

Obituaries

Stefanie Kelly 1954-2014

Among the recent deaths in the Wellington dancing family has been that of Stefanie, wife of the Upper Hutt tutor Chris Kelly, in June 2014. As he said at her funeral, it was Stefanie who introduced him to Scottish country dancing.

She was active as a dancer and Upper Hutt Club committee member: as President in 1988–89, and as Secretary in 1997–98. During this later period the club celebrated its 25th anniversary with several special functions.

In the interim between these club positions, Stefanie was Secretary for the Wellington Region committee for three years (1991–93) when the Silver Jubilee of the New Zealand Branch was anticipated with lively debate on the Region's views of the Branch's future activities.

Unfortunately, increasing mobility difficulties curtailed Stefanie's active participation in dancing in her later years.

She was one of many dedicated and hardworking people who willingly accepted responsibility to ensure her club's and the Region's activities were successful in promoting Scottish country dancing.

(Sources: "New Zealand Scottish Country Dancer" Volumes 36–40 and 44–45)

Compiled by Bernice Kelly (no relation), Region Treasurer 1993–96

Dave Macfarlane

Upper Hutt Club sadly lost its founder, first tutor and life member on the 29th March 2014.

Dave began dancing in Lower Hutt in 1954, where he met his wife Lorna. He also danced at the Bluebell Club when they were living in Palmerston North. When they moved back to Upper Hutt, Dave realised that there were many dancers living in the upper valley and decided to start a new club there in 1971. Dave gained his full certificate in 1972. He was a gentle but thorough teacher who made sure that everyone danced to the best of their ability.

One of Dave's proudest moments as a dancer was when he took part in a demonstration of *The Celtic Brooch* at an early summer school in Dunedin. This was so well received that they were asked to repeat it, which they did – after getting their breath back, no doubt.

Dave participated with great enthusiasm at both local and regional levels. He served as Region President for four years, and was also on the New Zealand Branch Council (when regions had individual representatives), for six years from 1981–86 inclusive. He taught at several weekend schools. Dave was an energetic participant in Upper Hutt Club social activities, helping to organise many memorable events over the years.

As well as dancing, Dave was also a keen tramp and cyclist.

Dave enjoyed many years of dancing and teaching until ill health caused him reluctantly, in his own words, to "hang up his dancing shoes" in 2012.

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