



# 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)



## Greetings everyone –

So many things to tell you about in this e-news...

FDNZ now has two copies of '**Uniting Our Cultures - The History of Auckland Multicultural Society Inc. Part Two**' and we'll add these to our library for members to borrow.

**Coming up:** Celebration dates for your diary:

- Sing, Dance, Play – **Queen's Birthday Weekend 2019** (Mangonui) - celebrate the spirit of dancing, singing and playing music together in the far north
- Dance Folkus 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Hamilton) will be a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ball on the **29<sup>th</sup> June**
- Winter Warm Up (Auckland) – **10<sup>th</sup> August**
- Andre Van De Plas memorial dance day (Auckland) **Saturday 21 September**
- Ruritanian 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party (Auckland) is set for **Saturday evening 21<sup>st</sup> September**
- Farandol 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Christchurch) – **Saturday evening 28<sup>th</sup> September** [read more about this event over the page]
- Machol Pacifica (Wellington) - **Labour Weekend 2019**
- Victoriana Steam Punk Ball (Thames) – **November 9<sup>th</sup>**

**But wait there's more....**Folk Dance Teacher Master Class and Development Day (Auckland) – **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** - the programme will respond to what you want - this is a very exciting opportunity for both experienced and novice teachers of folk and historical dance.

**Advance notice...September/October 2020** – Tineke and Maurits Van Geel will help FDNZ celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a fun folk dance residential weekend near Hamilton; and with Farandol in Christchurch.

**And these are only the ones I know about...so check out the details on the FDNZ website.**

**Keep up with those Happy Feet! – Fiona**

## MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT... Fiona [that's me!]

**has been thinking about how dance is a healing gift** ... in our group we have had several opportunities to share dancing with group members as they struggle with ill health. Arrangements are made to bring the person's favourite dances to where they feel safe or where they have to be – a hospital bedside, a rest home room / lounge, their home, their garden, their 'special space'. The energy and spiritual support generated through dancing together with, or for, our dancing friend, shares the love and joy we feel when dancing together. Is that a bit 'touchy-feely' for some of you reading this? Maybe.... it is for me as well – but I'm constantly amazed at the power of sharing. I am reminded of one evening of circle dances (where I had placed a small vase of fresh flowers in the centre of the circle) and had offered them at the end of the evening to anyone to take home - one of our group said she had a friend who was struggling after breast cancer surgery and she would take the 'energised by dancing' flowers to her friend. She reported the following week that her friend had had a significant lift in spirits and the best week.

[Ed: I wonder if others have similar examples? – share them on the FDNZ Facebook page]

## DANCING...ON THE LAWN... Jane Luiten (Committee Member FDNZ) shares some thoughts about extraordinary dancing spaces...

Just before Christmas 2018 the world lost someone wonderful. Craig Callaghan was my son's carving teacher. His magical power was carving out a welcoming, happy and creative space where beautiful things happened in an otherwise very humdrum boys high school. He was an enormously positive influence on my son and his death was a shock.

But it got me thinking. We all have the potential to make the ordinary extraordinary. For me this happens when I folkdance. I had filled in the swimming pool the summer before, with the vague idea after my holiday in Armenia of creating a courtyard to dance in (having given up my other idea of a mini-skate park). Craig's death was the spur I needed to level the ground and sow grass. I made the most of my children over the New Year to transform the walls with a mural.

The result is nothing flash, and as a dancing space it's not ideal. The Gisborne summer and my dog have taken their toll on the grass; the Jacaranda tends to hog the middle of any Circassian circle. But on three different occasions now something out of the ordinary has happened in my back yard. The latest was visiting folk musician Pete Grassby who on a February evening had us all raising dust to his melodeon.

I have dreams of future themed 'dine and dance' events (a 'Greek' night, an 'Armenian' night etc) where I actually get paid. (I have discovered someone to do the cooking bit). But in the meantime and even in the long-term, that's not important. It wasn't to Craig. The real trick is to see what we have, and work with it to create something which reminds people in their everyday ordinariness just how extraordinary life is, how extraordinary we are, together.

[Ed: Yes Let's be extraordinary when we can – thanks Jane for this reminder and the great photo below]

**Update from your committee:** Hopefully you all renewed your subscriptions – Michele has been busy processing these. Your committee has been working hard to bring you exciting dance events - in particular Jane Luiten and Rae Storey of the Teacher Training sub-committee have planned a development day in September. Also Jane, and newly co-opted member, Katy Sinton have liaised with our Folk Dance Australia friends to co-ordinate the 2020 visit of Tineke and Maurits Van Geel. Ana Maria de Vos Sanchez has been wearing the FDNZ committee hat at Auckland Multicultural events

**EMAIL  
UPDATE  
2019 #2**

Here's a photo from Dancing on the Lawn with Jane



**HELP US CELEBRATE FARANDOL'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY! Irene shares some info....**

Many feet have pounded the boards and grassy places in Christchurch and beyond during Farandol's 40 year history, sharing the joy of folk dance. Marking our proud longevity in various ways this year, we are printing an anniversary T-shirt, finally publishing the long-awaited Farandol history, and are holding a dance party in Christchurch on Saturday 28 September.

**We would love you to come! Our catered event is to be held at the Hornby Working Men's Club, 17 Carmen Road, Christchurch, 28 Sept., from 7.30 - 11.00 p.m.**

So book your transport and **please let us know (info@farandol.folkdance.nz ) by 14 September if you plan to join us.** We'd love to see you here. Billets and/or help with transport to and from the venue might be a possibility, but we'd be able to provide more information nearer the time.