



**WANGANUI**  
**ROCK'n'ROLL**  
**club inc.**



**post - nationals**  
**november 11 newsletter**



# COMMITTEE 2011 / 2012

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**Secretary:** Jacky Adam 345 5972 (assistant Kathy Hylton) **Treasurer:** John Williams 344 6309

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**Hall Bookings:** Donna Burns 343 9554 & Pete Sorenson **Fundraising:** Marlene Holloway,

**Catering Coordinators:** Christine Williams 344 6309 & Diane Butters

**Competitions & Events Coordinators:** Committee / Karen Gadsby / Alex Pirikahu

**Masters Games:** Jacky & Kelvin Adam

## FULL COMMITTEE:

Donna Burns, Jacky Adam, Kelvin Adam, Christine Williams, John Williams, Gill Pirikahu, Alex Pirikahu, Kathy Hylton, Shane Williams, Marlene Holloway, Karen Gadsby, Doug Broughton, Barry Barnes, Dianne Butters, Paula Mosen, Michael Wallace, Scott Greenlees, Shona Good, Tom Worrell, Kath Mence, Pete Sorenson

**TUTORS & HELPERS:** Head Tutor - Gill Pirikahu, Danny Burns, Shane Williams

**HELPERS:** Alex Pirikahu, Kathy Hylton, Scott Greenlees, Kath Mence, Karen Gadsby, Helen Cowen, Shona Hood

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*check out our website:*

**[www.wanganuirocknroll.org.nz](http://www.wanganuirocknroll.org.nz)**

*and our facebook site:*

**<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10813298426>**

## MEMBERSHIP

Family: \$50 Couple: \$45 Adult: \$35 Child: \$20

(some conditions may apply)

***Have a look at our Facebook site for videos and photos of club members in action around the countryside- Join up and interact with each other via the net - it's great fun, and so easy . . .***

**<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10813298426>**

***see Kelvin or Gill if you want some of your photos loaded onto it***

# Prezzy's Report...



That time again and so much has happened since our last newsletter. Most of the past 3 months has been practice, practice, practice for everyone.

NATIONALS 2011 - and what a fantastic weekend we all had, absolutely brilliant. Thanks to the Association for allowing us to host the Nationals, it has been so rewarding to our club and we will certainly think about hosting another one further down the track - haha!!

232 competitors this year, not bad considering the world cup was on.

First of all I would like to thank all our competitors for putting on such an awesome display of dancing, I wouldn't like to have been judging, such a difficult job with a few surprise winners, but that's rock n roll. To the club supporters - you are an inspiration to your dancers, getting behind them all with your help and support. The atmosphere was electric and we have had so much positive feedback. Thank you one and all. By this time all clubs should have received their banners back and I haven't heard of any that haven't. The DVDs have been all sent out and once again Jim you have made a brilliant job.

Our hall has had its facelift which has been underway for a few months now. New paint job throughout and new pictures on the wall panels make it look nice and fresh. Thanks to all who have helped over this past year. Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Keep on a Rockin - Donna

**Christmas Break** Closedown 7th December  
Begin 11th January 2012

**WOT'S  
ON !!**

March 10 West Coast Regionals @ our hall  
May 5 Birthday Hop with "Tequilla"  
June Central Districts Fun Challenge  
July 14 Club Champs

## Nationals Sponsors

**The club gratefully thanks the following sponsors for their help in our recent Nationals Competition. Very much appreciated**

**Mitre 10 • Pak n Save • New World  
Countdown • Stevo's • Industrial Foods  
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Brisco's • McDonalds  
Aramoho 4 Square  
The Waterman**



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discovery is the adventure

# Castlecliff Ball

- 30 July 11

The theme was "Glitz & Glamour" and for \$20 a ticket John and I decided to go. Jacky & Kelvin had a 90th to go to and missed a good night. Barbara & Des joined us, being lucky to get door sales tickets. Only 100 sold this year.

We went to Judy & Owen's for nibbles and wine where Karen Devantier dished out tiaras' to all us girls to compliment our ball gowns. Karen Bullock looked lovely in her new frock and even our men scrubbed up well.

Off to the club where the danceband was Harmony Showdown. Helen Cowen met us at the door and was lucky to get a door sales ticket too aye Helen!!

Some of my favourite dances were the Monte Carlo and California Blue. Owen & Judy won a prize for the best danced couple and an indian couple won best dressed prize.

Always a good supper with the club helping out with corn fritters, sandwiches, cream puffs etc. The tables looked elegant dressed with red roses. All in all, a nice night out.

thankyou Christine W



## Dougie Turns 60 . . .

thankyou Christine W

Dougie turned 60 on 31st August and celebrated with a party at the RSA on 2nd September, the day Wendy celebrated her birthday too. We met at 5.30 with the official party starting at 6.30, with a haka greeting Wendy & Dougie as they came through the door. Dougie's mokopuna were in the haka and the girls and boys performed this really well. Dougie's sister Louise was MC for the night. Nohi said a prayer followed by speeches from family members. John spoke on behalf of RnR club mentioning how Dougie was

always very keen on helping the young kids at club. Debbie spoke for Wendy and a stone carving, made by his nephew from the South Island was presented by Dougie's brother Christopher and sister Lorna. It had a 'hei' pattern at the top. Koru meaning new beginning (coming of age now he is 60). Heaps of meaning to maori and a beautiful gift. Nohi gave him a glass sculpture, once again with a lot of things maori in it. Julie West (Crag) came from Mt Maunganui and Mary Nissen came from New Plymouth (ex members from the club and Dougie's first rnr partners), who also spoke a few words.

Then we were treated to the Rarotonga Culture Group where ladies and girls performed then got our men up from the audience to do the traditional dance. After cutting the cake the littlies went home and the rest of us eventually made our way to the main club and danced to 'Paradise'.



# Working B's...

Well, we've had heaps of working bee's before, but in the twelve years I have been in the club we have never had such a huge one as we have just finished (almost). With Senior Nationals now only a few weeks away it was earlier decided to once and for all do a decent clean up of the hall, meaning a complete repair and repaint of the walls throughout. Shona was nominated foreman and with her team of "willing" helpers, met over several weekends to clean and paint almost everything you could throw (neatly) paint at. Alex had arranged for the local naughty boys (Corrections Work Party) to do all the preparation work, which included filling the cracks (heaps of them) and plastering, sanding, and bringing the walls into a suitable state for the big repaint. Thanks to the Corrections people for doing this for us, they did a great job and made it so much easier for us to finish off. The hall is now painted 'half tea' and all

that remains to do is paint our signage and 'Elvis' 'Marilyn' 'Cliff' etc images on the white panels which now cover the shabby old windows.

A fantastic job all you guys that helped - you know who you are . . .



# Another 'Old Bugger' Turns 60 . . .



Grey is fast becoming the predominant natural hair colour in the club, but come Saturday night and there were pinks, blondes, brunettes and all sorts, but no grey.

'Lucky Lips' Phil Holloway finally joined the elite 60 year olds of the club and celebrated with a rave up at the hall on 3 September.

Lots of Phil's rellies were there including his many grandchildren who had a great time dancing with the oldies to the music.

Not often you see Phil lost for words but he was a bit emotional when it came his turn to talk and I can understand that Phil, you are only 60 once aye. Make the most of it old feller . . .



# Guess who the Baby Photos are

Baby Photos	
Jacky Adams	12
Shane Williams	5
Dianne Butlers	3
Paula Mosen	9
Andrew Mence	1
Donna Burns	8
Helen Cowan	10
Kate Mence	2
Danny Burns	6
Scott Greenless	4
Karen Gaddeby	7
Marlene Holloway	11
Kelvin Adams	13

\$2.00 to guess all photos.

# Cute Bubby Competition

Thankyou Marlene for holding our baby competition. All babies were very cute aye, and the results are on the right of the photo.

Some were pretty obvious (they are still pretty cute - haha), and some took a bit more to work out.

Jacky won after a dead heat with Donna, and straws were drawn out of a hat.

# RSA Demo 17 September 2011

Our club was invited by Cristian Costache of Constant Soundz to perform a demo during his DJ set at the RSA. We were all for it as our last demo there had been very well received and we'd had a lot of fun. The timing was pretty good too, as our National routines were in place (more-or-less) and well practiced (kind of...), and it would be a good test of how we stood up to performing them in a higher adrenalin environment.

What we hadn't really considered was the effect the clashing World Cup rugby game would have. Because of this the RSA itself was barely a quarter full and our people, dressed in full Rock n Roll gear, made up a fair proportion of those in the room. Finding a seat was no problem.

However, a lot of our members that we had counted upon turning up were missing as well (record the damn rugby guys!), so the list of planned events had to be rather shortened. The first event - Restricted - became a Restricted/Masters, with Helen and Michael (being the only restricted couple) taking the floor with Phil and Diane for a slow song.

Two of our Golden couples were in attendance, so Alex and Kath got up with Scott and Shona. We sorted out that slight mix-up and were reunited with our usual partners by the time the slow song started.

The next event was announced as Restricted but ended up a combination of Masters and Same Sex. So Phil and Diane, Paula and Karen, and a spontaneous Kath and Shona danced to a fast song.

The latter couple slightly regretted filling in the Same Sex portion as they were then expected to dance another fast song in the Golden category. Kath suddenly realised her shoe was untied and then that her number had fallen off, so the Golden Fast start was delayed a few minutes. By a stroke of divine luck, it was just the right amount of time required for her to get her breath back properly...

Because everyone who was in Golden is also involved in Triples (the next event) we had the DJ play a few filler songs of his choosing while we got changed/our breath back/a drink/a towel/something for nerves. The last option was definitely part of it for the Scott/Gill/Paula triple - they had a fast routine that was not only still rather in tatters, but also contained three extremely brand-new jumps and one existing jump that hadn't been practiced in quite awhile and had the potential to go badly wrong. However, they grinned away, determined to complete all jumps, no matter what. The concentration on remembering the unfamiliar bits caused Scott to mess up a couple of easier moves that would never have normally happened, but they recovered pretty well and did a credible job. The Alex/Shona/Kath combo (includes fries and a drink!) ended up having a couple of unscheduled meetings on the floor during the songs, so it appears they also have some issues to be sorted. Their coach looked to be really getting into the music because his head was shaking a lot. No worries guys, heaps of time before Nationals... not!

Due to the lack of people, the atmosphere of the night never really took off properly, and we couldn't help but feel a bit sorry for DJ Costache being pitted against Australia and Ireland. By the time Triples had finished we had heard that St Johns Club was pumping nicely in spite of the rugby, so, still in full RnR gear, we went there to claim a bit of dancing space with Emerald, and a fantastic night was had by all.

Thanks to the RSA, Constant Soundz and all of our dancers.

A Pakistani immigrant goes to a Doctor and says "I feel terrible".

The Doctor says "You need to pee and poop in a bucket for a week, throw in a dead fish and a rotting cabbage. Put a towel over your head and inhale the vapours for 3 days".

The man does this and goes back to the Doctor and says "I feel wonderful!! What was wrong with me?" "You were homesick.."

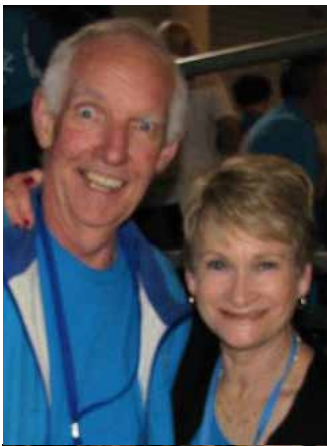
# 2011 Senior Nationals

hosted by us @ the Memorial Hall, Labour Weekend 2011

Friday morning 21st October 2011 and I am writing a few notes prior to the Nationals getting underway. I went to the Memorial Hall last night after work for a peek to see how things were going. Pristine is how I would describe it. A beautiful evening and the hall was looking magnificent with all the tiered seating almost finished and most of the tables in place. The floor has recently been sealed and varnished and looks fantastic. What a great event centre for Wanganui the Memorial Hall is; please please Council, don't convert it into a library or something silly. We need this venue to be kept as it is. Right in the centre of the City, there are not many cities in NZ who can claim such a prize.

Preparation has been ongoing for months. First I came up with the logo design and sorted quotes for the badges. Consultation with Debra Neil re competitors numbers and programme and we ordered 400 badges split two ways - 232 Competitors badges and the rest as souvenir badges for purchase for \$8. Happy face coasters were printed, thousands of them. H&A did an overrun for us which we can use for hops etc for the next ten years I reckon. Programme printed (700) approx one per ticket. Sweat towels printed for sale @ \$10. Ticket orders were completed over three separate nights by Donna, Jacky and myself with the first orders coming in 2nd August. We did our first posting on 9th September. After that orders slowed down a little and I began thinking what with the World Cup and depressing times, people may not want to spend the money to come. But then came the onslaught. Every night we cleared the post box and the orders kept coming. 25 here 1 there etc, there was no pattern of quantities to follow, but on the days we had around 680 Saturday tickets and a few less for Sunday. Not bad at all and we had made budget whew! Public Gallery tickets \$10 and the gallery was filled both days.





Treasurer John will be happy and able to sleep at nights now after that bookkeeping nightmare. Thanks John good work.

Hundreds of emails back and forth, I have saved over 300 of them. Luckily we catered so accurately aye Donna, with the few extras allowed earlier on allowing us to accept orders so late in the piece. We all had our jobs to do and most members gave their time generously to help run the event.

John Williams was once again Team Manager and I have to say John is always there early, and last to leave when it comes to organising anything. Arranging setting up and helping to dismantle the tiered seating was a nightmare for you. We all realise that but everything worked okay in the end aye. Thankyou Mr Treasurer, keep up the good work. That goes for Pressy Donna also. Donna has been President for 12 of the 13 years I have been with the club and I can count on the fingers on one hand (5 or less?) the times she hasn't been to Wednesdays club night.

They both sweated blood sorting out the seating arrangements which was pretty tight but pretty right eventually. Also secretary (and wifey) Jacky for her devotion to the job and behind the counter ticket sales and queries all weekend. Jacky just loves counting money (don't we all) and as she says, she always loved playing shops since she was a kid. Kathy (YumYum) Hylton and Christine (Feed the Judges) Williams with their team of kitchen helpers excelled themselves in providing food for the masses all weekend. A huge job and much appreciated.

I won't get into any more thanking as I may miss someone out and that is not good. You all know who you are and I reckon we all worked together excellently throughout.

Time to go to the hall for the Friday Dance.

Got there at 6.30 and only club members there so did a few minor checkups and wait for the crowd to arrive. Sales went well of badges and towels and several more tickets sold to the nights event. The hall was pumping for a couple of hours before people started heading back





to their accommodation for an early night - great. I was able to get home and have a quick cuppa before watching the Wales/Aussie 3rd place Final. Glad Aussie won although I didn't really have any favourites; Sunday is a different ballgame though and if the AB's don't win the country will head into a deep depression. Bed before midnight and ready for the morning.



Saturday morning at the hall early to participate in the opening (powhiri). Gill and Nohe had given us a run through the previous week so we knew how to behave etc. Gill made sure we all headed up front and positioned ourselves correctly. I knew after the practise at the hall the previous week if I watched Harry when it came to the singing, I could make a bit of noise; not good and a bit out of sync with Harry's melodious voice, but when we all did that I think it must have sounded okay to the audience.



Talking to our Aussie friends later and they were very impressed and asked what the head judge said to Nohe to get them laughing. I didn't know but it did lighten up the situation.



The dancing, music and competition was as fantastic as it always is. With Nigel Fisher and Duncan Jury working the DJ position together it ran like clockwork with a great selection of alternative rock n roll numbers during the general dancing breaks. MC Rob Connolly MC'd the show once again and kept everything moving nicely.



It was decided by the association to swap the supper break on Sunday to the tea break time and with a slightly earlier start we would have an early close-off to avoid people leaving early to watch "THAT GAME" we all had not wanted to miss. This worked out well and by 9.30 Sunday we had cleaned up as much as we needed to head off to see the famous FINAL, which was the expected result JUST.

An excellent bonding experience for the club and (hopefully) a great fundraiser once all the bills are paid, and a great local profile for ROCK n ROLL.





# FOOD TROLLEY

thankyou Kathy H

Two years ago when we did the food trolley for the Junior Nationals this was a big success and we had a lot of positive comments so we decided to do it again for the Senior Nats.

And yes, again it was successful but was a lot more involved and work as this time it was on a bigger scale and we were all involved in helping and a lot of us were competing this year as well as organising the competition. If it weren't for all my helpers in the kitchen from very early each morning making all the fillings and sandwiches, peeling and cutting fruit up and all the other needed jobs it wouldn't have happened or been the success that it was. So thanks to each and everyone of you. Even those that helped in a small way - doing dishes



when required, serving, pushing the trolley, filling in - even for half hour - it all helped so thanks to you all!! The fruit cups proved again to be the most popular. Great weekend - amazing costumes and dancing - thanks Wanganu



## Nationals Novelty 2011 aka 15 in the sack!

thankyou Claire

Okay, take metres and metres of lycra, 16 people a black bikini and what do you have? Utter madness at times, tons of fun and lots of laughs. I have done some interesting things in my life but being involved in getting 15 people into the sack all at once certainly was a new one!

A few practices without the sacks and things were looking great. Mostly in time, moves all sorted and everyone could see what they are doing. Thank you Kath Mence for the wonderful music and great moves! Not often I get to visit someone and play around in a lycra sack.

Roll on the day the sacks arrived. Well give lycra sacks to kids and when they put them on they go nuts! Give lycra sacks to adults, they





put them on and go nuts! Or was it just this lot of adults? Who knows but it was entertaining. No longer do you know exactly who is who in the sack but moves takes on a whole new look and even better its harder to see. Boobs and bottoms are suddenly accentuated and lack of clothing more apparent! It was hot in those sacks and less and less clothing was worn as time went on!

However, rock and rollers are a hardy bunch and it wasn't long before sacks or no sacks the routine was looking great. Not sure if timing was ever there but close, very very close at times.

Now to Phil Walker. I must admit I barely knew Phil (know you much better now thanks Phil!! - not often I supervise someone getting into a bikini) and along with many others did wonder if he really would prance around in a skimpy outfit. Well Phil, you didn't let us down. You filled that bikini rather well and helped with a great ending to the routine. Can you give the bikini back now please?

Mysteries yet to be solved.... The banana in the sack trick? Kelvin was it a rumour or really true? I guess if we all look close enough at the photos :-). Not saying it was Kelvin by the way but he did bring it up...



Flatulence and lycra sacks. Well apparently not a good idea. Gill how was it you ended up in the wrong line? Not saying the two are linked of course but???

Congratulations to (in no particular order) for competing in the novelty event: Gill, Kath, Kathy, Doug, Jan, Michael, Shane, Scott, John, Christine, Diane, Phil H, Phil W, Marlene, Kelvin and Shona. Want a wee challenge? Pop onto facebook or see below and see if you can name everyone or anyone in the correct lycra sack! It's harder than you think.



**The club gratefully thanks the following sponsors for their help.  
Very much appreciated**

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# 2011 Senior Nationals Official Results

as copied from NZARRA website

## Saturday

### Best Dressed Novice Couple

1st	755 - Phill Miles and Mandie Miles	Memphis Rockers
2nd	758 - Tom Worrall and Temanihera Pirikahu	Wanganui
3rd	757 - Nicholas Totton and Ashleigh Totton	Tokoroa

### Best Dressed Senior Restricted Couple

1st	707 - Phillip Jenkins and Annette Jenkins	City of Sails
2nd	710 - Warren Jeffrey and Elizabeth Clarke	Tauranga
3rd	711 - Mark Kane and Carol Kane	Gold Coast NZ

### Best Dressed Open Restricted Couple

1st	761 - Steve Bowden and Kathy Kent	Kapi Mana
2nd	762 - Shaun Birchall and Hayley Inglis	Christchurch
3rd	764 - Ben Ashby and Elissa Parkes	City of Sails

### Best Dressed Diamond Couple

1st	770 - Brian Cook and Lyn Cook	Drifters
2nd	772 - Poko Cummings and Hazel Cummings	Christchurch
3rd	775 - Paul Guinness and Marion Guinness	Gold Coast NZ

### Best Dressed Masters Couple

1st	725 - Greg Sammons and Chris Sammons	Drifters
2nd	722 - Rob Connor and Jan Morgan	Drifters/Gracelands
3rd	728 - John Judd and Terry Judd	Bush

### Best Dressed Golden Couple

1st	740 - Trev Halstead and Linda Knight	Drifters
2nd	741 - Christopher Pettigrew and Janene Bailey	Kapi Mana
3rd	735 - George Jolliffe and Colleen Ryan	Drifters/River City

### Best Dressed Platinum Couple

1st	781 - Hayden Middlebrook and Bridie McNeil	Tokoroa
2nd	783 - Steve Goddard and Rebekah Pine	Kapi Mana
3rd	780 - Robert Gillies and Samantha Skelton	Ramblers

### Best Dressed Open Couple

1st	754 - Darren Bailey and Odele Kingsford	Kapi Mana
2nd	745 - Shane Feck and Samantha Jeffrey	Drifters
3rd	749 - Ryan Jolliffe and Chloe Kuriger	Drifters

### Dancing Sections

#### Novice

1st	757 - Nicholas Totton and Ashleigh Totton	Tokoroa
2nd	758 - Tom Worrall and Temanihera Pirikahu	Wanganui
3rd	755 - Phill Miles and Mandie Miles	Memphis Rockers
4th	756 - Mark Roberts and Linda Roberts	City of Sails

#### Senior Restricted

1st	711 - Mark Kane and Carol Kane	Gold Coast NZ
2nd	707 - Phillip Jenkins and Annette Jenkins	City of Sails
3rd	700 - Dean Offord and Pam Smith	Hutt Valley
4th	709 - Brett Morse and Julie Cowan	Hawkes Bay/HB Junior Rockers

#### Open Restricted

1st	762 - Shaun Birchall and Hayley Inglis	Christchurch
2nd	764 - Ben Ashby and Elissa Parkes	City of Sails
3rd	763 - Shaun Clarke and Emily Murcott	Tauranga
4th	761 - Steve Bowden and Kathy Kent	Kapi Mana

#### Diamond

1st	770 - Brian Cook and Lyn Cook	Drifters
2nd	772 - Poko Cummings and Hazel Cummings	Christchurch
3rd	776 - Tony Clarke and Pauline Lipscombe	Harbour City
4th	775 - Paul Guinness and Marion Guinness	Gold Coast NZ

#### Masters

1st	722 - Rob Connor and Jan Morgan	Drifters/Gracelands
2nd	713 - Peter Dellaway and Valarie Alley	Drifters
3rd	720 - Murray Dillon and Noreen Dillon	Ramblers
4th	725 - Greg Sammons and Chris Sammons	Drifters

## Golden

- 1st 730 - Joe Wharepapa and Sandy Morris
- 2nd 741 - Christopher Pettigrew and Janene Bailey
- 3rd 743 - Scott Greenlees and Kath Mence
- 4th 735 - George Jolliffe and Colleen Ryan

## Platinum

- 1st 786 - Mike Dally and Debbie Beazley
- 2nd 781 - Hayden Middlebrook and Bridie McNeil
- 3rd 783 - Steve Goddard and Rebekah Pine
- 4th 784 - Jono Judd and Amanda Edwards

## Open

- 1st 745 - Shane Feck and Samantha Jeffrey
- 2nd 753 - Julian Clarke and Courtney McCullough
- 3rd 749 - Ryan Jolliffe and Chloe Kuriger
- 4th 754 - Darren Bailey and Odele Kingsford

## Sunday

### Best Dressed Female

- 1st Courtney Orr - City of Sails
- 2nd Colleen Ryan - River City
- 3rd Chelcie Kuriger - Drifters

### Best Dressed Male

- 1st Brian Cook - Drifters
- 2nd Trev Halstead - River City
- 3rd Greg Sammons - Drifters

### Best Dressed Same Sex Couple

- 1st 803 - Helena Graat and Gail Brown
- 2nd 806 - Chloe Kuriger and Chelcie Kuriger
- 3rd 801 - Erin Blake and Nadia Wharepapa

### Same Sex Dancing

- 1st 806 - Chloe Kuriger and Chelcie Kuriger
- 2nd 810 - Ashley Feck and Courtney McCullough
- 3rd 801 - Erin Blake and Nadia Wharepapa
- 4th 802 - Crystal McDonald and Sarah Gillam

### Best Dressed Senior Triples

- 1st 309 - Rob Connor, Tyree Connor, Jan Morgan
- 2nd 303 - Alex Pirikahu, Kath Mence, Shona Hood
- 3rd 305 - Garry Mohn, Gail Brown, Donna Baranski

### Senior Triples Dancing

- 1st 309 - Rob Connor, Tyree Connor, Jan Morgan
- 2nd 310 - Scott Greenlees, Gill Pirikahu, Paula Mosen
- 3rd 303 - Alex Pirikahu, Kath Mence, Shona Hood

### Best Dressed Open Triples

- 1st 315 - Darren Bailey, Odele Kinsford, Ivory Saunders  
Kapi Mana/Ramblers
- 2nd 320 - Julian Clarke, Courtney Orr, Charlotte Hancock  
City of Sails
- 3rd 318 - Callum Butcher, Ashley Feck, Courtney McCullough  
Drifters

### Open Triples Dancing

- 1st 315 - Darren Bailey, Odele Kinsford, Ivory Saunders  
Kapi Mana/Ramblers
- 2nd 320 - Julian Clarke, Courtney Orr, Charlotte Hancock  
City of Sails
- 3rd 318 - Callum Butcher, Ashley Feck, Courtney McCullough  
Drifters

### Best Dressed Senior Team

- 1st 604 - Drifters
- 2nd 607 - Christchurch
- 3rd 602 - Wanganui

### Senior Team Dancing

- 1st 608 - Ramblers

Most Supportive Club: Hawkes Bay

Wellington/Hutt Valley  
Kapi Mana  
Wanganui  
Drifters/River City

Gold Coast NZ  
Tokoroa  
Kapi Mana  
Bush

Drifters  
City of Sails/Drifters  
Drifters  
Kapi Mana

Drifters  
Drifters  
River City/Drifters

Drifters  
Drifters  
River City/Drifters  
Whangarei

Drifters/Gracelands  
Wanganui  
Drifters

Drifters/Gracelands  
Wanganui  
Wanganui



# Ngati Kahungunu Maori Sports Awards Demo

The timing of this Demo meant that neither our Senior Team, Kath nor I could have a well deserved rest after Nationals, but instead had to keep the training and dancing standard going for another couple of weeks. Then, due to an unfortunate altercation at Nationals, we lost a member of the Senior Team (a certain song from "The Wizard of Oz" springs to mind) and were faced with either not dancing the Team at the Demo at all or finding and training a replacement in a very, very short space of time. After much discussion about possible available candidates, we decided on the latter option and asked Kathy Hylton, who bravely stepped up to the plate.

I'll take a moment here to stress to everybody what Kathy was getting herself into. Coming into an established Team is no easy task. Kathy had an entire routine to learn and perform in 2 very short weeks, and those who have attempted Top Team events before know that the actual moves are only part of the performance. There are all sorts of little bits and pieces that make a team actually look like a team, such as subtle arm movements, gathering and releasing skirts at the right time, feet leaving the floor into a jump at the same time etc. The timing has to be pretty spot on.

But Kathy wasn't the only member of the team with a sudden learning curve. She would come in and partner with Shane, which meant that Karen would move over a place in the line-up and partner with Danny. Though these two both knew the routine inside out, they would have to get used to each other and the differences from the partners they were previously used to. Kath and I were lucky enough not to be affected by the changes

except for the small areas where dance partners were swapped within the routine.

Shane and Kathy had to work on the routine pretty much every day, accompanied by either Kath and I, or Danny and Karen or the entire team as a whole. Kathy hurt - her body had to get as used to the rigours of the routine as much as her mind did. But, by the night before the Demo, we had successfully performed the entire routine from Walk On to Walk Off at least twice, so we considered ourselves ready for the public...

Two days before the Demo, Danny decided to also field a Triples comprised of himself, Karen and Kath. Danny and Karen were part of an established Triples, but Kath was completely new to the

Way back in July Kath and I were told by our Madam Prez that we had been personally selected by Robert Ropiha (who, as you might know, is a Nationals Judge) to perform a Demo at the Ngāti Kahungunu Māori Sports Awards in Waipukurau on November 5th. We quickly agreed, thinking it was quite an honour, as he could have picked any couple in the entire country.

Mr Ropiha also wanted the Triples combo of Alex, Shona and Kath. Unfortunately, both Alex and Shona had prior commitments and had to decline. Gilly was also involved in the same prior commitment as Alex, so my own Triples combo could not fill in. Eventually we decided to offer our Senior Team as an alternative.

combo. In two days (which, in actual training time, translates to around two hours!!), Kath was up with the play and we had a Triples to offer the Sports Awards attendees.

At about half 1 in the PM of Saturday 5th November 2011, the Burnsmobile (with Donna & Kath already established in the back) turned up at my place to pick me up and then went on to Karens for everybody else. After a short wait for Shane & Kathy - just long enough to wonder if Kathy hadn't perhaps bottled it after all - they turned up, jumped in, and we all headed out of town, with Kathys wet shirt flapping out the window in an effort to open-road dry it so she could wear it later.

We had learned from previous demos to be well prepared with our music media. Both Kath and I had individually prepared all the songs on separate CDs, in the hope that at least one would work in an unknown sound system. Unfortunately, now we were on the road, I found out that the prepared song for the Triples had changed after I left practice the night before and therefore my CD was useless. Kath had also put the song list on a USB stick, so between that and her CD, we thought we should still be covered. We tried the CD in the Burnsmobile console and

it didn't want to know about it. Buzzer. USB it looked to be then...

The Manawatu Gorge was still closed due to the slips, so we had to go over the hills via the Saddle Road from Ashhurst. Of course, so did everyone else. The way up wasn't too bad, and we marvelled at the wind farms - well, most of us did anyway. Kathy happened to mention a couple of times that if the blades fell off we would be cut in half - but coming down the other side we ended up 3rd car

back from a slow moving horse truck that absolutely refused to pull over whenever it had the opportunity. Very soon we could count a further 11 cars behind us. Finally we got to the bottom and on a bit of a straight, so it was a race for as many cars to get past as possible before the upcoming intersection. Kathy decided to vent her displeasure out the window as we passed and received an almost identical reply. The road straight on past the intersection was closed, so we had to turn right towards the Highway 2 and go through Woodville, which, for Karen, was a blessed relief as she was in desperate need of some blessed relief herself. And I, sitting next to her, was having a very difficult time restraining myself from poking my finger in her side to find out where her bursting point was...

A quick toilet stop and we were on our way to Dannevirke where we stopped at McDonalds for a feed. Kath found strips of plastic attached to the onion slices in her salad which she complained to management about and which, in fact, turned out to be the onion skin. In her defence, it did indeed look very plastic, none of us were particularly sure.

We followed Robert and Sonja to the A.W. Parsons Stadium where the Sports Awards were taking place. We walked in past the heated indoor pools and into the adjacent stadium where tables and a stage had been set up, the hall decorated and lit with a blue lighting that was quite effective. Unfortunately they had also put carpet down over the stadium floor for the event, a carpet floor we would have to somehow dance on. Even worse, the area of floor we had available just in front of the stage was very small. The space we had in our own hall while 2 Top Teams were practicing at once suddenly seemed huge by comparison. How the heck we were going to fit a Top Team into this space we had no idea.

Kath and I took the music on both media to the Engineer off to the side of the stage, who immediately asked where the hell we were when he did soundcheck. "What bloody soundcheck?" was the gist of our reply, adding that we'd just got into town. He also informed us he had already set up the lights, which stopped at the front of the stage, so the area we were going to be dancing on would not be lit, unless we danced on the stage. A quick look at the stage confirmed the carpet on it was worse than the floor level carpet, with even less room due to a lectern and various pieces of band equipment. And of course, all stages slope. We told the Engineer we'll have to dance in the dark, and we'd put our hand up when ready for him to play the songs. He checked the USB stick and

found that, somewhere along the line the MP3 format of the songs had been converted to WMA and wouldn't play. Quite how that happened we have no idea, but we certainly suspected his system. So Kath gave him the CD which, to our relief, worked perfectly.

Music thus sorted, we all got changed into our gear and headed to the pool area to run through our options since there was no way we could do a Pull-thru on that carpet. One of our big Team moves depended on it, as well as a couple of moves from mine and Kath's routines. It took a bit of doing, but we settled on an alternative double spin for the Team which would hopefully get us to the right point in the song for the girls to dive over our backs. We were able to practice it for about 10 minutes before we were announced to perform.

First up were Shane and Kathy, accompanied by Danny, Karen and Kath dancing a slow song to 'Lovey Dovey'. The new Triples did extremely well and looked pretty natural together. When the song finished they left the floor (hey, 2 hours is not enough time to learn 2 routines!) in Shane and Kath's capable hands for the Fast 'I Like Your

Kind Of Love'. I think there was some confusion at the start for them both and, as I understand it, they both launched into different routines. They got it sorted though and finished in style.

Then it was the Senior Team turn. Oh boy. We all lined up at the edge of the floor ready for the slap start that we used at Nationals. Unfortunately it turned out to be a false start because when I went to make the opening signal of calling "Rosemary", my voice came out as a croak and Danny and Kath on the far side didn't hear it. We stopped, I had another go, and this time we all got going ok.

We had to constantly adjust our lines backwards to avoid crashing into the stage and did quite a credible job of that at least. However, the carpet

restricted our spin movements to differing degrees so, in the course of the song, every single one of us had some timing issues at some stage, and staying completely in sync was next to impossible. Not the greatest team display in places, but on the bright side at least it would be the last time we would have to listen to that damned song! If anybody is wondering whatever happened to Rosemary, she and the disc she was on have been introduced to a large and heavy hammer.

The awards proper got under way and it was amazing to learn how many well-known sportspeople came from Ngati Kahungunu, including a few of

By about 5 o'clock we pulled up at Robert Ropihans house and, as we piled out, Danny got a phone call from him wondering where we were. After a couple of seconds of surprise and a few moments of confusion and doubt it was established we were actually at the right house and didn't need to pile back in. So we all traipsed inside for refreshments. We made the mistake of letting Danny go into the loo first, so it was rather more... distressing, shall I say, for the rest of us when we had our turn.

the current ABs. The young men of Te Kura o Te Aute also entertained us in various appearances throughout the night. Guest speakers included former Silver Fern Temepara George and former Warriors Half-back Stacey Jones.

Supper was a buffet, well organised in a go-and-get-by-table-as-called format. Our table was one of the last called, as expected of course, but there was still plenty of food. There was an added bonus to being last - because Kath and I were due to dance both our routines after supper (and the Triples were keen to have another go to fill the remainder of our time), we couldn't eat it right away. So in theory it would be still a bit warm when we came off the floor. We did, however, nibble at it a bit before heading out to the pool area to warm up, stretch and dry run through the routines.

Mr Ropiha was going to give a speech before Kath and I went on the floor to explain to the audience about the Nationals, how National judging worked with the Timing Harmony and Variety, and our place in it (for those who don't know, if we were stock cars, we'd have a golden 3NZ stamped to our butts). Just before he went to the podium Robert decided to run it like a Nationals and do the "Competitors, are you ready?" bit instead of having us signalling our readiness. He would also judge us - which came as a nasty shock; one of the saving graces for us having to demo alone in front of 350-odd people was at least we're weren't being judged. He would also announce his score to the audience when we finished dancing. Gulp. No pressure then...

Unlike at Nationals, at least we knew what songs were coming. The Dixie Chicks started off with 'Chapel of Love', and being slow and controlled on a carpet you can't glide on proved to be extremely difficult. Our Candle went a bit awry - my left hand only managed to get a handful of Kath's petticoat and dress instead of her actual body and it was only by sheer fluke the heel of my hand ended up kind of propped under her hip that I was able to keep her in the air at all. I don't think I'll ever be able to forget the absolute nightmare scenario of her arse hitting me in the face in front of 350 people...

We managed to keep smiling, carried on, and the rest of our Slow went pretty well. Judge Ropiha, looming above us on the stage at the lectern,

gave us an 8, but he was probably just being kind. We had a drink to help with some really serious cotton-mouth, and then we were asked if we were ready again. What the hell, we thought and launched into 'R-O-C-K Rock' which, as most people know, is a pretty quick little ditty, challenging at the best of times. Try it on carpet. Go on, I dare ya.

We left the floor and Kath managed to stall a bit to catch her breath by slowly changing her petticoat, and re-tying fictional undone shoelaces. Mr Ropiha had to talk a bit about Triples until she was ready to go back out onto the floor with her makeshift partners. Because this dance was previously unplanned, we got the Engineer to just play the first of the back-up songs also recorded on the CD. Kath had assured us that all the back-ups were medium Triples speed. It turned out she was ever so slightly wrong, with 'Rockin Little Angel' being quite a quick one for Triples (it's a 10, Kath!). They danced it though, and did extremely well having only learned a slow routine and performing it to a fast song. I certainly would not have picked them as a combo thrown together only 2 days previously. I couldn't help but think if Kath wasn't already part of an established and awesome Nationals place-getting Triples combo, these three could go a long way...

We had to take out the slide and twist through the legs after the Wilson as there was no way Kath was going to be able to slide on the carpet, and it would likely destroy her dodgy knee for good if she tried. So she just landed the jump on her feet the way we used to do it a couple of years ago and carried on as normal. I personally think everything went pretty well until the Platinum. Usually I would pull Kath thru and cartwheel off her knees. Because of the carpet I had asked her to just sit down and I would step back and then cartwheel. Well, I didn't step back far enough and I ended up performing the most pathetic cartwheel I think I've ever done in my life. Ever. But worse, somehow after doing it, I got us out of beat and had to correct us very, very visibly.

Normally that wouldn't be too much of an issue in front of a non-RnR crowd, but remember, we had a Judge standing at a podium just a few feet to the side and above us and I couldn't help but be extremely aware that it stuck out like a skinny dogs bollocks. However, correct it we did, and we went on to the finish, Kath dropping from my shoulders into my arms bang on the last beat. Lovely.

Judge Ropiha, quite rightly, marked us down a couple of points for the timing error.

With our events over, we settled down to our now tepid supper. Dessert had been served by then so we could immediately tuck into that as well. Someone must have phoned ahead and told them how much I love those little chocolate

éclaircs, because there were plenty, and I made short work of plenty of them.

We watched the rest of the awards which culminated in the Sportsperson of the Year going to Israel Dagg. The man himself had apparently gone bush, hunting and fishing, but his parents were there to accept on his behalf, with his mother, Horiara, delivering a heartfelt and funny acceptance speech.

After the closing karakia we made our way out to the Burnsmobile to say our goodbyes and thank you's to Robert. Kath received a quick once over with his healing crystal, in particular for her shoulder and knee. Fingers crossed that it'll help her.

We loaded ourselves and our gear into the car and Danny promptly took a wrong turn and almost had us heading North to Hastings. He sorted it out quickly though and soon we were heading out of town towards home, singing merrily away to a medley mix of 50s to 70s songs that Kath had found on YouTube.

Inevitably, the conversation turned to the floor we had just danced on. Karen mentioned that not only was the carpet covering what would have been a pretty good stadium dance floor, but that the floor was also sprung. Kath, tucked away in the back with Donna, misheard a particular word and mentioned she would not dance on that, and how could anyone dance on a sponge floor anyway? Needless to say, that kept us all highly amused for quite awhile.

After winding up and back down the hills Kath's stomach decided it had had enough of being thrown around in the back of the wagon and she yelled out to Danny to power down the back window. Quick. She ended up hanging out the back of the Burnsmobile while Danny found a safe place to park off the side of the road. Luckily Kath wasn't actually sick, but we all used the opportunity to get out for some air and, for some, a country comfort stop.

It turned out that where we stopped was only one more corner away from being out of the hills and soon we were heading through Ashhurst, where a white cat ran across the road ahead of us. This led to a discussion about whether white cats crossing your path are considered lucky since black cats were considered unlucky. Karen said she thought all pure white cats were blind, which caused another round of hilarity as we postulated that isn't it bad enough that most of them are deaf, they have to be blind too?

Things settled down a bit after that - Kath and Donna snoozed in the back, I dozed in and out, waking up periodically to carry on singing to the medley that was still playing. I'm not sure whether the other three dozed at all, but I really hope Driver Danny didn't. Eventually, around half one in the morning, we got back to W(h)angas, and dropped off Shane, Kathy and Karen. Heading over the Dublin St Bridge Kath, now in the back seat, mentioned that she must have lost her i-phone out of her jacket pocket when she went out the back window to be (not quite) sick. Donna had a quick scabble around the back area and found that Kath had in fact been sleeping on it. The phone was returned safe and sound.

Soon after, I was dropped off at home and there my story ends, except to give all our thanks to Robert Ropiha for inviting us to the event, and for looking after us while we were there. But not for judging us! Just kidding Robert, I really hope that, despite the not-quite-ideal conditions, the Wanganui Rock n Roll Club did all right for you.

Scott

**There I was is sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink and gulps it down in one swig.**

**"Well, whatcha gonna do about it?" he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears.**

**"Come on, man," the biker says, "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a man crying."**

**"This is the worst day of my life," I say. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my old lady in bed with the gardener, and then my dog bit me."**

**"So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all, I buy a drink, I drop a capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve. Then you show up and drink the whole thing!**

**But enough about me, how's your day going?"**



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## NEXT Newsletter

will be out early 2012.

All contributions whether they are articles, clear photos, jokes or anything of interest are most welcome and should be given to Kelvin, the newsletter editor as soon as possible to avoid missing deadlines.

**CONTRIBUTORS MOST WELCOME!!!!!!**

You can email Kelvin at [jackel03@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jackel03@xtra.co.nz) or [kelvin@haprint.com](mailto:kelvin@haprint.com) if your articles are able to be emailed - saves retyping