

2025 AGM Tutor's Report 2024 dancing year

2024 was another successful year for our club. The winner of the most attendance prize goes to Maureen & Colin who probably (I was away for two weeks) danced 34 times here on Thursday evenings out of the 36 weeks on offer. I was here 34 evenings and away for two. Robert comes a credible third.

A huge thank you to the same small group of people who are here every week to move the tables and chairs. A couple more early arrivals would be good. Many hands make light work, just look at the speed with which they are put back at the end of the night.

Our Annual Dance was held on 22 June and was very well attended. Moving the date from our previous September has made it easier for our dancing year. We can spend March getting back into dancing, then April, May and June getting to know the programme.

We had nine sets on the floor which included dancers from Auckland, Ashhurst and Mosgiel. A great night well supported by all our club members including our newer dancers who danced nearly every dance. Several of our members took on special roles on the night ranging from taking money at the door, assembling the supper tables, pouring tea, doing dishes and cleaning up afterwards.

In July we ran a successful Beginners Class for four weeks attracting seven new people to our weekly gatherings. It was sad to see Hitsuki leave us, but we always knew she had to return to Japan at the end of her exchange. A couple decided it was not for them, but we kept a core of four until the end of the year.

We enjoyed Live music several times through the year. Lynne, Mary and Cassie played for us in March, Jason & Hilary played the week before our Annual Dance, Mary MacDonald and friends played for our Dessert & Dance night and Aileen & Hilary played for our final night.

Two sets of visitors from Ngaio joined us for our Dessert & Dance night, which now looks to be an annual event. My daughter was here from London and my sister brought her along and they both had a great time – on the floor for nearly every dance.

Our club has been very well represented again at Annual dances around our region including the New Dancers' Celebration this year hosted by Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt clubs in Lower Hutt. Some of our members attended events further afield and could be spotted at places such as Whanganui, Taupo, Waikato and events in the south island.

This does not go unnoticed by others.

Numbers do tend to drop off during the winter, but what better way to spend a cold evening than to come along dancing to warm the body and lift the spirits. Some nights we struggled to get three sets.

Our Final Night was another wonderful event to mark our last dancing evening. There were 64 dancers on the floor and several on the sidelines who had joined us for the evening despite no longer being able to participate.