

RSCDS WELLINGTON REGION NEWSLETTER



Volume 27 No. 2
June 2024

Editor: Désirée Patterson – editor@wellingtonscd.org.nz

President's Column

From Rod Downey, President



Since my last report:

Generally – The feedback I have heard from clubs is that this is a good year for new members and generally, there seems good cheer across the region. The dances I have been to have been well attended. I think the region seems to be in a good place right now.

New member of the Region Committee – We welcome Sarah Epps (Johnsonville and Ngaio) on to the Region Committee.

Bereavements – We are sad to report the passing of three former Scottish country dancers: Noeline McQueen (Ngaio Club), Jean Denne (Johnsonville Club), Allan Mason (Upper Hutt/Lower Hutt Clubs)

Region activities

Historical RSCDS Dances on 27 April – This was a successful event with about five sets of dancers attending. The Region Committee noted that the proximity of Anzac Day on the preceding Thursday meant that some people who would have attended had taken advantage of the public holiday and had a long weekend. We will endeavour to take this into account in our forward planning for 2025. There is a report by Lorelee with photos later in HCH. RSCDS members will have seen a report in [Dance Scottish Together](#). Many thanks to Elaine Lethbridge for the nice catering. The committee will discuss planning

another historical event for 2025. Please talk to a committee member if you have any suggestions.

Classes – Both the Basics class (taken by Diane Bradshaw) and the Intermediate class (taken by Catherine McCutcheon) are well attended, and feedback has been good. Many thanks to Diane and Catherine. It is only through commitment of the region tutors that we can run such classes. Thanks to Janice Henson for being the coordinator in Aileen Logie's absence. (Note that Janice has a new email address, janice-klaw@outlook.co.nz)

Archival Committee – Kristin Downey, Lorelee Hyde, and Philippa Pointon continue to work on this project with great success. Please go to the [Region website](#) (at the bottom are stories, videos, etc) and examine the large amount of historical material there!

Coming up

New Dancers' Celebration – Thanks to the Lower and Upper Hutt Clubs, who will host the New Dancers' Celebration in Knox Church Hall on 12 October, from 7.30 to 10.00 pm, followed by supper. Many thanks to Diane Bradshaw for agreeing to take two preparation classes in St David's Multicultural Hall in Petone on 1 and 8 October. Club tutors have the programme already. Thanks to Lower Hutt Club for taking this on, especially in view of their 70th Anniversary being this year, which must be exciting for them.

Region Classes – Aside from the remaining Basics and Intermediate classes, please mark your diaries for **two Advanced classes**, tutored by Debbie Roxburgh. (Please [register early](#). It makes our planning much easier.) These are on Saturdays 17 and 31 August, from 1.30 to 4.30 pm,

at St John's Church hall in Johnsonville. As well as being the NZ Branch President, Debbie is a renown class tutor and RSCDS examiner; and she has taught three times at the St Andrews Summer School.

Summer School 2024-25 in Wellington

This is a great opportunity for Wellington Region dancers to go to a Summer School, especially if you have never been to one! Summer School is a fantastic opportunity to develop your dancing and make lifelong friends. I remember my first one, being surrounded by wonderful Scottish music and friendly people.

Musicians' Class – The musicians' class will be in the afternoon, so if you play an instrument, then you get the best of both worlds. It will be led by the wonderful fiddler [Elke Baker](#). She is one of the featured musicians at this year's Summer School, and having heard her, I know we are in for a great experience.

We all can help – The organising committee, headed by Ann Oliver, are looking for help later this year. It is traditional for individuals and local clubs to help out in lots of ways, particularly including morning teas, and possibly go-fers, transportation and the like. If you are around in this period, and can help out, please do. It is 17 years since Wellington city has hosted a Summer School, so let's all make this a memorable one.

Partial attendance – For those of you who cannot make it to the whole school, the Summer School committee has advised that they will make available a commuter half-school registration for \$450. See Ann's article further down.

Finally, I hope you all continue to have a great year of dancing. Take advantage of the opportunities above. If you want to contact us and have any suggestions to help us to do better, please email me (president@wellingtonscd.org.nz) or the region secretary Brenda Vale, (wellington@dancescottish.org.nz).

We are all in a team together!

Summer School is in Wellington this year – come along!

*From Ann Oliver
Wellington Summer School Organiser*

The NZ Branch Summer School runs from 28 December 2024 until 5 January 2025. This is a great opportunity for those who have never experienced a Summer School to come along and see what it is all about. Whether you only want to dip your toe in, or be totally immersed in Scottish dancing for the week, there is something for everyone.

The schedule at summer school includes:

Mornings

Dance classes between 9am and noon – catering for different levels of ability from beginners all the way up to very advanced.

Afternoons

- Optional classes open to everyone attending Summer School, including general classes taught by the overseas teachers and classes of other types of dance
- Musicians' classes – all instruments
- Outings – to Zealandia and Weta Workshop – to show what a great city we live in (there is an additional charge for these)
- Walk-through of dances on evening programmes – in particular, a 32-some practice prior to Hogmanay is always well attended.

Evening Dances

- 28 December – Opening Dance
- 29 December – Youth Dance (for all, but MC'd by some younger dancers)
- 30 December – Theme night
- 31 December – Hogmanay
- 2 January – President's Drinks and Ball
- 3 January – Ceilidh (a combination of musical items/skits and dance)
- 4 January – Final Dance

More details will be revealed over the year on our [WEBSITE](#) and [FACEBOOK](#) pages.

We are working hard to make Summer School something all dancers can attend.

We know that the New Year period is a family time and people often have other commitments. We also recognise that the cost of Summer School can be prohibitive for some. To improve accessibility we are offering:

1. Half-school attendance for commuters – From 28 Dec to 31 December, including Hogmanay, for \$450. You can now choose this option in the registration form
2. A discounted rate for a ticket to all evening functions, if paid in advance (the detail around this will be announced a bit later in the year)
3. Casual lunches and dinners can be purchased if you are commuting (costs will be advised closer to the time)
4. Areas at Scots College for commuters to hang out and relax or socialise between classes/activities

We are also looking into options for JAM (Junior dancers) classes, such as running a 3-day class. Further information has been sent out to clubs and JAM families for feedback on this and other options.

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RSCDS NZ Branch Inc
Summer School 2024/25

WELLINGTON



RSCDS NZ Branch Wellington Summer School 28 December 2024 to 5 January 2025

We invite you to join us for a week of dancing at Summer School right here in Wellington. The venue will be Scots College, a co-educational boarding school set on extensive grounds. Residential and Commuter options are available.

Meet the amazing line up of talented international and NZ based teachers joining us for Summer School. Read more about them: <https://nzsummerschool2024.nz/teachers>

Classes offered at the School will include:

- 6 morning classes for all dancing levels. Develop your technique or just come along to have fun in the social class
- Afternoon musicians class - all instruments welcome
- Unit 5 Exam class
- Classes for JAMS (8-19 years of age)

Scholarships from the NZ Branch are available for attending Summer School. Closing date for applications is 30 September 2024. Full details on the Branch website:

<https://dancescottish.org.nz/education-scholarship/>

Categories include:

- Dancer with up to 5 years experience
- Dancer with 6 or more years experience
- Family
- Musician
- JAMs

Early bird registration closes on 31 August 2024. Register now to avoid the late registration surcharge!

Come join us - you'll be blown away by a Wellington welcome!



Kate Gentles



Diana Hastie



Elizabeth Ferguson



Susanna van der Gulik



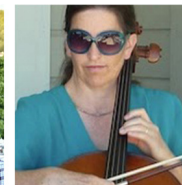
Ruth Budden



Andrea Wells



Wayne McConnel



Katherine Uren

Wellington City
 creative
COMMUNITIES nz

Organiser: Ann Oliver
Email: nzsummerschool2024@gmail.com
Register now: nzsummerschool2024.nz
Follow: facebook.com/NZBranchSummerSchool

The RSCDS NZ Branch offers a number of scholarships to attend the school. Check out the [Adult Scholarships](#) and [JAM scholarships](#) on the Branch Website. Though it is not listed yet, the Branch Management Committee has advised that they are also going to offer a family scholarship. The closing date for all scholarship applications is 30 September 2024.

We would love your help

It takes a lot of work and people to run a Summer School and we would love some help from local dancers. There are things that need to be done beforehand and jobs during the school. If you would like to discuss any of the roles below, or offer to help, please let us know by emailing nzsummerschool2024@gmail.com or giving Michele Miller a call on 021 237 6507.

Before the School

We are looking for help **now** with the following:

1. Decorations co-coordinator – for hall/gym – plan, design and implement
2. Obtaining sponsorship / applying for grants
3. Preparing documents – needs excellent Microsoft word skills.

During the School

We will also need help with the following during the school:

1. Registration desk, the afternoon of 28 December
2. Transport – drivers (in school minivans or personal car)
 - between Scots College and ferry terminals/airport on 28 December and 5 January
 - to and from class, each morning
3. Photographers – for candid shots at evening events (a professional photographer will be available at the President's Ball and for class photos)
4. Teacher exams – stooges (dancers who are intermediate level and above to make up the class for the exam candidates to teach as part of their exam). Exams are on 3 January
5. First aiders/doctors/nurses – who can help out if needed. Current first aid certificate required
6. Go-fers for classes.

Follow our Facebook page or look for updates on our website, or through your club during the year.

I hope you will join us. [Register now.](#)

Ann Oliver

Wellington Summer School Organiser

Teachers' Workshop 2024

From Jeanette Watson, Workshop organiser

Four teaching sessions, three evening events, 68 participants, two musicians, one tutor, seven frazzled committee members, and only one hiccup – not bad for only nine months of planning and preparation.

A huge thank you to my committee of Andrea Wells, Catherine McCutcheon, Elizabeth Ferguson, Iain Matcham, Maureen Sullivan and Lesley Nicol, and those extras roped in – Susanna, Elaine, Glenna, Lynne & Mary, Aileen & Hilary, *More Strings Attached*, the NZ Branch bookshop, the Lower Hutt afternoon tea helpers – and a special round of applause for our tutor, Graham Donald, for a widely anticipated, and very successful, Teachers' Workshop weekend in Lower Hutt over Easter 2024.

It was great to see so many local dancers supporting the weekend and providing such a buzz right from the start, in the public class on Friday night, and even more participants at the Saturday night dance – thanks for your input and enthusiasm.



The feedback afterwards was overwhelmingly positive, but with some great ideas and suggestions for 'next time'. The discussion sessions were so valuable to the participants that some people felt there was *too* much dancing! All the participants had something to take away and use – whether that was a new way of teaching a formation, a different warm-up, more confidence in front of a crowd, or a new way to engage with dancers.

One participant commented, “As a new teacher, I was a little bit out of my comfort zone teaching in front of the big group. In hindsight, this was a really good and very useful strategy, as that is where, for me, deeper personal learning took place that will stick with me.”

Christopher Burrows from Whanganui reported on his experience:

“ ‘Have you seen the email regarding the Easter Teacher’s Workshop, Christopher?’ enquired Debbie Roxburgh. ‘I think you would enjoy it’. I have to say that I was nervous before the weekend. I wasn’t sure that I would fit in, not really knowing anyone. A bit of an imposter really.

It was a weekend of sharing a passion. Evident in everything everybody did, you could see it in the simplest of greetings between friends, old and new. Smiling faces, connections being forged and renewed. It was present in Graham’s manner and movement, in his teaching and encouragement.

When Graham first assigned us to groups and set our first task, I definitely held back. I’ve always felt out of my depth in those kinds of situations – surrounded by others who know what they are talking about. But, as it turns out, they started talking about dancing and teaching, and what do you know, I have opinions and experience of each of those (albeit independently up to that point). By the second day, I felt up to having a go at teaching whatever Graham threw our way. So, when everyone groaned as he announced that our group would be teaching the *Tournée*, I agreed to have a go at it. And, whilst I was the one describing the first few bars to our volunteer ‘students’, it was a group effort, and they were all with me.

By the last day I felt much more at home. We’d had a great meal out, we’d danced together, laughed together, shared experiences and tips. I’ve met a whole bunch of lovely people and learned a great deal too. To everyone who helped organise the weekend, or who partook in some manner or other, thank you. Debbie was right. Of course she was.”

Isabel Harris Clark of Wellington commented:

“The Easter teachers’ weekend provided a fantastic opportunity to meet with other Scottish country dance lovers, teachers, and teaching hopefuls like myself. Graham was a fantastic tutor, full of endless tips and tricks. My favourite tip went something along the lines of ‘if you can’t remember what you planned to say, just be quiet. The dancers will think you are pausing for dramatic effect.’

You probably couldn’t have picked a more intimidating group for beginning teachers to practice in front of, but Graham’s ever-calm presence and sense of humour helped to ease any nerves. I really enjoyed having the

opportunity to brief a dance at a live event. I’m sure teachers of all experience levels will have taken something away from the weekend. A huge thank you to the organisers, kitchen helpers, musicians and everyone else who made the weekend run so smoothly.”



Capital City Club 50th celebrations

From Peter Beaumont

Capital City Club (formerly the Island Bay Club) celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dance and a dinner on Sunday 26 May 2024.

The club has traditionally celebrated with a birthday night in late May, a nod to Alf Edwards, the club’s founder and leading light for its first five years. The afternoon dance at Newtown School Hall was well attended by current and past members, as well as dancers from around the Wellington region. The hall had been decorated for the occasion with blue and yellow bunting, tartan blankets, blue and gold balloons, and yellow flowers on the stage. A photographic display of club activities over the years, and the Island Bay banner and the club’s shields added to the festive ambience.

Club tutor Jeanette Watson MC’d the dancing, with live music provided by Lynne Scott, Richard Hardie, Mary MacDonald and Hannah Smith.



The band – Hannah, Mary, Lynne, and Richard

The programme included two dances from The Island Bay Collection (published in 1984 to celebrate the club’s first decade). Spot prizes with a golden theme were awarded throughout the afternoon to lucky dancers. At afternoon tea, the 50th birthday cake was cut by our two life members, Elaine Lethbridge and Iain Boyd.

The second part of the celebration was a sit-down dinner attended by almost fifty current and former club members, including some from Hawke’s Bay and Dunedin. The meal

was catered by a community group from St Hilda's Church in Island Bay, who are fundraising for their SPACE programme, supporting young mothers in the area.



The celebratory dinner

Between courses, Iain Boyd recalled the club's 50 years from its beginnings in Island Bay, starting a children's group in the late 70s, and its migration via Berhampore, Newtown, St Mark's at the Basin, Kilbirnie and back to Newtown. Considering that the club had not been based in Island Bay for several decades, a change of name to *Capital City* was proposed to better reflect the club's location. The new name was formally adopted at the 2018 AGM.



Dancing

On 15 September the club will hold another 50th anniversary event. The Devisers' Day will include (mostly) new dances from Island Bay/Capital City club members. The afternoon event will be at the Newtown School Hall and suitable for intermediate and more experienced dancers.

Fun at Raglan King's Birthday Weekend School

From Lorealee Hyde

A keen crowd gathered in the delightful town of Raglan by the sea at King's Birthday Weekend for dances galore, a multitude of musicians ... and a boisterous ceilidh!

Thanks so much to Wayne McConnel and friends for organising the fun and friendly school on behalf of the RSCDS Waikato and Bay of Plenty Region.

A number of dancers from the Wellington Region were at the school, along with two teachers – Catherine McCutcheon taught the Advanced and High Energy classes, and Diane Bradshaw took the Intermediate class. Lynne Scott played in the outstanding band.

On the Saturday morning, I joined the Low Impact Class taken by Jeanette Lauder from Tokoroa. We were fortunate to have two musicians playing for us – Glenice Saunders and Lynne Hudson. We enjoyed a great selection of dances, some of which had formations or phrasing which challenged my brain at times! The programme included *The Withywindle* (with the *Philabeg* formation), devised by Wellingtonian Iain Boyd.

Saturday evening saw us all at the Raglan Town Hall for the Ball, along with others who travelled to Raglan especially for the dance. Thanks to Catherine and Diane, who took turns to brief the dances on the programme.

We were treated to fabulous music from the seven-piece band, with Lynne Hudson (accordion), Joy Harding (electric bass), Lynne Scott (keyboard), and Ksenia Soucha, Ruth Budden, Glenice Saunders and Margaret Mathieson (fiddles). Popular dances included *The Rothsay Rant*, *Beach Dancer* and *The Robertson Rant*.

The three tutors also took turns to teach at the combined class on Sunday, with dances featuring a variety of movements and phrasing to master. A popular dance was another devised by Iain Boyd, *Wild Mountain Thyme*.

Sunday night's ceilidh was billed as a "fast and fun family Scottish dance" and it lived up to that promise! Held at the Te Uku Hall, 11 kilometres out in the country, families of all ages from miles around came for a night of dancing and friendship.



Lots of smiles at the ceilidh! (Photo: Lorealee Hyde)

MC Ruth Budden did an amazing job, organising the huge crowd into 12 sets, demonstrating the moves and bringing order to the chaos. With over 100 people in the

hall, there was standing room only, so there was just a minute or two between dances. Two solid hours of dancing ensued.

A very popular dance was *The Riverside Jig*, in which the top two couples in a longwise set (which can go the whole length of the floor) make arches and 'haste' to the bottom. The whoops of joy! The laughter! The excitement!

As a fitting end to the ceilidh and the weekend school, a haggis was piped in. The piper then gave an address to the haggis and made an appropriate toast before supper.

Roll on, the 2025 King's Birthday Weekend School in Cambridge!

See more about the weekend school and all of Lorelee's photos (which you can download if you wish) at <https://www.johnsonvillescd.org.nz/2024/06/07/raglan-2024/>

Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club Celebrates 70 Years, 1954-2024

From Elizabeth Ferguson

In May 1949, the Scottish Country Dance Circle was formed under the auspices of the Wellington Association of Scots Societies. Mr George Stables, assisted by members of the Lower Hutt Scottish Society, started dance classes. However, in 1951, he transferred to Auckland and the Hutt classes were taken over by Mr Jim McLellan.

In **1954, the Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club was formed**, and met with 70 members at the newly built Epuni Community Hall on Monday – we still meet at this same venue 70 years later!

Interestingly, the music used was from 78 rpm mono vinyl records which had one dance on each side, provided by the club tutor. The gramophone was provided by Mr and Mrs Douglas and brought to club with unfailing regularity every Monday evening. There were certainly not the many dance choices we have today.

The club provided a demonstration set for the concert organised in connection with the opening week ceremonies of the Lower Hutt War Memorial Library. The dances performed were *Maxwell's Rant* and *Lady Louisa McDonald's Strathspey*.

Over the years, Lower Hutt Club held many club picnics at the Old Paraparaumu Motor Camp. "Something for everyone" was the motto, and activities included rounders, swimming, tug of war, three-legged races, and of course, some dancing.

Jim Lean, an avid supporter of the club, devised a 48-bar jig called *Govandale Reel*. He used to look after and play the records for club nights. This dance was published in the Morrison's Bush Collection.



The Govandale Reel was danced at last year's Early Wellington Dances event (Photo: Lorelee Hyde)

For the club's 30th anniversary, Valarie Scoble (Jenness) devised a set dance in a square called *The Lower Hutt 30th Anniversary Jig*.

This was danced by a demonstration team at the club's 40th too. Also, on that night, a dance called *Epuni Station*, devised by Geoff Machin, was performed. Geoff got the idea for the dance as he waited at Epuni Station on his way home after attending Monday club nights.

In the early days, club nights started at 7.30 and went through to 10.30 pm. With the hall having a supper room, it was often used for beginner classes. The evening format comprised all club members meeting together, beginners having a class in the supper room, cuppa and chat, dancing for all, and ending with advanced dancing from 10 until 10.30pm.

Advanced classes were also held on another night of the week in different hall venues.

Teachers who have tutored at Lower Hutt are Jim McClellan, Lorna Scott, Sam Moran, Babs Johnson, Marion Head, Mirth Smallwood, Gary Morris, Iain Boyd, Barbara Gill (Neil), Val Scoble, Barbara Kent, Raynor Stratford, Romaine Butterfield, Damon Collin, Kath Burn, Elaine and Michael Laidlaw, Elizabeth Ferguson, Chris Kelly, Carol Smith, Catherine McCutcheon, Gaye Collin, Andrea Wells, and Chris Totton.

We have been fortunate to have a Junior Class as well. The tutors for this class were Val Scoble (Jenness), Tony Wright, Deanne Maitland, Margaret Hamilton, Norman Whitson, Helen Gallagher, Carol McCord, Angelica Edgley, Charlotte Williams, Anne Cole, Alex Hamilton, Elizabeth Ferguson, Chris Kelly, Gaye Collin, Diane Bradshaw, Iain Matcham, and Susanna van der Gulik.

We are a very privileged club and presently have eight fully qualified tutors, with one sitting his final exams soon.

We have three living Life Members – Damon Collin, Janice Henson and Tony Wright, as well as a significant

number of club members who have danced at Lower Hutt for over 40 years.

We have continued to be able to provide junior classes, and beginner and 2nd year dance classes in the supper room on our Monday club nights. Family nights held in the school holidays have been extremely well attended and one of the ways we encourage new dancers to the club. Theme nights also add some fun and the opportunity to dance to live music.

This year we are celebrating our 70th Anniversary and we would love dancers to join us in our celebrations. Our dance is being held on **Saturday September 7th, 2024**, at **Knox Church Hall**, High Street, Lower Hutt.

We would love to hear from past members. Contact Elizabeth Ferguson 021 934428 or 04 9344281 for more information.

Can you find 101 Scottish Dances?

From Elizabeth Ferguson

While delving through Lower Hutt Club's history, I found this quiz challenge, which I thought readers might enjoy. I don't have all the answers, but I'm sure that doesn't matter.

Quiz challenge

Some names are hidden within other names and "the" and "a" are sometimes excluded.

This conundrum, re an old Ireland saint, and re W.S. Fair's took "A trip to Bavaria", is odd thoughts. It starts with a down-under Australian lad I escorted in Burgh jigs at the red house diamond jubilee fete held along the winding road to the windmill where the seahorse frolics and near the hippo sties. Jigs were danced for somebody's pet wild geese from the black Isle of Skye, for a pet white cock (a devil's delight which could fly not yet), for one other new pet, Ron, Ella and one for Judy the, though not Janet's delight, is a young man's dream. She is the white rose of Scotland, the brave, flirty charmer whose model vines (ideal for any strath glasshouse) and regal ear I got half and half ownership of. Her mama, Iris (wedding plans now off), she goes in then, or three time three dances in farewell celtic reels of three, some reels round, reel of eight bumpkin and cornets lassies. Her partner, le grand duc, he's streets ahead, the clever lad, at the dance's climax. Wells ran triumphantly that gloomy winters night. Cold and raw and dashing white. Sergeant Braes (of Atholl) in bus seven with a mile to ride, and a happy meeting with my Bonnie Anne. They went todlen hame to his Teviot bridge clachan. There, at the light and airy "starry-eyed Lassie", they drank a hot punch-howl of scotch on the rocks, barley bree and drambuie. To the soldiers joy his ladies fancy was then to fight about the

fireside, strip the willow lambskin, net shawl from off her none-so-pretty shoulders, toss her sailors sandals up in the air and say "let's meet again afore ye go and haste to the wedding" Foul are elongate long chases waiting for the bairns. I like them short and sweet. I also like a tankard of white heather jiggled above in a swil can, a rowan tree, bleu ribbons, pie, leafy kettles and my ain hoose on the River Cree's bank head.

Ngaio SCD Club

From Wendy Donald

Our Annual Dance on Saturday 11 May opened the dance season at the lovely Ngaio Town Hall, which we had decorated with large vases of flowers and plenty of tartan.

The band was *Black Tartan*: Aileen Logie on accordion; Hilary Ferral on fiddle; and Jason Morris on keyboard. Soon they were playing for eight sets of dancers. Our tutor Melva Waite had designed a lovely programme for us. She had a busy night, as besides being MC, several times she dashed down to make up a set as required!

When the next dance was *Trip to Bavaria*, Jason's large tuba appeared, and his little Bavarian hat, so we danced with German band accompaniment. Four keen men had brought along hats for this dance, and doffed them to each other, when turning left hands on each corner of the dance. We so enjoyed it, that we readily agreed to dance it again!



Damon, John, Bruce and Todd show off their hats after dancing *Trip to Bavaria* (Photo: John Patterson)

After a sumptuous supper, the second half was as good as the first, *Scott Meikle* also being danced twice.

Region classes – Five of our newer dancers attended the Basics classes and reported that they valued having the time to learn detail, and felt that they were improving their knowledge. Several of our members attended the Intermediate classes, and they too enthused that it was a worthwhile and enjoyable learning opportunity.

Our forthcoming plans – We are hosting our annual Dinner Dance on Thursday (club night) 27 June, and have invited local clubs to join us. This year we have a midwinter Christmas theme. It will be fully catered, and the menu sounds delicious.

We are fully booked for this event with forty people keen to attend. After the meal, our tutor Melva Waite will have a programme of familiar dances for us to enjoy, with live music from Hilary Ferral on fiddle and Jason Morris on keyboard.

We are planning an **Afternoon Tea Dance** on Sunday 28 July. This is a new venture for us, knowing that in the wintertime, it is often nice to go out in the afternoon, and not have to venture out on a winter night!

We have a **Tartan Night** set down for Thursday 26 September, to complete the cooler months, just before we reach the change to daylight saving.

Waikanae Scottish Country Dance Club

From Joanne Speight

Waikanae has started 2024 in good heart, with some new dancers and other dancers returning after a break. We are enjoying working with our three tutors – Joy Tracey, Annie Christie and Isobel Harris-Clark. Our tutors take turns at teaching us on club nights and also combine to share an evening once a month. The club members enjoy experiencing the variety this arrangement offers.

A group of dancers attended Paraparaumu College's Cultural Day in February. They danced for an appreciative audience and took the opportunity to promote our club and Scottish Country Dancing. One young man was very complimentary and stated "You should come and teach people how to dance, at our dances everyone just stands around the room!"

Four of our new dancers are attending the region classes and are reaping the benefits. Jenny and Robin wrote this:

"Currently, we are attending the Basics Region Classes being held in Petone, along with Alison and Clive. The classes are being held fortnightly which is very convenient. We are finding the classes very enjoyable, with a mixed age and ability group of keen learners. The members of the local group that help out our instructor Diane are cheerful and knowledgeable. Diane is very clear with her simplified instructions. We are finding all the advice about basic steps, and aims and objectives, such as ending up in parallel lines as a set, very useful. We recommend these classes to any beginners of Scottish Country Dancing."

Many of New Zealand's Scottish Country Dance musicians are gathering over Matariki Weekend to share ideas and make music together. Our tutors Joy and Isobel are MCs

at a tea dance at 1.30–4.30 pm on Saturday 29 June in Levin (see the poster later in this newsletter). Enjoy dancing to the many different bands playing throughout the afternoon, and experience dancing to a large mixed musicians band. Come and dance and enjoy the music.

Autumn into Winter at Johnsonville – what's new this year?

From Kristin Downey

Autumn is the beginning of the club dancing year, when existing dancers return to club and new dancers decide whether or not to stay on after beginners' classes.

It's a time of learning and consolidation, but also a time to introduce beginners to the fun of theme nights, live music and special events.

At Johnsonville this year we held our usual St Patrick's Day Celebrations in March, and [first Tartan Night in April](#), giving new dancers the fun of dressing up, and dancing to live music.

Something new – Then we added something new to the mix. For the first time, [the club celebrated Beltane](#), the Celtic festival of fire, spring rebirth, and new life – albeit aligned with the Northern hemisphere Spring/Summer seasons.

Rod found on-theme dances, including *Beltane*, *The Breath of Spring*, and *The Peat Fire Flame*. *The Fairy Dance* recognised the slipping of fairies through the veil that separates our worlds, and *Come What May* and Rod's dance, *The Mayflower*, acknowledged May Day and the May Queen. Rod also wrote a new dance *The Beltane Strathspey* to suit our newer dancers.



Come What May (Photo: Lorelee Hyde)

Aileen Logie was with us for her regular monthly music night at club, and gave us a special treat with her choice of a really interesting and spirited range of music to suit the dances – including Breton and highland tunes.

Aileen's comment on Beltane celebrations was: "We climbed hills and lit fires. It's all about fire." And so we

dressed in orange and red and charcoal for fire, plus yellow and white for the summer sun and spring flowers.

Both Aline and John Homes also played a part in our Beltane Celebrations. Since we started [Halloween celebrations in 2016](#), John has pointed out we should be celebrating Beltane (rather than Halloween) at the end of October. Ultimately, this inspired the inclusion of Beltane in the club calendar.

Beltane is a much less known festival than Halloween. Aline Homes, as club bard, kindly shared lots of information with us around the traditions of this festival, bringing us a closer understanding of its history.

Traditional practices aimed to protect cows and their milk from the fairies, an excuse to include milk bottle lollies amongst the supper treats.



Beltane supper treats in red, white, and yellow (Photo: Lorelee Hyde)

It was also a great excuse to decorate with wonderfully intricate and decorative images of the medieval foliate head of the [Green Man](#), a symbol of spring rebirth.

All in all, a good night for our first Beltane.

Winter celebrations – And now we're into winter, having held our [Winter Tartan Night](#), with a happy crowd enjoying great music on a cold night.

Our next big club event is our **Annual Dance on 24 August**. Johnsonville is delighted to once again combine with Capital City club to host this event. Please join us to celebrate the end of winter at Newtown School Hall. You can find the programme elsewhere in this newsletter.

Dancing with cellos

From Lynne Scott

In the 18th Century, informal social dancing in Scotland seems to have been, by and large, to the music of a solo fiddle or bagpipe. More formal events, particularly in the larger centres, are known to have retained "orchestras". The composition of these varied markedly, often comprising fiddles, flute, harp and cellos, but also sometimes French horn, bassoon, oboe and percussion (accordions did not

appear until the mid-1800s). In these larger halls, the low-pitched cellos would have been essential to carry the sound to the back of the hall.

So we can suppose that some of the dancing of the time, particularly in medium-sized halls, would have been to a smaller, unamplified band – which likely contained a cello.

Of course, we don't know exactly how the cellos of those days contributed to the sound of the band. Were they playing just the bass notes, as is sometimes shown in the printed music of the day? Or did they expand on these basic harmonies with counter-melodies, rhythmic patterns and running bass lines? Perhaps they played the melody sometimes, too.

At the Region Early Dances event in April, dancers had the experience of dancing three dances to a fiddle-and-cello combination, using tunes of the 1700s.

Without recordings of these bands, we have to try to imagine how they might have sounded. Sam Berkahn and I took two of the Early Dances reels, and a strathspey, and created dance sets using Sam on cello. You can see a brief video [here](#).



Sam and Lynne at the Region Early Dances event

For some extra input, I invited cellist Anna Percy to join us for a cello session. Anna plays for social dancing in Auckland. It was something of a meeting of minds: two highly experienced cellists, discussing how best to use their instrument in the service of the dance. Ideas were exchanged and further accompaniments developed – in particular for jigs, which Sam and I hadn't figured out.

We're not the only people exploring this aspect of dance music. You can read about a group who are "Reviving the 18th Century Dance Night", with authentic instruments, at <https://eaern.wordpress.com/2017/08/21/reviving-the-18th-century-dance-night/>. And you can listen to a modern version of a dance band of the time, at <https://www.concal.org/>.

Next time you're dancing, what instruments are playing?

Tawa SCD Club

From Désirée Patterson

Wow, what a night we had at our Annual Dance last Saturday, 22 June! Not only did we have nine sets on the floor, a great programme of dances, and terrific music from a fantastic band, but we had some extra excitement in the form of an evacuation of the hall on the orders of the Fire Brigade!

The dance was progressing really well, with everyone having a wonderful time, when, just before supper, an annoying sound was heard from somewhere behind the stage – loud and penetrating ... beep, beep, beep ... beep, beep, beep ...

Supper is always a very enjoyable affair – time to catch up and chat with friends, and to replenish energies. However the annoying alarm sound could not be silenced, so we rang the fire service. And as supper was hurriedly cleared away, our MC, Catherine McCutcheon, announced “*We don’t want to panic anyone, but we have been ordered by the fire brigade to evacuate the hall*”.

Everyone grabbed their coats and bags and trooped outside. Of course, the band had brought their instruments out with them, so while waiting, they struck up a tune: the next dance on the programme was to be “*Toast to the Mousies*”, so that’s what they played. Joy took a short video of them which you can [see here](#).



And the band played on! Hilary, with her violin case on her back, holds up the music for Jason and Johnny (Photo: Désirée Patterson)

Before long, three fire appliances arrived. Firemen in full gear checked out the hall, and after 10 minutes, the all-clear was given. It seems that it was a smoke detector in the childcare centre behind (and attached to) the back of the hall.

Dancing resumed, with five sets still on the floor. But because of the lost time, Catherine had to drop two dances off the programme, as we still had to be out of the hall by 11 pm. Although people seemed keen for a repeat of the final dance *Trip to Timber Ridge*, we did not have time for it. Luckily, with everyone pitching in, the packing up and tidying was done in record time, and we made it out just before 11.



The final dance: *Trip to Timber Ridge* (Photo: John Patterson)

Having MC’d a most satisfying Annual Dance, our tutor Catherine will be off on a well-deserved holiday. She has had an extremely busy first half of 2024, with teaching the Advanced class at Nelson Summer School, Tawa Club every week, afternoon dancing once a month, four fortnightly Region Intermediate classes, a day class of dances with a difference in Ashhurst, and the advanced and high impact classes at the King’s Birthday weekend in Raglan. Phew! No wonder she needs a holiday!

While Catherine is away, Tawa Club will be taught by Maureen Sullivan, who is working towards her Teacher’s Certificate - with her Unit 5 exam coming up at this year’s Summer School.

When Catherine returns from her holiday, we hope to attract some new dancers to come and sample the joys of Scottish country dancing as a new winter activity.

Members and other dancers are asked to spread the word that new dancers, and those whose beginnings in SCD were interrupted, will be welcome at Tawa Club from Thursday 18 July, 7:30 pm, at our venue, Tawa Bowling Club, 13 Davies Street, Tawa.

Digital Piano needed for Summer School

Our overseas pianist, Lisa Scott, requires a good quality portable digital piano for use at Summer School this year. Her preferred instrument is a Casio PX-S3100.

If you have one of these, or something similar, and would be prepared to lend it for the duration of the Summer School, please contact Lynne Scott. It will be treated with the greatest of care.

Lynne Scott: lynne@scott.gen.nz, or ph 021 846596.

What riches we have! What gratitude we should have!

From the Spurtle-wielder

In spring we joyfully dance with Wordsworth's *Daffodils*; Chaucer's cuckoo doth *ludly sing* with the promise that *sumer is icumen in*; Keats' *season of mists and yellow fruitfulness* hints at nature's glorious autumn colours. It has been said that Scottish writers rather favour the season of winter.

How delightful it is to sometimes allow oneself the luxury of staying snuggled under the cosy blankets on a cold wintry morning!

*Up in the morning's no' for me,
Up in the morning early.
I'd rather gae supperless to my bed
Than rise in the morning early!*

These are the 'old' words for the song. As he frequently did, Robert Burns wrote his own version, which is the one usually included in poetry books, so do not be confused! The words are set to the lively tune *Cold and Raw*, which is used for our dance of that name. It appears in RSCDS Book 5, taken from *The Complete Dancing Master*, which was published in 1718. By then many wars had been fought since the arrival of Protestantism. How 'localised' was the disruption they caused? Did people keep dancing?

Research into social history might answer that question.

The last of the Stuart dynasty were two sisters, Mary and Anne; each in turn was Queen in her own right. Mary was married to William Prince of Orange (Netherlands) but he wanted to be *King* rather than her Consort (SCDance) and eventually he and Mary were offered the crown jointly when King James II (Catholic) gave up and fled to France. We have previously mentioned how the Court in London, when they wanted a good night of dancing, called up the Scottish fiddlers – the lively great tunes got them 'going'! Apparently one of Queen Mary's favourite songs was *Cold and Raw*. It is reported that she, after listening to some of a recital of Henry Purcell's music performed by the leading singer of the day, Anabella Hunt, presumably became bored and abruptly asked her to sing the popular Scottish ballad – which she did, accompanying herself on the lute. Purcell, according to Hawkins, was "not a little nettled" by the Queen's preference, and when he composed a birthday ode for her in 1692, he used *Cold and Raw* as the repeated bass line for the "*May her blest example*" movement.

Talking of tunes and publications, when thinking of our founders, there really is another name which should immediately come to mind along with Milligan and Stewart – that of Michael Diack. In 1923, he was appointed the Managing Director of Paterson Music Publishers' Glasgow Branch. The company had started in

Edinburgh in 1819. Also being involved with instrument making (including bagpipes), they published music for them. By 1835, they were publishing sheet music. It became quite popular for collections of these to be produced in bound volumes. Some time after 1850, Patersons published Joseph Lowe's collection of Strathspeys and Reels. Of course, he and his three brothers were the leading dancing masters in Scotland. Music publishers are notorious for not including dates of publication and similarly the lack of naming composers of dance tunes. Lowe wrote many, but which ones? Are you aware that his *Journals*, written when teaching Queen Victoria's children (and sometimes herself and Prince Albert) at Balmoral and Windsor Castles, are held in our National Library thanks to the family connection with Sir Jon Trimmer? The book is published as *A Most Excellent Dancing Master* (edited by Allan Thomas and Jennifer Shennan, Wellington) – Queen Victoria's description.

It has been written that Michael Diack was "certainly the most multi-talented and distinguished of all our founders". He introduced the two ladies to each other (he had them dancing while he played the piano!) and, picking up on Mrs Stewart's desire to produce a book of dances, the idea evolved to organise people to actually dance them, and form a society!

He was an experienced 'dynamic organiser'; based in Glasgow's Athenaeum, he was Professor of Pianoforte and Accompaniment at what became the Royal Scottish Conservatoire, also of Choral and Operatic Classes, a supervisor of Singing in Schools (very keen to support children's development). He conducted choral events in cathedrals all around the country. He was credited with reviving its choral singing. Along with his own ideas, he was the kind of person who listened to other people's and helped to implement them. His friend Francis Bisset, Chairman of the Federation of Music Festivals (with whom he founded the Glasgow Bach Choir), assisted in the forming the style of the Society – its aims, etc. Regarding Michael's personal contribution, he was a good composer and brilliant music arranger – he worked on the first five RSCDS books. Then he took things a step further by organising the Scottish Recording Company [Beltona](#) (a very new concept) to record some dances with an orchestra in London! The suggestion to hold a conference of those who had taken up the offer of gaining a teaching certificate grew into the Summer Schools.

What a brilliant and generous man! As every day, somewhere around the world, folk gather to jig and reel to our wonderful Scottish music and applaud for joy, in that applause, let us remember to include an appreciation for all those who have contributed to the creation of this fabulous opportunity to enrich our lives!

Victoria University of Wellington Scottish Interest Group

Meets on the 28th day of the month, 7:30 pm at the VUW Law School in the Government Buildings, Lambton Quay (Bunny Street entrance). No university connections needed. No charge.

Friday 28 June (Matariki) at 2:30 pm, at 197 Willis Street * – Lindy Morrell on the legend of “Uncle Sam”: *Scottish butcher Sam Wilson’s supplies fitted the bill for the USA.*

Sunday 28 July at 2.30pm – Nicholas Boyack: *The Shackleton “Survival” Story – who really made it happen?*

Wednesday 28 August – Andrew Patterson: *Scotsman Thomas Lipton’s America Cup ‘Cup of Tea’*

* Check the website www.wellyscots.wordpress.com



TEA DANCE



UNITING CHURCH HALL
87 Oxford Street, Levin

SATURDAY 29 JUNE, 2024 1.30PM - 4.30 PM

Many of NZ's SCD musicians are gathering at Matariki Weekend to share ideas and make music together. Come and dance to us!

Happy to Meet J
Round Reel of Eight R
Hugh's Welcome S
The Machine without Horses J
Flowers of Edinburgh R
Seann Triubhas Willichan S
Seton's Ceilidh Band J
Naidpath Castle S
The Reel of the Royal Scots R

Afternoon Tea
Maxwell's Rant R
Suger Candie S
The Wild Geese J
Catch the Wind R
The Saint John River S
The De'il among the Tailors R

MCs Joy and Isobel

All Welcome:
\$10 and a small plate for Afternoon Tea




Linden Scottish Country Dance Club Annual Dance 2024

Saturday 6 July 2024, 7.30pm
Ngaio Town Hall Ottawa Rd, Ngaio

Admission \$16
RSCDS Members \$13
Spectators and Juniors \$5

J Fair Enough	Bk 51
R The Dancing Bees	Goldring Gr 2
S The Paisley Weavers	3rd Graded
R General Stuart's Reel*	Bk 10
J Hooper's Jig	MMM
S The Gentleman	Bk 35
J Chased Lovers*	Bk 53
R Flowers of Edinburgh	Bk 1
S Miss Gibson's Strathspey	Leaflet
J Farewell to Balfour Road*	Bk 52

SUPPER

J Pelorus Jack	Bk 41
R Scotland's Garden's	Auld Friends Meet
S The Falkirk Lass *	Bk 53
R Shiftin' Bobbins	30 popular, vol 2
J Best Set in the Hall*	Bk 46
M McDonald of Keppoch*	Bk 49
R Mairi's Wedding	Cosh

Music by the Saltire Band
Mary McDonald, Sharlene Penman
and Glenice Saunders

* Experienced dancers



LEVIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Dance

with live music from the **SALTIRE SCOTTISH DANCE BAND**

July 21st 2024 2.00 – 6.00pm

Ōhau Hall, Muhunua West Road, Ōhau
(off SH1 about 5.7km South of Levin)

Admission: \$18.00
RSCDS members: \$15.00
Juniors & Spectators: \$5.00

Programme



1 New Year Jig	J Book 51
2 The White Cockade	R Book 5
3 Prince Rupert's Fancy	S Drewry
4 A Capital Jig	J ** 2009
5 Flowers Of Edinburgh	R Book 1
6 The Winding Road	S ** Cosh
7 The Auld Grey Cat	R Boyd (All Dance Too)
8 The Robertson Rant	S Book 39
9 The Montgomeries' Rant	R ** Book 10
10 Pelorus Jack	J Book 41


Afternoon Tea

11 Maxwell's Rant	R Book 18
12 The Water of Leith	S ** Edinburgh 90
13 The Bride's Favourite	J Laidlaw
14 Catch The Wind	R Book 45
15 Jaki's Jamboree Jig	J ** Isobel Harris-Clark
16 Bill Little's Strathspey	S Goldring
17 Seton's Ceilidh Band	J ** Miscellany
18 The Deil Among The Tailors	R Book 14

**** Only if you know it (experienced dancers)**

Raffles: \$2 ticket or 3 tickets for \$5



**WAIKANAE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
ANNUAL DANCE**

Saturday 10 August 2024 6pm – 10pm
Paraparaumu Memorial Hall – Cnr Aorangi and Tutanekei St's.

Live Music by Hilary Ferral & Jason Morris

Programme



Dame Margaret's Jig (J) - R Butterfield
Shiftin' Bobbins (R) - RSCDS 30 Popular
Delvine Side (S) - Book 2
The Barmkin (R) - Graded Bk 2
**The Chequered Court (J) - Book 42
Halfway House Petone (S) - Wgtn 60th Anniversary
The Reel of the 51st Division (R) - Book 13
*Asilomar Romantic (S) - RSCDS 30 Popular
*The Luckenbooth Brooch (J) - Book 53

Interval

The Galloping Carousel (J) - Book 53
The Sailor (R) - Book 24
*The Ship o Grace (with arches) (S) - Lifeboat Dances
*Glayva (J) - Drewry Canadian Book
The Kissing Bridge (R) - Book 47
**The Winding Road (S) - Cosh 22 SCD
Reel of the Royal Scots (R) - Goldring RSCDS Leaflets

* Find an experienced partner
** Please only dance this if you know it well

Admission \$16
RSCDS Members \$13
Juniors and non-dancers \$5
Raffles will be on sale

**Johnsonville & Capital City
Combined Annual Dance**

Newtown School Hall, 16 Mein St, Newtown
7.30pm, Saturday 24 August 2024
Music by Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman, Richard Hardie

Ecclefechan Feline	(J) B McMurtry – Petit Chat
The Sailor	(H) 24/4
Fair Donald	(S) 29/4
Mr William Brown's Reel*	(R) H Foss - Galloway
The Merry Oddfellows	(J) Miscellany
Asilomar Romantic*	(S) T Cuthbertson – 30 Popular, Vol 2
The Lady in Pink	(J) R Downey – Cane Toad Coll
On the Quarter-Deck	(H) I Boyd – Harbour City
MacDonald of the Isles	(S) D Haynes – 2nd Carnforth Coll
Sleepy Maggie	(R) 11/5

Supper

Collie Law	(J) R Goldring – 24 Social
Shiftin' Bobbins	(R) R Clowes - Ormskirk
An Autumn Posy	(S) R Butterfield – Island Bay 2
Eileen Watt's Reel*	(R) Leaflet - RSCDS
Mrs Stewart's Jig	(J) 35/1
The Byron Strathspey	(S) J Drewry – Deeside 2
The Highland Fair	(J) Miscellany
The Reel of the 51st Division	(R) 13/10



- Adult \$16.00, RSCDS/First Year Dancers \$13.00, Juniors/Spectators \$5.00
- First year dancers welcome – most dances walked
- Dances marked * are more challenging, find a clever partner.



Lower Hutt Invites you to their

70th Anniversary Ball

Maxwell's Rant (R)
Joie de Vivre (J)
Neidpath Castle (S)
A Capital Jig (J) *
The Lass of Richmond Hill (R)
Miss Gibson's Strathspey (S)
Chased Lovers (J) *
The Kissing Bridge (R)
The Platinum Years (M) **
Pelorus Jack (J)

Supper

New Year Jig (J)
Culla Bay (S) *
Toast to the Mousies (R) *
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder (J) **
Bruce's Men (S) *
The Irish Rover (R) **
The De'il Amang the Tailors (R)

* Find a good partner ** Please only dance if you know it / experienced dancer

Date: 7th September 2024

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: RSCDS \$15
Non-RSCDS \$18
Non-dancer/Junior \$5

Venue: Knox Hall, High Street Lower Hutt

Band: Wild Heather
- Lynne Scott
- Sharlene Penman,
- Anne-Marie Forsyth
- Mary McDonald