



What

What you see before you is a display of English traditional Morris Dancing.

Morris Dancing was originally a ritual dance (not social), and only performed by men.

The origins of Morris Dancing are unclear, and may or may not be from England, Spain, Germany, or elsewhere; and may or may not have included pagan rituals and women. The earliest written record of Morris dancing is in 15th century English literature.

With links to the ancient English rural and industrial traditions, Australia hosts traditional-type sides who trace their beginnings back to England, innovative sides who are adapting the traditions to local conditions, and everything in between. Australian Morris is fresh and varied, friendly and skilled, and open to everyone.

The infectious, exciting and energetic traditional displays collectively called "Morris Dancing" are in various styles or traditions....

a. Cotswold (Southwest England)

Look for flowered hats, baldrics or waistcoats, and bell pads. Dancers use either hankies or long sticks to accentuate.

b. Border (Welsh Border)

Look for wild costumes with feathered hats, rag coats, ("Tatters") bell pads and painted faces. Dances feature lots of violent stick clashing and loud whooping.

c. Step Clog (East Anglia, Lancashire)

Sharing elements with other step dancing traditions; rhythmic and energetic it developed alongside North West and influenced American tap dance.

d. North West (Lancashire)

Look for heavy wooden-soled clogs with leather uppers. Normally with eight or six dancers holding garlands, short sticks or industrial bobbins called “tiddlers”.

e. Rapper (North East)

A fast and intricate set of five dancers constantly connected by sprung steel blades called “rappers”.

Why

This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Perth Morris Men’s first public performance in Hay Street in March 1974. To celebrate we are having an “Ale” (a Morris celebration involving dancing and drinking) and inviting a few of our friends.

Who

Helping the Perth Morris Men celebrate are the following sides:

- Adelaide Morris Men (Cotswold – see above) – white with red and white “baldrics”
- Black Joak Morris – a Sydney Cotswold side – White shirt. black trousers and black & red baldrics
- Brandragon Morris – a Melbourne “North West” (see above) side dressed in red & green
- Fair Maids of Perth – a local “North West” side.
- Jolley Hatters – a Tasmanian Cotswold side – white with red, white and green baldrics
- Lancashire Witches – an Adelaide North West side.
- Mad Tatters Morris – a local “Border” side – note the Tatter coats!
- South East North West – a Brisbane based North West side.
- Surly Griffin Morris – a Canberra based Cotswold side – black with green, blue and orange baldrics

In case you are wondering who the Perth Morris men are, we wear white with baldrics the same colour as the Subiaco Lions

If you would like to give it a go, please feel free to contact.....

Steven Mansfield (Squire) - Perth Morris Men on 0400 731 049 or email squire@perthmorrismen.org or visit our website <http://perthmorrismen.org/> or Facebook page.