



Harbour City Happenings

RSCDS Wellington Region Newsletter

Vol 29 No 1 – March 2026

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President's Column

From Joy Tracey, President



What a wonderful start to a new dancing year.

Summer School in Christchurch was a highly successful and enjoyable occasion. A great venue, inspiring teachers, lively musicians and a busy and fun-filled week.

We congratulate Margaret Cantwell and Isobel Harris-Clark

for successfully completing Unit 3 of their teaching certificate in Christchurch. We look forward to supporting them as they continue to teach and work toward their final exams in the future.

Hogmanay – Many of you staying in Wellington enjoyed Hogmanay. Thank you to Chris Totton and his team, for organising this event. It's a busy time of the year and we appreciate the time and effort that this takes. We are looking for a new organiser for this year, as Chris will be at Auckland Summer School as the incoming organiser for the 2027 Wellington Summer School.

Summer dancing – Well, this year it was Weather 2: Dancing 2. What a disappointment. We'll explore options to see if we can find an alternate indoor venue that we can retreat to when the weather interferes with outdoor dancing.

RSCDS Winter School 2026 – I think the winter weather in Scotland was only a little worse than the summer here in Wellington. Maybe a few degrees cooler, but I was able to dodge the worst of the rain when touring before enjoying RSCDS Winter School in Pitlochry. The first few days in Edinburgh and Glasgow were damp but that didn't interfere with dancing. I managed a couple of classes in the Edinburgh area and a branch dance in Glasgow. I was also able to visit the RSCDS headquarters and add more weight to my luggage.

Bereavement – We have been saddened by the loss of Val Malcolm who had danced at Tawa, and John Terris from the Lower Hutt Club.

What's coming up – The dance calendar has been published, both in hard copy and online. A huge thanks to Elaine Lethbridge for her tireless work in pulling this together. Getting information and dates from all region and close region clubs is a mammoth task. Thanks to you all for responding.

The table on the next page highlights the planned region classes and events.

Region Ball – We're exploring the idea of a region ball as this is the region's 65th year. Further information will follow.

We're facing some uncertain times as the fuel supply remains under threat. Not all dancers have electric vehicles, and as many clubs have widely dispersed memberships, this may create challenges. If fuel supplies continue to be available there is still the impact of price. Maybe consider arranging active car pooling for club, classes and events.

We all hope for an early and effective solution to the current conflicts.

Distribution of HCH

Harbour City Happenings is published four times a year – in March, June, September and December.

It is distributed by email to all RSCDS members in the Wellington Region, as well as to club secretaries in the region and region secretaries around New Zealand for further dissemination.

If you are not already on the HCH mailing list, but would like to receive your own copy by email, please contact the Editor editor@wellingtonscd.org.nz.



Event/class	Date(s)	Venue	Time	Cost	Tutor/MC
Early Dances Day Books 13-18	18 April	St. John's Johnsonville	1-4pm	\$15	Elaine Laidlaw
Basics	5, 19 May, 2, 16, 30 June	St David's Petone	Tues 7.30- 9.30pm	\$45 for 5 or \$10 per class	Melva Waite
Intermediate	12, 26 May, 9, 23 June, 7 July	St. David's Petone	Tues 7.30- 9.30pm	\$45 for 5 or \$10 per class	Elizabeth Fergusson
Advanced	4, 25 July	St. John's Johnsonville	1-4pm	\$35 for 2 or \$20 per class	Jeanette Watson
Region Ball	19 September	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
NDC prep classes	22, 29 September	St David's Petone	Tues 7.30- 9.30pm	Gold Coin	Melva Waite
New Dancers' Celebration	10 October	Knox Hall	TBA	TBA	Melva Waite
John Drewry Dances	17 October	St. John's Johnsonville	1-4pm	\$15	Damon Collin

Further information and Registration Forms will be available from www.wellingtonscd.org.nz and from your club. You can ask your club tutor which level may be suitable for you.

Tuesday afternoon dancing

A tribute to Pat Reesby

From Désirée Patterson

In 2018, former Wellington dancer Gaylia Powell initiated the Tuesday Dancing afternoons, to provide dancers with an opportunity to dance more challenging dances that are not always possible in a club setting. At first, these catered for experienced dancers, but following their success, a new 'general' group was started for intermediate dancers.

When Gaylia moved to Christchurch in 2020, Pat Reesby took over the general organisation of these very popular afternoons.

Now, after six very successful years, and following some health issues, Pat decided it was time to hand this role over to a new 'chief organiser'.

Elaine Lethbridge generously stepped up, and immediately organised for the first general session of 2026 to be a 'tribute' to Pat to thank her for her hard work. Dancers

were aware that this would be a special afternoon, but it was kept a secret from Pat.

On Tuesday 17 March – St Patrick's Day – Pat was welcomed with applause from four sets of dancers and Elaine presented her with a gift and grateful thanks from all.





Pat, in the centre, surrounded by four sets of dancers and six tutors (Photo: Joy Tracey)

Afterwards, Pat said, "*It was a surprise to arrive at St John's this afternoon and find that it was all about me! Not St Patrick's Day but St Patricia's Day*".

For this special session, six tutors each taught/briefed a dance – including Rod Downey, who taught a dance called *Patricia Reesby* that he had devised for Pat in 2015, and Iain Boyd, who taught *Out and About*, a dance he devised with Pat in mind. The other tutors were Catherine McCutcheon, Gaye Collin, Damon Collin and Elizabeth Ferguson.

A Walking Scottish Country Dancing Group **A new Wellington initiative**

From Gaye Collin

For a while now, I have been toying with the idea of starting a class of Scottish country dancing for walkers. Are you a dancer who is struggling to maintain dancing through a full dance without pain, breathlessness, stiffness or limbs that just won't keep up with your brain's requests? I have heard about, and sadly watched, dancers leave this wonderful 'brain workout' and 'social togetherness' form of dance and I wanted to stop their departures. Where do these dancers go? Well, to Line Dancing, Mahjong, and walking groups. Ouch! What a loss for us.

This year, the St John's Hall in Johnsonville has become available on the first Tuesday of each month. Elaine Lethbridge emailed me to ask if it might work well for starting the walking group, as we had discussed the idea last year. The hall is good, light and size-perfect, the parking is wonderful, and close to a train station. What's not to like? So, with the help of Damon, and Elaine (and I hope others), I have decided to trial a class for a walking group of Scottish country dancers.

Do you fit the description above? Do you still love the music, the challenge of getting the dance right, the

socialising, the thrill of trying out a new dance, or a new formation? If so, come and join us at St John's Hall in Johnsonville to try out this new class and keep your body moving without the jarring.

We have to start somewhere, so once a month is our starting point. If it proves popular then we can adjust and perhaps do more. So, do you want to give it a go, do you know dancers that have left, and this might work for them too? Let's tap some shoulders and start the first walking group of Scottish country dancers in Wellington.

Please feel free to email either myself or Elaine to ask any questions. Gaye collindg57@gmail.com or Elaine elainea.lethbridge49@gmail.com

The first Walking SCD Class

From Bruce Jones

The inaugural Walking Scottish Country Dancing Class took place on Tuesday 3 March at St John's Hall in Johnsonville. Fiona and I joined around twenty other enthusiastic dancers for this new Wellington initiative, which promises to run regularly on the first Tuesday of each month. Tutor Gaye Collin led the class, bringing her expertise and warmth to the group.

Gaye has designed the class specifically for dancers who find it challenging to complete a full dance comfortably. The focus is on making Scottish country dancing accessible and enjoyable for everyone, regardless of physical limitations.

We enjoyed a familiar mix of well-loved dances and, to our delight, progressed through the planned programme more quickly than anticipated. We were reminded of the importance of changing one's gait as the distance varied through different formations. The atmosphere was lively, with the usual conversations and camaraderie flowing before, during, and after the dancing. The supportive

spirit of the group was evident, and everyone felt encouraged to participate at their own pace.

To mark the occasion, a celebratory photo was taken of all the participants, who proudly declared themselves 'Pioneers' of this walking Scottish Country Dance initiative. This new class continues the joy of dancing, and I look forward to seeing it grow and flourish in the months ahead.



The 'Pioneers' of the Walking SCD initiative
(Photo: Damon Collin)

Scottish Country Dancing in the Afternoons

Each Tuesday at
St John's Church Hall – on the hill, Johnsonville



Would you like the opportunity to dance on a Tuesday afternoon?

St John's Church Hall, up the driveway - corner Ironside & Basset Roads, Johnsonville.
Lovely wooden floor. (Plenty of parking up behind the church).

Time: 12.45pm – 2.45pm

Cost \$5 per session

- 1st Tuesday each month: Walking Group
- 2nd Tuesday each month: Experienced Group
- 3rd Tuesday each month: General Group
- 4th Tuesday each month: Experienced Group
- 5th Tuesday in the month, if there is one: General Group

Walking Group: Aimed at people who love to dance, but find that it is a bit too physically demanding. All steps are walked.

General Group: Dances will be walked (and taught if required). Popular, well-known dances, and some from upcoming programmes. An opportunity to enjoy social dancing with other independent dancers without any pressure.

Experienced Group: Sessions are taken by a variety of local tutors. Dances and/or unusual formations will be taught (occasionally dances may be notified in advance and will then only be briefed). The focus of these sessions is to do dances and formations you are less likely to encounter at club. The dances may be new, or just interesting, or on a theme, or even written by the tutor themselves. This is an opportunity to enjoy dancing with other experienced dancers.

Phone **Elaine (04) 389 3597** or **Maureen 027 447 2312** to find out more.

New Zealand Branch Christchurch Summer School 2025/2026

Contributions from Wellington Region dancers and musicians

From Lorelee Hyde

Thanks to the hard work of Summer School organiser Graeme Plank and his team, Summer School in Christchurch was a great success – from the morning classes, to the optional activities in the afternoon, to the range of evening dances.

It was a treat to dance to fabulous music by musicians from Scotland and around New Zealand. Add in the fun and laughter along with the chatter in every free moment, this was a spirited week of Scottish country dancing, full of fun and friendship.



A great contingent of dancers and musicians from the Wellington Region were at Summer School – the majority of whom are in this photo taken at the President’s Ball. (Photo: Supplied by Lorelee Hyde)

As well as taking part in the dancing and other activities, dancers and musicians from our region made major contributions to the success of Summer School as teachers, MCs, musicians ... and more.

Damon Collin taught the Social Class; Catherine McCutcheon was a shadow teacher in the Examination Class; and Diane Bradshaw was teacher for the Developing Class.



Damon, Diane and Catherine with other teachers at the School (Photo credit: Dance Scottish New Zealand Facebook)

Diane was also MC at the 1920s Fancy Dress Night—a great night with lots of chatter and laughter. Three out of four best-dressed prize winners at the 1920s evening were from the region!



The best-dressed prize winners: Iain Matcham, Nigel (from Dunedin), and Brenda and Robert Vale as hunger marchers. (Photo: Lorelee Hyde)

[See Brenda and Robert’s tale \(and more photos\)](#) about their very creative approach to dressing for the evening.

Musicians Jason and Pip Morris played for classes. They joined other Wellington Region musicians – including Iain Matcham and Keshav Raj – in the massed band on the Final Night.

Unexpectedly, two other region dancers also contributed to this Summer School, as unfortunately the photographer who had been contracted to take the school photos pulled out at late notice. I was asked to take the [class photos](#) and Joy Tracey took the [official photos and videos of evening dances and events](#).

Thanks so much to all those who contributed their time and expertise to making this school such a wonderful experience. The next RSCDS New Zealand Branch Summer School is in [Auckland from 28 December 2025 to 5 January 2027](#). Start planning now for another fantastic week of dancing, music and friendship!

RSCDS Winter School and northern travels

From Joy Tracey

After attending the Christchurch Summer School, I left NZ on 8 January, taking a detour through Norway on my way to Scotland. Norway was colder and white, but breathtakingly beautiful. Witnessing the northern lights dancing above the Lofoten Islands was truly a dream come true.



The northern lights from Vollandstind Peak, Lofoten Islands

Travelling south through Norway by train, I stopped in Trondheim. While exploring the city that evening, I followed the sound of organ and choral music to Nidaros Cathedral, where I discovered that Anna Lapwood was making a live recording with the choir – an unexpected and special experience.

In Oslo, I met Kristian – easy to spot in his kilt – in the hotel lobby, and we set off for a train journey, followed by a brisk, well-wrapped walk. Such a welcome from the club, where I was invited to teach a dance. The evening’s programme included Romaine Butterfield’s *Catch the Wind*, and *The Arctic Circle*, a John Drewy dance written for the Oslo club.

I arrived in Edinburgh in late January under a veil of rain. However, I enjoyed dancing at John Williamson’s class, then with Janet Johnson in Dunfermline, and a Saturday night Branch dance in Glasgow. I packed away my dancing shoes and set off in a wee campervan, travelling through Glencoe, Skye, Harris and Lewis, Torridon, Assynt, and along the North Coast, before spending a few days in Orkney.



The Old Man of Storr, on Skye

Returning to the mainland, I journeyed via Inverness and past Schiehallion to Loch Rannoch, where overnight

snowfall transformed the landscape into a winter wonderland for the drive into Pitlochry.



The snow-covered road on the Island of Hoy, Orkneys

Pitlochry, too, had a light dusting of snow – just enough to enhance the scenery without hindering the walk into town for class. Winter School once again offered a warm and welcoming atmosphere, this time with many familiar faces. The Atholl Palace Hotel, with its gracious old-world charm, added to the experience. Exceptional teachers – Raphaëlle Orgeret, Samuele Graziani, Rachel Shankland, and Alasdair Brown – were supported by talented musicians Ian Robertson, Mo Rutherford, Màrtainn Skene, and David Oswald, all rotating through each class.

The evening function room featured a central parquet floor accommodating four to six sets, with carpeted areas surrounding it. The carpet was remarkably effective at silencing any scuffing. The final ball at Blair Castle was a highlight – an unforgettable evening and a privilege to dance in such a historic setting.



The final ball at Blair Castle

New Zealand was once again well represented – with Wayne and Shelley McConnell from Hamilton, Jeanette and Andrew Patterson from Rotorua, Lindsay Sneddon from Tuakau, and of course, Joy Tracy from Wellington.



The New Zealand contingent

I flew home via Dubai, just hours before a missile strike at the airport disrupted travel. I feel incredibly fortunate to have completed the journey and enjoyed Winter School without interruption – especially in such uncertain times for travel.

Southern Fling and Fringe 2026: Canberra

From Janet Gootjes, Johnsonville SCDC

A great opportunity to catch up with friends.

I had never been to Canberra, so felt compelled to sign up for the *Southern Fling and Fringe* weekend from 27 February to 1 March, booking flights to allow a day to visit Parliament House, the Museum of Democracy (the old Parliament) and the National Gallery – all of which were fabulous.

The Fling was for dancers aged 40 or younger and the Fringe was for the rest of us. There were 12 Flingers and 48 of us in the Fringe section. Thus our class was large and of mixed dancing experience.

The tutors were Clare Haack (Sydney) for the younger lot, and Sarah Wrigley (Melbourne) for our group. Some of you may remember Sarah from Wellington Summer School where she passed her Unit 5 exam.

Musicians were Matthew Robertson, who is the musical director for this year's [49th Australian Winter School in Melbourne](#), and David South (plus guests).

Sarah, who managed our large group with aplomb, chose dances which we were unlikely to know (not hard in my case!) and I have forgotten the names of all of them except [The Fair Isle Stacs](#), a 32-bar four-couple strathspey which includes a 'meanwhile' (first couple dance 1/2 fig of 8 round 2s etc, meanwhile 3rd and 4th couples dance ...) and a sideways ladies' chain. A nice dance and no

video exists, so perhaps Johnsonville could rectify that one day?

We also danced a triangular dance – a medley J/S/R that initially collapsed spectacularly all around the hall, but we got it right in the end.

There was a Welcome Dance on the Friday and a Ball on the Saturday – both programmes had good representation from New Zealand devisers, including *Catch the Wind* and *The Bonnie Tree* by Romaine Butterfield, *Seton's Ceilidh Band* by Bruce Fordyce and *Best Set in the Hall* by Helen Greenwood.



Janet enjoying dancing *The De'il Among the Tailors* at the Welcome Dance

Photo: Southern Fling and Fringe 2026 Facebook

In summary, a fun and very well-organised weekend, and a great opportunity to catch up with friends from Winter and Summer Schools.

Johnsonville Club – from Christmas cheer to St Patrick Day's celebrations

From Kristin Downey

Christmas lunch at Café Thyme was a fun and relaxed way to close Johnsonville's club activities for the 2025 dancing year, with 18 members enjoying the (unexpected, but very welcome) sunshine, good company and the good



Johnsonville members relax in the sunshine, 2025 Christmas lunch at Café Thyme (Photo: Maura Beattie)

food to be had. Thanks to Maura Beattie for organising this lovely event.

Summer School in Christchurch kept quite a few of our members in dancing mode over the summer club break, taking in classes, costume opportunities, and evening events.

Hogmanay celebrations in Wellington were also a drawcard for at least 14 Johnsonville members, some for the first time, others Hogmanay regulars. On the J'ville club website, members [Pat, Fay, and Moira share what they found so special about the 2025-26 Wellington Region Hogmanay](#).



Johnsonville dancers Maureen, Bruce and Fiona at Hogmanay (Photo: Fay McGregor)

Beginners' Classes in February saw Johnsonville members returning early to dancing, supporting 41 keen beginners at the club's three classes at Khandallah Town Hall. Credit is due to all those who worked behind the scenes organising a very successful advertising campaign, including newspaper ads, hardcopy posters and online posts. And of course to tutor Rod Downey, for his enthusiasm in bringing the fun of SCD to all those new dancers.



Colourful roadside billboards attracted lots of beginners to Jville's beginners' classes (Photo: Kristin Downey)

Special thanks to [Collective First National](#) real estate in Johnsonville for the amazing roadside billboards they supplied – they had a great impact, drawing in lots of beginning dancers. [An article by club member Wendy Dunphy](#) also encouraged prospective beginners, as Wendy enthusiastically described her instant connection with the music and dance at 2024 beginners' classes.

Club Nights in March brought back remaining club members, and a set and a half of beginners wanting to learn more about SCD. New dancers bring new life to the club, and it's especially nice to see a wide range of ages amongst them. Welcome to all.

St Patrick's Day celebrations launched Johnsonville's live music nights for 2026, thanks to Jason Morris who has once again volunteered as 'club musician'. We look forward to dancing regularly to his music at club nights throughout the year.

St Pat's is always a light-hearted night, with Rod's programme of Irish-themed dances, and matching tunes to get our toes a-tapping. More than 50 dancers filled the hall, including three first-timers – a grand introduction to the fun of Scottish country dancing. And a chance to dance Rod's newest Irish-themed dance [Irish Breakfast Tea](#), [The Parting Glass](#) with its amazing set of tunes, and old favourites like *The Wild Geese* and *The Irish Rover*.

Club members made the night extra-special, creating a sea of Irish green on the dance floor. Club bard Aline Homes enlightened and entertained us all with supper-time shamrock tales, and Elizabeth Ngan and Elizabeth Judge served up amazing themed supper treats. [Read Robert Vale's article on this excellent start to the 2026 year](#), with more live music and celebrations coming up.



Themed supper delights (Photo: Kristin Downey)

Upcoming – 20 April: Tartan Night with Jason Morris, Hilary Ferral and Shane Rempala – Join us at Khandallah Town Hall for a night of easy dances, most walked, and new dancers very welcome. See the programme elsewhere in HCH or [download from the Jville website](#).

Later in the year – 22 August: Johnsonville celebrates 60 years of affiliation with the RSCDS – This year's shared annual dance with Capital City will be our time to celebrate with the SCD community. This year's venue is Crofton Downs School Hall, with plenty of space for the Region's dancers to come along and celebrate with us, and enjoy an exciting four-piece band of Lynne Scott, Rebecca Warnes, Heather Elder and Katie Scott. Look out more info closer to the time.

Lower Hutt SCD Club

From Chris Connolly

The beginning of the year is a busy time in the dancing calendar. Lower Hutt Club, like most clubs, starts dancing at the beginning of March, and it was lovely to catch up with everyone last week at the first club night of the year. With St Patrick's Day falling on a Tuesday, we celebrated on the Monday. The Irish theme dances were a big hit, and green was definitely the colour of the night!

New tutors in 2026 – Andrea Wells and Chris Totton stepped down from teaching at the end of last year, after three years. As has been a Lower Hutt Club routine for years, we rotated teachers, bringing Diane Bradshaw and Susanna van der Gulik to the helm. Each will teach two weeks 'on', two weeks 'off', and share teaching on special nights. Rotating the teachers gives club members a fresh approach every three or four years. We learn to adapt to different teaching styles, and each teacher brings different dances for us to try out, so win, win! Neither Diane nor Susanna have taught a club as the main teacher so it's a new experience for them too. However, they both taught at Summer School recently – Susanna in Wellington (2024/25), and Diane in Christchurch (2025/26)

Dancing on 'holiday Mondays' – As usual, we will be dancing on Easter Monday, and all visitors are welcome. So, if your club doesn't dance on public holidays, you're very welcome to come and join us. On Monday 1 June, King's Birthday Monday, we have planned a royal theme. We would love to see people dressed in red, white and/or blue or other royal-themed attire. If dressing up is not your thing, it's not compulsory, just come and enjoy an evening of dancing on this holiday weekend.

Another theme night – Monday, the 4th of May is International Star Wars Day (May the Fourth be with You!). Star Wars has a special place in tutor Diane's heart (a boyfriend took her to see the first Star Wars movie for their first date). Come dressed for Star Wars and bring your light sabre, if you have one, or just come anyway! There will be a prize for the best dressed, and spot prizes after some of the dances. The programme will be a mix of theme dances and known dances re-named for the night; see if you can work out their real name. The band for the evening will be our own Jason Morris, and Andy Nicol visiting from Auckland (the force is strong in these two musicians). All who feel (or want to feel) the force, are welcome to join us for the evening.

Available soon – a new dance book and CD – Gaye Collin is preparing her seventh book of dances called "*Beginners & Just Beyond Basics*". She has commissioned a CD for this book, produced again by Marian Anderson and her band, and hopes to have it available by late August/early

September this year. The process is very interesting. Marian and her band go into a studio in Scotland, where, over about three days, the CD will be professionally recorded, mixed and engineered. The master then gets shipped away to be pressed. Along with 12 dances of Gaye's in the new book, there is one dance devised by **Jason Morris**, a Lower Hutt Club member of many years, and a musician himself, and one from **Damon Collin** who is the Club President this year. Marian has composed several lead tunes for the dances in the book, including Jason and Damon's dances. How special is that! Gaye says it is a mixture of excitement and terror producing a book and CD, and of course the bank balance takes a hit too. Lots of emailing to Marian and some WhatsApp calls along the way.

Missed Club members – Sadly for the Lower Hutt Club, this season we will feel the absence of two of our members: Janice Henson, whose death in mid-2025 many of you will know about, and John Terris, who died on 2 February 2026, at age 86.

Reverend John James Terris (QSO) 1939 – 2026

We were all amazed to learn John's age, as he'd been dancing with us as recently as November 2025. Although for the last few years he no longer stayed for the whole night and would sometimes sit and watch the sets during a more difficult dance, when he was on the floor, you would not have thought he was in his mid-eighties.

Damon Collin recalls being a little surprised when, twenty something years ago, John walked through the door of the Epuni Community Centre with the clear intention of learning how to dance. To be fair, dancing didn't come easily to John. He had to concentrate. John's wife Katie once told Damon and Gaye that dancing was the one thing John did when he had to put everything else out of his mind and really focus. At that time, John had only recently left the role of Hutt City Mayor, so he was very well known to our members. Katie asked if we could encourage club members not to talk to John about politics or Council matters, and we heeded her wishes.

John had his favourite people that he would make a beeline for to secure them for the next dance. But after a few years' dancing, once he had become familiar with quite a few dances, he was also quick to offer his help by dancing with new dancers. Katie, in a wonderful note to the club, divulged that one of the reasons John came to dancing was because of his Scottish heritage, of which he was immensely proud. He wore his McLean tartan kilt to Saturday night dances and when we had tartan nights at club, he would always turn up in his tartan trews, perhaps the only person in New Zealand who had a pair! Katie

told us that John was buried in those tartan trews. John has done his last *Pas de Basque* and has cast off one last time to the bottom of the set.

We will remember you John, RIP.

Ngaio SCD Club

from Wendy Donald

Ngaio SCD Club held an enjoyable first night on Thursday 5 March, welcoming some beginners too, to the first of four classes. It was pleasing that most of last year's new dancers were back – keen to be with us and to learn more. We had supper together afterwards, with lots of time to chat and catch up after the long summer break, and to get to know the beginners too.

Our first event will be our Annual Dance, to be held on Saturday 30 May in the lovely Ngaio Town Hall, from 2:30-6pm. An afternoon dance has proved popular, with dancers staying and dancing until the end! Planning is well underway, and we'll offer a substantial afternoon tea, later in the afternoon, to sustain us, and any who will drive home some distance, afterwards. For us and our guests, our tutor Melva Waite has a lovely programme of popular dances. The poster is available on the Region website and elsewhere in this issue of HCH.

We have a busy year ahead, as our Annual Dinner Dance will be in August, and we will be hosting the New Dancers' Celebration in October.

Diary of upcoming events (to mid-July)

Flyers and programmes of many of these events are listed further down.

- Sat 18 April – Region Early Dances Day (Register by 11 April)
- Sat 2 May – Manawatu Club Annual Dance
- Tue 5 May – Region Basics classes begin (Register by 28 April)
- Tue 12 May – Region Intermediate classes begin (Register by 6 May)
- Sat 16 May – McDonalds' Family Ceilidh
- Tue 19 May – Region Basics class (2)
- Tue 26 May – Region Intermediate class (2)
- Sat 30 May – Ngaio Club Annual Dance
- Tue 2 June – Region Basics class (3)
- Tue 9 June – Region Intermediate class (3)
- Tue 9 June – Region Committee Meeting
- Sat 13 June – Tawa Club Annual Dance
- Tue 16 June – Region Basics class (4)
- Tue 23 June – Region Intermediate class (4)
- Sat 20 June – **Closing date for June Harbour City Happenings**
- Sat 27 June – Linden Club Annual Dance
- Tue 30 June – Region Basics class (5)
- Sat 4 July – Region Advanced class (1)
- Tue 7 July – Region Intermediate class (5)



Johnsonville Tartan Night

Khandallah Town Hall

11 Ganges Rd, Khandallah

7.30pm, Monday 20 April 2026

Music by Jason Morris, Hilary Ferral, Shane Rempala

Irish Breakfast Tea (J) R Downey – Rātā & Wheki

Mr Michael Bear's Reel (R) S Phillips – Graded 2

The Birks of Invermay (S) 16/2

The Australian Ladies* (R) R Campbell –
Glasgow Assembly

Blue Bonnets (J) 3/5

The Reel of the 51st (R) 13/10

Supper

The Black Dance (R) 12/10

Lady Glasgow (S) Miscellany

The Express* (J) 20/11

The De'il Amang the Tailors (R) 14/7

Our first Tartan Night of the year is designed to give new dancers the opportunity to dance to live music. Dancers in their first year are welcome to join us, and try a night at a different club.

- Adult \$5.00 Student \$0.50
- Dances marked* are unsuitable for dancers who started this year, but otherwise fine for all
- Most dances walked





NGAIO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
Invites You to Join Us for our Annual Afternoon Dance
at Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Road, Ngaio

Saturday 30th May 2026 at 2.30pm - 6.00pm

Admission	\$18.00
RSCDS Members	\$15.00
Spectators & Juniors	\$ 5.00

Programme

J	Ecclefechan Feline	Quandry
R	Shiftin' Bobbins	Ormskirk
S	The Paisley Weavers	Graded 3
J	Seton's Ceilidh Band	Book 53
R	The Button Boy	Allanton
S	*** Triple Happiness	Book 52
J	Pelorus Jack	Book 41
S	City of Belfast	Book 48
J	The Luckenbooth Brooch	Book 53
R	The Deil Amang the Tailors	Book 14

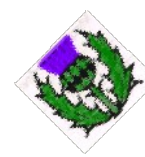
Afternoon Tea

J	Granville Market	Graded 2
R	The Montgomeries' Rant	Book 10
S	The Robertson Rant	Book 39
R	Scott Meikle	Book 46
J	*** Farewell to Balfour Road	Book 52
S	Sauchie Haugh	RSCD leaf 12
R	Trip to Bavaria	Collins Pocket
R	Mairi's Wedding	Cosh

*** Experienced dancers



**Music provided by Jason Morris,
Hilary Ferral and Shane Rempala**





RSCDS NZ Branch Inc. Wellington Region Region Event 2026

**Early Dances Day
Saturday 1 - 4.30 pm**

April 18

Tutor: Elaine Laidlaw

Books 13 - 18

Cost: \$15

Please bring a water bottle

Intermediate Skills

For dancers who are familiar with all common steps and formations and have a reasonable level of fitness. You can dance familiar dances from a briefing and maintain correct footwork, phrasing and hand positions throughout.

You would typically have been dancing for at least 2 years.

Please check with your club teacher if you are unsure if the Early Dances Day is at the right level for you

Venue: St John's Anglican Church Hall, Bassett Rd, Johnsonville.

Registrations – to be received by April 11 (a week before the class)

Please complete the online registration form by clicking [here](#) or go to the website wellingtonscd.org.nz





RSCDS NZ Branch Inc. Wellington Region Region Classes 2026

5 Evening Classes - Basics Level

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm

May 5, 19, June 2, 16, 30

Tutor: Melva Waite

Cost: \$45 for all five classes paid when registering; or \$10 cash per class

(It is best if you attend all classes. This allows the teacher to develop your skills from those taught at earlier classes)

Please bring a water bottle

Basics Skills

For New Dancers or dancers wishing to consolidate their knowledge of basic steps and formations. **You would typically be in the 1st or 2nd year of dancing.**

Expect to: -

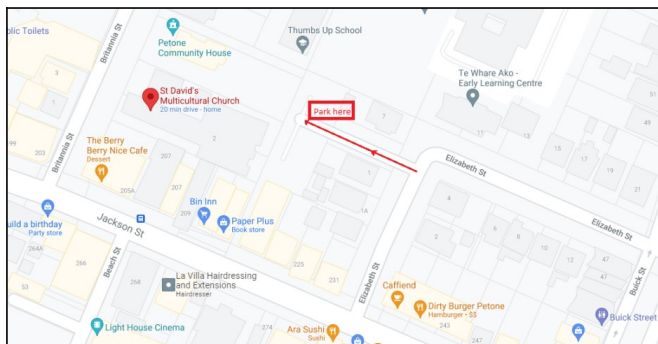
- Revisit the 5 basic steps – Skip Change, Pas de Basque/Setting, Slip Step, Strathspey Travelling, Strathspey Setting
- hone technique eg improving rhythm, hand and foot positioning, shape and timing/phrasing.
- integrate the above into some or all of the following formations – Poussette in quick time, Reel of Three, Allemande, Promenade, Grand Chain, Ladies Chain, Corners...perhaps more.
- dance these within suitable dances.

Please check with your club teacher if you are unsure if Basics is the right level for you

Registrations – to be received by April 28 (a week before your first class)

Please complete the online registration form by clicking [here](#) or go to the website wellingtonscd.org.nz

Venue: St David's Multicultural Church Hall, down the drive off **Elizabeth St.**





RSCDS NZ Branch Inc. Wellington Region Region Classes 2026

5 Evening Classes - Intermediate Level

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm

May 12, 26, June 9, 23, July 7

Tutor: Elizabeth Ferguson

Cost: \$45 for all four classes paid when registering; or \$10 cash per class
(It is best if you attend all classes. This allows the teacher to develop your skills from those taught at earlier classes.)

Please bring a water bottle

Intermediate Skills

For dancers who are familiar with all common steps and formations and have a reasonable level of fitness. You can dance familiar dances from a briefing and maintain correct footwork, phrasing and hand positions throughout.

You would typically have been dancing for at least 2 years.

This course is progressive. The first three classes will be at a lower intermediate level, progressing to a higher intermediate level for the last two classes.

Expect to: -

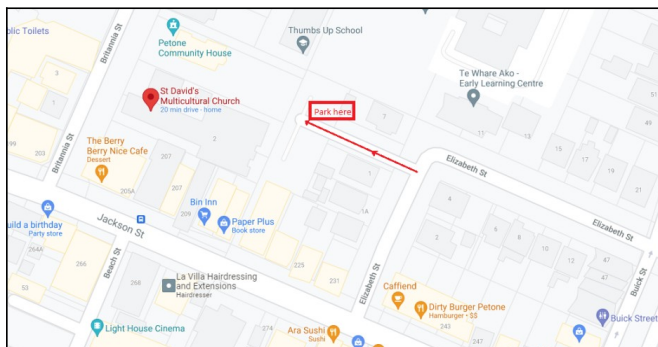
- Improve the accuracy of your steps, including transitions.
- hone technique eg improving teamwork, shape and phrasing.
- integrate the above into some or all of the following formations – Double Triangles, Strathspey Poussette, Turn Corners and Partners, Rondel, Set and Link, Set and Rotate, the Knot, Reel variations...perhaps more.
- dance these within suitable dances.

Please check with your club teacher if you are unsure if Intermediate is the right level for you

Registrations – to be received by May 5 (a week before your first class)

Please complete the online registration form by clicking [here](#) or go to the website wellingtonscd.org.nz

Venue: St David's Multicultural Church Hall, down the drive off **Elizabeth St.**



STAR WARS

LOWER HUTT SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

invites you to

A STAR WARS NIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL STAR WARS DAY.

7.30pm Monday May 4th 2026 at Eponi Community Hall
Music by Jason Morris and Andy Nichol
Entry \$5 or \$4 for LH members

R2-D2 & C3PO (J)

MAY THE 4th BE WITH YOU (R)

THE MILLENIUM FALCON (S)

THE DEATH STAR (R)

LUKE & HAN'S JIG (J)

CASTLE OF YODA IT IS (S)

SPIRAL GALAXIES (R)

GOOD HEARTED TATOOINE (J)

**DANCES IN *ITALICS* ARE
RENAMED FOR THE EVENING
CAN YOU GUESS THE DANCE?**

All dances will be walked through
Join us for supper at the end



Capital City Deviser's Day 2026
Sunday 10th May 2.30 ~ 5.00pm
at Newtown School Hall



New dances **devised by Peter Beaumont**.
The afternoon's programme will be **taught by Jeanette Watson**
and is suitable for intermediate and experienced dancers.

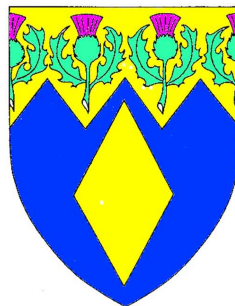
Guest Admission \$7

Free parking available on site in school grounds,
Mein St Newtown.



**Capital City Scottish
Country Dance Club**

Capital City Club Birthday Celebration
Thursday 28th May, 7.30 – 10.00pm
at Newtown School Hall



All welcome, for a fun evening of lively dancing.

Jeanette Watson MC; live music by Lynne Scott and friends.

Guest Admission \$7

Free parking available on site in school grounds, Mein St Newtown.

Capital City Scottish Country Dance Club.



Ashhurst Scottish Country Dance Club

Formations Workshop on Shape, Phrasing and Covering
Tutor: Catherine McCutcheon

Saturday 9 May 2026

10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

(Morning tea from 9.30am, afternoon tea from 3.00pm (both provided); BYO lunch)

Whakarongo Community Hall
Cnr Napier Hwy & Stoney Creek Road, Whakarongo

Fee: \$20.00

- Have you ever wondered about putting the finishing touches on common intermediate formations?
- Are you sometimes back to place too soon, or running late?
- Do you want to dance as part of a team?
- Come and spend the day with Catherine McCutcheon!

For further information, please contact Joy - email ashhurst@dancescottish.org.nz; mob. 0277 762 397

Please pay by Direct Credit to **BNZ 02-0630-0344422-000** (Acc. Name - Ashhurst Scottish Country Dance Club) by 2 May 2026 with your name as a reference, and email the form to ashhurst@dancescottish.org.nz OR pay at the door on the day. You may also post the form to 967 Finnis Road, RD 14, Ashhurst 4884.

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Please complete the details below and post or email to Joy Parsons (address below) by **2 May 2026**

Ashhurst SCD Club Day Class
Formations Workshop – 9 May 2026

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

CLUB:

SIGNATURE:

PAYMENT:

Please pay by Direct Credit to **BNZ 02-0630-0344422-000** (Acc. Name - Ashhurst Scottish Country Dance Club) by 2 May 2026 with your name as a reference, and email the form to ashhurst@dancescottish.org.nz OR pay at the door on the day.
Postal address: 967 Finnis Road, RD 14, Ashhurst 4884