

Ruritanian International Folkdance Club, Inc.

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

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Welcome to new members
Debbie Penk and
Michael Parmenter

COVER PHOTOS

FRONT: America's Cup crew and fans at our AGM

BACK: At the New Moon Folk Ball

ON THIS PAGE: At Auckland's CultureFest



President's Musings

I have danced very little during the last few weeks, having had a spell in hospital followed by a period of convalescence and more recently a little looking after of grandchildren in the school holidays.

Last Saturday I returned to our Saturday International Group, presently dancing at Fergusson House in Onehunga. Gwen introduced a circle dance, the Bells of Norwich, by which I was strangely moved. Although living in New Zealand, I remembered my roots in the English tradition, our customs and beliefs being handed down from generation to generation. The lyrics associated with this were written after a hermit and mystic, Julian of Norwich, in the 14th century spoke to God in a vision, asking why evil was necessary in the world. The answer she got was that it was indeed necessary in the world, but that "All will be well; all manner of things shall be well." That then became her message, and she apparently brought peace to the troubles of her area at one time by repeating her message. The chorus of the lyrics goes like this:

All shall be well, I'm telling you, let the winter come and go.
All shall be well again, I know.

Many of our dances have stories behind them, giving us the ideas, customs and art of the different cultures. Dance keeps tradition alive. Many of you know one of my favourite dances is from Israel, La'uf. I like the words that go with the dance:

I don't want to hear any more problems.
I want to live tonight, to enjoy.
It just suits me to escape with you.
Come, come dance with me.
Together we'll fly.

Our emotions and feelings can be expressed in dance, as I did when I danced in church to Isra'elit, reaching the altar at the appropriate time!

Sadly many children no longer do international dance at school. Traditions can be lost, and ways of expressing ourselves can be limited.

Our Ruritanian Committee decided that we should hold a dance party for families to demonstrate to our children the joy, togetherness and many other benefits of dance. The date is the 19th June, the time 2-4.30pm. and it will be held at a venue familiar to many of us, the St Pauls Church Hall, near the top of St Vincent Avenue, Remuera. Bring your children, your grandchildren and friends' children and bring yourselves to have a time of fun.

With my love

- *Maggie*

Coming Events!

Friday 28th May, 7:00 to 9:30pm. Sevillanas Fiesta: “Bring your dancing shoes for an amazing experience.” 487 Dominion Rd (next to Mt Eden War Memorial Hall). Entry by donation to support the Pan Pacific & S.E.Asia Women’s Association.

Queen’s Birthday Weekend (5-7 June): Camp Ohope hosted by **FDNZ** (all comers welcome). See poster and comments on opposite page.

Saturday 19th June, 2:00 to 4:30pm. Family dance party @ St Pauls Church Hall, 12 St Vincent Avenue, Remuera. **Hosted by our Club**, for Club members’ young folk and friends, the Maypolers, and community children. Free entry, but please bring a plate of afternoon tea. Please book if possible, ASAP, giving your numbers of children and of adults. Contact Ruth Jack, preferably by email <ruthrnz@outlook.com>, otherwise to her mobile phone: 022-0788044.

Sunday 1st August, 12 noon to 4pm. Multi-Cultural Society’s annual Expo – for ethnic societies to show a cultural display and discuss opportunities to interact with them, while cultural performances entertain. Theme this year: Cultural head coverings and decorations. Several ethnic food stalls. Entry free. Mt Eden War Memorial Hall, 489 Dominion Road.

Saturday 14th August, at Danish House, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose:

- **Winter WarmUp!** Doors and cash bar open at 5:45 – mulled wine ready on arrival. Dancing will begin at 6:15, and roll on non-stop until 10pm. See poster, p.8, for more details.
- **Daytime workshop:** 10am to 3.15pm, with lunch 12.15 to 1pm. This year the workshop will be taught by master dancer and teacher Michael Parmenter, who has brought home from Paris the fresh approach dubbed Bal Folk. Michael is excited to have you, experienced dancers, share some of his favourite folkloric material, French and other. See p.6 for his plans, and p.7 for the practical details, including a registration form.

Music for dances taught at the workshop? And video?

I have not yet discussed this with Michael. If he is happy to make music available, it will be useful to know whether you would need a CD or need to have the music available electronically (perhaps for download, perhaps on a USB stick) - or could manage with either. There would be a reasonable charge for the music.

NB: You should note your music needs or preferences in your registration email.

As to video, if Michael is happy to have people videoing his teaching and/or the resulting dancing, you should plan to make your own video recording. We would also have to get the approval of the participants to this recording. Again, let us know when you register if you may want this opportunity.



Camp Ohope

FDNZ will host a Queens Birthday weekend for all comers.

Beside Ohope beach (voted NZ's best beach in the *Herald* recently). If you are lucky you may see the magical sparkle of phosphorescence in the wet sand as you step on it!

There are still spaces, but of course you do need to book.

At Ohope Christian Camp (google it). Accommodation: Units with mostly bunks.

SELF-CATERING. There is a communal kitchen as well as microwaves and varying other cooking facilities in the units.

There are 4 or 5 dine-in/takeaway places close by and a 4 Square store. More, of course, over the hill in Whakatane. Look at Google Maps.

Saturday night dinner will be a potluck together, with a dance party to follow.

FAMILY DANCE PARTY

St Pauls Church Hall, 12 St Vincent Ave, Remuera

Saturday 19 June, 2pm to 4:30pm



For all ages of kids.
Bring your children,
your children's children,
and their friends.

Confirm numbers to Ruth Jack – ASAP, please!

If possible by email <ruthrnz@outlook.com>, otherwise phone 022-0788044.

Entry free. Please bring a plate of afternoon tea goodies.
And dress up!



NB: Children under 12 must be with an adult.

Hosted by your Club Committee.

Workshop on WinterWarmUp Day

Let Michael Parmenter introduce his presentation himself:

“It takes two...partner dance as a folk form”

Since the medieval period, European dance has featured endless variations of couples dancing together. The popular partner dances, waltz, polka, mazurka and Scottish have survived as both significant folk forms in their own right but are also often incorporated into structured group dances.



In this workshop we will look at the tradition of couple dancing in both the partner-dance forms, but also as used in structured group dances.

In **Session One** we will look at three or four of the basic folk partner-dances, looking at the roles of lead and follow and how we can improvise within the form of each dance.

In **Session Two** we will look at a series of structured group dances - some familiar, some new - that use partner dances in their basic choreography. Our appreciation of these dances might well change once we have gained more familiarity with the partner forms themselves.

No partner needed.

Some folk or social dance experience recommended, but not essential. Comfy shoes. (Leather, felt or hard rubber soles are good but soft rubber tends to be a bit too sticky. A bit of a heel for ladies is fine but no high heels).

Michael Parmenter...

is a highly regarded contemporary dancer and teacher. He has been active in the New Zealand social dance scene for the past two decades. He is an experienced tango dancer and teacher, has explored numerous partner dance forms and is the Director of Balfolk Auckland. Recently he conceived and directed the New Moon Folk Ball, which was a highlight of the recent Auckland Arts Festival/ Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki.



REGISTRATION FORM

YOU and your companions:

Name(s)

Contact Address

Email

Phone (Landline & Mobile)

Preferred name on each badge

Workshop is 10am to 3pm (lunchtime 12:15 to 1pm)

How many of you (fill in the box)? At prices as below:

Full day \$25, Club members \$20 (including lunch).

Half-day \$12, Club members \$10 (**not** incl. lunch).

Spectators \$5 (not incl. lunch).

Lunch if not included in quoted price \$10.

Morning tea (tea, coffee, water & biscuits) included.

TOTAL PRICE for your bookings: \$.....

PAID direct credit? Or paying cash on the day? (Please circle).

Bank: ASB 12-3086-0111708-00. Reference name & 'workshop'.

- If you will want music for using dances taught, see p.3.
- NB: We need your registration by Saturday 7th August.

Winter WarmUp

Always the folkloric fun of the year!

Saturday 14th August, from 5.45pm

**Danish House: 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose
- near Mt Smart Stadium -**



Dancing will begin at
6.15, and roll on
non-stop till 10pm.

13 ethnic ensembles.
Each will show & then share,
joining you in to dance too.

Cash bar opens 5.45pm, with
mulled wine ready on arrival.

- Argentinian dinner food @ modest price. • Raffle.
- Entry (for all, incl. performers) \$2 - or be more generous!
- At the door: Covid contact tracing. (Danish House has scanning posters.)
Liquor licensing law also requires us all to sign in the book at reception.

Come: all welcome!!

No registration needed.

Any questions?
Contact Rae,
ph Ak 524-9504

Welcome from your hosts!
The Danish Society Dancers &
the Ruritanian Folk Dance Club.



Milos Adventure

In 2017 to 2019 I was fortunate enough to travel to Europe a number of times and visit many places, festivals and meet amazing people. This story is one of those memorable experiences on the island of Milos, in Greece, in 2017.

After staying on the amazing island of Folegandros, arriving at Milos was like coming back to civilisation from the wilderness, hurtled decades forward to the modern world. Suddenly there were people everywhere in the large town.

Where I was staying in the port town of Adamas was nice for the price, but I had been spoilt by the luxury of the previous accommodation. The vibe of the town was very relaxed. While I waited for a bus to the main town I went for a walk along the waterfront and happened to pass a wedding reception in progress. A modern one because they had a Greek DJ, but as I was passing he started playing some traditional music and people were dancing in the street, cars patiently waiting for each dance to stop before driving between the dancers as they parted and waved.

The next day I decided to see the main sites, but thought better of getting a car and caught the bus instead. However the plan didn't quite work out.

After catching the bus to the natural sculptures of Sarakiniko and viewing the rock formations, I planned to walk on the coastal track on the map. Do you think I could find it? I tried everywhere and the last straw was finding myself in something that looked like a minefield, surrounded by rusty barbed wire!

I backtracked and waited for the bus, which was going to be another hour. A few minutes later a taxi pulled up and I thought I would take it rather than wait, when a woman seemed to run from nearby bushes and jumped into it. I turned back, but a moment later the door opened and the driver asked if I needed a ride too, Whew!

So the ride started, back to the port to drop the woman off (she turned out to be German) and then on to Filikopi, a Minoan-era city. After the drop-off things started getting a bit bizarre. The taxi driver started puffing on his pipe, talking very fast, and driving erratically. I wondered what he had in the pipe - apparently he hated German tourists because they dobbed him in to the police for overcharging. Apparently all Germans smelled bad, and as he kept puffing, he became more excitable. It was at this point I wondered if I should have got a rental car instead.

Then things got even more interesting... in a straight stretch of road he suddenly stopped talking, and started breathing heavily, it sounded like snoring - I didn't want to look across in case he was asleep, but I remember thinking about the headline, "New Zealander dies in Greek car accident with drugged, unlicensed Taxi driver". I was starting to really wish I had got a car instead!

Just before the bend the driver made a sudden sound again and quickly jerked the steering wheel around the bend.

I was relieved to get out at the end, just a bit shaky, but that isn't the end....



The next day I went to Plaka, a beautiful village on the highest point of the island. On my return I was on a deadline to get back to the port so I could catch my ferry. I thought I had missed my bus, and looked around for a taxi, knowing it should be a short trip. One dropped someone off across the road and headed back toward me. I decided to get it, but I jumped a little when I got in and saw it was the same guy. He didn't seem to be as hyperactive and it was only a short trip - what could go wrong? Just as we pulled out I saw my bus turn up 15 minutes late!

A kilometre down the road he stopped the car and waited. The meter was going - what are we waiting for, I asked? "My brother," he said.

His "brother" turned up a minute later (looking nothing like him) and handed him a mysterious package, then got in the seat behind me. This time the headline was "Kiwi bystander dies in botched drug deal on Greek island". A couple of kilometres on he stopped the car again, the meter had reached the amount we agreed at the start, we were apparently "finished now" and could not go any closer to the town (or maybe it was the police car outside the bus station) - so I willingly got out and walked the remaining 400 metres. The car turned around and sped off in the opposite direction.

The final day of my stay was less nerve-racking. I went to the Catacombs and to the Ancient Roman theatre, as well preserved as any I have seen before. It was interesting to visit the catacombs built into the volcanic tuff rock, and incredible to think that it had been in use since the first century AD. Not as extensive as those in Rome, but very early and in an unexpected location on the side of a cliff.

The theatre was great, well restored, and in a hard marble. However the most spectacular thing was the site above the sea. The place was not crowded and I was not rushed, so it was great just to sit for a while and get a bit of the vibe.

On the same day I went back to Plaka, and got a "traditional" Greek ice cream flavour - I didn't know there was such a thing. The flavour was a Blend of Mastiha (Mastic) and Bergomot, which tasted exactly like Tsipouro. (a drink like Ouzo but preferred by many Greeks). I wondered if it was used as flavouring and in fact that meant I could get drunk by eating too much ice cream - but there was no such luck... I mean chance!

Unfortunately like the Loukomi (Turkish delight) flavoured ice cream I had tried elsewhere, I think ice cream is not the right medium for these strong flavours and they are better enjoyed as Tsipouro and Turkish delight separately. Although it grows on you... sparkling water with Mastiha from Chios was one of my favourite delicacies during the lockdowns of 2020.

That was Milos!

I enjoyed it a lot, despite the taxi experience, and would go there again. It came across as a place where Greek people lived and tourists were not driving the feeling of the place. Unlike other islands, there were several medium-sized busy towns with full-time, year-round inhabitants. Highly recommended - a few minutes with my friend the taxi driver should be just as good as a roller coaster ride in any other town!

— *Murray Birch*



The ancient Roman theatre of Milos in a spectacular setting above the sea

New Moon Folk Ball

In the Arts Festival's beautiful prospectus booklet it was spun as a revival of magical oldtime life, illustrated with a dreamlike pen-and-wash drawing of young people dancing (salt on our lips, it said) in the ballroom cave on Whatipu Beach, having come by boat from Onehunga and walked some distance from Paratutai wharf (as the wording on draped ribbons also recounted). You can still see this on aaf.co.nz.

The takeup of tickets was immediate, and the Ball was sold out well before the intended date. The quite huge Titirangi War Memorial Hall was packed full of revellers when we arrived only fifteen minutes after the opening time, a family-friendly 6:30pm. 220 dancers. I saw no children in fact, but otherwise all ages – all alight with sheer glee, as the photos show.

A merry 5-piece band (violin, flute, accordion, percussion, guitar) played up-to-date takes on French and some other regional dance rhythms and tunes, including the very different Cajun style. It was energy-rich! But the odd gentle repetitive Breton chain dance was interspersed, and even a contemplative mood was introduced with the Gavotte de l'Aven. Great teacher Michael, standing calmly mid-crowd, would adjust his glasses and consult his notebook for the most appropriate next dance, and then briefly prep this huge crowd with a sometimes ambitious choice. He had them waltzing, schottische turning, doing basic party bourrée and Basque Sept Sauts – less any fine detail of stepping, of course, but certainly grasping and enjoying the essence.... It was a repertoire of favourites that I met in the bal folk at French summer festivals in the '90s. It must have taken fire from there, and fuelled by the live music, become a more regular part of the French social scene, taking the apt name with it. 19th Century couple dancing is a core part of it, and 20th Century mixers too – La Chapelloise (the All-American Promenade to us) pops up, as it does everywhere. But the ancient and special cultures that haunt our imaginations are part of this scene too. Go Michael! There apparently IS a hunger in our city for heritage social dancing that only the ceilidh providers and the Scottish Country Dancers have managed to really tap into until this.

— Rae Storey





*New Moon Folk Ball,
Friday 9th April, postponed from March due to Covid.*

Our AGM

The President and Committee were re-elected, the sub kept the same, and there was nothing outrageous or disastrous in the Treasurer's Report or others to provoke anything but hearty thanks from the faithful members who attended.

Several managed to dress in character for the America's Cup theme, Maggie as a grinder, Ruth flourishing a flag and a lifebuoy, Dot and Kathie as usual in dashing outfits. See the photo on the back cover.

CultureFest Auckland

This is the big Mt Roskill event finally renamed appropriately and proudly as our own, not an international event. And what an exciting and inclusive real festival it has grown into - certainly not just programmed stage concerts and stalls alongside a football tournament. As the photos show, dancing was to be seen and joined in across the grass and with some stalls, music too happened here and there, and people sat together at ethnic stalls drinking coffee while stallholders' babies slept in the tent.



The image of LaBourrée on the opposite page is by professional photographer Russell McMahon. See two albums of many great CultureFest photos by him - one of the albums is at <http://bit.ly/culfest21>. He not only allows free downloads, but invites them. I hope the Festival organizers and the city Libraries are archiving this precious lively record of Auckland people and life now.



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 : In recess at present.

Tauranga: Athena (Greek). Gaby Johnston, 07 5433-229, 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. Facebook: Good Folk: Dances from Planet Earth.

Whangarei: IFD is in recess. Contact: Elizabeth 0211197695 <staats60@gmail.com>

Paihia: IFD 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 August issue of Roundabout: Sat. 31st July

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 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 Quinlan, Murray Birch, Michael Parmenter

*Thanks for photos: Murray Birch (on Milos),
Russell McMahon (LaBouree @ CultureFest),
Rae Storey (all the other photos).*

Basis of Family Party poster: David Quinlan



Dancing Every Week:

		TIME	CONTACT
MONDAY and FRIDAY	International Folkdance In Rae's loft, 24a Dell Ave, Remuera	9.30-12 noon	Rae Storey, 524-9504 raestorey36@gmail.com
MONDAY	Woori Choom Korean Dancers. St John Education Centre 247 Edmonton Rd, Te Atatu South	10am-12 noon	Leah Park 027-962-8128 mia Leahp@gmail.com
TUESDAY	Bal Folk (group & partner) UNITEC Dance Studio 202	7-8.30	Michael Parmenter, 0210505882 balfolkauckland@gmail.com
	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 Mt Albert Presbyt. Church, 14 Mt Albert Rd All welcome, dancers & musicians	7:30pm	Andy Smith 361-2133, 021474740 Details on aucklandmorris.org.nz
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. 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

NB! Newcomers for Israeli Wed. sessions or Irish Set: check with organizer first!