

It was also agreed the Weekend School and Region Event should not be included in the club rotation and would be organised by an ad hoc group. Region Classes and the New Dancers Celebration are two events on the rotation roster for 2009.

On 2 December, the Committee held its regular meeting at which the business included:

1. Philippa Pointon being co-opted to the Committee as Acting Secretary.
2. The receipt of a donation from the now defunct Wellington Club on the closing of its account. Thank you to those dancers responsible for this action.
3. Region Committee Management Discussion Paper and activities for 2009.
4. JAM CAMP 2009 will be run by the Region at Wairarapa College, Masterton from 2-4 October, with Elaine Lethbridge as Organiser. Clubs' support with fundraising and in other ways would be much appreciated.

Sincere greetings for the New Year and for a successful year in 2009.

In Memoriam

Margaret Mary Hutchison (Peg), CNZM

Eulogy given by Bernice Kelly at the Region Hogmanay Dance, December 2008

A stalwart member and friend of many within Scottish Country Dancing in the Wellington Region and beyond, Margaret Mary Hutchison, known to all as Peg, died on 20 December 2008 after a short illness. Little did I or members of the Kelburn Club think that her reason for not attending the Region's AGM on 11 November was an indication of a serious illness.

Peg's introduction to Scottish Country Dancing was at Wallaceville Club (predecessor to Upper Hutt Club) in the early 1950s. In 1959, she was a foundation member of the Kelburn Club and served as its Vice President and President for several terms up to this year.

During the 1970s, Peg was Region President for four years which coincided with the 25th Anniversary of the Wellington/ Hawke's Bay Association (later to become the New Zealand Branch RSCDS) in 1978. Over that Labour Weekend, Wellington Region hosted the anniversary celebrations at which she officiated; the ball at which 400 were present, an afternoon get-together, and a ceilidh attended by 500. To mark the 25th Anniversary, the Region published *The Morison's Bush Collection* book of dances.

Later Peg was a member of the Region Committee for several years, most recently in 2006. She served on the New Zealand Branch over a 10 year period, as Convener of the Rules Committee, as North Island Vice President 1981-84 and President 1985-86. The Branch honoured her with Life Membership in 1998.

Peg's life was not just Scottish Country Dancing and her work as an accountant. She was a member of several women's affairs organisations and community associations. She received honours from a number of them; Fellow of the NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants, Member Emerita of the NZ Federation of Graduate Women, and the Hunter Fellowship from the Victoria University of Wellington for her contribution to university life. In 2001, she was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours. She also had many other interests; birdwatching, travel, music, croquet, and always her nieces and nephews.

As a mutual friend remarked after her funeral, Peg was a loyal and active member of the various organisations of which she was a member, none so than the New Zealand Branch RSCDS at all its levels.

Her funeral held on Monday 29 December at St John's in the City, Wellington, was attended by Janet Favel, Branch President, and a large group of dancers. At the same time, a memorial celebration was held at Summer School in Christchurch.

Those present at the Hogmanay Dance observed a minute's silence in Peg's honour and danced a favourite from *The Morison's Bush Collection*, Seton's Ceilidh's Band, in her memory.

Tawa Club celebrates its 50th Anniversary

from Barbara Kent

On 20 September, the Tawa Club was joined by many dancing friends to mark its 50th Anniversary, held at the Johnsonville Community Centre. The hall was elegantly decorated with a golden theme, master-minded by John Gregory, and there were abundant spring flowers. Maureen Robson had prepared a programme which included dances devised by the club by previous tutors and Iain Boyd, Ian Simmonds and Romaine Butterfield briefed their own dances and Hilda Brodie briefed the one she had introduced to the club. In addition, Iain taught the dance he had devised particularly for this occasion, *The Bucket Tree* or *On the Willow Bank*. Peter Elmes had written a tune for this jig, *The Tyneside Lass*, a tribute to our own Tyneside lass, Maureen Robson.

Another Robson family member, Alan, donated a beautiful wooden bowl he had made as one of the raffle prizes and Melva Waite donated another prize, a large gift basket. One of our members, Fiona Buckle, had baked the anniversary cake, ceremonially cut by our President, Jan Bruce, and Maureen. The music was provided by the Peter Elmes Band, joined at times by other musicians, and the music caught and enhanced the happy, lively spirit of the evening.

The Johnsonville Centre has an upstairs room which was an ideal size and venue for a social hour before the dance to which previous presidents, tutors and club members had been invited. It was great to see