



Sixteen sets of dancers enjoyed the New Dancers' Celebration (photo: Sharon Burleigh)

New Dancers' Celebration 2020

From Eileen South

Over 16 sets of dancers, including 34 new dancers, came and enjoyed a wonderful evening dancing at the New Dancers' Celebration on 10 October. I think everyone was longing to break free after a year of uncertainty and lockdowns. The theme of the evening was 'Butterflies' and the dance *Le Papillon* was on the programme. This was to celebrate our new dancers, who were recognised by wearing badges with blue butterflies, emerging on to the wider dance scene. However, many long-time dancers were also enjoying spreading their wings on emerging from lockdown and being able to dance together.



Piper Nicole Trewavas welcomed the dancers (photo: Désirée Patterson)

The dance was held in the Paraparaumu Memorial Hall and began with a warm welcome from piper Nicole Trewavas. Thanks so much Nicole.

Our MC, Romaine Butterfield, was in sparkling form and ran the evening with her usual professionalism. Each dance was walked through once to give our new dancers confidence. And they did so well.

We would like to thank Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris who provided such wonderful music all evening.

In this uncertain year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Waikanae Club was hesitant about

proceeding with the dance. Some of the region's clubs were suspended in Level 2, including Waikanae, and we were concerned that many of the new dancers would be very unprepared for this occasion.

However, when it was announced that Wellington would move to Alert Level 1, we decided to continue with our preparations.

And two weeks before the big event, we learnt that the College hall had a serious plumbing problem and we had to find an alternative venue. I have to say, I think we struck it lucky, as the Memorial Hall was free and it had had a bit of a facelift since we last used it. We got in just in time, as two weeks later, the hall was closed for six months for earthquake strengthening and refurbishment. With the talents of the committee and club members, the hall looked really attractive on the evening, with many butterflies, large and small, adorning the walls.

Special thanks to Damon Collin for running the preparation classes for the two weeks before the dance.



MC Romaine Butterfield and the band: Jason Morris, Aileen Logie and Hilary Ferral (photo: Loralee Hyde)