

RSCDS WELLINGTON REGION NEWSLETTER



Volume 23 No. 3
September 2020



President's Column

From Ann Oliver, President

Well, it has certainly been an unsettled year. One of planning events, cancelling events, and planning how to cancel events!

Despite all the uncertainty, it is great to see some dancing has been able to proceed.

With the easing of restrictions to Level 1 in June, both Linden and Upper Hutt Clubs were able to proceed with their annual dances. Both were well attended, with those present making the most of the opportunity to come together and enjoy the dance, great music and the company of fellow dancers.

Unfortunately Waikanae, Kelburn, Capital City, Johnsonville and Lower Hutt have had to cancel dances and we pass on our sympathies to these clubs. Even as I write this, I know that many are awaiting the Monday 14th Covid-19 announcements to make decisions about whether their dances can go ahead on (re)scheduled dates. This is also true of the Region Committee, as a decision about proceeding with the New Dancers' Celebration will be made based on this announcement. My fingers (and many others', I'm sure) are crossed for a drop to Level 1!

It is good to see that at Covid Level 2 there are still clubs continuing to meet, with the appropriate controls in place, and I hear that theme nights and

the use of musicians by clubs has been adding buzz to the dancing community.

The region events for August – the Basic Teacher Skills Course and the Upper Intermediate and Advanced classes – also went ahead. Margaret Cantwell has written a lovely article on the Basic Teaching Skills course which is below, so I won't go into any detail other than to thank Jeanette Watson for all her hard work in planning and teaching this weekend event. It was great to see that participants from as far afield as Nelson, Marlborough and Manawatu were able to travel to Wellington to make the most of this opportunity.

Thanks also to Rod Downey and Jeanette for teaching the Advanced and Upper Intermediate classes and to Mary, Lynne, Iain, Jason and Jean for providing music to keep us on our toes. These classes are always a great challenge to brain and limb.

While we were not able to dance earlier in the year, I encouraged the devisers to come up with dances which allow for 'social distancing' to be demonstrated in the dance. We have received 15 dances and they are very varied in their approach to the challenge. I look forward to trying all these out, but given the difficulties with scheduling events at this point, we plan to carry this over until 2021.

The committee is going ahead with a strategic review in October. To support this, a survey was sent out in August to RSCDS members and to clubs to ask for views on the role of the region committee and what activities they should undertake. Unfortunately we have experienced some technical issues with the

survey. We would still love to hear your views, so if you have not already done the survey please [CLICK HERE](#) and let us know what you think.

Remember the **Region's Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday, 10th November**, at 7.30 pm, in the Trust Room of the Johnsonville Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only RSCDS members can vote. This is an opportunity get involved in helping with region activities. We are looking for nominations for both Treasurer and Secretary, as well as standard committee members.

The final event that is being planned for the year is of course Hogmanay. We are hoping (Covid permitting) that this event can be a sizeable and memorable one. As Summer School is not being held, we would love to see those who normally attend Hogmanay there, to come along to see the New Year in with us in Wellington. To help everyone join in as much as possible on the night, most dances will be walked. Additionally, a class will be held to go through some of the less familiar dances on Tuesday 29 December, 7.30pm, at St David's Multicultural Church Hall, Elizabeth St, Petone.

So as the dancing season comes to an end, perhaps a bit later than normal for some clubs to make up for missed dancing, don't forget where your shoes are. Come and join in the New Year fun.

**Region Committee
Strategic Review / Survey
Have Your Say**

Please let us know your thoughts about the role of the committee and activities they should be running

To do this, complete the RSCDS Wellington Survey by the **10th October 2020**

[CLICK HERE](#) TO COMPLETE

Bubbles can uplift and masks tease!

from the Spurtle-wielder

Bubbles – shiny, iridescent, fleeting moments of delight! With our frequently soapy hands, we can gently draw the tip of the middle finger along to the tip of the thumb and with luck, encircle a bubble. Blow on it softly and it may turn into a soapy sphere, sometimes gaining independence to “*fly so high, to nearly reach the sky*” as the song says*. Dr Tristram Ingham of the Otago University Medical School located in Wellington, floated the idea of a bubble to help people envisage themselves wrapped in an invisible encircling protection (initially designed as a presentation for folk with a disability). The concept quickly spread far and wide following its adoption by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to describe how we can protect both ourselves and our nation!

Bubbles, we know, are extremely fragile, even when entertainers create those fancy big ones (using a solution including glycerine or similar additive). Have you thought about a bubble in relation to our dancing? When a number of sets are on the floor, the space for each is determined by the proximity of the lines, but at club nights with maybe a couple of sets or even just one, dancers must use the standing fourth couple to align the boundaries; however if the fourth couple is not ‘standing’ one can envisage the set being within the invisible confines of a bubble. Of course if it is too narrow, reels of three may become long and ‘thin’ so that the ‘third’ person may be uncertain which way to start their curve; but with too much freedom, enthusiastic dancers may make the figure too voluptuous – two bubbles joined? – so that the set's bubble is well and truly burst!

A balloon is virtually a bubble, just made of stronger stuff. On 27 August 1784, in Edinburgh, James Tytler made the first balloon ascent in Britain. A very bright fellow (though sadly rather fond of the bottle), he spent eight years compiling a second edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (ten volumes), was a surgeon and apothecary, wrote numerous books and articles, published periodicals and a newspaper, invented a printing machine and a process for bleaching linen, composed songs, poems and tunes for the bagpipes. Enthused by the Montgolfier brothers' balloon flights in France in 1783, he exhibited the "Grand Edinburgh Fire Balloon" in June 1784 – barrel-shaped, 40 feet high, 30 feet in diameter, powered by heating the air in the balloon with a stove. But the flamboyant Vincenzo Lunardi's very successful

ascents in 1785 meant that James "Balloon" Tytler was unfortunately forgotten.

While our Covid bubbles may be viewed as 'figments of the imagination', Venetian masks are famous 'flights of the imagination'! Extraordinarily extravagant, the dramatic disguises were first created for a Carnival celebrating a victory for independence in 1162. Annual festivities continued, were banned in 1797 (with a few exceptions), then reintroduced in 1979. Since ancient times, masks have reproduced faces of the dead, represented characters in plays, offered disguises for multiple reasons, or, as today, are a practical means of protection. Where before, the eyes were hidden as being a very identifying feature of the person, today, the nose and mouth are covered so the eyes can come into their own, indeed emphasise what we consider to be a very important element in our dancing. They are the wordless communicators between the dancers – an appraising look, an indication guiding into the movement of a figure, even a flirtatious glance, or just conveying with their sparkle the pleasure of the company and the participating in the activity!

'Mask' may be written another way – 'masque'. The elegance found in our dancing possibly stems from a connection with the entertainments at the French Louis XIV's court (feet turnout etc) but these had developed greatly into the intricate *masques* performed at the courts of James I (VI of Scotland) and Charles I, often for Twelfth Night. They "married poetry, painting, music, and dance into a single moment of ritual homage to the British Crown". The scenic contrivances were amazing and the costumes mind-boggling – remember all were sewn by hand! Google the [designs by Inigo Jones](#)! For one masque, the Scottish poet James Thomson wrote "*Rule, Britannia*" – music by Thomas Arne.

Whatever the restrictions may be, they cannot stop the joy of our dancing bubbling up – certainly in our hearts and souls!

* "*I'm forever blowing bubbles*" by George Gershwin

Dressing for the part!

From Lorelee Hyde

Browsing through my photo albums brings back many happy memories of my 46 years of Scottish Country Dancing. What stands out are the fun times with lots of smiles and much laughter; fun dancing to fine music, fun with friends from around the world and fun 'dress up' nights – from the more

formal annual dances or balls to themed evenings and ceilidhs.

My sister Karen started dancing in Hamilton at much the same time as I did. We've had many shared experiences at weekend and summer schools and then dancing with her two children as they grew up – kids love to dress up!

My first dress-up nights at weekend school ceilidhs in the Waikato in the 1970-1980s had themes of *Down on the Farm*, very appropriate to the region.

When I started dancing in 1974, most women wore long dresses to formal dances, usually in white. I quickly made myself a white dress but didn't have a sash until bought one in Scotland in 1979 when I lived in Pitlochry for a time.



Lorelee in the centre with other members of Hamilton Club at the 1977 Rotorua Queen's Birthday Weekend School

After I moved to Wellington in 1983, there were lots more dancing adventures, often with Philippa Pointon, and Rod and Kristin Downey and their boys.

I continue to wear my white dress and sash, especially for Hogmanay, and enjoy dressing up for balls, including the President's Ball at Summer School, the 2012 RSCDS Wellington Region Diamond Jubilee Ball and the 2018 NZ Branch 50th Anniversary Ball held at Government House in Wellington. These were special occasions with the men dressed up in their kilts and jackets, and the colours of the women's dresses glittering under the chandeliers.

Other Wellington Region events where we've dressed up for the occasion include the 1992 Easter Weekend School 18th Century Ball, the 1993 Top Hat event and the 1920s Ball in 2014.

At NZ Branch Summer Schools, we've dug deep into our imaginations to dress up for a wide spectrum of fanciful subjects, including *Going to the Races*, the *Roman Occupation* and *Movie Stars*, or colour-theme evenings such as gold, or black and yellow.

To add to the fun, the band often joins in. The first photo I have of a band dressing the part is of Charlie Jemmett and the Gumboots Band at the 1977 Hamilton Summer School – yet another *Down on the Farm* evening!



Charlie Jemmett and the Gumboots Band (Mitch Park, Brent Hansen, Barrie McDonald) playing at the 1977 Hamilton Summer School

In 1991, I started dancing at Johnsonville Club where Marjorie Crawford was tutor. The first record I have of a dress-up night there is of a bad taste evening that year. From 2000 to 2002, Johnsonville had themes for our annual dances: black and white; jewel; and pink, with the band (Peter Elmes, John Smith and Lynne Scott, along with various young musicians) joining in the fun. Johnsonville celebrated 50 Golden Years in 2016, with a golden glow providing a backdrop to the festivities.

From 2015, we've had lots of fun and laughter at Johnsonville's annual members' dinner and dance. Themes ranging from a *Bright Midwinter Night*, to *Viking and Celts*, to *Spring into Autumn* have given rise to colourful and innovative costumes galore. We also celebrate Halloween with a supernatural

theme inspired by the Gaelic festival *Samhain*. A wonderful opportunity for us to become witches, ghouls or other apparitions.

Photos I've got from the 1970s to the present give a wonderful record of dancers dressing for the part and having fun while doing so. They also bring back memories of those who are no longer with us including Marjorie, Glenys Mills and Hilda Brodie who all tutored at Johnsonville. Reminiscing about the happy times we've had is almost as much fun as dressing up and dancing at our special evenings!

To view this archive of photos visit <http://www.johnsonvillesc.org.nz/2020/09/06/dressed-for-the-part/>

Ngaio Club News

From Moira Scott

As you are aware we received the bad news that we were moving back to Level 2 with effect from Wednesday 12 August.

Our dinner-dance, set for Thursday 13 August, had to be cancelled at the last minute because of these new restrictions. The evening had been fully arranged and catered, with food purchased and volunteers from Save the Children happy to provide us with a delicious meal, for an evening of dancing organised by Melva, and music provided by Aileen Logie and Hilary Ferral. It was a huge disappointment for us all that we had to cancel, as we had been looking forward to this new format evening for our club.

This was also to have been an important fundraising event for *Save the Children*. However all was not totally lost, as many people who had paid to attend have opted to donate the ticket cost (or part) to



Wellington teachers at the 1993 Region Top Hat Event

Save the Children, instead of being refunded. So it has ended up being a successful fundraising activity for them after all, for which they are very grateful. We really would love to thank the very generous and kind-hearted dancers who were happy to provide this donation. The people who had planned to attend were not just from our Ngaio Club, but included dancers and guests from other clubs and many of them also contributed donations. Receipts for the donations have been arranged and are on their way. Refunds are of course also being arranged as applicable.

We have reluctantly decided to defer organising a dinner-dance until next year rather than risk the possibility of another last-minute cancellation.

Ngaio Club hopes to be dancing again once the Covid 19 alert level changes in a positive direction. We also plan to dance further into the summer to make up for some of the lost dancing nights.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary next year. We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining our organising committee. We would also like to hear from anyone who has had a connection with the Ngaio Club over the years.

Music and musicians in profile at Johnsonville

From Kristin Downey

Despite so many interruptions to our dancing this year, Johnsonville club has been fortunate to have lots of live music to raise our spirits.

Our cancelled tartan night in April became a [Live Music at Home](#) event on 13 July, with [Aileen Logie](#), [Hilary Ferral](#) and [Jason Morris](#) up front at this year's new club venue of Johnsonville Bowling Club. It was a great night, with a great buzz.



Jason, Aileen and Hilary played at Johnsonville's 'Live Music at Home' night on 13 July

Since then, Aileen has become a regular player at club night every few weeks, adding that extra touch of excitement. It's really nice to get to know a musician in a club setting, and for Rod as tutor to develop that relationship. Plus we get the bonus of Aileen dancing with us in the second half of the night.

In July, [Lynne Scott](#) got in touch to say she had a Monday night free, and could bring musicians our way. So on Monday 3 August, Lynne, [Mary McDonald](#) and [Heather Elder](#) gave us another fun night of fine music. By the time this issue of HCH is published Lynne will have been back with Mary and Ann Goodbehere to play for our club night on 14 September.

All this music got me to thinking about how lucky we are to have so many musicians giving up their time for the love of Scottish music and Scottish country dancing. With not a lot of dancing events to feature in our club newsletter, I asked these musicians if they could write something about their musical journeys and how they came to play for SCD.

Each one of these musical 'bios' tells a fascinating story, and they are all posted on the Johnsonville club website as part of our [musical history](#). We hope to add more stories to the club's website over time to acknowledge the part musicians play in our community.

Sadly, because we have to stay at Covid Level 2 for at least another week, **we have had to cancel our annual dance**, which was to have been on 19 September, with music from Lynne, Sharlene Penman and Richard Hardie.

Reading this in hard copy? Go to <http://www.johnsonvillesc.org.nz/history/musicians/> for musical biographies.

2020 Vision

A personal memoir by Lynne Scott

'Twas a month before covid
And no-one had guessed
That the viper was stirring
Down deep in its nest.

The dancers were ready,
Pumps shined in advance,
Prepared for another
Grand season of Dance.

The bands had been booked:
Tartan nights, formal gigs,
Their instruments reeling

With Strathspeys and Jigs.
Sets of music prepared,
Reviewed and rehearsed –
How could we have known
That the bubble would burst?
And just about then
My optician declares
“You’ve cataracts forming –
Your eyes need repairs!”
But the viper escaped!
All our dancing was canned.
There were dark days ahead
For the folks in the Band.
We’d no-one to play for,
More questions than answers,
Our tunes undirected –
We missed all our dancers!
As lockdown continued
My vision was troubled:
With music lines wobbly
And notes that were doubled.
The future looked patchy,
No end was in sight.
We just danced in our homes,
With Zoom setting us right!
Level Four turned to Three
And Three became Two.
Eye surgery then
Became possible too.
So we picked up the pieces
Of dances we planned,
A happier vision
Returned to the Band.
Now the future is brighter,
Bright colours a-plenty
But we’re happy to bid
Farewell, 2020!

Basic Teaching Skills course

From Margaret Cantwell

Ten of us gathered in Wellington for the Basic Teaching Skills course on the first weekend in August.

Previous experience was mixed – with some participants already teaching clubs, some working towards the teaching certification, and others with a range of dancing experience. While the class was hosted by the Wellington Region, the attendees were also from regions to both the north and south.

Jeanette Watson provided an information-packed programme with a good balance between discussion and actually giving stuff a go.

It was great to have the opportunity to unpack some dances and think about how you would go about briefing or teaching them to a group. They say you can’t learn to ride a bike by just watching someone else and the same is certainly true for teaching dancing. The salt and pepper shakers on the table are so much more predictable than a set of dancers!



Participants at the Basic Teaching Skills course

The Basic Teaching Skills course was an opportunity to give briefing and teaching a go in an environment where mistakes really didn’t matter. We all laughed together and went home happy but exhausted at the end of the weekend.

Thanks to the Wellington Region for hosting this event and particularly to Jeanette for sharing her experience so readily, providing suggestions on other ways to approach bits that didn’t go so well and for her gentle encouragement as required.

Victoria University of Wellington Scottish Interest Group

VUW Law School, Old Government Buildings,
Lambton Quay (Bunny St entrance), 7:30 pm

Monday 28 September – *Mrs Barbour’s Army (a WWI event)*

Wednesday 28 October – *The Long Arm of the Law – Scottish Variety*

Visitors welcome; no charge. **Current Covid Levels are restricting entry to the Law School. Please check the website for availability:**
www.wellyscots.wordpress.com.

Labour Weekend Tea Dance

From Lynne Scott

For the last two years, as Music Adviser, I have organised a Labour Weekend Gathering for NZ's SCD musicians. It's been an opportunity to share resources, skills and ideas, with the object of raising the playing level of all our musicians. This year, we're in Wellington.

But what would a convention of musicians be without an opportunity to play? So join us for an afternoon of dancing to some of NZ's top bands, culminating in the sound of ALL the musicians together. We've done this in Hamilton and Auckland, and it's a great, fun way to end the event. Do join us! (provided Covid Level 1 applies.)



Tea Dance

Hutt Intermediate School Hall
Kauri Street, Lower Hutt

Sunday 25 October 2020 2pm – 5 pm

Dance to some of NZ's best SCD musicians!

Programme - MC Jeanette Watson

Jig to the Music J
Orpington Caledonians R
Delving Side S
The Cranberry Tart J
The Australian Ladies R
Midsummer Common S
Beach Dancer J
On the Quarter-Deck R
Miss Eleanor S
The Duke of Atholls Reel J

Afternoon Tea

The Laird of Milton's Daughter J
The Kissing Bridge R
Neidpath Castle S
Pelorus Jack J
The Reel of the Royal Scots R

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

Organiser: Lynne Scott, Convenor of the annual SCD Musicians' Convention

**Closing date for the next issue
of Harbour City Happenings
Saturday 12 December 2020**

Note: The link to register and pay for the Hogmanay dance is [here](#) (as it doesn't work in the poster).

Covid Levels

In principle, provided the Wellington Region is at Covid Alert Level 1, the dance events listed below will go ahead.

If it looks likely that we will still be at Level 2 at the time of an event, it will be cancelled.

Information about any cancellations will be sent to Club Secretaries.

Special classes

The Region will run special classes to prepare dancers for the New Dancers' Celebration and Hogmanay dances.

These will be held at St David's Multicultural Church Hall, Elizabeth Street, Petone, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Cost will be \$2 per class.

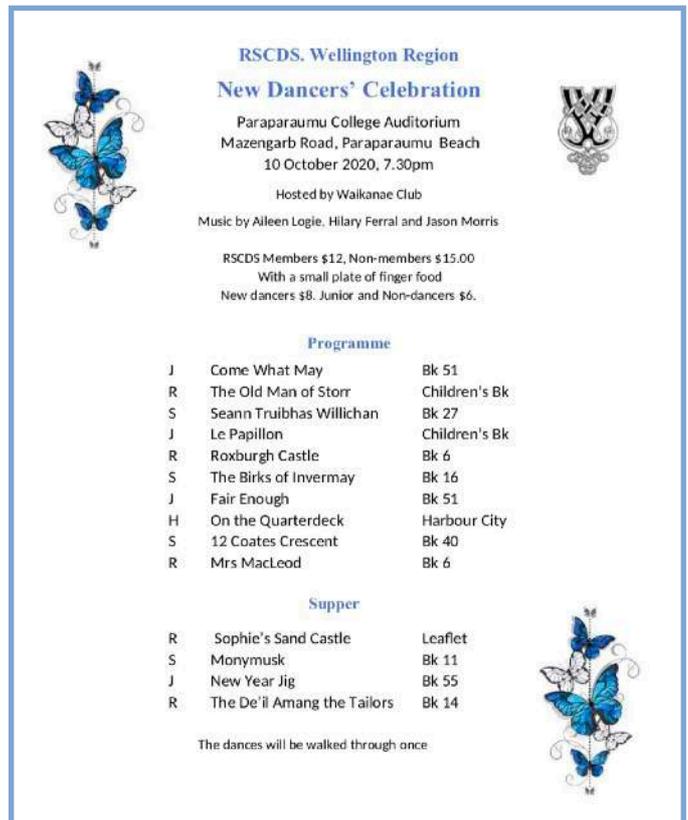
New Dancers' Celebration Prep classes

Tuesday 29 September

Tuesday 6 October

Hogmanay Prep class

Tuesday 29 December



RSCDS, Wellington Region
New Dancers' Celebration

Paraparaumu College Auditorium
Mazengarb Road, Paraparaumu Beach
10 October 2020, 7.30pm

Hosted by Walkanae Club

Music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris

RSCDS Members \$12, Non-members \$15.00
With a small plate of finger food
New dancers \$8. Junior and Non-dancers \$6.

Programme

J	Come What May	Bk 51
R	The Old Man of Storr	Children's Bk
S	Seann Truibhas Willichan	Bk 27
J	Le Papillon	Children's Bk
R	Roxburgh Castle	Bk 6
S	The Birks of Invermay	Bk 16
J	Fair Enough	Bk 51
H	On the Quarterdeck	Harbour City
S	12 Coates Crescent	Bk 40
R	Mrs MacLeod	Bk 6

Supper

R	Sophie's Sand Castle	Leaflet
S	Monymusk	Bk 11
J	New Year Jig	Bk 55
R	The De'il Among the Tailors	Bk 14

The dances will be walked through once



GLENDARROCH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
 Invites you to our dance on 26th September 2020 at Carlton School Hall, Carlton Avenue, Wanganui

Music by Scottish Saltire
 Time: 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Admission: RSCDS members \$15, non-members \$18, spectators and children \$5

Raffle

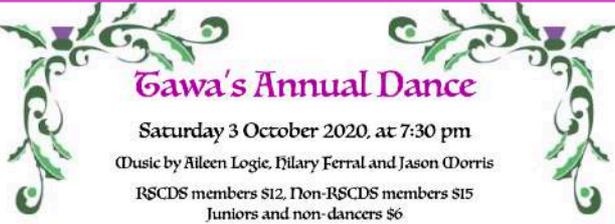
Programme

Andrew and Gordon's Jig (J)	Goldring
The Lass of Richmond Hill (R)	2 nd Graded Book
<i>Gramachie (S)</i>	<i>Miscellany</i>
Pelorus Jack (J)	Book 41
Orpington Caledonians (R)	Book 48
<i>Triple Happiness (S)</i>	<i>Book 51</i>
Bill Clement MBE (J)	Book 47
The Highland Lass (R)	Book 30
<i>Lady Lucy Ramsay (S)</i>	<i>Miscellany</i>
The Captain's House (R)	3 rd Graded Book

Short Break

New Year Jig (J)	Book 51
Catch the Wind (R)	Book 45
<i>Midsummer Common (S)</i>	<i>Book 49</i>
The Jubilee Jig (J)	RSCDS Leaflets 11
Back to the Fireside (R)	Book 38
<i>Jean Martin of Aberdeen (S)</i>	<i>Magazine Dances</i>
A Capital Jig (J)	Magazine Dances
The Reel of the 51 st Division (R)	Book 13

Light Refreshments



Tawa's Annual Dance
 Saturday 3 October 2020, at 7:30 pm
 Music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris

RSCDS members \$12, Non-RSCDS members \$15
 Juniors and non-dancers \$6

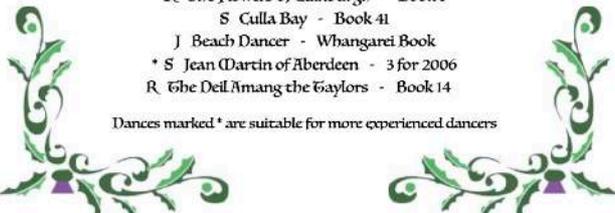
Programme

J Hooper's Jig - 30 Popular - Vol 2
 R Shiftin' Bobbins - Ormskirk dances - Book 6
 S Anna Holden's Scrathspey - Book 42
 J Napier's Index - Book 45
 R Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan - Goldring's 14 Social
 S The Golden Years - Book 48
 * J Links with St Petersburg - Book 46
 R Scott Meikle - Book 46
 S Wild Mountain Ghyme - Morris's Bush col.
 R The Reel of the Royal Scots - RSCDS Leaflet

SUPPER

J A Capital Jig - 5 for 2009
 R The Button Boy - Allanton col.
 S The Gentleman - Book 35
 * J Best Set in the Hall - Book 46
 R The Flowers of Edinburgh - Book 1
 S Culla Bay - Book 41
 J Beach Dancer - Whangarei Book
 * S Jean Martin of Aberdeen - 3 for 2006
 R The Deil Amang the Tailors - Book 14

Dances marked * are suitable for more experienced dancers



CARTERTON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
 20th ANNIVERSARY DANCE



7: 30 pm Saturday 7th November 2020
 Carterton School Hall, Holloway Street, Carterton
 Admission \$15, RSCDS Members \$13
 Spectators & Juniors \$5

Music by Saltire Band

J	Granville Market	2012
R	Pittenweem	2014
S	MacDonald of the Isles	2004
J	Tribute to the Borders	2006
R	Orpington Caledonians	2019
S	Drumelzier	2008
J	Pelorus Jack	2010
R	Reel On	2015
S	The Water of Leith	2018
J	Lamb Skinet	2000
R	Violynne	2007
S	The Paisley Weavers	2017
J	St Andrews Fair	2016
S	Hello-Goodbye	2020
R	Scott Meikle	2013

SUPPER



Dance Scottish Wellington
Hogmanay 2020-2021

31st December 2020, 8pm

Knox Church Hall, High Street, Lower Hutt

RSCDS \$18 / Non RSCDS \$20 / Juniors & Spectators \$10 / Family \$50
 Plus a small disposable plate of cold finger food (no heating available)

Music by the Saltire Scottish Dance Band

Due to Covid-19 and to avoid queues on the night, pre-registration and payment is requested. Register online – [click here](#). Details of how to pay are on the registration form.

PROGRAMME

A Highland Welcome R	
New Year's Jig J	
Neidpath Castle S	
The Dancing Bees R	
The Wild Geese J	
*Culla Bay S	
Dashing White Sergeant R	
*Best Set in the Hall J	
Seann Triubhas Willichan S	
The Flying Scotsman J	
De'il Amang the Tailors R	
Minister on the Loch S	
The Gay Gordons R	

SUPPER

Pelorus Jack J
The Triumph R
The Glasgow Highlanders S
*A Capital Jig J
Mairi's Wedding R
St Bernard's Waltz W

CEREMONY

*Eightsome/Thirtytwosome Reel R
*City of Belfast S
The Reel of the 51 st Division R

Most dances will be walked. *Dances are more challenging