

## Gary Morris

*Examiner, 1991 -*

Gary Morris began dancing as a boy with his parents at Jack Seton's classes in Hastings in the 1950's. When Madge Laing came to Hawkes Bay, Gary was most impressed by her dancing and decided to copy her as well as he could.

In 1962, while on a working holiday in Scotland, he went to St Andrews to take his teaching certificate examinations. Because he had come such a distance, Gary was able to spend four weeks at the Summer School, taking the Preliminary Test at the end of the first fortnight, and the Teachers Certificate two weeks later. So, he returned to New Zealand a fully certificated teacher.

Since that time, Gary has made several more visits to St Andrews. He has a number of friends in Scotland, and, through one of these friends, was invited to join a party of dancers going to give demonstrations in South Africa in 1974.

A bank officer, Gary worked in different parts of New Zealand, and was frequently asked to teach the clubs he joined. He finally settled in Wellington where he has at different times taught Lower Hutt and Wellington Clubs. He has been in demand as a teacher at day schools and weekend schools throughout the country. He has also served on the Branch's Technical Committee and has taught several classes at Summer Schools.

In 1978, he convened the Wellington Region sub-committee which arranged the publication of *The Morison's Bush Collection*, and, later, the Branch's book *Aotearoa Collection*. He was also responsible for the Branch's twenty-fifth anniversary book *Silver Threads*.

Gary has composed several dances, including one published by the RSCDS in Book 37.

He is still dancing and encouraging younger dancers throughout New

Zealand, and in Wellington in particular. In 1991, with the help of a grant from the Memorial Fund, Gary returned to St. Andrews for assessment as to his suitability to become an examiner and was duly appointed as a resident examiner.



*Right: Miss Milligan and Gary Morris, 1962*

*Below: Gary Morris dancing Alec Hay's "Gary Morris Jig" from Morison's Bush Collection, Napier Anniversary Weekend School, 1993.*

