



Merry Christmas

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



"Dance is a language beyond words, expressing that for which we have no words." – Jennifer De Leon

The end of the year will soon be upon us. Which means end of year celebrations, gatherings of friends and hopefully a dance concert or more. This is a positive time, which can sometimes be "joyful beyond words". To emphasise this, I am reminded of our recent Virtual Workshop

with Lee Otterholt. It started out being quite a standard folk-dance class in many ways, UNTIL Lee shared with us some video of historical footage, when he was in a performance group in Oslo, Denmark. His continued wit, and special illustrative spark that he infused in each dance taught, just drew an ever wider 'smile' on each participant; which in summary expressed "our joy beyond words".

In Lee's own words, ... "that Zoom workshop was super fun and gave me a great impression of Australian international folk dancers. I have always wanted to come to Australia to do some teaching, and now, through the Zoom workshop, several Australian groups know me..." PLUS as a workshop participant, Marilyn C. wrote "I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop on Sunday! Lee is an excellent teacher and chose a variety of dances at different levels to suit all participants. We have already been inspired to dance Cobankat in Lesley's Tuesday morning class and she said Bec's Monday Advanced class had danced Oro Vlashka the night before (although our version had some differences). Hopefully most of the other dances will be taught this term. We really appreciate the efforts you have put into liaising with OS teachers to bring these workshops to fruition."

But this is not all that brings us "joy beyond words". Even as this edition goes to press, we had a live workshop from our own esteemed Lesley Rose (FDC). This was scheduled for

November, at the Redfern Town Hall. At last we are back at 'Redfern' with a very lively event, filled with much joy and friendship. Beyond that it's really up to you to find the "joy beyond words".

Maybeyou could take time to tell in your own joyful dance language. You can do this as many before you have done, with just a few words shared and submitted to our next Footnotes issue... maybe focusing on ...

1. a dance workshop you have enjoyed, (Lee OtterHolt – more to be said- surely)
2. a favourite dance you have learnt (from a recent dance teacher - Lesley?),
3. a special dance event you have been part of, (End of Year Concert item?)
4. maybe some dance resources you have found useful, or....
5. a story about a person who has inspired you to dance. There is always something we could all be doing and dancing, and by so doing, we share our "joy beyond words" for culturally specific dances, that transports us to a better place enriching our shared language.

Remember ... "Dancing can be compared to expression.... it's not only a series of steps, but a language all of its own...." So express with feet and DANCE.

Paul

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Many thanks to those who have spent time to provide articles for footnotes. We have received items from Anna Travali in Bulgaria where it's heading into winter. Vas Aligiannis has been back to Ermioni and has written about his trip. Lesley writes how this year worked out for Canberra. Jan Taylor has reported on Lee Otterholt and her club in Victoria and Marilyn Charlton gives her experience with accessing the zoom workshop. (Had a smile about this, we all have had this problem.)

You will find a report on Lee Otterholt's zoom workshop on pages 3 and 7.

This term at Sutherland we have been revising some lovely old dances including a few Hallalujahs, (there seems to be no end to the number of these) Belasicko oro and Mechol hashabat to name a couple. Checking out Varis Hasapiko on the internet, I came up with more than 27 dance notes on one site! I'm sure there are many more (I just love what you find on the web). It's always nice to relearn old dances.

Best wishes for the season.

Janene Randall
Editor