



# Let's Talk Folk Dance

Membership network email update and musings on local folk, historical, traditional and community dance

Read more at.....[Folkdance.nz/members](http://Folkdance.nz/members)



## Hi everyone –

There's a been a little hiatus for this e-news while we had the FDNZ's **Mountain Rhythms** weekend over the International Day of Dance on April 27-29 - a fabulous weekend of dance and music,

After that, the 'Big' FDNZ newsletter was near publication so I didn't want to bombard you with the same news – I hope you enjoyed the newsletter, its contents and the photos of events to date. Kieron brings his expertise to getting the newsletter to the FDNZ network.

Please join our **Annual General Meeting** – see update from the Committee

There are lots of winter dance treats coming up around the country and don't forget to let us know so we can share it on the face book page...we love knowing what's going on:

- Auckland's Ruritanian Dance Club is hosting the Annual August Winter Warm Up workshop and evening show – a great event to get your mid-winter toes dancing;
- Both Machol Pacifica and Wellyfest happen over Labour weekend;
- Travelling dancers will be coming back with exciting and exotic new repertoire to share with us....keep an eye (and an ear) out for a pop-up FDNZ dance workshop near you;
- Regular classes have party nights or celebrations

Look for the links on the FDNZ website and Facebook Page – Happy dancing  
Fiona

## MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT..ANNIVERSARIES

When a Folk Dance group or a Historical Dance group celebrates a big anniversary (>10 years) of their time as a club / class or group – it's a time to celebrate the energy and camaraderie that sustains the commitment of those who set up the group; those who come along every week to teach and get the hall / music ready; and those who come to dance and go home with a smile on their face. The Auckland English Country Dance and Early Dance Group celebrated 20 years this past weekend and there will be other groups in NZ reaching similar milestones. So we recognise all the efforts and all the passion, all for the love of dancing together.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## DANCING....IN THE BAY OF PLENTY..... Gaby

Johnston lets us know there is plenty of dancing in the Bay of Plenty..Dance in Tauranga keeps a low profile. The two exceptions are the polished, end-of-year performances from the hardworking ballet and contemporary dance studios; and the increasingly flamboyant annual Multicultural Festival in March. Twenty-one of this year's 26 Festival performances had a dance component - providing a rich and colourful display of cultures from the Pacific, Asia, the Indian subcontinent, South America, Europe, and places in between. It was a revealing showcase of the diverse population emerging in the Bay of Plenty. I have yet to discover if most of the communities participating in the Festival meet regularly to dance and sing, and welcome anyone to join them, or if they come together solely to prepare for special events.

"What's-on" pages in BOP newspapers and online services for Tauranga, Rotorua, Whakatane and Katikati advertise classes in Tango, Ballroom, Latin, Rock 'n Roll, Square, Scottish and Line dancing. A recreational dance class for every night of the week! All offering a small group of people a pleasant evening of movement, music and friendship.

Maria Berben's well established Tauranga Israeli class meets weekly. Numbers attending fluctuate, but Maria's solution is to occasionally offer a Sunday afternoon session. This has become very popular. Dancers from Whakatane and Hamilton are invited to share 3 hours of non-stop dancing. The playlist is a well devised mix of old and new, offering something for all ages and abilities.

The Athena Greek Group dance most Monday evenings and welcome casual visitors. Middle Earth Morris, a newly formed Morris Dance side in BOP, energised our first classes of the year by coming with overseas dancers and musicians. Over the last year Athena has enjoyed dancing in a concert in Katikati, entertaining along the route of the local Hot Pink Walk for Breast cancer and participating in the Whakatane Summer Carnival. This annual event in late January (often the same date as the Kumeu Folk Festival) is a treat of vibrant dance and entertainment. Recommended! [Ed – Thanks Gaby - sounds like I might need to visit the multicultural festival in March next year]

**Update from your committee: AGM...AGM...AGM...AGM** – yes the 2018 AGM Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 5.00pm direct to you in your home....we're going virtual again this year – all the instructions for joining free of charge by telephone or computer have been sent out or you can check on the FDNZ website members pages. All the documents are on line. **We need a quorum so do join us in person or send a proxy vote.**

**EMAIL  
UPDATE  
2018 #3**