

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region

RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc.

Minutes of the General Meeting held Saturday 6 April 2019

At Ngongataha Hall, School Road, Ngongataha, Rotorua.

WELCOME

Jean Smithson opened the meeting at 2.00 p.m. by welcoming all present and thanking them for their attendance. A quorum was met.

PRESENT

Chair: Jean Smithson
Secretary: Maureen Jacob
Coordinators: Education & Training – Lynne Hudson; Membership – Bill Jacob;
Youth – Shelley McConnel; Community & Publicity – Ruary Laidlaw.
Cambridge: Antanas Procuta
Hamilton Scottish: Grietje Badham, Shelley & Wayne McConnel
Lochiel: Jill Littlewood, Ruary Laidlaw (International Member)
Mount Maunganui: Lynne Hudson; Douglas McCartney
Opotiki: Jean Smithson
Rotorua: Andrew & Jeanette Patterson, Sally-Anne Christensen
Tauranga: Alan Billing, Jim & Linda Carter, Bill & Maureen Jacob, Heather Johnston
Te Awamutu: Glenna James, Jane McIlroy, Jamie Owston
Thames: Alison Kendall
Tokoroa: Raewyn Adams, Jeannette Lauder, Ian Stewart
(24 RSCDS Members)

APOLOGIES:

Lochiel: Mary Gray
Mount Maunganui: Fiona McCartney, Liz Wilson
Taupo: Margaret Ponga
Tauranga: Jan Caudwell, Simon Bird
Thames: David & Olina Carter, Glenda Hammond, Winnie Sheehan, Marcia Sowman
Tokoroa: Joy Morgan
No Club: Debbie & Gordon Tonks
Moved that the apologies be accepted: *Linda Carter/Jim Carter/Carried*

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING HELD SATURDAY 29 September 2018:

Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed to clubs and members before the meeting, with copies available at this meeting.

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

Jane McIlroy/Bill Jacob/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Hard Drive is now with current secretary.
2. It was noted that JAM information on the Branch website has still not been updated. Shelley McConnel (Youth) was asked to get the correct details for the WaiBOP region to Andrew Patterson (Website Manager) so that our regions details are correct.
3. Page 8. Amend Region meeting to read Region AGM.

CORRESPONDENCE: (See below)

Moved that the inwards correspondence be accepted and the outward be endorsed.

Maureen Jacob/Glenna James/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: None.

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Bill Jacob)

We have accumulated funds as follows:

	Current (as at 5/4/2019)	Last Meeting (AGM 2018)
Trading Account	603.39	399.48
Online saver	1236.58	1305.93
Online bonus saver	10850.23	10650.50
JAM Saver	1559.26	1558.37
Less unrepresented cheques	-50.00	
Total	\$14,181.31	\$13,914.28

Income from all Clubs has been received and is down slightly on last year and expenses have been incurred in running our usual activities as you can see in the table below.

The following expenses require the approval of this meeting.

Administration	AGM Refreshments	20.13
	AGM Hall Hire	80.50
	Printing additional business cards	161.00
Region Dance 15/9/2018	Hall Hire	50.00
	Loan of sound system	25.00
	Refreshments	4.59
Core Dance Day 24/11/2018	Hall hire	50.00
	Teacher's expenses (travel and photocopying)	70.00
Teachers' workshop 9/3/2019	Hall hire	50.00

Bill Jacob/Shelley McConnel/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM TREASURER'S REPORT:

Accounts reviewer is still to be appointed. Any ideas of someone to approach please contact Bill Jacob.

Approval was given to purchase a mallet and further pegs to stabilise the gazebo when it is windy.

EDUCATION & TRAINING REPORT: (Lynne Hudson)

With the last report having been near the end of the dancing season and this at the beginning there is not a lot to report.

Two of the dancers from the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region, Evelyn Knights and Robyn Dowdle attended the Teachers Preparation Class at the Nelson Summer School and reported that the course reinforced what they had learnt at the Basic Skills Course they attended in September. Unfortunately we will be losing Evelyn mid-year when she takes up a teaching placement in Istanbul. She hopes to start a group of Scottish Country Dancers within the International School environment where she will be based.

The group of Young Dancers that Antanas Procuta masterminded have impressed onlookers with their enthusiasm during demonstration. Antanas and his helpers are to be congratulated. It is hoped that when other teenagers see these dancers enjoying themselves that they too will be encouraged to join Scottish Country Dancing.

Lynne Hudson/Linda Carter/Carried

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: (Bill Jacob)

Year	Branch	Region *	Associate
2015/16	81	222	15
2016/17	88	243	12
2017/18	90	246	N/A
2018/19	86	235	N/A

* Region membership as at 31 August.

There has been a disappointing decline in both the Branch and Club numbers this year which is a reversal of the trend over the last few years.

Recruitment of new members to SCD is always a pressing issue as you will have seen in the latest issue of WaiBOP News, so I urge you to spread the word that our activity is a very healthy option – with international recognition proving the case. Also as Branch members, please spread the word amongst your club members that joining the RSCDS NZ Branch goes towards the costs of providing things like Teacher Training etc.

Bill Jacob/Jill Littlewood/Carried

COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY REPORT: (Ruary Laidlaw)

Two WaiBOP Newsletters have been produced:

1. Christmas 2018
2. 1 April 2019

Facebook/Dance Scottish WaiBOP communication has been kept up. I do need to include some “in between events” items on interest - when I remember.

Youth Team. Although not responsible for it in any way, I would like to commend Antanas Procuta and his team for creating the Youth Team. I think that this will do a lot for communicating a great image for SCD in the Waikato Bay of Plenty region.

Thankyou also to Glenna James (past Convener) for the assistance she gave me in setting up my first newsletter.

Ruary Laidlaw/Jim Carter/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY REPORT:

General discussion took place regarding the value of advertising on Facebook. Feedback on success rates from various forms of advertising was received from a number of clubs.

YOUTH REPORT: (Shelley McConnel)

The big news on the youth front is the YDT (Young Demonstration Team). It's great to see a group of young dancers moving with so much energy together. Antanas has enthusiasm and get-on-with-it attitude, his achievement is commendable.

2019 - JAM Camp - Auckland - July 12th - 14th information and registration forms have been sent by email to region and clubs. It looks to have a space theme.

Looking at the branch website I see clubs can sign up as JAM supporters and so receive the Jigs and More newsletter, something to show young dancers when they visit. I spoke with Chris Totton who coordinates registration for JAMs. He said there are very few JAMs registered from our region. Please encourage youth members to sign up as JAMs and feel part of a bigger group of young dancers.

Summer School in Cambridge will be another opportunity to bring young dancers from the region together.

Please contact me if you do have young people dancing in your club, or are working with groups of young people. Having a network of links helped to increase the numbers in the YDT and if there is an opportunity for younger dancers to get together it would be a shame to miss a young one because they were only known to the locals.

Shelley McConnel/Lynne Hudson/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM YOUTH REPORT:

- Shelley McConnel was full of praise for the work done with the group of young dancers who are demonstrating around the region. A special vote of thanks to Antanas Procuta and his team for the effort they are putting in training and encouraging these dancers.
- Clubs can register, for free, on the NZ Branch website if they wish to receive the JAM newsletter "Jigs and More". This is an ideal publication to put before young people should they attend your club.

TEACHERS' WORKSHOP REPORT: (Lynne Hudson)

With the majority of attendees arriving early we got underway just after 9.30. 12 teachers attended and we had apologies from seven.

The day began with a report I had received from Cambridge Club regarding their activities and then each attendee spoke regarding their club's activities. The majority of clubs around the region seem to have gained much public interest from the many demonstrations that members have participated in. The Paeroa Tattoo certainly aroused interest in some members of the public and hopefully this will result in clubs gaining and retaining new dancers. A major problem has been retaining the members of the public that come along, majority of clubs reporting that the new attendees are very sporadic which is not conducive to progressive teaching. It was agreed that we need to keep a high public profile and push for articles regarding these activities to be regularly included in local newspapers along with photographs so the public does not confuse Scottish Country Dancing with Highland Dancing. One comment was maybe we should drop the word "Scottish" in these situations. Interest from lone newspaper advertisements has not been as successful as articles with photographs.

Some time was spent discussing ways of “putting” ourselves forward. One important way is through “Green Prescriptions” which is where GP’s recommend patients who would benefit from this activity, be sent along to local clubs. Some years ago a patient who was suffering from depression was sent along to dancing by his doctor, got “hooked” and became a valued member of that club. Listing on the Sports Waikato and Sports Bay of Plenty web sites are other places. In some areas local radio have slots for community activities and mention of dancing can often spark interest. There is also Event Finder, another on-line activity listing. Around the Tauranga, Mount, Papamoa and Katikati region notices regarding Scottish Country Dancing are being put on all sports club noticeboards, in libraries and on public notice boards (where officially allowed though some places refuse). Another area not to be overlooked is Facebook. With the variety of ideas from each club we all go away with lots of new ideas to try. We will be successful and Scottish Country Dancing will live on.

Later in the morning we danced some of the more unusual formations that occur in dances from Book 52. Most were variations on basic formations and these “twists” meant giving considerable thought to phrasing to keep the dance flowing. The result was some rather nice dances which could become quite popular. Andy Paterson introduced us to one of the dances from the Rotorua Ball Programme, Ray Milbourne from the Carnforth Collection, which was great to dance. We also looked briefly at one of the formations that we had covered at the 2018 workshop, La Barrette.

The meeting closed just after lunch as some of the dancers were to be involved in a demonstration later that afternoon.

Lynne Hudson/Linda Carter/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM TEACHERS’ WORKSHOP REPORT:

Discussion arose regarding how a club could get listed on the “Green Prescription Programme”. Look up the “Sports Waikato” or “Sports Bay of Plenty” website where you will find contact details for the Green Prescription Programme. Clubs are urged to register. We know of two current dancers who took up dancing after being referred through this programme.

QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND REPORT 2019: (Linda Carter – Co-ordinator)

Katikati - Saturday June 1st to Monday June 3rd

Planning for the Region’s Queen’s Birthday Weekend School is well advanced and a steady stream of “Early Bird” registrations have been received, including from Australia.

As of today 55 registrations have been received. Those requiring accommodation are referred to the list of options in the registration form and on the website gbwe.waibopscd.org.nz. There are a number of B & B’s and Air BnB’s in the area, various forms of accommodation and sites for caravans and campervans at Sapphire Springs Holiday Park, Katikati Naturist Park, and Athenree Hot Springs and Holiday Park. Some billets are also available.

The theme for the Sunday evening Ceilidh is food, in recognition of the meaning of Katikati, nibble nibble, and those attending are invited to dress to reflect food.

Come and join us in the Western Bay of Plenty for a weekend of fun.

Linda Carter/Heather Johnston/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND REPORT:

- Linda stated the Branch refused her request for seeding money, stating that funds were tied up with the JAM Camp and Summer School.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2019/20 COMMITTEE REPORT: (Antanas Procuta - Organiser)

The committee comprises the below people who share and carry a range of portfolios (generalised below). We meet every four weeks, and more often in sub-groups where required.

- Antanas Procuta – General organisation and communications. Venue (general), sponsorship and marketing.
- Andrew Patterson (treasurer) – Finances, publicity for website.
- Glenna James (secretary) – Registration, Halls, Clubs liaison & Volunteers, Unit 5.
- Shelley McConnel - Accommodation, Catering, Publicity for social media.
- Caron Rogan – Transport, Alternative Entertainment (afternoon visits), & Newsletters.
- Wayne McConnel - Evening Events & Musicians.

Communications

As you hopefully will have seen, the 2019-20 Summer School website established by Andrew Patterson is the primary source of public information in relation to the Summer School. We are encouraging everyone to use this as their first reference point for the programme, accommodation, nature of the classes, and the profiles of the teachers and musicians. It also provides information for those from overseas wanting to holiday locally and further afield in NZ.

The website is updated when required. Further information and interest items are covered in six-weekly newsletters compiled and edited by Ruary Laidlaw, and Caron Rogan will take responsibility for this task during the school.

The website is complemented and supplemented with the Summer School Facebook, facilitated by Shelley McConnel.

Registration

To date we have 12 registrations.

We've developed some fee policies for the non-typical registrations as below. Such concessions are at the discretion of the organiser.

- On-site families (i.e.; with dependent student enrolling) in cubicles: \$100 per person. (no concession for rooms)
- School attendees not enrolling for morning classes (i.e. For Teacher Refresher or Musician Class and Evening Functions only: A concession of \$260 per person.
- Attendees in self-contained camper vans on site: A concession of \$200 per person

Financial

At this stage the outgoings have been minor ((including deposit for St Peters School), and we have some income coming from deposits from the registrants to date. Seeding funding for the large amounts expected (in particular for overseas guest fares) has been sought from the NZ branch. With a new branch treasurer in place, the Management Committee of the branch has requested further detail on the amount requested.

Teachers, Musicians, Classes and Class venues

The nominated teachers and overseas musicians have all confirmed in response to the invitations. Arrangements have yet to be confirmed for local musicians.

The Unit 5 class will require special attention, and Glenna has this portfolio. We are endeavouring to arrange dancers from outside the school to assist for the candidate examinations, however, we acknowledge that one of the "advanced" classes may need to assist in this regard.

Dance halls have all been pencilled in, and we have some in reserve should a Junior JAM class become viable. There is the possibility, if the numbers are sufficient, for the Development Class to be split to its "Elementary" and "Intermediate" Components.

Marketing

A quarter-page advertisement was placed in the RSCDS Dancer last October, and another will be placed this April, to give a worldwide reach to RSCDS members. Similarly, an advertisement, a story and a one-page flier went out with the New Zealand Dancer in early March.

The poster and website information has also been emailed to each of the branch secretaries in Australia, to the RSCDS webmaster, and to SCD teacher Jim Stott who is traveling and teaching through Russia Italy and Canada over the next few months, for distribution where they can. Further international marketing is anticipated.

Owing to the web-based registration focus to date, we've not posted hard or soft-copy registration forms directly to clubs, and we may hold off doing so until July.

The Region's Help

The Summer School committee is now at the stage where we are beginning to look to members (and friends) of the region to assist in the detail of the school. As we know, there is much work around the Summer School required to make it a success, and committee members will be contacting people over the next month or two in this regard. Thank you to those who have already made contact with offers to help at Summer School.

Antanas Procuta/Grietje Badham/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM SUMMER SCHOOL 2019/20 REPORT:

Summer School has been advertised in an Australian newsletter. Reference was also made to the report that came with the latest NZ Branch reports. Andrew Patterson advised that registration forms are on the revised website, which we are encouraged to read.

PAEROA TATTOO REPORT (Wayne McConnel)

Timing of this event very nicely fills a gap in our calendar. The gazebo was a huge advantage, providing shade on a very hot day but also a focal point for the public to see. The dancing was enjoyed by all.

The Youth Demonstration Team performed solo in one dance and were then joined by a number of other sets for a mass display. The young folk also acted as waitresses taking the haggis to the crowd. The Scottish Country Dancing was well received and we have been asked to take part again next year.

The sound system left a lot to be desired. We were cut off in some places and turned down in others. It was evident the sound person was not a dancer.

There is a problem which we have asked the organisers to address, that being the potholes formed by tossing the caber. Fortunately, there have been no injuries, but that is pure luck.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PAEROA TATTOO REPORT:

It was suggested that we be proactive regarding the potholes, filling the holes in the area we need to dance. This would involve the Paeroa Tattoo organisation team supplying the sand, us the manpower.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Nothing of note to report regarding NZ Branch AGM.
2. The Katikati club has requested money to cover the initial financial outlay to cover travel and accommodation costs for the weekend school. Before a decision was made regarding payment, Bill Jacob pointed out that the money was essentially a loan. However, should the weekend school run at a loss, then the region would have to write off the money as non-recoverable under the existing policy of the Region underwriting Region events. It was moved that \$3,000 be advanced to the Katikati club.

Wayne McConnel/Glenna James/Carried

It was also moved: "If a JAM from the WaiBOP Region attended the full Queen's Birthday Weekend School, that up to \$30 per person be paid. A limit of \$300 in total be shared between them, but paid to their club to administer."

Shelley McConnel/ Jeanette Lauder/ Carried

3. Uniforms for the Waikato Dance Group.

YDT the young dance team was an idea presented by Antanas at the last region meeting or two. It is a demonstration team of young dancers drawing on dancers from the broader Hamilton neighbourhood.

One of the dance mothers, Jan Brassington of Lochiel, has taken on the organiser role, while Antanas with some support from Wayne and Shelley McConnel, and Caron Rogan has been working with around fifteen 14 - 26-year olds to enhance their dancing and to teach them a number of dances which they can demonstrate.

Lessons / rehearsals, started in December for the Lochiel 'Hamilton Gardens Picnic Dance' on Sunday evening, but unfortunately the later afternoon got rained out. We did have time to practice the dances on the lawn at 3.00pm prior, and had a good number of spectators videoing them dancing. The demo team went on to dance at Hamilton Gardens on 3 February, and the Paeroa Tattoo. The girls acquitted themselves very well, and looked tremendous. Next is two dance displays at the Cambridge Autumn Festival in March. It is envisaged that the Demo Team will dance at farmer market events, ceilidhs and even at school events.

At a start-up meeting in December a costume was devised comprising tartan skirts and tee-shirts (white for Ladies side, and black for the Mens) to give the demo team a cohesive and organised appearance. As the Demo team is intended to market and grow SCD in the community (rather than being a dance group for its own sake), we view this endeavour as being part of the objectives of SCD to foster and support the enjoyment of Scottish Dancing.

The YDT continues to seek opportunities to be seen and promote dancing, also it welcomes participants. So far it has been a lot of fun, it is hoped to grow numbers and keep introducing young people to our sport.

The uniforms have been purchased/sewn and worn with pride, care was taken to select a fabric that has ongoing availability at Spotlight. The tee shirts are well made. The uniforms are being cared for by Jan Brassington and Caron Rogan. It was anticipated that a community grant would help with start-up costs for the dancers, unfortunately uniform expenses are not accepted as a cost for the grants. A donation from Cambridge Autumn festival \$150 has gone some way towards the costs, there is still \$550 outlay that has not been reimbursed. It is my recommendation that some of the region JAM funds are used to support this group by helping with the uniform costs.

Young dance team.

\$703.05 spent thus far in total (\$89.91 by Shelley, \$613.14 by Jan). Receipts available.

\$89.91 - Original outlay for material, zips, cotton & material by Shelley

\$216.32 – 9 white T-shirts purchased through Sheryl's company by Jan

\$72.49 – 4 black T-shirts purchased through Sheryl's company by Jan

\$316.33 – material, zips, & cotton for the remaining skirts

\$8.00 – two further zips

Moved that \$550 from the JAM funds be made to cover the remainder of the cost of these uniforms.

Shelley McConnel/Jim Carter/Carried

4. **Day School 2019.** Both the Thames and Te Awamutu clubs have offered to run a day school. After some discussion as to how we could fit two schools into the 2019 calendar, Te Awamutu offered to go back and ask their club if they would consider running a weekend school in 2020 instead. It was agreed that Thames would run an intermediate class in conjunction with their ball to be held on 21 September 2019.

5. **November AGM.** This is now to be held in conjunction with core dance day. The AGM will be held at 1.30 starting with a cup of tea. The meeting will begin at 2pm.

6. **Region Dance.** It was agreed to hold this on St Andrews Day, 30 November 2019. A suggestion was made that some ceilidh type dances should be included so that the evening could be more inclusive of people wanting "to try it out." A venue has yet to be decided. It was felt that somewhere nearer a population centre was advisable. We'll keep you posted.

7. **Jam Camp Sponsorship.** Moved that \$30 a head (no cap) be paid to those who attended the JAM camp from the WaiBOP region. Money to be paid through their respective clubs.

Shelley McConnel/Glenna James/Carried

8. **Consult 2020.** Antanas Procuta spoke to the meeting about the Forum held at the Nelson Summer School. A wide ranging discussion took place as a result.

Some of the comments were about the executive considering NZ Branch members uninformed about the voting procedure, and therefore members should not be given an opportunity to vote individually because their bias could cause unwanted changes in the status quo.

People should be able to express their opinions and management should take notice.

The question was raised about the possibility of proxy votes.

Concern was raised that most regions appear to demand that their delegates vote as they have been directed by the region, ignoring any valuable ideas put at the AGM which could have affected the way they would have voted. WaiBOP gives our delegates discretion in most situations.

As Antanas is taking feedback regarding this consultation, if you wish to discuss anything with him, please do so. Alternatively please make your comments to consult2020@dancescottish.org.nz.

NEXT MEETING:

As a result of the day school being held in Thames, it was agreed that the next WaiBOP Region meeting would be held prior to the Tokoroa dance on 10 August 2019. Details regarding place and time, to be advised.

A vote of thanks from Glenna James to Jean Smithson (Chair) for her running of a very successful meeting.

The Meeting closed at 4.28p.m.

Signed:.....President. Date:.....

WaiBOP Region Correspondence List for April 2019 Meeting.

FROM:

NZ Branch Secretary

- Request for details for Region Directory 2019
- Request for club reports.
- MAC News.

NZ Branch Editor

- Closing dates for 2019 magazine.
- Closing date for April Kiwi News.

NZ Membership Co-ordinator.

- RSCDS Membership cards for me to forward.

WaiBOP Clubs

- Club reports received from most clubs.
- Updates to Club Office Bearers for NZ Branch Directory.
- Responses from a few clubs regarding running a day school in 2019.
- Programmes for dances to be held in the early part of the year.

Printech Design, Cambridge.

- Quote received for printing of new business cards for region.

Lochiel Club

- Twilight dancing details

Antanas Procuta

- Request for funding to cover uniforms for young dancing demonstration group.
- Requested a copy of Forum Notes from Katharine Hoskyn.

Lynne Hudson

- Letter from the Mount Club regarding closeness of extra functions near ball dates.

Linda Carter

- Request for seeding fund for Queen's Birthday weekend.

TO:

NZ Branch Secretary

- Copy of WaiBOP Region Directory and Calendar.

NZ Branch Editor

- Club reports forwarded for NZ Dancer Magazine.

WaiBOP Executive

- Copy of quote for business cards for go ahead to print.

All WaiBOP RSCDS Clubs.

- Request for club reports.
- Request to check Club details on 2019 Directory and Calendar.
- Asking clubs to consider hosting a day school in 2019.
- Programmes sent out for Hogmanay and dances in early part of year.

- Request for WaiBOP Newsletter Contributions for Christmas 2018 and April 2019.
- Twilight Dancing details.
- Request for contributions to NZ Branch magazine.
- Agenda for WaiBOP Region Meeting in April & Minutes for last meeting.
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WaiBOP RSCDS Members

- Programmes for Hogmanay and other dances received to date.
- Agenda for WaiBOP Region Meeting in April & Minutes for last meeting.

Auckland Region

- Copy of WaiBOP calendar sent with a request for Auckland's calendar to avoid clashes.

Antanas Procuta

- Request for progress regarding sponsorship as outlined at the September 2018 general meeting.