



1986 - 2016

30TH BIRTHDAY EDITION



Here we are at our 30th Birthday (Anniversary)

As we have had the History of the Club printed in the reports of the 20th & 25th celebrations, I decided this time to include the thoughts of some of our Members. If you who do not know the history, please go to our website www.stetson.co.nz under the heading of (surprise, surprise) "History"!! Also, two very good reports by Lucie Bothwell and Susan Brennan Hodgson on the clipboard. If you would like me to print this information for you, please let me (Lorraine) know.

Susan Brennan Hodgson:

"An on-going event, which is rather important and probably very worthy of mention in the history of the Club, is the upgrading and refurbishment of the Stetson Club "headquarters", ie: The Dairy Flat Hall. I am sure you will agree, that without this special hall, the unique character of the Stetson Club would be considerably diminished – it has the ambience and the country feel, and it is part of who we are and what we stand for – people love it. At one point the hall had become so shabby and run down that it was in danger of being closed and demolished. We have Henk to thank for his foresight, and dream of saving the hall by rallying a band of enthusiastic volunteers, many from the Stetson Club, who put in their time, and energy, working to restore the old hall back to the required standard, so that we now have such a wonderful venue we can be proud of. I am sure we can all relate to the special night we first danced on the brand new floor, what joy and delight."

Roisel Kershaw:- (a Committee Member for 10 years, five as President and two as Vice P)

"On reflection, my association throughout the passing years with amazing friendly people associated with the Stetson Club, has been a happy, unforgettable, memorable portion of my social life. It has enabled me contact with many acquaintances from all walks of life, having been responsible for the hiring of the many varied bands for several years, coupled with being fortunate to form a myriad of very close friends whom I've had close association with, and who have been there for me on numerous occasions, especially in my times of need. I've attended social gatherings/events "outside of office hours" with many of our Members. In fact one could say ... I'm richer (sadly not monetary wise) for being a Member of the Stetson Club, which is an inspirational part of my personal life and hopefully will be in the future years to come."

Maryanne Burney

Wow 30 years - where has it gone? I have been coming to the club for at least 25 years when it was held in the other two venues and now Dairy Flat, my ex husband played in a band that had regular gigs there . It has changed so much - it used to be just line dancing and I remember for every song I sang I had to say what the line dance was, thank god my friend Jean was a line dance teacher and put line dances to the songs.

Wishing all the very best for the club in the future.

Lucie Bothwell:

My favourite night? Hmmm?

The night Shane Cortese came to perform with Chet O'Connell??The night a group of lovely young cowgirls came to our Honky Tonk for a girls night out?

Or the very first time Brendon surprised us by singing Somewhere Over the Rainbow???

Or Trevor Stevens and Kylie Austin performing their beautiful duelling duet I'm Going to Jackson??

Or James Ray celebrating and also singing his song 4th of July??

Our rumbled ole Stetson Country Rock Club is always ready to rumble!!

Diane Wood:

I guess also one of the highlights is the annual beach party on the first January Club night. We have had this for as long as I can remember. In particular the way Chet always gets into the swing of things. Remember the comment he made a few years ago where 'he enters Chet O'Connell into Google and up comes photos of him wearing speedos (or was it the netball skirt) at the Stetson Club and here he is trying to make a name for himself in the music world'. Anyway the words went something like that. Of course, we also love to see Chet and Jonny playing the same guitar together.

With James, I love his little introductions/stories to his songs.

Lorraine Walters:

Those of you who have been coming for a few years will know how we, at the previously "lucky table", love dressing up, and so my favourite was the school theme. Some of the men got into their school shorts, the ladies wore gym tunics and some had caps or panama hats, but best moment of all was when Chet and Rob, who are always willing to get into swing of things, arrived dressed in their netball uniforms – this really helped set the mood for the night. Well done guys."



Linda Nobel:

In the early days we served meals from the kitchen, staffed by Club members on a roster. I remember when it was my turn – my specialty is burnt offering (just ask any of my family). For some reason, my name was removed from that roster pretty smartly!

We are so lucky to have the opportunity to hear amazing bands for such a small entry fee. Our format with the evening supper is quaint and endearing, long may that continue. The talent in New Zealand continues to amaze me and the Stetson Club, made up of you the members, is an – I was going to say institution – but it's not it's a family that we can all be proud of.....

Happy Birthday to the Stetson Club and best wishes for the next 30 years!!!

A Memorable moment when our Sheryf Steve married Teresa.



Steve Kenyon:

Wow!!! 30 years! Doesn't seem that long ago we were celebrating 25. I have so many great, happy memories of my years at the Stetson Club; way too many to put down here. It's been a pleasure and an honour to have been associated with such a great, friendly bunch of people. At the end of the day its all been about the people. Musicians, committee, members, regulars, even one offs; we couldn't have done it without....people! The hall is just a hall. Special though it is, we could have been anywhere and the people would have made it what it is. So, thank you to all of you for every Friday night I had, from Botha road to Dairy Flat Hall.

If we didn't live so far away you would see us more often, but the Stetson Club will always be in our hearts. Teresa and I wish the Club a very happy 30th birthday, and look forward to the next 30 years.



Looking back, there have been quite a few changes:-

The entry fee:

This was initially \$50 for a single, \$75 for a couple, but with the rise in membership (ours currently being 103), the fees were eventually able to be lowered to \$20 per person – not very often we see costs going down!!

The food:-

To begin with they were cooking meals – “steaks in the kitchen”, but, thankfully, this has been reduced to a finger food supper, which includes some favourites such as Maryanne’s sandwiches, Maureen’s Afghans and Lorraine’s Chocolate cake!!

The Bands:-

Sel Nash:

“In 1989 I got a call from Peter Bamfield, Officer for the Stetson Club asking if I could do a night for them. In those days, club entertainment was a solo artist for four hours, with a Band for special occasions like Christmas and New Year.”

Oh the fortitude of these artists!!

The Bar:-

We used to have Barmen

now

we have Bar Gals!!



Some Fun Times over the past years!!



Past Presidents

Sel Pinton	1986
Joe Masters	1987-88
Mary Carpenter	1989
John Wallace	1990
Fay Heywood	1991-92
Steve Kenyon	1993
Sel Nash	1996
Linda Boyd	1997-98
Sharon Running	2000-01
Anne Blackburn	2002-04
Roisel Kershaw	2005-10
Linda Noble	2011-13
Linda Wade	2014-15



Cutting the cake at the 25th celebrations