

Tawa President's Report 2024-25

Following the AGM in the first week of April 2024 the first dancing occasion was marking ANZAC Day with suitable dances chosen by Catherine including *The Sailor*, *The Aviator* and a soldiers' dance, the name of which I have forgotten. The latter caused some confusion with its Ladies' Chain rotated through 90 degrees but at least the circle round and back at the end allowed for some vital repositioning of the scattered army.

June saw the club in preparation for the annual dance, including a night of live music ostensibly so two-thirds of the band—Hilary on fiddle and Jason on accordion—could practice. On the night of the annual dance they were joined by Johnnie on double bass. The evening was very well attended with eight sets on the floor at the start and still five by the end, showing the programme was appreciated. However, the night was not without additional excitement. Just before supper during *Granville Market* a persistent beeping sound was audible, which was upsetting to the band. After some investigation the sound was pinpointed to a smoke detector coming from the early childhood centre next door. Some 20 minutes later after we had all enjoyed the excellent supper organised by the kitchen team (many thanks to you all) we were told to vacate the building as the fire brigade was on its way. Three appliances arrived but the fire crew were unable to obtain access to investigate further. Meanwhile we were all entertained by a spirited rendition of *Toast to the Mousie* by Jason and Johnny before being let back into the hall. In the end only two dances had to be dropped from the programme but next year we maybe need to include *The Firehose Reel* and possibly *The Waters of Leith* in the programme as a precaution.

The winter months saw us hosting beginners at club, which was a lot of fun. It is always good to go back to basics. It is lovely that some continued to come to club regularly. August also saw the launch of the Tawa Scottish Country Dance Club website and many thanks go to Colin for doing this for the club and for looking after it.

The big event in October was the Dessert and Dance night with dances themed around sweet treats. With six sets on the floor Tawa members turned out in force forming four of them, including many of our new dancers who acquitted themselves with great aplomb. Ngaio, our 'sister' club closed for the night and we were able to welcome many Ngaio friends to Tawa. We also welcomed Catherine's sister Heather and daughter Kirsten. Catherine's other daughter Fiona we know well and thank her for all the help she gives to Tawa throughout the year. The dances were accompanied by Wild Heather, and their special arrangement of tunes for the dance *Everything Stops for Tea*, including *Tea for Two* and *Tiptoe through the Tulips* was a real treat.

Illness prevented our attending the final night which with eight set so the floor sounds as if it was great fun. Good that Tawa was able to experience the music of the Cranberry Tarts once more before Aileen returned to Scotland. The club restarted at the beginning of March with preparation for our annual dance in May and all the hall lights working, so no more hiding from Catherine in the dark spots.

I have enjoyed my three years as president but I think it is good that a community group like this is run by many different people in turn. I wish Jo as the new Tawa President elect all the best.

Brenda Vale

March 2025.