

# RSCDS WELLINGTON REGION NEWSLETTER



Volume 24 No. 2

June 2021

## Harbour City Happenings – FREE TO ALL

The Region Committee has agreed that Harbour City Happenings should be **free to anyone who wishes to receive it electronically.**

Initially it will be sent to all RSCDS members and to Clubs. If you wish to subscribe to (or unsubscribe from) the publication, please email the Editor [dpatterson@actrix.co.nz](mailto:dpatterson@actrix.co.nz).

Printed copies by mail will continue to cost \$10. If you have already paid your \$5 sub for this year and would like a refund, please email [kiwimargaret@gmail.com](mailto:kiwimargaret@gmail.com) providing your bank account details.



### President's Column

*From Ann Oliver, President*

The year is flying by and we are almost at the shortest day. So what better way to spend a winter afternoon or evening than to be dancing and socialising with friends? Hopefully you have already been enjoying dancing at club, classes

and formals and there is plenty still to come.

### Past Happenings

April and May were especially busy months with the Region holding two days to trial the Covid-inspired dances, an Advanced Technique Class, Teacher Workshops and the commencement of the first block of Basics Classes.

Katharine Hoskyn was invited down from Auckland to run the Advanced Technique class and Teacher Workshops and we enjoyed her leadership and the

opportunity to come together, learn from one another and give different teaching methods and approaches a try. Such events benefit all dancers by inspiring and encouraging the teachers who give their time and energy both at club and region level. Thanks to all those teachers who took the time to attend and in turn encourage and inspire us as dancers.



Participants in the Teacher Workshops

A separate article about the Covid Dance days appears later in the Newsletter, in which the results of the challenge are announced, so keep reading to find this out!

### **Celebrations**

Both Ngaio Club and Upper Hutt Club mark their 50th Anniversary this year. Congratulations to both clubs on reaching this milestone. Ngaio Club has already celebrated with a fantastic dance on 8 May and Upper Hutt Club is holding their celebratory dance on 24 July, which I am greatly looking forward to attending. In addition, the Region turns 60 and will be celebrating on 7 August with a Dinner and Dance at the Lower Hutt Town Hall. I hope to see you at both these upcoming celebrations!

In addition to the Dinner and Dance, the Region Committee is also preparing a Book of Dances to mark the Region's 60th year. The dances are being selected from those submitted by the many talented devisers in the region.

### **Upcoming Classes**

The Region aims to have classes to cater for all levels of dancers and so we are offering the following classes in the second half of the year:

- A second block of Basics Classes – these will be held on alternate Tuesdays, from 13 July. The classes will be a continuation for those already attending the first block of Basics Classes, but are open to any dancers who have started this year, or have been dancing longer but would just like to refresh the Basics.
- Half-day classes for Intermediate and Advanced Dancers on 14 August and 11 September. Enrolment forms and other information will be sent out to your club secretaries shortly.

### **Have your say**

Last year, the Region Committee conducted a survey to hear what dancers felt the committee should be doing, and we have been guided by the outcomes; promoting dancing in the region by radio and Facebook advertising, working to improve our communication by making this publication free and organising a 60th anniversary dinner and dance at a relatively modest cost.

This year we would love to hear from you about the type, format and approach we have taken to running classes. To obtain your views, we will be running another survey in September/October so that we have the results in time for the AGM in November and planning for 2022.

And so for you all, and especially those who may be receiving this publication for the first time, please do read on and enjoy the rest of the news and I look forward to seeing you enjoy the events on offer over these winter months.

### **Covid Dance Days**

*From Ann Oliver*

In March last year, as we settled into lockdown and all the uncertainty that meant for dancing, I set a challenge for Wellington dancers to keep them thinking about dancing, even if we were unable to meet to dance. The challenge was to devise the *“best dance which allows social distancing measures to be demonstrated in the dance”*. While these criteria caused some confusion, and there were those who felt it an impossible task, I encouraged those struggling to interpret this in the widest possible sense and so I am pleased to say we had a total of 12 devisers submit dances.

The dances were trialed during two afternoons in April and May with a good number of dancers from across the region coming to see how creative our devisers can be. And there was a huge variety in the dances with jigs, reels, strathspeys and a medley being submitted.

Two of the dances were devised in such a way as to allow them to be danced with Covid Level 3 restrictions in place, ensuring 1.5 – 2m distance between dancers at all times. Other devisers interpreted the criteria to be those that were advised at lower Covid Levels. This interpretation resulted in more traditional dances, but mostly formations where no hands are taken (e.g. Hello-Goodbye setting, reels and gypsy turns) or modified formations to avoid the use of hands (e.g. a circle being replaced by a chase). Other dances told a Covid Story *“Counting Teddy Bears”* for example, reminding us of the many Teddies placed in windows for the amusement of youngsters and oldies out on their daily walks. Each repeat of this dance starts with everyone clapping and the number of claps increase by one for each repeat. We even had the musicians joining in the challenge, with Mary McDonald devising tunes for both her and Duncan's (McDonald) submissions.

Thanks to all those who put their talent, inspiration and time toward making this challenge fun, and for the dancers who joined in to try them out.

And with a virtual drum roll, I announce the winners of this challenge as:

Best dance demonstrating social measures (1.5-2 metres throughout)

*The Jewellery Shop* – devised by Edith Campbell

Best two dances which demonstrate social distancing measures for lower Covid Levels.

- *The Great Teddy Bear Hunt* – devised by Rod Downey
- *The Amateur Epidemiologist* – devised by Andrew Oliver

The submitted dances will be published shortly on the Wellington Region Website.

## What makes us smile

*From the Spurtle-wielder*

A recent newspaper report about an antique dealer told how she keeps a special drawer of small items that always make her smile. There are words which similarly delight – they tickle the tongue’s fancy.

Dare we surmise dance devisor Bob McMurtry enjoyed calling his cat (feline) *Ecclefechan* for that reason, hence the dance title? A small Border village in Dumfriesshire, Ecclefechan is on the main road from England to Glasgow; its name is known because of its famous son Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881). He was a Scottish historian, satirical writer, essayist, translator, philosopher, mathematician, and teacher. He had great stature as a Victorian writer, though often his ideas were controversial. His wife Jane was also very talented – they were very prominent and highly respected in the brilliant literary circles of London when they moved south. The correspondence between them runs into several volumes!

The name probably comes from the Brittonic *egles* (church) and St. Fechan, a famous 7<sup>th</sup> Century Irish priest. The added appeal of words such as *Ecclefechan*

may be because they have an almost musical quality. Scottish ones of course have a special lilt. Music of one’s homeland is knitted into the fabric of one’s being – recall being both a solace and a strength.

Amongst the rearguard for the evacuation from the beaches of Dunkirk (27 May-4 June 1940), were two battalions of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, part of the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division; their orders were “*You will hold this position: you will either be killed, wounded or made a prisoner of war*”. After another action a few days later, at a bridgehead near the Somme, they suffered heavy casualties and the remnant were forced to surrender. They had to march 1,000 miles to the POW camp Oflag VII-C at Laufen Castle near Salzburg.

Lieutenant Jimmy Atkinson kept his spirits up by inwardly ‘singing’ all the country dance tunes he could remember – dancing had been a regular activity for him at home. He also started gathering ideas for figures for a dance.

At the camp, another dancing Lieutenant – Peter Oliver of the Seaforth Highlanders – started a ‘reeling’ club, which met on three days each week. With bagpipes having been confiscated, they whistled the tunes; some time later, a chanter arrived per the Red Cross and eventually an accordion was found. Together with Lieutenant Colonel Tom Harris Hunter (RAMC), the devising of the dance was completed. Letters home to Scotland with the instructions were intercepted and great efforts were made to decipher this ‘code’! To demonstrate they were dance instructions, the reel was performed, but the guards just thought the men were all mad!

In Scotland the news quickly spread and the dance became very popular – one figure depicts the St Andrew’s Cross. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (founded 1923) had published a number of books with dances collected from old manuscripts and some remembered from their youth by older



The ever-popular *Reel of the 51st Division* was danced at Johnsonville’s Tartan Night in April (photo: Loralee Hyde)

dancers. In 1945, the 13th edition – *the Victory Edition* – included the first ‘modern’ dance – *the Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division*.

Highland dancing is basically done by individual performers, a very few dances in groups of four. By contrast, Scottish Country Dancing is a very social style of dance, usually by six or eight people working together to create a variety of figures. There are three different tempi – lively reels (4/4 time) and jigs (6/8 time), and slow strathspeys (4/4 time). The footwork has probably been influenced by “The Auld Alliance” – the longstanding friendship between Scotland and France (ballet?) as the feet are placed in a ‘turnout’ position (90°). Depending on the event, the degree of formality varies greatly. The pleasure of dancing together to great music is the paramount element. It certainly makes us smile!

A popular Royal Family activity, the Queen is the Society’s Patron; in 1947, as Princess Elizabeth, she took on the role – King George VI granted the title of Royal in 1951. There are branches all round the world – Scots love to share their dancing! *The Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division* remains an evergreen favourite.

**Note:** Part of this article was originally written for people not so familiar with SCD, hence the ‘info’.

## Bernice Kelly

*From Elaine Lethbridge*

Longstanding Wellington dancers were saddened by the death on 6 June of Bernice Kelly. She was a well-known figure in Wellington dancing circles for many years.

Bernice started dancing with the Wellington Club around the mid 1970s. She was a very keen and active dancer. She served on the club’s committee for a few years, helping with the organisation of its 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary dances.

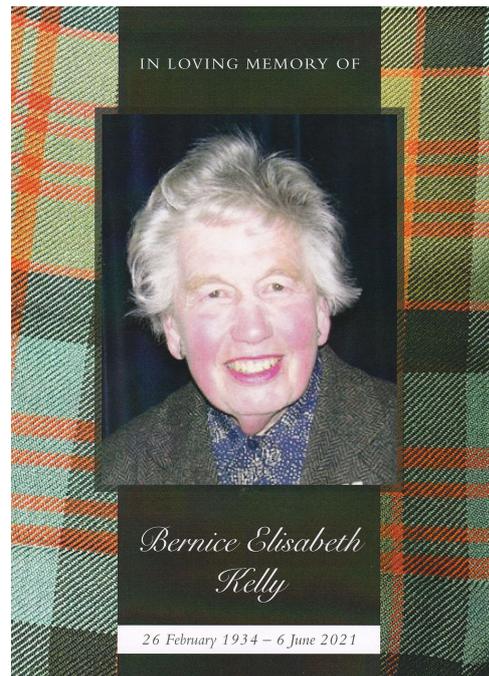
Around 1981, she left that club and joined the Island Bay Club. While connected with this club she served on the committee for a time, and also took on the Treasurer’s position. She was a very willing worker and was often part of the team that organised the club’s special functions, formal dances, and birthday nights.

Bernice was also on the Region Committee for quite some time. She has held the positions of Treasurer, Vice President, and President. She was very efficient and gave support wherever needed. She was a Region

delegate on at least two occasions to the NZ Branch AGM.

As Region President, she fully supported the other clubs in the Region by attending their formal dances, Tartan nights or other special events.

Unfortunately due to health problems, Bernice had to give up dancing in later years, but she still insisted on paying her RSCDS membership and Region Newsletter subscription for some time afterwards. This way she kept up with what was happening in the dancing world.



Bernice’s funeral was held on Monday 14 June, and was attended by a number of dancers. She will always be fondly remembered by her dancing friends.

## Archival Project

*From Philippa Pointon*

Thank you to the people who have offered to scan photos of Region events for the Archival Project. Now all we need is some photos or slides! Please let me know if you have any such photos that you are willing to lend on a short term basis. We are also looking at digitising videos and film, so again, let me know if you have anything relevant.

My contact details are:

021 43 4163 or philippapointon@gmail.com



1961 - 2021  
Celebrating 60 years

## Wellington Region – the early years

*From Kristin Downey*

As part of the Wellington Region's 60th Anniversary celebrations, I've started combing through old NZ Scottish Country Dancer magazines, extracting items of interest relating to the Region.

I didn't come to NZ until 1986, and didn't start dancing till 1991, so this has been a voyage of discovery, and I'm really enjoying finding out about the history of Scottish Country Dancing in the Wellington region.

Although the Wellington 'Branch' (as it was then known) wasn't established until 1961, Scottish country dancing was already alive and well. Here's what I've found – apologies for any mis-interpretations or omissions, I'm happy to be corrected.

'In **May, 1949**, under the auspices of the Wellington Association of Scots' Societies, the **Scottish Country Dance Circle** came into being, and was affiliated to the Scottish organisation. ... The membership was approximately 60, and included members of the Hutt Valley Scottish Society.' (1954 SC Dancer, p 4.)

'However, owing to the small attendances and lack of interest, it was reluctantly decided, in April of 1951, that the dancing circle should cease functioning. ... A new start was made on **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1951** ... and Scottish Country Dancing was soon firmly established in Wellington' as the **Wellington Dancing Circle**. (1954 SC Dancer, p 5.)

Lower Hutt continued to dance as 'a **Scottish Country Dance Circle** of the **Lower Hutt Scottish Society**' (1957 SC Dancer, p 20) and '**Wallaceville Scottish Country Dance Club** began its career halfway through **1952**' as 'from Wallaceville to Wellington is a long trek on a cold winter's night'. (1954 SC Dancer, pp 5-6.)

In Coronation Year, **1953**, the **Wellington-Hawkes Bay Association** was established, with member clubs including Lower Hutt, Wallaceville, and Wellington. However, 'the distance for meetings had become quite a problem, and so in **November, 1958**, the **Hawke's Bay Branch** was formed'. (1973 NZ SC Dancer, p4.)

This led to the formation of the **Wellington and Districts Association**, which included clubs in the Wairarapa. It was an exciting time, culminating in

### WELLINGTON AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

*President: Mr M. Colbourne.*

*Secretary: Miss V. Cameron.*

*Treasurer: Mr M. Brown.*

The highlight of the 1960 season was our Scottish Country Dance Ball and although the attendance was not quite as large as expected those present had an enjoyable time. Music was provided by Jack Seton's Band.

This was the first truly Scottish Country Dance Ball held in New Zealand and the Association has decided to hold another this year on Saturday, May 27. What about it? Make up a party, come on down (or up!). We will endeavour to arrange billets for those from out of town.

During the year the Atholl Club's resignation from the Association was received with regret, but to offset this we were pleased to welcome the Levin Club to the Association.

Percy's Reserve was again the spot for dancers in Wellington during the summer months. It is hard to imagine a more favourable spot than this for outdoor dancing, and it has always been well supported by dancers and spectators.

Unfortunately the weather spoilt what would have been an excellent display which we had arranged for the Wellington Highland Games.

The following is a list of clubs affiliated to the Association and each would be pleased to make you welcome should you visit their district: Wellington, Eastbourne, Randwick, Lower Hutt, Wallaceville, Featherston, Saltire (Carterton), Morisons Bush, Masterton, Wainuioru, Levin.

Exciting times for Wellington Region Scottish country dancers in 1960

1960 with the 'first truly Scottish Country Dance Ball held in New Zealand'. (1961 SC Dancer, p 13.)

In late **1961** 'it was agreed ... to dissolve the Wellington and Districts Association' with the formation of 'two new branches – **Wellington Branch** and **Wairarapa Branch**.' (1962 NZSC Dancer, p 17.)

There is more to the story, including the formation of the **NZ Scottish Country Dance Society** in 1957, and then in 1968, the **NZ Branch** of the RSCDS. But that's for another day.

Clubs in the Region have come and gone over the years, but Scottish country dancing remains in good heart in the Wellington Region, built on the shoulders of all those who came before.

This year the Region celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> year with a [60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball](#), and honours the Wellington Region dancing community by starting to collect and share its history.

*Many thanks to those who gifted back copies of NZ Dancer magazines to help with this research. I would be very grateful to hear from anyone who has spare magazines covering the years 1954-1958. Please email [kristinmacdonalddowney@gmail.com](mailto:kristinmacdonalddowney@gmail.com)*

N.Z. SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCER

**OUT OF THE ALBUM**

Dear Harry,

The article, "The First Decade," published in last year's "Dancer," aroused nostalgic memories for me, and I have unearthed a photograph of the office-bearers and committee of the Wellington Hawkes



Bay Association of Scottish Country Dance Clubs, which, I believe, was the first S.C.D. association in New Zealand.

Those in the group (from left) standing are: W. McPherson (vice-president), H. Dodd, A. Douglas, B. Fordyce, K. Shaw and M. Colburn. Seated: Shirley Child (secretary-treasurer), Marion Cunningham (first editor of the "Dancer"), Jack Seton (president), A. N. Other and Nora Sharp. This photograph was taken at the second dance in Morrisons Bush.

My association with dancing in Wellington has included being chairman of the Branch for the first four years and being president of the Branch as it has altered from Wellington Hawkes Bay, Wellington Wairarapa and finally Wellington, and I have been president of Lower Hutt Club since its inception.

I could quote lots of anecdotes, but one event really sticks in my mind. This was the time at Morrisons Bush when half of the dancers had to sit and leave room for the other half to dance, then on to Les Coe's farm for singsong and a cuppa. We got stuck in pouring rain on the "Hill" at 4.30 a.m. and arrived home at 7.30 on Sunday morning.

As Charlie Whitehill used to say, "Ye canna buy it." I would like to live it all over again.

Bill McPherson.

**Ngaio Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*From Melva Waite*

On 8 May 2021, Ngaio Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Much research into previous members' contacts resulted in (coincidentally) 50 past and present members meeting late afternoon for a light meal in the Ngaio Scout Hall. Now the excitement began, as President Andrea Lynch greeted everyone while Secretary Moira Scott handed out special printed name tags.

Once inside, after more greetings and waves, your attention was drawn to the gold decorations, especially a very large gold **50** over a window above the bar. The sun seemed to make it twice the size. With barman Pat Waite resplendent in a sparkling gold hat and bow tie handing out fruit punch, wine and other choices, the noise of conversations and laughter increased.

Gold autumn leaves decorated the bar table and dinner tables on the other side of the hall along with bunches of gold balloons hanging around.

Much laughter – and slight embarrassment – continued as the many photo albums were looked through. A 50-year collection of photos with past dance programmes is a wonderful historic record to have.

Andrea formally welcomed everyone, including six past presidents: Helen Rowe, John Markham, Shirley Kalogeropoulos, Dame Margaret Sparrow, Nicki Sinclair and Margaret Pitt.

The Save the Children ladies catered the afternoon event as a fundraiser. They provided us with a very appetising and much enjoyed light meal with incredible tasty desserts. Although reluctant to leave the happy atmosphere of the Scout Hall, we went down to the Ngaio Town Hall, excited to continue celebrating with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary formal dance.

On entering the Ngaio Town Hall through a cascade of golden streamers, you were presented with a view of the stage with a backdrop of black showing



Dancers entered through a cascade of golden streamers

up the oversized gold **50** and gold lettering spelling **Ngaio**.

All around, the hall was decorated with fifty gold balloons and many enlarged photos of members and events giving a look at past years. Along the front of the stage, gold fabric hung to the floor and many statuettes of gold sparkling stars proudly spouting up a '50' in the middle stood along the front, with green ivy weaving along and draping down.

The hall filled with approximately a hundred dancers and visitors; the three band members – Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris – were ready to go. The first dance, *Salute to Summer*, devised by Ngaio's first tutor Marie Malcolm (who was the club's tutor for the first 38 years) attracted ten sets to the floor.



Melva, Jason, Aileen and Hilary

The first half of the programme told a story of events over the years as tutor and MC Melva Waite explained the special reasons why the dances were included: *The Reverend John Macfarlane* (Book 37), devised by Gary Morris, who shared the tutoring with Marie Malcolm for 15 years; *New Year Jig* (Book 51), devised by Maureen Robson, who gained her tutor certificate under Marie's coaching and who tutored the children's class for 6 years; *The Robertson Rant*, always on the club's programme as a favourite, was danced blind folded on the final night of the club's 20<sup>th</sup> year.

But the most prestigious event of the club's 50 years was the visit of Miss Milligan in 1974 to our third annual dance. What a night that was! And of course, *Mrs Stewart's Jig* followed on the programme after *Miss Milligan's Strathspey*. What would we be doing without these two ladies?

Our President, Andrea, gave everyone a very warm welcome and thanked the club members and all those attending for their incredible support of our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday dance. After a short club history, Andrea invited the cake to be brought in. Club member Doug Sinclair piped in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake, carried

by Margaret Pitt, who still dances at the Club after 38 years (in fact, Margaret made the 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cakes). Two life members, Dame Margaret Sparrow and Gary Morris, proudly cut the cake to many a cheer and loud applause.



Life Members Gary Morris and Dame Margaret Sparrow cut the Anniversary cake

With an abundance of delicious food and lots of chatter it was difficult to restart the second half of the programme, which consisted of mainly popular dances and a new dance to celebrate the occasion, ***Ngaio Gold***. This five-couple strathspey (especially devised by Melva) came about because three-couple and four-couple set strathspeys had been devised for the 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> special occasions, so it had to be a five-couple set for the 50<sup>th</sup>. Aileen Logie composed the lead tune of *Ngaio Gold* and arranged a fantastic set of tunes. Four sets thoroughly enjoyed dancing *Ngaio Gold* on its debut.



The première of the new dance *Ngaio Gold*, as MC and deviser Melva Waite looks on

As Marie Malcolm had such an influence in the club, the evening ended with her favourite dance, *Mairi's Wedding*, and a hall still buzzing with dancers.

Ngaio Club had certainly celebrated 50 years – on a high!

Photos by John Patterson

## Levin SCD Club

*From Jaki Williams*

Two and a half years ago, our tutor left us for warmer climes. Oh dear, what will we do?

Well, we did, and have been dancing ever since, with a group of briefers who are doing an amazing job of keeping us all on our toes.

We started the year with two afternoon classes for our beginners, run by Romaine Butterfield and supported by some of our committee members.

Since just before COVID, we have gained ten new dancers who are doing really well. Eight of those are still dancing with us regularly, so we must be doing something right.

We are still enjoying having a guest tutor once a month, we all enjoy different tutors and different teaching styles. This helps our briefers enormously and gives us a night off from time to time.

So now, after three years and still dancing with three four-couple sets on a club night, we are going to hold our annual dance with a lot of firsts.

A new venue in the Ōhau hall, an afternoon dance, live music to enjoy from the Saltire Scottish Dance Band, and we are so lucky to have Melva Waite as our MC.

So, to you all, please come along and support our efforts, we would love to see as many of you as can make it. Daytime and winter, it seemed like such a good idea. What better way to spend a winter afternoon?

**Note:** While strictly speaking, Levin is not in the Wellington Region, many Wellington dancers have attended Levin's Annual Dances in the past. [Ed.]

### **“A hall, a hall, my kingdom for a hall!”**

*From Shirley Kalogeropoulos  
(with apologies to Shakespeare)*

Clubs occasionally encounter problems with finding suitable venues, but the Waikanae Club has had more than its fair share recently. Our usual club night venue was unavailable for several months at the start of 2020 when the hall was needed for classes, while classrooms were being refurbished. Enter alternative venue number **one** – small and oddly shaped, but manageable in the short term. We held our beginners' classes there but quickly realised it would not be suitable for regular club nights.

Enter alternative venue number **two** – again, small but manageable for the short term. However, this was not available every Friday night, so enter alternative venue number **three**.

Then came the Covid-19 lockdown, followed by many more weeks of uncertainty, as restriction levels varied and we made the decision to only dance at Level 1. We had the added stress of organising the New Dancers' Celebration in October – venue number **four**. But a week before the event their plumbing broke down – venue number **five**! Thank goodness the Paraparaumu Memorial Hall was available at short notice – and just weeks before it, too, closed for six months for refurbishment.

A new year, a sigh of relief, but no, Covid restrictions have affected club nights and once again, our usual venue is unavailable for several months due to further classroom refurbishments – our secretary is nearly at the end of her tether! However, alternative venue number **six** has been secured and we will dance at the Waikanae Presbyterian Church hall in Ngaio Road, probably until August.

Last, but not least, our annual dance was scheduled for June this year – and our preferred venue was still unavailable. However, whilst gardening one day, Romaine came up with a good suggestion – Carterton are hosting this year's New Dancers' Celebration in October, and therefore not having their usual dance in November. Perhaps we could move our annual dance to the end of the year and relieve some of the immediate pressure? This all fell nicely into place, so please amend your Region diary now:

### **Waikanae Club Annual Dance**

Saturday 30 October 2021

Paraparaumu Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris

**PS:** The 2020 New Dancers' Celebration was able to go ahead and was a great success!

## **Autumn gatherings at Johnsonville**

*From Kristin Downey*

The club year gathers pace in autumn. Beginners make their decision to join the club or not, club nights begin, and we look forward to enjoying club activities before the winter dancing season gets going in earnest.

### **First Tartan night of the year**

This year's first tartan night on 19 April was also [the first tartan night in our new venue, Khandallah](#)

Town Hall. Our 2020 venue was really too small to host guests, so it was very exciting to have dancers from other clubs join us on the night.

We can't get access to the hall until after the Pilates class finishes at 7pm, which makes for a bit of a scamper to get ourselves and the band in and set up, and some decorations on the walls. But it all worked out.

Hall staff 'took down the wall', opening up the adjoining lounge for cosy, casual seating. The band of Aileen, Hilary and Jason brought that special buzz that live music always brings, and their smart new tartan tabards (and vest) added extra colour.

Club members turned out in force, and we welcomed a set of visitors to give us six-plus sets. It was lovely to see eight of our new dancers taking to the floor, and doing so well. A good night was had by all, and we look forward to our [next tartan night on 28 June](#).

### A Midwinter Christmas Celebration

In earlier years, Johnsonville club members joined together at a local restaurant for a midwinter dinner, with dancing if space permitted. This gave club members a cheery night in the face of winter, with the chance to socialise off the dance floor.

In 2015, the Johnsonville committee reinstated this custom as a dinner-dance, bringing in caterers rather than going to a restaurant. St John's Church Hall has been our place to gather each year since then, offering just the right amount of space for tables, socialising, dance floor and kitchen facilities.

This year's theme of a Midwinter Christmas made for a very festive occasion, even though winter was not quite upon us. The hall was filled with colours of red and green, Christmas trees, Santa hats, fur-lined coats, tartan and tinsel.



Midwinter fun dancing *Waltz of the (Christmas) Bells*  
(photo: John Patterson)

Our night was made more special with mulled wine and Christmas mince pies to start, a fun programme

of Christmas-themed Scottish and ceilidh dances, and delicious food from caterers *Food Envy*. Just the thing to take us into winter, and a nice opportunity to get to know some of our new dancers better.



Johnsonville club members and their families gathered for Midwinter Christmas Merrymaking (photo: Loralee Hyde)

Please do join us for our next Tartan night on 28 June, before we start preparing for the club's [shared annual dance with Capital City](#) on 21 August.

### Free to a good home

The Lower Hutt Club has been donated a men's kilt from a former dancer, Colin Sarten.

Measurements are: Length 61cm (24 inches); waist approx 92 cm (36 inches). We are not sure of the tartan. The kilt is in reasonable condition and would benefit from dry cleaning.

Please contact Lower Hutt President, Janice Henson - 027 315 7757, or [janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz).



### Wanted

Size 10 woman's dancing shoes for a new dancer. Do you have (or know someone who may be able to assist us to find) a pre-loved pair of dancing pumps that you (or they) are willing to part with.

Price negotiable. CONTACT Gaye at the Lower Hutt Club on [collindg57@gmail.com](mailto:collindg57@gmail.com)

**RSCDS NZ Branch Inc. Wellington Region  
Region Classes 2021**

*Two half-day classes: 14 August and 11 September*

**Intermediate Dancers 9:30 - 12:30**

**Advanced Dancers 1 - 4pm**

**Cost:** \$15 per half-day class

(It is best if you attend both classes appropriate for your level. This allows the teacher to build on from the material taught at the first class)

**Intermediate class**

**Teacher: Elizabeth Ferguson**

**Advanced class:**

**Teacher: Ann Oliver**

More details and registration forms can be found at <http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz/>

**Venue:** St David's Multicultural Hall, down the drive off Elizabeth Street



**When:**

Tuesday evening classes:

13 & 27 July, 10 & 24 August, 7 September 2021  
7.30 – 9.30pm

**Where:** St David's Multicultural Hall  
Elizabeth Street  
Petone

**Tutor:** Jeanette Watson

**Cost:** \$40 for all 5 classes

**Who:**

For all dancers who wish to solidify their knowledge of steps and formations. For those who attended the Basics 1 course this will be a continuation.

Go to [www.wellingtonscd.org.nz](http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz) for more information and to register online

**Victoria University of Wellington  
Scottish Interest Group**

Meets on the 28th day of the month Feb-Oct. at VUW Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay (Bunny St entrance).

**Monday 28 June**, *What weight did Atlas carry on his shoulders?*

**Wednesday 28 July**, *The Pictish puzzle, Aberlemno and beyond.*

**Saturday 28 August**, 2.30pm: *The Scottish settlers of the barque Blenheim*

Visitors welcome; no charge, no university connections needed: For 2021 brochure phone 388 8069 or 567 0557 or visit website [www.wellyscots.wordpress.com](http://www.wellyscots.wordpress.com)

**Help Wanted**

**The Region Committee is working hard, but we would love some help.**

**Can you assist :**

- **To organise Hogmanay.**

**We need a volunteer by the end of September (guidelines, equipment and advice are available)**

- **Provide storage for the region resources (we need a dry, clean and secure shed or room)**

Please email [secretary.rscdswell@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.rscdswell@gmail.com)

**Closing date for the next issue of  
Harbour City Happenings  
Saturday 12 September 2021**

**Johnsonville Tartan Night**  
**Khandallah Town Hall**  
**11 Ganges Rd, Khandallah**  
**7.30pm, Monday 28 June 2021**  
 Music by *Strings Attached* - Lynne Scott,  
 Sharlene Penman, Richard Hardie & associates

Galloway House	(R)	Graded
The Campbells are Coming	(J)	24/10
Fair Donald	(S)	29/4
The Merry Lads of Ayr	(R)	1/12
Stargazers*	(S)	R Downey – They Stole my Wife
Fight About the Fireside	(R)	1/10

**Supper**

St Andrew's Fair	(J)	5 for 82
The Kissing Bridge	(R)	R Butterfield – 47/9
The Library at Birmingham**	(S)	49/9
The Luckenbooth Brooch	(J)	J Dickson – Glendarroch Sheets
The Reel of the 51st	(R)	13/10

- Adult \$5.00 Student \$0.50
- Most dances walked, newer dancers welcome
- \* This dance is a wee bit tricky, choose partners carefully
- \*\* Please only dance this if you know it, newer dancers might care to watch




**Lower Hutt Mid Winter  
 Theme Night**  
**July 5th, 2021**  
**Come and dance to the  
 band "Strings Attached"**  
*(Lynne, Sharlene and Richard)*

**The Borrowdale Exchange**  
**Crom Allt**  
**Kaitoke Wedding**  
**The Montgomeries' Rant**  
**Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan**  
**The Water of Leith**  
**Hooper's Jig**  
**Turkey Trot**

**Supper (includes Mulled wine)**

We encourage you to dress up

**Cost \$5 Epuni Community Hall 7.30pm**

**Levin Scottish Country Dance Club**  
**Annual Dance**  
 with live music from *SALTIRE SCOTTISH DANCE BAND*  
**July 10 2021 2.00 – 6.00pm**  
 Ohau Hall, Muhunua West Road, Ohau

Admission:	\$18.00
RSCDS members:	\$15.00
Juniors & Spectators:	\$5.00

**Programme**

1.	New Year Jig	J	Book 51
2.	Shiftn' Bobbins	R	Ormskirk
xxx	3. Triple Happiness	S	Book 52
4.	Granville Market	J	Graded 2
xxx	5. The Fireworks Reel	R	Book 48
6.	Muse Cottage	S	All Dance Too
7.	The Kissing Bridge	R	Book 47
xxx	8. The Garry Strathspey	S	Cosh
9.	The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J	Book 22
10.	The De'il Amang The Tailors	R	Book 14

**Afternoon Tea**

11.	Reel On	R	Reel On
xxx	12. Culla Bay	S	Book 41
13.	Pelorus Jack	J	Book 41
xxx	14. Rose Jacob's Reel	R	Leaflet
15.	The City of Belfast	S	Book 48
xxx	16. Scott Meikle	R	Book 46
17.	Hoopers Jig	J	Miscellany II
18.	Mairi's Wedding	R	Cosh

xxx for experienced dancers

Raffles: \$2 or 3 for \$5



**UPPER HUTT  
 SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**  
**50th ANNIVERSARY DANCE 2021**

**When:** 6pm, Saturday 24 July  
**Where:** Wesley Centre, Benzie Ave, Upper Hutt  
**Cost:** \$18 Dancers  
 \$15 RSCDS members  
 \$ 5 Juniors/Non-dancers

**— Music by Strings Attached —**

**— Light refreshments at 6pm, dancing starting at 7pm —**

Shiftn' Bobbins	R	Roy Clowes
Jubilee Jig	J	RSCDS Leaflets
Slytherin House *	S	Book 52/3
The College Hornpipe	H	Book 20/12
Autumn Tidings	J	Iain Matcham
The Gentleman *	S	Book 35/5
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J	Morison's Bush
Catch the Wind	R	Book 45/5
The Golden Fantail **	S	Gaye Collin
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J	Book 16/3
Scott Meikle *	R	Book 46/3

**SUPPER WALTZ—St Bernard's Waltz**

Pelorus Jack	J	Book 41/1
Cadgers in the Canongate *	R	Book 9/10
The City of Belfast	S	Book 48/6
Best Set in the Hall	J	Book 46
MacDonald of the Isles	S	Derek Haynes
Australian Ladies *	R	Robert Campbell

\* Please choose a good partner unless you know this dance well  
 \*\* Will be walked through briefly; need to be able to pick up the dance easily



## Dance Scottish Wellington 60th Anniversary Ball

Join in the Celebration at our Dinner and Dance!  
6pm, Saturday 7 August 2021  
Lower Hutt Town Hall  
Cost: \$65 per person

New Year Jig	J	Bk 51
The Montgomerie's Rant	R	Bk 10
The Flowering Heather	S	The Musicians' Wedding
Best Set in the Hall	J	Bk 46
Andrew's Dance	R	Harbour City
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S	RSCDS Leaflet
Pelorus Jack	J	Bk 41
The Kissing Bridge	R	Bk 47
MacDonald of the Isles	S	Carnforth 2
The Wind Dragon	R	Island Bay 2
Scott Meikle	R	Bk 46

**Supper**

Autumn Tidings	J	Lower Hutt 60th Anniv.
Catch the Wind	H	Bk 45
The Water of Leith	S	Edinburgh 90th
The Wind on the Heath	R	Vive La Danse!
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J	Morison's Bush

**Music by Wild Heather**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE

Or register at  
[www.wellingtonscd.org.nz](http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz)

SAVE THE DATE!  
Saturday 21 August

## Johnsonville & Capital City Shared Annual Dance

Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Road, Ngaio  
7.30pm, Saturday 21 August 2021  
Music by Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman, Richard Hardie

Rosnor Abbey	(J)	Miscellany
Andrew's Dance	(R)	A Mills - Harbour City
Midsummer Common	(S)	49/3
The Frisky	(J)	26/10
John Markham's Rant*	(R)	R Downey - Golden Bear
Monymusk	(S)	11/2
The Den O' Mains	(J)	D Henderson - Henderson Coll
The Kissing Bridge	(R)	R Butterfield - 47/9
City of Wisteria**	(S)	P Marshall - Leaflet
The Reel of the 51st	(R)	13/10

**Supper**

Andrew & Gordon's Jig	(J)	R Goldring - Graded 2
Catch the Wind	(H)	R Butterfield - 45/5
The Shores of Solway	(S)	R Goldring - 10 Social
The Bees of Maggieknockater**	(J)	J Drewry - Canadian
The Wind Dragon	(R)	I Boyd - Island Bay 2
Macdonald of the Isles	(S)	D Haynes - 2nd Carnforth
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	(J)	16/3
The Reel of the Royal Scots	(R)	RSCDS - Leaflet

- Adult \$15.00, RSCDS/First Year Dancers \$13.00, Juniors/Spectators \$5.00
- First year dancers welcome – most dances walked
- Dances marked \* are more challenging, find a clever partner. \*\*Please only dance this if you are familiar with it.






## Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club Annual Dance 2021



Knox Church Hall, 574 High Street Lower Hutt    Saturday 4th September – 7.30pm

**Music : Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral, Jason Morris and Terry Bradshaw**

RSCDS Members \$13	Non RSCDS \$15	Non Dancer / Student \$5
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Hooper's Jig	J	MMM
The Pawling Porch	R	Moments in Time
The Paisley Weavers	S	Graded 3
Pelorus Jack *	J	Book 41
The Wind Dragon	R	Boyd
The Flowers of Glasgow **	S	Book 46
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J	Book 22
Scott Meikle *	R	Book 46
Fair Donald	S	Book 29
Beach Dancer *	R	West

**St Bernards Waltz / Supper**

Seton's Ceilidh Band *	J	Fordyce
The Captain's House	R	Graded 3
The Flowering Heather	S	Collin
The Aviator **	J	Book 52
The First Rain of Spring **	J	Book 49
The Water of Leith **	S	Edinburgh 90th Anniversary
The De'I Among the Tailors	R	Book 14

\* Find a Good Partner    \*\* Only dance this one if you know it well.

RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc.  
Wellington Region

## NEW DANCERS' CELEBRATION

7.30 pm Saturday 9 October, 2021  
Wairarapa College Hall, 55 Renall Street, Masterton  
Music by the Saltire Band

New Dancers: \$10 (with invitation)

RSCDS: \$12    Dancers: \$15    Non-Dancer/Junior: \$5

**Programme**

Jig	Andrew & Gordon's Jig
Reel	The Old Man of Storr
Strathspey	Fair Donald
Jig	Jubilee Jig
Reel	Reel On
Strathspey	The Marklands
Jig	The Den o' Mains
Reel	The Lass of Richmond Hill
Strathspey	Shores of Solway
Jig	Ecclefechan Feline
Reel	The Pawling Porch
Strathspey	The Paisley Weavers
Jig	Granville Market
Reel	Morrison Measure
Strathspey	The Silver Grey
Reel	The Barmkin

**Supper**