

Flower of the Forest

From Elizabeth Ferguson



Bronwyn Maysmor died on 19 January 2024, aged 77. She grew up in Eastbourne and went to Queen Margaret's College. Her career path took her to being a legal executive where she worked for John Hanning for 50 years. This was exceptional service. Her organisational skills were outstanding.

Bronwyn had a passion for Scottish Country Dancing, and it is where she made many friends. She was Secretary at Eastbourne Club for 10 years. During 1983-1985 she also held the position of Region Secretary. Bronwyn was on many weekend school and events committees.

Bronwyn and Ian enjoyed many dance trips away. One of those was the trip to Norfolk Island organised, by Carol Smith. On returning, the travellers presented "*Wellington Convicts*" in which a team of dancers, including Bronwyn, dressed in convict outfits and danced *Seton's Ceilidh Band*. She loved dressing up.

In the 1990s, the Wellington Region held bi-annual events. One of those was the *1993 Top Event* which was held to honour teachers in the Wellington Region. Although it was the idea of Alan Burn, Bronwyn had a lot of input into the event. Another couple of events she was involved with were the *18th Century Ball*, held at the Easter Weekend School, and the evening at the Pines where she organised a variety of Scottish entertainers for us.

Bronwyn and Ian married in February 1994 at the Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, where her brother Bob Maysmor was curator. Malcolm and I were part of the wedding party. The four of us had many holidays spent together.

Bronwyn was always looking for ways to promote Scottish Country Dancing, especially among younger people. This led her to organise the first-ever camp for junior dancers up to the age of 19. It was called the "*One Fun Camp*" and was held at the Forest Lakes Camp in Otaki. Ninety-eight young dancers attended from all over NZ, from as far north as Whangarei to Christchurch in the South Island. The camp was not only for dancers but for budding musicians as well. All she wanted was for the youngsters to have FUN and that is indeed what they had. Their enthusiasm for dancing made her organise a *Magical Butterfly Ball* the following year. Great to see that many more Junior Camps followed. Bronwyn even dressed up for the campers and wore a clown costume and carried a handbell to wake the campers each morning. I was privileged to be on the organising committee with her. Here is the [link if you would like to see more](#).

Bronwyn and Ian moved to Seatoun, and then finally to Kapiti. She had an influence in many clubs, latterly being at Waikanae.

Friendships were made travelling to weekend schools, Summer Schools and dance trips overseas. Bronwyn loved colour and was always immaculately dressed. We spent many an hour visiting clothes and shoe shops together.

Bronwyn will be sadly missed by her fellow dancers and close friends. Our thoughts go to Ian and families at this sad time.

We have received other tributes to Bronwyn:

From Shirley Kalogeropoulos:

I always remember Bronwyn for her love of colour, and flowers, and she was in awe of the spectacular sunsets here on the Kapiti Coast. When she and Ian moved to the Kapiti Coast, they joined the Waikanae Club and danced there for many years. I believe she was secretary too, but I don't have access to the records ...

And *Loralee Hyde* reminisced about Bronwyn in an [article](#) which is available on the Johnsonville Club website.

SCD 'acquaintanceships' often become real friendships!

From the Spurtle-wielder

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne? Certainly not – lessons learned must be the foundation on which to build the future. Is the importance of remembering 'old acquaintance' an ancient concept? A great number of scrolls of Greek poetry were seemingly ruined in the Vesuvius eruption – unrolled they would disintegrate, but recent technology promises the possibility of reading the texts. What ways of thinking will be revealed?

Many cultures have ancestor worship as a kind of religion, but for Scots, Hogmanay is a time to reflect on the year just ended, particularly remembering folk who have 'gone' during that time. Whilst blood ties are very strong, the strength of friendship can play a very big part in our lives. The word *acquaintance* may seem to suggest an element of casualness, but coupling it with *auld* gives it a deeper aspect. The line in the song "*We twa hae rin about the braes and pulled the gowans* (daisies) *fine*" describes a friendship started in childhood. Such friendships are intrinsic to many years of dancing pleasure shared by friends not infrequently recorded in our clubs' reports!

It must be confessed that Scots are a pretty nostalgic lot. The poetry and stories are awash with memories of the people and places of Old Scotia. Look at any dance programme: so many dances are inspired by much-loved