

FOLK DANCING FUN AT ITS BEST – A DOG'S PERSPECTIVE!



Let me introduce myself. I am Daisy and I live with my boss, Nikki Bowler here in Townsville. I am a ten year old Maltese Shitu. I love people and love to dance!

Recently Nikki has been spending a lot of time looking at dances on the big TV on the wall. It took her some time to get the TV all set up and I think caused her great frustration.

I was wondering whatever was going on and then on Saturday evening the coffee tables were moved outside and the carpet was rolled up and the sofas were pushed back against the wall. The dining table was cleared of all the papers and the table cloth changed. I was beginning to think something was happening. Nikki spent more than her usual time in the kitchen preparing food that evening.

We were up extra early on Sunday morning and set off for our walk in the park but I was very disappointed as our usually long leisurely walk on a Sunday was cut very short. I was given my usual boring breakfast and Nikki started cooking with my favourite foods, bacon, cheese and eggs but as much as I pleaded, I was not able to have any.

The bacon and egg frittata and the tropical fruit salad was put on the table along with cups, plates, glasses and knives and forks. I could smell fresh coffee brewing. I was now getting the feeling that people were coming. I love people and get so excited. I always greet visitors at the front door with many barks and wags of the tail.

At 8 am Jacqui Spry arrived with her basket full of more food, including her signature dish guacamole! Jacqui, along with Barbara, runs the JACARA Folk Dancers who meet in Townsville every Monday. I gave Jacqui my usual warm welcome. Nikki tried to calm me down by giving me treats but she has not learnt that no end of treats will stop me from greeting guests. Shortly after two other dancers arrived and shared in the breakfast and coffee. I was put outside on the veranda but this did not stop me from protesting as dogs do by continually barking through the screen door.

The dancing started on the big TV. The four girls were dancing but there was no music which was a little unusual. Then the music started. It was then that I started barking as I wanted to dance too. I was eventually allowed to come in and participate but Nikki would pick me up to stop me from dancing and enjoying the experience as dogs do by barking!

This was an unusually long dancing session with 9 dances being danced. Half way through we all had a break and the girls had coffee and more of the food which I was not allowed to share in.

Ira and Dianne did a great job in teaching the dances for the FDA Virtual International Dance Workshop. Ira was very clear with his instruction and I particularly liked how he described the various dance steps with their technical names.

The over 100 participants in the workshop were from all over the world with at least 60 from Australia. Amber, Ira's dog, was a particular highlight for me, seeing how well she could dance. I did not hear her sing ie; bark, like I do but I guess all dancers are a little different in how they approach their dancing. I am looking forward to seeing her again on the next YouTube dance session.



The dances were from a variety of European countries and included *Hassapico Sympatico* (Greece), *Mashala* (Bulgaria), *Nevestata Oro* (Macedonia), *Ani Chofshi* (Israel), *Aqui No Sera* (Roma), *Csillagok* (Hungary), *Zapevala* (Bosnia), *Hopa Hopa*, (Albania), *Aromemcha Hashem* (Israel), *Aleni Zvezdi* (Bulgaria) and *Shayara BamidBar* (Azerbaijan).

My favourite two dances were *Hassapico Sympatico* and *Nevestata Oro*. *Hassapico Sympatico* because the music is very happy, the steps are easy and it reminds me of when Nikki came back from her dancing tour of Greece. *Nevestata Oro* which is the traditional brides dance from Macedonia is slow and simple but keeps you on your toes...literally,. I am looking forward to reviewing all the dances on the big TV.

Nikki Bowler & Jacqui Spry

Townsville is a city on the north-eastern coast of Queensland, Australia 836 miles (1345 km) from Brisbane. It is Australia's largest urban centre north of the Sunshine Coast.

Editor