



# Let's Talk Folk Dance



Membership network email update and musings on local folk, historical, traditional and community dance  
[folkdance.nz](http://folkdance.nz)

## Hi Everyone,

The e-news took a break in August as you all had the Folkdancers' Own FDNZ Newsletter for your folk dance reading last month.

I hope you caught up the July e-newsletter as there was a lot of information also being circulated to members at that time in advance of the AGM.

Spring has sprung. Time to think about where dance can be brought to the people as the weather improves.

Have you thought about having an outdoors dance session in your local park / gardens? Or how about doing performance practices in a public place... or at a local Farmer's Market or festival?

Contact the organisers of public festivals and see if they are interested in making space on the programme for a 'join-in community dance session' as even an audience gets tired of sitting down all the time. I guess the point is....don't wait to be asked – if the people won't come to dance, then let dance go to the people!. You need a musically vibrant programme of easy join in dances - FDNZ is able to offer advice and resources. Live musicians are great but not essential – although a good loud portable sound system helps

Coming up over Labour Weekend it's all happening in the South..Wellyfest (dance at the Wellington Folk Festival); Jane Austen Dance with La Belle Vilaines in Dunedin; Machol Pacifica in Nelson

Dance spring-ily – Fiona

**MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT...** . Janice Smith, one of the members who have helped to manage the storage of costumes donated to FDNZ ponders the future of this resource: "We have a Costume Bank which has received some beautiful deposits over the years but issued very few loans! It does seem that the interest in them has not lived up to the expectation the Committee had when the bank was founded.

We have an attractive and well-cared for collection of costumes on offer featuring, for example, Russian "Kalinka" dresses, Bulgarian, Romanian and Austrian jerkins, long white pants, skirts and aprons, as well as sashes and many other accessories. The following link to the costume catalogue will provide some colourful illustrations of what is available: <http://folkdance.nz/members/costumebank/index.html>

In the notice sent out on the members' website prior to the recent AGM, there was a request for members to vote on the future of this Costume Bank. It appears that to date very few have responded to a survey of opinion on the subject, via the link provided in the email and repeated here for your convenience. <http://folkdance.nz/members/costumebank/survey.html> Please do have your say on this issue! The proposals seem to envisage the closing of the Costume Bank but, if members are keen for it to survive, one suggestion may be for it to be advertised under the heading 'Resources' on the FDNZ official website: [folkdance.nz](http://folkdance.nz) to reach a wider audience of potential users.

Either way, we should not postpone a decision on this issue! In the present situation members are acting as custodians of this collection to no good purpose"  
*[Thanks Janice – yes we need members to tell us what they want. - Ed]*

## DANCING WITH GLOBAL DANCE WHANGAREI

**Elizabeth Staats provides us with some key facts about folk dancing in Whangarei.** Elizabeth and Mary-Ann Batelaan (who also teaches at the group) are often found visiting other dance events – especially Machol Pacifica – so you will probably have met them at some point over the years.

Global Dance Whangarei meets on Monday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm at the Onerahi Community Hall. Israeli dances are popular with the group but Global Dance Whangarei has a wide and diverse international repertoire with current popular dances being Lioube, Bakapayim, Debka Balkanit and Saeni. Family commitments for Elizabeth mean that special events are currently taking a back seat, however in the past Global Dance Whangarei has hosted some fun dance workshops to enhance the group's repertoire – inviting other NZ folk dance teachers to share their favourite dances with the locals in Whangarei.

The dance leaders at Global Dance enjoy performance choreography, but with performers in short supply there hasn't been much of that lately. Many will recall the wonderful performance costumes made by Elizabeth and Mary-Ann – both excellent seamstresses – and seen at various FDNZ events – either in action or on display.

Elizabeth says that the benefits for Global Dance Whangarei are meeting as a social group; meeting different people; and exercising together with lots of laughter. Like many groups the challenges are different learning levels, especially with new people. *[Ed: This is why FDNZ chose that topic for our folk dance teacher's discussion forum In Auckland on 1 April!]*

**Update from your committee: The AGM has been and gone ...** the minutes and actions are on the FDNZ members' page. To access the members' page you need to type in a different URL [folkdance.nz/members](http://folkdance.nz/members). There is deliberately no direct link from the FDNZ website to avoid yet another password. Make some time to have a good browse around the members' page – look at the photo gallery; read past newsletters and Folkdancers' Own magazines; We [the Committee] look forward to our coming year in the pursuit of FDNZ's objectives on your behalf.

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