# RSCDS WELLINGTON REGION NEWSLETTER



Volume 25 No. 2 June 2022

#### President's Column

From Ann Oliver, President



We have had a lot of lovely weather this autumn, but now that the days are finally getting cooler, and living with Covid in the community is part of daily life, it is good to see the number of dancers at clubs increasing.

### **Past Happenings**

The Region Committee have held a number of classes and events during the past few months.

On 19 March, four sets of dancers came together to learn some of the dances from the Wellington 60th Anniversary Collection. This was a lovely afternoon and I really enjoyed seeing the range of dances and the creativity of our Wellington devisers. It is good to see some of the dances from the book are on upcoming Dance Programmes, and I hope you are also dancing some at clubs.

The first set of Basics Classes (Basic Skills 1) is well under way, with three of the five sessions completed. We have had between 25 and 30 attendees at each of the classes, perhaps a record number? In order to help out the teacher, we have needed to enlist a few more helpers. Even the best of teachers (which Catherine is) finds it difficult to watch, and help, that many people at once. With everyone's assistance however, great improvements are being seen. My thanks to everyone who is helping out.

In May, we had the pleasure of Nicole Trewavas teaching two afternoon classes, one for intermediate dancers and

one for advanced dancers. Nicole is now from Palmerston North, but started her dancing life (aged 11) in Waikanae, so perhaps we can claim her as a "Wellington dancer".

Nicole, with her usual good humour, put us through our paces and challenged us both physically and mentally.

### **Upcoming Classes**

The next Intermediate and Advanced classes are to be held on the weekend of 11 and 12 June. Unfortunately due to the cut-off dates for this issue of the Harbour City Happenings, you will need to wait till the next issue to hear how they went. Given however, that the tutors are Gaye and Damon Collin, I know that these will be helpful, informative and enjoyable classes and I hope that many of you will have taken the opportunity to attend these classes.

The final class scheduled for the year is an Advanced Technique class with Doug Mills as tutor. Doug, too, started dancing as a child in Wellington (at the Johnsonville club in 1970), but now lives in Picton. Applications for attendance at this class will be opening soon.

In my March column, I discussed the guidelines the Region Committee has developed this year to assist dancers and tutors in selecting the appropriate class. Please do continue to refer to this as you think about your class choices. It can be found at the top of the Region Classes page on the website <a href="http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz/">http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz/</a>.

### **A Sad Farewell**

After 63 years of dancing, Kelburn SCD Club has made the difficult decision to close. Over the last few years they have found it difficult to recruit new members, and due to concerns about socialising with Covid around, numbers

have sadly dropped further. Kelburn's annual dance on Sunday 19 June will therefore be the club's "Last Hurrah" and I encourage you all to come along and say farewell.

I look forward to seeing you all on the dance floor somewhere in Wellington over the coming months.

### **Region and Branch matters**

From Michelle Miller, Region Secretary

### Storage

Does anyone have space in a dry shed for the Region's equipment (banner, decorations, tablecloths, etc)? At present they are stored in several different places, which is not convenient for people running events. Please email Michele, wellington@dancescottish.org.nz

### Hogmanay organiser

The Region Committee would like to support a Hogmanay in 2022 but we need an organiser and a team of helpers. The Committee is investigating venues and it is likely musicians from around the world (CDs) will be used. Please email Michele, <a href="mailto:wellington@dancescottish.org.nz">wellington@dancescottish.org.nz</a> if you would like to organise or help at this event.

### **Memorial Book and Fund**

The New Zealand Branch of RSCDS has a Memorial Book which honours those who have contributed to dancing. You can view the digital version of the Memorial Book on the NZ Branch website.

Recently, the Region has submitted pages in memory of Peter Elmes and Bernice Kelly, and donated to the Memorial Fund held by the Branch to assist in bringing Scottish examiners to New Zealand or other projects agreed at the AGM.

### Applications for Summer School Scholarships are due on 30 June

Each year, the New Zealand Branch offers Summer School scholarships for dancers, aspiring teachers and musicians who are current members of the Branch. Six scholarships will cover 2022-23 fees and accommodation, under the following categories: Teacher's Certificate, Musician, Dancer with five years or less continuous experience, Dancer with six years or more continuous experience, and two scholarships for Junior Associate Members (JAMs).

The conditions of entry are on the Branch website <a href="https://dancescottish.org.nz/education-scholarship/">https://dancescottish.org.nz/education-scholarship/</a>
Application may be made from the website, or on a printed application form, received by Gaylia Powell, Branch Secretary, <a href="mailto:secretary@dancescottish.org.nz">secretary@dancescottish.org.nz</a>, or posted to 63 Fisher Avenue, Christchurch 8023.

### **Tuesday Afternoon Dancing**

From Pat Reesby

All's going well at St John's church hall on Tuesday afternoons.

Dancing resumed on 22 February with the first of five sessions taken by Iain Boyd. These 'advanced' sessions take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays and are aimed at those who enjoy more of a challenge, learning dances they may not encounter at their club. Iain will also take the last of this year's advanced Tuesday sessions as he's keen to teach us several Christmas-themed dances discovered online.

Rod Downey took the first of three advanced sessions on 24 May, and he'll be followed by Melva Waite, who last taught the Tuesday group in 2019.

The 'general' Tuesday afternoon group resumed on 15 March with our tutor Catherine McCutcheon. General sessions take place on the third Tuesday of the month, along with the fifth Tuesday when there is one. Covid caution saw numbers down somewhat at first, but in May the general sessions attracted four sets each time, the bonus fifth Tuesday featuring live music, courtesy of Mary McDonald and Lynne Scott.

The focus for the general sessions is on more popular dances and those coming up on dance programmes. On 31 May, Catherine taught several dances from Kelburn's Farewell programme, including Chris Totton's newly devised dance of the same name.



Mary and Lynne

Another bonus of Tuesday afternoon dancing is that we get to meet dancers from other areas. This means that when we go to various club dances, we find we already know quite a few people there.

The door charge each time is \$5, which covers hall hire, incidentals such as hand sanitiser, a storage bin and so on, and remuneration to tutors and musicians. The

Tuesday dancing group is not a club so there's no joining fee and no expectation of regular attendance. Some people come along every time, others when their commitments allow.

Most of those who attend the advanced sessions go to the general sessions as well – Scottish country dancing must be addictive. The sessions are not 'classes' as such, and people should already know the common formations. You might like to check the Dance Scottish Wellington website: <a href="http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz/index.php/clubs/daytime-group/">http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz/index.php/clubs/daytime-group/</a>

St John's is in Bassett Road, Johnsonville, the 'church on the hill'. There's usually plenty of parking, while buses and the train station are five or six minutes' walk away.

If you'd like to receive email updates for Tuesday afternoon dancing (advanced, general or both), just let me know and I'll add your name to the list: <a href="mailto:pmreesby@gmail.com">pmreesby@gmail.com</a>

### Welcome to Johnsonville's new dancers for 2022

From Kristin Downey

When the March issue of HCH came out, Johnsonville club had just finished running beginners' classes, and seen 13 new dancers venture onto the floor.

I'm happy to report that five of those beginners are now keen dancers, and very welcome members of our club community – already helping out with supper, hall set-up, and cataloguing the club's collection of dance books.

Since March they've joined enthusiastically in club events, all making an amazing effort to dress on theme for our St Patrick's Day celebrations. Then for our first Tartan Night of the year in April, there they were with a touch (or more) of tartan.

All five of them are attending the Region's Basic Skills class, reinforcing their knowledge and gaining in

confidence all the time. They're also meeting dancers from other clubs, becoming part of the wider dancing community.

Johnsonville's <u>Tartan Night on 27 June</u> will give our new dancers the opportunity to dance to live music, as well as more practise with dancing from a briefing. This will help prepare them for the club's combined Annual Dance with Capital City Club on 20 August.

We are crossing our fingers and toes that the annual dance will go ahead this year, having been cancelled for the last two years due to Covid.

You'll find the programme for the Tartan Night elsewhere in this newsletter, and instructions for <u>Tairawhiti Wedding</u> and <u>To Catch a Weasel</u> are on Johnsonville's club website.

The Annual Dance programme is also in this newsletter. **NOTE**: the venue for the Johnsonville-Capital City Annual Dance has changed – it will be held at Newtown School Hall.

Please join us at both events, enjoy wonderful live music from *Strings Attached*, and welcome our new dancers into the Wellington SCD community.

### Tawa Club's Hall Warming Dance

From Robert Vale

On their regular Thursday club night on 19 May, Tawa invited other clubs to celebrate the shift to their new venue. At the start of dancing in 2022, they moved from the Redwood Hall, at the Johnsonville end of Tawa, to the much larger RSA Hall in Oxford Street, at the Linden end of the village.

The Ngaio Club who, like Tawa, dance on a Thursday, shifted their club night to Tawa for the occasion, so they could all attend the Hall Warming. A sprinkling of members from other clubs also attended, meaning there was a good turn out for the event.



St Patrick's Day at Johnsonville (photo: Robert Vale)

Tawa members had gone early to decorate the hall with balloons to give a "special occasion" feel for the night. The idea for the dance came from Tawa's tutor, Catherine McCutcheon. She had chosen a programme of reasonably simple dances which were walked to encourage everyone to take part.



Shiftin' Halls Bobbins (photo: John Patterson)

Dances had names that reflected the 'shifting' and 'hall' theme perfectly. Starting off with the round-the-room jig Welcome to the Dance, later dances included A Lovely Hall and Ways in New Hall. Some familiar names had been changed for the occasion, we danced Shiftin' Halls Bobbins and Best Set in the (New) Hall. Less apparently obvious was The Bucket Tree, but it was very appropriate, because this locally famous topiary macrocarpa tree features on the club's badge and the dance was written for Tawa's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The music was provided by *The Cranberry Tarts*, Aileen Logie on accordion and Hilary Ferral on fiddle, both dressed in appropriate colours. Hilary, who likes to take off her shoes when she plays, was wearing the cranberry-coloured socks that had been specially knitted for her by long-time Tawa member, Jan Bruce.



The Cranberry Tarts — a.k.a. Aileen and Hilary

Club members provided a very generous supper which was served after the dancing, on beautiful new tablecloths and runners made by Catherine, the club's tutor. Everyone enjoyed themselves, it felt like a real

celebration, and not too formal. This was a great chance to show off the new hall which provided heaps of space, with five sets on the floor and room for more.

### Life Membership

From Désirée Patterson

At the recent AGM of the Tawa Club, the committee was delighted to confer a Life Membership on Hilary Ferral, in appreciation of her many years of service on the committee and as the club's treasurer.



# Queen's Birthday Weekend School – Whakatane with Wellington Connections

From Lynne Scott

The Waikato-Bay of Plenty SCD Region has for many years run a dance school over Queen's Birthday Weekend. With many dancers only just feeling their way back onto the floor, this year's school was organised with a very relaxed feel – and a few Wellington connections.

The organisers were Hamiltonians Wayne and Shelly McConnel, who hail originally from the Wellington region. Their goal was to encourage dancers along with a gentle schedule which allowed plenty of time for social interaction. With this in mind, the Saturday classes were set up as two streams in three short sessions, each with a different local tutor focusing on a different formation.

The Saturday evening event was billed as the *Queen's Platinum Jubilee Ball*, and was suitably attended by ball gowns, tiaras and smartly kilted gentlemen. The programme included several dances of Wellington origin: a lively *Allemande to Go*, devised by Gaye Collin, then *Cabbages and Kings*, devised by Romaine Butterfield. *Andrew's Dance*, devised by Andy Mills and with music by Peter Elmes, completed the trifecta. Despite the cold hall, the seven sets of dancers enjoyed an evening of spirited interaction and earned their supper!

The band for the weekend was *Wild Heather*: Lynne Scott and Mary McDonald (Wellington) fiddled, with Sharlene Penman (Christchurch) on the piano. The fourth member, violist/fiddler Anne-Marie Forsyth, was absent with a

broken arm; however, as Sharlene also plays solo piano, the band was able to cover the two classes with ease.

Possibly the highlight of the weekend was the Ceilidh on Sunday evening. After an afternoon Combined Class, about 50 dancers converged on the Whakatane RSA for a meal. They then took over the dance floor, to the bemusement of Karaoke-enjoying locals. The band was supplemented by Wellingtonian Duncan McDonald on drums, ex-Wellingtonian Lynne Hudson on accordion, and a fluctuating number of fiddlers. Once the dancing got under way, local folk were encouraged to join in ceilidh dances, such as the OXO Reel and The Waves of Tory. This they did with considerable energy, encouraged and abetted by SC dancers and a wildly enthusiastic band. It was a terrific evening. There could be no better advertisement for SCD!

### **Lower Hutt Theme Night**

From Elizabeth Ferguson

Lower Hutt SCD Club has been fortunate to have been back dancing since the beginning of March. We held our first theme night for the year on Monday 2 May. Dancers were encouraged to come dressed as a dance. During the evening we had fun guessing the dances.



Blue Bonnets



The Dancing Bees

We enjoyed dancing to the music provided by *The Monday Knights* – Iain Matcham, Jean Malcolm and Terry Bradshaw. Alison Trotter was the winner of the fancy dress and was presented with a gift by our President, Janice Henson.

After a night of dancing, we enjoyed having a cuppa and catching up with fellow dancers.

#### **Linden SCD Club**

From Vicky Ryan

With COVID still causing much uncertainty at the start of this year, Linden made the difficult decision to cancel our beginners' classes that were due to be held in February. However, by March, we had enough members keen to return and we were able to restart our club nights, albeit with smaller numbers than usual. We've had a small, but enthusiastic, group attending most weeks, and have been making good progress thanks to our dedicated teachers Ann and Philippa. Some of our members have also attended the classes run by the Region, with the Basic Skills classes proving especially popular.

At the start of May, we had our first theme night of the year, and went to Hollywood with a great Movie Night! We had some visitors from other clubs, a glamorous array of costumes and decorations, and some wonderful music from Aileen Logie and Hilary Ferral.

Our thanks to Philippa for the time and effort she put into preparing us for the dances, for devising the programme, and for organising a great night.

We are currently preparing for our Annual Dance on 2 July at Ngaio Town Hall, which is always a highlight of the year. We hope many of you will be able to join us!

### **Dancing in Texas**

From Michele Miller

In April, Lee and I were delighted to be able to attend the Bluebonnet Ball in San Antonio, Texas, at Our Lady of the Lake University. It was their first social since 2019 and numbers were down as many of the Texas groups had only just resumed dancing after an extended break for Covid.

However, four sets enjoyed the variety of dances and live music from Mari Black (fiddle) and Kendall Rogers (keyboard). The programme included favourites such as *Mrs Stewart's Jig, Best Set in the Hall,* and *Shiftin' Bobbins,* and we particularly enjoyed the two local dances, *North Star* and *Arkansas Traveller,* written by John Roby, who was also MC for the evening.

The most unusual thing about the evening was that the supper was served, not on plates to share, but in little individual packets to reduce the infection risk – another sign of the times.

### **Sharing Inspiration**

From the Spurtle-wielder

Inspiration from many sources uplifts the soul – makes us want to dance for joy – physically and mentally. What inspired some devisers of Wellington's 60th Anniversary collection – an object, a scene, a story?

Xiaowen Yu – The Wellington Orchid Iain Matcham – Camping at Victoria Mines Maureen Robson – The Strait Ferry

Flower petal remains are found in prehistoric sites; Greek, Chinese, Roman and Egyptian references abound, the unique qualities of different varieties give them 'meaning'; as gifts they have been very popular in Europe since the Holy Roman Empire times.

In China orchids were appreciated for their scent, and represented rare beauty, love, refinement, mature charm, long life, thoughtfulness, luxury, strength; their lasting quality means they keep hold of a person's affection – a sense of security for a longer period than any other flower. They are listed in some of the oldest Chinese pharmaceutical texts. In the Middle Ages, they were used in the creation of herbal remedies and love potions.

The demand for these exotic beauties in Europe resulted in collectors paying large sums to hunters who often faced danger and illness to find them. William Swainson (who later emigrated to NZ), had discovered a wild orchid in Brazil (he brought back 1,200 plant specimens) which went to the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. An orchid shipment, sent to London horticulturist William Cattley, was received in a 'withering' state but he nursed them back to health; the beautiful flower was named the cattleya orchid. New and unique, the popularity of orchids increased dramatically in the early 1800s when the first cattleya was bloomed. The orchid flower has the feminine and masculine organ of reproduction fusing in only one body; it has an irregular form – three sepals and three petals – maybe these six elements gave rise to it being chosen to be the flower to celebrate a 60th anniversary?

Brazil shares a border with Peru where researchers have determined there is a hematite (type of iron, ochre) mine — a human-made cave in an Andes cliffside, that was first created around 2,000 years ago. It appears the Nasca people (before the Incas) used the red-pigmented mineral primarily for ceramic paints, as body paint and to paint textiles, adobe walls, etc. With the arrival of Europeans the country's precious metals became items for profitable trade.

Many with Scottish roots have held prominent positions in Peru – politicians, writers, etc. Scottish on his maternal side, historian, archaeologist and anthropologist <u>Federico Kauffmann Doig</u> (1928-1996), made great contributions

to the study of the civilisations of Ancient Peru. No RSCDS listing in Peru but there is a society in Buenos Aires!

It is amazing how such small fragile ships carried these Scottish adventurers to such distant lands. How inventive technology has advanced travel! When in 1962 the *Aramoana* (*sea pathway*) arrived from William Denny's Shipyard in Dumbarton on the River Clyde (the last ship built at these yards), she started the regular ferry service across Cook Strait from Wellington to Picton. It had a tremendous impact on the country, linking the two islands with ease and speed – freight trains were roll-on / roll-off.

Pecuniary value cannot measure the pleasure and inspiration derived from natural beauty and creations made with inventive and skilled craftmanship. We certainly receive untold pleasure and inspiration from our dancing!

### Note from the Editor

I had to query the relevance of some of the content of this article. The author replied:

Maybe you have not sighted the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book. The article is giving background information on three of the dances in the book:

The Wellington Orchid, devised by our Chinese dancer Xiaowen Yu – the orchid being a designated flower for the number 60;

Camping at Victoria Mines, devised by Iain Matcham – the description of the tortuous journey to the mines in Peru being a footnote to the dance instructions – I assume he has visited the place and clearly it made a big impression;

The Strait Ferry, devised by Maureen Robson – the ship seen daily in Wellington Harbour.

Presumably these factors prompted these dancers in their devising. All show the Scottish connections.

### Victoria University of Wellington Scottish Interest Group

Meets on the 28th day of the month, 7:30 pm at the VUW Law School in the Government Buildings, Lambton Quay (Bunny Street entrance).

No university connections needed. No charge. Please wear a mask.

**Tuesday 28 June** – *Sir Walter Scott and his writings* – *repercussions yesterday, relevance today.* 

**Thursday 28 July** – Celebrating 125 years; 1897 Victoria University founded – a Scottish founder and three first professors.

Website www.wellyscots.wordpress.com









### **UPPER HUTT** SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB **ANNUAL DANCE 2022**

When: 6pm, Saturday 23 July

Where: Wesley Centre, Benzie Ave, Upper Hutt Cost: \$15 Dancers

\$13 RSCDS members \$ 5 Juniors/Non-dancers

- Music by Strings Attached -

### – Light refreshments at 6pm, dancing starting at 6:30pm –

Boyd

Book 51

Book 10

Book 41

Book 9

Book 49

Book 41

Drewry

Book 46

RSCDS 1982

Goldring/Four Dances 2008

Morison's Bush Collection

R Goldring/Scotia Collection

Third Graded Book

MM Miscellany 2

Goldring/10 Social Dances

Ormskirk

The Wind Dragon Fair Enough Minister on the Loch Montgomeries' Rant Culla Bay \*

Seton's Ceilidh Band The Piper & the Penguin

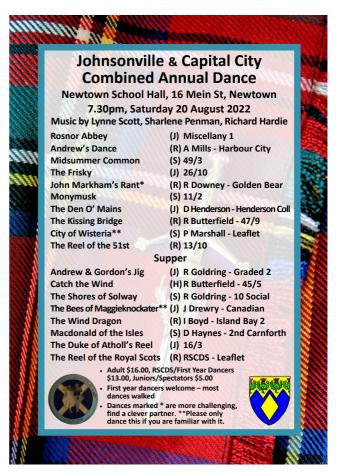
The Paisley Weavers Cadgers in the Canongate \* St Andrew's Fair SUPPER

St Bernard's Waltz Hooper's Jig

The Shores of Solway The Orpington Caledonians Pelorus Jack Cherrybank Gardens \*

The Laird of Milton's Daughter Scott Meikle

\* Please choose an experienced partner if you don't know this dance





Shiftin' Bobbins

\* Find a Good Partner

### **Lower Hutt Scottish Country** Dance Club Annual Dance 2022



Knox Church Hall, 574 High Street Lower Hutt Saturday 3rd September -7,30pm

Music : Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral, Jason Morris and Terry Bradshaw RSCDS Members \$13 Non RSCDS \$15 Non Dancer / Student \$5

Hooper's Jig	J	ммм
The Captain's House	R	Graded 3
The Minister on the Loch	S	Goldring 24 Social
Pelorus Jack *	J	Book 41
Trip to Timber Ridge *	R	Book 52
Barbara's Strathspey **	S	Book 46
The Aviator **	J	Book 52
The Wind Dragon	R	Boyd Island Bay Collection
The Paisley Weavers	s	Graded 3

St Bernard's Waltz / Supper

Seton's Ceilidh Band \* Fordyce The Kissing Bridge R Book 47 The Water of Leith \*\* Edinburgh 90th Anniversary Momentum \* Wellington 60th Anny The First Rain of Spring \*\* Book 49 St Martin's Strathspey s **Goldring 24 Social** The De'il Amang the Tailors R Book 14

\*\* Only dance this one if you know it well.

Gawa Scottish Country Dance Club Invites you to join us in the Ngaio Town Hall for our Annual Dance on Saturday 17 September, 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 R Anderson's Rant - MMI J Granville Market - Graded 2 S The Lammermuir Hills - Old Friends Meet Book
J Beach Dancer - Whangarei Book R The Kissing Bridge - Book 47 S Athens of the North - Edinburgh 90 J The Rothesay Rant - Birmingham Book
\* R John of Bon Accord - Book 33 S Holyrood Strathspey - Book 51 J A Capital Jin - 5 for 2009 R The Reel of the 51st Division - Book 13 SUPPER R Shiftin' Bobbins - 30 Popular Vol 2 J Roaring Jelly - Foss - Glendarroch She S The Water of Leith - Edinburgh 90 \* J Links with St Petersburg - Book 46 R Back to the Fireside - Book 38 S Jean Martin of Aberdeen - 3 for 2006 R The Deil amang the Tailors - Book 14  $\,$ Please only dance this dance if you know it wel





**Picton Scottish Country Dance Club** Celebrates 60 Years

We look forward to you joining us for this special occasion

Venue: Picton School, Buller Street

(R) N O'Connor – Happy to Meet

(R) R Downey – A Touch of Gold

(J) R Goldring - 24 Social

(R) S Phillips - Graded 2

Music supplied by the Aileen Logie Band There will be wine and nibbles on arrival with a meal served during the evening Ticket price \$40 available from Lynda Email: dougandlynda@gmail.com. RSVP by 15 August



## Dance Scottish Wellington New Dancers' Celebration

### 7.30pm Saturday 8 October 2022 Knox Church Hall, 574 High St, Lower Hutt Music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral, Jason Morris

(S) 27/9

(J) Miscellany

**The Kingston Flyer Border Meeting** 

Sean Truibhas Willichan

Mr Michael Bear's Reel

Lady Home's Jig

Saint Martin's Strathspey (S) R Goldring - 24 Social

**Delvine Side** 

The Reel of the 51st

Violynne

The Den O' Mains

**Come What May** 

Shiftin' Bobbins

St Andrew's Fair

**Blue Bonnets** 

Monymusk Mrs MacLeod

(S) 2/9 (J) D Henderson – Henderson Coll

(R) 13/10

Supper

(J) R Butterfield - 51/11

(R) R Clowes - Ormskirk

(S) 11/2

(R) 6/11

(J) 5 for 82 The Minister on the Loch (S) 4 for 2008

(J) 3/5

The De'il Amang the Tailors (R) 14/7

Adult \$16, RSCDS \$13. With a small plate of finger food New Dancer \$10. Junior/Spectator \$5.00 www.wellingtonscd.org.nz