

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region

RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc.

Minutes of the General Meeting held Saturday, 8 April 2017 At Hinuera Hall, Hinuera

WELCOME:

Heather Johnston opened the meeting at 2.30 pm and welcomed all in attendance. The relevant health and safety for the Hall was then gone through.

PRESENT:

Chair: Heather Johnston

Secretary: Glenna James

Co-ordinators: Communication & Publicity – Glenna James; Membership – Andrew Patterson;

Youth – Jeanette Lauder; Education and Training – Lynne Hudson.

Cambridge: Antanas Procuta

Hamilton Scottish: Grietje Badham

Hauraki/Thames: David Carter, Olina Carter, Annie Cripps (Non-Member)

Mount Maunganui: Lynne Hudson, Marjorie Lloyd, Douglas McCartney, Fiona McCartney (Non-Member)

Opotiki: Jean Smithson

Rotorua: Andrew Patterson, Jeanette Patterson

Tauranga: Heather Johnston, Jim Carter, Linda Carter, Bill Jacob

Te Awamutu: Glenna James, Jane McIlroy, Jamie Owston, Agnes Algra

Tokoroa: Jeanette Lauder, Joy Morgan

Whakatane: Betty Mahy-Cressey

(21 RSCDS Members)

APOLOGIES:

Balmoral: John Webb, Mary Thomas

Hamilton Scottish: Jill Monds, Pam Godfrey, Wayne McConnel, Shelley McConnel

Hauraki/Thames: Marcia Sowman, Glenda Hammond, Alison Kendall, Jan McIvor, Winnifred Sheehan, Padmadasi Beck

Lochiel: Ruary Laidlaw (International Member), Christine Miller (International Member)

Opotiki: Jan Pyke

Rotorua: Sally-Anne Christensen

Tauranga: Simon Bird

Tokoroa: Genny Hall, Graeme Hall, Ian Stewart

(15 RSCDS Members)

Moved that the apologies be accepted:

Glenna James/Lynne Hudson/Carried

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2016:

Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed to Clubs and Associate Members before the meeting, and had been added to the Webpage, with extra copies at this meeting.

Moved that the Minutes as distributed be taken as read, and passed as a true and correct record:

Douglas McCartney/Jim Carter/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

On page 4, the hosts for previous Queen's Birthday Weekend Schools - for 2006 this should read "Tokoroa", not Tauranga.

CORRESPONDENCE (Inward & Outward):

(See below)

Moved that the correspondence be accepted:

Glenna James/Grietje Badham/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Andrew Patterson)

As at 4/4/2017 we have accumulated funds of \$14158.75, as follows:

Trading Account	527.44
Online saver	2063.49
Online bonus saver	9701.83
JAM Saver	1865.99

Less unrepresented cheques to the value of \$249.50

The following expenses require the approval of this meeting:

Administration	Secretary/Communications	323.52
	Treasurer	7.50
	Hall hire for meetings	53.75
	Refreshments	19.36
	Auditor	75.00
Region questionnaire	Photocopying	85.50
	Postage	39.00
Core Dance Day	Hall hire	50.00
	Teacher's expenses (travel and photocopying)	52.30
	Refreshments	8.59
JAM Afternoon Dance	Hall hire	25.00
Teacher's workshop	Hall hire	50.00
	Teacher plus expenses	125.00

Moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and Expenditure approved:

Jim Carter/Jane McIlroy/ Carried

Moved that Ann Sullivan be asked to review the accounts for the year 2016/17.

Andrew Patterson/Lynne Hudson/ Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FINANCIAL REPORT:

Secretary to check whether the approval of the Accounts Reviewer was done at the AGM 2016 meeting, and therefore not required at this meeting.

REPORTS:***Coordinator – Education and Training (Lynne Hudson)***

- One dancer from the Waikato/BOP Region, Evelyn Knights, won a scholarship to attend the 206/17 Summer School in Christchurch. The experience was very rewarding and having had a taste of Summer School, she is keen to attend another.
- Several clubs around the Region have had new dancers join, mostly people in the older age group. Many of the older dancers have not had to move very fast so achieving movement to music, getting to the right position at the right time can always be a "light bulb" moment for these people. Those I have spoken to who attended the Beginners Dance on 1 April felt they learnt a lot from the experience and they are looking forward to attending more dances that will give them a similar experience.
- The Teachers' Workshop this year was unfortunately during a spell of forecast extreme weather. The extreme weather did not eventuate and there were enough teachers attending for us to dance through many of the new dances in Book 50. Many of these dances had movements that required a moment of "turning off habits" to accomplish the unfamiliar changes to well-known formations. The majority of the dances we danced could become popular.
- The trialling of dances for the NZ Branch Anniversary Book was well attended by a cross-section of dancers from around the Region. Several of the dances left dancers "reeling" and some of the dances got the "thumbs up". All the comments were constructive and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather Johnston for taking note of the comments for me. It meant we could get through the dances a lot quicker without me having to stop and write before moving on to the next dance. I would also like to thank those dancers who gave up their time to come to the trials.

Moved that the Report be accepted:

Lynne Hudson/Linda Carter/ Carried

Coordinator – Membership (Andrew Patterson)

Year	Branch	Region	Associate
2014/15	86	211	15
2015/16	81	222	15
2016/17	88	243	12

- Although it is good to see a significant rise in the Region membership (that is, the total number of club dancers), this is largely due to the fact that Balmoral, Katikati and Taupo have now entered the fold as fully-recognised Clubs. These three clubs brought 39 members with them and this is something which is really good to see. Unfortunately, this is partly offset by the loss of 22 dancers from other clubs, although Tauranga have bucked the trend by increasing their membership by a further 6 dancers.
- So far as Associate membership is concerned, I really wonder if this is worthwhile. The main benefit is that these members receive communications direct from the Region Secretary, rather than having to depend on distribution via their club. This might have made sense in the days before e-mail became commonplace, but nowadays it would be quite simple (and no more expensive) to send information by e-mail to anyone who requests it.

Moved that the Report be accepted:

Andrew Patterson/Joy Morgan/Carried

Coordinator – Communication and Publicity (Glenna James)

- Another year of dancing and some new beginners for some clubs. The beginners dance was well attended by newbies and helpers, although again some club teachers realise it is too early for their beginners. Perhaps we need to look again at a dance held later in the year? The other option would be to hold 2 dances, as we did in September last year.
- The subcommittee of Antanas, Wayne, Shelley, Lesley and myself had a great meeting (in a pub!) and came away with some ideas. One of the outcomes was the Region flyer – which Antanas will talk about later. I just want to congratulate Antanas on all the work he did on this, it looks fantastic and will be a great asset to all clubs in the Region. We hope to put into place later in the year, a couple of the ideas we came up with.
- Let me know how your club is doing, and if you need any help. I'm sure the subcommittee would enjoy another meeting in the pub!
- A newsletter will be out shortly (after I get over the meeting!) Email me with anything you want put in:- letters to the editor, pictures, what's on, adverts....

Moved that the Report be accepted:

Glenna James/Lynne Hudson/Carried

Coordinator – Youth (Jeanette Lauder)

- JAM Membership:
 - JAM registrations in our region for the current year are sitting at 41, ten above registration numbers at this time last year. Most of this increase seems to be from new registrations from the Cambridge Club. According to figures given to me from the JAM membership database, there are JAMs in Hamilton Scottish, Lochiel, Cambridge, Opotiki and Tokoroa Clubs.
 - The Tokoroa Club is pleased that their two eldest JAMs are continuing to dance regularly at club nights despite both of them travelling out of town most days for their tertiary studies.
- Medal Tests:
 - The Region will not be organising Medal Tests this year unless there is a large demand for this. Some of those attending this month's JAM Camp will sit Medal Tests there. The Auckland Region has been approached about any intention to run tests and they have replied saying that the Milford Club, which sometimes arranges these, will not be doing so in 2017.
- JAM afternoon:
 - No date seems to have been set for a JAM afternoon this year. I would like to add this to the calendar for Saturday 30th September. This is the first Saturday of the school holidays. Does anyone have a suggestion for a venue? The opportunity for young dancers in the region to meet with JAMs is important, especially for those who are from clubs with only one or two young dancers.

- JAM Camp 2017:
 - I am aware of eleven dancers from our region who will be attending JAM camp at Wairarapa College in Masterton from 21-23 April 2017. There are a number of parents attending with them.
- Youth Leadership Award:
 - The RSCDS has recently instigated a Youth Leadership Award which some JAMs may be interested in. It requires input from a teacher but is basically set up to maintain interest in SCD. There is no formal exam but a diary must be kept over a full year. It covers social dancing; communication skills; teaching under supervision; appreciating the relationship of music to dance; devising a dance and participation in an adult class. Guidelines and an application form are available on the Society website.

Discussion:

- There are no JAMs at Opotiki Club.
- As Cambridge Club had also talked about using Saturday 30 September for the two Day Schools (moved from 1 July), Jeanette and Antanas to have discussions on combining the Day Schools and JAM afternoon on 30 September and will let the Secretary know.
- Anyone can be a "Friend of JAMs" and receive the publication, Jigs & More, for \$5 annually.

Moved that the Report be accepted:

Jeanette Lauder/Jim Carter/Carried

Queen's Birthday Weekend School 2017 Rotorua (Andrew Patterson)

- Everything is going to plan with halls, teachers and musicians all booked.
- Although registrations are starting to build up with a total of 32 to date, it is rather disappointing that there has been more interest from other Regions (with 18 attendees) and only 14 from our own region. The QBWE is run mainly for the benefit of our own members and provides them with opportunities which may not be available at their regular weekly classes. We hope that the numbers will eventually exceed 50, but we are particularly keen to attract more registrations for the elementary class which will be taught by Gail Schofield. So, please encourage your club members to enroll for the weekend.
- On a happier note, Lynne Scott is pleased with the response to the musicians' workshop and has already sent the homework out to the 9 who have registered so far.
- Finally, thanks to Jane McIlroy who has stepped into the breach and agreed to MC the Sunday evening ceilidh.

Moved that the Report be accepted:

Andrew Patterson/Douglas McCartney/Carried

Discussion:

- The online registration has worked very well.
- The Early Bird registration has been pushed out to Friday 14 April. However this information was not sent out to clubs. It needs to go out urgently.

Elementary & Mainstream Day Schools – 1 July 2017 (Antanas Procuta)

- At a meeting of the Cambridge SCD committee on 3 April, it was agreed that the club suggests to the Region meeting that the Region Day School be moved from 1 July to Saturday 30 September. The purpose of the date change is to put some distance between the Region's Queens Birthday Weekend School and the Day School (rather than the 4 week separation). The view is that this approach is for the better for attendance to both events.
- It is planned that the Day School comprises three classes; JAMs, Elementary, and a General Class for experienced dancers.
- Invitations were to specific tutors from within the region, but for two of the tutors the July date didn't work, and the third invitee has come back for a preference for the September date. The September date may work for the other two, but this is yet to be checked.
- The halls have been booked, and financial assistance is being sought from Community Trusts, etc to support the day.

Discussion:

- A dance to be arranged afterwards.
- All teachers will be from the Waikato/BOP Region.
- Discussion was then held with Youth Coordinator regarding merging the JAM dance with the Schools.

Moved that the Report be accepted:

Antanas Procuta/Jean Smithson/Carried

Hogmanay Dance (Jane McIlroy)

The Hogmanay run by Jane McIlroy was a good night with six sets on the floor. Rhoda and Noel Tanner from Auckland also made an appearance. This made a profit after expenses of \$200. This was presented at the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Host for Queen's Birthday Weekend School 2018

- Hauraki/Thames had previously indicated they could be interested in hosting the school in 2018. David Carter said Thames has too small a membership and is not interested. However they would look at hosting a Day School.
- Hamilton Scottish may be keen but would need to check with Wayne McConnel first. Very efficiently, five minutes later a yes answer transpired!
- Katikati Club might put their hand up for 2019.
- The Region will help any club with weekend schools. There are guidelines already available. The website is also available to be set up for each school.
- One person needs to be appointed the organiser, with committee members helping.
- In a Weekend School, the Saturday night ball is the club's own ball, and any profit from that is separate and kept by the club.
- There is no policy regarding Day and Weekend Schools on profit sharing. There needs to be one. The Executive Committee had a meeting prior to the September meeting to discuss this, along the lines of "When the Region requests a host for an event, some profit sharing would occur".
- A suggestion from Jane McIlroy that seeding money needs to be given by the Region as a start up (without having to ask), and repaid if a profit is made.

Moved: That the Waikato/BOP Region provides \$1,000 to the club hosting the Queen's Birthday Weekend School, as a loan, to be repaid.

Jane McIlroy/Lynne Hudson/Carried

- Discussion was held on whether \$1,000 would be enough to cover immediate things as flights and accommodation bookings.
- There needs to be a proviso that more money can be requested if required, on the same rules as above (eg to be repaid to the Region).
- The loan needs to be returned to the Region prior to working out the profit/loss of the School.
- The expectation is that a realistic budget had been presented to the Region prior to the School commencing. There should also be a 'heads up' to the Region if it looked like it was going to make a loss, in which case the Club and Region would decide whether to continue with the School.
- There is to be no actual percentage of any profit returned to the Region – it is up to the club to decide what the amount will be.
- Antanas Procuta was concerned about the possibility of incurring say a \$3,000 loss. What happens then.

Moved: That if the club has not recovered the cost of the loan to the Waikato/BOP Region, then the Region will underwrite the loss.

Jane McIlroy/Lynne Hudson/Carried

Antanas Procuta - No

Club Publicity (Antanas Procuta)

- The subcommittee had a brainstorming session which was productive. Copies of the minutes to be sent out to clubs.
- Need to build on the website publicity.

Flyers:

- A generic flyer has been done as a mock up by Antanas. It has basic information about dancing and will have email addresses of all Waikato/BOP clubs. No dates so it can be used year by year by any club. There will be space for each club to write their details on.
- The cost to produce 600 of these (50 for each club) is \$151.80, GST inclusive.
- Clubs can also use the Society's flyers which are more generalised.
- We could also do business cards so that every dancer in the Region had one. A great idea.

Adverts:

- The subcommittee will have another brainstorming meeting to design a generic advert for any club to use.
- An article to go alongside the advert also works very well.

- Cambridge Club put in 2 or 3 ads over a couple of weeks, which costs quite a lot, but works well. One advert only does not generate the interest. They also had an article at the same time as the advert.

Moved: That the Waikato/BOP Region commits \$600 to fund the cost of printing flyers and cards.

Antanas Procuta/Linda Carter/Carried

Marian Anderson & Max Ketchin Visit

- After trying various means of communication with the Auckland Region regarding this visit, we had no response and it was decided to give this idea away. The night before this meeting we heard from Yvonne Gray, saying that these musicians are unfortunately not available for the Waikato/BOP Region, having a full schedule around the Auckland Region and also the South Island.
- Andrew Patterson suggested hiring a bus for Region people to go to the North Shore Combined Ball on Saturday 4 November, where they will be playing. He is to look into it.
- The Region to talk to Jan Batten about when a future visit might be, and whether our Region could participate again.

Medal Tests

Jeanette Lauder had written to NZ Branch requesting clarification about the minimum number of JAMs required for medal tests. The response from NZ Branch was that 6 JAMs was a historical figure and that 4 nowadays would be more realistic. After communicating further, NZ Branch acknowledged that there may be insufficient JAMs sitting medal tests, especially in the higher grades. There would be no total numbers required, and the aim is that hopefully no more than 4 adults in the test set would be used.

Working with Young People

- Jeanette Lauder had asked the NZ Branch whether there was a policy around working with young people. This had been raised by one of their members attending a funding workshop, where they had said that those working with young people should incorporate something into their Constitution. Jeanette believed that it may not need to be in the Constitution itself but that JAM guidelines might already be in place nationally.
- NZ Branch suggested a 'Working with Youth' policy in the Branch guidelines would be useful and proceeded to ask Jeanette Lauder to write something up for them! This should be part of NZB Youth Coordinator's role. However Jeanette did put something together and sent to NZB.
- There are documents already from the Belfast Branch and the Society, so they could work from these and make their own guidelines, making them short and succinct – not the 35 pages in the Belfast document.
- The NZB Youth Coordinator has apparently sent out a paper to all clubs with JAMs, bypassing other clubs and the Region, asking for feedback and for it to be discussed at the JAM Camp in April. This needs to be discussed at Region level and all clubs need to be made aware of it.
- These are draft guidelines, and not a policy. Clubs can adapt this for their own use.
- Secretary to send out to all clubs for discussion, with a comment, "watch this space for after JAM Camp!"

NZ Branch AGM Results

- The forum was held at Summer School with good discussion. Recommendations:
 - A travel policy is needed for Summer School travel:
 - Up to a maximum of a Thrifty airfare.
 - Car – NZB current policy is 30 cents per kilometre, which is entirely reasonable for a non-profit organization. However, it should have a maximum equivalent to a Thrifty airfare.
 - Members need to decide what is given as honoraria – a resolution is needed for this:
 - A budgeted amount for, eg President's travel. The President should not be given a lump sum once it has been budgeted for.
 - In the past the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Shopkeepers had the ability to claim for attendance in terms of accommodation and meals.
 - Honoraria is NOT tax free. It doesn't matter whether it is a large or small amount, it all attracts tax. Reimbursements are a different matter as there are paper trails for these and are repayments for actual expenditure.
- Treasurer's Report:
 - Honoraria increase – Katharine Hoskyn commented that the members "will be upset if these are increased AND the fee is increased the same year!"

- When the Branch has been criticized for accepting honoraria, a point was made that they are volunteers just like any other volunteer in any other organization. The reply was that the people on Management Committee are also volunteers within their own clubs and Region, and often within other organisations as well.
- Subscription Account (Holding Account) – Management Committee had agreed that this should remain at a minimum of \$10,000. Katharine Hoskyn queried why this was so. A reasonable explanation was given.
- Communication & Publicity Coordinator – Sue Lindsay stated that Dance Scottish Week would be at the beginning of the dancing year in 2018. Obviously a lot of clubs nationally said that June was not the right time of year for them.
- Election of Officers:
 - All positions were filled unopposed, except for the Vice Presidency, which has no appointment, and Education & Training, which had Lee Miller and Joyce McLachlan nominated. Lee Miller was chosen by a written ballot. One of the reasons was because Joyce McLachlan does not attend Summer Schools! Given that the rationale for Remit 2 was that Management Committee are expected to attend evening functions at Summer Schools to discuss Branch matters with members who are present, Lee was chosen as he already does attend Summer Schools.
- Remits:

41 delegates in total, with Waikato/BOP Region having 5 votes.

○ **Remit 1 – Delegates to vote YES**

Membership Fees - The Management Committee propose that the combined New Zealand Branch Service Fee and RSCDS Subscription for 2017/2018 for an ordinary Annual Member be \$90.
(Passed 41 For)

○ **Remit 2 – Delegates to vote NO** [changed to YES once amendments passed - see below]

Honoraria - The Management Committee propose that the person holding the following position at the commencement of the AGM be entitled to claim an annual honoraria in recognition of the time and effort involved in undertaking this role:

- a) RSCDS NZ Branch Treasurer \$1,000
- b) RSCDS NZ Branch Secretary \$1,000

- **Amendment 1:** *“That the people holding the following positions at the commencement of the 2017 AGM be entitled to claim annual honoraria in recognition of the time and effort involved in undertaking these roles”*

Specification of Year – This clarified that the remit applied to one year only and was not intended as a policy which would automatically apply to successive years.

(Passed 41 For)

The Management Committee further propose that the Summer School fee at the non-dancing rate be paid for the following positions:

- a) RSCDS NZ Branch Treasurer
- b) RSCDS NZ Branch Secretary

- **Amendment 2:** *That the Summer School fee for the 2017/2018 School at the standard non-dancing rate, excluding additional options such as single-room supplements, be paid for the holders of the following positions as at the start of the 2018 AGM, provided the fees are not covered by other Branch Summer School payments:*

Standard Non-Dancing Rate – this made it clear that the payment covered the standard non-dancing rate which next year might be on the basis of a twin-share, and does not include any single supplement or extras.

(Passed 41 For)

The Management Committee further propose that the Summer School fee at the non-dancing rate be paid for the following positions:

- a) RSCDS NZ Branch President
- b) RSCDS NZ Branch Vice President
- c) Communications and Publicity Co-ordinator
- d) Education and Training Co-ordinator
- e) Membership Co-ordinator
- f) Youth Co-ordinator

- **Amendment 3:** *That the Summer School fee for the 2017/2018 School at the standard non-dancing rate, excluding additional options such as single-room supplements, be paid for the holders of the following positions as at the start of the 2018 AGM, up to a maximum of \$1,000, provided the fees are not covered by other Branch Summer School payments:*
(Passed 26 For; 15 Against)

Remit 3 – Delegates to vote YES

Honoraria - The Management Committee propose that the person holding the following position at the commencement of the AGM be entitled to claim an annual honoraria in recognition of the time and effort involved in undertaking this role.

a) RSCDS NZ Branch Editor	\$600
b) RSCDS NZ Branch Bookshop Keeper	\$600
c) RSCDS NZ Branch Recordshop Keeper	\$600

The Honoraria to the Shopkeepers being payable from accumulated assets of the respective shop, but by the Branch if the shop has insufficient accumulated assets.

The Management Committee further propose that Summer School fee at the non-dancing rate be paid for the following positions.

- a) The RSCDS NZ Branch Bookshop Keeper
- b) The RSCDS NZ Branch Recordshop Keeper

These fees to be payable from accumulated assets of the respective shop, but by the Branch if the shop has insufficient accumulated assets.

- **Amendment 3:** *That the Summer School fee for the 2017/2018 School at the standard non-dancing rate, excluding additional options such as single-room supplements, be paid for the holders of the following positions as at the start of the 2018 AGM, provided the fees are not covered by other Branch Summer School payments:*

Same rationale as Remit 2.

(Passed 41 For)

○ **Remit 4 – Delegates to vote NO** [changed to YES once discussions held – see below]

Proposed Changes to Management Committee Positions - The Management Committee proposes the merging of the Membership and Communications & Publicity Co-ordinator positions and the creating of the role of Information Technology Co-ordinator. Rationale: Currently a number of computer based processes are handled by the Communications and Publicity Co-ordinator and the Membership Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinators have other responsibilities and may or may not have all the skills required to handle computer aspects of their role. As a result, help is required from inside or outside the committee. This proposal presents a case for restructuring the committee to ensure that the required skills are available in the Committee. The proposed structure envisages combining some of the activities of the Communication and Publicity Co-ordinator and the Membership Co-ordinator into a new role (e.g "Membership, Communications and Publicity Co-ordinator") and establishing a new position to handle computer based processes (eg "Information Technology Coordinator"). It is envisaged that this will enable office holders to concentrate on activities best suited to their background and skills and thereby enhance the efficiency of Branch operations.

- Having listened to all arguments, both for and against, we decided to vote Yes. Everyone agreed that the Branch website is a joke and needed some serious work and someone to oversee it. One of the arguments for was very compelling in that it discussed social media and networking and should be the job of a designated person.

(Passed 36 for ; 5 Against [Canterbury delegates])

○ **Remit 5 – Delegates to vote YES**

Presidents Travel Budget - The Management Committee propose that a provision is made in the 2017 budget of \$1,500 to fund travel within New Zealand for the Branch President. The fund is to be used when the President is travelling to the regions to further the aims of the Branch. Rationale: In order for the President to engage with the wider dancing community they need to be able to attend dancing functions and schools across the regions during the year. The budget allowance is the maximum that will be spent on this activity during the 2017 financial year, with only actual costs up to this amount being expensed.

(Passed 41 For)

Discussion:

- IT Manager is to be nominated at the AGM this year, not handpicked as was stated in the MAC Minutes.
- The results still show lots of spending by Management Committee.
- The Secretary/Treasurer split compared to the other (less time consuming) positions has not happened as was recommended in Liz Hickey's report. However Liz was at the meeting and was happy with the results.
- A letter of appreciation to be sent to Katharine Hoskyn for all her hard work keeping the Management Committee accountable.
- The Management Committee were not introduced to people at Summer School (which meant that people who wanted to talk to them may not have known who they were). The response was that they would be introduced at the Presidents Ball (second to last night at the School)! Also that the Newbies had been introduced to them on their first day.

Waikato/BOP Region Questionnaire Results:

- Approximately 60% of dancers in the Region responded, with all clubs involved and one club with 92% return and one with 12%. Conclusion: reasonably representative of all dancers.
- Approximately 18% average neutral over all questions: Conclusion: significant proportion fence sitting.

1. All Regions take on more responsibility	Yes	57% (highest result in favour)
2. All Regions become Branches	Yes	36% (Slightly balanced towards support)
3. Waikato/BOP Region becomes a Branch	Yes	37% (Even split)
4. Waikato/BOP Region becomes Independent Association	No	46% (Strong bias towards oppose)
5. The existing NZ Branch structure is fine as it is	No	61% (Strong discontent)

There is major dissatisfaction with how the Branch is run currently, but the mandate was to stick with the Branch. Overall, the result shows that many people are discontented with the existing NZ Branch and the way to fix it is to have regions take on more responsibility without disbanding the NZ Branch. Significant comments included: fees too high, elitism.

Discussion:

- Do we have a further meeting? Yes.
- A decision was made to send Bill Jacob's ideas and results to all dancers in the Waikato/BOP Region where it can be discussed – talk about results and what it means. Most non-RSCDS dancers have no idea of NZ Branch. There is now raised awareness by them. Come to a meeting on 1 July (venue to be confirmed) with your comments.
- Our Region needs to get more RSCDS members, which means we get more votes to swing things our way.
- Do we want the Branch to know our thinking? Do we want other Regions to know our thinking? We need to have a way forward before sending it out to anyone outside our Region.
- A lot of people were confused about lack of support for NZ Branch and did not realise that we still support the Society.
- It would be interesting to talk to the people who are supportive of NZ Branch but not their approach – and ask them to stand on Management Committee.
- We need to get other Regions onside and start the change from within.
- London Branch – how does this work? Andrew Patterson said they run dances and classes throughout the year. Clubs are separate entities. Most belong to both the London Branch and the Society (like us).
- Antanas Procuta thanked the subcommittee for their hard work in getting the questionnaire and collating the results.

Bill Jacob's suggested strategy going forward following the questionnaire results and members comments:

1. Finances:
 - a) Separate the RSCDS & NZ Branch fees and allow the combined fee to fluctuate.
 - b) Setting a budget for NZ Branch activities independent of RSCDS fees.
 - c) Amalgamate the two shops.
Lower the NZ Branch fee by:
 - d) Removing the honoraria paid to MC.
 - e) Removing the payment of full length Summer School fees to MC.
 - f) Examine other ways of trimming costs.

2. Governance:
 - a) MC to actively seek out suitable candidates for MC roles instead of relying on nominations.
 - b) Find ways to address why it is hard to find volunteers to MC roles.
 - c) Re-evaluate the roles that Regions play with the objective of removing a significant part of MC workload.
 - d) MC to be less 'hands on' with organising Summer Schools. They should set guidelines and then let the organiser get on with it. After all there is significant Regional support for the SS organiser.
 - e) Change the voting system within the NZ Branch: the current Regional delegate vote system is open to major influence by individuals with an agenda. We need to have individual member votes on all remits etc.
3. Elitism:
 - a) Abandon the President's travel fund and touring strategy.
 - b) Replace with the Regional President + extras supporting local Clubs (like Heather Johnston did last year).
 - c) Separate the AGM & MC meetings from Summer School and remove the requirement for MC to be 'paraded' at SS. This will remove much of the need for MC to attend SS and be paid for it.
 - d) Much of the problem with elitism within the branch stems from many people at SS being "past Presidents" or similar standing.
4. Clubs:
 - a) How do we improve the involvement of Clubs all of which are excluded from the NZ Branch structure?
 - b) What do Clubs want from the Branch / Region? The answer was more support!
5. Coup:
 - a) Get ourselves elected to MC and implement change within!
 - b) We need to develop a strategy for change.

Next Meetings:

- General Meeting – 12 August 2017 (prior to Tokoroa dance – venue to be confirmed)
- AGM – Tirau Hall 28 October 2017 at 3.30pm (3.00 cuppa). As per last year, a social event to follow the meeting with drinks and dinner in Tirau at the Loose Goose Café. Bring dancing shoes, as there may be some dancing inbetween.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 5.05 pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Waikato/BOP Region – General Meeting

September 2016 – April 2017

From	Correspondence <u>Inwards</u>
RSCDS	Request for dance devisors for input into book 52
NZ Branch	Request for interest in the Region for trialling dances for 50 th anniversary book Response regarding dance trialling costs for NZB book (no). Death Notices: Randal Ingram; David Hollman; Yvonne Miller; Norman Whitson; Betty Redfearn; Alastair Aitkenhead. Management Minutes and MAC News
NZB Youth Coordinator	Response re Medal tests, and minimum number of JAMs to sit medal tests. (General Business) Response re working with young people. (General Business)
NZB Editor	Deadlines for NZ Dancer and Kiwi News items
NZB Summer School 17/18	Request for their overseas tutor to teach at a day school in the Waikato/BOP
Region President	Executive Members requesting approval for Questionnaire to be sent to members
Region Treasurer	Archiving old records
Region Youth Coordinator	Letter sent to NZ Branch Youth Coordinator re Medal tests, and the minimum number of JAMs to sit medal tests. (General Business) Letter sent to NZ Branch Youth Coordinator re working with young people, and letter apparently sent to all clubs with JAMs by NZB. (General Business).
Clubs	Dance programmes Cambridge - Yes to host day school for Elementary/Intermediate. Discussion on suitable dates and to tie in with Lochiel Beginner dance in July. Not suitable now it has been changed to April. Now looking for alternative date as too close to QBW School. Considering 30 September. Cambridge – request for information on profit sharing with region. (General Business)
Shelley McConnel	Paeroa Highland Games information
Antanas Procuta	Quote for printing of Region publicity flyers (General Business)
Overseas dancers	Request for information regarding dancing in Waibop Region December/January
To	Correspondence <u>Outward</u>
NZB	Request for costs reimbursement for NZ Branch book dance trials.
NZB Summer School 17/18	The request for their overseas tutor to teach at a day school in the Waikato/BOP was declined.
Region Publicity subcommittee	Notes on meeting and action points. Final version of Region flyer
Region Membership	Region President re questionnaires Region Agenda and previous Minutes NZB Management Committee Minutes
Clubs	General Meeting Minutes Request for clubs interested in trialling NZ Branch book of dances Region Questionnaires Dance programmes, Schools and other Events Core Dance Day report Region Directory; Region Calendar updates Request for articles for Kiwi News and NZ Dancer Paeroa Highland Games request for dancers Newsletters from NZ and overseas Death Notices Thames invitation to dance at Festival Request for clubs to donate \$10 to raffle for Region dance
Sympathy cards	Wayne & Shelley McConnel: for June McConnel Philip Jamieson: for Audrey Jamieson Debbie & Gordon Tonks: for Yvonne Miller