

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO LOWER HUTT SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB – NOVEMBER 2023

I am delighted to present this 69th Annual Report for the Club for the 2023 season.

We commenced the year with our biennial six week new dancers' classes in St David's Hall, Naenae. Of the 11 interested dancers first registered, at least five have continued to attend the club on a regular basis. My thanks to the club members for their ongoing encouragement of the newbies. The separate classes in the back room, give extra confidence, as did the 6 week Region course at St David's in Petone, run by Elizabeth and fully supported by our Club members. Thank you to Catherine McCutcheon, Susannah van der Gulik and Elizabeth Ferguson who took turns at taking the new dancers in the back room during the season.

Congratulations to Chris Totten and Andrea Wells who took on the challenge of sharing teaching the Club this year. They are the youngest teachers in the Wellington Region and it has been wonderful to see their confidence develop over the year. They have sought and acted on suggestions from our more experienced tutors, to the benefit of us all.

Susannah van der Gulik has continued to take the children's class, but has struggled for numbers, sometimes with just her own children to teach. She has indicated she is not available to take the class in 2024 and the Club will be looking for a new junior tutor. Young people are our future and we welcome suggestions for how we continue to nurture this group.

I simply could not have done the job of President without the support of our Secretary, Elizabeth Ferguson. The weekly newsletters have been extremely well received and almost negates the need for my weekly 'notices'. Thank you Elizabeth.

Family nights, held throughout the year, coinciding with School Holidays have proven to be popular (particularly the last one in September) and has introduced families to the recreation we all love. While so far there has been no budding dancers wanting to come on a regular basis, we have sown the seed for the future.

The mid-winter evening, with superb music from Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman and Mary McDonald, was once again a fun night. The mulled wine and Christmas cake proved a winner.

Our Annual Dance on 2 September, confidently MC'd by Chris and Andrea, with music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris, was enjoyed by everyone who attended. 2024 is our 70th year and we will be pulling out all stops to make sure this milestone is celebrated in style.

16 dancers from Lower Hutt attended the New Dancers' Celebration in Masterton held on 7 October, including three of our first-year dancers.

As we wind down to the end of another dancing season, I thank you all for being part of our dancing family and look forward to catching up again in 2024.

Janice Henson

President