



Harbour City Happenings

RSCDS Wellington Region Newsletter

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

President's Column

From Rod Downey, President



Since my last report:

Generally: Lots of energy in the region with many new faces, both at clubs and at dances. May it continue!

Bereavements: We are sorry to report on the passing of Edith Campbell. Please read my article about her, later in this issue of HCH.

Region Activities: A busy time of the year with *many* club events, so only one class to report. Club dances all seem well attended.

Classes – Two advanced classes were taken by Debbie Roxburgh. The attendees seemed mentally and physically challenged! Thanks Debbie, great classes. Following feedback, the committee will consider having *three* classes in 2025, but this is the purview of the incoming committee. Great to see new (and some young!) local musicians involved with the classes – *Keshev Raj, Heather Elder, Sam Berkahn and Lynne Scott*. Many thanks to Lynne, working quietly in the background, growing our new crop of musicians! Thanks to Janice Henson for being the coordinator for all classes in Aileen Logie's absence.

Lower Hutt's 70th and Island Bay/Capital City's 50th anniversaries – I don't normally report on activities of individual clubs, but two clubs are having notable years.

I was lucky to attend **Lower Hutt 70th Anniversary dance** which was spectacularly well attended. Lower Hutt was the first club in the Wellington Region, and hence, along with the Napier/Hastings region and Whanganui, was part of the birth of organised Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand. The club has made sustained and significant contributions to SCD in the region, and indeed nationally, so it was a great occasion to acknowledge these contributions. Well done Lower Hutt! See Janice Henson's report later in HCH.

Capital City, formerly known as Island Bay, but with a name change to reflect their change from being based in Island Bay to being close to the city centre, has been celebrating their 50th anniversary with several events. So far, they have had a Dinner Dance and a Devisers' Day. The latter displayed the devising talent from that club, and it was great to see long-standing members *Iain Boyd* and *Romaine Butterfield* along to show some new dances.

Upcoming:

New Dancers' Celebration. Thanks to the Lower and Upper Hutt Clubs who will host the *New Dancers' Celebration* in Knox Church on 12 October, from 7.30 to 10.00, followed by supper. This is usually the best-attended event of the year. Given that we have a lot of new dancers in 2023-2024, I hope this will be the best ever. Many thanks to *Diane Bradshaw* for agreeing to take two *preparation classes* in St David's Multicultural Hall on 1 and 8 October. Thanks to Lower Hutt Club for taking this on, especially in view of all the work Janice and her team put into their 70th Celebrations this year, plus the fact that they are heavily involved in Hogmanay at Summer School.

AGM. The AGM of the Region Committee will be at 7.30 pm at the *new venue of Petone Community House*, on 5 November. We are always looking for people who would like to give back to Scottish Country Dancing by serving on the committee. You get to work with a cooperative and positive group of very nice people – perhaps apart from the president! Please contact me or Brenda if you are interested. See you at the AGM!

Summer School. Whilst some of the below is repeating some information, I hope my view is helpful.

This is a great opportunity to go to a summer school, especially if you have never been to one!

Summer School has morning classes (9-12), lots of interesting and varied events (such as other dance forms, musical interludes, etc) in the afternoons, as well as the most excellent evening dances. Summer School is a fantastic opportunity to develop your dancing and make lifetime friends. I remember my first one, being surrounded by

wonderful Scottish music and friendly people. It's not too late to register!

Evening Events – If you cannot attend the school, you might still like to go to the evening events. There are events most nights and it is always fantastic to attend these wonderful dances with international bands and visitors. The two major events are **Hogmanay** and the **President's Ball**. Both of these are catered events. Both have an international band that we are unlikely to see again. I have heard both *Lisa Scott* and *Elke Baker* at TAC Summer School and both are very, very good. We very rarely hear Scottish Country Dance music with an American flavour in New Zealand. The Wellington Region is very lucky to also have a lot of local musicians, many of whom are involved in Summer School.

At Johnsonville, I plan to teach some of the Hogmanay dances such as "*Glasgow Highlanders*", in the hope that it will encourage more to attend evening events. Summer school will have a "32-some" practice.

Come Along! Opportunities such as these don't happen very often in Wellington City – the last was 17 years ago. If you have not been to a Summer School, then Hogmanay will almost certainly be the largest dance you have attended, with well over 20 sets. The Summer School committee have made all the evening events very reasonably priced. There is also a package for attending all the evening events.

Partial Attendance – For those of you who cannot make the whole school, the Summer School Committee has advised that there will be a commuter half-school registration available – see the [summer school website](#) for details.

Please help if you can – The organising committee, headed by Ann Oliver, are looking for help later this year. It is traditional for individuals and local clubs to contribute in lots of ways, particularly including morning teas, and 'gofers', transportation and the like. Since transportation will be needed for some classes, we'll need a minivan driver or two. You only need a normal driving license, so please contact [Ann](#) if you can help. If you are around in this period, and can help, please do.

Even if you are away during the summer school period, you can still help by, for example, baking in advance for morning teas. Contact Jeanette Watson so that your (e.g.) muffins can be frozen. Your baking can be done now if you like.

Contact

Catering, morning teas, and the like: [Jeanette Watson](#).

Other things [Ann Oliver](#).

Generic contact email: nzsummerschool2024@gmail.com

Looking ahead to 2025

We are already planning things for 2025, including an early season dancing event, likely focusing upon Early Dances (perhaps Books 6-11, or Cosh). Following last April's date clashes, we have chosen a date that avoids all surrounding national holidays. **Saturday 12 April, 1-4 pm, at St Johns Church Hall, Johnsonville. Put the date in your diary.**

Finally, still lots of dancing for 2024. Hope to see you all at the New Dancers' Celebration and the Region AGM. If you want to contact us and have any suggestions to help us to do better, please email me president@wellingtonscd.org.nz or region secretary Brenda Vale, wellington@dancescottish.org.nz.

We are all in a team together!

Summer School is in Wellington this year – It's not too late to join in the fun!

The NZ Branch Summer School runs from 28 December 2024 until 5 January 2025 and is in Wellington this year.

- We are delighted by the number of registrations for Summer School, with 145 currently enrolled, **50 of these being from Wellington**.
- It is great to see plenty of beginners registered and a strong uptake of the half-school option for those who are unable to commit to the full school.
- It is not too late to register for the school, or you can come along to any of the evening events and just pay at the door. [Register now.](#)

Evening Dances – ticket pricing

The Casual nights – Opening night, Youth night, Theme night, Ceilidh and Final night: \$15 RSCDS and \$20 Non-RSCDS; JAMs/ Juniors/ Spectators \$5

President's Ball and Hogmanay – \$30 for RSCDS and \$35 for Non RSCDS; JAMS / Juniors \$15; Spectators \$20

All evening events pre-paid ticket – details for purchase later in the year – \$120 RSCDS and \$150 Non RSCDS, JAMs / Juniors \$50

Commuting at Summer School

Rod has given a great overview of the type of thing that happens at the school, but a few additional things to note are below – especially if it is your first time and/or you are commuting. More detail will also be provided on class locations and casual meals in the upcoming Summer School 24/25 September Newsletter which will be sent to those already registered, and to clubs, before the end of the month.



RSCDS NZ Branch Inc
Summer School 2024/25



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

We are excited to be hosting Summer School in Wellington City again - the first time for 17 years! The Summer School will be held at Scots College, a co-educational boarding school set on extensive grounds just minutes from the airport.

Classes will be held in local community halls with wooden floors. All evening functions will be held onsite at Scots College.

There will be a great line up of teachers and musicians, including:

- Kate Gentles (teacher) - UK
- Diana Hastie (teacher) - Aust
- Elke Baker (fiddle) - USA. A former US fiddle champion
- Lisa Scott (pianist) - USA

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 - taken by Elke Baker
- Unit 5 Exam class
- Classes for JAMS (8-19 years of age)



Experience Wellington's cafes, galleries and museums or explore our stunning harbour and unique nature reserves. Optional afternoon activities offered include a Weta Workshop tour and a visit to Zealandia wildlife ecosanctuary.

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

Organiser:

Ann Oliver

Email:

nzsummerschool2024@gmail.com

Register now:

nzsummerschool2024.nz

Follow:

facebook.com/NZBranchSummerSchool

- Attendance at morning dance classes is the only thing that is compulsory.
- Morning classes are being held at halls in and around Scots College, i.e. in neighbouring suburbs Kilbirnie, Seatoun, Strathmore and Miramar.
- Commuters and residents can join in with the afternoon and evening activities as they want.
- The half-school commuter package, for the first half of the School (28 Dec – 31 Dec) includes entry to the Hogmanay dance and ceremony on 31 December.
- Commuters are responsible for their own transport. You need to get yourself to morning class and to and from Scots College for afternoon and evening events. I recommend you chat to other people living in your area, or in your class to see how you can share rides.
- Commuters are welcome to come and hang out at Scots College anytime. We will have areas available to socialise.
- Meals are not included in the commuter packages, but can be purchased for an additional cost.

We would love some more help

Thanks to those clubs and individuals who have already volunteered to help with transport, evening dances, baking and various other things. There are still plenty of roles to fill though, so we are still looking for more helpers.

Volunteer dancers for RSCDS teaching exams

The teaching exams consist of each exam candidate teaching a class of about three sets of dancers. The class typically includes teaching a formation or steps required in the dance as well as the dance itself. **So we need dancers for the class and would love you to volunteer if you are intermediate or advanced level.** This is a great way of getting some free teaching!

The **exams** will be held in two sessions: **9.00am - 12.00pm and 1.30pm - 4.30pm on 3 January.**

We are also looking for volunteer dancers to help the teachers in **practice sessions from 1.30pm - 4.30pm on 30 December and 1 January.**

Dancing volunteers will not be required to dance for the full practice session or exam session.

To find out more and sign up to volunteer in this way please check out the link [Volunteer Dancers](#)

Transport - drivers (in school minivans or personal car – no special driving licence required)

- between Scots College and ferry terminals/airport on the 28th December and 5 January
- to and from class each morning

Go-fers for classes – the go-fer helps out with the venue and the class, they might be asked to dance to

make up a set, or be sent to find things – ‘go-fer things’. They will be responsible for making sure things like slips stop, first aid boxes and morning tea are all there when needed.

First aiders/doctors/nurses – who can help out if needed. Current first aid certificate required.

If you are able to help out with any of the above, or in any other way, please email nzsummerschool24@gmail.com or talk to any of the Summer School Committee: Ann Oliver, Andrew Oliver, Lee Miller, Michele Miller, Jeanette Watson, Peter Beaumont or Margaret Cantwell.

Follow our [Facebook page](#) or look for updates on our website, or through your club during the year. I hope you will join us.

*Ann Oliver
Wellington Summer School Organiser*

Edith Campbell Farewell Spurtle-wielder



It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Edith Campbell on 24 September. The text below reviews her many contributions and is modified from the citation for the Region Appreciation Award, presented at the Lower North Island Ball, on 4 November 2023.

Edith gave over 60 years in the service of Scottish Country Dancing. She taught at many national and regional events and at all levels, including Summer Schools in 1964, 1970 and 1978, and Region Day Classes; region classes at all levels, including training teams for major demonstrations. She served on the organising committees for major regional and national events, such as Summer School 1970, the Wellington Region Golden Ball and the Diamond Jubilee.

Remarkably, she taught in the Wellington Region for at least 60 years, including 10 years at Wellington Club, and, with her husband Bruce, established the Seatoun Club where she has taught for over 46 years, having also previously taught a children's class in Newtown. She has served continuously on the Wellington Region Committee since at least 2002. Most recently she taught at the [Early Wellington Dances Event](#).

Beyond this, Edith was heavily involved in promoting all things Scottish throughout the region, especially through her efforts in the Scottish Interest Group, playing her harp at many region and branch occasions, providing the calligraphy for the 60th Celebrations, and through her many writings about Scottish dancing and things Scottish, especially in her column *The Spurtle-wielder*, continuously in Harbour City Happenings since 1993.

Personally, I loved her on the Region Committee for her encyclopaedic knowledge of things Scottish and her generous spirit. We remember Edith for her exceptional contributions. She will be greatly missed.

Go [here](#) to read about Edith's creativity at celebrations.

There will be a memorial service on 30 November (St Andrew's Day) at St Andrew's on the Terrace.

Rod Downey, President, Wellington RSCDS.

An Afternoon of Historical RSCDS Dances

The following article was submitted for the June issue of Harbour City Happenings. Unfortunately it was not included. My sincere apologies for the oversight. Désirée Patterson, Editor.

A special celebration of our Dance Scottish history

From Loralee Hyde

Following the very successful [Early Wellington Dances afternoon](#) in 2023 to celebrate the RSCDS Centenary, the Wellington Region organised a special afternoon of Historical RSCDS Dances on Saturday 27 April.

Close on 40 dancers from around the Region and Manawatū, along with two visitors from Canberra, gathered in the St John's Anglican Church Hall in Johnsonville, eager to try out dances not commonly done nowadays.

Wellington Region President Rod Downey selected and taught the dances from RSCDS Books 1-5 (all pre-1930). To add to this special afternoon, Lynne Scott and Sam Berkahn provided the music. We also welcomed Edith Campbell who had suggested having this afternoon of older dances.

RSCDS Book 1 was first published in 1924, meaning 2024 was the Centenary of this publication, the first of the numbered RSCDS Book series. Rod selected at least one

dance from each of Books 1-5, which featured a variety of formations.

Lynne said it was a fun challenge to put together sets of music for the early dances. To add an authentic feel of dancing during the times the dances were devised, over half the tunes she and Sam played during the afternoon were composed by famous fiddler/composers of the 18th century.



Rod, with Lynne on the fiddle and Sam on the cello. Photo: Loralee Hyde

She noted the tunes were written and being danced to well before the invention of the accordion. A typical dance band of the time would have been fiddle (and/or perhaps flute/recorder) with cello. To give us a taste of an authentic experience, Lynne played the fiddle while Sam played the cello for three dances (two reels and a strathspey) and keyboard for the others.

Rod welcomed us to the afternoon, saying dances from Books 1-5 are "quite vigorous", with "some tricky formations". This proved to be so for the 10 dances on the programme.

The Triumph, a reel in Book 1, has the unusual feature of a poussette for one couple. The 16-bar strathspey *Haughs o' Cromdale* from Book 4 has some interesting quirks, including a version of the Diamond Poussette



Dancers focusing on being in the 'correct' position in the set in *Lady Macintosh's Rant*. Photo: Loralee Hyde

danced using Highland Schottische which stretched our brains.

From Book 3, the strathspey *Lady Macintosh's Rant* is a tricky dance indeed, with the first couple starting on opposite sides and only returning to own sides when they reach the foot of the set.

Rory O'More, a jig from Book 1, was rather entertaining. In Rod's old version of Book 1, the instructions indicate that after the first couple dances down the middle, for bars 21-24, the first couple dance back up the middle backwards!

The Princess Royal, from Book 2, is the only 28-bar RSCDS dance Rod knows of. Lynne said it was a particular challenge to put together the set of music for this reel.

Other dances with their own peculiarities were *Light and Airy* (Book 4, jig), *The Haymakers* (Book 2, jig), *Duke of Hamilton's Reel* (Book 5, strathspey), *The Merry Dancers* (Book 4, jig), and *Dumbarton Drums* (Book 5, reel).

Thanks so much to Rod for the work he put into researching dances from so far back in our Scottish Country Dancing history, and selecting and teaching the dances. Thanks also to our musicians Lynne and Sam for the research into authentic music, arranging the lovely sets of tunes and playing for us, and to Elaine and Kevin Lethbridge for preparing a delicious and fortifying afternoon tea.

And thanks to the dancers who came along to try the host of unfamiliar dances and help each other through the unusual formations, and to all others who helped make this afternoon of historical RSCDS dances such a memorable occasion.

See more about the history of the dances, music and formations along with Loralee's photos (which you can download) at <https://wellingtonscd.org.nz/historical-rscds-dances-review/>

The Māori King's Tartan

From Désirée Patterson

Did you know that the Māori King had his own tartan?

When I was watching the funeral of the Māori King Kīngi Tūheitia on television on 5 September, I noticed that some of the TV1 broadcasters were wearing tartan scarves. And quite a few of the men in the funeral procession were wearing the same tartan as a sash (first frame of [this video](#)).

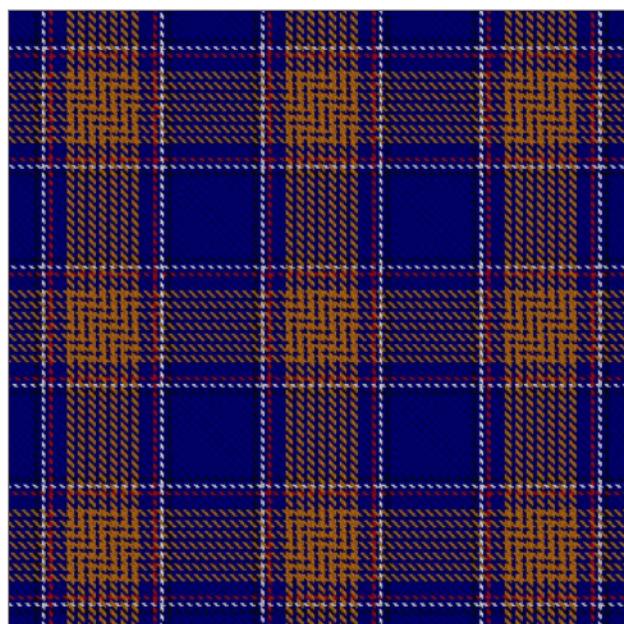
Upon searching Google, I found out that a special tartan had been designed to pay homage to the first Māori King, Pōtatau Te Wherowhero (1858-1860). It is registered in the [Scottish Registers of Tartans](#).



TV1 presenters Julian Willcox and Stacey Morrison, wearing the Māori King's tartan scarves.

The colours of a tartan have meaning: in this case, the blue and gold represent the colours of the *Kingitanga*, with the gold stripes representing the seven *waka* that carried the Māori to NZ from the South Pacific. The red, white and black represent the King's comment, “*There is but one eye of the needle, through which the white, red and black must pass. Hold fast to the lore, hold fast to faith, hold fast to love. Forsake all else!*” (Pōtatau Te Wherowhero, c. 1860). The red and the black are a bit hard to see – they are on either side of the white stripe.

With my “weaver’s eye” (I used to be a weaver), I noticed that the gold and blue blocks have a stepped zig-zaggy pattern, reminiscent of *tukutuku* panels, rather than the straight diagonal of a traditional twill.



I was so intrigued that I later watched the whole of the online footage presented by Stacey Morrison and Julian Willcox. I noticed that a number of dignitaries and members of the audience were wearing the same scarves, as did some of the members of the *haka* and the funeral procession.

In my attempts to find out more, I learned that the tartan is called “*Te Miro a Te Wherowhero*” and that the scarves were made in Aotearoa from 100% wool, but I was unable to find out who had designed them, or where they could be bought.

I tried many avenues, but sadly none of them resulted in any answers.

Dancing in the UK and France

From Gaye Collin

Dancing outside NZ, and co-ordinating dancing, sightseeing, and family can be a difficult time management task. In the past, we have gone in late May, just when the NZ winter is starting to hit, which is a good time to be visiting the UK before their school holidays start, when everywhere becomes very overcrowded and it’s difficult to book some places or sightseeing options.

Sadly, trying to be in the right place at the right time to catch the end of the northern hemisphere dancing season has rarely worked out during our several trips to Damon’s homeland. When you are planning canal boats trips, visits to castles, meeting up with Damon’s cousins, enjoying the delights of the Lake District and travelling into Scotland, France, and Italy, it’s not surprising dancing has just been fitted in, if we were lucky, at odd times.

So this time, as our teaching duties at the Lower Hutt Club were on the light side and fitted in at the beginning of the season, we made plans to dance in Damon’s home county of Somerset. We checked out the starting times for the dancing season there before making any other plans.

There were two opportunities to dance in places around Somerset (fairly close to where we were staying at Pardlestone Farm, <https://pardlestonefarm.co.uk/> P.S. If you have your own horse, you can stable it at the B&B!).

The first was at an afternoon class run by Amanda Peart, in Ross-on-Wye. We met Amanda several years ago when last visiting the UK and have stayed in touch ever since. She also helped with selling my book and CD by Marian Anderson’s Band in the UK. None of the dances she taught were RSCDS, so we needed to keep our wits about us.

Our second dancing opportunity came in Taunton. The Taunton Caledonian Society doesn’t take a long summer break like the rest of us, and finding them was a real plus (through the Chardstock group website, <https://chardscottishdancingclub.co.uk/>).

Damon and Simon grew up in Chard, so we were on more familiar ground here, but not universally so.

Both groups were very welcoming, and we danced several dances we hadn’t done before (and now have copies of!), including one especially nice strathspey by John Wilkinson. As both events were at the beginning of the season, with no beginners present, they were mainly “take the floor”: the dance was briefed/walked and off we went. So we had to stay alert and be very observant of the dances we had no idea of.

However, that was easy compared to dancing on our last evening, in Lyon, in France, when the dances were briefed in French by three different teachers. Again, the dances were familiar to the members, but not necessarily to us – we did know *The Triumph*, but *The Irish Rover*, which was briefly taught, was messy with the first couple in our set changing gender a couple of times! They didn’t tell us the name of the dance, and it was only the music that gave us a clue; however, the music was only introduced when the dance started. We had not come across *Fast and Furious* or another 4-couple strathspey of which the name, sadly, has slipped my memory.



Dancing *The Triumph* at the Lyon SCD Club. Photo: Gaye Collin

Several of the members recalled that we were not the first NZers to visit them – Sharlene Penman has played for them on three or four occasions.

Raphaëlle Orgeret has grown the Lyon Club from students she teaches at school – some, now aged 22, told us they had started eight years ago. To say this was a high-energy group would be an understatement.

It would be unkind to judge their dancing on the strength of these visits so early in the season. All the groups had good numbers, three to four sets, but because of Covid, several of the other groups in both areas in England have folded.

Raphaëlle’s group in Lyon, France, (the only group in that area) has some wonderful, mature dancers, but a lot of the dancing was frenetic. The group in Ross-on-Wye were

older, but very capable, considering the limited teaching that was offered on this occasion. The folk at the Caledonian Society got through 12 dances in the evening (!), but there wasn't a lot of polish. We have been told on several occasions (outside of NZ), that teachers in NZ put more emphasis on teaching dancing, rather than just 'brief and go', so we suppose you must decide what you like best as a dancer and go with that. We enjoyed dancing at all three events, each for perhaps different reasons.

Carterton Club – Daffodil Day

From Michael Laidlaw

The town of Carterton makes a feature of daffodils, and has an annual Daffodil Day. The Carterton District Council logo features a daffodil and the Carterton Scottish Country Dance Club logo features a daffodil and a thistle.

The club has a tartan night on the first Monday of each month when members dress up and wear something tartan and bring a contribution for supper. This year we encouraged members to celebrate Daffodil Day by dressing up appropriately on 2 September (the nearest Tartan night to Daffodil Day – 15 September). Many members did so, especially our President. One of our male members had a spray of daffodils sprouting out of his sporran. We had a great turnout with nearly all current members attending.



Club President Zoe

Linden SCD Club

From Patricia Fisk and Trudy Fry

The Linden Club is enjoying a great year of dancing. A keen group of new dancers have stayed on and are making great progress.



Members of Carterton SCD Club dressed up for Daffodil Day. Photo: Michael Laidlaw

The high point of the year was our annual dance in July. This was a great programme devised by Ann Oliver and accompanied by the Saltire Band of Mary McDonald, Sharlene Penman and Glenice Saunders.



Dancers enjoying Linden's Annual Dance. Photo: Andrew Oliver

During the year, our club has been supported by guest tutors which has been much appreciated. Supper/tartan nights have been thoroughly enjoyed by all, as have several evenings of live music from Aileen Logie and the duo of Lynne Scott and Heather Elder.

We are now looking forward to the New Dancers' Celebration in October and our final night on Monday 4 November to which all are very welcome!

Lower Hutt Turns 70

From Janice Henson

The Lower Hutt Club has been planning a special evening to celebrate their 70 years of dancing at the same venue – the Epuni Community Hall – every Monday night during the dancing season.

A logo was designed by club member Glenna Matcham and John Gregory was commissioned to create a new backdrop for the stage. His beautifully crafted Lower Hutt badge, with a sparkly "70" in the middle was amazing. The band, *Wild Heather* (Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman, Anne Marie Forsyth and Mary McDonald), put together music for a programme of well-known current dances as well as some old Lower Hutt favourites – *The Irish Rover*

and *Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder*. Our joint tutors, Andrea Wells and Chris Totton, shared briefing the programme. Chris Totton devised a celebratory dance, *The Platinum Years*, which was well received by everyone – after a group

of club members gave a short demonstration, nine sets took the floor to try it out.

We invited club members and tutors from the past and were delighted to have a number of them attend. While some were not dancing, they enjoyed catching up with those not seen, in many cases, for a number of years.

The photo albums, meticulously kept by Elizabeth Ferguson, and the photo boards she created for the walls of Knox Church Hall were pored over and jogged memories of fun times past.

The weather decided not to play ball and a windy, squally evening greeted dancers as they arrived, creating a mild panic for club members who wondered whether some who were travelling from further afield would decide to abandon us. However, SC Dancers are a hardy bunch, and we welcomed dancers from Rangitikei, Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, Waikanae, Levin, Tauranga and around the Wellington Region. Twelve sets took the floor for the first dances – we were delighted! A highlight was the printed programme and special pencil to 'book' dances for the evening, handed to every attendee.

In view of the number of non-dancers present, we held the short speeches and cake cutting early on in the programme. President Janice Henson welcomed everyone, including the NZ Branch President, Debbie Roxburgh; and Region President Rod Downey gave a brief speech on behalf of the Wellington Region. Janice, as the only Life Member present on the night and Elizabeth van der



Elizabeth van der Gulik and Janice Henson cut the cake

Gulik, representing the young future of the club, cut the anniversary cake. Photos of the event were well captured by John Patterson.

A truly splendid Celebration Dance.



Past and Present Tutors in attendance at Lower Hutt's 70th Anniversary.

From left: Barbara Gill, Anne Cole, Andrea Wells, Elizabeth Ferguson, Chris Totton, Catherine McCutcheon, Susanna van der Gulik, Diane Bradshaw, Iain Boyd, Carol McCord, Elaine Laidlaw and Michael Laidlaw.

Capital City Devisers' Day

From Loralee Hyde

As part of the Capital City/Island Bay 50th Anniversary celebrations this year, the club held a Devisers' Day on 15 September at Newtown School Hall.

A group of intermediate and more experienced dancers gathered to enjoy an afternoon of mostly new and unpublished dances from club member devisers: Iain Boyd, Romaine Butterfield, Rod Downey, Peter Beaumont and Xiaowen Yu.



From left: Iain, Jeanette, Peter, Romaine, Rod.

Photo: Loralee Hyde

MC'd by Jeanette Watson (who also taught two of the dances), Iain Boyd taught the first dance, *Uyea Sound*, a 40-bar jig. A vigorous start to the afternoon.

Uyeasound is a village on the Isle of Unst in the Shetland Islands. Iain explained the village takes its name from the strait of the same name, which looks over to the Isle of Uyea. Iain has given the dance to Alison Trotter. The family of her father, Bruce Fordyce (who devised *Seton's Ceilidh Band*), came from Unst to New Zealand.

Rod Downey then took us through *Link Road*, a 32-bar strathspey in a 4-couple set from his [Pīwakawaka Collection](#). Link Road is near Rod and Kristin's house in Newlands. He devised the dance as he liked the idea of a *4C chain progression*, and the sympathy of that movement to a *4-person set and link*.



Rod teaching his dance *Link Road*. Photo: Loralee Hyde

Peter Beaumont's 32-bar fugue in a 4-couple set (a reel, as yet unnamed) followed. Peter says he devised the dance as an opportunity to see fugue movements developing down the line of a set.

Physical ability and mental acuity were needed as the first couple dance for 16 bars as the fugue works down to the fourth couple, and the movements for the third and fourth couples are slightly different from those danced by the first and second couples!

To give our bodies and brains time to recover, a well-deserved break was announced, with John Jowett providing a most welcome afternoon tea.

Romaine's inspiration for her dance *Father William's Reel*, a 32-bar jig, is Lewis Carroll's poem [Father William](#). She read us a relevant part of the poem:

"You are old, Father William," the young man said,
"And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your head —
Do you think, at your age, it is right?"

Consequently, Romaine devised the dance with formations danced rather 'upside down' to how they're generally done, which again tested our brains. A clever and enjoyable dance.

We then tackled Xiaowen Yu's *Ōtepōti Octagon*, a 64-bar strathspey in a 4-couple square set. Xiaowen says she devised this dance as a thank you to dancers of the Otago Region and Ceilidh Club for their support and friendship. The [La Baratte](#) movements form the shape of Dunedin's famous Octagon.

The French name, *La baratte*, translates as 'the churn', and indeed, the formation is a rapid flowing movement done in 6 bars. It's not something we encounter often, so thanks to Jeanette, who taught the dance, for her perseverance in getting us to master this formation.

Rod finished the afternoon with his 32 bar reel [The Bunting Bee](#), a tribute to a group of highly energetic 2013 new dancers who organised a 'bunting bee' to produce tartan bunting for Johnsonville Club events. Ending with a spirited *six hands round and back* was a fitting finale to a great afternoon of dancing.

Thanks so much to the dedicated devisers, and to Jeanette, Peter and other Capital City Club members for holding this celebratory 50th Anniversary event.

Ngaio SCD Club

From Wendy Donald

Our beginners' classes in March, as the club resumed, have worked well, with many remaining, enjoying their dancing, and improving rapidly. We enjoy the buzz of chatter as each dance evening begins. Now having about even numbers of men and women on club nights, is very pleasing.

In late June, on the eve of Matariki, our club hosted its annual Dinner Dance, with, this year, a midwinter Christmas theme. Forty members and invited guests enjoyed a lovely meal, and the chance for conversation and time together. After dinner, we enjoyed dances, planned by our tutor Melva Waite, with live music from Hilary Ferral on fiddle and Jason Morris on keyboard.

With Summer School to be held in Wellington this year, at the lovely Scots College, one can live at home and attend as a ‘commuter’. We have many dancers enrolled in morning classes, and others will be attending the evening dances, including Hogmanay and the President’s Ball. Some have offered to do baking, to be on the door at dances, or to do collection and delivery.

As we look forward to more spring weather, and the start of daylight saving, we have held a very happy Tartan Night. The hall was decorated with tartan rugs and banners, and most dancers wore some tartan, with many kilts and tartan skirts – a fun experience for our new dancers too. We were pleased to welcome some dancers from other clubs, to share our evening. We had a sumptuous supper afterwards, with time to relax and chat.

Our forthcoming plans: next up, our AGM; a planning meeting of the new committee; and our Final Night late in November.

Waikanae Dance

From Joanne Speight

Waikanae held its first dance for a few years on 10 August. The hall was decorated and the supper prepared, but with the Olympics on TV and an All Blacks test match on in Wellington on the same evening, we were worried about how many dancers would attend.

We shouldn’t have worried. Dancers from around the region came to enjoy our dance and support our club. We had seven sets of dancers on the floor and most stayed for the entire evening. There were a lot of positive comments about the hall, which has been recently refurbished. The acoustics were great and we all enjoyed the music played by Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris with a surprise extra musician, Johnny Bourne. Our three tutors – Joy, Isobel and Annie (aren’t we lucky!) – had turns introducing the dances and enjoyed being able to dance as well. The supper room looked great with beautiful flowers on the tables and delicious food.

We had a super evening of fun, friendship and dancing. Thanks everyone for coming along. See you all next year!

Waikanae’s Final Night will be on Friday 8 November. It will be a night of our favourite dances. We would love to have visitors, you will be very welcome.

Upcoming Wellington events

New Dancers’ Celebration Prep Class 1

Tue 1 October, 7:30 pm
St David’s Multicultural Hall
Elizabeth Street, Petone

New Dancers’ Celebration Prep Class 2

Tue 8 October, 7:30 pm
St David’s Multicultural Hall
Elizabeth Street, Petone

New Dancers’ Celebration

Saturday 12 October, 7:30 pm
Knox Church Hall
High Street, Lower Hutt

Carterton Club Annual Dance

Saturday 2 November, 7:30 pm
Carterton School Hall
Holloway Street, Carterton

Linden Final Night

Monday 4 November, 7:30 pm

Wellington Region AGM

Tuesday 5 November, 7:30 pm
Petone Community House,
6 Britannia Street, Petone

Capital City Final Night

Thursday 7 November, 7:30 pm

Waikanae Final Night

Friday 8 November, 7:30 pm

Johnsonville Tartan & Final Night

Mon 25 November, 7:30 pm

NZ Branch Summer School

28 December 2024 - 5 January 2025
Scotts College, Strathmore

Keyboards wanted for Summer School

Summer School in Wellington is looking to borrow two or three keyboards/digital pianos for use by staff musicians and music class attendees. They will be well cared for and moved as little as possible. If you have one that you’re willing to lend and it

- has 88 keys (i.e. full length),
- has a stand,
- can be moved relatively easily,

please contact me with details, and I will arrange to collect at a convenient time.

Branch Music Adviser: Lynne Scott

021 846596, lynne@scott.gen.nz

Johnsonville Club – building a happy club

From Kristin Downey

There are lots of things that go towards making for a happy club. One that we've been working on at Johnsonville is building community spirit – creating closer bonds between members, and also between clubs.

Having just held the club's annual dance and mid-year dinner-dance within a month of each other, this seemed like a good time to reflect on how they contribute to strengthening our community.

Shared Annual Dance – In 2018 Johnsonville and Island Bay (as it then was) clubs made the decision to hold a shared annual dance. Rather than competing for space in the busy winter dancing calendar, we joined forces to run a combined dance. The [2024 Johnsonville-Capital City Annual Dance](#) is the fifth successful dance held in partnership with Capital City, something worth celebrating. (It would have been seven, but annual dances in both 2020 and 2021 were cancelled at the last minute due to covid.)

Combining forces has meant not only more volunteers on the ground, but also members of both clubs supporting the dance on the night – more dancers, more supper, more fun, and two tutors to create the programme and share MC duties.

The two clubs have forged closer bonds, and along the way members of both clubs have come to know each other better, with a set of dancers attending Johnsonville on a Monday, and Capital City (as it now is) on a Thursday. A win-win outcome.

Club Mid-year Dinner & Dancing – In 2014 Johnsonville club held the first of our annual [summer ceilidhs](#), to create an opportunity for members to socialise before the dancing year began. (And to get their minds and bodies back in dancing mode.) Based on the success of the 2014 and 2015 summer ceilidhs, we held our first mid-year social dinner and dance in 2015 at St John's Church hall. Whereas

the summer ceilidh finished with a pot-luck meal, for our mid-year dinner we opted to give members a night off, by bringing in a catered meal.

We encouraged members to invite family and friends to come along and see what Scottish country dancing was all about, and to have a go at the simple ceilidh and Scottish country dances on the programme. Choosing dances that were easy but unfamiliar, gave everyone a challenge and made for lots of hilarity.



Dancing *The New Forest* in woodland greens and browns and forest leaves (Photo: Loralee Hyde)

Setting a theme to dress (and dance) to, added to the party spirit. The original 2015 theme was 'A Bright Midwinter's Night', and here we are in our tenth year continuing with this fun social event as we '[Explore the Celtic Forest](#)' in 2024. We get 40-50 people attending and some of the non-dancing partners have attended every year since 2015.

All in all, combining with Capital City for our annual dance, and organising both summer and winter social events has brought many positives, and added to the club's sense of community.

Note: Johnsonville club's final event for the year will be our Tartan Night on Monday 25 November, with a massed band of five young musicians. Do join us on the night. The programme is elsewhere in this issue.



Members and their guests dressed in colours of the Celtic forest (Photo: Loralee Hyde)

Harbour City Happenings – September 2024

Wellington Region

NEW DANCERS' CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2024
KNOX CHURCH HALL, High St, Lower Hutt, 7:30pm

Music by Strings Attached
Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman and Richard Hardie

New Dancers: \$10 with invitation
RSCDS: \$12 **Non-RSCDS:** \$15 **Non-Dancer / Junior:** \$5

PROGRAMME

Crabbit Shona	J	Leaflet
The Dancing Bees	R	Graded and Social 1
Gramachie	S	MMM
New Year Jig	J	Book 51
The Barmkin	R	2 nd Graded Book
The 'Halfway House' Petone	S	Wgtn 60 th Anniversary BK
Joie de Vivre	J	Book 39
Flowers of Edinburgh	R	Book 1
Friendships	S	3 rd Graded Book
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J	Book 22

Supper

Anderson's Rant	R	MMM
Balmoral Strathspey	S	Book 22
Come What May	J	Book 51
The Kissing Bridge	R	Book 47
12 Coates Crescent	S	Book 40
The Provost Wynd	R	2 nd Graded Book
The De'il Amang the Tailors	R	Book 14

Carterton Scottish Country Dance Club

"A Little bit Country"

7.30 pm Saturday 2 November 2024
Carterton School Hall, Holloway Street, Carterton

Music by Aileen, Hilary and Jason

PROGRAMME

J	Jig to the Music	Graded Book 2
R	The Rambling Pitchfork	Iain Boyd
S	The Paisley Weavers	Graded Book 3
J	Joie de Vivre	RSCDS Book 39
R	The Lass of Richmond Hill	Graded Book 2
S	The Halfway House	Wellington 60 th
J	Lamb Skinnet	RSCDS Book 14
R	More Bees A-Dancing	Goldring
S	Wisp of Thistle	RSCDS Book 37
J	St Andrew's Fair	RSCDS Leaflets
R	Catch the Wind	RSCDS Book 45
S	Largo Law	MMM
R	Scott Meikle	RSCDS Book 46
J	Granville Market	Graded 2
R	The De'il Amang the Tailors	RSCDS Book 14

SUPPER

Johnsonville Tartan & Final Night

Khandallah Town Hall
11 Ganges Rd, Khandallah
7.30pm, Monday 25 November 2024

Music by Cassandra Bahr, Em Griffiths, Hannah Smith, Sam Berkahn, Thomas Nikora

Bev's Delight	(J) B McMurtry – Devil's Quandary
The Wind that Shakes the Barley	(R) J Duthie – 8 SCDS
Up in the Air*	(S) 20/2
Glen Mor*	(J) E Forbes – Birmingham (2004)
Sleepy Maggie	(R) 11/5
The Minister on the Loch	(S) 4 for 2008
The Reel of the Royal Scots	(R) RSCDS Leaflet

Supper

The Machine Without Horses	(J) 12/12
Catch the Wind	(H) R Butterfield – 45/5
Mary Hamilton**	(S) J Drewry – Canadian
Blue Bonnets	(J) 3/5
Mairi's Wedding	(R) J Cosh – 22 SCDS

- Adult \$5, Student \$0.50
- Most dances walked, newer dancers welcome
- * This dance is a wee bit tricky, find a clever partner
- ** Only dance *Mary Hamilton* if you know it



Capital City Scottish Country Dance Club
Celebrating 50 years of fun, fitness and friendship through Scottish Country Dancing
1974 ~ Island Bay ~ Capital City ~ 2024

Final Night

7:30pm Thursday 7th November 2024
Live music by Lynne Scott and Thomas Nikora
\$5 adults, \$2 JAMS
Newtown School Hall
16 Main Street, Newtown, Wellington
Parking in the school grounds

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	RSCDS Book 22	32 J
On The Quarter Deck	Harbour City	32 H
An Autumn Posy	Island Bay Collection	32 S
The Beach Dancer *	West	32 J
Eileen Watt's Reel **	RSCDS Dancer #1	32 R 3C set
Dundee Whaler	Ormskirk 1	32 S 4C set
The Sailor	RSCDS Book 24	32 H

Supper

Blue Bonnets	RSCDS Book 3	32 J
Trip To Timber Ridge **	RSCDS Book 52	32 R
The Minister on The Loch	Four Dances 2008 (RSCDS)	32 S 3C set
Start Your Engines *	Ternes	32 J
The De'il Amang The Tailors	RSCDS Book 14	32 R

All dances will be walked.
** Only dance this if you know it. * Choose a helpful partner.