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## EASTER WEEK-END SCHOOL WELLINGTON 1992

The attractions of another week-end school were too strong for many of us in the North to resist. Consequently, on Good Friday at 2.30pm we were to be found meeting up with old friends at Onslow College, Johnsonville, for Registration and our first class. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, and to get together for the Ceilidh that evening, at which we were entertained by, among others, a group of visitors from Doncaster in England.

Saturday, from 9am to midnight plus, passed in a flash of sustained enjoyment - Classes were great, with the most expert and patient (Oh, SO patient!) of tutors. The optional afternoon classes, where we had the chance to try our hand (and feet) at something different, were a lot of fun too. Let me say here congratulations to Kath Burn - and all her helpers - who took charge of the catering. Never has there been better food at a school: always piping hot and beautifully served. What's more, we always seemed to be offered "seconds".

The 18th century ball crowned a magnificent week-end. The majority of dancers wore lovely period costumes, while the outstanding decorations and chandeliers in the hall enhanced the scene to best effect. Briefing by our M.C.s, Damon, Lord of Normandale, and Betty (my apologies: Elizabeth), Duchess of Naenae, was superb; as was a faultless demonstration of The Lancers Quadrille. It will be a long time before the dazzling vision of white periwigs, colourful brocade coats and bustles fades from our memories.

Sunday afternoon was car rally time: and what an enjoyable event that proved, combining a little gentle mental exercise with much impressive sightseeing. As was the case throughout the weekend, the weather was kind, and we saw the beauty of the Capital City from every angle.

(As a matter of interest, for those who claimed that the rally was biased in favour of Wellingtonian competitors, the three man winning team included visitors from Christchurch and Hong Kong!)

Sunday's entertainment concluded with a Barndance. I am running out of superlatives, but the originality and fun of the varied programme delighted all present.

Our final class on Monday was followed by a combined class, at which tutors each produced something new and lively to dance. It was all so enjoyable that we did not fully realize till it was all over that our feet and legs were telling some of us we had had enough!!!!

After final fond farewells we all went our separate ways - our hearts and minds full of the wonder of Scottish Country Dancing and dancers, and full of praise for all those who had helped to organise such a brilliant week-end school. Thank you all so much.



Peg Tonks

FOOTNOTE : On the night of the Ball, about a dozen of us from the motel donned our finery - flowing gowns of satin, lace and glitter and the men in brocade breeches, lace ruffles and elaborate jackets - for the drive, in three carloads, to that celebrated centre of gastronomic elegance, MacDonalds, where, to the amazement of bystanders we queued for hamburgers and chips. We ate these, oblivious of the stares of the surrounding company. Later when one group stopped at Liquorland for supplies, the staff served them with great aplomb - but called after them as they walked out: "And please clean up after your horses!"

THE WELLINGTON EASTER BONANZA  
as seen by one from up-over.

One evening Moira came into the Doncaster class and announced that she had been invited to teach at the Wellington Easter School - should she accept?

"Certainly, you go and we'll come along to carry your bags." It started out almost as a joke, but then we realised it was an opportunity to visit places new which we had thought we would never get to see.

So plans were laid and money saved until eventually in early April, 11 of us set off to accompany Moira down-under. Three days in Singapore, a quick tour of Sydney, and then we were there. What had we let ourselves in for?

Four days and three nights of non-stop activity which made up one of the best organised dancing courses I have attended. From the moment the course started it ran smoothly and efficiently. One can only admire the dedication of all those who must have spent endless hours into achieving this end result. The highlight for me was the Saturday evening 18th Century Ball. This was an event to savour, dancers resplendent in fantastic costumes, and brilliant decorations around the hall. The recapping of the dances in a courtly Old English style gave the final touch. The non-dancing events, Harbour cruise and car rally, gave us a chance to see a lot of your beautiful city in a short space of time. Yet, however smoothly an event is run it is only as good as the atmosphere it generates. I will always remember the weekend for the overwhelming friendliness with which we were received. We were made to feel welcome, not as visitors from afar, but as fellow Scottish Country Dancers.

Thank you, Wellington, with a special indebtedness to those who took us into their homes and made the long journey so worth while.

Alan Dixon  
Doncaster Branch, RSCDS.

### EASTER SCHOOL

Easter School was wonderful. All too short and all too hectic.

I was privileged to be in Dorothy Wilson's class, - Advanced, which I thoroughly enjoyed. We usually had four complete sets and her MUSIC, dances and tutoring was great. Shall always remember her 'conversations' ie. eye contact and covering with our partners and general enjoyment of doing our very best at all times. Thanks Dorothy.

The school under the very able reins of Val Scoble went - as far as we were concerned!, without a hitch. There was such a happy atmosphere throughout. The evening functions were well attended and the items at the Ceilidh were superb. Felt the rendering of 'Sloan Square' by our friends from UK was a never to be forgotten event.

We billeted two, Jean and John Staniland and so enjoyed meeting them all and talking to them. I hear from those who participated in the rally, that it also was a great success. I know a lot of work went into the preparation for this event.

I personally did not enjoy the Barn Dance so much but it was an experience not to be forgotten and again a very, very happy evening. The 'Item' was superb with Carol at the helm and two members of my own Plimmerton Club. All great.

The Ball of course was 'something else'. The ball gowns and mens attire was a sight not to be forgotten. How elegant we looked in days gone by. The dances too were 'different' and thoroughly taxing but most enjoyable.

A commendation to the cooks and those not seen! All of high quality and excellent flavour. No delays either and plenty for late comers. In fact, all in all, EXCELLENT and a credit to those on the committee (and others) who all participated.

I would like to record my thanks to you all.

Elizabeth Brown  
Plimmerton/Linden Club.

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#### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.