

TAIRĀWHITI WEDDING

by Rod Downey

A 32 bar strathspey for 4 couples in a 4 couple longwise set.

1-8 1C with 2C, 3C with 4C dance double figures of eight across the set, beginning with 1C crossing down, and 4C crossing up. Hands should be given when crossing.

9-16 1C and 3C dance the Rose Progression around the standing 2C. This will finish with couples in order 3, 2, 1,4. To wit: (described as an 8 bar phrase)

1-2 First man and third woman set to each other while first woman and third man change places with right hands to finish facing out.

3-4 First man and third woman half turn with both hands to finish facing each other on the diagonal with hands joined

While

first woman dances up to first man's place and third man dances down to third woman's place. First woman dances behind second man, and third man behind second woman.

5-6 First man and third woman cast to the right and dance out to the sidelines to finish in each other's place

While

first woman and third man half turn with both hands to finish facing each other on the diagonal with hands joined.

It is important in this dance that the dancers approaching for the half turns use a round track, and this should be anticipated in bars 3-4.

7-8 First man dances across to third man's place

While

third woman dances across to first woman's place

While

first woman and third man cast to the right and dance out to the sidelines, to finish with first woman in third woman's place, and third man in first man's place.

17-18 All 4 couples take hands on the side and set.

19-22 All couples turn with 2 hands.

23-24 Again, all take hands and set.

25-32 3C with 2C, 1C with 4C dance the Knot. Unless this is the last time through, 3C and 4C should finish facing out, ready for the next iteration, to cast into the double figures of eight. Finishing order is 2, 3, 4, 1.

Repeat with a new top couple.

Devised 20/3/2022, to commemorate my younger son Alex, marrying Lana Phillips, in a wonderful wedding in February 2022 in Gisborne. Tairāwhiti is the Māori name for Gisborne (or, at least, the Gisborne Region).

This dance contains a new version of the Rose Progression around a couple, in the spirit of New Park from book 19, which has an all round poussette for 1C and 3C.

Recommended tune is "Mrs MacInroy of Lude" by Joseph Lowe which is traditional.

Since there is no suitable recording of this, alternative recommended tune is "Red Plaid" (traditional) and I particularly like the set "Red Plaid/The Iron Man/The Banks of Spey" from Peter Elmes' recording of "Glenys Pearce's Strathspey" from the Lochiel Collection. Should this not be available, I would recommend tune "Miss Janet Laing's Strathspey" by Nan Main, and either of the society's recordings for book 22 would be good. Failing that use any reasonable recording of "The Balmoral Strathspey".