

KELBURN SCOTTISH



COUNTRY DANCE

CLUB

1959-1984

The Kelburn Scottish Country Dance Club had its origins in 1959 when Mrs Peggy Barnett, a very active member of St Michael and All Angels Church, felt that there was a need for a social activity as a focus for the younger parishioners. In conversation with a friend, Clare Taverner, Scottish country dancing was mentioned as a possibility. Clare, herself a dancer at Eastbourne Club, mentioned that she knew a Mirth Smallwood, who was a certificated Scottish country dancing teacher and who might be able to give some assistance. Mirth at the time was teaching at both the Wadestown and Lower Hutt clubs but nevertheless was willing to help. Mrs Barnett co-opted the church organist and choirmaster, Ralph Dyer, and his wife May, and with the support of the vicar, the Reverend (later Bishop) McKenzie a club was formed. Ralph was both secretary and treasurer and the Reverend McKenzie president. Initially the club consisted of church members, a number of them attending after choir practices. The first non-Anglican dancer was probably Bruce McKenzie, who lived next door to Mrs Barnett.

The first annual report on file is that for the 1962/63 year. In part it reads:

"The Scottish Country Dance Club completed its third year in a very healthy state in respect both of its finances and also the physical condition of its members.

Financially the club has a credit balance of 41.12.1 pounds to start its 1963 season.

During 1962 we got a little more organised and affiliated with the Wellington District Branch of the NZ Scottish Country Dance Society and adopted the title of the Kelburn Scottish Country Dance Club.

Attendance at the weekly dances has been well maintained with an average of 20-30.

The end of the 1962 season was marked by a most successful dance held in the Training College Hall with an attendance, including many visiting clubs, of well over 100."

Apart from a short period in the early days Mirth took the classes continuing until 1961 when she went overseas. During her almost 2 years absence Peter Dyer (no relation to Ralph), helped by Peg Hutchison,

carried out the teaching. On her return Mirth resumed teaching the club until 1966, when she went to Rarotonga. She also took over the duties of secretary in 1963, when Ralph and May went to Geneva. After Mirth's departure the teaching was for two years handled on a roster system between Peg Hutchison, Eddie Greenlees, Peter Dyer and Gary Morris. Late in 1968 it became known that a certificated teacher had arrived from overseas and would be living in Wellington for a period. She was approached by the club and began taking the classes in 1969. She was of course Betty Redfearn, who is still teaching us fifteen years on. During the part of 1973 that Betty was not able to teach, Mirth and Peg temporarily replaced her and in 1981, when she was granted "study leave", Elaine and Michael Laidlaw each took the classes on alternate Wednesdays. Over the years several now well-known teachers either took the beginners' classes or practised with the club's dancers for their certificates.

The church hall in which the club first danced was replaced with the current building about twenty years ago. Whilst construction was in progress, dancing carried on in the nearby Kelburn School hall.

The annual formal dance was held in the Wellington Teachers' Training College Hall until 1969, when the hall was demolished. The Karori Community Centre was the venue for the next three years and since 1973 the Wellington Girls' College Hall has been used. The door charge at the first dance in 1962 was 5 shillings (50 cents) and twelve years later in 1974 had only increased to 75 cents. It jumped to \$1 in 1976 and doubled to \$2 three years later.

Until 1983, when an annual subscription charge was introduced, only a nightly charge was made. Originally this seems to have been 1/6 (15 cents), increasing gradually to the current 50 cents in 1978. Despite those modest charges and fluctuating attendances (some years an average of only twenty dancers) the club has always remained solvent.

The club has been, and still is, a very active member of the Wellington Region of the New Zealand Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and over the years has run several dances and day schools on the region's behalf.

Patron

Reverend King	1969-1971
Archdeacon Joblin	1972-1978
Reverend Cook	1979-

President

Bishop McKenzie	1959-1965
Reverend King	1965-1969
Una Robertson	1969-1971
Peg Hutchison	1971-1976
Bruce McKenzie	1976-1982
Jim McKinlay	1982-

Vice President

Peggy Barnett	1959-1964
Una Robertson	1965-1969
Peg Hutchison	1969-1971
Joan Heppleston	1971-1979

Secretary

Ralph Dyer	1959-1965
Mirth Smallwood	1965-1967
Ailsa Coutts	1967-1977
Beth Duncan	1977-

Treasurer

Ralph Dyer	1959-1965
Marjorie Mitchell	1965-1969
Chris Lusk	1969-1971
Ian Williamson	1971-1976
Lynette Ayers	1976-1977
Malcolm Fergusson	1977-1978
Peter Redfearn	1978-

Committee Members

Peter and Doris Dyer	1959-1963
Gloria Butcher	1962-1965
Glynn Heppleston	1962-1966
Lou Nicholls	1967-1969
Joan Heppleston	1968-1970
Peg Hutchison	1968-1969
Chris Lusk	1967-1969
Bruce McKenzie	1964-1965
	1967-1971
	1982-1983
Una Robertson	1971-1973
Ian Williamson	1969-1971
Betty Bennie	1969-1973
Les Nichols	1967-1973
Beth Duncan	1971-1977
Stella Brown	1973-1976
Louise Joblin	1976-1978
Peter Redfearn	1973-1978
Ruth Rider	1976-1978
Beatrice Parsons	1977-1978
Norman Whitston	1977-1980
Anne Young	1978-1980
Malcolm Fergusson	1978-1982
Lesley Friend	1980-1981
Edna McCarthy	1980-1983
Jim McKinlay	1980-1982
David Whyte	1978-
Alton Angel	1981-
Sheila Keene	1982-
Ruth Fitchett	1983-
John Ihaka	1983-