

which will be taken by Ann Oliver, on 23 and 30 September at St David's Multicultural Hall in Petone.

**Feedback** – We will send out materials asking clubs if you want us to change the structure of what we offer. Do you want other offerings etc? If you have any thoughts please get back to us in a timely manner as we need to book halls in *September 2025* for 2026!

**Region AGM – 4 November**, 7.30 pm, at Community House, Petone. **Please put the date in your diaries.** *We really need your support at the meeting.* You won't be co-opted to the committee, but we need you to come. This is your opportunity to give feedback to the committee, which will be changing this year!

**Finally**, I hope you all have a great remainder to the year of dancing. Do take advantage of the opportunities above. If you want to contact us and have any suggestions which help us to do better, please e-mail me [president@wellingtonscd.org.nz](mailto:president@wellingtonscd.org.nz) or Brenda, the region secretary, [wellington@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:wellington@dancescottish.org.nz).

We are all in a team together!

### Obituary

Gary Morris passed away on 10 March this year, just before the March issue of Harbour City Happenings was published. At the time, a brief note regarding his passing promised a full obituary in the next issue.

This obituary was first published in the April issue of the NZ Branch publication, *Kiwi News*.

### Gary Wilson Morris

**5 September 1938 to 10 March 2025**

Gary began dancing as a boy in the 1950s in Hawke's Bay. He recollected that in those early days, they danced in the drill hall amongst the tanks and guns. He was an accomplished musician and accompanied the dancers on the piano. The arrival of Madge Laing inspired him to become a dancer.

In 1962, while on a working holiday in Scotland, he went to St Andrews to take his teaching certificate examinations. Because he had travelled so far (on a ship – the only way possible at the time) he was able to spend four weeks at St Andrews, passing his Preliminary Certificate at the end of the first fortnight, and his Teachers' Certificate two weeks later.

Since that time, Gary made several more visits to St Andrews. One of his friends in Scotland was instrumental in Gary being invited to join a group of dancers going to give demonstrations in South Africa in 1974.

Gary worked in different parts of New Zealand and was frequently asked to teach at the clubs he joined. He was in demand as a teacher of day schools, weekend schools

and summer schools throughout the country, also serving on the New Zealand Branch Council and the Branch's Technical Committee.

He was a very supportive trainer of candidates for RSCDS teaching examinations. In 1991 he became an Examiner. When Gary considered it was time to step aside from examining, the RSCDS asked him to be an Emeritus Examiner. In 2003, he received an RSCDS Scroll and in 2004, Life Membership of the New Zealand Branch.

In 1978, he convened the Wellington Region sub-committee that arranged the publication of the *Morison's Bush Collection* and later the Branch's book, *The Aotearoa Collection*. He was also responsible for the Branch's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book, *Silver Threads*.

Gary devised several dances, including *The Reverend John MacFarlane*, published by the RSCDS in Book 37.

In more recent years Gary taught at Lower Hutt and Ngaio clubs. He moved to the Wairarapa in the late 1990s and became a foundation member of the Carterton Scottish Country Dance Club in 2000. He was created a Life Member of the Carterton Club in 2019.

*Elaine Laidlaw, Carterton SCD Club*

Contributions from Katharine Hoskyn

*Sociable Carefree Delightful* A History of Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand

See also several entries about Gary Morris, now posted on the Wellington Region website:

<https://wellingtonscd.org.nz/celebrating-60/people-stories/>

