

Footnotes

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Bi-monthly magazine of Folk Dance Australia Inc

Folk Dance Australia Inc.



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127 Woronora Cres
COMO WEST NSW 2226

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Folk Dance Australia

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OBJECTIVES:

- to promote an understanding and mutual respect for all ethnic groups living in Australia;
- to help promote folk dance in Australia;
- to encourage and develop the skills of folk dance teachers, by providing courses and workshops;
- to serve as a folk dance information network.

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The President's Report

With the year rushing to its close, it's amazing to look back at all the dance events that have taken place over that time, and wonderful to have such a variety in styles and cultures available to us.

It was fun to catch up with FDA members and friends at Keklik Aile's dance in Paddington (Sydney) in October and follow this up with Yorgo's Macedonian Workshop of inspiring dances. Despite his frantic trip back to Sydney from a wedding in Melbourne, no sleep and teaching us all day at the workshop, Yorgo was still able to expertly and energetically share his joy of Macedonian dance with us. Thanks, Yorgo!

Reports of the Serbian Folk Ensemble's performances in Sydney have been glowing, as were those of the Whirling Dervishes'. It's so good they are able to demonstrate their history and culture to us, retaining their traditional styles.

We attended the Port Macquarie performance of the Ukrainian Cossacks, which was very polished and professional. Costumes were fantastic with more modern influences interspersed between items of very traditional origins. Comedy featured in an expert whistling dialogue by three dancers, and whip-cracking and sword-swinging items impressed the audience, especially the youngsters.

Also, our local group, Lazarka, created interest and participation, performing and teaching in a shaded garden area of Cassegrain's vineyard at their Harvest Picnic and Cultural Festival in Port Macquarie. We could almost imagine being in Europe with rose gardens, grapevines and waterways close by!

Wishing everyone a joyful and festive season - and - keep an eye out for lots of exciting dancing planned for the New Year.

Jenny Lester, FDA President



Merry Christmas to all and a
Happy New Year for 2004

Calling all folk dancing physios!

Are there any physiotherapists out there in folk dancing land?

Would you be interested in conducting a short session on Safe Dance for the next teacher training course run by FDA? It will be held in Sydney at the Como West Public School.

If you are interested, and for more details, please call Lesley on (02) 6286 6401 or email her: lesley@magma.com.au.



FDA News

NOTICE OF FDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Folk Dance Australia's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday, 8 February, 2004**, commencing at 1pm, upstairs at:

**The Newtown Neighbourhood Centre,
King St, Newtown, Sydney.
(the old Newtown Town Hall opp the Newtown
Railway Station).**

The business will include receiving reports from the committee (President, Treasurer, TTC Graduate Sub-Committee) and election of office bearers and ordinary members of the committee.

Members wishing to bring any special business before the general meeting must give notice in writing (or email!) of that special business to the secretary, Vas Aligiannis, 0407 081 875 (m), 16 Dutton St, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200, greekdancer@excite.com.

If anyone from interstate would like to attend, we are happy to arrange billeting. Please contact Debbie Hotchkis, email: m_d.hotchkis@optusnet.com.au, ph: 02 4294 1363, address: 4 Old Station Rd, HELENSBURGH 2508.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



*Soraya Kassim of Kogarah, NSW
Mara Music of Springwood, NSW
Vasili Haralambous of Glebe, NSW*

FDA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Add this item to your 2004 New Year's resolution list: "Send in renewal to Folk Dance Australia" !!!

To join or renew your membership, you have three options:

1. Pay by internet: Transfer \$20 to St George Bank, BSB: 112879, A/C No 053 969 771 (include your Membership No. in the description)
2. Cut off the Renewal Slip at the bottom of page 17 and send it, together with your \$20 cheque or postal note (made out to Folk Dance Australia Inc), to the Membership Secretary, Deborah Hotchkis, 4 Old Station Rd, HELENSBURGH 2508, or
3. Attend the "Bulgarian Dances of Yesteryear" Workshop, (same day, same place as the AGM) and pay on the day.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS. Please make your payments in AUS\$20 equivalent.

FDA CONTACTS

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FDA Website: <http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/4677>

FDA MACEDONIAN WORKSHOP with YORGO

For someone who'd been celebrating all night at a relative's Macedonian wedding in Melbourne, Yorgo Kaporis was incredibly animated throughout the four or more hours of the 12th October workshop, which makes me ponder the question of what he's like on a normal day. His energetic performances and infectious enthusiasm for dance stood out in what was a most enjoyable experience.

Yorgo started by asking if there were any beginners present and appeared happy to accommodate the necessary slowing of teaching that my presence required. I seemed to be the only first-timer amongst the thirty or so participants. Not surprisingly, I suffered from both information and dance overload throughout the workshop and so cannot remember even the names of the dances, let alone any of the steps.

However I enjoyed the dancing and the many anecdotes, which Yorgo provided as part of the background to each dance, especially those that related to differences between the villages on either side of the regional borders between modern Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Yorgo provided numerous personal touches to his explanations with references to his visits to the particular region or the stylistic differences that he had observed amongst the wedding guests. It seems that either the bride or groom was originally from Greek Macedonia, whilst the other came from the Yugoslavian side of the region.

As a choreographer as well as a teacher, Yorgo often injected his own variations into the dances that he

taught. Since I am a complete novice, I found that rather a nice touch, particularly when he pointed out that some traditional dances would otherwise repeat the same pattern for quite a long time.

Naturally some of the more advanced dances were completely beyond my ability to learn, but I was pleasantly surprised at how many of them were not. The workshop was very well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone with whom I spoke afterwards. I have no hesitation in commending any similarly focused workshop of Yorgo's to dancers of all levels.



Griff Rose (ACT)

Other Dance News

ANDRÉ'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY VISIT - 2004

We know that FDA has many creative, artistic members. To help celebrate André's 20th anniversary visit to Australia next year, ADVP World are asking you to design the cover of his dance instruction booklet for 2004.

There will be a small prize for the cover chosen!

Please email okaye@optusnet.com.au or post any ideas to Kaye Lauredet, 127 Woronora Cres, COMO WEST, NSW, 2226 before 1 March, 2004.

Review of ANDRÉ'S 2003 VISIT TO PERTH.

André was whisked in and out of Perth again in July this year in a flurry of new dances and to the delight of his Western Australian followers. Thanks to PIFDG and Eve Blair for hosting André and to committee members involved in decorating St Margaret's hall in the theme of international hats and scarves that gave the workshops some ethnic ambience to suit the occasion.

André presented to us during the weekend dances from Serbia, Romania, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Israel, Bulgaria, the UK and other countries. Some dances, like *Koce Berberot* with its catchy tune and funny song about a Macedonian barber/musician and the Turkish *Esmer*, have been danced weekly ever since July. The graceful arm movements of the Armenian dance *Yaman Yar* made it instantly attractive to us, although they presented some challenge at first when combined with the footwork.

The two Israeli favourites were *Chopi* and *SlosaTranim* and Sarah, our Israeli dance teacher extraordinaire, helped us with the translations of the beautiful poetry which had been made into the song for the *Slosa Tranim* dance. We all loved *Alunelul de la Godenesti* from Romania and can add that to our list of Aluneluls that we already dance on Monday nights.

The PIFDG Saturday morning class has been dancing the English dance *Heads or Tails* since André's visit. This is a great dance for a large group. In the typical style of English folk dances, each figure runs very smoothly into the next, and its racy rhythm just beckons one to dance.

The Saturday night being close to Bastille Day was the perfect opportunity to have a celebratory dance. André and all the workshop participants enjoyed the music of 'The Last Five Coins' as we danced some of André's old dances along with some French favourites and other dances we love to do with the band. It was also our turn to teach André some dances! We

anticipate André will be back for more and we look forward to his next visit, which, if I remember rightly, will be a milestone visit to Australia.



Laurel de Vietri (WA)

FROM OUR ROVING REPORTER

This letter from Anna refers to her Christmas, 2002, however, you might be interested to hear a little about customs in Bulgaria through her experiences.

This Christmas has been anything but prosaic! The snow had gone from Sofia and I thought a "white Christmas" would be nice, so went to the delightful town of Bansko (pop.9,000), located 160 kms from Sofia at the foot of the Pirin mountains. It's the most recently developed centre for skiing and so does not attract large numbers of foreign tourists but more Bulgarians, this time of year anyway. Bansko was founded in the 10th century and by mid 18th century was very prosperous with traders & merchants; craftsmen & artists; icon painting & wood working schools. The architecture is interesting & many of the National Revival stone and timber buildings were built behind fortress type walls to shield inhabitants from Ottoman occupiers.

On Christmas Eve the streets were practically deserted, not surprising as traditionally this is the day for families to gather together and everyone else was on the snowfields. The streets and pavements were very icy but there was snow and I got my "white Christmas." Difficult as it was to walk around, I none-the-less spent much time exploring. In the evening I planned to eat at the small hotel at which I stayed but discovered the *mehana* in the basement was not, after all, open. Imagine my surprise when the manageress then invited me to dine with her family, and the cook, and a guy who helps out at the hotel! I never cease to be amazed at the warmth of Bulgarian people. There were platters of grapeleaf & rice rolls, cabbage & rice rolls, stuffed capsicums, legumes, sauerkraut, meat & homemade bread. A coin is put inside the bread, whomever gets that will be wealthy the next year! Some people also put inside tiny pieces of a branch from a tree which have been marked, the number of marks signifying luck, love, good health etc.

There was wine, and to finish, *banitsa*, the cheese pastry of which Bulgarians (and I) are so fond. The manageress had pinned pieces of paper rolled around a toothpick, on top, with New Year wishes. It seemed fortuitous that I should pick the piece of *banitsa* labelled "abroad."! Finally we had the Bulgarian equivalent of baklava – delicious! Uneaten food is left on the table overnight, supposedly for relations who are no longer with us.

Just before Christmas I saw many people walking around with small branches from a tree (the same used to put inside the bread). I was told that in some families, popcorn, peppers etc are attached, then the branch is used to "beat" a family member on the back whilst saying "Merry Christmas" and this person in return gives money. Then there are the Koledari (Koleda meaning Christmas), they dress in long woolly cloaks & carry sticks, & go around the houses singing Christmas carols. In return they are given a type of bread in the form of a ring, which is put on the stick. However, 3 young men

came to the *mehana* I was at on Christmas night, and the manager wouldn't let them in; he said they would want money.

On Christmas Day everyone was out and about, and all the shops were open. I went to the Orthodox church (1835), beautiful inside, there were many people coming and going. Six men with magnificent voices sang in perfect harmony, unaccompanied, in amongst the chanting. I stayed a while just to listen to them.

I then came across musicians in the square and some gypsies imitating *Kuker* dance. They had no costumes or masks but did wear the large bells around their waists, and had the sticks, and jumped up and down, warding off evil spirits. The music was great. Another group of musicians walked around the streets, they were also a delight to hear.

On Christmas night I went to one of the many *mehanas* in Bansko. Cosy, typical restaurants, many of which occupy the 19th century stone and timber buildings and this time of year, with log fires blazing. This one was quite small but there were three super musicians, and room enough to dance. They played only Bulgarian music and when people started dancing *Horo*, I joined in. It was a fun evening and just when I was thinking of leaving, the manager arrived with a glass of wine for me to have "on the house." He was amazed that someone all the way from Australia could do Bulgarian dances (told me he can't dance), said he was proud of me and therefore presented me with the wine! So naturally I stayed longer, danced some more, and left with a wonderful feeling of well-being, half skating back to the hotel on the icy streets!

A memorable Christmas indeed.



Anna writes that the festival described below was quite special for her, as it was the first time she'd been 'on tour' with "Zornitsa, in Bulgaria.

Saturday 11th October, 2003, dawned bright and sunny, following days of abysmal weather - rain, wind, and snow on Mt. Vitosha. So it was in high spirits that six carloads of "Zornitsa" dancers arrived at Stara Zagora for the Students Folklore Festival.

This was the 7th year the Society of Folk Art had organised this festival which aims at preserving Bulgarian culture. The number of participating ensembles (six) was smaller than usual but, never-the-less, the variety of music and dances performed by brilliant groups had such an impact that one was left with the feeling of being transported into another world.

Those taking part were:

Zornitsa (Student Folklore Ensemble, Sofia); Traiantsi (Folklore Ensemble), Stara Zagora (Folklore Ensemble at the Thracian University), Stara Zagora; (Folklore Ensemble of the Youth Centre, Haskovo); Trakiiska Mladost (Folklore Ensemble at the University of Agriculture, Plovdi), Academic Folklore Ensemble (Main Student Centre, Sofia).

Preceding the late afternoon concert there was a "defile" (walking, dancing) through the beautiful tree lined streets of the town to the Municipality Council building, in front of which the concert took place. There was an improvised "stage" which looked lovely, but for

dancing? - paving stones and pebbles set in concrete! However, the ever resourceful Bulgarians were not deterred and put as much energy and flair into the performances, as ever.

The event concluded with many people joining in a Horo. We were all accommodated at the Starazagorski Mineralni Bani on the outskirts of town. Two orchestras played in the restaurant where we dined and danced, one with *gaida*, *kaval*, accordion and *tapan*; the other including a trumpet. This meant non-stop music and dancing for a convivial and lively evening with the other groups. Several people were interviewed by the local radio station, including the Australian. I also met the "Young Mayor" (this being his correct title), who helps organise this event and others concerning young people.

Mother Nature was extremely kind and provided another beautiful day on Sunday, which for me finished with a Horo lesson, after a leisurely drive back to Sofia. All in all, a super weekend!

Writing from Sofia, she says: "The trees look beautiful with their autumn colours but winter is definitely on the way. However, I'll not be returning to Australia just yet (Ed: she's just been granted a visa for another six months) so perhaps, in time, will be able to send more news to keep you up to date with 'happenings' over here.

I'd like to pass on greetings to all Footnotes readers. I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas; good health and happiness in 2004; and I hope everybody continues to revel in the music and dancing available and enjoy it as much as I do. Best wishes and warmest regards."



Anna Travali (QLD)

FOR SALE – Bulgarian Blouses

Are you interested in buying one or more "as new" original white hand-embroidered Bulgarian and/or Romanian long sleeved blouse/s, medium size?

If so, contact Diana Morrison of Tewantin (near Noosa) on 07 5449 0392. She has several for sale. These are top quality blouses and very beautiful. Price range is between \$30 and \$50.



New Dance Group for Sydney South

"THE DANCE BUFFET"

(Take all the dance you want)

A variety of dances to suit all tastes, including Bush dances, Line dances, Balkan, Rock'n roll, Salsa, Scottish country, Playford, Ceili, Old Time, Square, Round dances and Latin.

All dances taught, and YOU can request your favourites!!!

Where ? Liverpool City Pipe Band Hall. Woodward park (Next to Whitlam Centre), Memorial Ave, Liverpool.

When ? Tuesdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm

How Much ? \$8.00 (\$5.00 Concession)

More info ? Nicholai 02 9822 7524, mob: 0407 178 228

RESOURCES for SALE by FDA

By Jim Battison

Book "Glossary of Dance Terms" \$15 (P & P) or \$12 at workshops, etc.

By André van de Plas:

'International Folk Dances for Adults'.

Book & cassette.

1989 - 1999 tours. \$12 set.

2000 - 2003 tours \$25 set.

Book & CD

2000 - 2003 tour \$30 set

Videos.

1989 - 2003 tours. \$35 each.

'International Folk Dances for Children'.

Book & cassette.

1986, 89, 91, 94, 97, 2000 tours. \$30 set.

Book & CD

2000, 2003 tour \$35 set

Videos of Children's Dances:

2000 tour \$35 each

'Easy Dances'

Cassette and booklet

\$12 set

By Gary & Carol Crees

'Off the Wall Dances' (Volume One) (for 2-8 year olds)

Book & CD

\$45 set

'Off the Wall Dances' (Volume Two) (for 2-8 year olds)

Book & CD

\$45 set

By Yves Moreau:

'Balkan & International Folk Dances'.

Book & cassette.

1993 tour.

\$25 set.

'Ajde Na Horo' - 20 Bulgarian Folk Dance Favourites.

Recorded in Bulgaria under the supervision of Jaap

Leegwater and Yves.

Book & cassette

\$25 set.

'Folk Dances from Bulgaria and Elsewhere' - selection

of 24 dances from Bulgaria, the Balkans, and other

countries - from Yves' 2001 Australian tour.

Book & CD

\$30 set.

Video

\$35

By John Garden:

"The Lost Dances of Earthly Delights"

Set = 4 CDs & 52 pg booklet

\$75 set

See www.earthlydelights.com.au for other resources.

By Nevofoon:

'Easy Dances for Adults & Beginners'

CD & booklet

\$35 set

Music Cassette & booklet

\$30 set

Video of dances (taken at workshop)

\$20

Other Nevofoon Resources - Nevofoon Folk Dance resources (CDs, tapes and books) available through FDA's discount service.

Please Note: Prices quoted above are for FDA members. Non-members please add \$5 to cost of each item. Add \$5 to above prices for postage.

All resources available through Kaye Laurendet, 127 Woronora Cres, COMO WEST 2226

okaye@optusnet.com.au

FDA Workshop Videos

<i>All videos</i>	\$30
From FDA Workshops:	
Koce Stojcevski, Macedonian Dances	(1999)
Koce Stojcevski, Macedonian Dances	(2000)
Yves Moreau, Balkan & Other International Dances (2001 Australian Tour)	
Kaye Laurendet, "Come & Try", easy dances and Andrew Rossides, Greek Dances	(2001)
Tineke van Geel, Armenian Dances	(2001)
Vasilios Aligiannis, Greek Dances of Celebration and Participation	(2002)
Yorgo Kaporis, Macedonian Dances	(2002)
Elie Akouri, Lebanese Debka	(2002)
Gary Dawson, Balkan Dances	(2003)
Djordje Nikolic, Serbian (Sumadija)	(2003)
Yorgo Kaporis, Macedonian Dances	(2003)

Please Note:

Add \$5 to above prices for postage and handling.
Prices quoted above are for FDA members. Non-members please add \$5 to cost of each item.

All resources available through Kaye Laurendet, 127
Woronora Cres, COMO WEST, 2226 or email:
okaye@optusnet.com.au

Other Resources

"New Wave" Folkdancing Resources

- variety of dances for various ages. Order through Kaye Laurendet, okaye@optusnet.com.au or 02 9528 4813).

4-10yrs: Children's Singing Dances of Other Cultures

CD & booklet	\$45
Cassette & booklet	\$35

Under 5s: New Wave Folkdancing

(includes Instruction Booklet & CD)	
New Wave Folkdancing	\$35
(includes Instruction Booklet & cassette)	

5-7 yrs: Junior Set

(includes Instruction Book, Video, 2 CDs)	
Junior Set	\$84
(includes Instruction Book, Video, 2 cassettes)	

8-12yrs: Senior Set

(includes Instruction Book, Video, 2 CDs)	
Senior Set	\$98
(includes Instruction Book, Video, 3 cassettes)	

Older: Teen/Adult Set

(includes Instruction Book, Video, 1 CD)	
Teen/Adult Set	\$84
(includes Instruction Book, Video, 2 cassettes)	

Other: Combined Set (5yrs to Adult)

(includes Instruction Book, 2 Videos, 3 CDs)	
Combined Set (5yrs to Adult)	\$142
(includes Instruction Book, 2 Videos, 4 cassettes)	

CD REVIEWS

"Kurdish Earth", recorded and mixed by Blue Mountains Sound and mastered by Soundview Studios, features Veli Toprak (tamburas and vocals) and Andy Busuttil (percussion and wind). The music has its roots in Kurdish culture and has been set to lyrics that are Turkish to reflect the time when Kurdistan extended from Kars in the north-east of Turkey to Urfa in the south-east and south partly into Iraq. In the 1920s, millions of Kurds were dispossessed by European powers and the Treaty of Lausanne (1923).

Kurds are still suffering from hostile governments. This CD hopes to influence, even if in a small way, peace between the Kurdish people and their neighbours.

Track 1: Odasina Vardim: "She brings me coffee. I see her beautiful hands patterned with henna. She's so beautiful I lose my mind."

Track 2: Büyük Çevis – a folk dance from Urzıncan. "I want to meet my darling under the chestnut tree."

Track 3: Dergah: an Alevi song from Anatolia. The Alevis hold to a humanistic philosophy that they elevate to the status of deity. "How many people have come here to Dergah, yet they have all gone. Everything they had they couldn't take; they had to leave it all behind. Time changes. It's not like before. Don't be attached to any thing because it all changes. Love for this girl has burnt me, reduced me to ash which she walked on and went away."

Track 4: Esti baharin: "I feel the strong winds of spring that brings your voice and your scent to me."

Track 5: Sabuha: The Syrianiin people (a Christian minority living in the Eastern part of Turkey) have lived together with the Kurds for many years in peace and harmony. A sad song about a girl.

Track 6: (Two songs in the medley) Wallahi and Aya bak: "Tell the rooster to shut up and not crow in the morning. I don't want to be disturbed with my girl. Look at the moon. Look at the stars. Look at that girl. Darling you always look away. Look at me!"

Track 7: Potpori : a. Fadile, b. Derdini yar derdini, c. Mendil aldım bir deste, d. Kağızmana ismarladım, e. Temir aga

Meanings for the 'potpori' were unavailable, but you can guarantee they are about girls and boys and heartbreak.

This wonderful CD can be ordered through Kaye Laurendet, 02 9528 4813, okaye@optusnet.com.au, 127 Woronora Cres, COMO WEST, NSW, 2226, cost \$25, plus P&P.



** The views expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of FDA. Events publicised in this magazine are not necessarily sponsored by FDA **



Good friends are like stars ... You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

AROUND AUSTRALIA

MANDALA FOLK DANCERS - NAMBOUR

Saturday October 4th was a day of big celebrations for the Mandala Folk Dancers from Nambour, as they were celebrating 20 years since the group first began.

When Meredyth, Jules and I walked into the Woombye Hall, the first thing we noticed was the colourful decorations. There were photos on the wall from performances and special occasions, showing a variety of costumes. Didn't we all look younger then?

A newsletter with the history of the group was compiled and distributed. In the early days of the group a large banner was created - each member of the group creating their own piece of pie to be sewn into a large circle (Mandala). Different modalities were used - appliqué, fabric paint, embroidery and so on. The banner had been revitalised with a little more colour and glitter and looked as good as new.

Soon the dancing began and, with Lorraine, Jean, Pat, Meredyth and myself teaching, there was quite a variety of dances. Some of the dances dated back to the early days and those who had been out of the dance group for some years still remembered dances like Miserlou, Tsadik Katamar and King of the Fairies. I taught a couple of dances I learned at Bowral in July and Meredyth taught some learned at the September Victorian Folk Dance workshop.

Teachers of the group, past and present, were presented with flowers and certificates of appreciation. Lots of photos were taken. Dancers from Brisinta, Noosa, Nambour, past members of the group and several visitors all danced together happily.

During the break there was much chatter and laughter. One again the Nambour group outdid themselves with a wonderful afternoon tea with fruit, dips, cheeses and cakes - no one went hungry.

All too soon the afternoon was over and we had to hasten out of the hall as the next occupants wanted to start setting up for their event. A very successful afternoon! Lorraine and other members of the group had gone to a lot of work to ensure the afternoon was a great success. Well done. Only five years until their 25th anniversary.



Danni Mackenzie (QLD)

FOLK DANCE in SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

The group has enjoyed welcoming new dancers this year. There have been ongoing invitations to dance at various Nursing Homes and Hostels, Health Fairs and Seniors events. It has been mutually satisfying for performers and recipients with many surprises taking place.

Sometimes when the ladies have seen residents being wheeled into the activities room, they have wondered what the response will be to their performance. Music has enormous power and sometimes we have been overwhelmed with the response it evokes.

Tulip Time in Bowral has us as regulars performing in the gardens and, to date, the weather has been good to us. Again the response from visitors is touching, with some identifying with the music from their country of origin.

We will be dancing for many a year yet.



Margaret Connor (NSW)

AUDREY'S GROUPS - MELBOURNE

For many years now, I have been teaching Folk Dancing to two groups of mainly mature age students, and each one has become a special group of friends.

The Centre of Adult Education Group meets in the city on Friday mornings, and by now, their repertoire is quite extensive, and it is easy to teach new dances to them. Newcomers are always welcomed and encouraged by members of the class.

We meet after dancing for coffee at a nearby café, and at the end of each term, lunch at our favourite restaurant at South Gate on the Yarra. They love their dancing, and this is why we do it. Yesterday, two of our members remarked, when meeting with same age (non-dancing) friends, found that they themselves were in much better shape and condition.

The U3A group is composed of mature-aged students who meet on Mondays. They also have been together for many years. When a recent bout of 'flu laid me low and I came to put the music on while they danced, several said it was a good idea as it made them think rather than follow automatically.



They all enjoyed performing recently at a retirement village; the photo above shows us dressed for the part. We were later treated to a generous afternoon tea!

Members of both groups participated in our September FDA weekend workshop.

Our motto: "Keep on Dancing till we drop."



Audrey Shoobridge (VIC)

Did You Know?

The average person over fifty will have spent 5 years waiting in lines.

Your feet are bigger in the afternoon than the rest of the day.

SOULEIADO DANCE GROUP - PERTH



Souleiado, a French Dance group from Perth, with its usual membership of children and adults, has had a year marked by a variety of functions. Our bond with the French community means we are always invited to take part in many of their celebrations. This year's *Fête de la Musique* was one such event and we had the whole audience up to bourrées, mazurkas and ronds played by The Last Five Coins on their traditional French instruments. Bastille Day of course is always a time to celebrate for us and in 2003 we held a *bal folk* in corroboration with Perth International Folk Dance Group and the same band.

Our usual outings and events included French dance workshops for adults and children at Fairbridge Festival. Many schools around Perth benefited this year from Laurel's teaching of French folk dances to French classes. This year, country schools also were included in the itinerary. This was very rewarding despite the long, long distances to the tiny outback schools.

Huguette Roy's visit from France was a highlight of the year as it provided us with a new teacher for 6 weeks and she charmed her way into our hearts and gave us yet another excuse to put on a *bal* in May. This was open to the public and was a lively family event with great food, drink and French music and dancing until midnight.

Souleiado dancers put on an open afternoon mid year and this consisted of dance demonstrations, audience participation dances and a Provencal market set up by members of the group.

The accompanying photo is of a small group of us who performed at the Multicultural Festival in Fremantle alongside many other ethnic groups. This day was organised by University students of Perth and brought us together in a day of music, singing, dance and fine food.

So now we look forward to 2004, beginning with "A Day in Brittany", a day of presentations, displays, dance and a *Fest Noz* (Breton Bal), on February 29th.



Laurel de Vietri (WA)

Laurel will be giving French Dance workshops at the National Festival over Easter, 2004, with The Last Five Coins, so look out for that on the program

GREETINGS FROM CIFDA - ACT

At the beginning of this year, after moving from Hughes to Yarralumla in May, 2002, CIFDA was relocated to the 'back' hall while the main hall was being renovated. The renovations were completed just in time for the workshop of Romanian Dances taught by May Fanning, held in May 2003 during Dance Week.

It was a beautiful, fresh Canberra Autumn morning and, with the extra space, new floor and lots of natural light, the scene was set for a good workout. This workshop was such a great success we followed it up with another one, again presented by Mary, on 29th November, but with more of an emphasis on dances from the Balkans. A well-known Canberra Israeli Dance teacher, Verna Glenn, was also a guest teacher during the year.

The Belconnen Fruit Markets have built a permanent stage and invited all dance groups to participate in "Dancing in the Piazza" from October to December between 12 noon and 1pm. Eleven CIFDA members took part dancing a mixed bracket of six dances.

2003 will finish up with the Christmas Party, and the New Year will commence with our traditional "Picnic in the Park".



Carol McNally (ACT)

ADELAIDE TRADITIONAL DANCERS

During 2003 a small but enthusiastic group of dancers came together every Monday evening to enjoy the music and to perfect the dances from the many countries of our repertoire.

We gave special thanks to Michael Taliangis who retired as our Treasurer. Michael had undertaken the role since the inception of the club in 1974. We were especially grateful for his contribution that also included managing the hall security, advocating the club in many forums and most of all leading us in the many Greek dances that we enjoy. We will miss his warmth and friendship. Michael's excellent financial management has always enabled the club to remain financial. However, this year saw our membership fees rise by 50% - still the cheapest recreational activity in Australia, just \$3.00 for one hour of teaching and 2 hours of dancing.

We are looking forward to 2004 when we will celebrate a special anniversary - 30 years since the club's inception - a celebration yet to be finalized, in fact even designed (probably to occur sometime in March). Past members and interstate friends are encouraged to make contact if interested in being part of this very special event (contact Rae 08 8356 2172).

We also look forward to 2005 when Joan Amos, a long standing club member, returns from teaching in London, hopefully having experienced new dances and opportunities that her close contact with Europe - may be even the Balkans - will bring.



Jillian Blight (SA)

THE GREEK FOLK DANCERS - NSW

The Greek Folk Dancers of NSW has had a productive year in 2003. We started teaching new classes in new areas of Sydney, including Blakehurst. Our adult dance class has progressed one stage further to a performing group as well. The adult group, to their credit, have performed for the Greek Community on various occasions, including the Pan-Macedonian Festival at St Mary's. The annual Dinner Dance for the Mytelinean Association and our social.

We launched our new website www.geocities.com/greekfolkdancersnsw. So far feedback has been great.

The Greek Folk Dancers of NSW organised its first social and workshop in October. The Greek Dancing Group from Darwin attended the workshop and social and many of the dancers of both groups made new friends. The social was a success and we will hold them 3-4 times a year with a focus on each social. Dances from Macedonia and Thrace were the focus of the last social. The next social to be held will be in December - the focus will be on dances of the Sarakatsani and Vlahoi.

Our focus for next year will be a Celebration of Wedding customs and traditions from all regions of Greece. We hope to make it a day event - where we will re-enact the preparations for a wedding including a mock service and of course the party that follows.

Our dancing school has also been invited to perform at the Yuin Folk Festival - in Feb 2004. We also will be closed over the Dec - Jan break - as I will be overseas in Greece, purchasing a new set of costumes and plenty of resources.

I wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe 2004. Best wishes to all.



Vas Aligiannis (NSW)

2003 AT FOLK DANCE CANBERRA

The highlight of this year for Folk Dance Canberra (FDC) was the wedding of Grace (van Raak) and David Potter. David and Grace met at FDC classes, so when cupid had worked his magic and they decided to marry, what better way to celebrate than a folk dance party? And what a very special and wonderful party it was!

David and Grace were married on the afternoon of 1 November at the FDC hall before a gathering of family and friends, including FDC members. The bride and groom both wore Bulgarian costumes, and the FDC members were all decked out in their best folk gear. After the ceremony, FDC members performed Starodavny-Mamenka, a Czech wedding dance. This was followed by a number of easy dances that everyone joined in, and then a buffet dinner with a wonderful variety of dishes. At the end of dinner, Grace and David cut their wedding cake and were toasted with champagne.

The dance program for the rest of the evening featured Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Armenia, Turkey and Israel and included some

wonderful music – and a good deal of stamping, which David is particularly fond of.



Grace and David Potter dressed for the occasion in Bulgarian costumes at their wedding.

An unexpected 'guest' at the wedding was an ABC television crew from *Stateline*, the local current affairs program. They filmed the ceremony, the dancing and interviewed several people, and the result was a seven-minute segment on local TV just before 8pm the following Friday.

FDC members were delighted and privileged to have been invited to this unique event, and to share in David and Grace's very special day. And now, courtesy of ABC TV, we all have a wonderful video to help us remember it.

Of course, many other things have happened over the year, including:

- Performances at the annual Multicultural Festival, Floriade, Majors Creek Folk Festival and for the Australian-Romanian Adoptees Association.
- In February – a Come 'n' Try session conducted by Christine Battisson and Lesley Rose
- In March – a Romanian workshop presented by Maria Jenkins and Theresa Orchard, featuring some of the dances learnt in Romania in 2002.
- In May – community dancing at the Hackett community 40th anniversary celebrations.
- In June – an Israeli workshop presented by Janet Erasmus who was visiting from Canberra.
- A mid-year party with a Greek theme.
- In July – an evening international workshop, and a full-day teachers' workshop presented by Andre van der Plas.
- In October – a fundraising stall at the Fyshwick Markets.



Kerry Moir (ACT)
President Folk Dance Canberra

MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE

BACKGROUND

The term "Middle East" was devised by European geographers to describe the area now covered by Egypt, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Aden, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Persian Gulf states of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Although the culture of the Middle East, at first glance, may appear to be homogeneous, it has been in a state of flux for thousands of years with cultural groups forming, disappearing and re-forming. The region was conquered and re-conquered by Alexander the Great, the Romans and the great Islamic warlords who ruled from the Black Sea across to Spain. There are a mixture of religion-based cultures, including the Druze communities in the Lebanon mountains, Oriental Jews sprinkled through the region, Bedouin Arab tribes in northern Saudi Arabia, Kurds and Armenians in the hills of Turkey, Turkmen in north-east Iran and Maronite Christians in Lebanon. This religious mixture is further complicated linguistically by various dialects of four major language groups – Semetic, Indo-European, Ural-Altaic and Hamitic. Although "Eastern", the area is considered to be the birthplace of European civilisation beginning some 10,000 years ago in the fertile triangle defined by the Nile and the delta of the Tigris-Euphrates.

MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE

Generally, it is the rhythms of speech which have dominated the dance movements of the Middle East, giving rise to the irregular rhythms transcribed in Western notation as 7/8, 5/4, 9/16, etc., and combinations of these (eg, 25/8 = two bars of 7/8, followed by one of 11/8). Where the words do not dictate the melody and rhythm, the drummer follows the dancer. The drum, being beaten by fingers and hand, is able to produce more intricate rhythms than when beaten with sticks.

The rhythms made are therefore extremely varied, irregular and sometimes broken, because the dancer does not always mark the rhythms with his or her feet alone; sometimes they are marked by the head and arms while the feet rest or keep to a regular pulse; sometimes the accent is marked by an upward or sideward movement, rather than a downward one. The dancer may add to the musical accompaniment, using finger cymbals (zills), which date back to 200 BCE, wooden spoons, castanets or body percussion (stamps, clicks, claps, etc), and can wear intricate belts or necklaces made of coins that, in earlier days, comprised the family's wealth so that it might be portable in the event that the family needed to move quickly or flee.

The dombek (darabuka) is the hourglass-shaped Arabic drum and were traditionally made of ceramic, with the head made of either goatskin or fish skin.



This article will focus on two types of dance associated with the Middle East – Belly Dance and Turkish dance (which also has a restrained form of belly dance called *Csifte Tel*).

BELLY DANCE



Belly dancing is natural to a woman's bone and muscle structure with movements emanating from the torso rather than in the legs and feet. The dance often focuses upon isolating different parts of the body, moving them independently in sensuous patterns, weaving together the entire feminine form. Belly dancing is generally performed barefoot, thought by

many to emphasize the intimate physical connection between the dancer, her expression, and Mother Earth.

In a myth dating from 4,500 BCE, the Middle Eastern Goddess of Love, Ishtar, is said to have tied a girdle around her hips, donned seven veils and to have danced with them to gain entry to the seven gates of the netherworld to bring back her husband, Tammouz, who had died. While she was absent, the earth darkened and turned to Winter. On her return, earth again became fertile and blossomed into Spring.

That Belly Dance (women's dance of fertility) has existed since prehistoric times is also confirmed by anthropologists, who believe that it was most likely linked to religious worship.

Belly dancing, in one form or another, has not only been associated with the Middle East; it has been widespread throughout the world. The traditional dances of Maori women (NZ) and the *hula* from the Hawaiian Islands demonstrate a close spiritual and physical connection to belly dance.

Belly Dancing was performed in ancient Greece, as shown in clay statuettes, dated between 7th and 3rd century BCE from Tanagra, a small Boeotian city east of Thebes in ancient Greece. The Romans enjoyed this dance, as did the sultans of the Ottoman Empire. In the 7th century CE, a Persian scholar described the attributes of a great dancer to include "a great agility and swaying of the hips".

Historically, the influence of gypsies (a corruption of the word *Egypt*) on the dances of the countries they passed through, and on belly dance in particular, was very strong. According to some legends, gypsies originated from the Sindh or "bilad as-sind", a southern province of Hindustan, now Pakistan.

(Note: Some forms of classical Indian dance include neck slides and the sinuous arm movements still common to belly dance today).

These gypsy tribes spread through Turkey, where, known as *tsjengui*, they danced in the harem and for the entertainment of the sultan and his guests during the time of the Ottoman Empire.

Dancers of the Ghawazee (an Egyptian gypsy tribe)



used zills. They wore various ornaments; their eyes were bordered with kohl and they usually stained designs on their hands and feet with henna, and dressed according to the custom of the middle and higher classes of Egyptian women. In general they were accompanied by musicians (mostly of the same tribe), whose instruments included the *doumbek*.

The Ouled Naïl ("*young women of the Nile*") belong to an Arab tribe living in the hills of the Sahara. In the past, the young women, often accompanied by their mothers, travelled up to 250 miles from their homeland hills to the towns to live and work as dancers and prostitutes, with no dishonour attached. After the season or when they had earned enough money they often returned to their home village, joining a caravan that followed a pattern of oases, and to marry and bring up their daughters in the same way. After marriage, they were kept strictly secluded.

The costumes of the women of the Ouled Naïl were, until the first half of the 20th century, truly magnificent. They also lined their eyes with kohl and adorned themselves with jewellery (their dowry). This jewellery had a distinctive look and was very much sought after by tourists in the first half of the 20th century. Their oily hair, worn in braids on both sides of the face, was covered with the typical diadem that was sometimes looped up and held in place by big earrings. They went unveiled even when most women in North Africa were covered.

In the 19th century, the French Foreign Legion made their dance popular (but not at all respectable) during the colonisation of Algeria. Painters Renoir and Flaubert recorded their experiences with the Ouled Naïl, the "tribe of the dancing sandals," in Algeria.

In the walled "reserved quarters", introduced into the desert towns by the French, are the cafés, small streets and squares where the Ouled Naïl dance, while

patrons relax over mint tea. The young women are known to wear huge bracelets with studs and spikes an inch or two long projecting from them in order to protect themselves.



Ouled Naïl, Algeria, 1914.

Today, the greatest misconception about belly dancing, perhaps understandably, is that it developed to entertain men. However, throughout history, most of this ritualized expression was performed by women for other women - generally during fertility rites or gatherings to prepare a young woman for marriage. In most cases, the presence of men was not permitted.

Modern types of Belly Dance (eg, *çifte tel*, *rakkase*, *raqs sharqi*, *beledi*) are but the latest developments in the long history of this women's dance which goes back to antiquity.



Egyptian Dancer, Selwa Rajaa, performing *beledi* ("native dance").



TURKISH FOLK DANCE

The Turkic tribes originated in Central Asia and, by way of continual migrations and incursions west, settled around 11th century on, and spread out from, the Anatolian Plateau in Turkey, which is considered to be a bridge over which many cultures have crossed, including Hittite, Phrygian, Lydian, Celtic, Jewish, Greek, Roman, Armenian, Hindustani, Kurdish and Mongol. For example, the capital of Turkey, Ankara, was once the capital of the Galatians, a Celtic people, and the highest mountain in Turkey, Mt Ararat, is where Noah's Ark is said to have rested.

As a result of this rich cultural heritage, Turkish, and especially Anatolian, dances possess a large vocabulary of gestures and movements. However, there is no one national Turkish dance – each region, even each village, has its own dances.

Turkish Folk Dances are generally performed during weddings, on journeys to the mountains in the summer, when sending sons off to military service and during religious and national holidays. The best known folk dances are:

Horon: This Black Sea dance is performed by men only, dressed in black with silver trimmings. The dancers link arms and quiver to the vibrations of the *kemençe*, a primitive type of violin.

Kasik Oyunu: The Spoon Dance is performed from Konya to Silifke and consists of gaily dressed male and female dancers clicking out the dance rhythm with a pair of wooden spoons in each hand.

Kilic Kalkan: The Sword and Shield Dance of Bursa represents the Ottoman conquest of the city. It is performed by men only, dressed in early Ottoman battle dress, who dance to the sound of clashing swords and shields without music.

Zeybek: In this Aegean dance, colourfully dressed male dancers, called 'efe', symbolize courage and heroism.

Çifte Tel: A restrained version of belly dance, performed as a solo either by one woman for other

woman, or by a man for a male audience. The footwork in the Çifte Tel is of secondary importance and the movement of the abdominal muscles is not as pronounced as in the North African dance versions of the Ghawazee or Ouled Naïl tribes. A characteristic of the Çifte Tel is a horizontal movement of the head and quivering of the shoulders and arms. This dance is also known in the Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Baku and Iran.



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Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, Washington, DC, 1999 (information from their website).

Joan Lawson, *European Folk Dance, Its National & Musical Characteristics*, Pitman & Sons Ltd, 1955.

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<http://www.bdancer.com>; <http://www.bellydance.org>

LOCAL EVENTS

FDA Bulgarian Dances of Yesteryear, 8 Feb 2004

So often we attend workshops (here and even overseas), learn exciting dances, only to have them fade from memory. This workshop will cover a range of Bulgarian dances from the past (eg, Yves Moreau, André van de Plas, etc) to help you recall the excitement.

Date: Sunday, 8 February, 2004
Time: 10am – 12.30pm
Place: Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
 King St, Newtown
 (opp Newtown Station), Sydney
Cost: \$12 per session;
 (\$10 for FDA members)

For more details, contact Sandra Bassetti, 02 6552 5142, or Kaye Laurendet, 02 9528 4813.

FDA Annual General Meeting, 8 Feb 2004

In the afternoon, following the "Bulgarian Dances of Yesteryear" workshop, FDA will hold its AGM. Come along to contribute your ideas on how we can make FDA better represent its members – or just come to offer moral support!

Date: Sunday, 8 February, 2004
Time: 1pm
Place: Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
 King St, Newtown
 (opp Newtown Station), Sydney

FDA Yorgo's Macedonian Dance Workshop, 7 March 2004

This innovative and informative teacher will again share some of his delightful Macedonian dances and choreographies with us at this workshop..

Date: Sunday, 7 March 2004
Time: 10am – 3pm
Place: Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
 King St, Newtown
 (opp Newtown Station), Sydney
Cost: \$12 per session; \$20 full day
 (\$10, or \$18 for FDA members)

For more details, contact Sandra Bassetti, 02 6552 5142, or Kaye Laurendet, 02 9528 4813.

Hungary on a Plate

The Queensland Council of Hungarian Youth and the Tanchaz Brisbane Hungarian Dance Ensemble present: Hungary on a Plate - Now serving Kalotaszeg!

Dates: 29 December, 2003 – 5 January, 2004
Place: Baden Powell Scout Camp, Samford, Brisbane, QLD

Prices include New Years Eve buffet dinner, prepared by Gold medal winning Hungarian Chef.

For more information or a copy of the brochure please email: hungaryonaplate@optusnet.com.au.

Closing Date for the next Footnotes issue:
 Please send articles for the February, 2004 issue to:-The Editor, "Footnotes", PO Box 142, PENRITH 2751, by **15 January, 2004** or email liz@pnc.com.au

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

3rd St. Petersburg "Russian Spring" International Folk Music Festival, June, 2004

- for seven days in St. Petersburg during the "white nights", from 1 June to 7 June, 2004.

The "Folk Music Association of Russia", of St Petersburg (Russia) has successfully led two international folklore festivals involving participants from Norway, Finland, Turkey, Belarus, Georgia, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan and various regions of Russia, including Karelia, Kalmykia, Moscow, Archangelsk, Ekaterinburg and Novgorod.

Historically, St. Petersburg developed as a unique crossroad of diversified interests, cultures and ideas and as a traditional place for international forums and festivals and so is the perfect setting for this festival.

The festival will feature the following events:

A Russian fair;
"Freckle" (children's program);
Music and dances of nations of the world;
Northern flamenco (Spanish dance);
The Holiday of Russian balalaika (orchestras and ensembles);
The Exit concert – in the city of Kronstadt;
The Exit concert – in the city Petrodvorets;
Gala concert – in the city of Pushkin;
A seminar on the Historical value of folklore in the 21st century;
An exhibition of applied art.

For more information, e-mail: folk@sp.ru or check their website www.fma.sp.ru.

Dance Grand Prix – three events, Europe 2004

"Barça" Dance Grand Prix "Spain" 2004 will be held in Barcelona (Spain) from 8th to 12th April 2004 during Easter, 2004.

Prague Festival Dance Prize 2004 will be held in the Czech Republic during the Easter, 2004.

Dance Grand Prix "Italy" 2004 will be held in Italy from 18th to 23rd June, 2004.

For more information about the organisation, the Art Director, Mr. Tiberio Meneghelli can provide the e-mail and post address of many previous participants from all over the world. For more information about the festival programs, visit www.dancegrandprix.com, or email dancegrandprix@dancegrandprix.com.

Machol Pacifica, July, 2004

Two great teachers, Shmulik Gov-Ari and Moshiko Halevy, will be together from 9 – 12 July at Machol Pacifica 2004, New Zealand's national Israeli Dance Camp.

It will include residential accommodation at Lindisfarne College, Hastings (NZ), parallel classes for Thorough or Fast learners and workshops for young people.

To get more information, contact Kathleen Osborne: kjo@xtra.co.nz or check the website www.saveguard.co.nz/dance

These wonderful teachers will also be in Melbourne with the "Hora" group from 16 – 18 July, 2004. Contact appel@bigpond.net.au or telephone 03 9576 1108 for more information.

FOLK ON THE WEB

Name: nick karamitsos, nkaramit@bigpond.net.au
From: Melbourne
Date: 2/10/2003
Comments: Great web page. I need wooden spoons for our dance group. Can you help? Thanks.

Name: balagan@paradise.net.nz
From: New Zealand
Date: 8 Nov 2003
Subject: Rokdim Yechefim Magazine online now!
Comments: Hi everyone. I know that a lot of you will be receiving a copy of "Rokdim Yechefim" in the mail shortly, but due to a printing mishap, your magazine will not be sent out until mid this week. For a sneak preview (or a complete read) drop by and visit the magazine website at: <http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/~balagan>. For those of you who have not subscribed to the magazine, this is your chance to read it! Yvonne Trask



CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

FDA's website also has links to other dance groups, as well as historical and other informative articles on folk dance:

<http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/4677>

For information on Israeli Dancing, especially in NZ: check out the magazine Rokdim Yechefim on their website at: <http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/~balagan>.

Interested in buying Romanian Folk Costumes? Dan Baciú says that Romanian Folk Costumes, Blouses and accessories can be purchased by mail from their Bucharest shop in Romania. Please check their home page at: <http://www.costumes.ro> or email Dan danbaciú@totalnet.ro.

For Canberra's Monaro Folk Society activities: the complete forward planning calendar (including venue locations) is at <http://www.pcug.org.au/~lcourt/links.htm>

For Earthly Delights Music & Dance - John & Aylwen Garden. Upcoming gigs & dances: <http://www.earthlydelights.com.au/upcoming.htm> or join their email updates: garden@earthlydelights.com.au.

The website <http://www.earthlydelights.com.au/> now contains dance instructions, dance history, dance tips and terms, calling a dance, dance costumes and Christmas dances!

For information on the Regency Dance & Costume Display Group with an interest in the dances and dress during the life of Jane Austen - contact Aylwen Garden garden@earthlydelights.com.au

ADVERTISING ON FDA WEBSITE:

For Non-profit clubs:

Links from the FDA website are provided free-of-charge to websites of non-profit clubs and organisations related to dance and folk.

For Businesses:

We have set up a page specifically for displaying links to the websites of businesses and other "for-profit" organisations. The annual (ie, Jan - Dec) cost of FDA providing a link to your website is \$40. However, if you have at least one FDA member within your management or staff you will be entitled to a 50% discount.

If you are interested in FDA providing a link from our website to yours, please email your details to Ashley: kitka@travellertv.com.au.

Payment Details:

By internet:

St George Bank,
BSB: 112879,
A/C No 053 969 771

By cheque to "Folk Dance Australia Inc",
The FDA Treasurer,
127 Woronora Cres
COMO WEST NSW 2226



Long Distance Communication

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world. He began in the USA. In Orlando, he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall of the church with a sign underneath that read "\$10,000 per call". The American, being intrigued, asked the priest what the telephone was for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and, for \$10,000, you could talk to God.

Next stop was Atlanta. There, at a very large cathedral, the American saw a similar golden phone. Curious, he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God.

He travelled to Indianapolis, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York. In every church he saw a similar phone with the "\$10,000 per call" sign under it.

He then decided to travel to Australia to see if churches there had the similar phones. They did, but this time the sign under it read "40 cents per call." The American was most surprised, and asked a priest about the sign. "Father, I've travelled all over America and I've seen golden phones in many churches. I'm told they have a direct line to Heaven, but in the US the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled and answered, "You're in Australia now, son - it's a local call".

WHAT'S ON WHERE

A.C.T. (Canberra)

Folk Dance Canberra (FDC):

Monday – Thursday, day and evening, various times, sessions for beginner, intermediate and advanced folk dancers in International Dances generally as well as Egyptian Belly Dance and Israeli and Greek Dances in particular and sessions for children, at Folk Dance Canberra Hall, 114 Maitland St, Hackett.

Contact Christine Battisson (02) 6241 3563.

Wednesday 7.45pm - 10.30pm, International Dancing with CIFDA (Canberra International Folk Dancing Association), Uniting Church Hall, Denman St, Yarralumla; cost \$8 (includes supper). Contact (02) 6251 3470 or (02) 6251 1802.

Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm, Israeli Folk Dancing, New Creation Ministries Hall, Dixon Drive, Holder. Contact Verna, (02) 6288 2476

Friday: 5.30 – 7.30pm, Welsh and Cornish Folk Dance, at Folk Dance Canberra Hall, 114 Maitland St, Hackett. Contact Winifred 02 6230 4937 or Jean 02 6251 2478.

Saturday: Social Dance 3rd Saturday of each month (March – November) from 8pm, St John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid with John Garden and Earthly Delights, \$15 / \$12. Contact John or Aylwen (02) 6281 1098.

Sunday: 4.00 – 6.30pm. Earthly Delights' circle, couples and set dances, YMCA Sailing Club, Alexandrina Drive, Yarralumla, \$10 casual, \$5 regular. Contact. John or Aylwen (02) 6281 1098.

Sunday: 4.00 – 6.00pm (beginners/intermediate), Israeli Folk Dancing, Forrest. Contact Mary Fanning on (02) 6247 0959. Cost \$5

Sunday 5pm, Scandinavian Folk Dance Group, Uniting Church Hall, Denman St, Yarralumla.. New members very welcome. Contact Brad Sherman (02) 6288 3050 ah, or email: brad@dynamite.com.au

NEW SOUTH WALES (Sydney)

Monday 10 - 12 noon. During school term. Earlwood Senior Citizens Centre, 362 Homer St. Earlwood. Contact Gwynne (02) 9558 4753.

Monday 6.30 - 7.30pm. . Scottish Country Dancing for beginners with 'Scots on The Rocks', Fort Street Public School, Observatory Hill, Sydney. Contact Nea 02 9994-7110 or Lynn 02 9268-1246 or email SCDancers@netspace.net.au. Internet: <http://www.rscds.org.au>

Monday 7.00pm Belly Dance classes - Basic / Beginners, 8.00pm - Choreography, Girraween Hall, 17 Tungarra Road, Girraween. Contact Vera Myronenko (02) 9665 9713

Monday 7.30pm. Bush dancing workshops for beginners (Bush Music Club) Pennant Hills Community Centre (downstairs, opp railway station); Contact Mark Dabbs (02) 9638 7690 (ah)

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Day and evening sessions, Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group. Contact Kaye Laurendet (02) 9528 4813.

Tuesday 11.30am - 12.30pm, International Folk Dance Class. The Open Toes, at The Open Door - Georges Hall Senior Citizens, Birdwood Rd, Georges Hall. Contact Gabrielle 02 9728 7466 or email gabybaby@optusnet.com.au

Tuesday 6.00 - 7pm (juniors), 7 – 8.30pm (advanced), Greek Folk Dance classes, Bankstown RSL Club, 32 Kitchener Pde, Bankstown. Contact Vas Aliagiannis, 0407 081 875 (m), greekdancer@excite.com

Tuesday 6.00 – 8.00pm Scottish dancing in the city. 'Scots on The Rocks' meet at Fort Street Public School, Observatory Hill, Sydney. Contact Nea 02 9994 7110 or Lynn 02 9268-1246; email SCDancers@netspace.net.au. Website: <http://www.rscds.org.au>

Tuesday Belly Dance classes: 6.15pm Basic /Beginners Class, 7.15pm Beyond Beginners Class, 8.15pm Choreography Group, Randwick Literary Institute, 60 Clovelly Road Cnr Market St, Randwick North. Contact Vera Myronenko (02) 9665 9713.

Tuesday, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, "The Dance Buffet", (includes Bush dances, Line dances, Balkan, Rock'n roll, Salsa, Scottish country, Playford, Ceili, Old Time, Square, Round dances and Latin), Liverpool City Pipe Band Hall, Woodward Park (next to Whitlam Centre), Memorial Ave, Liverpool. Cost \$8.00 (\$5.00 Conc). Contact Nicholai, 02 9822 7524 or mobile: 0407178 228.

Tuesday, 7.30pm, Swedish Folk Dancing with Linnéa, 141 Campbell St, Surry Hills (close to Central Station). Contact Graeme Traves, (02) 9874 4194 or linneafolk@hotmail.com

Tuesday 7 30pm Belly Dance classes - Basic / Beginners, Girraween Hall, 17 Tungarra Road, Girraween. Contact Vera Myronenko (02) 9665 9713

Tuesday, 7.30 Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers, Scout Hall, Martha St, Yagoona. Contact (02) 9150 6765.

Tuesday, 8pm – 10pm, Turkish Dance classes, with Yusuf Nidai, Lidcombe Community Centre. Contact Yusuf Nidai (02) 9646 1166.

Tuesday, 8pm – 10pm, Hungarian Dance classes, with Gary Dawson, cost: \$10/\$5 per class, \$70/\$35 for semester (school term). Harris Community Centre, 97 Quarry St (cnr Bulwarra Rd), Ultimo. Contact Gary Dawson (02) 9559 4485 or email: garydawson@ozemail.com.au

Wednesday 9 – 10am beginners, 10 – 11am, advanced (school term only). International Folk Dancing – classes for older women. BOWWC at Bankstown Police & Community Youth Club (PCYC), cnr Meredith St & French Ave, Bankstown. Contact Gabrielle 02 9728 7466 or Alita 02 9798 9269.

Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30pm (juniors), Greek Folk Dance classes, Kingsgrove Public School, Kingsgrove. Contact Vas Aliagiannis, 0407 081 875 (m), greekdancer@excite.com

Wednesday 6.30 – 8.30pm. Macedonian Dance classes. Macedonian Cultural Association Ilinden, 65 Railway St, Rockdale. Cost \$5.00 per lesson. Contact Yorgo Kaporis 0412 861 187.

Wednesday 7.00pm (seniors), Greek Folk Dance classes, Alexander the Great, Greek-Macedonian Club, Livingstone Rd, Marrickville. Contact Vas Aliagiannis, 0407 081 875 (m), greekdancer@excite.com

Wednesday 8.00 – 10pm. Australian Heritage Dancers, rehearsals, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St, Annandale). Contact Patrick Burnett: (02) 9957 6049.

Wednesday Belly Dance classes: 8.00pm Basic /Beginners Class, Randwick Literary Institute, 60 Clovelly Road Cnr Market St, Randwick North. Contact Vera Myronenko (02) 9665 9713.



Thursday, 6pm: Juniors, 7.15pm: Adults Greek Folk Dancing, with Vasilios Aligiannis, Greek Church Hall, 21 Henry St, Leichhardt. Contact: 0407 081 875 (m) greekdancer@excite.com

Thursday Belly Dance classes, 6.15pm: Basic Beginners class, 7.15pm: Choreography and Performers Group. Contact Vera Myronenko (02) 9665 9713. Girraween Hall, 17 Tungarra Road, Girraween.

Thursday 7pm Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers, Girl Guide Hall, Wardell St, Amcliffe. Contact (02) 9150 6765.

Thursday 7.30 – 9.30pm, International Folk Dancing, cnr Sorrell & Fennell Sts, North Parramatta. Contact Cherylene Fanner, 02 9875 2842 (ah).

Friday 10.00am Belly Dance classes - Basic / Beginners, Girraween Hall, 17 Tungarra Road, Girraween. Contact Vera Myronenko (02) 9665 9713

Friday 5.30 – 6.30pm (juniors), Greek Folk Dance classes, Bexley North Public School, Bexley North. Contact Vas Aligiannis, 0407 081 875 (m), greekdancer@excite.com

Friday 8 - 11pm. Sedenka International Folkdance Group, Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, 665A Darling St, Rozelle. Contact Chris (02) 9560 2910.

Saturday Belly Dance classes: 9.00am Children's class 12yrs & under; 9.45am: Adults Basic Beginners class; 10.45, Choreography class, PCYC building, Hassall St, Parramatta (near station on Nth side). Contact Vera Myronenko (02) 9665 9713.

Saturday (am) Children's classes in International Folk Dance, 6 - 18 years. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. Pennant Hills (opp. railway station). Contact Carol Maddocks (02) 9905 1563.

(Blue Mountains)

Thursday 7.00 - 8.15pm and/or 8.30 - 10.00pm. The Blue Labyrinth International Folk Dancers, Baptist Church Hall, King St, Glenbrook. Contact Jo (02) 4739 6498 or Pat (02) 4739 1005.

Belly Dance private lessons. Contact Ann Thomson, 02 4739 8093, shakeannshimmy@yahoo.com.

(Braidwood)

Monday, 10am - 11am, Braidwood Folk Dance Group, Braidwood RSL Hall, Braidwood. Contact Noela (02) 4842 8004.

Monday, 11am - noon, Braidwood Belly Dance Group, Braidwood RSL Hall, Braidwood. Contact Erika (02) 4846 4061 or Michelle (02) 4842 2505.

(Bowral)

Thursday 9.00 - 11.00 am. Southern Highlands Recreational International Folk Dance Group. Presbyterian Hall, Bendooley St. Bowral. Beginners start at 9 am.

Contact Margaret Connor (02) 4861 2294.

(Newcastle)

Monday, 7p.m.-9p.m. Sacred/circle dance—traditional dances, recent circle dances, sacred dances, peace dances. Wesley Senior Citizens Hall, William Street, Hamilton. All welcome. No previous experience required. Cost is \$7 per session. Contact: Judith Keller (02) 4947 9441, kellsull@ozemail.com.au

Saturday (2nd Saturday of month) 7.30pm, Wesley Fellowship Hall, Hamilton. Contact Cecille (02) 4957 0830.

Ask a lot, but take what is offered (Russian proverb).
It takes a long time to become young (Pablo Picasso)

(Shoalhaven area)

Monday 7.30pm. Balkan & International Folk Dance, Cambewarra Hall, Main Rd, Cambewarra. Contact Suzi Krawczyk 02 4446 0569 or email: plotki@shoal.net.au

Friday (school terms only), 8.00pm - 10.00pm, Shoalhaven Folk and Bush Dance Club, Cambewarra Hall, Main Rd, Cambewarra. Easy social dances, Colonial, Scottish, English and Folk. All welcome. Contact Margaret 02 4421 0557 or email: msharpe@shoal.net.au

(Taree)

Tuesday, 5.30pm – 8.30pm, Lazarka International Folk Dance Group, Manning River Steiner School Hall. Contact Sandra Bassetti (02) 6552 5142.

NORTHERN TERRITORY (Darwin)

Tuesday 6 - 8pm. International and Playford Dancing - Beginners to advanced; at the Railway Institute, Parap. Contact Anna 08 8981 6400 or Sue 08 8985 1827 or email sueross21@hotmail.com.

QUEENSLAND (Brisbane)

Friday (2nd & 4th of month) 8 - 10.00pm, Brisinta International folk dancing, Uniting Church Hall, cnr Kingsley & Kadumba Sts. Yeronga. \$5. Contact Lyn or Barry (07) 3379 2088.

Saturday (monthly, generally 2nd Saturday of the month), 8.00 - 11pm. Colonial/bush, Celtic, American Contra and multicultural dancing. Morningside School of Arts, cnr Wynnum & Thynne Rds, Morningside. Supper provided; music by the Champion Moreton Bay Band. Contact Vic or Jan on (07) 3848 7706.

(Cairns)

Wednesday 8pm; Italian dancing classes, Tennis Court Hall, Windarra St, Woree. Contact (07) 4054 4259 or (07) 4051 1065.

Thursday 7pm, Bavarian, Austrian and Swiss folk dance practice, Germania Club, Winkworth St.

(Sunshine Coast)

Monday 9.30 - 11.30 am, Old School House, Nambour Showgrounds, Nambour. \$4. Contact Lorraine 07 5445 1740.

Thursday 9.30 – 11.30 am, Old School House, Nambour Showgrounds, Nambour, \$4. Contact Lorraine 07 5445 1740.

Friday 9.00 – 12 noon, Noosa Bicentennial Hall Annexe, Bicentennial Drive, Noosa, \$5. Contact Danni 07 5471 0409

(Townsville)

Tuesday 6pm - 7.30pm; International Folk Dancing at the AWU Hall, Sturt St, Townsville. Contact Maurice (07) 4772 2757.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Monday 7 – 10pm, Adelaide Traditional Dancers, RSL Hall, Woods St, Norwood Oval, Norwood. Teaching for beginners from 7 – 8pm, cost \$2. Contact Rae 08 8356 2172.

Thursday International: 1st, 3rd (& 5th) Thursday of the month, Broadview Baptist Hall, cnr Collingrove & Howard Sts, Broadview. Contact: Kay (08) 8278 8087.

TASMANIA (Hobart)

Thursday 8pm, Hobart Multicultural Dance Group, \$3 + contribution to shared supper, St Peter's Hall, cnr Lord & Grosvenor Sts, Sandy Bay, contact Graeme (03) 6239 1553, Krista & Peter (03) 6227 8471 or email Peter: Peter.Sands@csiro.au

VICTORIA (Melbourne)

Monday 1.45pm. International Folk Dancing, University of the Third Age, St Stevens Church, 20 Norman Court, Mount Waverley. Contact Margaret (03) 9807 4755 or Audrey (03) 9898 3567.

Tuesday 7.30 - 10pm. Greek traditional, popular, national & folkloric dancing at Margaritas Centre of Greek Dance & Folklore, Richmond Community Primary School, Cnr Davidson & Kent Sts, Richmond. Classes for beg/inter/advan or private lessons. Also available for teaching intellectually, sensory & physically disabled (03) 9583 1173 (all hours) or Mobile 015 821 203.

Wednesday 6 - 10pm. Pine St Hall, Pine St. Cheltenham. Contact Margarita (03) 9583 1173.

Thursday 9.30 am International Dancing, University of the Third Age, Dandenong. TAFE College (Robin McKay Hall). Contact Conny (03) 9792 9377.

Friday 10 am. International Dance, Council of Adult Education, City Campus, 256 Flinders St. Contact Malcolm (03) 9652 0688 or Audrey (03) 9898 3567.

Friday 7.30 - 10.30pm 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. International Dancing, Box Hill Ballet Association hall, Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill. Contact Jan Turner (03) 9434 3368.

Saturday 4th Saturday of each month, 1:30 - 3:30pm, St Kilda International Dancers, Frank Tate Studio, Melbourne University, Swanston St. Contact Marie Feigl 5473 3355 or 0412 447 600.

Sunday 2 - 4.30pm. Margaritas Centre of Greek Dance. (See above, Tuesday).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Perth)

Monday Perth International Dancers, 7.00pm teaching, 8.30-10.00pm social dancing. St Margaret's Hall, cnr Tyrell and Elizabeth Sts Nedlands, WA. Contact John Whaite (08) 9444 4736, or Laurel (08) 9448 8179

Tuesday 7.45 - 9.45pm. Hora Dance (Israeli), Temple David Social Hall, 34 Clifton Cres, Mount Lawley. Contact (08) 9276 7566 or (08) 9335 2042.

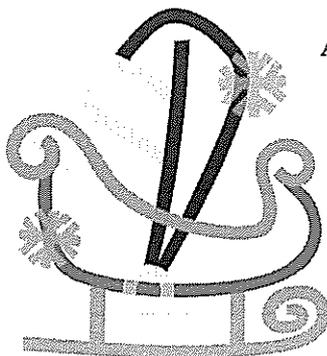
Wednesday 10 am - Noon, French Traditional Dance classes for adults, \$5, morning tea provided. Uniting Church Hall, Kalgoorlie St, Mt Hawthorn. All levels and visitors welcome. Dances from Brittany, Provence, Berry, Auvergne, Poitou, Bearn etc.

Contact Laurel (08) 9448 8179, email louis@nw.com.au. Also check website of performance group: www.arach.net.au/users/bgolddb

Thursday 10 am - Noon, St Paul's Hall, 162 - 164 Hampton Rd, Fremantle. Contact (08) 9276 7566 or (08) 9335 2042.

Friday (during school terms), after school, French traditional Dancing, for students, at St Mary's AGS, Elliot Rd Karrinyup. Contact Laurel (08) 9448 8179, or email louis@nw.com.au. See also website of performance group, "Les Enfants de Provence" www.arach.net.au/users/bgolddb

Saturday 10.00am - 12 noon, Perth International Dancers, Beginners Class, at the John Leckie Pavillion, College Park, Nedlands, WA. Contact Laurel (08) 9448 8179.



A Christmas Tale (Information from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

While both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year (the only members of the deer family, Cervidae, to have females do so), male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid December. Female reindeer retain their antlers until after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolf to Blitzen had to be a girl. We should've known.

Only women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night, and not get lost!!



Folk Dance Australia Inc

Application for 2004 Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please send Renewal Form with membership fee of \$20 (postal note or cheque made out to Folk Dance Australia Inc) to:

The Membership Secretary
Folk Dance Australia
4 Old Station Rd
HELENSBURGH
2508

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 8 Dec 2003** Monaro Folk Society's **Dancing In The Park**, free informal bush dancing on summer evenings (Mondays, from 6:45pm) in December, January and February, Stage 88 in Commonwealth Park, ACT. Contact Di & Daryl Powell daryl_powell@netspeed.com.au, 02 6295 8280 (h). Dancers and musicians of all standards are welcome to join in.
- 13 Dec 2003** Earthly Delights' **Christmas Carol Ball**, St. John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid, ACT. For more information, visit <http://www.earthlydelights.com.au>
- 19 Dec 2003** 8 - 11pm, **Christmas Party**, Sedenka International Folkdance Group, Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, 665A Darling St, Rozelle, Sydney. Live music with Graham Witt. Contact Chris (02) 9560 2910.
- 27 Dec 2003** 6 days, **Woodford Folk Festival**, Woodford, QLD. Check website <http://www.woodfordfolkfestival.com>
- 28 Dec 2003** 5 days, **Gulgong Folk Festival**, NSW. Check website: <http://www.wnsoft.net.au/~worobil>
- 29 Dec 2003** One week, **Hungary on a Plate**, Baden Powell Scout Camp, Samford, Brisbane, QLD. Contact email: hungaryonaplate@optusnet.com.au.
- 9 Jan 2004** 3 days, **Cygnnet Folk Festival**, Tasmania. Contact 03 6295 0202 or http://www.cygnnetfolkfestival.org/5_perf.htm
- 11 Jan 2004** 4pm - 6:30pm, Sundays each week, **Dancing on the Lake**, YMCA Sailing Club, Yarralumla Bay, ACT. Live music, social dances in styles from the last 500 years. \$10 a session, \$60 (10 weeks) or \$100 (20 weeks). Tea & coffee provided. Contact Aylwen Garden garden@earthlydelights.com.au.
- 27 Jan 2004** 8pm, Canadian **Tryzub Ukranian Dance Ensemble** concert, The Octagon Theatre, Perth. Contact Octagon 08 9380 2440 (12 noon - 4.15pm)
- 30 Jan 2004** 8pm, Canadian **Tryzub Ukranian Dance Ensemble** concert, The Scott Theatre, University of Adelaide, Adelaide. Contact BASS 131 246
- 1 Feb 2004** 7pm, Canadian **Tryzub Ukranian Dance Ensemble** concert, Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne. Contact Ticketek 132 849 or <http://www.ticketek.com>
- 5 Feb 2003** 8pm, Canadian **Tryzub Ukranian Dance Ensemble** concert, The Parade Theatre, NIDA, Sydney. Contact Ticketek 02 9266 4800 or <http://www.ticketek.com>
- 8 Feb 2004** 10am - 12.30pm, **FDA Bulgarian Dances of Yesteryear** workshop, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, King St, Newtown, (opp Newtown Station), Sydney. Contact Sandra Bassetti, 02 6552 5142, or Kaye Laurendet, 02 9528 4813 or email okaye@optusnet.com.au
- 8 Feb 2004** 1pm, **FDA Annual General Meeting**, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, King St, Newtown, (opp Newtown Station), Sydney. Contact FDA Secretary, Vas Aligiannis, 0407 081 875 (m), 16 Dutton St, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200, or email greekdancer@excite.com
- 27 Feb 2004** 3 days, **9th Cobargo Folk Festival**, Contact <http://www.cobargofolkfestival.com>
- 5 Mar 2004** 4 days, **Port Fairy Folk Festival**. Contact 03 4468 2227 or <http://www.PortFairyFolkFestival.com>.
- 7 Mar 2004** 10am - 3pm, **FDA Macedonian Dance Workshop**, with Yorgo Kaporis, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, King St, Newtown, (opp Newtown Station), Sydney. Contact Sandra Bassetti, 02 6552 5142, or Kaye Laurendet, 02 9528 4813 or email okaye@optusnet.com.au
- 20 Mar 2004** 2 days, Sellenger's Round: **Mount Tamborine Folk Dance Weekend**, The Showground, Mt Tambourine, QLD. Contact Chris and Sheree, 07 3806 1343, csgreenhill@optusnet.com.au
- 13 Apr 2004** 6 days, **Rio Festival 2004**, Kalgoolie-Boulder, WA. Check website: www.riofestival.com
- 23 Apr 2004** 4 days, **St Albans Folk Festival**, NSW. Check website: <http://www.snalbans.iwarp.com>
- 15 May 2004** 7 pm - 11.30pm, Sellenger's Round presents the **6th Annual May Ball**, 18th century costume dance, Mount Gravatt Showground Community Hall, Tickets \$30 and \$25 conc. Music with Potcheen, calling by Greenhill. Contact Chris and Sheree, 07 3806 1343, csgreenhill@optusnet.com.au

In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and worst thing you can do is nothing. - Theodore Roosevelt

FDA Membership / Renewal Form