

New Dancers' Celebration 2014

From Erika Arthur

On Saturday 11 October at 7:30pm, there was a chord of music from the band and the 2014 New Dancers' Celebration was underway! We started with *Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel* and danced through a number of favourite dances to finish in fine form with *The Reel of the Royal Scots*.

The Upper Hutt Club was responsible for the organisation of the dance, which is one of the highlights on the Wellington Region's dance calendar. It was difficult to find a hall large enough with the appropriate amenities, but the Jubilee Centre at Chilton St James School in Lower Hutt proved to be a good choice.

"Roaring Jelly" – Lynne Scott on the fiddle, Jean Malcolm on the keyboard, and Richard Hardie on the double bass – gave us wonderful music to dance to. James Scott was on the sound desk, and together they produced a quality mix of music which greatly contributed to the dance.

We were really pleased to get 13 sets, and there was a good mix of new and experienced dancers, covering a wide range of ages. A number of people commented on how friendly and relaxed the dance was.

2014 hasn't been an easy year for us in Upper Hutt. Our tutor, Chris Kelly, was unable to teach for several months due to the illness and unexpected death of his wife, Stefanie, in June. We very much appreciated the way Philippa Pointon, Maureen Robson and Melva Waite (from the Region Committee) put the programme together and MC'd the dance in his stead.

Overall, from the club's perspective, the dance went very well, and a profit was made for the Region. We appreciated the help we received from all those who worked alongside the club to make the 2014 New Dancers' Celebration a success.



From the Recordshop

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Here in the Antipodes, clubs are closing down as temperatures rise, heralding the arrival of summer.

However, up in the northern hemisphere, dancing is in full swing. To celebrate their **90th Anniversary**, **Edinburgh Branch** have launched a Book and CD. Recorded by Graeme Munro and his S D Band, (Alastair Wood on 2nd Accordion) the sound is good. Twelve tracks offer sets of tunes ranging from new compositions to the good, old Trad and you will recognise quite a few old favourites such as the strathspey *Calum's Road* and that catchy reel we used to hear on the LPs, *Dancing the Baby*. There are nine 8x32 tracks, two 4x32 tracks and one 3x32 (triangular strathspey for six couples). The bonus track is Bill Hamilton's much-loved dance *Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder* – launched in the 1960s, it remains a dancers' favourite, though, with so many other dances vying for a place, it does not appear as frequently on programmes nowadays. The book contains twelve very different dances ranging from simple to more complex, longwise to square, to triangular and, of course, Bill Hamilton's dance. The price for Book and CD is \$35, plus P&P. **Note: Any future supplies will be more expensive.**

Keith Smith, the well-known fiddler who, with Muriel Johnstone, has recorded many memorable CDs, is the overseas guest musician at Summer School, and to mark this, I have boosted stocks of their earlier CDs. In addition, there will be a few of Keith's three "listening" CDs: Hoogie – "Spot the Bothy" and Hoogie – "For the Halibut", also (with Muriel on piano), "Highland Shortbread". PLEASE NOTE: Keith is bringing his "listening" CDs with him to Dunedin. Also, the Edinburgh Package is going direct to Summer School. If you cannot make it to Dunedin, I am happy to take advance orders and despatch the goods **after** my return home on 6 January.

NEW RELEASE in the Recordshop: "**Leeds Branch Golden Collection**", a CD recorded by Neil Barron and his S D Band – 12 tracks plus *South from Oban* from the Leeds 10th Anniversary Book.

Dorothy