

***When did you start dancing with Johnsonville Scottish Country Dance Club?***

February 2019 as a beginner

***How did you get into Scottish country dancing?***

I have always idly thought I would like to try some form of dancing. Judy Keats, a friend of mine from Newlands Baptist Church, would talk about Scottish Country Dancing and it was her that put the idea in my head to give it a go. Judy was a member of JSCDC, some of you will remember her and husband Don. They recently moved, to Paraparaumu and now dance at Waikanae. I went with them to the first beginner class of 2019 and the rest is history.

***What do you most enjoy about SCD?***

I love the style of dancing. It is physically and mentally demanding which I keep convincing myself is good for my wellbeing. My memory is constantly challenged and I still feel safer dancing with an "intelligent" dancer as Rod refers to the more experienced, so I can be confident of being reminded of what formation comes next. On the other hand, I find it satisfying when dancing with a new dancer and helping them – it reminds me how far I have come.

The social aspect of the club is great – meeting new people in the community who are very passionate about their dancing. I have enjoyed meeting dancers from other clubs at a variety of area dances where I find myself now walking into a room of familiar faces.

***Tell us a bit about any Scottish connections you may have.***

My Scottish claim to fame is as follows -

Just last week I was in Christchurch (where I was born and bred) visiting my sisters. I was looking through family albums and came across this photo of my Dad, Ken, in a kilt. Other than being my Dad I felt an instant connection and sense of excitement seeing him in a kilt. This is a result of doing SCD. Dad, at the age of 18, was called up for territorial service in 1942 joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scottish Regiment which was in camp in Dunedin at the time.



On another note I have always had a liking of the bagpipes.

***What sorts of activities have you been involved with at the club over the years?***

Besides the regular club nights I have enjoyed Tartan nights, the annual dance and midwinter dinner dance. I have yet to experience the January Ceilidh which I look forward to at some point. We are often away at this time of the year. These activities are great for connecting further with club members.

I have helped the club where I can – namely as a Supper team member, washing table cloths and sorting out the bunting after special dance nights and helping set up for Hogmanay 2019 when Johnsonville was organising it.

***What club activity stands out for you?***

Club nights. I like the challenge of learning new dances, perfecting steps and formations with a bunch of friendly people. I particularly like it when we have live music.

***Tell us something about your life outside of Scottish country dancing.***

Ross, my husband, and I have 6 children. Our third one died suddenly at age 22 months of age in 1989. Four others live in Wellington so we spend time meeting up with them over coffee, meals or walking.

We have 3 grandchildren whom I care for 2 afternoons a week after school and other times as required. Another son lives in London presently. He and his wife are expecting their first child in October – yah another grandbaby but disappointingly in London.

Pilates and walking are weekly events often climbing Mt KauKau. I potter in the garden, dabble in card making, enjoy baking and trying any new recipe. I look forward to reading the Dominion Post each morning and completing some of the word puzzles. I attend Newlands Baptist Church and through this support people in the community in various ways.