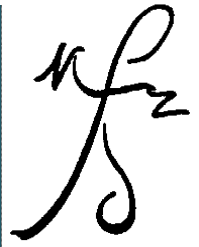




# Let's Talk Folk Dance

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

Read more at.....[Folkdance.nz/members](http://Folkdance.nz/members)



## Hi everyone –

I'm going to repeat myself this month to remind you about FDNZ's **Mountain Rhythms - April 27-29** - this is going to be a fabulous weekend of dance and music – coming together for a weekend of sharing our favourites with like-minded people. We have 7 popular international dance tutors sharing their favourite dances from a diverse range of dance styles at the Pukeatua Hall nearby; Day tickets are available as well if you miss out on the accommodation and food package at Out-in-the Styx cafe. Enjoy the local sightseeing and activities which are becoming increasingly popular with overseas visitors. **Details on our website and websites for Tourism Waikato.**

Celebrate the 'International Day of Dance' on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> - Take the plunge and offer the opportunity for you and your dance group/ class / friends to celebrate this and share the fun of dance with your community? Tell us – tell the face book page – let people know – share it around!

Let me give you an example of the power of Facebook in folk dance – on a whim I shared the face book details of a dance event coming with my 17 year old niece who loves dancing. She is part of a chat group with similarly aged young people – they all agreed on-line it sounded like a fun event and 28 wonderful 17 – 21 year olds turned up significantly boosting the energy levels. They danced every dance with many already being competent dancers. **So don't be shy – share what's where!**

Regards Fiona

## MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT.....CYCLES....

Not the 2-wheeled kind but the cyclical seasons that impact on dance groups as energies wax and wane. Coincidentally I have been engaged in email dialogue with two folk dance leaders at opposite ends of the country. Both felt that the energy to maintain a fun and accessible dance group was no longer possible for them. There is a catch-22 - where there has been a person willing to lead, develop, research, study, advertise, organise and teach a group - other members step back and often do not realise what is involved, as it looks effortless. Then that leader just wants to dance – not to lead or organise – but cannot step back into that role in the group without others expecting them to continue being the leader. This is difficult when there is no other similar group in their town – so the options become a) give up folk dancing (not so good for the heart and soul); b) take up another kind of dance if on offer; or c) bow to pressure and keep doing the same job; d) close the group (and lose all the 'investment' to date).

So what can we do ..... succession planning, or sharing the dance leader roles is clearly one option. This also requires others willing to teach and with energy to continue to grow and build the skills in the dance group. How do you gain these skills without teaching? *[FDNZ teaching course?]*. How do you persuade someone to give it a go when the usual teacher is dancing in the class? *[Independent Folk Dance NZ support for member groups?]* Payment also becomes an interesting question as many leaders don't take a tutoring fee but reinvest class fees into group development (or reimburse their personal costs) – others might expect to be paid for putting the same effort in that the class, and this of course depends on the income generated by the class / group *[community arts grants for tutor development?]*. Or...you could invite guest tutors for a one-off class, event, workshop, or teaching block. Being exposed to different teaching styles is very good for your class and provides new energy.

*[Any other ideas from member groups? Ed]*

## DANCING...AT VICTORIA UNI WELLINGTON

**James McNamara from Victoria Uni** has contacted FDNZ to share some information. VicFolk is a student-led club at Victoria University, started in 2017, that hosts a range of lively events. For the musicians there are fortnightly ceilidh tune practices during university terms and a range of workshops during the year. Although we do host concerts, participatory events - especially traditional sessions and ceilidhs - are at the heart of what we do. The club's ceilidhs are open to the public, require no previous dancing experience, and draw a lively crowd. In the winter trimester VicFolk hosts its own weekend festival, the Tunefest, with a headline concert, a ceilidh, sessions, mini-gigs and workshops, and which played to a full house in its first edition in 2017. A big part of what we do is teaching and introducing people to folk dance. Vic Folk welcomes collaborative suggestions from anyone interested in putting on participatory folk music events.

Contact: [vicfolkmusic@gmail.com](mailto:vicfolkmusic@gmail.com)

Website: [www.vicfolkmusic.wordpress.com](http://www.vicfolkmusic.wordpress.com)

The Vic Folk Tunefest: [www.vicfolktunefest.wordpress.com](http://www.vicfolktunefest.wordpress.com)

Facebook: @VicFolkMusic

*[Ed – thanks James for your energy in getting these fun events up and running – Good luck]*

**Update from your committee:** We want your contributions for the first 2018 FDNZ newsletter – stories / photos / reviews / dance information....anything goes as long as it has to do with Folkloric and/or historical dance. Contact the [editor@folkdance.nz](mailto:editor@folkdance.nz)

EMAIL  
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