

1994 ANZAC WEEKEND SCHOOL

The recent Wellington Region Weekend School has now become a pleasant memory. Twelve months planning suddenly becomes reality and in such a short time it's all over. Just three weeks before the school was due to start there were some concerns over the numbers, but with some friendly persuasion to all the new dancers in the Region, and fast talking to the others it ended up one of the biggest schools we have had, with almost 200 registered by the Friday evening.

The weekend got off to a good start with a large number attending the opening social, certainly a lot of chattering went on with dancers meeting up with old friends and making the new ones feel welcome.

From comments heard over the weekend it would appear that everyone enjoyed their classes and a lot of notes were being compared! It was a pleasure to be able to welcome Morag and Keith Napier from Sydney, to the Region, and to have Morag teaching the Advanced Technique class. She certainly kept us moving and we thank her most sincerely for her patience, and for giving the dancers the benefit of her knowledge and expertise. Thanks must also go to our other visiting teachers, Rhoda, John and Betty and our own Region teachers, David, Betty and Barbara for the work and patience they put into their classes. Thanks also to our resident musicians, Merren, Lyn, Peter and John for playing for the classes as well as the Ball and Ceilidh.

In addition to the Advanced Technique class Morag took the Combined Class, Sunday afternoon, and a General Class, Monday, - both had a large number attend which would test the skills of any teacher, but Morag just made it all look so easy. The dancers responded to her calm, relaxed manner, and with her great sense of humour soon had everyone enjoying themselves. Sitting on the sidelines watching was a great experience!

The Social activities were also a great success. With around 200 attending the Ball the hall was a little cramped, one had difficulty in stretching the legs and it was a good lesson for keeping the elbows in, but with the Band playing in superb form it all made for a happy, relaxed atmosphere and a good time was had by all. Congratulations and thanks must go to Barbara and her group of dancers for the demonstration performed at the ball. They had spent many hours practising and it was well worth the effort. The Ceilidh had the same response, and once more the talent of some of our dancers was obvious with the items performed.

The catering staff did a magnificent job in keeping the dancers sustained with food for the lunches, morning and afternoon teas, and suppers. At lunch time they probably thought the queue was never coming to an end.

It was another great weekend school for the Region and a big thank you must go to Marjorie, her committee and all the willing helpers for their efforts prior to, and during the school. To all the dancers in the Region and our friends from other Regions thank you for your support, and let's hope we can have a repeat performance in 1996!

Carol Smith
Region President.