

Wellington Region Committee: Minutes of 3rd June 2025 meeting, Petone Community Centre

Present: Rod Downey, Sarah Epps, Lynne Scott, Lesley Campbell, Elaine Lethbridge, Joy Tracey, Andrew Oliver, Brenda Vale.

1. Apologies from Denise Pitts, Elaine Laidlaw.

Andrew Oliver was co-opted on to the Region Committee (Rod Downey/unanimous)

2. Matters arising from circulated Feb 25th minutes

- Branch hosting for region website still pending. Rod Downey to write (done – information is in April 2025 Kiwi News article.)
- Website backup (item 5)
- Payment details for Basics classes have been done.
- Additional committee members. Andrew Oliver from Linden club was welcomed. Lynne Scott had asked at Upper Hutt but they are struggling to fill their own committee.
- Region Award was presented to Désirée Patterson at Tawa Annual Dance. Lorelee Hyde and Philippa Pointon to be brought forward for Region Awards at a later date.
- Guidelines for use of Region equipment still to do.
- Désirée Patterson now does not mind which of her email addresses is used.
- Possible Branch grant for putative JAMS event not a viable proposition.

3. Bereavements: Gary Morris

Rod Downey to write to ask Elaine Laidlaw for an article on Gary Morris for HCH and also to ask Elaine Laidlaw to send something to HQ/NZ Dancer (done), copying in Debbie Roxburgh.

4. Reports

- Treasurer's Report

Westpac have been difficult but people have been taken off the account who no longer belong, leaving just the President, Treasurer and Secretary.

There are 14 registrations for Advanced Classes but only 9 payments. Treasurer to follow up.

Early Dances Day about broke even but musicians need to be paid \$150. This payment was approved. Lesley Campbell to provide report on the event for 9th September meeting.

Musicians for Basics classes paid at end of classes and for each other region class/event as it happens.

The report was accepted (Sarah Epps/Rod Downey) and the presentation format approved.

- Correspondence report was noted.

- There was no archival report.
5. The Region is happy to go with James Scott's suggestions regarding the website backup, with the addition of purchase of solid-state drive as additional backup. This will be given to Lee Miller. Sarah Epps to discuss this purchase with James Scott

Lynne Scott will thank James Scott for all the help and advice given over this issue.

6. New Dancers' Celebration
The budget was discussed with a view to raising entry to \$15 RSCDS, \$18 for non-members, and spectators and JAMS \$6. Otherwise the budget was accepted.

Andrew Oliver to check how long the band need to set up.

The NDC programme has been circulated to club tutors and Andrew Oliver to investigate whether it can be put in the upcoming June HCH. Andrew Oliver is also to send programme to all region secretaries and Kiwi News.

The next step is to ask clubs for names of new dancers. The intention is to hand out invitations to new dancers personally as happened last year.

It was noted that Ann Oliver has agreed to take the NDC preparation classes.

7. Following feedback from clubs and others, the Wellington region is not happy to hold Summer School every second year. It was suggested that changing between three centres might work with a central co-ordinating team who would then call on local support. Morning teas should also be simplified to fruit and bought biscuits with baking saved for evening events. Starting later but to include Hogmanay would be welcomed as 28th December is too close to Christmas.

Brenda Vale to summarise results of survey (as above) and circulate to committee members. Brenda Vale to write and thank clubs who responded (done).

8. Feedback on Region class was inconclusive. The committee regretted that the Intermediate classes had been cancelled this year because of the poor uptake.
Following discussion, it was decided to run both Basics and Intermediate classes in 2026 using the same format, and then reconsider based on the uptake. Consideration will be given to changing the name of 2026 Intermediate classes.
9. Elaine Lethbridge will check the dates of club annual dances for the September meeting as a precursor to deciding dates for Region events, as booking St. John's hall is becoming difficult.
10. The Region could pay for half a day of hall hire to support tutor development if necessary.
11. Further discussion of applying for a Branch grant will be left to the September meeting. One idea is to bring a tutor or musician over from the 2026 Australian Winter School (28 June, 2026 - 5 July, 2026, Melbourne).

12. Brenda Vale will ask Chris Totten if he is willing to organise 2025 Hogmanay. Chris Totten has agreed to do this.

Carterton have asked the Region publicise their 25th Anniversary Dance on 29th November.

The September 9th meeting will be in Room 4 of the Petone Community House.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm.