WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION – RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC. MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD 10.00AM SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024, 10AM AT GREENWOOD PARK VILLAGE, 10 WELCOME BAY ROAD, TAURANGA

PRESENT – Jeanette Lauder (President & Youth Co-Ordinator), Colleen Gunn (Secretary), Robyn Howes (Treasurer & Membership Co-Ordinator), Linda Carter, Jim Carter, Jean Smithson, Ian Stewart, Andrew Patterson, Chris Ingram, Heather Johnston, Douglas McCartney, Geoffrey Thompson, Robyn Dowdle, Raewyn Adams, Lesley Gousmett.

APOLOGIES – Jan Pike, Glenna James, Jane McIlroy, Joy Morgan, Jill Littlewood, John Rowlandson, Wayne McConnell, Shelley McConnell, Lynne Hudson, Margaret Green, Fiona McCartney,

Johnston/Linda Carter

WELCOME – Jeanette welcomed and thanked those present for their attendance.

MINUTES - MOVED THAT the Minutes of previous General Meeting, held 11 November 2023, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

Howes/Stewart

MATTERS ARISING – Ian Stewart appeared twice in "PRESENT" (page 1), and two typo corrections on page 2 in paragraph beginning with "Also".

CORRESPONDENCE – **MOVED THAT** the Inwards Correspondence be accepted and the Outwards Correspondence be ratified.

Adams/Smithson

REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jeanette Lauder

We began this year with a Hogmanay organised by Lochiel club. Along with the usual details to be sorted, extra pressure was created when a fire engulfed Piarere Hall only a few days before Christmas. The organisers coped with this challenge and the evening was a success.

It is good to hear about continuing promotional initiatives around the region. Region dancers had a presence at the Paeroa Tattoo and were warmly received. It was lovely to see a number of our audience join in and dance with us. Thanks go to Shelley who worked hard to see we were a part of this event.

Lochiel's Twilight Dancing events in the Hamilton Gardens were followed up with an Introductory Course which has just been completed. Tauranga Club has also been active in offering a Beginners' Class throughout February under the guidance of Maureen Jacob. Their club nights resumed in March with a number of dancers sharing the teaching role. The club has also initiated a Day School focussing on the current Core Dances. As a region we are fortunate to have so many members who are prepared to put their hand up to ensure events happen. Such has been the case with this year's King's Birthday Weekend School to be held in Raglan. Led by Wayne McConnel a small team has things well in hand.

The recent Teachers' Workshop held by the Branch was attended by a number of dancers/teachers from our region. With Graham Donald, ex Scotland, leading the sessions there was much to be gained. I trust dancers will experience the benefit of these gains throughout the year.

Heather, as our region's Education and Training Coordinator, has organised a Teachers' Workshop to cater for those who may want to teach the occasional dance through to more experienced teachers. Please encourage and support those you think could be interested.

Our grant application to the Branch for \$500 was successful. This relates to the two ceilidhs in the region to be held in conjunction with the visit of musicians Marian Anderson & Max Ketchen. Hopefully, these events will encourage even more people to join our dance community.

A recent interview on National Radio with Dr Alycia Fong Yang highlighted her research relating to dancing being the best exercise for mental health. I think it's a good resource for us to share with others.

And speaking of the benefits of dance it was special to celebrate Ruary's 80th birthday recently at a Lochiel Club Night. He, among others, is a testament to the benefits of Scottish Country Dancing - still going strong, enjoying his dancing and the friendships he has made.

I am grateful to Colleen and Robyn for the competent support they provide without fanfare or fuss. Thanks also go to Heather and Agnes as coordinators and to Ruary, Shelley and Andy in their support roles within our region.

TREASURER - Robyn Howes - General Meeting - 20 APRIL 2024 The

The Performance Report for the year to date is attached to the minutes.

A snapshot of funds held as at 31 March:

Westpac Trading account \$ 1,313.89
Westpac Online Saver \$ 435.38
Westpac Bonus Saver \$ 8,481.69
Westpac Jam Online Saver \$ 1,174.87

Total funds on hand are \$11,406, a decrease of \$1,569 since our last meeting.

Since the last meeting in November we received a grant of \$500 from the NZ Branch for the promotion of SCD, specifically in relation to the visit from Max and Marion in October & November 2024. This meeting needs to decide how these funds are to be allocated.

\$2,400 was transferred from the Bonus Saver account to the Trading account in March to fund the initial expenses for the King's Birthday Weekend School 2024. As at 31 March, registrations received were \$390, and prepayments are \$2,455. Provided that the School breaks even, I anticipate being able to re-deposit the \$2,400 to the bonus saver account once the School is over.

At our AGM we discussed opening a new bank account for the Devisor's Fund. Raewyn Adams has been holding cash for many years, and there is a sum held in Tokoroa Club's bank account. It was agreed at the AGM that these funds should be transferred to the Region in anticipation of the publication of the next dance book in the Land of Milk and Plenty series.

I have investigated opening another account with Westpac. This would require all 4 people currently recorded as beneficial owners of our accounts there signing documentation. I feel a practical solution would be to transfer the balance from our online saver account to the trading account and rename the online saver to Devisor's Fund. The money could then be held in that account. There is no real need to have 2 savings accounts for Region funds, and we obtain better interest rates on the Bonus Saver Account.

Payments to	be Ratified		
1.12.23	\$ 50.00	Hinuera Hall	Hire – Core Dance Day
3.12.23	\$ 80.00	H Johnston	Mileage – Core Dance Day
			King's Birthday Weekend 2024
14.3.24	\$ 1,075.20	C McCutcheon	Airfares x 2
14.3.24	\$ 150.00	Raglan Town Hall	Venue Hire
16.3.24	\$ 1,230.00	Raglan Kopua Holiday Park	Deposit – Accommodation Committee & Teachers
12.4.24	\$ 60.00	Te Mata Hall Assn	Venue Hire
16.4.24	\$ 400.00	Te Uku Hall	Venue Hire

MOVED THAT payments be ratified and approved, and that Treasurer's Report be adopted Howes/Smithson

Geoffery Thompson queried the number of accounts – any fees involved – answer "No"

Jil Littlewood has AGREED to be Treasurer for Raglan King's Birthday Weekend 2024 – Robyn Howes will be away. Hoping for 50 dancers to Register.

MOVED THAT any JAMS from WaiBoP Region attending King's Birthday Weekend School be subsidised 50%.

Smithson/Linda Carter

MEMBERSHIP REPORT- Robyn Howes

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc. Waikato BoP Region 31-Mar-24 Membership Report

Since my report to the last meeting, we have 2 new RSCDS members who joined direct to the NZ Branch. Update below:

RSCDS NZ	Numbers		
Branch Membership Category	2023/24	2022/23	
Adult Single	6	7	
Adult Single - Email	50	46	
Adult Joint	2	4	
Adult Joint - Email	14	14	
RSCDS Life Member	1	1	
RSCDS Life Member-Email			
RSCDS Life Family			
Young Adult			
Total Membership	73	72	

	Membership			
Club	RSCDS 2023/24	RSCDS 2022/23	Club 2023*	Club 2022*
Cambridge	8	11	19	16
Hamilton				
Scottish	7	7	19	17
Hauraki-Thames	1	2	8	12
Katikati	3	2	16	14
Lochiel	6	5	22	20
Mount				
Maunganui	4	4	10	8
Opotiki	2	2	6	11
Pauanui	1	0	12	10
Rotorua	7	7	9	9
Taupo	0	0	**	**
Tauranga	14	13	27	25
Te Awamutu	8	7	10	8
Tokoroa	10	10	13	10
Whakatane	2	2	9	11
Club				
Membership	73	72	180	171

^{*} As at 31st August, paid since the AGM

^{**} No reply as at 31/10/23

Two new members joined the RSCDS NZB since November through the Website – no funds to WaiBoP. 73 members of RSCDS this year, 180 dancers at WaiBoP Clubs, calculated by the number of payments made. Andy Patterson suggested that NZB should inform the Region when a new member has applied through the Website. Colleen Gunn thanked Robyn Howes for the work she carries out on behalf of members with the Treasurer's role – keeping finger on the pulse and being fully aware and communicating what is required in this role (legally and financially). Met with acclamation.

EDUCATION & TRAINING REPORT - Heather Johnston

Core Dance Day 2023 ~ Report to Region General Meeting 20 April, 2024 - Heather Johnston (Core Dance Day Coordinator)

This was held on Saturday November 23, two weeks after the Region AGM and General Meeting. Apologies were received from Jane McIlroy (Te Awamutu), Glenna James (Te Awamutu). Glenda Hammond (Thames), Helen Smythe (Lochiel/Cambridge), Jan Pyke (Whakatane), Margaret Green (Taupo) and Jean Smithson (Opotiki).

The day followed the usual format in that clubs/teachers had been asked to submit their selections for trialling. After each genre's dances had been danced those present were asked to vote for two. Some robust debate occurred, but we finally ended up with 6 (2 of each genre) interesting and varied dances which were added to the 3 that were carried over from 2022.

As I had tendered my apology for both the 2023 AGM and General Meeting I read with interest the Minutes of the latter and noted that there had been lengthy discussion re the Core Dances, and that a message should go out to all WaiBOP Clubs "... that new dancers and experienced dancers must be catered for at annual dances." This is not a new plea. It crops up year after year, and I have lost count of the number of times I have tried to get the message across to clubs both through my reports to Region meetings and also through WaiBOP Newsletters especially with regard to the inclusion of core dances.

I have heard in the past from clubs whose annual dances are held early on in the dancing year, that they have not had long enough to teach the cores prior to their dance, this being the reason for very few or none on their programmes. At the other end of the spectrum I have heard it said from clubs whose annual dances are later in the year, that cores have become a bit boring and have been thrashed to death. I don't buy into either sentiment. If there has been time to teach novel dances that are to appear on your programme, then there has been time to teach cores. If cores have become a bit boring couldn't you apply the same logic, that dances like Mairi's Wedding have also become a bit boring and have been thrashed to death.

As a matter of interest here's a breakdown of the number of cores on each club's 2023 annual dance programme:

Cambridge	0	Opotiki	0	
Hamilton Scottish	4	Rotorua	3	
Hauraki /Thames	0 (No Dance)	Taupo	0 (No dance)	
Katikati	7	Tauranga	5	
Lochiel	2 (KBWE School)	Te Awamutu	5	
Mt Maunganui	3		Tokoroa	3

I would like to add here, some thoughts expressed in my featured article in the WaiBOP Newsletter (March 2023) regarding Core Dances. I make no apology for repeating same.

The main objective of having Core Dances is to enable newer dancers (and sometimes even the not so new) to have a repertoire of at least 9 dances that they feel confident about dancing successfully from just a briefing, as is generally the custom at any Club's Annual Dance.

Annual Club Dances, with programmes usually comprising around 20 dances, are often just two weeks apart, and if each programme of 20 dances is entirely different from the ones that have gone before (as they frequently are), Club teachers are then pressured into trying to teach approximately half of these dances each Club night. Very little time, if indeed any, can therefore be given to repeating and thus consolidating some of these often novel dances let alone any general teaching, formation revision or step practice.

If however, a quarter of any given programme is made up of Core Dances, more time can be devoted to the less well-known ones and, dare I say it, general teaching. The benefits of this will allow everyone to enjoy other Clubs' Annual Dances, especially those newer to dancing.

Even if a Club's Annual Dance is later in the dancing year, there is still enough variation in the list of Core Dances to maintain dancer interest. The inclusion of Core Dances during this latter part of the year will also enable newer dancers to participate with even more confidence.

If we want to keep newer dancers going to annual dances, there should be repetition to make programmes less challenging, and having Core Dances enables us to do that. Wouldn't it be great if **every** programme had at least **5 Core Dances** on it this dancing year! Let's try!

Teachers' Workshop 2024 - Heather Johnston

I was approached late last year with a request, asking if we could invite club dancers who might be thinking about teaching SC dancing, and giving them an opportunity to be exposed to fundamental aspects of teaching. It was suggested that these aspiring teachers need not have the desire to take on the whole Teacher Training and working towards being certificated, but who would just like to teach maybe now and then or even full-time at some later date.

Initially, I looked on the RSCDS website to see what if anything was on offer along these lines. There was quite a bit of "stuff" but most of it was geared towards candidates for teacher training towards certification. I then had some communication with Esther Mackay (Waitemata Club) as she ran a Teachers' Workshop for our Region many years ago. She gave me a couple of pointers:

- Those who might be interested have to do some sort of preparation before they get up and teach and it falls to the Club teacher to sort that out.
- I would probably run a half hour session at the workshop and call it a discussion which would include all the teachers – the certificated teachers may have been in the same position at some time and able to give their advice.
- I would certainly put it back on all teachers taking clubs and hopefully there will be a few ideas they could use. A list of all the ideas can be recorded.

Another of Esther's suggestions was to maybe "employ" Ruth Budden to run a half hour session for us in her capacity as NZ Branch tutor for Teacher Training. I had actually thought along similar lines and looking at what Esther had come up with, thought maybe Ruth could run the discussion to begin with and then do a bit of practical work using some of the points that came out of the discussion perhaps.

I approached Ruth who is a very busy lady and she was okay to do this but not on the date we had pencilled in for our workshop. Ruth gave us the alternative date of Saturday May 4 and in consultation with Jeanette Lauder (Region President) and Robyn Howes who had made the initial request, we booked Ruth in.

Once Ruth had confirmed, I sent a flyer out to club teachers requesting that they encourage would-be and all-comers to attend this workshop. There may be dancers in our clubs who would love to attend but who might be put off by the fact that certificated teachers will make up the bulk of attendees. As we all know there are many fantastic teachers in our Region who are not qualified with a certificate but who have talent and are doing superb jobs in keeping SC dancing alive and well through their own passion for SC dancing, and wanting

to share this passion. Please teachers, stress the fact that your occasional "wannabes" are the exact people

we are aiming this workshop at, and that attendance would **not** necessarily mean that they wish to embark on a journey to become a certificated teacher of SC dancing.

For a teachers and all-comers workshop with

Ruth Budden

NZ Branch Tutor for Teacher Training.

At the Hinuera Hall

Saturday 4 May 2024

Starting at 9.45 – morning tea from 9.15

Some of our Region teachers attended the Teachers' Workshop in Wellington over Easter and I'm sure they will come back all enthused and willing to share any "know-how" that came out of that.

Part 2 of the workshop will be an opportunity for all to dance some of the dances included in the new RSCDS Book 53 publication.

Johnston/Jim Carter

COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY – Agnes Algra

Latest WaiBoP newsletter was due out in near future and would suffice for a Report to this Meeting.

YOUTH REPORT – Jeanette Lauder

Dancers across the region continue to promote Dancing Scottish to young people. Hamilton Scottish had intended to run a dance for youngsters in the school holidays until they heard about the Kids' Ceilidh to be run by Dance Folkus this weekend. Instead, they are putting their efforts into supporting this event and may look at another event Dancers across the region continue to promote Dancing Scottish to young people. Hamilton Scottish had intended to run a dance for youngsters in the school holidays until they heard about the Kids' Ceilidh to be run by Dance Folkus this weekend. Instead, they are putting their efforts into supporting this event and may look at another event later in the year.

The Tokoroa club has continued its junior sessions with slightly lower numbers this year. Numbers attending each session have fluctuated so the support of club members has been necessary, particularly in making up sets. Regardless, those who have been coming are making steady progress. Some of these dancers are in the process of registering as JAMs and have also opted for Junior membership of the RSCDS – mainly because it will give them a handbook of activities and stickers to record their progress.

HOGMANAY 2023/2024 – Robyn Howes

55 attendees, some non-dancers had seen it published, some visitors, 5 Lochiel members Briefed the dances, Lochiel Club undertook organising the Hogmanay to see out 2023 and bring in the 2024 year. It wasn't an auspicious start. A little over a week prior our intended venue burned down. Various replacements that we investigated were either unavailable or declined bookings for New Year's Eve. However, we eventually found the Eureka Hall was willing to take us on. It is a lovely hall in the North Waikato countryside, and it was very suitable for the event. And the Hall committee were very obliging, given the late booking.

It was attended by 55 people, a mix of our regular Region supporters (who weren't attending Summer School), some non-dancers who saw the community advertising and came for a "look-see" and visiting dancers from Auckland & Wellington.

The programme was ably briefed by 5 Lochiel members, with adaptions to the published programme to ensure our non-dancing visitors could also participate.

We welcomed in the new year with the first footing followed by toasts, black bun and shortbread, with a few more dances to round out the programme.

Thanks are due to the supporters from other Clubs within the Region who variously provided music and played important roles in the singing and Hogmanay ceremony. And also, to everyone who stayed behind to make the clean-up quick & efficient.

The event broke even, with a surplus of just under \$100.

RSCDS BRANCH AGM REPORT 1 JANUARY 2024 – Andy Patterson

The introduction of individual voting means that there is a strong argument for sending agenda items (e.g. notices of motion) direct to members in September, rather than relying on distribution by clubs. If we take this approach, we should not then send the items to clubs since the only reason for doing so is to allow onward distribution to club members (clubs, themselves, are not part of the RSCDS structure).

I also recommended that whenever AGM documents are sent to members (whether individually or via clubs) they should be sent a link to the documents on the website which, by definition, are always up to date.

PAEROA TATTOO REPORT - FEBRUARY 2024 - Douglas McCartney

Douglas gave a very positive report about this event and **RECOMMENDED THAT** a letter of thanks be sent from Region to Shelley McConnel for all her organisation - especially arranging WaiBoP dancers to be on the main stage.

KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND REPORT 1-2 JUNE2024

It was **RECOMMENDED THAT** a letter of thanks be sent to Wayne McConnel from Region for his getting this year's King's Birthday Weekend under way at Raglan.

KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND – 31 MAY-1 JUNE 2025

Cambridge has offered to run this weekend School and arrangements are organised. Lesley Gousmett reported Cambridge had hired Cambridge Town Hall and halls with good wooden floors.

KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 30- 31st May 2026

President suggested that Clubs talk about this, keep it in mind and hopefully come up with suggestions from an interested Club.

TAURANGA DAY SCHOOL – SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024

Robyn Dowdle referred to the Flyer that had been sent out to all Clubs advertising this event.

Heather Johnston requested that all teachers mention to their dancers, the Tauranga Day School (Core Dance teaching with Wayne McConnel) on Saturday 18 May at St John's Hall, 94 Bureta Road, Tauranga - \$10 for whole day — (\$5 for late afternoon dance only).

GENERAL BUSINESS

CORE DANCE DAY 2024

Change of Date - Now set down for 16rd November.

WAIBOP REGION ANNUAL DANCE - 6 JULY 2024

MOVED THAT the door price for the WaiBoP Region Annual Dance 6 July (Senior Citizens Hall, Cambridge) with Bourach Mor band be set at \$20 per person plus a plate – Youth/JAMS no charge.

Lauder/Linda Carter

CEILIDH WITH MAX & MARIAN - 18 OCTOBER (HAMILTON/CAMBRIDGE) & 3 NOVEMBER (KATIKATI)

A \$500 Grant has been received from NZ Branch for Ceilidh expenses. It was RECOMMENDED THAT between \$100 and \$200 be paid to the musicians for playing up to a maximum of two hours each night. We have to supply a sound system, drums – Max will organise. Noel Armstrong (from Auckland) to run the Ceilidh. Cambridge and Mount Maunganui Clubs paying of the airfares.

Heather Johnston suggested that if the Ceilidh nights run at a loss, the Region could cover the extra costs.

MOVED THAT the NZ Branch Grant Funds of \$500 be distributed between the two Ceilidh events 50/50 as per the application made to NZ Branch - \$500 between the two.

Lauder/McCartney

Douglas McCartney and Lynne Hudson working with Marian and Max for the Katikati Ceilidh.

HOGMANAY 2024/25 – Jeanette Lauder to talk with Jane McIlroy.

FUTURE REGION MEETINGS IN ZOOM? – AGREED THAT physical meetings be continued as in the past. A microphone to be sourced for everyone to use when speaking at the Meeting.

Colleen Gunn spoke about a Free (koha) Ceilidh for children 5-12 years old that was put on by Fiona Murdoch of Dance Focus Sunday 14 April at Claudelands – 40 kids turned up with supportive parents/carers/families – 2.30-4pm – Maypole dancing included – live KC Band ("Kids Ceilidh"). A very enjoyable afternoon.

Douglas McCartney spoke about a community activity Dance Around the World to be held at Katikati War Memorial Hall, Sunday 28 April at 2pm – all welcome.

Heather Johnston asked that the date for Region Core Dance Day be changed to 16 November – AGREED

Andy Patterson requested that members get interested in the NZ Branch website and the RSCDS website to learn what is happening in our dancing all around the world.

Linda Carter gave a vote of thanks to President and Secretary for their arranging this Meeting at Greenwood Park Village.

Seven members stayed for socialising and lunch in Greenwood Park restaurant.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 9 November 2024

Meeting closed at 11.3am

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Waikato Bay of Plenty Region, RSCDS NZ Branch For the 7 months ended 31 March 2024

'How was it funded?' and 'What did it cost?'

	NOTES	SEPT2023-MAR 2024	SEPT2022-MAF 2023
Operating Receipts			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue			
NZ Branch		500	400
Total Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue		500	400
Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members			
Region Affiliation Fees (180 dancers, 2022 - 171)		360	322
RSCDS Membership Fees Received (71 members, 2022 - 72)		6,383	6,412
Less RSCDS Membership Fees Paid (Branch \$2,833, HQ \$3,550)		(6,383)	(6,507
Total Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members		360	22
Receipts from providing goods or services			
Karapiro Social Weekend		1,496	1,898
Kings Birthday Weekend 2024		390	
Total Receipts from providing goods or services		1,886	1,89
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts		273	22
Total Operating Receipts		3,019	2,74
Operating Expenses Kings Birthday Weekend 2024			
Accommodation		1,230	
Tutors Expenses & Gifts		1,075	
Venue Hire		150	
Total Kings Birthday Weekend 2024		2,455	
Karapiro Social Weekend Expenses		1,455	1,81
Assessable Devices as			150
Accounts Reviewer		-	
Bank Fees		-	
		105	
Bank Fees		105	
Bank Fees Expenses - Treasurer			130
Bank Fees Expenses - Treasurer Meeting Costs		60	13 ¹
Bank Fees Expenses - Treasurer Meeting Costs Workshops Expenses		60 130	13(25: 2,35 :
Bank Fees Expenses - Treasurer Meeting Costs Workshops Expenses Total Operating Expenses		60 130 4,206	136 253 2,353 2,353

Performance Report Waikato Bay of Plenty Region, RSCDS NZ Branch Statement of Receipts and Payments

NOTES SEPT2023-MAR2024SEPT2022-MAR2023

Cash Balances

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	12,592	13,602
Net change in cash for period	(1,187)	392
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	11,406	13,995

Bank Balances:

Current Account \$1,313.89

Online Saver 435.38 Online Bonus Saver

8,481.69

JAM Online Saver 1,174.87

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement.

Performance Report Waikato Bay of Plenty Region, RSCDS NZ Branch