



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, Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018



Here's hoping you have some great dancing lined up for 2018. Remember to keep in touch with FDNZ if you need support in organising a community dance. I increasingly get contacted by people wanting to have celebration dances for parties / weddings etc – so it seems that social / community dance is back on people's agendas again – and it's great that we have willing musos to play for dancing as well.

Coming up on my radar (don't forget to share your events on our FB page and website with the membership):

- **Auckland Folk Festival Dance**
Programme and evening Ceilidh – FDNZ is leading the Saturday night ceilidhs with popular multicultural band Tamlin. Ak Anniversary weekend end of January
- **Long sword Dance workshop** with Dance Folkus 1 February Hamilton
- **Contra Dance Camp** Nelson 3 – 7 February
- **Colonial Heritage Tea Dance Hamilton Sunday 25th February**
- **FDNZ dance weekend** – date TBA
- **Auckland's Early Dance and English Dance Group celebrations mid-June**

Keep those events happening.....

Kind regards

Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT... Choosing dances for community dances with younger people.Fiona asked a non-member organiser of a recent event to share some thoughts about what worked well. Ali said "Some of the slower ones may not have been as interesting, but they are important as 'breathers' and to give new dancers confidence in learning steps. I think the more boisterous dances work well...the ones where you change partners...and the ones in a circle, when we snap our fingers and walk into the middle [*Maltese Branle - Ed*]. Everyone I talked to loved the dances, and was happy with the selection. The one where you strip the willow is quite hard for some people, so maybe you could save that one for times when there are a greater number of confident dancers, however, it wasn't really an 'issue', no one minded that we got tangled" [*tangling is half the fun!-Ed*].

DANCING.....IN RURITANIA. Bronwen Arlington – **President of Auckland's Ruritanian International Dance Group enlightens us:** Anthony Hope's "Prisoner of Zenda" (1894) created Ruritania. This "fictional country in Central Europe" (possibly between Saxony and Bohemia) is now a generic term for "any small imaginary country - of romance, intrigue and ... adventure..". Queen Anastasia of the Kingdom of Ruritania (Georgia, USA) writes "our people are friendly, warm hearted and fluent in many languages". This surely describes our Ruritania (RIFDC estd 1979 Auckland, NZ).

We combined with the Auckland Multicultural Society for a Combined Christmas 2017. Both committees enjoyed planning this party. NZ Netherlands' Albert set up Holland House for the potluck dinner and was our barista and Master of the Sterilizer (thanks). Harvey hung our Coat of Arms banner. Presidents Thuten and I (Bronwen) welcomed our guests from many cultures and nationalities. We were overwhelmed by their generosity -a banquet of food, a feast of singing and dancing, and gifts for the Salvation Army.

Singing Nations was a beautiful start to the party.VIP Michael Wood. MP. Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Ethnic Communities greeted us in many languages. Julia's Joy Dancers (Taiwanese) and Irina's Volga Group (Middle Eastern) entertained us. "Santa Lucia" is a long Ruritanian tradition. Margaret wore the Crown of Candles (electric this year), Maggie and Ruth sang our NZ version, with Gwen on piano (the Russian accordionist joined in). There was a Christmas carol in Ukrainian, and we all sang one in English.

Rae's Elite Group started the participation with "Lauf" (Israeli), then American, Serbian, and Celtic dances. Jenny led both traditional Israeli and Oren's newest line dance. As MC it was a juggle -waving my hands and holding the microphone to call Leah's "Luxury Bus". No one noticed - they were too busy having fun with her Kapop (Korean Pop genre). The folk-dancing ended on a high note with Amy's lively Pacific Island dance from Guam. I hope the Behind-the-Scene workers enjoyed themselves, too.

Maggie (with lipstick, handbag, cocktail dress and high heels) stole the show - with the "Lauf" lyrics:"Come, come dance with me. Together we will fly.... fly madly. We have a great happiness...." True. We did. We came, we danced, we sang, we dined in the true spirit of peoples of many races and religions coming together.

Dancing in Ruritania is a state of happiness. It's heart-warming and festive. Everyone contributed their talents, skills, planning, work, time, and lots of delicious food [*Ed All the best for continued states of happiness in 2018*]

Update from your committee: Have you looked at the FDNZ website lately? We'd like to make it more user friendly – give us your ideas as to what would make it a better 'read' for you. While you're at it – check out the FDNZ the Facebook page and use it to share your folk dance experiences and/or upcoming events. ! Good to see people listing various dance events to share the opportunities for great folk dancing in NZ.

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