

"HAPPYNING" - 1991

Those of us who attended the "EXTRAVADANCA" of 1989 looked forward with anticipation to the 1991 Region event. We were not disappointed.

The evening began with pre-dinner drinks - a time to talk and mingle.

Dinner was delicious and available in abundance; conversation around the tables was lively and continuous.

Our Regional President, in his welcoming speech, encouraged us to take advantage of the opportunity to talk and socialise. This advice was well received and its application made the evening a truly "Happy" event for all the "nings".

The programme originally caused some concern - many of the dances were not well known - but, on the night, the feared difficulties did not eventuate. Those who knew the dances helped those who were not so sure, and a general spirit of tolerance turned the occasional embarrassing moment to laughter.

A highlight of the evening was an awe-inspiring demonstration by the six dancers from the Region demonstration team.

Then we were changed from spectators to participants again as the time flew with reels, jigs, strathspeys, maxinas and two-steps until midnight, like Cinderella, we rushed off to our carriage.

The organising committee are to be congratulated for a successful night. It is a pity only 110 took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy it when there could have been 150!!

Alan M. Kemp
Wainuiomata.

"HAPPYNING '91

On Saturday 20 April I attended the Wellington Region's HAPPYNING '91 at Southwards Car Museum. Not having been to such an evening before I didn't really know what to expect. What I got was an evening of friendship and dancing, and not even the bad weather could dampen spirits.

Over pre-dinner drinks there was an opportunity to meet dancers from other clubs, some from as far afield as Gisborne, Tauranga and Blenheim. A well presented 3 course buffet meal followed with a good variety of hot and cold dishes available. As usual I rather overestimated my ability to sample everything!

Before long the music of Peter Elmes' band called everyone into the hall where a mixed programme of Scottish Country and Ballroom dancing had been arranged. A wonderful display of three intricate

dances by a skilled group of dancers who had obviously spent a lot of time practising was the highlight of the evening for me, and everyone else judging by the enthusiastic ovation.

Although the (still reasonable) cost may have been prohibitive to some, I felt it was money well spent and congratulate the Region Committee for an excellent evening. I shall certainly not hesitate to attend future events.

Shirley Kalogeropoulos
Wellington Club.

WELLINGTON REGION DINNER/DANCE

20 APRIL 1991

No doubt encouraged by the success of the 1989 venture, Wellington Region returned to the Southward complex at Paraparaumu to host another Dinner-Dance. I myself have a preference for this type of evening apropos a Ball, as it affords everyone a better chance to mingle, chat and generally catch up on news with fellow dancers - not easily achieved at a straightout dance evening. This is particularly appreciated when one comes from further afield, when the chances to socialise inter-Region are fewer and also more difficult when a stretch of water intervenes!

Beginning with an informal, friendly get-together over pre-dinner drinks, an ample, excellent smorgasbord meal was followed by dancing to the Peter Elmes trio ably compered by Maureen Robson. The varied programme contained some dances I rarely come across or else were quite unknown, and it is always interesting to try something new, especially when they are easy to "pick up". The Region "Demo" is always keenly awaited and appreciated, and this year's was no exception. It is good to see new faces (Feet?) coming forward to dance in these displays. Wellington has such a wealth of talent to call on, in all aspects of S.C.D.

Those who attended certainly had a great evening out, and what a lovely surprise to be greeted with a refund when checking in! (shades of the 1989 Winter School). My only regret was that more were not present; another 20 to 30 dancers would have made all the difference. Surely this function could have mustered better support from a Region as large as Wellington, and this must have been something of a disappointment to hardworking organiser, Bill Hudson and his committee. They say "it pays to advertise" and I am convinced this is so. I wonder if more could have been done to promote such a major event in the Region's calendar.

However, for those who did attend there was fun and fellowship in an ideal dancing venue. Congratulations to all concerned.

Dorothy Wilson
Blenheim.