

President's Report 2024

The Wellington Region has had an excellent year for 2024. Many new dancers have appeared in the region, and lots of nice dancing events throughout the region.

General:

- **Anniversaries:** Two Clubs have had significant years, with Lower Hutt enjoying their 70th Anniversary and Capital City their 50th Anniversary. Well done! Many thanks especially to Lower Hutt for also taking on and working with Upper Hutt to organize the New Dancers' Celebration. This was greatly appreciated by the Region.
- **Music.** We are amazingly lucky within the region to have musicians to call upon. I would especially like to thank Lynne Scott (Branch Music Adviser) who is heavily involved in developing new young musicians into playing for Scottish Country Dancing.
- **Archival Project:** This continues with a lot of new material being posted on the region website. Many thanks to Loralee Hyde, Kristin Downey and Philippa Pointon for their efforts.
- **Bereavements:** We have lost several dancers throughout this year. They included **Edith Campbell, Bronwyn Maysmor, Noeline McQueen, Jean Denne, Allan Mason, and Ian Taylforth.** Bronwyn, Ian and Edith served on the region committee for many years, and Edith taught for over 60 years in the region.

Region Events:

- **Hogmanay.** Chris Totton and Anna Verhaegh organized Hogmanay at Crofton Downs School. Music was provided by Iain Matcham and Jean Malcolm. Chris and Anna used innovative electronic methods to cope with the lack of a piper, and we had John Gregory as the dark young man! Nice that several people experienced their first Hogmanay
- **Summer Dancing:** As usual, summer dancing took place at the Old Government Building. Chris Totton took over from Edith as organizer of year's summer dancing. We moved the start time to 7.00. Both of these changes have worked well. Thanks to Chris together with Catherine McCutcheon, Iain Matcham, and Jeanette Watson for taking these classes.
- **Historical RSCDS Dances. 27th April.** The committee decided to organize an event based around the fact that 2024 was the centenary of the publication of Book 1. The event was MC'd by Rod Downey and the musicians were Lynne Scott and Sam Berkahn. This was a successful event with about 5 sets of dancers attending, all enjoying the great catering by Elaine Lethbridge. The region committee noted that the proximity of Anzac Day on the preceding Thursday meant that some people who would have attended had taken advantage of the public holiday and had a long weekend. We have taken this into account for forward planning for 2025, and there will be an event, likely

historical, on **April 12, 2025**. There are reports by Lorelee Hyde with photos later in HCH and the Region Website.

- **New Dancers Celebration.** Held in Knox Church, this was organized by Upper and Lower Hutt clubs, and had music by Strings Attached. The MCs were Chris Totton and Andrea Wells. This was an extremely successful event with 16 sets on the floor.

Region Classes: The region offered basics, intermediate and advanced classes in 2024. All the classes were quite well attended with at least 3 sets for all. Feedback was good for the classes. Thanks to Diane Bradshaw, Catherine McCutcheon and Debbie Roxburgh. Thanks to Aileen Logie and then Janice Henson for coordinating, and thanks to gofers and other helpers!

Summer School: This year's Summer School is being organized within Wellington City and thanks to Ann Oliver and her committee for their work in organizing such a big event. I am informed that many first-timers will be attending.

General: 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: Bruce Chapman and Aileen Logie. Aileen was instrumental in developing tools for the Region Classes, for which many thanks.