



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,

YAY! We're back at Alert Level 1 in Hamilton – just in time for our 25th Birthday Bash. It's not too late to register (details on the website or contact Jane j.luiten@xtra.co.nz)

If you were feeling uncomfortable about being in a dance class during Level 2 FDNZ stresses that our upcoming workshop is in a reasonably large space. We will have disposable gloves and super strength sanitizer available.

Come to the FDNZ 25th Birthday party and enjoy....

- dancing and networking with fellow folk dancers - catching up with old and new friends
- a yummy shared and catered Friday night dinner (\$25 per person for a two courses - vegetarian options available) with live background music and some gentle dancing afterwards (pre-orders required)
- A wide variety of dance tutors and their favourite dances - we are aiming for 25 tutors for our 25th!
- A discount on the registration fee for FDNZ members
- Fabulous lunches and morning and afternoon teas
- A fun birthday party - don't forget your silver themed accessories / outfit / whimsy (just a touch of silver is fine)
- A plate of party finger food for shared supper on Saturday night

Hoping to see you in Hamilton regards
Fiona

MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUTGRASS ROOTS....

The Folk Dance NZ committee is thinking about our upcoming 25th Birthday – we want this to be a fun celebration of the role and gift of folk dance in our lives. We're thinking about succession planning and providing opportunity to give-it-a-go!

It's great when we can learn new repertoire and benefit from the expertise of visiting overseas tutors, however a folk dance community is really about dancing together and creating shared energy - not necessarily all about learning new dances... [Ed: *who has the time to dance them all anyway!*]

When the teaching / planning / organising is left to just one person that is when burn-out occurs - groups wax and wane in numbers of members and you need energy to keep motivated to grow and maintain a folk dance experience for new and existing dancers.

FDNZ recognises that we need to grow our folk dance at grass roots and therefore for our teaching sessions this weekend we have invited both experienced and not-so-experienced tutors to our party weekend to share their favourite dances with us. We have invited YOU to come along and enjoy the party...we look forwards to seeing you in Hamilton.

DANCING...ON ALERT! In **Alert Level 4** we hunkered down for 5 weeks and danced in our bubble....sometimes we zoomed in with the wider dancing community and tripped over the cushions and coffee table in the lounge while dancing virtually all around the world - literally!

In **Alert Level 3** we planned to get back dancing. We kept in touch with our dancing friends to let them know when the dancing could again commence. We negotiated with hall owners / managers to enable access to our usual dancing spaces - along with plans for contact tracing and anti-viral hygiene measures. We planned dance sessions without personal contact. We got used to planned events being postponed. Fortunately Alert Level 3 didn't last too long.

In **Alert Level 2** yay! dancing could start again if we didn't puff too much and we minded our social distancing. Mostly we just got on with it and danced by the rules. Most folk dance groups in NZ didn't need to worry about keeping group sizes to less than 100 people! [Ed: *I wish!*] We started dancing with 'W' and 'V' and 'T' holds whilst spraying hand sanitiser with abandon. And we washed our hands...washed our hands...washed our hands! We did a spray and wipe circuit after every class to ensure all touched surfaces in the hired space were made safe for other users. We respected that some dancers felt safer staying at home in Level 2.

In **Alert Level 1** we feel almost 'normal'.. We enjoy getting back together with dancing friends and catching up. We note with dismay that 'not dancing' means some loss of dancing fitness and flexibility and have to start slow. We start to hope that planned events will be rescheduled and we look forwards to dance parties. We have made wearing a mask a fashion statement! We dream hopefully of more than 100 people in class or at a workshop or event.

Update from your committee: Thanks to those who joined for our AGM. There have been no changes to the Committee - so thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to keep all FDNZ folk dancers connected through this network. Hopefully members have recognised that we value FDNZ membership by offering a significant discount for our upcoming FDNZ 25th Birthday weekend and birthday party. So please come