



Swing Riot Dunedin Incorporated Annual Report April 2022 - March 2023

Weekly Classes

July 2022 saw the return of swing dancing, after almost an entire year's hiatus. Aside from an occasional class, we have been fortunate to have dancing every Tuesday since (aside from the Christmas break!). It was fantastic to get back into dancing - to see members of our community who we'd not seen for some time, and to see new faces trying out Lindy Hop for the first time.

We have been enjoying dancing in a new venue - Stuart Hall at Knox Church. While the venue has been fantastic, the road works, and the impact that has on accessibility has not been helpful. Hopefully the end of the road works is not far away.

In November we had a month of blues and balboa classes instead of Lindy Hop. These classes were great fun and were well supported - a helpful reminder that in years ahead when we can offer more than one class a week, there will be plenty of enthusiasm for more than one dance style!

The Jingle Bell Picnic

We toasted off the year with a lovely picnic in the gardens. A highlight had to be the entertaining game of pass-the-parcel-lindy-hop-musical-statues, with bespoke gifts flying here, there and everywhere. It was lovely to see faces from our wider community and to reconnect before the summer break.

A Time to Grow

While it has been great to be back dancing, it is also evident that our community is a small one at the moment. This is due to a number of reasons - one of them of course being the pandemic! We have also been delighted to add further new (and here I mean really new) members to our community, which has taken some of our dancers away to parental duties. In response, the executive committee have made two decisions:

The first was to develop a Growth Strategy. Here, we've identified a number of different strands of work to focus on - from retaining our beginner dancers, to finding more community events at

which to dance. With different committee members taking a lead on different aspects, we hope that this year can be a time of growth and development in a number of different ways.

The second has been to reduce our classes from two a week to one. Having an open level class (though only two weeks into its existence) has already offered signs of success. We've had some fantastic new dancers from the tertiary quarter, and we hope that the 'drop in, any week' strategy will be as accessible to the wider community as we could possibly be. Having a class with as many of our community in one room as possible will, we hope, foster our sense of community and provide that critical mass of energy that comes from being in a room all dancing to the same beat.

Here's to a year of growth, of dance, and of friendship!

Dunedin Swing Festival 2022



What a festival it was!

There can be no doubt that the Dunedin Swing Festival is the highlight in the New Zealand Lindy Hop calendar, with dancers gravitating to Dunedin over the festival weekend from all around the country. Returning for its eighth installment (eight?!?!) there was dancing, there were classes, there was merriment. After a year of no dancing, to be together and to share in the joy

of the things we hold dear, was simply beautiful. To take stock, and to see so many people returning to a hobby that sparks joy, from all over the country, was genuinely quite profound.

This ensured that the festival was also a financial success. We now are able to plan our festivals not only to break even, but to make a small profit. This has been achieved this year through diligent efforts by the committee to squeeze budgets, and to get the best value for punters, and the generosity of our teachers - alongside the continued support of the festival participants year on year.

We hope also that the festival was inclusive as it could be, in the face of an ever-changing forecast of various public health guidelines. With mandatory mask-wearing in classes, alongside more relaxed social dances spaces, and RAT tests and vaccine passes, the festival created an opportunity for most people to find a way of participating in the festival comfortably. We are grateful for participants' willingness in cooperating with these requirements.

2022 was also the first year that, being postponed to September, we'd changed names away from Midwinter to the Dunedin Swing Festival. It was also the first year it snowed.

Your Executive Committee

This year your committee were:

Kieran (Chair & Teaching), Emma (Secretary), Morgan (Treasurer), Sibby (Large Events, Marketing & Communications), Lorraine (Small Events), Clare, Jon, Anna, Nigel, and Julie.

Thanks committee for your hard work and occasional Sunday afternoons to keep our community on the road.

Kieran
Chair 2022-23