

# *Ruritanian International Folkdance Club, Inc.*

**Website:** [www.folkdance.nz](http://www.folkdance.nz) Our specific page: [ruritaniens.folkdance.nz](http://ruritaniens.folkdance.nz)

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## *Club AGM*

*Sunday 14th March, 2.30pm*

*@ Rae's (see address above)*

*Dress-up theme The America's Cup (yachties or...?)*

*Please bring a plate of afternoon tea*

### **COVER PHOTOS**

*FRONT: At the Club Christmas party. Our hosts, Maggie and David. Andy and melodeon. A few of us dancing in the wind.*

*BACK: At the Folk Festival Saturday night ceilidh.*

# *President's Musings*

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday time and I wish all Ruritanians a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

Our dancing was very disrupted during last year, but we didn't have the problems that other countries are having. My son and his wife are both GPs in the UK and they say that going to work is like going to a war zone.

The Christmas party at our place was a great success and enjoyed by all who came. We had a very tasty barbeque with plenty of salads and desserts brought by the guests. The weather was kind and we were able to enjoy singing and dancing accompanied by Andy Smith on his melodeon. We resurrected the old custom of secret Santa, which was fun and I received a lovely paper kite! Bronwen thought she was bringing toys for the Salvation Army for needy children, so we've kept that for next year!

I haven't done much dancing since I last wrote, but had a very enjoyable time at Tascas on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, when we not only celebrated Murray Birch's birthday (Won't tell you how many!), but we tasted delicious food and danced Greek dance in a space ear-marked at the back of the restaurant for us.

Our Saturday group are searching to find a new venue – trying a place in Onehunga, the first time on 6<sup>th</sup> March. For more information contact Gwen Mann. I encourage lovers of dance to join us. Rae's groups begin on 15<sup>th</sup> February. All other groups I am sure will be informed about their start-date. I'm looking forward to dancing again.

Your committee are considering a kids' party for grandchildren and children of friends, possibly in June. Watch for details. It is another way of spreading the news of dance.

The AGM will be at Rae's house on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Dress-up theme: The America's Cup!

I am much appreciative of the many friends I have made through our club, able to share our joys and our sadness. Two days ago something really tragic happened and I would like to share it with you. As you know, we keep alpacas and I am very fond of each one of them. Two stray dogs came into our paddock and chased our herd around attacking them. One of the animals was critically injured and had to be put down. The other one had six large lacerations which have been sutured and we just hope that they do not get infected. She is on antibiotics and pain relief. We have found the owners, who are very distressed. Animal welfare is managing the situation. It is quite likely that the dogs will be put down. I don't know if I really want this. I am finding it very hard to cope with the brutality of it.

I leave you on a happier note. We have two new crias, Minuetto and Melody, and they were not touched by the dogs.

Happy dancing!

Love

— *Maggie*



# The Thrum of the Tide



Te Ana Ru, above, is “the ballroom cave” where Saturday night dances are known to have been held until the 1920s, on a kauri floor installed by local timber mill workers and said to still be there buried deep under the sand. The fugitive history of it will come alive in this year’s Arts Festival: *The Thrum of the Tide* exhibition and soundscape, with performance on Saturday 13th March in Te Uru Gallery (Lopdell House) at 4.30pm (details on pp.4 and 5). And at 6.30pm, in the nearby Titirangi War Memorial Hall, a new five-piece band will strike up for the New Moon Folk Ball, led by Michael Parmenter. Book for both events via the Arts Festival website ([aaf.co.nz](http://aaf.co.nz)) or Ticketmaster.

## Camp Ohope

Beside another beach (voted NZ’s best beach in the Herald recently!) FDNZ will host a Queens Birthday weekend for all comers. If we are lucky we may see the magical sparkle of phosphorescence in wet sand as we step on it!



**CAMP OHOPE**  
**FOLK DANCE GATHERING**  
**QUEEN'S B'DAY, 4-6 JUNE 2021**

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A LIVE-IN WEEKEND OF FOLKDANCE GOODNESS FOR ALL- NO EXPERIENCE OR PARTNER REQUIRED



WORKSHOPS \* DANCE \* MUSICIANS

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NAU MAI HAERE MAI

for details email Jane at [president@folkdance.nz](mailto:president@folkdance.nz)  
or visit [www.folkdance.nz](http://www.folkdance.nz)



# Coming Events

**Every Wednesday evening until 24th March, 6 to 8pm. Dancing with Ana Maria de Vos on Potters Park, corner of Dominion Rd and Balmoral Rd. Free. If weather makes it doubtful, phone Ana Maria for decision: 638-6771, 021-156-8020.**

**February, 2021: Most groups resume sessions in February.** Check with organizer (see page 14 of this Roundabout) or go to the website or Facebook for the group.



**Saturday 13th March: NEW MOON FOLK BALL**, as part of the Auckland Arts Festival. Host Michael Parmenter, with a live band. Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 6.30 to 9pm. Book your ticket (via [aaf.co.nz](http://aaf.co.nz) or ticketmaster): demand is strong. \$25.

**Also beforehand: The Thrum of the Tide:** 4.30pm in Te Uru Gallery (418 Titirangi Rd). Celebrating Te Ana Ru, the 'ballroom cave' on Whatipu Sands. Victorian social dances performed by Michael P. and Claire O'Neil, storytelling by Bob Harvey. \$15.

**Sunday 14th March: CLUB AGM:** 2.30pm at Rae's place (see Committee list, p.1) Dress-up theme The America's Cup – Yachties or ...??. Bring some afternoon tea.

**Sunday 21st March: Lakeside Festival**, hosted by Multicultural Society. Pumphouse Amphitheatre, below Killarney St, Takapuna. 1 to 5pm. Free.

**Sunday 28th March: Auckland International Cultural Festival.** Mt Roskill War Memorial Park, 10am to 5pm. Free.

**Queen's Birthday Weekend (5-7 June): FDNZ camp** (all welcome).

**Saturday 14th August: Winter WarmUp!**

And a daytime workshop.

The invitation to apply as presenters in WWUp will be sent to group leaders in March.

**Life with Dance Folkus, mainly in Hamilton** (for contact and more info, see p.13):

- Thursdays 11 Feb - 18 March Course 1, with Dance Party on Thursday 25th March
- Sun. 28 February - Music and Dance of Ukestan - Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival
- Sunday 14 March - Medieval Fayre - Friends of Hamilton Gardens
- Thursday 15 April - Course 2 starts
- Fri. 23 April - Victorian Masquerade Ball (& dinner)- Thames Steam Punk Festival
- Saturday 1 May - Rollicking Ribbons - Maypoling Hamilton with Dance Folkus

## *NB: Our Club AGM*

Yes, please do come. We want you, and we need you as a thinking head, a voice, a number for the quorum, a gossip, and a fellow dancer on the lawn.

Agenda so far: The usual required business, including Elections. Plus: please offer ideas for action or issues you'd like to raise, and offer yourself for the committee and any function - eg publicity, a Facebook presence, editing the Roundabout.

## *Notes on Coming Events*

**Potters Park dancing:** Ruth Jack has been going, taking a 6-year-old granddaughter, who loved the dancing - and the twirling of a full skirt. The lawn is close to a free wonderful splashpad for wacky waterplay. Both Maccas and Kentucky Fried are over the road, and the Council hall too, with its carpark behind on the little street alongside.

**The Auckland Arts Festival and our creatives** seem to have been inspired by being restricted to NZ-based talent and local input this year. Even the presentation of it all on the website [aaf.co.nz](http://aaf.co.nz) is fresh, exciting, and 'ours'. We have heard of that ballroom cave on Whatipu Sands years ago, but nobody has ever made anything of it beyond a rumour. Now look! **See the exhibition, listen to the soundscape that has been composed around it, and go to the presentation of dance and storytelling that will precede Michael Parmenter's New Moon Folk Ball on 13th March. BUT DO BOOK – for both!** The Ball had to be moved from the rooftop of Lopdell House to the big community hall (down the nearby road) because the immediate demand for tickets was so high. Another festival event of special interest for us is the dance production *Strasbourg 1518*, which had to be abandoned in last year's Wellington Festival thanks to a Covid scare. See Michael Parmenter in that.

**The Lakeside Festival:** This annual event is an enchanting one, with a special ambience, due partly to the setting, more to the amphitheatre's viewing angle and exciting intimacy with the performers.

**Auckland International Cultural Festival:** This year the organizers are trying to extend it into a citywide celebration over two weeks, sponsoring others to hold events in their locality. It should be possible to find information on the Festival website soon. Meantime the big established one-day event is in its usual Park venue – parking on the adjoining Wesley Intermediate School field (for c.\$3) – entry from Sandringham Rd.

## *Club Christmas Gathering*

Hearty thanks to our Presidential couple, Maggie and David, for again hosting a convivial and relaxed Christmas party for about twenty of us. Maggie tells the story of it in her President's Musings, and the cover photos illustrate.

# Thomas Hardy Evening with the English group

It was not hard to make a programme for our end-of-year evening of dance honouring Thomas Hardy, the English novelist and poet. The Hardy family music manuscripts which include folk tunes and country dances, are preserved in the Dorset County Museum, Dorchester. Also, the novels and poems that Hardy wrote are a rich resource of dances, and more especially, contain delightful details of the people who danced. As a boy and young man, he played the fiddle with his father and uncle at village dances in Dorset, which cemented his love of local folk music and country dances. It would take someone well versed in village life to write such perceptive descriptions. Although Hardy wrote from around 1871, many of his tales, set in his native Dorset where he lived for most of his life, are about early 19<sup>th</sup> century living, giving some idea of what the dances were in the first half of the century.

This amusing paragraph is from *Under the Greenwood Tree*, (1872), and is one of many included in this novel. It takes place in a village home just after the clocks had struck 12 midnight, Christmas night.

“The ear-rings of the ladies now flung themselves wildly about turning violent summersaults, banging this way and that, and then swinging quietly against the ears sustaining them. Mrs Crumplet – a heavy woman, who, for some reason which nobody ever thought worth inquiry, danced in a clean apron – moved so smoothly through the figure that her feet were never seen; conveying to imaginative minds the idea that she rolled on castors.”

Some of our dances for the evening included *Enrico*, which is said to be Hardy's favourite tune, *Speed the Plough*, *The Dashing White Sergeant* (different to the well known Scottish dance), *Devil's Dream*, *Devil Among the Tailors*, *Dorset Ring Dance*, *Dribble of Brandy*, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Quadrille of *Hart's Lancers* which Hardy danced at Almacks in London where he lived from time to time.



We were Hardy souls as we danced through the evening and listened to excerpts from Hardy's writings, with a generous supper to sustain us. (See us all on the next page)

— Beth Harris







## *The Morris Dancers in Summer... and Roger Giles*

If there was a single person who has earned the epithet of Mr. Folk, in New Zealand, it would surely have been Roger Giles. He was the public face and tireless orchestrator of the Devonport Folk Music Club and the Auckland Folk Festival (AFF). He was a gifted raconteur, an indispensable AFF MC, and champion of all things folk. His passing, during 2020, was a keen loss to the New Zealand folk music and dance community.



In accordance with his wishes, a wake (rather than a funeral) was held in his honour, at the Devonport Yacht Club. Artists gathered to pay their respects and perform a variety of traditional folk, jazz and blues numbers. The City of Auckland Morris Dancers (CAMD) were also on hand to pay homage to their 'patron' (*see photo*). For it was Roger's all-inclusive nature that saw them perform on many occasions, at his request.

During the 2018 New Zealand Morris Dancing Tour, held in Auckland, Roger and Hillary Giles opened up the Devonport Folk Club, to refresh weary dancers, whilst also providing another venue for them to perform in. Sides from around the world joined us on that tour and were equally struck by the uniqueness of 'The Bunker' as a folk club venue, as by such generosity of spirit.

This year's Morris dancing tour very nearly didn't take place. It had, in fact, been cancelled, due to the uncertainties caused by covid-19. However, Glenda Griggs, a semi-retired Morris Dancer now residing in Taupo, wasn't going to let a global pandemic dictate terms. She hastily googled campsites within her environs and found a school camp fifteen minutes from National Park in the Tongariro region.

The next order of business was to find dance spots in surrounding areas. Thus, we entertained ourselves and our audiences at The Grand Chateau, The Taupo Market, Schnapp's Bar in National Park, The Lake House at Turangi, and many more; the dancing being beautifully sandwiched, as usual, by conviviality and the reacquaintance of very dear friends.

For over forty years it has been the same. We choose a different part of the country to explore, select dancers with local knowledge to organize it, and go 'on tour'. We live communally (mostly in schools or scout camps) for the better part of a week and dance our beloved Morris dances during the day and eat drink and are merry in the evenings. There are usually ceilidhs, skits, workshops, and that quirky sense of fun that can only come from those who enjoy each-others' company. This is just what we do, and within the Morris Dancing fraternity we are world famous for it. New Zealand Morris is renowned for being welcoming and inclusive, which is why dancers from USA, Australia and England return again and again.



We live in uncertain times, but that is all the more reason to embrace the joys of life.

And what could be more life-affirming than a set of dancers coming together in good fellowship, infused with rhythm, synergizing their minds, bodies and spirits, breathing life into time honoured dances so that they pulsate anew?



Long may this joyous pastime continue. With a little help from our friends, it just might.

— *Errol Dawson*

## *Auckland Folk Festival*

This year's Auckland Folk Festival at Kumeu was another delightful relaxed occasion. Richard and I arrived just after 10am on the Saturday in time to do the Balfolk partner dance workshop with Michael Parmenter. The Kumeu Room next to the Main Hall was full, which made for a cosy practice of Schottishes, Waltzes and Mazurkas. If you're used to other International Folk Dancing these steps are often tricky to pick up. I'm sure I'll get them one day if I practise enough. The music for the workshop was lively and live – Craig Denham & Friends. It's always great to have live musicians. They can slow down or speed up, stop or start at the will of the instructor.

Later in the day I went to Playford Dancing with Beth Harris and English Early Dance with Karen Vernon. Both of these workshops also had live music with the Rose and Thistle Band. I must be fitter than I think as I wasn't too worn out by all this dancing on one day. Also the weather was beautiful but not too humid. Richard went to the Saturday Night Ceilidh – a boisterous affair and the participants were much younger.

On Sunday we went to Michael Parmenter's second workshop of Balfolk dances. And later Fiona Murdoch's EuroGypsy workshop. Both had lovely dances to learn and participate in.

This year the musicians and bands for the concerts were all NZ based.

We always thoroughly enjoy the dancing and music at the folk festival. It's a relaxing weekend in the sun and with plenty of time to talk to friends.

— Pam Logan

The Saturday night Ceilidh at the Auckland Folk Festival is always a highlight for us dancers. Non-stop dancing for three hours in the large hall can be an exhilarating experience, if somewhat exhausting. This year the dancing was led by a young woman who mostly had control of the large exuberant crowd, 200 plus, with the music of 'OrigNZ'. This fusion band is an Auckland-based group of musicians, featuring a wild array of instruments from bagpipes, bass and percussion to trumpets. It was pleasing to see so many younger people enjoying the pulsating music and dancing with great energy, while the more mature folk looked on with cheerful envy. (See Beth's photo on back cover.)

— Beth Harris

On both days, I missed dance workshops thanks to clashes with my own scheduled maypoling romps outside. I also got captured by the Cuban Grooves workshop on my way to Michael Parmenter's partner-dance session, missed that, and then failed to take any photos for you at his other session because I was so caught up in the dancing myself. Excuses, excuses. Anyway, Beth and Karen took several merry shots, of which you see two. And I did get belatedly remember to get one of the Cuban, Asbert Ramos (Vivio) - whom I hope we shall see more of, at the Winter WarmUp, for instance. Some too of Alex Petropavlovskiy and his two sons showing and teaching Cossack sword dancing. You see the younger boy teaching Ana Maria the flexible grip (next page. She is using a whip to learn on. Her husband Clive watched on.) And you see almost a photo essay of Ethno Aotearoa, who were perhaps the highlight of the Festival for me. This gathering of young musicians from random global cultures, in a single week together (in a camp on Waiheke) learn from each other an item from their culture, and meld it into a classy expressive presentation for them all, with showcase parts too. Exciting is an understatement. Not a damp squib was thrown, and they had so many wonderful items that a second concert was scheduled to present the rest.



— Rae Storey





*Above: Cossack sword with the Petropavlovskiys.*

*Left: Trish Henley's Rose and Thistle band, with Karen and Beth, whose workshops they played for.*

*Below: At Fiona's EuroGypsy workshop (Karen's photo)*

*Overpage: EthnoAotearoa*









# *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](http://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](mailto:dancefolkus@slingshot.co.nz) Google DanceFolkus. Facebook: Dance Folkus. Detailed schedule can be emailed.
- Israeli : In recess at present.

**Tauranga:** Athena (Greek). Gaby Johnston, 07 5433-229, [gabemail2@gmail.com](mailto:gabemail2@gmail.com)

**Hawkes Bay:** IFD with Elaine Prakash and Cleone Cawood: Thurs. 10am-12noon. Clive Community Hall. Contact is Kay Arnold, 027-289-2533

**Gisborne:** With Jane Luiten: Monthly Saturday nights. Occasional six-week courses. Contact: Jane: [j.luiten@xtra.co.nz](mailto:j.luiten@xtra.co.nz). Facebook: Good Folk: Dances from Planet Earth.

**Whangarei:** IFD is in recess. Contact: Elizabeth 0211197695 <[staats60@gmail.com](mailto:staats60@gmail.com)>

**Paihia:** IFD is in recess. Contact is June Jacobson <[junejacobson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:junejacobson@xtra.co.nz)>

**Israeli Groups:** In 10 New Zealand centres. See [www.macholpacific.org.nz](http://www.macholpacific.org.nz)

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## **Contribution deadline for May issue of Roundabout: Sat. 1st May**

TEXT: Please email if possible (NOT in a pdf file).

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.

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## **HEARTY THANKS!**

*Thanks to our lively writers: Maggie Quinlan, Beth Harris, Errol Dawson, Pam Logan*

*For photos: Beth Harris (English Xmas Party, Folk Festival Ceilidh), Karen Vernon (Folk Festival Eurodance), Errol Dawson (Morris team images), Ruth Jack (dancers at Xmas party, Potters Park dancing), Rae Storey (all the other photos).*

## *Dancing Every Week:*

		<b>TIME</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	International Folkdance	9.30-12 noon	Rae Storey, 524-9504
and <b>FRIDAY</b>	In Rae's loft, 24a Dell Ave, Remuera		raestorey36@gmail.com
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Bal Folk (group & partner)	7-8.30	Michael Parmenter, 0210505882
	UNITEC Dance Studio 202		balfolkauckland@gmail.com
	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 Folklore Chileno Latino		anamaria.devossanchez@gmail.com
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Israeli Dancing, Maayan Group	7-9pm	Jenni Gottschalk, 480-4330
	Beth Shalom, 180 Manukau Rd, Epsom		jennygo@complus.co.nz
<b>THURSDAY</b>	City of Auckland Morris Dancers	7:30pm	Andy Smith
	Mt Albert Presbyt. Church, 14 Mt Albert Rd		361-2133, 021474740
	All welcome, dancers & musicians		Details on aucklandmorris.org.nz
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Korean dancing for all	10.30-12 noon	Leah Park
	St John Education Centre		027-962-8128
	247 Edmonton Rd, Te Atatu South		pokcarrya@naver.com
<b>FRIDAY</b>	IFD incl. Chinese & Taiwanese	1.30-4pm	Cherie Zeng 537-1568
	St John Ambulance Hall, 590 Pakuranga Rd		027-5774-168
	Highland Park.		joy.international.dance.group@gmail.com

## *Dancing Every Month:*

### *Irish Set Dancing*

1st & 3rd Thurs. Auck. Irish Society, Rocky Nook 8-10pm Sue & John Sheehan  
susanrubysheehan@hotmail.com 445-9105, 0274-888733

### *English Traditional Dancing*

Second **FRIDAY** St John the Baptist Hall 7.30-10pm Beth Harris, 445-9386  
47 Church St, Northcote bethjh07@gmail.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

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



# MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2021

- *RURITANIAN SUBS for 2021 are due.*
- *The Earlybird rate of \$15 expires on 31st March (full rate thereafter: \$18)!*
- **Please EVERYONE fill in ALL details**, and return this form (eg, scan it into an email). We check and update your records every year.
- Also, if you have no email, can you give us the email address of a friend who has email and will pass on emailed messages to you?

Name: .....

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

.....  
.....

Phone: ..... Mobile phone: .....

Email: .....

Do you want your Roundabouts in hard copy or e-copy or both? .....

2021 SUBSCRIPTION: (**Please circle as applicable**)

Enclosed in cheque / Direct credited.

Earlybird (till 31st March) \$15. Full sub (after 31st March) \$18

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, Auckland 1050, 524-9504.*

*Thank you!*