



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



Greetings all . folk dance groups become like families where shared interests create a strong network of people in specific localities.

Sometimes because we are familiar with our own family's reality, it's hard to think about sharing these skills in other places or exploring who might travel to you to join in if a workshop / dance festival was offered. (*The recent increase in petrol prices doesn't help!*).

Another old adage that ~~we don't~~ know what we don't know is a truism that applies here. Who might come . where will they travel from? Is this an opportunity to engage with a different genre of dance e.g. Roma Dance and Belly Dance groups?

As Rosa says in this newsletter ~~Learning~~ with different teachers opens new perspectives, and dancing with new people it's important to keep an open mind, avoid creating habits, and experience different energies!+

Sometimes you have to take risk - if it pays off then great . if it doesn't, well that was another learning opportunity.

Don't forget that Folk Dance NZ can help mitigate risk taking with guarantees against loss. Email the FDNZ secretary through secretary@folkdance.org.nz. An application process and committee approval process applies.

Coming up:

End-of-year dance parties – where are they?

Can we come? Let us know

If you are dancing at Machol Pacifica or Welly Fest this Labour Weekend – have a good one!

Happy Dancing – Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT... Bronwen shares the benefits of being a nomadic folk dancer with a Gold Card....

Highlanders dance on a targe.... I dance on the Gold Card. In Europe I get the "Over 65" concessions in Art Galleries (Venice) and City Sightseeing buses (Lisbon, Madrid, Rome.) Back home, NZ Gold Card holders have enjoyed free off-peak public transport for more than a decade. I first flashed my gold card at a Dance Folkus dance (2015), and use it at the Cinema ("La Grand Bal"), and at the Ballet ("Romeo and Juliet").

Recently at the "Dance Souvenirs from Abroad" workshop Jane Luiten, her daughter Pare, and I shared dances from Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Greek Pontos, and Kos. Petrol costs were mitigated whenever Waikato petrol stations ask if I "have the gold card?" and give further discounts. (I don't get this in Auckland).

Free public transport is Pure Gold to me. On Mondays a "set" of Aucklanders ferry to Waiheke Island for Scottish Country Dancing. 8-12 of us City-siders or "overseas members" leave our cars at home (hassle-free parking), and journey by train, boat and bus to class. That's \$50 worth of travel - gratis - courtesy of the Gold Card.

[Ed: Groups need to publicise how the Gold Card can help dancers get about]

DANCING...AT A TANGO FESTIVAL... FDNZ's favourite Portuguese dancer, Rosa, is also a tango enthusiast

"I started dancing Tango back in Portugal, my home country. The curiosity arose when dancing a partner version of Mazurka (Traditional dance from Poland) with a friend and he included some Tango steps. I just loved it and wanted to know more! After a few classes here and there, and a few years (here and there too), I started "tangoing" in the South Island. First Queenstown, in a small but great group, then Nelson where I found a welcoming and vibrant tango scene, led and taught by Anne-Maree Therklison (www.tangolibre.com).

After a few years of classes and ~~praticas~~ and in the company of my fellow Nelsonian newbie ~~angueros~~, I ventured to the NZ Tango Festival (<http://nztangofestival.co.nz>) in Wellington, the biggest tango event in the country, with guest teachers and amazing workshops. There I met people in love with dancing, as much as I do, if not more! The workshops were fun and refreshing. Learning with different teachers opens new perspectives, and dancing with new people it's important to keep an open mind, avoid creating habits, and experience different energies! The night ~~milongas~~ were beautiful and diverse, with the main room for classical tango and a second room for "nuevo tango" which I really enjoyed. There were also afternoon and pre-festival milongas which were great fun, informal and relaxed, and perfect for newbies like me to try out the dance floor.

In a nutshell, If already I loved Tango, I love it even more now and am looking forward to the next events! And if you like to dance, give it a try (see closest to you in www.tango.gen.nz) but be warned: it might change your life ☺)+

[Ed: I guess Tango could be styled one of the recent folk dances of Argentina?]

Update from your committee: We have been trying hard to arrange a visit to NZ of some excellent dance teacher / dance collectors ...however we haven't been able to drum up much enthusiasm from our members. And we do need local support for national events. We'll keep trying on your behalf....

We're looking for articles for the second newsletter of the year . got a dance-related story to tell?

**EMAIL
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