

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

Around 1990

How did you get into Scottish country dancing?

While at university in Hamilton I was involved in ballroom dancing. For years, a friend who had done Scottish Country Dancing since childhood tried to convince me to give that a go. Eventually, near the end of the season in 1972 I went along to Hamilton Club – I was hooked from the first night and never went back to ballroom dancing!

What do you most enjoy about SCD?

Everything – the music, the wide variety of dances (I particularly love reels and strathspeys), the fun and laughter when dancing with seven other people in the set, the friendships made around the world (I have danced in Australia, Canada and Scotland), the etiquette, the challenge of always trying to improve aspects of my own dancing, the wonder of how dancing stimulates and exercises both mind and body.

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

I have Scottish heritage on my father's side of the family.

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

I was Club President for three years in the late 1990s. Sadly, over 44 years of dancing I have suffered many leg injuries and I can no longer dance the whole evening. My interest in photography is allowing me to continue my involvement by taking photographs at Club events to add to our history. I was also Editor of Harbour City Happenings for five years which included writing about Club activities.

What club activity stands out for you?

The excitement and atmosphere of bigger events such as our Annual Dance – the live music, decorations including the Club bunting, supper and visitors from other clubs!

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

I've worked in marketing and communications for non-profits for many years – with this experience, I enjoy producing promotional material for the Club including designing dance posters, co-managing the Club's Facebook page and now working on a Club website. Outside of work and dancing, I enjoy tramping, walking in the bush, gentle cycling, adventure travel, photography and bird watching.