

President's Report

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.

Jeanette Lauder
10 April 2024

Teachers' Workshop 2024

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.

Heather Johnston
Education and Training Coordinator

Youth Coordinator's Report

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.

Jeanette Lauder
11 April 2024

Core Dance Day 2023 ~ Report to the Region General Meeting 20 April, 2024

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!

Heather Johnston (Core Dance Day Coordinator)

NZ Branch AGM, 1 January 2024

Delegates

Our Region delegates were: Andrew and Jeanette Patterson, Robin Dowdle, Helen Smythe.

Routine items

All the routine items (reports and elections) went through smoothly without any discussion. We were pleased that Jeanette Lauder was elected as Youth Co-ordinator.

Individual voting

This was the first occasion that individual voting was in effect. There were 679 Branch members eligible to vote and 221 took the opportunity to do so.

All the motions were passed by a substantial majority.

It was agreed that all electronic records of individual voting should be destroyed.

Delegate voting

The only motion which as at all contentious was that regarding the quorum for individual voting. The initial motion suggested 25% and there were two further amendments (18% and 40%). The meeting adopted the 18% quorum.

Summer Schools

Presentations were given by:

Ann Oliver, Wellington 2024-25

Graeme Plank, Christchurch 2025-26

Other business

The report on the 'Pick up 52 project concluded by acknowledging Andrew and Katharine Uren who initiated it, with thanks to all the NZ clubs for their eager participation.

Minutes

There is a link to the provisional minutes on the NZ Branch website at

<https://dancescottish.org.nz/branch-agm-reports/>

Andrew Patterson

24 March 2024

Waikato Bay of Plenty Region RSCDS NZ Branch
Correspondence Sheet from 6 October 2023–10 April 2024

INWARDS & OUTWARDS

- 06.10.2023 WaiBoP Newsletter – to all Clubs
- 06.10.2023 Nelson Marlborough Centenary Ball – invitation – to all Clubs
- 07.10.2023 NZ Branch – reminder to select Delegates for NZB AGM 1 January 2024;
Clubs to arrange for entry of events on the 2024 NZ Branch calendar on the website by 31 December.
Reminder for Club Annual Reports to be submitted to Club Secretaries by 15 November.
- 09.10.2023 Dance Through the Decades - 30th September 2023 – request for write-up/photos
- 09.10.2023 Highlights from Management Committee meeting 3 September – to all Clubs
- 09.10.2023 Harbour City Happenings - September 2023 – to all Clubs
- 16.10.2024 Cribsheet for Lower North Island RSCDS Centenary Ball – Desiree Patterson – to all Clubs
- 18.10.2023 Invitation to all to Lochiel to include Christine Miller’s 90th birthday celebration – to all Clubs
- 20.10.2023 Morrinsville RSA advising celebrating St Andrew’s Day 25 November
- 21.10.2023 RSCDS Otago Region Annual Dance – correction to day/date – to all Clubs
- 24.10.2023 NZ Branch - Region Grants; Open Forum at Nelson Summer School - for discussion
2 January 2024 at Summer School – requesting input from Clubs re:
- a perceived drop in number of dancers in the JAM/Youth category & how to address the same; and
 - clarification of how members prefer to receive information - e.g., Management Committee to regions to clubs to club members versus Management Committee to RSCDS/NZ Branch members only.
- 26.10.2023 Shelley & Wayne – St Andrews Day – to all Clubs
- 03.11.2023 Region reports for NZ Scottish Country Dancer magazine – Desiree Patterson – to all Clubs
- 05.11.2023 RSCDS NZ Branch AGM papers – Link to website to peruse AGM papers – to all Clubs
- 08.11.2024 Christchurch Hogmanay Flyer – to all Clubs
- 09.11.2024 Region Directory 2024 - Waikato/Bay of Plenty – request for updates from NZB
- 10.11.2023 Lochiel's Twilight dancing 2024 – to all Clubs
- 10.11.2023 TSCD Club – 2024 Ball Date – 5 October at St Columba Church, Otumoetai
- 13.11.2023 Highlights from Management Committee meeting 3 September – to all Clubs
- 13.11.2023 RSCDS NZ Branch membership directory – to be updated - Andy Patterson
- 15.11.2023 SCD Club Directory Update request – to all Clubs

- 15.11.2023 Mt Maunganui CHRISTMAS INVITATION 2023
- 15.11.2023 Region Delegates for the NZ Branch AGM 1 January 2024 – to NZB
- 16.11.2023 Scottish country dancers at the games and Tattoo – from S McConnell to TECHHELP
- 16.11.2023 Lochiel SCD Club Twilight Dancing – to all Clubs
- 16.11.2023 Hogmanay 23/24 in Christchurch
- 20.11.2023 NZ Branch Grant - Max & Marion 2024 – R Howes setting up request for funding from NZN+B
- 22.11.2023 Photos from WaiBoP Centenary Ball in May – to RSCDS from Andy Patterson – King's BWknd
- 23.11.2023 Hogmanay 2023/24 – Programme – to all Clubs
- 27.11.2023 Core Dances for 2024 – to all Clubs
- 29.11.2023 November 2023 WaiBoP Newsletter – to all Clubs
- 30.11/2023 Letter to Regions re CTI-qualified vs RSCDS Certificated Teachers for Region classes/schools – from Jeanette Watson, NZB Education & Training Co-Ordinator – to all Clubs
- 02.12.2023 Teachers' RSCDS Workshop Flyer– Easter Weekend 2024 in Wellington – to all Clubs
- 03.12.2023 Christmas Newsletter from Scots in Spirit (Dec 2023) – to all Clubs
- 04.12.2023 RSCDS NZ One Person - One Vote Instructions
- 05.12.2023 WaiBoP Region Calendar – 2024 – To all Clubs & WaiBoP Website manager
- 05.12.2023 Greenwood Park Village – Confirmation of booking room for Meeting 20 April 2024
- 07.12.2023 Notice of Hogmanay 2023/24 – to all Clubs
- 08.12.2023 WaiBoP AGM Minutes AND WaiBoP General Meeting Minutes of 11 November 2023 – to all Clubs
- 11.12.2023 Region report for NZ Scottish Country Dancer magazine – to Desiree Patterson
- 12.12.2023 Region Grants; Open Forum at Nelson Summer School - for discussion at Region AGMs or whenever convenient – to al Clubs
- 17.12.2023 Reminder: New Zealand Branch Scottish Country Dancing - 2024 AGM New Zealand Branch Inc. RSCDS - Individual Voting – to all Clubs
- 21.12.2023 Lochiel – Hogmanay Change of Venue to Eureka Hall (Piarere Hall burned down recently)
- 07.01.2024 The NZ Scottish Country Dancer magazine 2024 – closing date for next edition – to all Clubs
- 10.02.2024 WaiBOP Teachers' Workshop **4 May** 2024 – to all Teachers from H Johnston – date change
- 28.02.2024 RSCDS Christchurch Weekend Schools – to all Clubs
- 29.02.2024 Expression of Interest - 2024 Melbourne Southern Fling/Southern Fringe Weekend Nov 2024 - particularly aimed at dancers below the age of forty. – to all clubs
- 03.03.2024 Request for JAM registrations for 2024 – to all Clubs from J Lauder
- 08.03.2024 Lochiel – Invitation Celebration - Life Member Ruary Laidlaw's 80th Birthday – to all Clubs

- 11.03.2024 2024 Queensland Winter School 11-14 July - to all Clubs
- 11.03.2024 Harbour City Happenings - March 2024 – to all Clubs
- 12.03.2024 Change Of Email Address – Joy Morgan
- 16.03.2024 Kiwi News - April 2024 – request for news by 1 April– to all Clubs
- 16.03.2024 how to get music which accompanies the book published by Glasgow Branch - 100th Anniversary Dances’.- to all Clubs
- 18.03.2024 RSCDS NZ Branch AGM Minutes – to all Clubs
- 20.03.2024 King's Birthday Weekend 2024 – Flyer to all Clubs
- 21.03.2024 Tauranga Scottish Country DC Core Dance Day School 18 May – to all Clubs
- 21.03.202 KNOX 70TH ANNIVERSARY BALL PROGRAMME – to all Clubs
- 26.03.2024 Christchurch Weekend School #2 - Kings Birthday plus – to all Clubs
- 26.03.2024 WaiBoP General Meeting Agenda & Previous Minutes – to all Clubs
- 27.3/2-24 Notice of passing of Betty Thom – Ngaio club Life Member
- 29.03.2024 Lochiel Ball 2024 Invitation – to all Clubs
- 29.03.2024 Ruary & April edition WaiBop News – request for articles/photos by 21 April – to all Clubs
- 30.03.2024 Te Awamutu Annual Dance programme – to all Clubs
- 30.03.2024 NZB Flyer Waikato/Bay of Plenty King's Birthday Weekend School at Raglan – to all Clubs
- 01.0.2024 Wellington Summer School Flyer 2024/25 -to all Clubs
- 03.04.2024 Kids Ceilidh 14 April 2.30pm – Dance Folkus – for kids – Claudelands Hamilton – to all Clubs
- 10.04.24 Hawkes Bay Region Annual Dance Invitation – Sunday 5 May at 1.30pm to all Clubs