



Tutor Profile – Elfie Schmidt

### **Tutoring in: Middle Eastern Belly Dancing**

Elfie started teaching Middle Eastern Belly Dancing at U3A Melbourne City in 2011 following on from a busy career in retail.

She began learning belly dancing in 1983 from a Lebanese woman in a social class at the Lebanese Palace, Carlton.

After 3 years she joined a group of like-minded women and formed a 12 member troupe “Flowers of the Desert”. They were an amateur group who performed together in events they organised themselves starting from selecting and decorating a venue, choreographing their program, making the costumes, and advertising the event. These events were mainly for the ‘belly dance’ community however, they also performed at Egyptian exhibitions at the Melbourne Museum and they were selected to represent the Middle East for belly dancing in the Shell Folkloric Festival.

In 1988 she started teaching at Community Centres as well as running her own small business until 2000.

Elfie’s experience also includes yoga and creative dance which she learned at the Mangala Studios of Yoga and Creative Dance in Carlton. She also taught a short course in yoga at U3A Melbourne City in 2013.

Elfie is very pleased that she can share her experience and love of Middle Eastern and Creative Dance with others.