

Wellington Hogmanay 2014

From Elizabeth Ferguson

Dancers and friends gathered at Ngaio Town Hall to celebrate Hogmanay. We were fortunate to have seven to eight sets of dancers on the floor at any one time and several spectators joined us for this special occasion. We had dancers who came from as far away as Nelson and Hawkes Bay. A fabulous programme was compiled by the organiser and MC for the evening, Diane Bradshaw. Music for the evening was provided by Peter Elmes (accordion), John Smith (fiddle), Aileen Logie (keyboard), Terry Bradshaw (percussion) and Gareth Penhale (guitar).

Three dances on the programme were devised by Wellington tutors and we were privileged to have the devisers in attendance on the night. The dances were *Catch the Wind* by Romaine Butterfield, *Wind on the Heath* by Iain Boyd and *New Year Jig* by Maureen Robson.

To enable dancers to catch their breath there were a couple of items during the evening. We have a wealth of talent with some of our younger dancers and we were superbly entertained by Rebecca and Jonathan Bourne giving us two musical items, playing both the keyboard and cello. Michael and Laura Totton gave us a very energetic rock and roll item. It was exciting to see the passion and additional skills in our future dancers. Happy to say it wasn't a 'watch, then participate' item as several of us may have been struggling!

We were ably led by Jean Malcolm and Alastair McCarthy in the singing of the traditional songs prior to midnight and we were all in fine voice.

Our First Foot was Murrey Totton and he was piped into the hall by Ross Edwards. They were greeted by the Wellington Region President Philippa Pointon. We welcomed 2015 with baby James, son of Susanna and Michael, being passed through the hoop. The New Year began with a *Thirty-twosome*, which was a great opportunity for many to take part in for the first time, thanks to the set of eight who were going to dance the *Eightsome Reel*. I always remember the thrill of being able to dance this at Summer Schools. Thank you to Diane and her many helpers for putting this event together and may 2015 dancing continue as well as it started.



Hogmanay 2014: Philippa Pointon (Region President), Ross Edwards (Piper), Murrey Totton (First Foot) and Diane Bradshaw (MC and Hogmanay organiser)

Carterton Club

From Julie Bradbury

Our dancing year has got away to a very positive start with 17 people taking part in Elaine Laidlaw's introductory classes. These classes finished last week and we are hopeful that many of the participants will join our club. Our first two club nights overlapped with the last two classes and it was great to have such good numbers in attendance, and to see the progress made by the new dancers. The new dancers are very enthusiastic and enjoying the challenge of trying something new and meeting new people.

We had four summer dancing evenings in February hosted by our members at their place with dancing outside in the gardens. We were lucky with the weather, as rain and strong winds threatened several times to stop our evening of dancing, but every time the weather behaved by 7pm as we started.

In April, during the school holidays, we are again having a Young People's evening where we invite young friends, children and grandchildren to come along to a club night to join us for dancing. These are fun evenings and the quick young learners always impress us.

We are looking forward to another year of club dancing and making the most of the events on offer in our region.

Correction

My apologies to Aileen Logie, for having misspelt her name in the caption under the photo of Peter Elmes' band (December 2014 issue, p. 4)