

## TRIBUTE TO MARIE MALCOLM (1921-2011)

from *Margaret Sparrow* (Ngaio Club member since 1980)

Marie died peacefully in her sleep on 26 March 2011 at Longview Rest Home, Tawa, five weeks after celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a luncheon party on Saturday 19 February. At her birthday party a set of eight dancers tutored by Maureen Robson danced three dances to the music of Peter Elmes. At her funeral fiddler John Smith played the original tunes for three of Marie's favourite dances (1) the jig "Pelorus Jack" (2) the strathspey "The Minister on the Loch" and (3) the reel "The De'il Amang the Tailors" as well as her enduring favourite "Mairi's Wedding". At both her birthday party and her funeral many Scottish Country dancers joined friends and family in paying tribute to a remarkable woman – dance tutor, lover of music, teacher, scientist, traveller, cyclist, gardener, tennis player, champion swimmer, maiden aunt, cat lover.

She is remembered by Ngaio club dancers as a strict tutor dedicated to upholding the traditions of Scottish Country Dancing with attention to the basics. It was only a stroke in August 2008 at the age of 87 that forced her to stop teaching after 37 years. She also served as Region Secretary for 12 years, stepping down in 1983.

Marie was proud of her Scottish heritage and her high achieving Malcolm ancestors including Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm buried in St Paul's Cathedral and his brother Major General Sir John Malcolm buried in Westminster Abbey. Her father was a vicar and Marie was born in Waipukurau. After secondary schooling at Whanganui Girls' College and Nga Tawa (Anglican) Diocesan School, Marton, Marie attended Victoria University, graduating BSc at age 19. After gaining her Diploma in Education she taught at Napier Girls' High School then at schools in Hawera, New Plymouth and Dargaville before working as a chemist for the DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) and also for a short time at Taubman's Paint.

In 1949-51 she was based in London for the OE where she held a variety of teaching jobs and did a lot of touring, often by bicycle. Back in New Zealand she resumed working at the Dominion Laboratory then went to the Patent Office progressing to Chief Chemical Patent Examiner. When Marie retired in 1981 she did a BA in classical studies and made several study tours with a historical focus.

Before Scottish Country Dancing, Marie went square dancing in the Kilbirnie Church Hall and someone there told her about a group of Scottish Country dancers who met in Thistle Hall. This group had started in 1949 and in 1951 became the Wellington Scottish Country Dance Club. Marie liked the Scottish Country Dancing

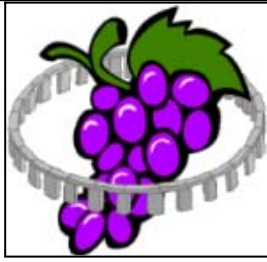
because of its form and its music. After Thistle Hall she danced at Lower Hutt where the teacher was Gary Morris. It was Peg Hutchison who persuaded Marie to go to Summer Schools at Lincoln (1967/68), then Massey, Palmerston North (1969) and it was after that she decided to do her teaching certificate.

Mirth Smallwood was given permission to hold classes for the Preliminary test in 1970 and the Teacher's Certificate in 1972. Marie was in a class of six. The three other women were Marjorie Crawford, Barbara Gill, and Glenys Mills. The two men were Ian Simmonds and David McFarlane. Examiner, Mrs Florence Lesslie, travelled to Wellington from Te Awamutu to conduct the examinations and all six passed.

Marie formed the Ngaio Club as an offshoot of the Kelburn Club, started by Mirth Smallwood in 1959. In 1970, after passing her Preliminary test, teaching at a new club seemed to be the best way to gain more teaching practice. Amy and Alford Dornan and Eric, Isla and Gaye Norris were Kelburn Club members who joined the fledgling Ngaio Club. The Ngaio club danced for the first eight years in the McLeod Hall, a Presbyterian Church Hall in Ottawa Road then for the next three years in the Band Hall near Ngaio Station. Since 1981 the club has danced in the Ngaio Union Church Hall.

Marie tutored Maureen Robson and Philippa Pointon who both became certificated teachers. Maureen recalls how helpful Marie was in devising a booklet of ten easy dances that she could use for her children's class. From 1983 to 1998 Gary Morris assisted Marie with club teaching. In 1974 Marie was involved in the three-week visit of Miss Jean Milligan to New Zealand organised by the New Zealand Branch RSCDS and in 1986 she was one of the six NZ RSCDS Branch members who attended the RSCDS festivities in Glasgow to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Miss Milligan.

Marie had many international connections through Scottish Country Dancing and attended schools in St. Andrews, Vienna, Hamburg, Australia and Canada. In October 1983 Marie led a tour of Japan. She was a member of the Teachers' Association of Canada and one of the last dances she devised, "TAC 50", a 1x64 hornpipe, was published in 2008 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Teachers' Association of Canada. The dance was dedicated to her niece Jean Malcolm. Teachers were asked to submit dances for inclusion in the *TAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collection*. Some 400 dances were submitted and Marie's was one of 14 dances selected. A fitting end to a long and distinguished association with Scottish Country Dancing.



## RSCDS NZ Branch Summer School Wairarapa

**28 December 2011 to 5 January 2012**

**Where?** Accommodation will be in the Copthorne Resort Hotel, Masterton

**Classes?** Classes will be held in a number of school and church halls. Most are within 20 minutes walk of the accommodation.

**Functions?** Some evening functions will be in the Makoura College Hall.

Hogmanay and the President's Ball will be in the Masterton Town Hall.

**What can you, as dancers in the Wellington Region, do to help?**

Plan to attend the school, as this is a great opportunity to experience tutors from outside the region whether it be in classes for dancers or musicians.

### **Tutors include**

David Queen and Angela Young (UK).

Janet Favel, Jeanette Lauder, Philippa Pointon, Betty Redfearn, Maureen Robson and Debbie Roxburgh (NZ).

George Meikle – Musicians' Course (UK).

Katharine Hoskyn – Exam Class (NZ).

Christine Mair – Tutors & Mentors Course (UK).

### **Organiser – Contact**

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## Thank You Mr Simmonds

Linden Scottish Country Dance Club invites you to a Tea Dance to celebrate Ian's many years at our club.

Redwood Hall  
Redwood Avenue  
Tawa

12 June 2011  
3.30pm - 7.00pm

Cost \$10.00 RSCDS \$12.00 non RSCDS



### Programme

1. The Brudenell Jig	J	2nd Graded
2. Catch the Wind	R	Bk 45/5
3. Oriel Strathspey	S	Bk 32/2
4. The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J	Bk22/10
5. Mrs MacLeod	R	Bk6/11
6. Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S	RSCDS Leaflets
7. The Starry Eyed Lassie	J	Bk23/11
8. John Of Bon Accord	R	Bk33/5
9. The Linden Anniversary Strathspey	S	Linden Coll V1
10. The Blackwater Reel	R	Bk 41/9

### TEA

11. Blue Bonnets	J	Bk3/5
12. Balquidder Strathsepy	S	Bk24/2
13. L for Linden	J	Linden Coll V2
14. The Five Row Reel	R	Linden Coll V1
15. The Gentleman	S	Bk35/5
16. Mrs Stewart's Jig	J	Bk 35/1
17. The Reel of the Royal Scots	R	RSCDS Leaflets



### My personal remembrances of Marie Malcolm

from Eileen

I met Marie playing tennis at Salamanca, as a result she suggested I join her SCD Club at Ngaio. Along I went, to be welcomed by a great group. Isla, Eric and Gaye Norris, Arthur and Margaret Elliot, Nan and John Fraser, Janet and John Rowlandson, Maureen and Alan Robson.

Nearly 40 years on, I still enjoy club evenings though dancing days are over. Marie kept the equipment and records (yes, records in those days) at home. We would help to take it back to Kenya St. Then there was the big evening, our Formal. Marie organised this, plus giving us jobs cleaning the hall. For some years I was toilet cleaner. No apple in the fruit salad. We wore white dresses with our sash definitely on the left shoulder. No trousers. Christmas came with each year a party at Kenya St. Dancing on a neighbour's lawn until time to go inside for a lovely meal to which we all contributed. Marie provided a delicious ham. Then more dancing and carols. After the children grew up, we grew old, finally Marie could not manage. Thank you Marie for giving us so much. We will always remember you.