

Footnotes

NEWSLETTER NO. 5 September 1991

TEACHER TRAINING COURSE

In the second week of July, fifteen students from across Australia converged on Caringbah School Hall to begin Stage 1 of the second Folk Dance Teacher Training Course to be held in Sydney.

Our course instructor was Andre Van de Plas, a professional folk dance teacher from Holland who specializes in Romanian and Hungarian dance. In Holland Andre is on the organising committee of the Dutch course, auditioning prospective students and conducting classes when required. This time Andre was assisted by graduate students from his first Australian course who continued to study so that Folk Dance Australia can conduct similar courses in the future.

From that Sunday morning until the following Saturday evening when we finished the week with a party, we worked intensively for eight hours a day. The days were filled with classes which included international dancing, music and rhythm, teaching theory and practise, children's dancing and Romanotation, a method of notating dance steps which crosses language barriers and is used in Europe.

Our billets were wonderful, not only looking after our every need but also turning up in force each day with others to participate in our practise teaching sessions.

At the end of the week I drove home feeling exhausted but stimulated and I began to plan and look forward to the hours of teaching and style workshops which make up Stage 2 of the course.

In July 1992 we return to Sydney for Stage 3 (providing we survive Stage 2) which includes our final teaching and dancing examinations.

Alison McLean

WORKSHOP REVIEWS

The big event of CIFDA's (Canberra International Folk Dancing Assoc.) year is the residential workshop and this year it was a roaring success. Approximately 50 people coming from Canberra, Sydney, Lithgow, Blue Mountains and various places in between gathered at Batehaven on the NSW south coast on 19 - 21 July 1991.

The workshop was given by Andre Van de Plas now a long standing friend and a very popular teacher of international folk dance here in Australia. Andre as always mastered the group with ease. Although the range of dancing ability was from the newly inexperienced to the experienced of many years, Andre's selection of dances gave everyone a sense of achievement - from the free and easy "Mexican Shuffle" to the hypnotic Bulgarian "Kirco" to the pace of "Kucevacko Kolo" from Serbia. A total of 11 dances were learnt during Saturday and Sunday morning.

After a full day of dancing and a very enjoyable dinner provided by our hosts at Araluen Lodge and despite aching muscles and muddled brains, we came back for more dancing and partying on Saturday evening. An added attraction to the evening which caused much hilarity was the limerick competition ("there once was a young man called Andre...").

The weekend finished midday Sunday on a high note with everyone going away with a great feeling of kinship, good fun and a good workout. Music and steps were buzzing around in their heads just busting for the opportunity to do it all again. CIFDA has a reputation for presenting outstanding workshops and Batehaven 91 was no exception.

Interested? Come and join us! CIFDA meets Wednesday evenings at 7.45 pm at Hughes Community Centre, Hughes. Contact Carol McNally (06) 251 3096 (ah) CIFDA Co-Ordinator.

Carol McNally

FOLK DANCE AUSTRALIA LOGO

FDA is still looking for a logo for T-shirts, letterhead etc.

Have a go. Fill in the space provided here, cut it out and pop it in the mail.

6TH INTERNATIONAL DANCE CAMP

In the first week of the July school holidays, Carol Maddocks and several other nameless people held the 6th International Dance camp with such teachers as Andre Van de Plas and Marianne Taylor.

The camp started at 1.00 pm on the Sunday afternoon with a welcoming section from Andre and Marianne. After that we were sent to our cabins to unpack and settle in.

At the camp there were senior and intermediate classes, one in the dining room and one in the gym, so we rarely had time to see the grown-ups. We also had other guest teachers who attended on a daily basis and different workshops we could go to as well as craft. Some of the guest teachers were the Hawaiian and Russian character teachers. Andre and Marianne gave special workshops for the elderly /disabled as well as teaching everyone and doing a great job at that!

At the camp we had a special performance night where even the audience had a go!

As well as the performance night we had skit night and other wonderful things to do.

Well I hope we will see you all back in 2 years time as well as some newcomers.

Alison Dick

RESOURCES FOR SALE

ADULTS' INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCES by Andre Van de Plas

1989 tour. Book and cassette.	\$25.00
1990 tour. " " "	25.00
1991 tour. " " "	25.00

CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCES

by Andre Van de Plas

1986 tour. Book and cassette.	\$20.00
1989 tour. " " "	25.00
1991 tour. " " "	30.00

VIDEOS OF ADULTS' FOLK DANCES by Andre Van de Plas

1989 tour. 1990 tour. 1991 tour.	each \$35.00
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All prices include postage and packaging.

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS

Now that everyone has had a chance to catch their breath after Andre's visit, here we go again on our merry roundabout with more workshops to keep us fit, healthy and happy and more dances to add to our ever increasing repertoire.

SUNDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

11.00 am - 3.00 pm. Greek dances with Andrew Rossides at St. Stephens Church Hall, Church Street, Newtown, Sydney. Close to railway station. Street parking available and small car park nearby. Andrew is the leader of Paniyari Greek Folk Dancers in Sydney. At the workshop he will teach mainly easy dances but will also include a couple of more difficult ones for the more adventurous. Rumour has it that there may be live music at the workshop but this is yet to be confirmed. Andrew will also supply information on the traditions and background history of the dances.

Cost \$15.00. FDA members \$13.00. Cassettes will be available for sale. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch. For further information contact Kaye (02) 528 4813.

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER

Mihai David originally from Romania but now residing in USA is touring Australia from September to late November. During the 1960's he danced with the Romanian State Folk Dance Ensemble. His last visit to Australia was in 1981. He will be giving workshops on Romanian dance at Perth and Adelaide in September and October and at Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne in November. Dates for his workshops are yet to be confirmed.

For further information either contact your local folk dance organiser or AADE office in your State. In the mean time make a note in your diaries, don't miss out, it could be another ten years before Mihai visits Australia again.

26TH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

To be held in Canberra, Easter 1992 (April 17-20) is now seeking expressions of interest from performers presenting either in concert or workshop format, emphasis on a participative style. Closing date for applications 27 September 1991.

The Australian National Folk Festival is the premier event on the Australian folk music calendar - a celebration of all the folk arts with a special emphasis on music and dance.

For further information contact The Festival Organiser, Mr. Robin Nahum, Box 277, Curtin, ACT 2605, tel. (06) 282 1322.

FOLK DANCE IN ACT SCHOOLS

Progress at last! Not through the Education Department but by writing letters myself directly to the schools and by word of mouth from the teachers after a teaching session at a school. Since being self employed this year things are definitely looking up at least in the schools anyway. Here is a summary of the schools I've taught at since February.

Rivett and Fadden Primary Schools engaged me for international folk dance workshops for their teachers. Lake Ginninderra College and Hawker Primary School wanted French folk dances for their French students. Duffy Primary School celebrated Italian National Day and wanted the whole school to learn Italian dances. (Quite a feat). The AME School is currently having a series of 4 one hour sessions each fortnight for its teachers (in between each session the teachers teach the children the dances they learnt at the previous session and it seems to be working very well). The Australian Catholic University, Signadou Campus, had teacher training students who wanted to learn children's folk dances ready for when they start teaching.

Payment for my services was made either from funds set aside for the Creative Arts program in the ACT schools or from P & C funds or from the students themselves. Let's hope the word keeps spreading and that the poor teachers aren't forever having to teach the heel and toe polka out of some well thumbed 50 year old physical education book which includes a few mundane folk dances. No wonder children hate folk dancing. Can we ever change this? My own children are still having the heel and toe polka (which they learnt at primary school) rammed down their throats, and would you believe being examined on, and they are now both at high school. Alison came home and said "Mum, I wish we could learn some of Andre's dances at school".

What hope have we got? None if you start at the top but the teachers are usually enthusiastic if you can show them how to teach dance.

Christine Battisson

WHAT'S ON WHERE -- International Folk Dancing

A.C.T. (Canberra)

Tuesday 10 to 11.30 am. FDA Beginners' classes with Christine, Corroboree Park, Ainslie. Cost \$3.

Wednesday Canberra International Folk Dance Assoc. at Hughes Community Centre from 7.45 pm to about 10.45 pm. Admission \$3.

Thursday Woden Senior Citizens dance at their club rooms from 12.30 to 2.00 pm. Admission 501; FDA Beginners/Intermediate classes at Corroboree Park, Ainslie, with Christine 7.30 to 9.00 pm. Cost \$3.

3rd Saturday of the month. FDA Family Dances at the Woden Senior Citizens hall from 6.30 pm. Admission \$4 Adults \$2 Children.

Contact Christine or Jim (06) 241 3563 for ACT.

NEW SOUTH WALES (Sydney)

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group. Contact Kaye Laurendet (02) 528 4813.

Wednesday 7 - 8 pm. Carol Maddocks' adult classes, Collaroy Plateau Youth Club, Blandford, St Collaroy Plateau. Cost \$2.50.

Thursday 8 pm. Irish Set Dancing, Arncliffe. Contact Bill & Margaret Winnett (02) 502 1786(W).

Friday Sedenka. Contact Nick Doumani (02) 516 2382.

Last Saturday of the Month at Newtown. Hungarian dance with Gary Dawson & Rezeda. Contact Gary (02) 569 3410.

Sunday Indonesian dance classes, Addison Rd Community Centre Marrickville, 4 pm, Cost \$5, call Nickolai (02) 558 3119.

(Katoomba)

Monday 6 - 7.30 pm. Mountains International Folk Dance Assoc. (MIFDA), Uniting Church Hall, Katoomba St. Contact Sue Hiscock (063) 531074 or Bronwyn James (047) 572235 or (047) 572316.

QUEENSLAND (Brisbane)

Friday (2nd & 4th of the Month) 8.00 pm. Holy Trinity Hall, 70 Hawthorne St. Woolloongabba. Cost \$3.00. Contact Karina 892 5398, Lyn 379 3603 or Vic 848 7706.

(2nd of the month) 8.00 pm. Israeli dancing at Wesley Uniting Church Hall, Princess Street, Kangaroo Point. Cost \$3.00. Contacts Eileen (07) 397 1155 or Libby (07) 349 8626.

(Nambour - Cooroy)

Monday Beginners/intermediate at the Lutheran Hall, Sydney Street, Nambour, from 9.30 - 11.30 am. Cost \$3.00. Call Danni (074) 42 8821 or Jean (074) 41 2315.

Tuesday Beginners at the Uniting Church Hall, 49 Maple St, Cooroy, from 9.30 to 11.00 am. Admission \$3. Contact Danni (074) 42 8821.

Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00 pm. Petrie Park Comm. Hall, Nambour. Cost \$3.00. Contact Delicia (074) 41 4000.

Thursday Advanced at the Lutheran Hall, Sydney Street, Nambour, from 12 noon to 2.00 pm. Cost \$3.00. Contacts Danni (074) 42 8821, Delicia (074) 41 4000 or Jean (074) 41 2315.

VICTORIA (Melbourne)

Tuesdays International Dance Workshop, Carlton. Enquiries Barbara Baker (03) 819 4833.

Wednesday evening Steppes School of Dance. Children's and adults' international dance classes at Hampton. Kim Dunphy (03) 555 4813.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Perth)

Monday Perth International Folk Dance Group. Teaching from 7.30 pm dancing from 8.30 at Wembley Scout Hall, Jersey St. Contact John Whaite (09) 444 4736.

FDA CONTACTS

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you think this newsletter contains too much Canberra news you're right. All contributions will be gratefully received and published with your nom de plume or by-line. Please send articles for the newsletter to the editors Jim & Chris Battisson in Canberra.

The December newsletter deadline is 15 November.

The March 92 newsletter deadline is 14 February.