

## President's Report 2023

The Wellington Region has had an excellent year for 2023 with lots of events and new dancers joining clubs. The region committee worked towards this by giving grants to clubs to advertise beginners' classes and other events, and we think this has been successful.

### General:

- **Branch Award.** We congratulate our own **Michael Laidlaw** (Carterton) for a well-deserved RSCDS New Zealand Branch Award for outstanding service to the SCD in New Zealand.
- **Archival Project:** This continues with a lot of new material being posted on the region website. Many thanks to Lorelee Hyde, Kristin Downey and Philippa Pointon for their efforts.
- **Facebook Page:** we have resurrected the region [Facebook](#) page and the [region website](#) has now a lot of extra information. Thanks to Lorelee Hyde and Lee Miller.
- **Bereavements:** We have lost several dancers throughout this year. They included **Mary Ronnie, Helen Rowe, Keown Shirley, and Karen Harris.** They will all be missed.

**Summer Dancing:** As usual, summer dancing took place at the Old Government Building. Except for the Tuesday cancelled because of Cyclone Gabrielle, summer dancing went very well and was well-attended. Special thanks to Ann Oliver, Chris Totten, Lee Miller, and Diane Bradshaw for their efforts. Poor Chris prepared and then was cancelled.

**Classes:** The region offered basics, intermediate and advanced classes in 2023. The basics class had around 22 dancers each night, the intermediate somewhat fewer with an average of around 12, and the advanced averaged 20. Feedback was good for the classes. Thanks to Elizabeth Fergusson, Susannah van der Gulik, and Jeanette Watson for taking these classes. The region decided to appoint a general coordinator for these classes and thanks to Aileen Logie who stepped up to this task admirably; and also thanks to gofers and other helpers!

**Events:** The region had several very successful events many based around the fact that this is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the RSCDS. They include

- **Early Wellington Dances Day.** On April 29<sup>th</sup> around 60 dancers were lead through historical dances from the early years of the region by 4 invited tutors (Iain Boyd, Romaine Butterfield, Edith Campbell and Elaine Laidlaw) for a wonderful afternoon of dancing to the music of the *Cranberry Tarts* (Aileen Logie and Hilary Ferral), with a nice supper from Elaine Lethbridge to help us after the *Govendale Reel*.
- **New Dancers Celebration.** This was organized by Carterton this year, and well-attended by the region and from outside. Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral, and Jason Morris provided the music. The MC was Elaine Laidlaw and many thanks to Diane Bradshaw for taking the preparation classes.
- **Lower North Island Centenary Ball.** As I write this, I am very much looking forward to this once in a lifetime event. Organized jointly with Rangitikei, and Hawkes Bay regions, and supported by the Branch, I am sure that this will

prove great night of dancing in Palmerston North on November 4<sup>th</sup> ; dancing a programme celebrating New Zealand devisers and the history of the society.

All in all, it has been a very good year, with many activities. I want to thank those region committee members for their work, and especially acknowledge those who are stepping down: Jeanette Watson and Michele Miller. Both Jeanette and Michele have provided sterling work for you over the years they have served. They don't get a rest as they are on the committee for the upcoming 2024 Summer School which is in Wellington. Put it in your diaries.