

Upon her return to Wellington, she taught the beginners' group at Johnsonville, where Marjorie Crawford was teaching the main club classes, and she filled in for Marjorie on occasion.

Since returning to New Zealand for good, Barbara has been a regular member of the Tawa Club, and has filled in as teacher occasionally.

## Elizabeth (Betty) Redfearn – Died 29 March 2017

*From Bronwyn Maysmor*

It was with much sadness that we learnt of Betty's death in March 2017. She was tutor of the Kelburn SCD Club in Wellington for 46 years up to her retirement from teaching in May 2015. Betty made a huge impact on dancing in Wellington immediately following her arrival in New Zealand in 1968.

She was born in Lochgilphead, Argyll, Scotland in 1940, where she would have started Scottish country dancing at school. She emigrated to Winnipeg, Canada, in 1957, along with her parents and brother Neil. She was one of six foundation members of the Winnipeg Scottish Country Dance Society founded in 1959, having answered an advertisement for members to join the new group. In 1962, she became a Canadian citizen and a life member of RSCDS.

Betty started teaching Scottish Country Dancing in Winnipeg and completed her full certificate at St Andrews. She was instrumental in starting the first children's class in Winnipeg and also taught in London, England. She met her future husband Peter in London and they married in Barnard Castle, Durham, (Peter's birth place), in November 1966. Around this time, Peter was looking for a new job. He applied for and got a job in New Zealand studying the New Zealand native shellfish toheroa. And so he and Betty set about starting a new life in New Zealand.

Having arrived in Wellington in 1968, it soon became known that Betty was a qualified tutor of Scottish country dancing, and Kelburn Club was delighted to ask her to be their tutor when their current tutor Mirth Smallwood moved to Rarotonga. So began her long association with the Kelburn Club. She devised the dance *The Kelburn Reel* (published in the Morison's Bush Collection) for the Kelburn Club's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1969, and *The Ruby Reel* for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She was a joint deviser of *Won't You Join the Dance* with Gary Morris and Edith Campbell, composed for the Golden Ball in 1973,

and was choreographer of a floor show at the Region Ball in 1975. In March 1975, Betty and Marjorie Crawford were joint Region Tutors and together produced a pageant depicting the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 for a City of Wellington Pipe Band Tattoo at the Basin Reserve which involved nearly 100 dancers in various roles.

Betty travelled back to Canada on many occasions and in 1988 was invited to teach at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the original Winnipeg Society becoming a Branch.

Betty taught at numerous day, weekend and summer schools in New Zealand. She had a long association with Peter Elmes. In the early 1970s, Betty was asked to teach a day school but to her surprise and disappointment, was told that musicians did not play for classes. As usual, Betty thought things through and suggested to Peter that he should enrol for the class as a dancer. Peter turned up on the day carrying a very large case and needless to say, his accordion came out during the course of the class.

She was one of the hosts when Miss Milligan visited Wellington in 1974. Betty was Vice-President (1985-87) and President (1988-91) of the Wellington Region and Convenor of the NZ Branch Technical Committee 1996 and 1997.



Betty, with Ian Taylforth, at the Government House Ball in 2012

Betty began her working life at a time when computers were only just beginning to be widely introduced into the commercial world. After arrival in New Zealand, Betty was employed by the Fisheries Research section of MAFF, which later became NIWA (National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd) to assist in the setting up of their computer network and she continued in this job up to her retirement in 2006. However, she loved nothing more than joining the NIWA vessel *Tangaroa* on its

research trips out into oceans and mucking in with the boys, gutting, weighing and recording details of fish.

Following her retirement, Betty became a *Walk Wellington* guide, meeting the cruise ships and taking tourists on guided walks around Wellington. As with all things, she thoroughly researched interesting and less commonly known facts about Wellington and gave amusing and informative commentaries. She was also a Victoria University exam supervisor, was a member of Probus and the local Garden Club, and undertook book deliveries for the housebound.

Betty never lost her love of travel. She was a prolific reader of travel books and would widely research the countries she wanted to visit. In recent years she and Peter did a safari through South Africa and toured Europe, meeting up with their daughter Justine along the way. Even two months before she died, knowing she had little time remaining, she and Peter visited Canberra, thereby ticking off another destination on her bucket list.

Betty loved looking out new dances on the internet – one of these was *The Cranberry Tart* which became a favourite of the Kelburn Club.

Betty will be very much missed for her extensive knowledge of the technicalities of Scottish Country Dancing, for her historical recollection of facts and for her wisdom and common sense in dealing with any issues at Region and Branch level. As the members of the Kelburn Club got older and less able to move as quickly as younger dancers, she placed emphasis on the joy of the dance and finishing in the right place at the right time with a smile on one's face.

*Sources: Peter and Justine Redfearn, Peter Elmes, NZ SC Dancer Magazine*

## A Tribute to Betty

*From Désirée Patterson*

Last Saturday night, the Kelburn Club, where she was a teacher for 46 years, held a Memorial Dance in honour of the late Betty Redfearn. The club put in a tremendous effort and it was a wonderful evening. Photos of Betty and friends adorned the walls of the hall, the Saltire hung proudly from the wall, and just before supper, a haggis was brought in ceremonially, preceded by piper Doug Sinclair, and John Gregory recited the "Address to a Haggis" by Robbie Burns.



The dance programme was made up of some of Betty's favourites and a selection from Annual Dances she had MC'd over the years. The MCs for the evening were Elizabeth Ferguson, Ann Oliver and Chris Totton. The eight or more sets on the floor had a wonderful time, dancing to the lively music of the four-piece band, consisting of Peter Elmes (fortunately well enough to play all evening despite a recent stint in hospital), Aileen Logie, Don McKay and Hilary Ferral.

The evening was attended by Betty's husband Peter and daughter Justine, as well as friends who had travelled from as far away as Auckland and Dunedin. Despite it being a memorial, it was a joyful occasion – an opportunity for old friends to catch up and reminisce, and a perfect tribute to a great lady.

## Last Gallop in Cromwell

*From Brenda Vale*

Despite living in New Zealand for 20 years we had never been to Cromwell or down the west coast of the South Island, so the chance of combining a weekend of SC Dancing with a trip south that was forced to avoid SH1 seemed too good to miss. As a result we registered for the Otago Region Easter School 2017. At least it seemed a really good idea until Cyclone Debbie wound herself up into a wet and windy frenzy. However, when we arrived in Cromwell early Friday afternoon, life had dried out and we had time to inspect old Cromwell. The Scottish dancing began with a social dance that evening, just up the road in Bannockburn.

With 60 people registered for the weekend, and more coming for the dance, it was a bit of a squash to get the necessary three sets across the hall. However, it made for a muck-in-together atmosphere and despite knowing no-one there, we were soon part of dances we had never heard of before, thanks to some walk-throughs. Thanks to Maureen and the experienced dancers at Tawa Club who had drummed the diamond