

## **Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region - RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc.**

Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday 10 April 2021

At Hinuera Hall, 4800 State Highway 29, Matamata 3473

**PRESENT:** 16 RSCDS members and 2 non-RSCDS members present.

**WELCOME:** Chairman, Jill Littlewood, welcome those present and requested that those non-members present, be given speaking rights -AGREED.

Jill encouraged anyone to make themselves a cup of tea/coffee during the meeting if they wished a cuppa – using water out of electric jug.

**APOLOGIES:** Received and Accepted from Heather Johnston, Lynne Hudson, Philip Jamieson, Jan McIvor, Winnifred Sheehan, Ruary Laidlaw, Jan Pike, Andrew & Jeanette Patterson, Shelley McConnel, Agnes Algra, Fiona McCartney, Joy Morgan.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the Meeting, dated 7 November 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed. Jill Littlewood/Bill Jacob

**Matters Arising: Ian Stewart** - Date of today's Meeting had, some time ago, been noted as incorrect with correct date being shown on this present Meeting's circulated Agenda.

### **CORRESPONDENCE: INWARDS & OUTWARDS.**

Inwards and Outwards correspondence , shown on list that had been circulated with Agenda (see below) was accepted and approved. Jill Littlewood/Linda Carter

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jill Littlewood**

It is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of 4 of our ex dancers, Roy MacDonald, Rose Jacob, Lorna Weeks and Hiroko Sakakibara. Hiroko, a Lochiel dancer, loved SC dancing and enjoyed attending many region events. Lorna, a keen dancer at Hamilton Scottish and ex Region President was also known for the business that she and husband Ken ran selling Scottish tartan, jewellery etc. She attended many Weekend and Summer Schools with Ken. Rose, a SCD teacher and avid dancer into her 90s, latterly at Lochiel SCD Club, was well known by many of us. Roy was an ex-president of Cambridge SCDS and danced most recently at Whitianga. Our thoughts are with Andrea Fox, Ken Weeks, Chris and Bill and Maureen Jacob.

On a happier note, on 3 Dec, 2020 with great pleasure I presented on your behalf an acknowledgement of their contribution to the Region to Graeme and Genny Hall. Their response was one I'd like to second and share with you. "We got way more out of what we did than we gave but thank you. We would do it all again." They were also made Patron and Patroness of the Tokoroa SCD Club at this event.

Several other events have brought us all together and/or shared dancing with the public. Hogmanay was a great night. Thanks to Jane McIlroy and friends who organized this. It was especially good to be dancing at the end of 2020 when so many events had had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Twilight Dancing was another enjoyable get together with lots of spectators, as was the Paeroa Tattoo. Thanks to Lochiel and Wayne and Shelley for the organization of these events and to everyone who supported. The Lochiel Dance for newer dancers was a smaller affair this year (half the club, including me, was in the South Island!) but was still enjoyed by all.

I'm sure that you, like me, are looking forward to a lot more dancing this year. Hopefully the COVID Level changes are over! We have lots of Balls and Tea Dances to look forward to and the Otorohanga Queen's Birthday Weekend School is really just around the corner. I hope you have

already registered. I look forward to seeing you there, if not before.  
Littlewood/Glenna James

Jill

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

We have accumulated funds as follows:

	Current (as at 6/4/2021)	Last Meeting (Gen 6/11/2020)
Trading Account	2248.52	1188.76
Online saver	1238.13	1237.87
Online bonus saver	11479.25	11368.60
JAM Saver	1389.33	1232.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,355.23</b>	<b>\$15,027.30</b>

The Trading Account current balance includes funding of \$1100 from NZ Branch. The JAM account includes fund raising of \$157 by the JAM Demo Team.

The following expenses/outgoings require the approval of this meeting:

Administration	Secretary's Expenses, Stationery, 26/11/2020: M Jacob	40.49
Meetings	Refreshments, AGM 7/11/2020: M Jacob	11.75
	Teachers Workshop 13/3/2021: H Johnston	70.36

Bill Jacob – Treasurer - 6/4/2021

Treasurers Report was accepted and payments were approved.

Bill Jacob/Ian Stewart

### TRAINING AND EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT (read by Colleen Gunn)

Teachers' Workshop Saturday 13 March 2021, held at the Hinuera Hall.

8 Club teachers (including myself) and 4 observers attended – Andy Patterson, Jean Smithson, Lynne Hudson, Jane McIlroy, Jeanette Lauder, Antanas Procuta, Wayne McConnel and also Colleen Gunn (Region Secretary), Linda Carter, Robyn Dowdle and Jeanette Patterson.

There were 9 apologies – Ruary Laidlaw, Olina Carter, Glenda Hammond, Helen Smythe, Margaret Ponga, Andreena Broadley (Taupo), Jan Pyke, Genny Hall and Mary Thomas who is currently in the UK.

The focus for the Workshop was *Music*. Teachers had been asked to complete a little Homework exercise

regarding their criteria for choosing music for a particular dance.

They were asked to choose two dances:

i) The first one being a popular dance having set music, and to write a brief explanation of why they would choose a particular rendition of the music for that dance, and then a brief explanation of why they would not choose another rendition of the music for the same dance.

They were asked to put likes or dislikes for certain bands aside, and to concentrate on the structure of the music.

ii) The second dance being one for which there was no set, suggested or recommended music, and to choose a piece of music that they thought suitable for that dance, with a brief explanation of why they had chosen that particular piece. Again they were asked to put likes or dislikes for certain bands aside, and to concentrate on the structure of the music.

Our day started with two discussion groups. The groups had a brief questionnaire and the discussion arose around the questions:

- Should the music fit the dance or the dance fit the music?
- When selecting music do you listen to just the lead tune or the whole set of tunes? And why or why not?
- When selecting music for a dance for beginners what should you be looking for? What should you avoid?

We then went back into one group to discuss the out-comes.

The rest of the day was basically spent on dancing those chosen dances around the homework exercise.

It was interesting what came out of the discussions around set music for popular dances and chosen music for a dance where there was no set music.

I have had some interesting feed-back mainly from those who do not have much, or as much musical knowledge and experience as others. I really think it gave them something to think about, and perhaps a greater appreciation of selecting music for dances they are about to teach to their dancers. I appreciated the honesty of Antanas and Jean!

One thing I took away from the day, and I think others did too, was the fact that when dancing those unfamiliar dances, we were concentrating on the dance and on getting that right, rather than paying a great deal of attention to the structure of the music. And isn't that how it must be, or probably is, for our beginners? Sure, **our** phrasing was correct, and we **were** dancing to the music, probably because the music chosen was indeed suitable for that unfamiliar dance. A good reason for choosing appropriate music for any dance and for any level of dancer.

Food for thought.

Heather Johnston - Training and Education Coordinator

Colleen Gunn/Jean Smithson

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Bill Jacob**

Isn't it great to be back to normal dancing again! With the new dancing season well underway Clubs are gearing up for a busy year of weekly club nights, weekend or day schools and Balls. Hopefully advertising for newer dancers has paid off and we can welcome some new entrants to the wonderful world of SCD.

Many of you will be aware already, but I record the passing of the following members: Lorna Weeks of Hamilton Scottish – an RSCDS life member, and Rose Jacob of Lochiel Club – also an RSCDS life member.

Bill Jacob - Membership coordinator - 6/4/2021

Bill Jacob/Jane McIlroy

Jim Carter asked how were the membership numbers holding up? Bill replied that the number of RSCDS members is static and the number of members in the Region is down (as per the Capitation Fee) – this relates to some Cubs being inactive during the Covid lockdown periods and did not provide a capitation fee for 2020. He expects the numbers to return to previous levels in 2021.

#### **COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICITY REPORT – Ruary Laidlaw (read by Jill Littlewood)**

**WaiBop News** During 2020 we produced five Newsletters. The response from WaiBop dancers was heartening. Lots of different view points were expressed, which is a healthy sign.

**Facebook/Dance Scottish Waibop** provides a reminder to

WaiBop dancers of the next event coming up and also a report on the previous one. It aims to complement Andy's WaiBop Website.

**Dance Scottish WaiBop website** <http://waibopscd.org.nz/> has been a great go to point for all the events happening in the Waikato Bay of Plenty. It is user friendly thanks to Andy Patterson's expertise.

**Youth Team** I would like to commend Antanas Procuta and his team for creating the Youth Team. They did a lot for communicating a great image for SCD in the Waikato Bay of Plenty region, as well as providing a focus for our young dancers who wanted to perform to a high standard. Although at the moment they have dispersed, as young people do, I hope that the idea remains as a seed that can germinate some time in the future

**Lochiel's Twilight Dancing in the Hamilton gardens in January** This really helps to get Scottish dancing out to the public. We regularly get interested people turning up to Club nights from these events.

Ruary Laidlaw - 9th April 2021

Jill Littlewood/Antanus Procuta

#### **YOUTH – Sophia Kilgour**

To begin with I would just like to say how happy I am that we can all be here together. I feel that each week I have my fingers crossed that we will be allowed to dance, and each week when we are I count myself lucky - if there is one thing that 2020 taught me it was to appreciate each and every moment that I can spend alongside those that I care about outside my bubble. So far this year, we have had small clusters of JAMs present at the various Scottish Dancing events, including Hogmanay, Dancing in the Hamilton Gardens, and the Paeroa Tattoo. A number of you may remember being emailed a flyer a few weeks ago advertising a ceilidh organised by Dance Folkus Hamilton in association with Hamilton Scottish, which took place on Friday 26th March at the YWCA Hall in central Hamilton. The night consisted of a number of easy ceilidh dances, all taught by Fiona Murdoch, and was attended by about 15 or so young people - most under the age of 10. The night had a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, and those who attended were clearly enjoying themselves, helped I think by the live music that we were lucky enough to dance to. I would like to thank Shelley and Wayne from Hamilton Scottish for their part in the organisation of this event, which would likely not have made it past initial planning stages without their welcome

enthusiasm, as well as Fiona from Dance Folkus. I am under the impression that Dance Folkus are considering making these ceilidhs a more frequent event in the Waikato, and I am hopeful that each time the number of young dancers attending will increase as word spreads. I propose that, if successive ceilidhs are organised, we make an effort to advertise the local Scottish Dancing clubs in the hopes that any younger dancers are intrigued enough to come along. I would also suggest that for future ceilidhs, to assist in increasing the number of youth attending, we separate the night into two age ranges - perhaps one group aged 12 years and under, attending earlier in the evening; and another group for youth aged 13 and over, attending later in the evening - from a young person's perspective, I find this serves to increase the desired energy and atmosphere for both groups. At the beginning of this school year, I contacted Waikato Diocesan School for Girls about enlisting some of their boarding students in the introductory lessons held at the Lochiel club in February. Initially I received a positive response, and posters were displayed within the boarding houses, however this initial effort didn't make it past the 'negotiation' phase. One issue that was mentioned by the school's Head of Boarding was transport, however I believe that in the future this could be solved by a couple of willing dancers from within our community. Despite the lack of success in this instance, I think that Intermediate and High School boarding communities could be good potential sources to contact in terms of introducing new young dancers into our dancing community. Therefore, if anyone is aware of, or has any contacts within boarding school groups in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty region, I would be happy to liaise with those schools about introducing some of their students into our club nights. In 2019, the Youth Demo Team organised a raffle to raise some money to contribute towards their future endeavours. Sadly, due to the loss of quite a few key members of our demonstration team, we have struggled to maintain the numbers for this group. However, the money raised is still available to be used for JAM activities within the Waikato and Bay of Plenty region. It has therefore been transferred into the WaiBOP region JAM account. When communicating with Waikato Diocesan about potentially bringing a group of boarders to the Lochiel introductory course, I had considered using some of the money raised towards a discount for any girls willing to give it a try. I think it would be worth considering this as an option for any potential groups of boarding students in the future. Finally, concerning the Youth Demo Team, the skirts that were used by the group are currently being stored with me, however I would like to propose that they are relocated to one of the region clubs. I think that they would be put to better use in the same way that dancing shoes are stored and distributed to beginner dancers at many of the clubs. If any clubs are interested in storing the skirts, please feel free to contact me, otherwise I will likely be in touch with the Hamilton clubs about this prior to winter. If anyone has any questions, concerns or suggestions please feel free to contact me, otherwise I look forward to seeing you all on the dance floor.

Sophia Kilgour/Maureen Jacob

Jill Littlewood reported that she and Sophia had worked hard to try and get a set from Diocesan School but 2020 was a difficult year.

Jeanette Lauder reported that school kids have been to class sporadically but once Daylight Saving finishes, they do not attend.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### **Branch Subsidy**

Bill Jacob spoke – As NZB indicated recently that Regions could apply for funds, we as a Region submitted a request to the Branch for four items:

1. Two Workshops – one on either side of the Divide – Bay of Plenty and Waikato – on different weekends – for people who had been dancing for six Years or less.
2. Contribution towards advertising costs.
3. Contribution towards a Reely Good Workshop in October – cost \$350.
4. To Purchase a sound system for use anywhere in the Region.

NZB Management Committee declined WaiBoP advertising request.

NZB advised that after consideration by the NZ Management & Co-Ordinator's Committee, funds of \$1100 would be available to the WaiBoP Region. (Total funds requested from WaiBoP Region was \$3902).

Bill then demonstrated two different models of speaker systems – small and large Samsung. Some Clubs already have the smaller version and this is adequate for dances.

Smaller version has been quoted as \$1178.

Antanus Procuta asked if Bill had a recommendation – Bill would not recommend one or the other – he has researched what is available and both demonstrated models are suitable.

Storage, charging and transport need to be finalised at some stage. Storage case would be an extra cost.

Insurance for the speaker may be covered by members' Household Insurance Policy or by NZB Insurance Policy.

**MOVED THAT** the amount of \$1100 that had been offered to WaiBoP Region by NZBranch Management Committee be used to buy a sound system.

Jill Littlewood/Linda Carter/Carried

**MOVED THAT** WaiBoP Region buy an XP208W sound system at \$1178 as quoted on this day.

Jill Littlewood/Glenna James/Carried

Bill Jacob was given authority to go ahead and purchase the XP208W sound system.

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND SCHOOL 2021** (Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 June) – Jane McIlroy gave her report. Twenty-one people registered at present. Stressed the importance of more registrations having to be received to make the Weekend go ahead.

### **REGION DAYSCHOOLS**

No Clubs have offered to run a School. Maybe one day School only would be more suitable – 18 September?

Jean Smithson spoke regarding the possibility of holding QBWS School **2023** in Whakatane.

QBWS **2022** – no Club has offered at this stage. Jill Littlewood asked that communication be made with her of any interest in running this School.

**TOKORO A DANCE** – may have to be changed from 14 August.

**REGION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL**

(See Heather Johnston’s report above also refers).

Jeanette Lauder spoke

Suggested that this matter could be an AGM Agenda item each year, giving consideration to WaiBoP current financial situation.

2021 QBWS – WaiBoP Region has not given any money to JAMS.

**MOVED THAT** WaiBoP JAM members who register for the 2021 QBW School are subsidised 50%.  
Antanus Procuta/Jeanette Lauder

**LINDA CARTER** – would like to see more fundraising to bring young dancers into SCD.

**Next Meeting:** To be decided.

Meeting closed at 3.14pm.

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