

Ruritanian International Folkdance Club, Inc.

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

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COVER PHOTOS:

Front: Our 40th Anniversary Celebration. Painting by David Quinlan.

Back: At Club Xmas Party. Maggie, chef Dave Quinlan, and Teresa Bodzassy.

Club A. G. M. and Garden Party

Sunday 22nd March 2.30pm

Rae's place, 24a Dell Avenue, Remuera

Dress for the Oscars (yes, we'll have some)!!

And please bring something for afternoon tea.

President's Musings

Happy New Year to everyone – a new decade, another year to enjoy, and most of all to us Ruritanians the future excitement of dances old and new with new opportunities. Let's live life to the full!

Last year was fantastic. The 40th anniversary was a great success and Dave, my husband, has painted a picture of some of us dancing at that occasion, which is what you see on the front cover of this issue of the Roundabout. Some of you will recognise yourselves!

We celebrated Christmas well this year. Firstly, some of us attended the Auckland Multicultural Christmas function at Mt Eden's Senior Citizens' Club on 29th November. We all dressed in fancy dress; I was an angel (see photo). We had some songs from Singing Nations, we had a shared meal and lots of dancing.

Ruritanians celebrated Christmas at our house in Ararimu on 15th December. (See photo on back cover.) It was a wonderfully relaxed sunny afternoon with a barbecue and lots of delicious salads to accompany the meat, and then lots of completely unhealthy but delicious desserts (not all were full of calories!). Andy Smith began the music on his piano accordion, as we danced on the patio. It was all very enjoyable. Some brave souls even had a dip in the swimming pool.



As if that was not enough, Dave and I went along to the end-of-year party for Early Dance and English Country Dance. The theme was Lords and Ladies. It was well attended with lots of delicious food, and of course lots of dancing and dressing up! Dave and I have been to a few English Country Dance sessions at Northcote, and really enjoy them, thanks to Karen Vernon and Beth Harris.

I shall continue to attend Rae's classes and the Kayak Club International Dancing. Thanks again to Rae, Lindsay and Murray, Bronwen, and of course Gwen.

That was all 2019. We have lots to look forward to this year. In September Tineke and Maurits Van Geel are coming to New Zealand. Maurits is from Amsterdam and will be teaching recreational folk dance, and in particular gypsy dance. He will be in

Christchurch in September, and then up to Hamilton and finally to Auckland. Put the dates in your diary and don't miss such wonderful dancing opportunities.

The Lakeside Multicultural Festival will be on the 8th March and the Ruritanian Club AGM on 22nd March. Can I encourage everyone to come to the AGM - and the Oscars Party with it! And seriously, we would really appreciate some new members on the committee.

So again, have a great year and enjoy it.

Love

Maggie

Club subs are due for 2020.

If you pay before the AGM the price is \$15.

No guarantee the AGM won't increase the prices!

Direct Credit to: ASB 12-3086-0111708-00. Reference: Your name and 'SUB'.

Please everyone return the Membership Form to Rae to confirm or update your contact details.

The Form is printed (with a blank back) at the end of this Roundabout.

Spare Anniversary Roundabouts

If you normally get the e-Roundabout, but would like a paper copy of the Anniversary edition, it's yours for the asking. Non-members can have one for \$4. Contact Rae.

Anniversary Videos

A reminder that video recordings of the historical video and Michele's video of the 40th celebrations are available for loan or purchase.

Items for AGM Agenda?

Please email Rae anything you would suggest for discussion or decision at the AGM. Do this ASAP as we have to send all members a notice of the Agenda, at latest three weeks in advance of the meeting.

One item will be review of the subscription fee in light of the current newsletter costs.

Coming Events

Regular dance sessions all resume in February if not already started.

See Directory on last page for Auckland groups. For other cities see previous page.

Sunday 8th March, 1 to 5pm: **Lakeside Festival**, @ The Pumphouse Amphitheatre. Off Killarney St, Takapuna (park and walk down Killarney Park hill or Manurere Ave). Hosted by Ak Multicultural Soc.. Free. If weather wet? Inside the Pumphouse.

Saturday 14th March, 1 to 3pm: **Try Scottish Country Dancing**. St Marks Church, 95 Remuera Rd (5 min. walk from Newmarket Station). <http://aucklandscd.org.nz>.

Sunday 22nd March, 2.30pm: **Club AGM and Garden Party**. @ Rae's place, 24a Dell Ave, Remuera. Dress for the Oscars - there will be some! Bring afternoon tea.

Sunday 5th April, mid-morning to late afternoon: **Auckland International Cultural Festival**, the big event at Mt Roskill War Memorial Park, May Road. Parking (small fee) on the field of Wesley Intermediate School, entry from Sandringham Road.

From late March approximately: Michael Parmenter expects to re-start his weekly Bal Folk sessions. See his article in this Roundabout.

Saturday 8th August: Winter WarmUp, our annual extravaganza co-hosted with the Danish Dancers. Details to be arranged, but plan your participation.

Saturday 15th August: Machol Pacifica (Israeli dance) one-day workshop (10am to 9.30pm) in Waikanae, Kapiti Coast.

Early October: Maurits & Tineke van Geel visit, teaching mainly gypsy dancing.

Weekend 2nd-4th October: Workshop in Hamilton (for all. Hosted by FDNZ).

In following week, in Auckland: A day workshop – Roma (gypsy) dance as an improvisational style. For dance teachers and other experienced dancers.

Friday 9th October, in Auckland: **Public dance party, gypsy theme**, to be run by Maurits and Tineke. Hosted by us, the Ruritanian Club.



"Lords and Ladies"



End-of-year evening for the English Country Dance Group

The diamonds, pearls and top hats were out for our end-of-year "Lords and Ladies" evening on Friday 13 December. It was a glamorous affair with many dressed in their finery. Our dances of the evening were all named after royalty and aristocrats. The House of Hanover of the 18th century features well in the list of potential

dances. In the height of the Regency period (1811–20) when Country Dancing was a popular pastime for all classes of society, three sons of George III were honoured with dances named after them, so in the programme we included *The Regent's Favourite*, *Prince William of Glo'ster's Waltz* and *The Duke of Kent's Waltz*. We danced *The Lord Phoppington* (1701) who was a rather vain and egotistical character in the comedy 'The Relapse' by Sir John Vanbrugh (1696). We did not forget our Scottish cousins either, for example, *Lord Dalkeith's Reel*.

We also included *Lord of Caernarvon's Jig*, this family owning Highclere Castle which for TV watchers is 'Downton Abbey', and *Sir Roger de Coverley*, Sir Roger being a fictional character portrayed as an author of mischievous published papers and



letters written by a typical landed gentry gentleman. Our final dance was *My Lord Byron's Maggot**, always a favourite. Lord Byron (1788–1824), the romantic English poet, was known for his amorous lifestyle. As a boy, Byron's character is described as a "mixture of affectionate sweetness and playfulness". This flirtatious dance personifies his reputation. Perhaps we all have some of George Byron in us!

It's always good to be reminded what Kellom Tomlinson in *The Art of Dancing* (1735) said of country dance, that it has "become as it were the Darling or favourite Diversion of all Ranks of People from the Court to the Cottage in their different Manners of Dancing." In 1811, another observation of Country Dancing was made: "Their character is that of gay simplicity. The steps should be few and easy, and the corresponding motions of the arms and body unaffected, modest and graceful. In other words, such dancing should be relaxed and enjoyable. Of course, many of the dance patterns are nevertheless satisfyingly complex." Our dances this evening were of the fairly simple variety.

After a generous supper and ten dances it was time to wind up for 2019. We look forward to another year's dancing, starting on Friday 13 February for English Dance, and Friday 28 February for Early Dance in St John's Church Hall, 47 Church Street, Northcote, beginning at 7.30pm.

* Maggot: The archaic word for an 'odd fancy' or 'whim'.

— *Beth Harris*



Auckland Folk Festival

Anniversary weekend saw yet another great folk festival at Kumeu Showgrounds – the 47th such occasion.

There were lots of dance workshops. I went to the Playford taught by Beth Harris, the Irish set dancing (not too hard for beginners) and Euro Gypsy taught by Fiona.



It was too hot for me to go to the Saturday evening Ceilidh. According to those who did go it was very youthful and energetic but great musicians and dance leaders.

As usual the musical concerts were fabulous – one could spend all day in the large marquee listening to modern folk music.

I'm looking forward to next year's event already.

– Pam Logan

At Beth's workshop:

Top: Pam Logan approaching Pat Henley

Side: Jane Luiten swinging with Pat, Glenys Gray in back





Dance Folkus and Hamilton's World Voices co-presented the Balkan Beats concert and workshop. Here are some of the singers with the choir's founder, Christoph Maubach (on left in photo).



Outside entertainment included Singing Nations (see below) and the Morris Dancers. Maypole dancing (see right) was on offer, with Rae and an accordionist.





EthnoNZ were amazing. Young musicians from traditions as diverse as Finland, India, and the Solomon Islands had spent a week together on Waiheke teaching each other their own songs, styles, and techniques, and producing a concert of great

panache and dazzling variety. The opening tutti number, a swinging Scandi reinlender tune, had me longing to dance. Some items had been developed into special partnerships, including the Indian's passionate singing, which was to die for.

— *Rae*



BALFOLK AUCKLAND



Balfolk Auckland with Michael Parmenter

After over four decades of work in the field of contemporary dance, it may come as surprise that I have started to explore the world of popular folk and traditional dance forms. Contemporary dance seems premised on the new and the primacy of individual creativity rather than tradition and shared experience. Yet upon reflection I recognise that much of my choreography been concerned with questions of social structure and possible ways of structuring our shared lives: many of my choreographic creations over the years have contained stage versions of popular social dances – The Dark Forest, The Race, Jerusalem, Insolent River include jigs, contra-dances, circle dances and partner dances like tango and waltz. I have also discovered that folk traditions can leave space for individual variation and creativity. The worlds of contemporary dance and folk/traditional forms are not so disparate as I had originally imagined.

My forays into dance as social practice, however, had to wait till a little over a decade ago when I was searching for a dance form that would align more closely with my advancing years. I settled on tango and have been practicing this dance assiduously here in New Zealand, and in Paris where I have been undertaking academic research.

As a demanding dance form tango is incredibly addictive, but it is not immediately or always fulfilling: more often than not the primary sensation after an evening of dancing is disappointment with my own dance habits; and being a partner form, the social element of dance is restricted primarily to the dyad of the dancing pair. I have therefore had the recurring sense that I was exploring only a limited dimension of social dance.

My venture into more communal forms of dance came not from my experience of tango, but from my on-going teaching of contemporary dance. I have always been on the lookout for great dance music to get my students moving, and I do have a reputation for using great music for my classes. Very early on during my ventures to Paris I started to explore various French music traditions and became very enthusiastic about music from the Occitan region of southern France. The propulsive rhythms and the complex polyphony of the voices gave an immediate sense of a celebratory social

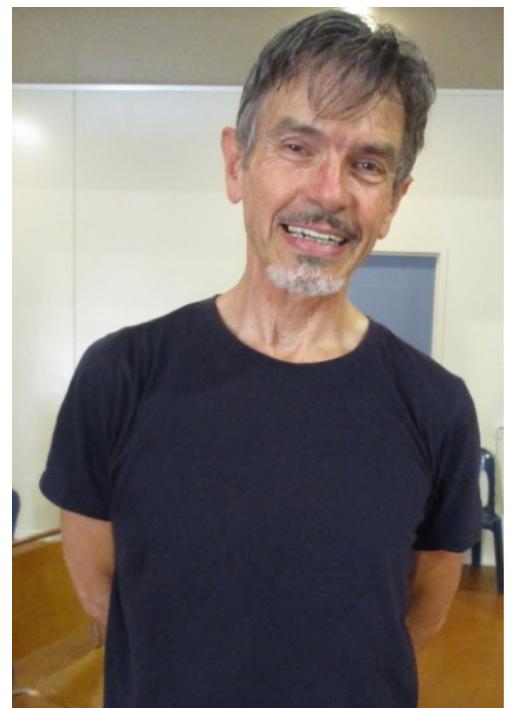
identity and a dynamic dance culture. One group of musicians, Brotto Lopez, who create music specifically for folk bals, always get my students leaping about with wild abandon to a bouncy bourrée, and at other times lilting gently to a subtle mazurka rhythm. Eventually I started to seek out the dance forms that belonged to this music. I found in Paris a vibrant dance culture that went by the name of Balfolk. I found that one could participate in classes and folk bals on almost any evening within the city.

Balfolk is the name of a Europe-wide movement that began in the post-May-68 democratic call for community-oriented events. Traditional folk dances of Europe were used as a base, but complex choreographies were simplified with the participatory dimension emphasised above the performative aspect usually associated with traditional folk-dance groups. In accordance with the democratic aspect of Balfolk, the improvisational dimension of social dance is emphasised, though this is always explored within the appropriate form and structure of each dance. Dance events, or Folk Bals, are invariably accompanied by live music and participants wear casual clothes rather than traditional costumes, with dances drawn from various European folk traditions. These include partner dances, (scottish, mazurka, waltz, and polka), circle dances (rondes and branles), line (bourrée, avant-deux) and chain dances (andro, hanter dro), as well as mixers, dances designed to facilitate the constant change of partners, (circle circassian, chapelloise). Regional dances are often included depending on the location of each dance event. Bals are often preceded by introductory classes during which dances featured in the Bal are taught.

Once introduced to the world of Balfolk, I started to become fascinated by the various traditions of regional French dance and where possible I hunted out workshops and instruction in the dances of Brittany, the Basque region and of course the Occitan region which had first enticed me into this world of dance. While the regional forms were often more nuanced and intricate than their comparable Balfolk forms, I feel that Balfolk has captured the essential spontaneity and vitality that surely characterises these dances in their original social setting, as opposed to the strictly choreographed and rehearsed versions one often finds in regional competitions or performing groups.

Last year, after my Parisian studies were complete, I decided that I wanted to find people with whom I could dance these dances here in Auckland and was ready to attempt to inaugurate a local Balfolk group. I started with a weekly class and by the end of the year we had learned in excess of 20 different dances and had about 30 participants at our first Xmas Mini-Bal. This event, which was full of immense fun and cheerful social engagement, certainly responded to the lack that I felt in the tango and swing events that I had previously experienced. I am planning to continue the Balfolk Auckland classes this year but I am waiting for a contemporary dance commitment I have in Wellington to finish before seeking a venue in Auckland for 2020. I hope to start late March.

— *Michael Parmenter*



Wheatbags on Offer

Not all of you will have seen the stylish wheatbags Carolyn made and gave to the Club as a fundraiser towards the Anniversary expenses. We still have a few on hand: \$6 for small ones, \$10 for the larger. They would make very nice gifts. If you would like to see and perhaps purchase, contact Maggie or Rae. All their contact information is on the Committee list – see p.1.

Prints of David's Painting

Maggie says that prints of David's painting (see cover of this Roundabout) might be made available if there were a demand for them. Size could be postcard or bigger. Or it could perhaps be produced as a greeting card with a blank inside. Price is unknown until numbers are known and enquiries are made. If you are interested, please contact Maggie, preferably by email: <maggiquin@xtra.co.nz>. Tell her the option(s) you would want, and how many copies.

A Roger Hall Play Starring Bronwen

“When life in a retirement village is anything but dull”.

Bronwen plays a snob married to a retired professor of modern American literature.

Dolphin Theatre, Spring St, Onehunga.

Season runs 21st February to 7th March.

Book online: www.dolphintheatre.org.nz/bookings

Gypsy Dancing with the van Geels

Diary the weekend 2nd-4th October, and the following Friday, 9th, for Roma revelry.

The weekend workshop will be mainly on the gypsies' dancing, along their route from Rajasthan in India and into the many countries of Europe.

FDNZ is hosting the weekend workshop in Hamilton, and we the Ruritanian Club are hosting a gypsy party on that Friday night – 9th.

Also planned is a daytime workshop in Roma dance improvisation, earlier that week, designed for teachers of dance and advanced dancers.

Maurits van Geel is probably the world's foremost collector and teacher of Roma dance both for performance and for sharing with non-Roma folkdance enthusiasts.

Keep an eye on Facebook FDNZ or <http://folkdance.org.nz> for developments.

We should have full details in time to tell you in our May Roundabout.

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 10 New Zealand centres. See www.macholpacific.org.nz

Contribution deadline for May issue of Roundabout: Thursday 30th 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.

HEARTY THANKS!

Thanks to our lively writers: Maggie, Beth Harris, Pam Logan, Michael Parmenter.

Thanks for photos: David Quinlan (painting and angel); Beth (Singing Nations);

Beth, Trish Henley and anon. (English Party); anon. (van Geels), Rae (the others).

Special thanks to Dave for his painting on the front cover.

Dancing Every Week:

		TIME	CONTACT
MONDAY and FRIDAY	International Folkdance NB In Rae's loft, 24a Dell Ave, Remuera	9.30-12 noon	Rae Storey, 524-9504 raestorey36@gmail.com
TUESDAY	Israeli: beginners	7-8:30, venue as Wed.	marta.cullen@gmail.com
	Time and venue TBA	South American folkdance Instruction and practice with Folklore Chileno Latino	Ana Maria de Vos, 638-6771 Txt 021-156-8020 anamaria.devossanchez@gmail.com
WEDNESDAY	Israeli Dancing, Maayan Group Beth Shalom, 180 Manukau Rd, Epsom	7-9pm	Jenni Gottschalk, 480-4330 jennygo@complus.co.nz
THURSDAY	City of Auckland Morris Dancers St Lukes Hall, 704 New North Rd, St Lukes All welcome, dancers & musicians	7:30pm	Andy Smith 361-2133 Details on aucklandmorris.org.nz
THURSDAY	Korean dancing for all St John Education Centre 247 Edmonton Rd, Te Atatu South	10.30-12 noon	Leah Park 027-962-8128 pokcarrya@naver.com
FRIDAY	IFD incl. Chinese & Taiwanese St John Ambulance Hall, 590 Pakuranga Rd Highland Park.	1.30-4pm	Cherie Zeng 537-1568 027-5774-168 joy.international.dance.group@gmail.com

Dancing Every Month:

Irish Set Dancing

1st&3rd **THURS.** Rocky Nook Bowling Club 8 - 10pm Fred Carr, 963-8145
Fowlds Park, Mt Albert 45froggy@gmail.com

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

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2020

- *RURITANIAN SUBS for 2020 are due.*
- *This year the Earlybird rate of \$15 is only until the AGM on 22nd March!*
- **Please EVERYONE fill in all details**, and return this form (email it if you wish), as we check and update your records.
- Also, if you have no email, can you give us the email address of a friend who has and will pass on email messages?

Name:

Postal address (**and** street address if different):

.....
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Phone: Mobile phone:

Email:

If you have not yet told us whether in future you want your Roundabout in hard copy or e-copy or both, please do so here:

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2020 SUBSCRIPTION: (**Please circle as applicable**)

Enclosed in cheque / Direct credited.

Earlybird (till 22nd March) \$15. Full sub (after 22nd March) To be advised

FOR DIRECT CREDITING:

ASB 12-3086-0111708-00, Ruritanian Folk Dance Club.

- **Reference your name, and “Sub”.**
- **Also kindly email Rae a remittance advice.** <raestorey36@gmail.com>

FOR POSTING:

Either to *Treasurer and Membership: Dot Otto, 27a Kelvin Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050.*

Or to *Rae Storey, 24a Dell Ave, Remuera, Ak 1050, 524-9504.*