bid sad farewells to some of our dance group leaders in recent years.² Often they were the movers and shakers of our organization too. It is fitting to remember their contributions to our dance-filled lifestyles and appreciate their efforts and acknowledge their legacy.

Participation in dance, in its many and varied forms, is a popular regular activity for New Zealanders of all ages.³ I was recently privileged to witness a very moving performance by *Crow's Feet Dance Collective* and Whitireia Polytechnic students of *The Armed Man* at Napier. In this instance, I was participating as a member of the *Hawke's Bay Community Choir*. It was a very special commemorative event combining an evocative score with contemporary dancers, ethnic dancers, actors, archival images, us singers of World War 1 songs and written histories about participants' family members. All who saw it must have been touched by the grieving women's perspective shown and the soldiers rude awakening on the battlefields, their brave acceptance of the realities of war, and their ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

Dance will always have a very important role to play in any community whether it is as commemoration, celebration, ritual, therapy, exercise, or recreation. I hope *Folk Dance New Zealand* will continue to provide the pathway for members to folk dance participation, knowledge and resources. As your archivist I have trawled newsletter back issues and reports of meetings etc. to compile a timeline reference database of meetings, events and achievements – not just for *FDNZ* but for the associated groups and people involved in them. Details will be made available on our website as I progress with this. Meantime, I offer a brief summary of it below. Be proud of your role in *Folk Dance New Zealand* achievements over the past twenty years!

2015 Let us celebrate 20 years and mission accomplished!

Elaine Prakash, Archivist.⁴

Post-graduate Certificate Archives & Records Management 2008 (VUW)

¹ *FDNZ* membership / publicity flyer

² See R.I.P. [add your page ref if this is included in magazine or link to website location if not]

³ Kopytko, Tania, *DANZ, Folkdancers' Own* December 2008, volume 13, number 2, pp 13-14.

⁴ *FDNZ Newsletter* November 2000, volume 5, number 3, pp 31-32.

From the Archives – **FDNZ Timeline Summary**

Beginnings (1994 – 1996)

1994

Fiona Murdoch returned from Australia to live in New Zealand and started *Dance Folkus* in Hamilton. Physiotherapist Fiona has a Certificate in Recreational Folk Dance Teaching from *Folk Dance Australia* (FDA). The demanding FDA training is based on the Dutch system developed by Femke van Doorn that was taught to Andre van de Plas, Marcel Baiijens, Frank Broekmans, Willem de Haas and other international dance tutors.

Femke van Doorn informed Rae Storey of her intention to visit New Zealand one last time and offered to help launch a teacher training course. Together they planned to set up a teacher training opportunity for New Zealand-based dancers.

Rae Storey attended the *World Dance and the Child Conference* in Sydney and a workshop with Andre van de Plas where she met Kaye Laurendet of FDA. Kaye too, offered her help with New Zealand folkdance teacher training.

1995

In **February**, the first stage of the recreational dance teacher training course was held in Auckland. About twenty trainees attended the week long intensive taught by Femke van Doorn, Kaye Laurendet, Alistair Sinton, Marija Stanisich and Denny Wood. Teaching techniques, repertoire of varying styles, terminology, notation methods, report writing, helpful critiques and other background skills were covered to enable students wishing to progress to continue with a supervised teaching apprenticeship.

An initial committee of three (Lynnaire Nugent, Angela Broomhead, Catherine Yates) were tasked with ascertaining community support for setting up an umbrella organization for folk dancing in New Zealand. Sufficient positive responses to their postal survey led to a resolution to set up a sister organization to FDA.

Stage two of the recreational dance teacher training course was held at Havelock North High School. This weekend practicum, led by Marcel Baiijens, covered methodology revision, opportunity for teaching technique practice and critique of it. Students needed to follow-up with many written reports based on style workshops and practical teaching sessions.

The inaugural meeting of FDNZ, on fifth **August** 1995, was held in conjunction with stage two of the teacher training course. A name for the organization was agreed, mission statement and objectives adopted, draft rules tabled and subscription rates set for individual or group membership. Nine members immediately joined the organization. Development of a membership / publicity flyer began.

In **September** Marcel Baiijens attended *DANZing '95 Conference* in Wellington and wrote a useful report as FDNZ delegate. FDNZ supported a funding application to the *Arts Council* for a mobile microphone by Fiona Murdoch.

In **November** *FDNZ* facilitated Jacek Marak's tour and promoted his Polish dance workshops in Auckland, Hastings and Wellington. To keep abreast of developments in setting of *NZQA* Unit Standards for dance and ensure *FDNZ* teacher training courses would comply, representatives were liaising with the *Dance Advisory Group*.

1996

- Feb.** First *FDNZ Newsletter* by Elaine Prakash circulated to members.
Logo ideas sought, design finalized, official *FDNZ* seal purchased.
Periodical library postal borrowing round robin system set up by Prakash
Information database collated of members, tutors, classes, events, clubs, etc.
- Apr.** Inaugural AGM held in Auckland in conjunction with stage three of first teacher training course. The week long intensive training was taught by Kaye Laurendet, Marija Stanisich, et al, followed by examinations. Kaye Laurendet was chief examiner assisted by Marija Stanisich and Margaret Sampson. Five trainees graduated – Angela Broomhead, Lynnaire Nugent, Kathleen Osborne, (Hawke's Bay) Nel Scheepens, and Rae Storey (Auckland).
- Winter** Second issue of *FDNZ Newsletter* was produced by first editor Margaret Samson. Fiona Murdoch circulated a teacher training needs survey and published a summary of responses.⁵

Early *FDNZ* officer holders were:

President: Catherine Yates, Wellington (1995); Rae Storey, Auckland (1996-9)
Secretary: Finn Neilson, Auckland (1995); Elaine Prakash (1995-99)
Treasurer: Elaine Prakash, Havelock North (1995-2001)
Editor: Elaine Prakash (1996); Margaret Samson (1996-97);
Committee(s): Angela Broomhead, Hastings (1995-1999)
Sharyn Grant, Hamilton (1996-2001)
Fiona Murdoch, Hamilton (1995-2001)
Lynnaire Nugent, Havelock North (1995-2001)

Growth and Development (1997 – 2005)

1997

- June** *FDNZ Teacher Training Committee* (Rae and Fiona) had gave written input to *NZQA Committee* on dance standards. *FDNZ* goes online when Kieron Horide hosts a list of classes, coming events and area contacts. Jennifer Lennon's offer accepted to set up an internet webpage, with photographs and general introduction to *FDNZ*, updated annually.
- July** Fiona Murdoch reported back on annual *DANZ Conference* at Auckland after attending the *DANZ Exchange Day & Dance Research Forum*⁶

⁵ *FDNZ Newsletter* 1996, volume 1, number 3, page 25.

⁶ *FDNZ Newsletter* 1997, volume 2, number 2, pp 20-23.

Autumn Folk dance teacher training course outline proposed and draft made available (Fiona). Kieron Horide took over as newsletter editor for volume two, ISSN 1174-0159, when Margaret Samson studied her for Dip. Ed.

Winter Prize offered for best new name for newsletter. Editor keeping a members' email address database to share more timely electronic notices.

1998

Femke van Doorn accepted the offer to become *FDNZ* Patron.

Oct. Frequency of newsletter reduced to three per year with three news sheets sent to group leaders in between these.

1999 Second Teachers Training Course, taught by Fiona Murdoch in Hamilton, attracted 21 participants. Stage one of the course was taught over a weekend in **January** and the follow-up revision weekend in **August**. Participants in the module received a "Certificate of Attendance" for 14 contact hours of "Basic Recreational Dance Teaching".

2000

Membership subscriptions reached 100+ (82 individuals, 19 groups, 2 libraries).

April *FDNZ* website was launched with general information, photographs, illustrations and the link to Editor's class and event listings.

Oct. Andre van de Plas taught International dance workshops in Wellington, Tauranga, Hamilton and Auckland. At the latter he extended teacher training with style workshops and by including teaching techniques. *FDNZ* members participated in "Moving Together", the first National Congress of Professional Dance Teachers.

2001 **June** Jane Soan took over the *FDNZ* library and archives. Kate Goodwin initiated and organized a national weekend *FDNZ* festival for International folk dancers at Tauranga.

2002 **April** Kaye Laurendet (FDA) taught workshops in Christchurch, Wellington, Hastings, Hamilton, Tauranga and Auckland. She also held a Folk Dance Teacher Training Day in Auckland for 18 participants.

2003

June Third national weekend international *FDNZ* Festival, at Tauranga, includes live musicians at some teaching sessions and evening dance parties.

FDNZ Newsletter renamed *Folkdancers' Own* with ISSN 1176-628X and moves to A4 top-stapled format instead of A5 centre-stapled. Frequency drops to two per year. John Beavan accepted the library and archives management.

Dec *FDNZ* Action Plan 2003-04 arising from the AGM was published.⁷

⁷ *Folkdancers' Own* 2003, volume 8, number 2, page 10.

2004

- May** FDNZ AGM and panel presentation on “Creating Costumes for Performance” held at Auckland. First audited accounts presented.
- June** Domain name is taken up as *folkdance.org.nz* and becomes main point of contact with the wider world.
- July** Andre van de Plas again tours New Zealand, teaching International repertoire workshops at Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. A dance teachers’ workshop was also held at Auckland.
- Oct.** Elaine Prakash volunteers as archivist and completes indexing of first five years of *FDNZ newsletters*. *Folkdancers’ Own* goes digital so members can download in PDF format. Future issues to be in colour.

2005

- April** FDNZ celebrated its tenth anniversary with a folkloric festival at Auckland. Two new objectives were added to the mission statement relating to encouraging live music for folk dance.⁸
- June** FDNZ achieved incorporation after reviewing the constitution to ensure it complied with the new Charities Act. FDNZ library acquired a full set of *Folk Dance Problem Solvers*, by Ron Houston (1986+), published annually since 1987 by the American *Society of Folk Dance Historians*. A cumulative contents list for them was made available to members on-line.
- Nov.** Kate Goodwin became the second Australasian to be elected to the *UNESCO International Dance Council Executive*.⁹

Training More Leaders (2006 - 2010)

2006

- June** Death of FDNZ Patron Femke van Doorn (30 Oct 1923 – 20 June 2006)¹⁰
- Dec.** FDNZ President (Fiona Murdoch) attended *Australia and New Zealand Dance Research Society* annual conference at Hamilton and reported back to members her overview of papers presented with relevance to folkdance.¹¹

2007 Oct. Teacher training intensive weekend in Auckland, facilitated by Rae Storey, attracted eight recreational dance tutors.

2008 Aug. Hawke’s Bay *International Dancing Group* host seventh annual national weekend FDNZ festival at Havelock North, featuring Zivana Vajsarova and members of *Jaro* performance group from Czech Republic. Cleone Cawood, Angela Broomhead and her daughter escorted their visitors on a tour of New Zealand. The contingent gave demonstrations (in costume), workshops (at Christchurch, Wellington, Hastings and Auckland) and classes for children.

⁸ *Folkdancers’ Own* August 2005, volume 10, number 1, page 3.

⁹ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2005, volume 10, number 2, page 4.

¹⁰ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2006, volume 11, number 2, page 3. See also RIP

¹¹ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2006, volume 11, number 2, page 10.

2009

- May** Seven DVDs were released of *FDNZ* first Teacher Training Course material including style workshops and student teaching. The course, led by Femke van Doorn [International], Marija Stanisich [Croatian & choreography] & Denny Wood [Greek] was originally videoed and edited by Alan Oldale & later transferred to DVD by Alistair Sinton.
- Aug.** Nine trainees attended teacher training with Andre van de Plas at Christchurch hosted by *Farandol Folkdancers*.

Achieving Maturity (2011 – 2015)

2010

- Sep.** Former *FDNZ* President (1999-2003) Ekaterina Goodwin died suddenly.¹² Kate joined the Tauranga International Dance Group in 1990 and taught it from 1995 for ten years. In 1998 she established the Greek Dance Group *Athena* and in 2007 realized her dream to dance with them at Dora Stratou theatre in her home town Athens, Greece. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Tauranga Israeli Dance Group. This multi-talented teacher, choreographer, researcher, writer and traveller, contributed much to *Folk Dance New Zealand*.
- Dec.** *FDNZ* costume borrowing bank opened with costumes designed, made and donated by Ruritanian Club members who no longer required them for performance groups. *FDNZ* was registered for charitable tax status with the *Charities Commission* (Number CC20651).

2011 The Greek part of the late “Kate Goodwin Collection” accepted by *FDNZ* for capturing as an electronic archive.

2012 Roger Hall wrote a play “A Shortcut to Happiness” inspired by his visits to Joanne Perry’s Havelock North classes.¹³ Performances in the main centres involve local tutors in choreographing suitable dance snippets for the actors.¹⁴
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June Fiona Murdoch drafted a recreational dance teacher mentoring program.¹⁸
The first *FDNZ* Life Membership awarded to Rae Storey.¹⁹

Nov. *FDNZ* librarian and committee member John Beavan died.²⁰ John was a stalwart of the Wellington International Dancing Group and keen festival attendee.

¹² *FDNZ Newsletter* June 2000, volume 5, number 2, pp 28-29. See also RIP.

¹³ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2011, volume 16, number 2, pp 6-7.

¹⁴ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2014, volume 19, number 1, page 7.

¹⁵ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2012, volume 17, number 2, pp 12-13.

¹⁶ *Folkdancers’ Own* September 2013, volume 18, number 1, page 10.

¹⁷ *Folkdancers’ Own* June 2012, volume 17, number 12, page 1.

¹⁸ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2012, volume 17, number 2, pp 4-5.

¹⁹ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2012, volume 17, number 2, page 4.

²⁰ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2012, volume 17, number 2, page 3 & page 4. See also RIP.

2013 Volker Kuhlmann upgraded the server for *FDNZ* website.
Dec. Fiona Murdoch honoured with a civic award by *Hamilton City Council*.²¹

2014 *FDNZ* website improved and updated. Domain name simplified to *folkdance.nz*

June Memorial dance for two long-serving Auckland tutors Stan Morris and Ruth Ames²² held at Hamilton, hosted by Israeli Dance Group.

Dec. ‘Just Dance’ party to commemorate Ruth Ames held at Auckland.²³

2015 *FDNZ* continues the work of its visionary Presidents to

- provide ongoing support and professional development for group leaders
- ensure dance is recognized and widely promoted for health and recreation
- ensure policies and practices comply with the law and protect against potential misuse of public funds
- publish historical information about folk dancing in New Zealand
- improve networking of folk dancers and ethnic or cultural groups
- facilitate access to information and resources for its members
- encourage the use of live music for dancing
- promote and support provision of workshops, seminars, classes and performances
- share in celebrating special group anniversaries, be they 1 year, 10, 25 or a 30th

Into The Future (2015+)

It is now time to revitalize. Existing into the future will require attracting younger members to the cause, up-dating methods being used and spreading the load for busy volunteers. Do you have skills and experience to offer? What can you give back for the richly shared dance life you have enjoyed?

Sources:

FDNZ Newsletter (1995 – 2003)

Folkdancers’ Own (2003 – 2014)

Ruritanian Roundabout Newsletters (1995 – 2015)

FDNZ meeting minutes

FDNZ website information

DANZ website information

Flyers for miscellaneous special events

²¹ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2013, volume 18, number 2, page 5.

²² *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2013, volume 18, number 2, page 3. See also RIP.

²³ *Folkdancers’ Own* December 2014, volume 19, number 1, pp 8-9. See also RIP.

From the Archives – Folk Dance New Zealand Role of Honour

An FDNZ membership (& associated groups members) R.I.P.

Name	born & died	main role / achievements / links to	FDNZ references *
Ames, Ruth	1947 - 2013	Founder <i>Tzinakis, Eurodance, Ruritanian IFD Club</i> & Winter Warm-ups. Tutor LMA & International classes. Photographer	Vol 18 #2 & V19#1 RR* Feb & Nov
Beavan, John	1950 - 2012	FDNZ Librarian, <i>Wellington International DG</i>	Vol 17 #2 & V14#1
Brown, Olive	1933 - 2010	Founder <i>Farandol</i> Christchurch	Vol 16 #1
Garner, Jean	d Nov 2012	Member <i>Farandol</i> (support tutor) & Christchurch <i>Israeli</i> Group	Vol 18 #1 p7-8
Goodwin, Ekaterina	1935 - 2010	Founder <i>Athena Greek Group</i> . International tutor Tauranga	Vol 15 #2; RR*Nov
Lennon, Jennifer	1939 - 2007	Got FDNZ online. Member <i>La Bourree & Ruritanian Club</i>	RR* Aug p15-16
Lewis, Norman	d 3 Dec 2001	Tutor <i>Tauranga Folk Dancing Group</i> beginners sessions	Vol 06 #2 p23
Manaton, Shirley	d Feb 2013	Long time member of <i>Farandol</i> and a musician	Vol 18 #1 p8-9
Morris, Stanley	1928 - 2013	Tutor Auckland classes - especially Greek & Israeli. <i>Ruritanian</i>	Vol 18 #2; RR*Nov
Osborne, Kathleen	1944 - 2004	Founder & tutor Hawke's Bay <i>International Dancing Group</i>	Vol 9 #2 & V 10 #1
Scott, Joy	1991 - 2006	One of <i>Ruritanian Club</i> 's founders	RR*Aug p14
Stubbings, John	1927 - 1997?/98	Founder <i>Tauranga International DG</i>	Vol 02 #3
Taine, Shirley	d 7 Dec 1996	Display team manager & Mother-Queen of <i>Ruritanian Club!</i>	RR* Feb'97 & May
Telford, Bruce	1920 - 2014	Long time member of HB <i>International Dancing Group</i>	Vol 19 #1 p11
Trask, Marcia	1944 - 2012	Tutor <i>Wellington Israeli Dance Group</i>	Vol 17 #1
van Doorn, Femke	1923 - 2006	FDNZ Patron & International Tutor (Netherlands)	Vol 11 #2; RR*Aug
Wood, Don	- 2006	Auckland <i>Ruritanians, LMA</i>	RR* May

* RR stands for *Ruritanian Roundabout*, Newsletter of the Ruritanian International Folk Dance Club Inc. and Associated Groups

P.S. Please let the archivist (Elaine Prakash) know if you want to add anyone to this list