

Ruritanian International Folkdance Club, Inc.

Website: www.folkdance.nz Our specific page: ruritaniens.folkdance.nz

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CONTENTS FEATURE:

- **AGM, with dress-up and dancing on the lawn, and planning the year**
- **Reports: Christmas parties, Romanian Day, Auckland Folk Festival, Robin on Crete**
- **Obituaries: Susan Leaver, Mrs Luscombe, Andre van de Plas**
- **Some notices, and thanks to contributors**

• **AGM SUNDAY 24th MARCH, 2pm. 24a Dell Ave, Remuera •**
For details see page 3.

COVER PHOTOS:

Front: Club Christmas. MC Maggie and Singing Nations accompany Santa Lucia.
Back: Susan Leaver as Mother Christmas at the Club's celebration in 2005.

President's Musings

It doesn't seem possible that Christmas is over and we are already at the end of January! For me Christmas was real fun with my two grandsons waking us at 5:30 with excitement after the visit of Santa Claus and receiving the long-awaited toys they had hoped for! We had a lovely few days in the caravan at Katikati before my trip to New Plymouth and the hard work of three weeks locum.

When I ponder about 2018, we had some great international and dancing events. I attended a lovely Christmas lunch at the home of Thuten Kesang. I so love our connection with the Multicultural Society, and have enjoyed getting to know better some of their members and getting involved in their committee meetings as representative of our club.

Our Christmas party on the eighth of December was a huge success! The historic Onehunga Community House was a perfect setting and the right size for dancing as well as dining. Thank you Ana Maria for organising the music. It was conducive to everyone getting up to dance and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Just as a party should be. The food was representative of the different cultures and delicious. It was fun having spot prizes, especially to someone wearing blue underwear! Everyone came wearing dress appropriate to the season. I forgot to announce the winner of the "best dressed", but it was a lady dressed as a "Christmas Tree", Gulnaz Pavlova. She has been presented with a certificate.

Well, 2019 is looking to be an exciting year – not least that I will have a granddaughter around February 23rd. Besides this the Winter WarmUp and a dance workshop in August, and then 21st September is our 40th ANNIVERSARY! So, drag out all your memorabilia and photos, bring forth your greatest creative writings, and put the date in your diary now. Please let committee members know if you have any helpful ideas or think of anybody we should invite. Also, be ready to dance in celebration of such a special occasion. We shall be producing a bumper Roundabout Magazine; we need to fill it with memories.

In the meantime, very soon, our dancing groups will re-assemble. Let's try and get friends to join us. Spread the good news of healthy exercise twinned with developing friendships.

Have a great year.

Love

— *Maggie*



CLUB AGM

followed by afternoon tea and dancing on the lawn.

At Rae's, 24a Dell Avenue, Remuera.
2pm on Sunday 24th March

Theme for dress-up is Back to School
(beat Andy and Dot in this one if you can!)
Prizes

Meeting will start at 2pm, with cold drinks in hand.

AGENDA so far:

Reports

Election of Committee

Plans for the year,

particularly the Anniversary.

- Have you any item to add or specify for the Agenda?
Do you want to nominate anyone for office or Committee?
Please let us (Maggie or Rae) know ASAP.
- If you would join the Committee or just volunteer some help in tasks for the Anniversary, we would be delighted.
You could let us know that in advance too or just speak up at the meeting.
- Please bring your favourite offering for afternoon tea.

Coming Events

Most regular sessions start in February. Check with the leaders. Rae's start on 11th. DanceFolkus in Hamilton starts Thursday 14th – an evening with Pete Grassby, visiting from England as in most summers. 7.30 at St Stephens, Mahoe St. \$10. For their ongoing programme, see the DanceFolkus website or Facebook page.

Thurs. 21st - Sat. 23rd Feb. in the Auckland Fringe Festival: Love, Life and Dark Energy, Flamenco. Acclaimed passionate artist from Spain supported by Amira Brock, and Auckland guitarists Sandy Schook and Richard Aylett. 8pm (50 minutes). At TAPAC, 100 Motions Rd, Western Springs. Tickets \$18 - \$20 on TAPAC website.

Saturday 2nd March, 11am in Hamilton: DanceFolkus and Christoph Maubach's wonderful World Voices present Balkan Beats, an hour-long showcase of dances and songs in the Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival. In the Piazza. Highly recommended.

Sunday 17th March, 1 to 5pm. Auckland Multicultural Society's annual Lakeside Festival, in the Pumphouse amphitheatre, Killarney Park, Takapuna. An enchanting venue for a fine variety of Auckland's ethnic performing groups. Free. Note that if there is a large event on the lake, parking may involve a long walk.

Sunday 24th March, 2pm, Ruritanian Club AGM, followed by afternoon tea and dancing on the lawn. Dress-up theme with prizes "Back to School". 24a Dell Avenue, Remuera. Plate of afternoon-tea fare is requested.

Sunday 7th April, 10am - 5pm. Auck. International Cultural Festival. Mt Roskill War Memorial Park. Free. Not as huge as Pasifika, but a mighty gathering, with great performances (our groups' included!), food and stalls, and an ethnic soccer tourney.

Saturday 10th August: Winter WarmUp, and daytime workshop of Andre van de Plas dances. Probably also FDNZ Teacher Training, sessions Friday eve and Sunday.

Saturday 21st September: Club's 40th Anniversary Celebration at Danish House. Please consider questions on next page – and give us your input before or at the AGM.

Labour Weekend (25th-27th Oct.). Machol Pacifica (Israeli Dance) in Wellington.

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Club Subs are now due for 2019

Please fill in the accompanying registration/renewal form for our checking and updating, and return it to Rae by email or the hard copy, or to Dot (no email).

Pay by direct credit (and send an email notification to Rae) or by cheque.

\$18 – but only \$15 if paid before the end of March.

40th Anniversary Celebration and Special Issue of Roundabout

To work on the content of these, your Committee need to know your desires for them. **Please reply ASAP to the questions below**, by email to: raestorey36@gmail.com or by post to Rae Storey, 24a Dell Avenue, Remuera, Auckland 1050.

Proposals: A sit-down catered dinner, with drinks and chat from 6pm. Speeches to be interesting, eg memories, rather than formal tributes. Video and photographic record of activities and people over the years. Some dance performances by associated groups. Participation dancing unless there is a strong feeling against that for this occasion.

We are lucky to have Danish House for our venue!

We plan to have the photographs, souvenirs and video in the Library, which will also serve as a conversation lounge.

- **Any comments, for or against? And details, or other suggestions?**
 - **Special questions:** Should there be **participation dancing**?
 - If so, would you like and attend a **workshop** during that day to revise old favourites? (Yes, we know people will need to go rest and shower before the celebration begins.)
 - Please name **favourite dances** you would like to have on the programme.
 - **Cost and catering:** We shall have to optimize affordability and feasting. We can get no grant assistance with the catering, though we are hoping for some funding for the other expenses. Please give us your thoughts – including on a ceiling price.
 - **Please start collecting thoughts (and making notes) on reminiscences, to be included in the speeches and/or the special issue of the Roundabout.**
- Also photos** - both digital and hard copy, old and newer. They will ALL be precious.

Offers of help in the preparations and the occasion itself are welcome, and are invited NOW – fun to be deeply involved in it all together!

– *Rae Storey*

Danny Bhoy's hilarious description of a Scottish Ceilidh dance:

If you have not seen this before, give yourself a laugh break – here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/1msu8iQT3kw>

Notice to Group Leaders:

Please consider whether your group wish to be presenters at the Winter WarmUp this year. Invitations to apply will be sent out before Easter. Suggestions for special features can be made to your Committee at any time now.

We Are Mourning the Loss....

Unfortunately our most important news to report is loss of friends and colleagues.

Susan Leaver

First is one of our earliest Club members, Susan Leaver, whom we have still occasionally seen at special dance events in recent years. For many of us she was a cherished friend of yore and one of the Club's workers and makers. Indeed the Ruritanian Roundabout, this valuable element in our life together, was Susan's inspiration. She set it up in 1984, named it, and shared in the editorial responsibilities for the first two years or so.

Here are tributes and her stories.

First from Bronwen:

Others will write about the many facets of gentle Susan's life: her churches, her animal welfare activities, her telephonist work, and her dedication to NZ fan clubs for Cliff Richards and especially John Denver. How appropriate that she chose to spend her last day(s) in Colorado, determined to attend a John Denver Congress there.

When I joined RIFDC in 1989/90 Susan was already a well-established presence in Auckland's folkdancing scene.

First she lived in the high-rise Huia House (the Nurses Home near Auckland Hospital in Grafton). Then she went to a sprawling residence in Sarawai Rd, Newmarket. (Susan explained that a Parnell doctor built private hospital wards behind his surgery, and these were later converted into rentals). She celebrated her 50th birthday (a stylish afternoon tea at the Pan Pacific/Rendezvous Hotel in Mayoral Drive) with folkdancers from Auckland, and Israeli dancers from Hamilton.

She loyally supported Ruth and Stan when they had co-founded the Ruritanian Club in 1979. She created the quarterly newsletter – which like Johnny Walker Whisky "is still going strong" nearly 40 years later. Her name "Ruritanian Roundabout" suited both folkdancers and trampers. It was fun typing and writing articles for her, Shirley T, Pam L, and current editor Rae S.

She performed with the Ruritanian and Tzinakis Dance Troupes – mostly Serbian, Bulgarian and her favourite Greek. During the 80s she and Dotty shared costumes. By



the 90s Susan had stopped performing, but still thoroughly enjoyed social dancing. She was a regular party-goer at the Ruritanian monthly socials, and Anniversary celebrations (St George's, Ranfurly Road), workshops, Tzinakis afternoons (Auckland Hospital Recreation Centre), and was a willing helper at Winter WarmUps (Ellerslie, Pakuranga, Penrose). I know Ruth Ames appreciated her ongoing friendship and invaluable contributions. (She'd have written so much more).

Anywhere there was Greek dancing, Susan was whole-heartedly there (Polish House, Danish House, St Pauls' Crypt, St Pauls Remuera).

Ruth's EuroDance "Just Dance" Socials always had a theme. At "The Seven Seas" one Ruth dubbed her "The White Rose of Athens". Susan promptly abandoned her front desk duties (and money) to dance this one. Susan was one of the first Aucklanders to enrol at the workshop of Greek Folk Dancing when Kyriakos Moisidis came to NZ (2017).

Sadly I missed the small memorial on her "would-be-69th-birthday" in December. I'd often see her ushering at my local amateur theatre "The Stables " in Ellerslie, but missed her cheerful smile at our November play "The Lady in the Van".

RIP Our "White Rose of Athens".

— *Bronwen Arlington*

From Jane Luscombe:

A memorial service for Susan (11.12.49 - 25.10.18) was held on 16 December 2018 at the Unity Spiritual Centre premises in Mt Albert. As well as tributes from regular church members, further tributes included those from a resident of Rycroft Lodge where Susan lived over 15 years, the Cliff Richard Fan Club, John Denver Appreciation group (which Susan initiated some years ago), her close friend Mary McNeal, plus Jane Luscombe representing a group of her past and present Ruritanian friends. It gave a very meaningful opportunity to express our memories... and to learn more about her very diverse life and interests.

As our friendships go back such a long time it was a great shock to learn of Susan's death - in Aspen, Colorado. Each October for many years Susan attended the John Denver Convention Festival Week and 2018 was no exception. Discharging herself from Auckland Hospital the previous day despite extreme ill health, she determinedly flew out to accomplish this for one last time.

A diverse person - not only her fan club associations with John Denver, Cliff Richards, John Rowles and others, she was also an avid admirer of Peter Blake and his environmental work.

There were interesting articles in the Central Leader and also the NZ Women's Weekly (2016) about Susan's voluntary work as a Pets' Chaplain...it showed her concern for others' grievings. Her own cat Emma has subsequently been found a good home.

She loved all things Greek and had first met Joy Gough on Chandris Line *Australis* in the 1970s. She particularly loved the Ruritanians' lessons with Takis in 1980 and the highlight performance by the group for an Auckland University staff party gathering. She was later involved with the Auckland Hellenic Club's annual Easter celebrations.



Those of us who joined the Ruritanians' weekly dance class at St Peters Pavilion back in 1980 found we also had other common interests and so initially started the Ruritanian Ramblers with regular fortnightly outings. We were all single and also combined for annual birthday and Xmas get-togethers (near to Susan's birthday 11th December) held at Joy, Ruth or Jane's home. Our regular group was Stan, Don, Mufridah, Ruth, Joy, Jennifer, Angela, Susan and Jane, plus sometimes also John Wells and Errol. But for most years it was the original nine. Now with the passing of five we are regrettably only four.

We shared many happy times together and she is very much missed by us all.

— Jane Luscombe

Photo: A Ruritanian Ramblers birthday lunch. From left: Mufridah, Alan Oldale, Joy Gough, Angela Lavis, Stan Morris, Michele Dickson, Jennifer Blakely, Susan Leaver, Jane Luscombe, Don Wood. Missing: Ruth Ames, presumably behind the camera.

From Angela Lavis, past Ruritanian:

Susan was a very busy person. She always worked, sometimes holding down two jobs at the same time. She was a character and was very active in many things including: Toastmasters, folkdancing, promoting various performers, in Union work promoting workers' rights. She was a passionate fan and supporter of a number of performers including John Rowles, Cliff Richards and John Denver.

She loved animals, particularly cats, and was devoted to her cat Emma. In her later years she did training in pet bereavement counselling. This was very important to her and she volunteered her services to help others. An article was written about her work in a popular magazine.

Susan had an impact on many people.

— *Angela Lavis*

Jane Luscombe's Mother

Jane Luscombe's mother Frances passed away after a brief illness 27th January... in her 98th year. Many of us will remember the gentle lady who greeted us when we came to share in Jane's concerts.

Jane's Spanish Fiesta entertained at many venues over many years, the public concerts running from 1984 to 2013 – and both Jane's parents were always very much on the scene helping. Her father died in 2002 but Frances stayed helping almost to the end of 2013. She would run the front of house, meet and greet, serve interval refreshments, and smilingly farewell audiences when they left. Reg helped erect notice boards, stage props, etc., with poodle Chelo... known to all the dancers.

Spanish Fiesta's last concert was at Mt Eden War Memorial Hall. As often, several guest groups including Tzinakis, La Bourrée, Habibi Dancers, and Folklor Chileno Latino also joined in. As Jane has said, they were good times....

We miss that kind and friendly lady as we miss Jane's unique concerts. Some of us can re-live those in beautiful professional videos that Jane gifted to each group.

Jane meanwhile has devoted her main energies and time over the last several years to being company and support for her mother. That love of course brings more acute distress in her loss. We wish to extend to Jane our deepest sympathy.

The farewell gathering has been private, at the private hospital which has been Mrs Luscombe's home for the last six years.

— *Jane, Margaret Hamill, and Rae*





Andre van de Plas

With great shock we learn that Andre has been felled by a massive stroke in the midst of life - indeed in the midst of preparing his fresh dance repertoire for teaching in Australia and New Zealand this winter.

For our International groups his new annual collections have come as an exciting injection for many years, his dances remaining as favourite staples, of great variety in ethnicity and pleasures. We are deeply indebted to him and to his Australian partner in production, FDA's Kaye Laurendet, for sharing it all with us, and for only a basic contribution to the production costs and sending of the resources. Several of us have gone to Australia for one or more of his workshops.

In a few lucky years we have had Andre himself here to introduce his dances, and to do so with consummate teaching skills. This year we were planning on a whole weekend of him here in Auckland, to wrap his teacher training around the usual Saturday repertoire workshop on Winter WarmUp day.

Lively, friendly, relaxed man, he was fun to host. I have one funny story he probably wouldn't mind my telling you. He was our guest, sleeping in the room mostly used by my small grandchildren. As usual I had made the bed up in advance, before I had thought that the next guest might be an adult. And to save the laundry or to save the child tangling herself up in excess sheets, I had used not two sheets but one folded up in half. You can't see that until you try to get in. I wonder if Andre had ever read English school stories as a boy, and knew about apple-pie-ing beds! He did remark the strange bed-makeup next morning, but he didn't relate it to that practical joke.

We grieve at his premature loss of his life, and we grieve in our loss of him as well as his ongoing gifts of dance to us. I have sent condolences to Kaye, and Fiona has written a tribute to him that FDNZ members will see.

Now what? We shall certainly go ahead with an Andre repertoire workshop. It is just possible we may have a final gift of fresh repertoire, a part of his intended collection for this year which Kaye already has in process. At this point, of course she has simply put that aside, with no thought further. But anyway we can have an Andre Retrospective, the content compiled from requests and the teachers a panel of us. I (as a member of the FDNZ Teacher Training Subcommittee) would also like to see us carry out the intended wrap-around teacher/leader development programme. We already have Danish House bookings made for the whole weekend.

— Rae Storey

A Garden Party

The English love their gardens. They spend a lot of time tending their own gardens, becoming absorbed with allotments or visiting public and privately owned gardens. Villages pride themselves with neat community gardens and the Botanic gardens display a wealth of information on all things botanical. Therefore, it is not surprising that many English Country Dances have been inspired by this popular pastime. The English Country Dance Group decided that the end of year evening would have the theme “A Garden Party”. Therefore the dances chosen, and there are plenty, related to gardens and flowers.

“Zephyrs and Flora” put us in the mood for a jaunt around the garden. In the herbaceous borders of “All in a Garden Green” we found “A Flower for Stephanie” and “Heartsease”, while over the wall in the kitchen garden we located “Bean Flower”. We spotted “Jack by the Hedge” whilst “Gathering Peascods”, and “Sprigs of Laurel” were plentiful. We skipped over to Wales to see the “Flowers of Chirk”, and to Lincolnshire where we visited “Kelsterne Gardens”. To finish we danced a square dance to the heartwarming love song tune “Daisy a Day”. The evening bloomed.

A range of costumes enhanced the evening. It had all the glamour of a Royal garden party with tailed suit coats, elegant hats and fascinators. There were floral dresses and sunhats, casual wear for a relaxed summer evening, and even a butterfly. To top it all off, there was an indulgent spread as you would expect at any good garden party.

— *Beth Harris*



Romanian National Day: Centennial Celebration

Romanian National Day this year celebrated the Centennial of the Great Union, when Transylvania, Bessarabia, and Bukovina joined with the existing provinces.



The Auckland Doina Society's gathering, always a big enthusiastic one, usually outdoors, was this year held at Danish House – crowded both indoors and outdoors. There were stalls, with food aplenty, including a barbecue. There were several dance performances from the Romanians, also from guests like us, and dancing to join in.

Here are representative photos.

– Rae Storey



Auckland Folk Festival, 25 – 28 January 2019

As a regular attendee at the Auckland Folk Festival, I always enjoy the great variety of concerts and workshops, both from overseas and local, that are on offer. Here are a couple of highlights for me this year.

The Saturday Night Dance, always a favourite, was led by “Virelai”, a band based in Denmark. The name “Virelai” comes from Old French and means “the beauty of music, dance and poetry”. Their music includes European music from the Middle Ages as well as Nordic ballads and songs, all played on traditional early instruments such as the Shawm, Hurdy Gurdy, Mandola, Viola, Jew’s Harp, a variety of drums and percussion (Davul and Darbouka), with voice from Mia Guldhammer. On stage, they looked as if they had just stepped out of a Medieval history book. Their music immediately transported us into the Middle Ages when people danced in chains and circles. Our first dance was exactly one of these, the ancient Farandole with band member Mia leading the dance with song. It wasn’t long before the hall was



pulsating, the circle/chain taking up the whole of the large hall winding its way back and forth down the hall and then into the centre and out again. Many of the other

dances were circle and chain dances with easy steps and hypnotic rhythms. The band also introduced a couple of contemporary dances, and another which could have been classed as a party game that led to much hilarity. In two long lines, everyone had a turn to lead their line in a type of pas seul (solo). Inhibitions forgotten, every person in the hall got into the spirit of the occasion, with those watching cheering them on. All credit to Virelai. How refreshing to have such a talented group of Vikings to entertain us here in New Zealand. A memorable evening.

The Jews Brothers Band from Auckland have been a favourite of mine since I saw them in concert at The Bunker, Devonport, many years ago. They performed in the Main Marquee on Sunday 10.00am, a fairly respectable time for the second morning of a Festival. Their Klezmer style of music, both traditional and their own originals, is played with passion, professionalism and vitality, introducing humour along the way. Inspiration for the band comes from member Hershal Herscher's grandfather, who had brought his violin and music from the Ukraine to New York. An entertaining concert that captivated exotic recollections of travel.

Again, the Auckland Folk Festival offered something for everyone, whether they be young, young at heart, a singer, musician or dancer. Well done, Festival Committee.

— *Beth Harris*

More on the Folk Festival

As for several years, Beth and Karen both gave workshops in the daytime dance programme: Playford and Early Dance, with Trish Henley's Rose and Thistle Band playing a very lively accompaniment to both. The photo shows Beth and Fiona negotiating a figure in Jenny Pluck Pears, 17th Century.

Workshops were also given by our Ana Maria, Fiona with her EuroGypsy theme, Andy and the Morrismen, and outside on the grass Rae with the maypole.





A new group was the Filipino Cordilleras, mountain people of the north unaffected by Spanish dance, whose display was (to quote Dot) 'tribal' in style, very simple, but notable for wonderful resonant music on gongs of different sizes and bamboo sticks. They demonstrated the differences in pitch before involving the audience in their dancing.

I am particularly interested in the eclectic music offerings at these Festivals. For this the second year of their appearances here I loved Ethno NZ, the gathering of young instrumentalists and singers from around the globe who work together intensively (on Waiheke) for only ten days and then blow our minds and souls at the Folk Festival. I hope they meet in NZ again next year, and return to the Festival. But I hope the organizers feature them on the main Stage. They deserve the bigger audience – and how 26 or more of them managed with their instruments on the tiny Mill stage was an achievement in itself.



I am sad to have missed both OrigNZ and the haunting singer Tui Mamaki. Tui is French-born, raised in NZ, and in love with Bulgaria, where she is living. You can hear Tui by googling her. OrigNZ is an offshoot from the City of Auckland Pipe Band who play fusion music on a wild array of instruments.

– *Rae Storey*

Crete... a Perry Perspective

Many people ask whether I'm Cretan when they know I regularly travel there, seeing my dark hair and olive complexion, to which my response is always; "If only!" The reason for our (Maurice also being a Creteophile) passion for the island goes back to WW2 and my father as a 22 year old soldier.

During the Battle of Crete in May 1941 he was badly wounded, was found by a Cretan, taken to relative safety, was nursed by a family and later moved up into the mountains to another family where he stayed, on and off as an evader, for two years, before being evacuated by the British Secret Service in May 1943. During these two years he became, to all intents and purposes, a Cretan. Dad didn't ever forget these times, choosing to focus on the kindness and generosity and helpfulness and love these villagers showed him. As happened in other villages, they were in huge danger of being found sheltering an allied soldier, and being murdered, and their village destroyed.

So this was the "history" I grew up with. And it became a longing to visit this place that had filled such a huge part of Dads' heart. 1986 was our (Maurice and I) first trip where we met these families in the mountains, were treated like royalty because Dad was my father. (little did we know that he was already a part of the folk history of Western Crete, that his story was in an English textbook in schools, and that "mantinades"....unaccompanied songs about a time, or a person, or a place in the past....were still sung about him).

This visit set the scene for our future visits. We were part of the families. We were included in weddings and christenings, and Saints Days church services and celebrations, and Maurice helped with the grapes, and we picked wild oregano and "horta"....wild greens....and I helped these subsistence women cook, even though they were not happy with this and Maurice was NEVER permitted to help. Filoxenia, hospitality to visitors, is a huge part of Cretan life. You visit them, you are fed royally, offered a bed for a sleep, given water to wash with, given the shadiest spot for sitting..... It was an introduction to the psyche of the people that we, like Dad, embraced.

Now, 2018, we have booked the airfares yet again to Crete for next year, making it (I think) my 24th trip and Maurice's 21st . 4 years of our lives living among the families, eating their (to die for) food, dancing with them, hearing their amazing music, being part of them. I did a dance workshop in Eastern Crete years ago, and while it was reasonably traditional, nothing about it compared to the exposure we've had in the villages.

Dad died in 1995. Luckily he visited Crete four times after 1943, reacquainting himself with the families he was so much a part of. Since then, we have hosted my two nephews and a great niece there, showing them their grandfather's and great-grandfather's Crete, and giving them a taste of OUR Crete. They all fell in love with everything traditional, so much so that one nephew is returning next year to buy a "do

up” property (he has a British passport giving him entry to Euro countries).

Then we had our good friend and fellow Greek fanatic, Murray Birch, for a week last year, and again a week this year. Of course we could not separate Dad’s Crete from our Crete, so Murray was treated to many “memorable occasions”!

Sharing our Crete to anyone is a part of our passion. There is nothing non-traditional in the dances I dance, the food we eat, the music we hear. It is Crete. I am a purist in all aspects of it, and am proud to be so. There is a quote I particularly like and often cite: “I am not Greek. I am Cretan!”

— *Robin Perry*

Robin teaching Greek dancing



Thanks from the Editor

Hearty thanks to all of you who write our articles, vivid, entertaining, at times moving, and seriously important. You are articulating our experiences, and like all good reviewers heightening our awareness of them. You fill out what we have missed, bond us, stimulate us to go to the next event – or even on an overseas adventure. Yes, we include some of the shared folklife context, not only what we have initiated. The Roundabout is also an archival record, the only collected archival record of that folklife and its changes, for ourselves, for each other, for Auckland and the country.

Thank you too for photographs, which add detail silently, and more of the life.

— *Rae Storey*

At the Club Christmas Party



For When You Are Visiting Other Cities

International folk dance (IFD) and specialist groups throughout the country are listed on the Folk Dance NZ website: www.folkdance.nz

Hamilton:

- DanceFolkus (Fiona Murdoch), International. Thurs.7.30, St Stephen's, 2 Mahoe St. Themed blocks culminating in parties. 07-856-8324, dancefolkus@slingshot.co.nz Google DanceFolkus. Facebook: Dance Folkus. Detailed schedule can be emailed.
- Israeli : Woodturners' Hall, Storey Ave., Te Rapa, Mondays 7.30pm.
Contact: Raymond Matson, 07-855-7829

Tauranga: Athena, Greek. Gaby Johnston, 07 5433-229, gabemail2@gmail.com

Hawkes Bay:

- With Glenys Kelly: Thurs. 10am-12noon. Clive Community Hall.
06-8787-272, thenzkellys@hotmail.com
- With Raechel Bennett: In recess for the present.
Raechel 06 8778367 <s.raechel.bennett@gmail.com>.

Whangarei:

International Folk Dancing: In recess.

Contact: Elizabeth 09 4360819 or 0211197695 <staats60@gmail.com>

Paihia: Group is in recess. Contact is June Jacobson <junejacobson@xtra.co.nz>

Israeli Groups: In 13 New Zealand centres. See www.macholpacific.org.nz

Contribution deadline for May issue of Roundabout: Monday 29th April.

TEXT: Please email if possible (NOT in an Attachment).

Otherwise on white A4 paper, in 14 pt Times New Roman, with side margins at least 1.9cm, and 2.2 cm at top and bottom.

Any other MS needs to be in earlier to give time for transcribing.

PHOTOS: Digital please – at FULL RESOLUTION.

Email them or the link for them; or send them on flashdrive or by WeTransfer.

Hard copy photos only if it's unavoidable.

PHOTO CREDITS: *The English Christmas Party and Virelai at the Folk Festival were captured by Beth Harris. Maggie Quinlan caught Ana Maria at the Club Christmas Party. The image of the Ruritanian Ramblers at lunch was probably by Ruth Ames – Jane Luscombe provided that and the photo of her mother. All other photos were taken by Rae Storey.*

Dancing Every Week:

		TIME	CONTACT
MONDAY	International Folkdance	9.30-12 noon	Rae Storey, 524-9504
and FRIDAY	NB In Rae's loft, 24a Dell Ave, Remuera		raestorey36@gmail.com
MONDAY	Korean dancing for all	10.30-12 noon	Leah Park
	Manutewhau Community Hub		027-962-8128
	74 B Oreil Ave, West Harbour		pokcarrya@naver.com
TUESDAY	Israeli: beginners	7-8:30, venue as Wed.	marta.cullen@gmail.com
Time and	South American folkdance	Ana Maria de Vos, 638-6771	
venue TBA	Instruction and practice	Txt 021-156-8020	
	with Folklor Chileno Latino	anamaria.devossanchez@gmail.com	
WEDNESDAY	Israeli Dancing, Maayan Group	7-9pm	Jenni Gottschalk, 480-4330
	Beth Shalom, 180 Manukau Rd, Epsom		jennygo@complus.co.nz
THURSDAY	City of Auckland Morris Dancers	7:30pm	Andy Smith
	St Lukes Hall, 704 New North Rd, St Lukes		361-2133
	All welcome, dancers & musicians	Details on aucklandmorris.org.nz	
FRIDAY	IFD incl. Chinese & Taiwanese	1.30-4pm	Julia Wei 537-4059
	St John Ambulance Hall,		jna_nz@yahoo.com
	590 Pakuranga Rd, Highland Park		

Dancing Every Month:

Irish Set Dancing

First 2 THURS.	Rocky Nook Bowling Club	8 - 10pm	Fred Carr, 963-8145
	Fowlds Park, Mt Albert		fred.carr@kinect.co.nz

English Traditional Dancing

Second FRIDAY	St John the Baptist Hall	7.30-10pm	Beth Harris, 445-9386
	47 Church St, Northcote		bethharris51@hotmail.com; and Karen

Early Dance

Fourth FRIDAY	St John the Baptist Hall	7.30-10pm	Karen Vernon
	47 Church St, Northcote		karen@plantagenet.co.nz; and Beth

Hillsborough Ceilidh

Last FRIDAY	St Davids in the Field	7.30pm	Anne-Marie Forsyth
	202 Hillsboro Rd, Mt Roskill		learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com

Contra Dancing

Second SAT.	St Lukes Church Hall	7-10.30pm	Lenny Bloksberg
	Cnr St Lukes/New Nth Rd		lenny@bloksberg-it.co.nz 266-2002

SAT. a.m. *International*: Monthly +. Gwen Mann, 575-1985, gwenmann@xtra.co.nz