

RSCDS WELLINGTON REGION NEWSLETTER



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President's Column

From Rod Downey, President



Welcome all back to dancing. I have heard that clubs are welcoming many new dancers (as well as the return of their club members). Having these new people is great and bodes well for our future. I believe that we must constantly work on renewal, welcoming new people to our family. I hope to meet them at upcoming events, especially the New Dancers' Celebration later this year.

The year to date

Branch Award – We congratulate our own **Michael Laidlaw** (Carterton) for a well-deserved RSCDS New Zealand Branch Award. These awards are only given for outstanding service to the Branch and Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand. A longer article on Michael's service can be found later in this issue of Harbour City Happenings.

Summer Dancing – We had planned four Tuesdays this year, but the last one was cancelled because of the rain brought on by Cyclone Gabrielle. Special thanks to Ann Oliver, Chris Totton, Lee Miller, and Diane Bradshaw for their efforts. Poor Chris prepared and then was cancelled.

Ongoing – It is now very difficult to get entry into Victoria University after hours because of security changes on their part. In view of this, the Committee has decided that in the case of rain, we will henceforth cancel the

night's dancing. We seem to average three out of four rain-free days. In the past, when the summer dancing was in Percy's Reserve and in the Botanical Gardens, this was the policy anyway, and now we have easier methods of advising a cancellation.

Facebook – We encourage clubs to use the Region Facebook Page. Club Secretaries can send in information to Lorelee Hyde who has agreed to be the Facebook administrator, as well as other roles, such as preparing Region communications and the like. Many thanks to her.

<https://www.facebook.com/dance.scottish.wellington/>
Lorelee: facebook@wellingtonscd.org.nz.

Region Banner – Summer Dancing and some clubs have made good use of the region banner to promote their events, such as for their beginners' classes. If you would like to use the banner, please contact the Region Secretary, Michele Miller wellington@dancescottish.org.nz.

Upcoming events

As you know, this year is the Centenary of the RSCDS. As well as running our usual classes, the Region Committee has planned events based around the Centenary theme.

Early Wellington Dances – 29 April, 1.00-4.30 pm (includes afternoon tea). St John's Church Hall, Johnsonville. \$10. Mark it in your diaries.

Four long-standing tutors – Iain Boyd, Romaine Butterfield, Edith Campbell, and Elaine Laidlaw – have made up a programme of dances from the first two books of New Zealand dances, *Morison's Bush* and *The Harbour City*. This will be a special event celebrating the early years of SCD in the greater Wellington region. *The Cranberry Tarts* – Aileen Logie and Hilary Ferral – will be providing the music, using

Peter Elmes' original sets for the books. This event will be suitable for dancers of intermediate level or above. Come and celebrate both the RSCDS and the region with this very special event.

Tri-region Centenary Ball – Further exciting news is that Hawke's Bay, Rangitikei and Wellington Regions have combined to host a tri-region ball in Palmerston North, on 4 November. This celebrates the role of the 'fertile crescent', from Hawke's Bay to Whanganui through to Wellington. In many ways, these three regions were the birthplace of SCD in New Zealand. For example, the first three Summer Schools were held in these three regions. The ball will

- feature an international band (*The Balmoral Band*)
- be fully catered
- have a piped grand march
- begin at 5.30 pm so that people have time to commute to the ball and return to Wellington/Hawke's Bay/Whanganui if they desire
- have a programme which features dances from Kiwi devisers, and well-known society dances.

The announcement and Ball Programme are at the end of this issue.

You can download the Centenary Ball programme and a commentary on the history and importance of each selected dance at <https://wellingtonscd.org.nz/lower-north-island-centenary-ball/>. Thanks to Iain Boyd for help with the historical notes.

Tickets should be bought online, especially important for catering purposes.

- The online form will be sent out to clubs and regions soon, and there will be an early-bird discount
- We will be asking clubs to contact former members to see if they wish to join the celebrations. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Region Classes – Details for the classes at all levels are posted later in this issue. We'll send out flyers and further information, class guidelines, along with online registration links, to the club secretaries. Region classes are a fantastic opportunity to meet people from other clubs and really work on your dancing. We are lucky in the Region to have so many able and willing tutors and musicians.

Classes Coordinator – Thanks to Aileen Logie (class-coordinator@wellingtonscd.org.nz) who has agreed to be the coordinator for the region classes. She should be your first port of call if you have questions about the logistics.

New Dancers' Celebration – Thanks to the Carterton Club for the early organisation of The New Dancers' Celebration, to be held at Wairarapa College on 7

October, from 7.30 to 10.00 pm, followed by supper. The programme will be circulated amongst the Region Tutors. Last time Carterton hosted, we had a great night, so put yet another date in your calendar!

There will be two preparation classes in St David's hall in Petone.

Hogmanay: Call for Organisers – One of the fun things to do on New Year's Eve is to go to a Hogmanay dance and see in the new year the Scottish way. In 2022, no volunteers were available to organise. If anyone is interested in learning about what is involved, please contact the committee wellington@dancescottish.org.nz. The Region has a lot of resources for this task: e.g. a timeline of tasks, copies of the ceremony, song sheets, and information about finding venues, etc. We can help you.

Region Appreciation Awards – These awards recognise exceptional sustained service to the Region. Last year we recognised John Gregory and Elaine Lethbridge. We ask clubs to send nominations with supporting evidence to the Region Secretary wellington@dancescottish.org.nz for the committee's consideration.

Finally – we hope you all have a great year of dancing. Do take advantage of the opportunities above. If you want to contact us and have any suggestions which help us to do better, please email me president@wellingtonscd.org.nz or the Region Secretary, Michele, wellington@dancescottish.org.nz. We are all in a team together!

Note: An apology for leaving Elaine Lethbridge off the list of continuing Region Committee members in the last issue of Harbour City Happenings.

Michael Laidlaw: RSCDS New Zealand Branch Award

From Lorelee Hyde

Congratulations to Michael Laidlaw from Carterton Club for receiving a RSCDS New Zealand Branch Award on 2 January 2023 at the Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Summer School.

Linda Glavin, RSCDS New Zealand Branch President, gave the commendation for the award:

"Michael has given sterling service to Scottish Country Dancing and the New Zealand Branch over many years. He served as Communications and Publicity Coordinator from 2004 to 2007, and Branch Secretary from 2011 to 2014. In these roles, Michael contributed valuable organisational skills, leaving in place systems and processes that ensured a smooth transition for new

office bearers. Of particular note is Michael's support and encouragement to younger Branch members taking on management roles, and his continued interest and support for the New Zealand Branch and its activities.

Michael also has skills in event management and planning, and demonstrated these when he took on the role of treasurer for three successful Summer Schools in Wellington and the Wairarapa. Michael is both a dancer and teacher and has been active at club and region levels, and nationally, teaching at club and region events and at New Zealand Summer Schools.

The hours that Michael has spent in the service of Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand are countless. His contributions were purposeful and always offered with the intent of improving the dancing lives of New Zealand members.

Thank you for your service, Michael."



Michael Laidlaw with his RSCDS New Zealand Branch Award. Photo: Miriam Laidlaw

Michael has also been a stalwart of Scottish Country Dancing in the RSCDS Wellington Region. He started dancing in the region in 1967 and was a member of Kelburn and Lower Hutt Clubs. He taught at Lower Hutt about one night in four, when the tutor, Gary Morris, was working night shifts for the BNZ computer centre. He also taught Kelburn Club in 1968, when tutor Mirth Smallwood went to Rarotonga.

In 1973, Michael was posted to Ohakea with his work as a meteorologist. From there, he went on to Fiji. On his return to Wellington in 1978, his direct involvement in Scottish Country Dancing reduced, due to shift work and

family responsibilities. He taught the intermediate class at the Masterton Summer School in 1972/73 and classes at Wellington Region Weekend and Day schools in 1971, 1974, 1982 and 1983. He was on the Wellington Region Committee for a number of years and has represented our region at RSCDS NZ Branch AGMs.

Michael and his wife Elaine started the Carterton Club in the Wairarapa in 2000. Since then, they have regularly braved our winter weather and driven over the hill to support and enjoy events in Wellington, especially when Elaine was Region President from 2011 to 2013.

An article in *Harbour City Happenings Volume 16 No. 2, August 2013* about the Ngaio midwinter dinner held during a 'weather bomb' shows their dedication, saying, "The atrocious weather made the whole outing quite an experience ... The prize for the greatest enthusiasm must go to Michael and Elaine Laidlaw who drove over the Rimutaka Hill from Masterton, through waves washing over the Hutt Road, slips, gale force winds and snow!"

Together with their team from Carterton, Michael and Elaine have been involved in organising a number of Wellington Region events, including the special *Diamond Jubilee Ball* at Government House on 30 June 2012, as well as Hogmanays and New Dancers' Celebrations.



The organising committee for the Wellington Region Jubilee Ball in 2012. From left, Michael Laidlaw, Eileen South, Shirley Kalogeropoulos, Elaine Laidlaw (MC), Charlotte Williams, Elaine Lethbridge, Edith Campbell, Bev Whitelaw (Convener). Photo: Lorelee Hyde

Unfortunately, the 2021 New Dancers' Celebration in Masterton they had set in place was cancelled at late notice because of Covid restrictions. They are again taking on the role of organising this year's event which is on 7 October.

Thank you Michael for your long and active support of Scottish Country Dancing in the Wellington Region.

SCD – a living soul

from the Spurtle-wielder

A centenary! A hundred years since Jean Milligan and Ysobel Stewart, supported by Michael Diack of Paterson's Music Publishers, rekindled in Scots enthusiasm for their traditional style of dance which seemed to be losing the contest with other styles. In some respects, dancing is an unusual type of activity, and of course it has always been tricky to describe it with words – one descriptive word can be interpreted in so many ways – only the advent of film has allowed some reliable record.

In the 1930s a learned professor wrote: "Dancing is the ordered, and more or less rhythmic, expression of an impulse of movement ... it only occurs in an abnormal condition; no animal or primitive human being dances unless urged to by some specific excitement". (Guess we dancers regularly get excited!) And yet, records show that there are very few primitive peoples the world over who do not have some dance traditions – many, of course, being related to 'religious-style' rituals.

*Hard is the day's task –
Scotland, stern Mother –
Wherewith at all times
Thy sons have been faced:
Labour by day,
And scant rest in the gloaming
With Want an attendant,
Not lightly outpaced.*

Sir Alexander Gray's *Scotland* reminds us that even constant toil produced a poor return from its terrain for all levels of society. After Harold's death at the Battle of Hastings, brother Edgar, with his sister Margaret, fled north, seeking refuge with Scottish King Malcolm Canmore; these 'foreign' visitors (foreigners seldom seen previously) were appalled at the crudity of the Scottish court. Margaret and Malcom fell in love and married (1070) and she soon set about improving the court – tapestries to soften the stone walls, introduced courtly pursuits, including fine instruments and presumably dancing. Her charity and compassion for the country's poor earned her the title of **Saint** Margaret. A successor – the Norman wife of their youngest son David I – brought many of her countrymen to Scotland: their influence spread. They were the founders of quite a number of Scotland's noblest families. This interaction also contributed to the use of French words in the Scottish vocabulary, such as *ashet* – a large plate (French *assiette*), and *gigot* for a leg of lamb.

Important figures who brought some colour into the lives of both inhabitants of castles and those around the mercat crosses were the talented itinerant musicians – often referred to as 'jugglers'; their activities included

Morris dancing, mummers' plays, etc, particularly in evidence on feast days. They were held in high regard and often went before the fighting men into battle – very different from the heavily armoured ranks of the enemy! Possibly, elements of the pantomime of the mummers' plays were incorporated into the dances.

The famous 'Auld Alliance' (1295) – originally a military arrangement between John Balliol and Philip IV of France against England (more beneficial to France than Scotland) meant many Scottish mercenaries went to France, which strengthened relations at many levels of society. Country dancing as well as courtly?

In many countries, research has uncovered early dance; reconstructions are displayed virtually as museum pieces. How wonderful then, that our founders set up the Society to allow every person easy access to lively *participation* in this national pastime – to enjoy this expression of the Scottish character! And *lively* describes a uniqueness of our dancing – we do not *walk* as most others do – our steps constantly involve *exuberant springing* (a description used by an observer). Of course, a very large part of this uniqueness stems from our great and varied store of music – its passion inspires Scots, but seems to strike a chord in the hearts of many others, so that they also enjoy it and our dancing.

In an article by Jean Milligan for an early edition of the *New Zealand Dancer* she writes:

"Dancing is not a thing of the feet, or of a mathematical precision of movement – no, it is a thing of the soul: the spirit, the gaiety and feel for tradition comes from within, and this must never be forgotten. Of course, the better you dance, the more you enjoy it; but unless you remember the joy, our dances will not live".

So let's keep this tradition joyously alive!

A Wellingtonian's Highlights of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Summer School

From Lorelee Hyde

At the Opening Night of the Cambridge Summer School 2019-2020, I enjoyed catching up with old friends from around New Zealand and Australia. At that time, there were reports of a strange virus spreading throughout China ... but little did we know less than two months later, we would experience a three-year hiatus in getting together again because of the worldwide Covid pandemic.

Canterbury Region planned Summer Schools for 2020-2021 and then for 2021-2022. Sadly, both were cancelled because of the risk of Covid. The Auckland Region took up the gauntlet for Summer School 2022-2023. Would their plans come to fruition? Would

dancers from New Zealand and Australia (plus some from the rest of the world) register? Would we finally get together after three long years?

What a feeling of relief to arrive at The Parnell Hotel in Auckland and meet so many happy and excited dancers, ready for a week of Scottish Country Dance classes, social activities and evening functions.

The dancers were well ready for chatter ... and more chatter (often deafening!) as we met up at mealtimes, on rides (or walks) to classes, at afternoon activities and on the buses to the evening dances. And there were plenty of opportunities to make new friends with others from across the country, plus those from Australia, Scotland, USA, Japan and Turkey.

A feature of this Summer School was the array of New Zealand tutors, musicians and MCs, with a number coming from the **Wellington Region**. Thank you to all!

The classes to choose from ranged from 'Development' to 'High Energy and Technique'. **Gaye Collin** was the teacher for a 'Dancing for Enjoyment' group, while **Lynne Scott** was the Musicians' Class tutor. An innovation this year was an 'Excursions Group', designed for non-dancers and those who wanted to save their legs for the evening functions. That option definitely suited me!

We were fortunate to have Katharine Hoskyn as our knowledgeable tour guide and driver, with varied outings including to the Auckland Botanic Gardens, Auckland Art Gallery and Auckland Museum (where the current T-Rex skeletons exhibition proved popular).



The Summer School Excursion Group at the Auckland Botanic Gardens: Lorealee (Wellington), Malcolm (Canberra), Betty (Hawke's Bay), Lynne (Bay of Plenty), Katharine (Auckland) and Jeanette (Rotorua). Photo: Supplied by Lorealee

With Katharine Hoskyn and Neil Horne MC'ing, the theme of the Opening Night Social on 28 December was Welcome to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Sharlene Penman, Anne-Marie Forsyth, Lynn Pettit and Margaret

Peace of *Glenfiddle* played wonderful rollicking tunes for us to dance to.

The Fantasy Night on 29 December had plenty of magic! For this special evening, the band *Thissldhu*, usually featuring Clare Simpson and **Iain Matcham**, turned into *Gryffldhu* with Iain 'Hermione' and Clare 'Potter' taking to the stage alongside MCs **Philip Oliver** and Emma Uren.

Plenty of fantastical costumes were on show: Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Elrond and Galadriel, fairies, elves, the Statue of Liberty... and a 'real' unicorn that managed to dance the dolphin reels in *Pelorus Jack* without colliding with other dancers in the set!

Gryffldhu magically morphed into *Jimmydhu* for the Barn Dance on 30 December, playing country favourites such as *Turkey in the Straw* to match the theme. MC **Elaine Laidlaw** entertained us with wonderful stories about the dances during her briefings.

Hogmanay on New Year's Eve is one of the great Scottish Country Dancing occasions. Esther Mackay and Yvonne Gray MC'd this big night while **Damon Collin** led the mighty singalong of old Scottish songs just before midnight, along with his brother Simon and **Philip** and **Helen Oliver**.

Aileen Logie and **Jason Morris** were joined by Anne-Marie Forsyth in the band. Popular dances (and their tunes) during the evening included *Scott Meikle*, *Catch the Wind* and *The Montgomeries' Rant*.

On 2 January, **Aileen**, **Jason** and Anne-Marie played again at the President's Ball, with Debbie Roxburgh as MC. Dances and music that appealed included *The Sailor*, *The White Heather Jig* (an oldie that's not danced often enough these days!) and *The Gentleman*.



President's Ball Grand March: Lorealee Hyde and Aileen Logie met up in the middle as they formed their two-couple row.

Photo: Miriam Laidlaw

At the Ceilidh, MC'd by Sue Crosbie, we were treated to a mix of frolicking dances with toe-tapping music from

Sharlene Penman, **Lynne Scott**, Margaret Peace and former Wellingtonian **Lynne Hudson**. Plus entertaining items included singing, dancing, music, comedy, a 'knitting' dance, a 'trying-on-swimsuits' story and a skit on possum poisoning!

Glenfiddle, together with members from **Lynne Scott's** Musicians' Class (including Wellingtonians **Lee Miller**, **Cassandra Bahr** and **Brenda Vale**), filled the stage on the Closing Night. Their rousing renditions of the music for the programme of dances, briefed by MC **Damon Collin**, included old favourites *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*, *Seton's Ceilidh Band* and *The De'il Amang the Tailors*.

To finish off a marvellous week, we all took hands and sang *Auld Lang Syne*, already thinking about meeting old friends and making new ones at the next Summer School in Nelson.

Thanks so much to Liz Hickey and her committee for organising this Summer School in the midst of a pandemic, and to the tutors, musicians, MCs, gofers, drivers, photographers and others who helped make this such a successful get-together.

[See more of Loralee's highlights at Summer School and all of her photos](#) ... plus more about that mysterious dancing unicorn!

Mini Hogmanay

From Désirée Patterson

There was no Hogmanay dance in the Wellington Region, but a small number of us got together to celebrate a 'Mini Hogmanay'.

Pat Reesby enjoys a good Hogmanay, and suggested that we should organise our own celebration. As she has limited space and nowhere to dance, I offered to have the party at our home. A list of dancing friends was drawn up and invitations extended. Of course, many were away, either at Summer School or just on holiday, but we ended up with a dozen who gathered for a very enjoyable evening.

We chatted and ate nibbles, and sang *Happy Birthday* to Moggie, whose birthday is on 31 December. The weather was perfect – just a bit cool, but calm, and no rain – so we were able to dance on the deck. John set up his laptop and speaker on the outside table. As the 'music techie' for the Johnsonville Club, he has all their music on his laptop.

We danced four dances first, then we came inside and played the "Guess the dance" game. John and I had selected 20 familiar dances for this game. The idea was that John would play the first few bars of a number of familiar dances, and the task was for people to guess the

name of the dance. A couple of people got most of them, others didn't do quite so well, but everyone enjoyed the game.

By now it was quite dark, but we danced another three dances by the light from the kitchen window and the fairy lights draped along the deck.



Dancing on the deck at our Mini Hogmanay.
Photo: John Patterson

Supper was enjoyed, and soon it was time for the Hogmanay ceremony. Pat had asked John and Aline Homes to bring their 'Father Time and Sweeper' gear, so they did a (rather small) circuit around the dining room, and Tanya – being tall, dark and handsome – performed the task of First Foot and presented me, as the host, with "wood for warmth, shortbread for sustenance, a coin for prosperity, and whisky for good cheer".

John played Big Ben sounding midnight on the laptop, and we sang *Auld Lang Syne*. Everybody hugged and wished each other Happy New Year. All very convivial and 'traditional', and what a lovely way to end 2022.

Summer Socialising at Johnsonville Club

From Kristin Downey

Johnsonville Club's 2022 dancing year finished with our Tartan and Final Night on 27 November, and the 2023 dancing year started with beginners' classes in February. In the two months in between, we got together for some summer socialising.

December sun – The weather was gloriously sunny for the club's 2022 casual Christmas lunch at Café Thyme in Churton Park – the first time we'd been able to sit outside for our Christmas get-together since 2017! Nineteen club members enjoyed the sunshine and cheerful chat, with a mix of new dancers and 'old hands'. Despite both chefs being off with Covid, café staff came up trumps with plenty of delicious meal options. It was a very relaxing way to round off the year, starting with the early coffee-drinkers before 11am, and finishing with the late-lunchers who left close to 3pm.



Christmas lunch at Café Thyme. Photo: Lorelee Hyde

January rain – In January, we were not so lucky with the weather for the club's 2023 Summer Ceilidh at Johnsonville Bowling Club. For the first time since 2014, we were not able to start the day with lawn bowls; instead, it was indoor bowls for all. But it didn't matter, we had a lot of fun. Eight family members joined twenty-three club dancers, making for a very social day of (indoor) bowling, easy dances, ceilidh items, and a shared potluck dinner to finish.

It was a great way to start the 2023 dancing year, enjoying the company of fellow dancers and their families. And it was a bumper year for ceilidh items, with nine club members entertaining us with their skills and talents, making it a really special day.



Indoor bowls at the Summer Ceilidh. Photo: Kristin Downey

Now we're back dancing, and the club's first special dance night will be a **St Patrick's Day celebration** on **Monday 20 March** with music by Aileen Logie.

Then on **Monday 17 April**, Johnsonville will hold its **first Tartan Night for 2023** with music by Aileen, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris. Do join us at Khandallah Town Hall – dressed in green or in tartan, depending on which night you come along.

Linden SCD Club

From Vicky Ryan

2023 has started well at Linden – we had some enthusiastic new dancers attending our beginners' classes from 6 February, and we are hopeful that many of them will continue with the club. Our thanks go to Ann for teaching these classes, and to the club members who attended to support our beginners (and dust off the dance cobwebs!). We are now back into our regular club nights and are looking forward to a fun year ahead.

Our annual dance is booked for 1 July and the programme will be sent round to all clubs. We will have live music from Aileen Logie, Hillary Ferral and Jason Morris for this dance, and it is sure to be a great night!

We're all looking forward to reconnecting with our Scottish Country Dancing friends across the region at our annual dance and at other dance events and regional classes over the year.

Lower Hutt Club Happenings

From Janice Henson, President

Our final night for 2022 was a little later than usual, due to a number of circumstances, but was nonetheless a great celebration of an almost normal dancing year following the Covid interruptions. Live music from the Saltire Band (Mary McDonald, Ann Goodbehere, Jason Morris and Duncan McDonald) made the night all the more enjoyable.

After two years of jointly tutoring the club, Damon and Gaye handed the reins over to Chris Totton and Andrea Wells for the 2023 season. The club acknowledged Damon and Gaye's enormous contribution, not only to the Lower Hutt Club, but to the training videos posted online for worldwide distribution.



The Saltire Band at Lower Hutt's Final Night

We were proud to have two of our new dancers – Sharon Williams and Penelope Willis – attend this year's Summer School in Auckland. They returned full of appreciation for the wider Scottish Country Dance family.

The 2023 year started with a six-week beginners' course in St David's Hall, Naenae. Of the 11 interested dancers first registered, we still have eight very keen learners at the half way stage. Chris was the tutor for the first three weeks and Elizabeth has taken over the remaining three weeks. A number of our committee members have been attending as support and this has enhanced the experience of these newbies.

2023 Club commenced on 6 March and we were delighted to welcome back several members who had been absent for a little while. This bodes well for a great season.

The *Pickup 52* dance for Lower Hutt is *The Bonnie Tree*, written by Romaine Butterfield for Catriona Budge – Romaine being a past Secretary of the club and Catriona and her family stalwart members for many years.

Tawa SCD Club

From Désirée Patterson

Tawa Club is delighted with its new venue – the Tawa Bowling Club. It is spacious and airy, it has a good floor, an excellent kitchen, and a separate seating area which looks out on the bowling greens. And it has a substantial heating system – which we have not yet needed to use, but which we hope will be a whole lot better, once the winter weather arrives, than the little electric heaters we had to use in our former cavernous premises.



Lots of space in our new venue at the Tawa Bowling Club.
Photo: Désirée Patterson

Our beginners' classes during February were well attended by 15 new people, and a good number of existing club members who joined the classes to help support the newbies and to get their own feet and brains back into dancing mode after the summer break. We are very pleased that, since our club nights started again in March, nine of the beginners have been coming back to club

nights, while two have gone back to Ngaio Club, where they had started in the middle of last year.

We are looking forward to having our **Annual Dance** a bit earlier in the year than we have in previous years. It will be **on Saturday 10 June**, in the Ngaio Town Hall. Programmes will be sent out to all clubs a little closer to the time, but for now, do earmark the date in your diaries!

Where to Dance to Live Music

From Lynne Scott, Branch Music Adviser

Wellington Dancers, you are so lucky! Most Scottish Country Dance clubs in New Zealand dance exclusively to CDs, mostly due to the lack of local musicians with the appropriate skills and knowledge. True, there are advantages to dancing to recordings of the best bands in the world, and much interest in the variety of sound. But here in Wellington, we have many capable musicians, so you can dance to live music several nights each month. Why not visit:

- Capital City Club – first Thursday of each month (followed by a bonus social gathering at the local!)
- Upper Hutt Club – first Wednesday of each month
- Johnsonville Club – third Monday of each month

In addition, many clubs run Theme or Tartan Nights two or three times a year, generally with live music. I've listed some of these below, but also keep an eye out for notices at your club as more emerge.

And then there are Annual Dances and Final Nights! Many clubs celebrate the end of their year with live music, along with some tempting supper. And more: the Intermediate and Advanced Region classes will all have live music, as will the final Basics class.

Some clubs have websites to help you keep track of the dates. You can find them at <https://wellingtonscd.org.nz/home/links/>

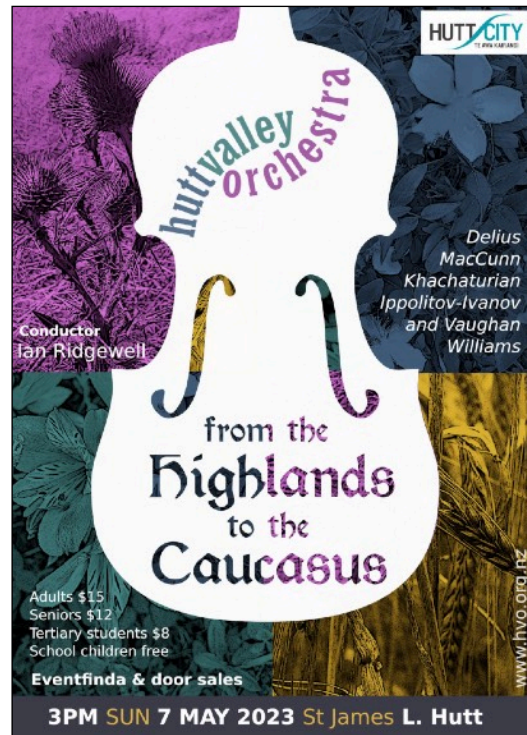
So why not make a plan to visit another club on a regular live music night, or attend one of the planned evenings listed below? After all, (slightly adapting a quote from Stuff here), "Nobody winds up on their deathbed wishing they had danced to LESS live music ... "

2023 live music nights

Mon 20 March : St Patrick's theme night at Johnsonville
Mon 17 April : Tartan Night at Johnsonville
Mon 24 April : Tartan Night at Linden
Mon 8 May : Live music night at Linden
Monday 24 July : Midwinter theme night at Lower Hutt
Sun 28 May : Social dancing at Capital City Club
Mon 29 May : Tartan Night at Johnsonville
Mon 29 May : Theme night at Linden

Mon 31 July : Tartan Night at Linden
 Mon 28 August : Live music night at Lower Hutt
 Mon 25 September : Tartan Night at Linden
 Mon 30 October : Halloween Theme at Johnsonville
 Thu 2 November : Final Night at Capital City
 Mon 27 November : Final Night at Johnsonville

Lynne and Mary McDonald (another of our talented SCD musicians) will both be playing in the upcoming Hutt Valley Orchestra concert “*From the Highlands to the Caucasus*”, which will feature the **Scottish overture *The Land of the Mountain and the Flood***, by Hamish MacCunn.



Come join one of our classes to improve your dancing and have fun!

| Class | Dates | Venue | Tutor | Cost |
|--------------|--|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Basics | 5 Tuesday Evenings 7.30 – 9.30pm: 2, 16, 30 May, 13, 27 June | St David’s Hall, off Elizabeth St, Petone | Elizabeth Ferguson | \$45 for 5 or \$10 per class |
| Intermediate | 4 Tuesday Evenings 7.30 – 9.30pm: 9, 23 May, 6, 20 June | St David’s Hall, off Elizabeth St, Petone | Susanna van der Gulik | \$35 for 4 or \$10 per class |
| Advanced | 2 Saturday Afternoons 1 – 4pm: 24 June, 8 July | St John’s Hall, Bassett Rd, Johnsonville | Jeanette Watson | \$35 for 2 or \$20 per class |

Further information and Registration Forms will be available from www.wellingtonscd.org.nz and from your club. You can ask your club teacher which level may be suitable for you.



**Tawa Scottish Country Dance Club
Annual Dance
Saturday 10 June, 7:30 pm
Ngaio Town Hall**



New Dancers Celebration 2023
Wairarapa College Auditorium
Pownall Street, Masterton
Saturday 7 October, 7.30 pm

Check www.wairarapanz.com for events and accommodation for a Spring break in Masterton



Sydney Winter School

24 September - 1 October
2023

<https://www.sydneywinterschool2023.com/>

Johnsonville Tartan Night

Khandallah Town Hall
11 Ganges Rd, Khandallah
7.30pm, Monday 17 April 2023
Music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral
and Jason Morris

Our first Tartan Night of the year is designed to give new dancers the opportunity to dance to live music.

- First year dancers welcome
- Easy programme
- Most dances walked
- Adult \$5.00 Student \$0.50

Come along and join in the fun!
www.johnsonvillesc.org.nz



**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.

Tue 28 March – Hugh McPhail: *The barque Blenheim Settlers (Kaiwharawhara)*

Fri 28 April – Ken Allan: *Dunfermline: Scotland's Capital till 17th Century*

Sun 28 May at 2.30pm – *Shetland Migrants to NZ – Seafarers, Knitters and much more ...*

Website www.wellyscots.wordpress.com



NGAIO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
Invites You to Join Us for Our Annual Dance
at Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Road, Ngaio

Saturday 13 May 2023 at 7.30pm

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Admission | \$16.00 |
| RSCDS Members | \$13.00 |
| Spectators & Juniors | \$ 5.00 |

PROGRAMME

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| R | Maxwell's Rant | Book 18 |
| J | The Laird of Milton's Daughter | Book 22 |
| S | Jean Martin of Aberdeen *** | Book 2006 |
| R | The Kissing Bridge | Book 47 |
| R | The Irish Rover *** | Cosh |
| S | The Paisley Weavers | Graded 3 |
| J | The Den O'Mains | Henderson |
| R | A Trip to Bavaria *** | Collins Packet |
| S | The Lammernmuir Hills | Goldring |
| R | Shiftin Bobbins | Ormskirk |

Supper

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| R | Domino Five | Graded 2 |
| S | Butterscotch & Honey *** | Jean Attwood |
| J | Best Set in the Hall *** | Book 46 |
| J | Hooper's Jig | MM |
| S | The Robertson Rant | Book 39 |
| R | Scott Meikle | Book 46 |
| R | The Deil Amang the Tailors | Book 14 |

*** For experienced Dancers

Music provided by Aileen Logie
Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris





A Special Occasion Early Wellington Dances

CELEBRATING DANCE SCOTTISH!

1.00pm-4.00pm, Saturday 29 April 2023

**St John's Anglican Church Hall,
18 Bassett Rd, Johnsonville**

Afternoon tea provided. Bring own water bottle.

Doors open 12.30pm. Cost: \$10 cash at the door.



As part of the **RSCDS Centenary events**, the Wellington Region has organised a very special occasion for **intermediate dancers and above** celebrating the role of the extended region as the well-spring of Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand.

Iain Boyd, Romaine Butterfield, Edith Campbell and Elaine Laidlaw have chosen dances from the early days of Scottish Country Dancing in the lower North Island, based around *Morison's Bush Collection* and *The Harbour City Collection*. These **well-regarded tutors from our region** will teach the dances as part of the Society's Centenary Celebrations.

To add to this unique experience, **The Cranberry Tarts**—Aileen Logie and Hilary Ferral—will provide music from the original tunes and arrangements used by **Peter Elmes** for both books.

1.00pm-4.00pm, Saturday 29 April

**This will be an historic event
Come and join the celebration!**

www.wellingtonscd.org.nz



Lower North Island RSCDS Centenary Ball

CELEBRATING DANCE SCOTTISH!

5.30pm, Saturday 4 November 2023

College Street School Hall, Palmerston North

Music by *Balmoral Band* - Anne-Marie Forsyth (Auckland)
Sharlene Penman (Christchurch), Iain McKenzie (Queensland)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| New Year Jig | (J) M Robson – 51/8 |
| Morison's Bush | (R) K Shaw – Morison's Bush |
| Miss Milligan's Strathspey | (S) RSCDS Leaflet |
| Mrs Stewart's Jig | (J) 35/1 |
| The Meeting of the Waters* | (R) I Boyd - Strathtay |
| Oriel Strathspey | (S) I Simmonds – 32/2 |
| Catch the Wind | (H) R Butterfield – 45/5 |
| Gary Morris* | (J) A Hay – Morison's Bush |
| Balmoral Strathspey | (S) J Charles 22/3 |
| The Reel of the 51st Division | (R) 13/10 |

Celebratory Catered Supper

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pelorus Jack | (J) B Skelton – 41/1 |
| The Reverend John MacFarlane | (R) G Morris – 37/1 |
| Mildred Clancey's Strathspey* | (S) J Miller – A Touch of Gold |
| Best Set in the Hall* | (J) H Greenwood – 46/7 |
| Petronella | (R) 1/1 |
| A Gift From Heaven | (S) N Whitson – Harbour City |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | (J) B Fordyce – Morison's Bush |
| The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh | (R) 39/7 |

Online registration available soon
Early bird registration by 1 August
Final registration deadline 15 Oct

RSCDS \$35 (early bird \$30)
Adult \$40 (early bird \$35)
Juniors/Spectators \$20 (No early bird rate)

* Please only dance this if you are
familiar with it

Find out more at
www.wellingtonscd.org.nz