



# 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 hope you enjoyed our first FDNZ E-news of the year and that your 2020 year of dance started well?

Did you know that **2020 is Folk Dance NZ's SILVER Anniversary** as an organisation supporting and promoting folk dance? You can read our story from 1995 until 2015 set out in the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary article by FDNZ archivist Elaine Prakash available on our member's page.

My sense is that social and recreational dance is on the rise again as people work towards making meaningful connections in this increasingly isolated world – already I have had more requests for dance leadership for young people's social events (21<sup>st</sup> parties / school events / church youth groups) than in any other year. We also see new groups emerging and aligning to international social dance trends.

Next week I am thrilled to be leading the dancing at the wedding of two lovely '20-somethings' who met each other at one of the Jane Austen Assemblies hosted by Dance Folkus. How fabulous is that?

### Coming up on the folk dance radar:

- North Island Regional Israeli Dance Day Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Tauranga
- Mid-Winter Medieval Feast with the Auckland Early Dance Group Saturday 27 June Auckland
- Jane Austen Winter Assembly Saturday 29 August Hamilton
- Van Geel international Dance Workshop – 25-27 September -Christchurch
- FDNZ Roma Dance Workshop 2 – 4 October Hamilton

Let us know - and let others know... put it on the Facebook page or send the details to our webmaster

## MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT.....

1) about Corona Virus (aren't we all?) – " whilst individuals need to take responsibility, it is good to remember that dance styles where people hold hands create potential health hazards and dancers should be reminded about good hand washing practice at the beginning and end of class" .

2) After the Folk Dance New Zealand - led children's dance at the 2020 Auckland Folk Festival; a Dad came up to say that he had had an epiphany as he hadn't ever thought about dancing with his child and now he would do more of this...isn't that great?

## 2020 FDNZ membership subscriptions are due by 31 March for early bird rates.....Get yours now!!

If you have changed your contact details you may not have received our reminder...and you may not receive this update either - so if you know someone this might apply to please let our secretary (Noelene) or treasurer (Michele) know..☺

## DANCING...IN NEW PLACES....

**It's the beginning of a new dance year and some groups are changing dance venues**, whilst other groups pop up in new places. In Auckland The Kayak International Folk Dance Club is trialling a new venue at The Loft Studios in central Auckland - contact Gwen if you are in Auckland on a Saturday morning and feel like a dance [gwenmann@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gwenmann@xtra.co.nz) .

**Also in Auckland** Michael Parmenter has started a 'Bal Folk' class a la France - a mix of French and other Folk Dances - Michael is director of Balfolk Auckland. He is a dancer/choreographer who for the past few years has been exploring Balfolk during various trips to Europe. Balfolk is a worldwide movement which celebrates the folk dances of Europe. The movement was captured recently in the film Le Grand Bal <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPOc6MRWri8> . For further information contact Michael on [michaelparmenternz@gmail.com](mailto:michaelparmenternz@gmail.com)

## AND OTHER PLACES.....

What about dancing in those unexpected dance spaces – just prior to Christmas, I found myself leading a dance workshop in a Yurt up a long valley off the Karangahake Gorge (between Paeroa and Waihi). The enthusiastic organiser had invited members of the local community who all had a strong interest in sustainability and off-the-grid sustainability. It was a lovely workshop and we enjoyed some of the less complex circle dances that could be danced in the lovely round Yurt. Thanks to Lulu for making that happen. Lulu and her Tauranga-based friend Amy are keen to bring shared dance back to the community and are keen to develop local links in the Waihi / Tauranga / Karangahake area. If you want to contact Lulu here is her email [lulasticblog@gmail.com](mailto:lulasticblog@gmail.com) Oh! and by the way there was an article about Lulu and her family in "Weekend" this last weekend.

**Update from your committee:** You will be aware of committee work so far this year through the first FDNZ newsletter (thanks Kieron) and the finalisation of the venue and details for the Van Geel's Roma dance workshops in October 2020 (thanks Jane); annual subscription activity (thanks Michele); and not so visible but equally important, is the ongoing work to lodge grant applications to support our October event

E-News

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