

continue to prepare for the event however, and confirm that the preparation classes will go ahead on Tuesday 28 September and 5 October (details on the Region Website). I know the Carterton Club is hoping that we will be able to join them for a great night in the Wairapapa.

Hogmanay

Unfortunately, as no one has volunteered to organise this event, this is unlikely to go ahead.

Region AGM

The Region's Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday, 2 November, at 7.30 pm, in the Trust Room of the Johnsonville Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend, and as always, we would love to have more volunteers to help the Committee support and encourage a vibrant dancing community in the Wellington Region. This year, we are particularly looking for nominations for a Secretary, as well as for standard committee members.

Have your say

This year, we have trialled some additional classes, so we would love to hear your thoughts regarding the type, format and approach taken for all classes run this year. Please look out for the Survey that we will shortly be emailing out.

60th Anniversary Book of Dances

From Elaine Lethbridge, Project Coordinator

As part of the Wellington Region's 60th Anniversary celebrations, we have put together a book of dances, to be titled "*The Wellington 60th Anniversary Collection*".

Known local devisers, who had either published their own dance books, or had dances published in a Branch or RSCDS book, or in a Club book, were invited to submit up to three unpublished dances, of which one would be chosen for the book.

In order to ensure that each dance was chosen on its own merit, rather than on the reputation of its deviser, all the submitted dances were numbered and information about the origin of any dance removed. All the dances were trialled, either on a special trial day or by selected clubs, and dancers evaluated each dance. Neither the tutors who took part in the trials, nor the members of the subcommittee who made the final selection, were aware of who the devisers were.

The subcommittee discussed each dance, taking into account comments from dancers and club evaluation sheets. Where an either/or situation arose, the subcommittee re-trialled those dances before choosing one. The aim of the selection was to have a good balance for each level, and a variety of jigs, reels, and strathspeys.

My thanks go to all the dancers and tutors who took part in the trial days, and to the clubs and their tutors who willingly spent their precious club time trying out some of the dances and evaluating them. Thank you also to the devisers for submitting their dances for the book.

And special thanks go to the fabulous subcommittee for all the time and effort they put into this project.

I hope everyone will enjoy – and many will purchase! – the new Region book of dances, which will be launched at the New Dancers' Celebration, all being well, Covid permitting.

Dance Scottish Wellington 60th Anniversary Ball: A fine celebration with dining and dancing

From Lorelee Hyde

A throng of 120 dancers in their finery gathered at Lower Hutt Town Hall on Saturday 7 August, looking forward to a fabulous evening of dining and dancing at the Dance Scottish Wellington 60th Anniversary Ball.

The night commemorated 60 years of the Wellington District Branch of the New Zealand Scottish Country Dance Society, which had its inaugural meeting on 21 November 1961.

We were welcomed at the door with a complimentary glass of bubbly or orange juice and provided with a special name badge, along with a dance card to note our partners for the evening and provide a memento of the event.

Prior to dinner, we had the chance to mingle and catch up with dancers from around the Region and further afield, from Waikato and Napier in the north, to Lawrence and Dunedin in the south. We stepped into the beautifully lit Town Hall and took our places at circular tables in anticipation of the celebratory festivities.

Above the stage, a large screen projected photos of dancers and events in the Region from the past 60 years. In the foyer, videos of dancers in Region demonstrations and other activities drew viewers

during breaks between the dances and at supper time.

A brace of unicorns on the stage invoked some astonishment! How are unicorns connected to Scottish Country Dancing? The unicorn is Scotland's national animal and represents Scotland in the British Coat of Arms. So the unicorns at the 60th Anniversary provided a link to the Scottish heritage of our organisation.

After a lovely buffet dinner, followed by speeches of welcome from Region President Ann Oliver and New Zealand Branch President Linda Glavin, we honoured and remembered the contribution of past and present Region presidents, committee members (26 attended), tutors (19 were present) and all who have willingly given their time, energy and talents to Scottish Country Dancing in the Region over the decades.



Past and present Region tutors

Five Region Past Presidents at the Anniversary Ball—Philippa Pointon, Roy South, Elaine Laidlaw, Chris Kelly and Melva Waite—joined Ann to cut the 60th Anniversary cake.



Cutting the 60th Anniversary cake – Philippa Pointon, Roy South, Elaine Laidlaw, Ann Oliver, Chris Kelly and Melva Waite

Thoughts turned to dancing, starting off with a Grand March led by Piper Nicole Trewavas and directed by Edith Campbell. Dancers then took to the floor, dancing throughout the evening to wonderful music from

Wild Heather, with Mary McDonald and Ann Goodbehere on fiddles, Sharlene Penman on keyboard, Lynne Scott on octave fiddle and James Scott providing technical expertise.



The Grand March in progress

Considerable work is needed to make sure a large event like this is a success. Thanks so much to Region President Ann Oliver and the Ball Subcommittee of Duncan McDonald, Edith Campbell and Margaret Cantwell for organising the evening, and MC Elaine Laidlaw, who stepped in for Damon Collin (caught in a Covid lockdown in New South Wales). We also acknowledge the many others in the Region for their much appreciated contributions that helped make this celebration so memorable.

The 60th Anniversary was a fine night of dining and dancing, full of fun and friendship! We can look forward to more great events in the Wellington Region in the coming decade.

To see more of Loralee's photos visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWnST4V>

Where's Sir Walter?

From the Spurtle-wielder

Thousands, indeed probably millions, of people around the world finish off sociable evenings with a rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*. Hopefully among them are some Scots to enlighten the singers as to where the song originated, mentioning the name of Robert Burns, of course. Sadly, Disney may well get the credit for the tales of *Treasure Island* and *Peter Pan* instead of Robert Louis Stevenson and Sir James Barrie.

Probably even less known is the name of Sir Walter Scott, whose 250th Birthday was celebrated on 15 August – alas, with much less publicity than expected, with that pesky Greek letter delta hogging the news.

Said to have been paid a penny per word, his writings tend to be heavily descriptive, but the tales are