

*From the Hall Archive – Undated newspaper article titled Avalon Public Hall enters 70<sup>th</sup> year*

Eric Wilson has been re-elected chairman of the Avalon Public Hall Society at its 70<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting. Other officers are: Patron, Stan Wyper; trustees D. T. McMurray, L. I. Searle, S. A. Battiston; deputy chairman, P. Jacobson; secretary, D. J. Gaskin; treasurer, Dave McMurray; committee, P. Jacobson, M. and P. Searle, J. Trask, L. I. Searle, P. Gaskin, D. and M. Connor, T. and D. McCarthy, R. and B. Arthur, R. and K. Ferretti, L. Leaney, J. Trybula and K. Irvine.

**Sale rejected**

A call from neighbours in February that the 70 year-old hall be sold was rejected, Mr Wilson reported. A valuation indicated it was worth \$280,000 but putting it on the market was turned down, particularly in the current tight economy. "The committee must keep in mind the sale of the hall if a favourable situation arises," Mr Wilson said.

Bookings are going well, with regular users including the Round Dancing Club, the Widow and Widowers Association, the Wellington Orchid Society, the Beehive Square Dancers, the Maidstone Old Time Dance group, the IHC One Way Club and local residents for weddings and 21sts.

Dave McMurray, who has been hall caretaker for 23 years and treasurer for 25 years, said the hall and roof is to be repainted.

A Mr R. Bartosh provided the impetus for building the Taita Public Hall in 1922. Local residents donated 700 pounds to buy the land and start building. During the Second World War the hall housed Reserve Bank of NZ records and certain irreplaceable machinery because it was felt it would be safer in Taita than Wellington.

In 1948, when the Lower Hutt City Council introduced a rating scheme to fund building of other community halls in the district, an outcry from the Taita folk that they had built and funded their own facility saw that area excluded from the special rating demand.