

RSCDS WELLINGTON REGION

NEWSLETTER



Volume 15 No. 2

August 2012

Diamond Jubilee Ball Special

President's Column

from Elaine Laidlaw, President

Wellington Region Diamond Jubilee Ball Government House - 30 June 2012

When the Wellington Region was planning to hold a Jubilee Ball we had some trouble finding a suitable venue till Edith Campbell suggested we approach Government House for the use of their ballroom. We did so, and to our delight our request was accepted. Government House staff were most helpful, and took over the catering and advised us on protocol. Tickets and programmes were printed featuring the NZ official Diamond Jubilee logo.

On the night a growing sense of excitement developed as the Ballroom filled up with men in black tie formal dress and the ladies in full evening dresses. We took to the floor as the Band led by Peter Elmes struck up with Maxwell's rant.

Early in the evening the Governor-General, Lt General Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae and Lady Janine arrived. Sir Jerry addressed the dancers, letting us in to the secret that he had actually done a bit of Scottish Country Dancing when he was attached to the Scots Guards. Wellington Region President and MC, Elaine Laidlaw, responded then His Excellency proposed the toast to her Majesty the Queen.

To our delight Government House had indicated that Sir Jerry and Lady Janine wanted to join in the dancing. We had therefore arranged a set with the RSCDS New Zealand Branch Management Committee (who conveniently arranged a meeting in Wellington that day) with the New Zealand Branch President

Fiona Bullivant partnering His Excellency and Vice-President David Williamson partnering Lady Janine to dance the *Kellaholm Jig*, and a set with Wellington Region Committee members to dance *12 Coates Crescent*. Sir Jerry was also seen dancing the *Reel of the Royal Scots*, and *Tribute to the Borders*.

Government House has recently been refurbished and the whole ground floor was opened up for dancers to inspect while staff brought round supper. More than 150 people filled the ballroom, coming from as far away as Bay of Islands and Dunedin and even one young lady home on holiday from Chicago.

The programme included appropriately named dances such as the *Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*, *Diamond Jubilee Jig* and *Celebration Strathspey*. The whole evening went without a hitch, a great credit to all involved in organising it, especially organiser Bev Whitelaw. For all attending this was a memorable event and for many the grandest ball they have attended or will ever attend.



NZ Branch President, Fiona Bullivant, Lady Janine, Lt General Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae and Elaine Laidlaw.

A Diamond Sparkle that will be forever!

from the Spurtle-wielder

With cloakroom tickets safely stowed away in sporran and purse, and the neat little programme card at the ready, we stood poised at the entrance to the Ballroom of Government House, drinking in the beautiful scene, viewing the rich deep colour of the jarrah floor enticing us to sail across it with stately strathspey steps or savour its warm welcome with the rhythms of lively reels and jaunty jigs. However, dancers quickly discovered that they had to curb their feelings of gay abandon as the beautiful boards were rather slippery! But undeterred, they soon 'found their feet', joyfully responding to the excellent music from the four musicians as they circled and set, crossed and cast, whilst overhead the magnificent crystal chandeliers sparkled like diamonds, reminding us of the inspiration for the ball.



The Ballroom with two magnificent Czech crystal chandeliers is the largest room in Government House.

It is interesting to note how people react to the expectation of the clothes they are wearing. The ladies moved with especial elegance in their ballgowns, their colours vying for attention with the men's kilts; most of the men wore black jackets, resplendent with silver buttons and buckles (alas very few colourful velvet Montrose doublets with their froth of lace at wrist and throat setting off a sparkling jewel or two).

The air-conditioning was intriguing. Down each side of the floor was a channel covered with an ornate grating. It was somewhat chilly to sit in that proximity for long – indeed it was the cause of consternation and laughter when ladies skirts – and men's kilts – performed a Marilyn Monroe 'act'!

'Below chairs' also prompted a smile. Betwixt the graceful legs of the fine leather chairs placed around



Graceful chairs guarded shoes!

the perimeter of the ballroom (each emblazoned with the royal cipher), was the motley collection of footwear, shoe bags and handbags familiar wherever dancers change into their dancing shoes!

Clearly some dancers' sensible shoes anticipated a walk from the carpark, while the high heels of others were gaily worn defying the elements to keep in tune with the evening's dress code.

Delighted applause greeted the arrival of our Hosts, His Excellency the Governor General of New Zealand Lt. Gen. the Rt. Hon. Sir Jerry Mateparae and Lady Janine Mateparae. President of the Wellington Region of the NZ Branch of the RSCDS, Elaine Laidlaw, expressed our very great pleasure at being able to mark, with this grand occasion, the celebration by our Society's Patron – Her Majesty the Queen - of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Reign, and our appreciation of the privilege to do so in one of Her Residences in New Zealand.

Sir Jerry accorded us all a very warm welcome to Government House and spoke of the great contributions by many Scots to the progress of our country, thus generally enhancing the lives of its population. Then we all enthusiastically raised our glasses for The Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen.



Raising a toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

Sir Jerry joined in a few dances – he had mentioned he had been 'initiated' during a stint with the Scots Guards; their training stood him in good stead and no doubt his experience of military manoeuvres helped him quickly to see how to execute the

figures. It was lovely that he clearly enjoyed sharing his presence in sets at both ends of the ballroom.



Lady Janine and Sir Jerry Mateparae joined in the dance with Fiona Bullivant and Lesley Nicol.

Suppertime gave us all another memorable experience – the opportunity to wander along the very long hall with its glorious red carpet, and explore the beautifully appointed rooms leading off it. The stunning Norrie Dining Room had a spectacular dining table, which, with all its extensions in position can comfortably seat 26. It was impressive to even just sit at it (the chair backs had all been worked by Country Women's Institute members, each emblem reflecting their local town).



Members of Lower Hutt Club with Sir Jerry Mateparae on the grand staircase leading up from the Main Hallway.

It would have been fun to clamber up some of the 'shelf-ladders' to discover the titles of the interesting-looking books in the library; a seat in the airy conservatory was a restful spot. All the while the staff moved discreetly along the hall and around the rooms serving delectable delights from large platters - haggis rolls, crayfish cocktails in cute containers, refreshing fruit kebabs, and other interesting and tasty generous nibbles. Half-way along the hall is the staircase to the upper floors; opposite the main

entrance to the house, it proved to be an ideal spot for Lorelee Hyde (in her 'official' capacity) to take photographs of the company.

The dancing started again and the staff gently herded back to the ballroom those lingering to have a last look at the many artefacts on display including the fine grandfather clock made by James Gray (1765-1806) in Edinburgh. (Hopefully people who had read the article about Government House in the May edition of *Harbour City Happenings*, found some of the items described therein).

And so the programme of dances was completed. Words of appreciation were spoken to the organisers, etc., then the entire company formed two concentric circles, filling the whole room, to sing *Auld Lang Syne*. From her portrait above the dais The Queen smiled down on us all as if to say she had enjoyed being part of the atmosphere of the fabulous night. Her reply to our invitation to attend our Diamond Jubilee Ball had been read out.

The fancy chair legs gave up their guardianship of shoes, which as usual had migrated from their original placement point. Tickets for the 'cloaks' were retrieved from sporrans, and the dancers – still looking glamorous – buzzed around in the foyer exchanging farewells as they moved to the doors.

But there was one last delightful surprise; each person was presented with a neat box containing some fruit cake and shortbread and bearing the emblem designed for the New Zealand commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee .

Government House did us proud, and we think we did our Patron proud with our Ball!

Next day was the 1st of July ... back to 'auld claes and porridge' as they say, but 'they can't take the memory away from us'!



Thank you to the tremendous organisers of this wonderful evening! (shown here in The Blundell Room).

A magical evening!

Bev Whitelaw, Convener, Diamond Jubilee Ball

There is nothing quite like inviting yourself to someone's house for a party but that is what we did and what a fabulous time we had! Dancers from all around New Zealand gathered to enjoy a wonderful night of dancing at Government House on 30th June to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The evening was hosted by The Governor General Lt. Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae and Lady Janine who warmly welcomed us to the beautifully refurbished Government House.



Enjoying the spirit of the dance in The Ballroom.

It was a joy to see every space taken on the dance floor at the beginning of the evening with all the ladies dressed in their elegant outfits and tartan sashes adding splashes of colour to rival the men who looked resplendent in their kilts and black jackets.

Every club in the Wellington Region was represented and there were approximately forty dancers from around New Zealand who also attended.



Music from Lynne, Aileen, John and Peter added extra magic to the evening.

Well done and grateful thanks to Elaine Laidlaw, our MC for the evening who did a sterling job taking us through all the dances which had a 'Diamond Jubilee' theme and of course Peter Elmes and his band played some amazing music to accompany them. Thank you Peter, John, Lynne and Aileen for the extra magic you added for us. After the formal speeches and the toast to the Queen we even encouraged the Governor General and Lady Janine to take part in several of the dances. They were such good sports and totally entered into the spirit of the evening, staying almost until we finished. Many of the staff also joined in the dancing as well which was fun to see.

We were slightly restricted in our dancing because we could not use anti-slip powder on the highly polished floor as it would have been walked into the new carpets during the break, however this did not dampen our enjoyment one bit. Of course we had all worked hard for our supper and we were not disappointed. What a sumptuous spread was waiting for us – fish bisque, crayfish cocktails, haggis and neeps sausage rolls, chicken nibbles, smoked salmon and cucumber sandwiches, and savoury pastries followed by fruit kebabs, lemon and passion fruit tarts, dainty biscuits and sweet treats handed around by the waiting staff or available on platters in all the downstairs sitting rooms and conservatory.

Many of us wandered throughout the rooms to take in the surroundings which provided ample opportunities for photographs amongst the backdrops of old masters, memorabilia of different eras or beneath youthful portraits of the Queen in the ballroom. Thanks to Lorelee Hyde for being our official photographer on the night who took some wonderful shots throughout the evening of the dancing as well as many group photographs.



Dancers flocked on to the floor until the very end of the evening.

The night finished all too soon but even as we left the magic continued with a small gift box given to each person which held some delicious fruit cake and shortbread - a thoughtful touch to acknowledge our Scottish heritage.

So many images in my head of swirling kilts, laughter, music, beautiful chandeliers, delicious food and dancing with friends from far and wide – the memories will last for a long time to come.

Thanks must go to Edith Campbell for contacting Government House initially to see if the ball would be possible and the rest of our committee, Charlotte Williams, Elaine Lethbridge and Shirley Kalogeropoulos for all their help in making the dancing event of 2012 such a success.

The biggest vote of thanks though must surely go to everyone who attended. It was truly wonderful seeing you all enjoy your special night.

Thank you again and happy memories.



Photos: Lorelee Hyde

To see all the photos and download them, go to

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/25124502@N05/sets/72157630457415746/>

So far there has been 480 views of the photos! A fine reflection of the magical evening.

Reflections on the Diamond Jubilee Ball

I loved every moment of the ball, the setting, fabulous supper, lovely dresses and kilts, happy faces, and the music and dancing, of course. I wished it could go on longer. Many thanks to the organising committee for their wonderful idea and organisation, and to all the teachers who made such a great contribution to the evening by teaching us the dances. *Gaylia Powell*

We really enjoyed the evening - it was just 'special' - probably a once in a lifetime experience!

Nicky and Keith Hawkins

I felt like Cinderella; the surroundings were majestic, the dancers were glamorous, the Band was inspired, the supper was unbelievable and the memories are everlasting. *Fiona Bullivant*



Dancers at the Ball from Auckland and Northland

HAWKE'S BAY & EAST COAST REGION

Upper intermediate/Advanced Social Day School

Saturday 8 September 2012

At St Patrick's School Hall, Riverbend Road, Napier

Registration: 9:00am, Full day class/half day class

Tutor: Jeanette Lauder from Tokoroa

Contacts:

Jeannie Wright, Secretary

jeanniewright43@slingshot.co.nz

Helen Twort, organiser

ah_ha@xtra.co.nz

For registration forms please see your club secretary or email Jeannie Wright

Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club

Invites you to their
Annual Dance

Saturday 1 September 2012 - 7.30 pm

Knox Church Hall, High Street - Lower Hutt

Music by Peter Elmes' band

Admission: Adults \$14,

RSCDS Members \$12, Students \$5.

**	Maxwell's Rant	R	Book 18
**	Mrs Stewart's Jig	J	Book 35
*	Balmoral Strathspey	S	Book 22
*	The Merry Oddfellows	J	MMM
***	John of Bon Accord	R	Book 33
**	Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S	Leaflet
**	The Kelloholm Jig	J	Leaflet
***	Cadgers in the Canongate	R	Book 9
**	Huntly Castle	S	Drewry
***	Links with St Petersburg	J	Book 46
**	Reel of the Royal Scots	R	Leaflet

Supper

*	Taste @ Sawtell	R	Collin
**	A Capital Jig	J	5 for 2009
**	City of Belfast	S	Belfast D. Jubilee
**	Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R	Goldring
***	The Zoologist	J	Book 46
**	Anna Holden's Strathspey	S	Book 42
**	Pelorus Jack	J	Book 41
*	The Deil Among the Tailors	R	Book 14

* For all, ** slightly more challenging, *** find a clever partner

Check out our website for details of other Lower Hutt club events - www.lowerhuttscd.org.nz

It's Spring again!

*Come and join us in the Ngaio Town Hall on September 15
at 7.30pm for Tawa's Annual dance*

*Music provided by Peter Elmes
and Merren Simmonds.*

Adults \$14

RSCDS members \$12

Spectators and Juniors \$5

Programme

*J	Roaring Jelly	Glendarroch sheet
*R	Summer Wooing	Bk 38/6
**S	Fair Donald	Bk 29/4
**J	A Capital Jig	RSCDS leaflet
***R	The Inimitable Derek	RSCDS leaflet
**S	The Silver Tassie	RSCDS leaflet
***J	The Garden City Jig	Valley Collection
**R	Clutha	Bk 31/2
**S	The Walled Garden	Goldring-24 Graded & Social Dances
**J	Follow Me Home	Bk 38/3
**R	The Stow Alert	To Friendship - J McColl
Supper		
**S	The Byron Strathspey	J Drewry - Deeside 2
*J	EH3 7AF	Bk 40/6
**R	Our Dancing Soutar	The Kauri Collection
*S	Sugar Candie	Bk 26/9
**R	Scott Meikle	Bk 46/3
**R	Mr William Brown's Reel	The Galloway Album

Napier Scottish Dance Club

Annual Dance on Saturday 25th August 2012

Venue: St Patrick's School Hall, Riverbend Road, Napier

Time: 7:30pm - 11:00pm Admission: \$5.00

Programme

<i>The Sailor</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>RSCDS Book 24</i>
<i>The Saltire Society Reel</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>RSCDS Leaflet 9</i>
<i>The Valentine</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>'Homecoming' Five Dances 2009</i>
<i>A Trip to Bavaria (4 cpl set)</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>J MacGregor-Brown - Collins</i>
<i>The Lass of Richmond Hill</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>RSCDS A Second Graded Book</i>
<i>The Rose of the North</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Leeds Silver Jubilee</i>
<i>Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan (5cpl set)</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>R Goldring 2000</i>
<i>Glen Mor</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>Birmingham 1973</i>
<i>The Silver Tassie</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>RSCDS Leaflet 1</i>
<i>Scott Meikle (4 cpl set)</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>RSCDS Book 46</i>
<i>A Capital Jig</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>'Homecoming' Five Dances 2009</i>
<i>Supper</i>		
<i>The Luckenbooth Brooch</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>Glendarroch Sheet 28</i>
<i>The Garry Strathspey (4 cpl set)</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Cosh 22 SCD's</i>
<i>** Eileen Watt's Reel (3 cpl set)</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>J Wilkinson RSCDS members mag. 2005</i>
<i>Clutha (sq set)</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>RSCDS Book 31</i>
<i>The Minister on the Loch (3 cpl set)</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Four Dances 2008</i>
<i>The Roselath Cross</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>RSCDS Book 41</i>
<i>The Montgomerie's Rant</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>RSCDS Book 10</i>
<i>Extras: Culla Bay (sq set)</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>RSCDS Book 41</i>
<i>Knotwork</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>RSCDS Book 44</i>
<i>The Royal Deeside Railway</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>RSCDS Book 40</i>

Auld Lang Syne

*The dance marked ** has an unusual formation*

Picton Scottish Country Dancing Club

50th Birthday Celebration

This year, 2012, Picton SCD Club will celebrate its 50th Jubilee.

Saturday 13 October 2012

- A Dance will be held in the Waitohi Rugby Club Rooms, Dublin Street, Picton - everyone is invited.
- June and Gary Stratton (Wellington) will provide the music for dancing.
- Ticket cost: t.b.a. (approx \$30-00 - to be confirmed)

If you are interested in attending and would like more details, please contact one of the following members.

Ann McGuire queensview@xtra.co.nz Ph 574 2363

Dianne Gullery glencrystal@xtra.co.nz Ph 573 7784

Dorothy Wilson dorothywwilson@xtra.co.nz

Phone 578 3766

OR write to: Picton SCD Club, c/- P O Box 612, Blenheim 7240

PICTON 50TH DANCE

13 October 2012

The programme includes not only dances from earlier programmes* dating back to 1964** but is also a tribute to our 1923 founders - the Society with its Books of Dances - and to some of the other well-loved devisers who followed

There will be a short Warm Up	5 x 32 Two Step
Jubilee Jig	RSCDS Leaflet
Mr William Brown's Reel	Foss
The Garry Strathspey	Cosh
Pelorus Jack	Book 41
Reel of the 51 st Division*	Book 13 (Victory Book)
A Wisp of Thistle	Book 39
The Piper & the Penguin	Scotia Suite
The Flowers of Edinburgh	Book 1
Seton's Ceilidh Band	Morison's Bush Collection
Neidpath Castle*	Book 22
The Hunting Horn	Peter MacBryde
Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan	Goldring
12 Coates Crescent	Book 40
White Heather Jig	Cosh
The De'il Among the Tailors	Book 14
The Byron Strathspey	Drewry
Mairi's Wedding	Cosh
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	Book 22
The Ship of Grace**	The Lifeboat Dances
Maxwell's Rant*	Book 18
Reel of the Royal Scots	Goldring

**Victoria University of Wellington
SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP
(VUWSIG)**

Victoria University of Wellington SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP meets on the 28th day of the month February to October, usually at VUW School of Architecture, Vivian Street (opp. Marion Street) at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 28 August *Family history approach to discovering your Scottish forebears.*

Friday 28 September *Coast—a New Zealand novel by David Carnegie Young—the impact of war on three generations.*

Visitors welcome; usual monthly meetings no charge. For **bookings**, queries and 2012 brochure, Phone Pauline 976-4525/Jocelyn 233-1699/388-8069

www.scottishinterestgroup.wellington.net.nz



Diamond Jubilee Ball: A night to remember!

**Closing Date for Next Issue
30 September 2012**

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youth@rscdsnz.org.nz

Wellington Region Website

<http://www.rscds.wellington.net.nz/>

New Zealand Branch Website

<http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz/index.php>

Notice re Region Website

The Webmaster is happy to post Club dance programmes together with details of dances on the website. Email these to:

info@rscds.wellington.net.nz