

WAIBOP NEWS



Issue: March 2014

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

Letter from the President

Hello Everybody

Clubs may have been in their summer breaks, but for many it's been great to be able to hear our favourite music, dance our favourite dances and meet and socialise with friends at Summer School. Do remember we are enjoying this social dancing, dance with your partner and SMILE.

All the above has been available to us all with a huge amount of commitment and effort from some very special people. Wayne & Committee made the 13/14 Summer School a great event. To those who didn't attend, you missed something very special. Thanks to Wayne and Committee for all their efforts.

Jane and Jamie—they arranged two great nights that were very successful, St Andrews Night and the congratulatory dance for Helen and Antanas for passing their Teachers Exam, thank you.

I am regretful to not be able to chair the Region meeting due to work commitments, ie a wine tasting at 7pm. I will however be at Whitianga to celebrate their 30th anniversary as I have the weekend off.

Look forward to seeing you at some function very soon and I am available for a chat on my landline. No doubt we may have to make a time by txt, but please don't leave a voice message on my mobile.



Dance and Smile with your heart

Philip

RSCDS NZ Branch Summer School 2013/14



Waikato 13/14

I am pleased to report that the Waikato 13/14 Summer school was a success by all measures. The number of dancers living in was lower than we had hoped for but those who did live in were rewarded with accommodation of a high standard, excellent food and very easy access to classes and evening functions.

The feedback from participants was that it was a very friendly and relaxed school. A lot of this can be attributed to friendly and helpful attitudes of dancers in the Waikato Bay of Plenty region. We were flattered by the number of volunteers and help offered by every club in the region.

Our committee came together from four different clubs and every member made a fantastic contribution towards the school running smoothly. We had a social committee who were fun to work with but when the unexpected happened everyone made the extra effort required to fix the issue and not make it bigger. Thank you Shelley, Ruary, Mary-Ann, Grietje, Jill, Glenna and Virginia. I recommend all of these people to the next Waikato Bay of Plenty Summer School organiser!

For me it was interesting how a school develops a character and life of its own when people are able to contribute in areas they have a passion for. Two people outside the committee that exemplify this were Cheryl Graham (Tauranga) in doing an absolutely amazing job of the hall decorations and James Scott (Lower Hutt) for producing the Bannock Banner newsletter that had its readership anticipating its delivery each morning. Another two examples of committee members organising things they have a passion for were Mary-Ann Laidlaw having some

fun with the evening suppers and Glenna James arranging a Mock Court to remember.

By being open to ideas we were able to add two relatively late but interesting additions to the Summer School programme. These were Jenny Greene's unisex step class and Scottish fiddler Iain Fraser's pre-dinner concert.

We were fortunate that many of our early decisions proved to be good ones. St Peters School has fantastic facilities and were very helpful to us. Classique Caterers were a dream to work with and Musicare provided a great sound system and the expertise needed to set it up well. Nicol McLaren and Isobelle Hodgson from Scotland were great musicians and ran an excellent musicians class. Using two New Zealand bands took some stress off Nicol and Isobelle and helped reinforce the New Zealandness of the school. The teaching staff of Antoine Rousseau (France), Noriel Tarca (Australia), Katharine Hoskyn, Neil Horne, Gaye Collin and Jeanette Lauder all provided first class tuition to dancers at the school and were a pleasure to work with.

A thank you is also due to the NZ Branch Management Committee for their support when our plans were looking like they could be undone by low registrations.

Congratulations to everyone in the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region for being part of and hosting an enjoyable Summer School.

Amendments:

- Treasurer: Andrew Patterson andy@pat.gen.nz
- Cambridge Club: Lesley Gousmett cambridgescd@yahoo.co.nz

Many thanks

Wayne McConnel

Organiser, Waikato 13/14 Summer School

My First Summer School

My husband and I live on a farm in the Aria district, south of Te Kuiti. My previous experience of Scottish Country Dancing has been dancing Strip The Willow, Dashing White Sergeant, Eightsome Reel and once when I was in a show, Mairi's wedding. My husband and I have enjoyed sequence dancing for many years.

In June 2013 I started going to Te Awamutu Scottish Country Dance club in Otorohanga. It didn't take long before the joy of dancing and the music took their hold! I was encouraged to attend Summer School - it was with great apprehension I decided to go.

The organiser's good directions saw me driving through St. Peter's beautiful grounds of lawns and trees. So many tidy buildings. The organising committee were welcoming and efficient. Someone accompanied us to our accommodation – be they on a motorized 'cart' or on a bicycle! Wrigley C was where I was accommodated. The residents soon learnt, as we came and went, who we were and where we were from. We were a good mix from all over New Zealand and one from Australia.

The first evening all the 'First Timers' had a gathering before dinner. We were informed of the rules and routines of the Summer School - this was a great help to us. The first visit to the beautiful old dining room was an eye opener. Built in 1936, with steep pitched ceiling with exposed beams, with long dining tables with bench seats.

The Opening Social took me unawares. The size of the gymnasium and the number of able, confident dancers and the music The pleasure of being there was great. Not knowing the dances, not being confident in listening and remembering the briefings, I spent more time as an appreciative spectator than a dancer. Supper time and so many people willing to mix and mingle. I really enjoyed the evening. I was more than ready to go to bed, to be ready for the first dance lesson in the morning.

Our combined Elementary and Intermediate class was taught by Gaye Collin. Our musicians, Lynne Scott on keyboard and Margie O'Connor on fiddle were there for the first three days, lucky us. There were about 17 of us. We all introduced ourselves. Over the time at the School Gaye taught us – warm-ups and cool-downs. Posture – back straight, shoulders down, head held high. Use your eyes to see what is happening and to communicate with your partner and other dancers. Foot work and hand work. Formations included - Rondel, Knot, Poussettes, etc.

Nona Craig's 90th Birthday!

Always neat and tidy, like her footwork, Nona Craig graciously welcomed all who accepted Rotorua's SCD club invitation to attend her 90th birthday party. Her special day was actually in January and I was so pleased her club chose to acknowledge the special event and invite our region members. While not expressly acknowledging Nona's huge contribution to SCD, both in our Region and the NZ Branch, photographs, memories and conversations, did.

Dianne and John Murdoch

It was an enjoyable time in class, and it was good to have the intermediate dancers with us. They helped give guidance and confidence, and their level of dancing gave us something to aspire to.

The afternoons were our own to do as we pleased. There were tours if you wanted to see things of interest in the immediate area. Cambridge wasn't far away. The school grounds were peaceful and pleasant to walk in. It was good to have New Year's Day off. Time to recover from the unaccustomed exercise and activity, ready for the remaining days.

The evening dances were enjoyable, in particular the President's Ball, where we were in formal dress. The Grand March is a great tradition and spectacle.

Some Wrigley C residents had 'wine and laughter time' before dinner. Over wine, a few late costumes were created for the Ceilidh which had the theme 'Bannockburn'. Some costume parts were tied together with the proverbial 'baling twine' – much laughter ensued! The Ceilidh was an enjoyable evening with items, comedy and of course dancing.

Thank you to Gaye Collin for teaching our class so well. Thank you and compliments to The Organising Committee—you certainly did a thoroughly good job of organising the 2013/2014 Summer School. Well done.

The end of the Summer School came all too soon. It was a wonderful experience and I learnt a lot. I met so many pleasant people. For us all it was back to 'auld claes and porridge' (old clothes and porridge), but what an enjoyable time we had and wonderful memories to remember.

As I write, I'm listening to some CDs bought at St Peter's.

Summer Schools or any Royal Scottish Country Dancing schools could become addictive . . . !

Jean McKenzie

Jean at the Ceilidh—but where's the baling twine?



Lochiel Club—Beginners Classes 2014

The Lochiel Club decided at the beginning of this year that we would run four beginners' classes each Tuesday during February and that we would advertise, although it had been an unsuccessful and expensive exercise in the past! So, we paid \$113.50 to put two ads on successive weeks in the Hamilton Press. We also got free ads put on the Community Radio which were broadcast on Talkback Radio and we also put a message on the Hamilton City Council's website for "What's On". We charged \$20 for the four lessons from 7:00pm to 8:00pm each night.

To our delight, on the first night we got 4 adults, 3 new children and a teenager who came with our other teenager – a whole set of beginners! Our teacher, Maureen Jacob, did a great job organising 4 nights of dancing for them. They have all taken to dancing like ducks to water and we are pretty confident that 6 of them will continue – the other two have choir commitments on Tuesdays later in the year.

Our programme for the year is structured to provide for teaching beginners for the first part of each night so that we can bring them on up to the Mainstream Level by the end of this year.

For us it has been a worthwhile exercise and we would do it again next year!

Ruary Laidlaw, President

Teachers Workshop—Forum

The Teachers Workshop this year was a Forum to work on the problem the majority of clubs are having recruiting and keeping new members. There was a lot of meaningful discussion and many very good suggestions. The main thread of all discussion was clubs need to maintain a high profile within the community. Community noticeboards, radio, school newsletters, etc. One inexpensive suggestion was to make regular contributions to the local newspapers in the form of a short article and a clear photograph of any activity the club is involved in such as demonstrations at different venues, or even a group of local people dancing at one of the region dances. Another point was once you have people in the door not to push technique but to keep to the very basic of basics, enough for them to enjoy themselves and leave the more complex technique to classes and day/weekend schools.

Twilight Dancing at Hamilton Gardens

Another enjoyable evening spent at the Hamilton Gardens, courtesy of Lochiel Club. Dancing, socialising and a picnic tea!



The Shanghai Experience

An invitation to dance at the Shanghai Cultural and "Tourism Festival in September was too good to miss. Twelve days in China as the guest of Shanghai Tourism – who could resist?

Our party of thirty was made up of the Manukau Pipe Band, ten dancers, and Jerry our Chinese minder from Auckland.

The Shanghai Festival main event took place on the second day of our arrival. It was a full on evening affair held in the central Huaihai Road area with the participating countries (about 35) parading and performing at set points. Colour, music, movement and crowds—it was heady stuff to be part of such a huge vibrant international gathering.

The following days of the Festival were busy. A typical day would start with us boarding our bus by 9am to battle the traffic on our way to perform at a park or on the street. We would march, the band would play and then we danced. Simple dances and Katharines Sequence allowed us all to dance with ease. The camera clicking crowds who gathered allowed us to feel fully appreciated.

A tourist attraction was scheduled for us each day—a visit to a temple/a museum/a cruise/the martial arts centre/the acrobats/markets etc. In the evenings we were entertained or provided the music in turn, and were treated to several formal banquets on occasion.

Our Chinese hosts who arranged the programme, took care of all our accommodation, meals and transport. We were very grateful to be so generously looked after.

It was an adventure not to be missed!

Marcia Sowman

Queens Birthday Weekend School

There is now going to be a Queens Birthday Weekend School in 2014....! Te Awamutu Club offered originally to host a day school and dance after Cambridge Club cancelled, in order that the Region would not lose the holiday weekend. This has now expanded to a Saturday/Sunday event, with a Tea Dance and Ceilidh included. This will be based in Te Awamutu.

We have chosen a "Back To Basics" school, where the format has changed significantly. Not only are there fewer classes—one on Saturday and one on Sunday—we are also offering 3 options of classes only. These are:

- **Advanced** (low impact with emphasis on upper body)
- **Upper Intermediate** (high energy)
- **Elementary/Intermediate** (a combined class, which would include any Social dancers)

We hope that you will all support this new format—we have chosen to do this in order to keep costs down and also motel costs will be less as you could, if you wanted, only choose to stay the Saturday night.

You have a free day on Monday to do whatever you like—which we believe is lovely to have on a long weekend!

Only time will tell if this format works for you and whether you are prepared to trial it. We do feel this is a better option for "older bodies" to cope with.

We have lovely wooden floored halls and teachers to excite, demand, push the boundaries of your knowledge, and improve your dancing. But still leave energy enough to dance in the evenings!

What more could you ask for?

Flyers and brochures will be out shortly. Please promote this at your club and talk to your newer club members directly to encourage them to try a school (if you get them to come to a school, they are more likely to keep dancing).

Glenna James
Organiser QBW School 2014

Letter to Editor....

A Change of Plan

It would be an interesting exercise to run a day class this year that was called "Regular Reels", "Clever Corners" or "Challenging Chains"! The teacher's brief would be to:

- begin with covering the basics
- and then proceed to variations on the theme
- and finish up with some extensions of the idea

As well as that there would need to be some work done on the steps involved.

"Swampy Says"



The challenge for the teacher would be to make sure that the wide variety of abilities in the class were recognised and that the pace of the class allowed everyone to participate.

The challenge for the members of this class would be that they would also have to participate in the class to help each other rather than just dance for themselves – just for a day! After all SCD is a social activity and that means that we are a community of dancers!

"Aotearoa" Dance (Andrew Patterson)

Those of you who came to the ceilidh at Summer School will have seen a performance of this dance by Wayne & Shelley McConnel, Bill & Maureen Jacob and Andrew & Jeanette Patterson. So, what was it all about?



When Jeanette and I held our farewell dance in the UK, we were delighted to be presented with this dance which was written for us by one of our teachers, Ken Martlew. It has an unusual structure in which the set is inverted on each repetition (an idea copied from the Drewry dance 'Crossing the Line') and is supposed to represent our emigration from the Northern to the Southern hemisphere.

We have had very few opportunities to dance it ourselves, so were pleased to be able to do so on this occasion!



Reminder to all Secretaries of Clubs:..When sending out ball programmes or other promotional material to clubs , please also send a copy to the Region Secretary, Jane McIlroy.

Lost Property—Summer School

A cake container with no name on it. 32cmx32x14. Please contact Grietje Badham, Hamilton Scottish.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

Whitianga Galbraith SCDC is planning to make April 12, 2014 an evening to remember. The club will be celebrating 30 years of dancing and look forward to having many friends from over the years join the club members for an evening of dancing to the music of the Rose and Thistle Band.

Several of the present members have been associated with the club since its inception including our tutor Anthea Austin who along with Kathy Monteith has kept the club on their toes.

The club would welcome any tutor who would like to brief one or two dances on the evening as we would like to share the evening fully. Contact the secretary Rae Mitchell if you are willing and let us know which dance or dances you would be prepared to brief.

Dancing will start at 4.30 followed by supper so why not make a weekend of it and enjoy the pleasures of Whitianga and Hahei.

Numbers are required so let Rae know if you are attending.

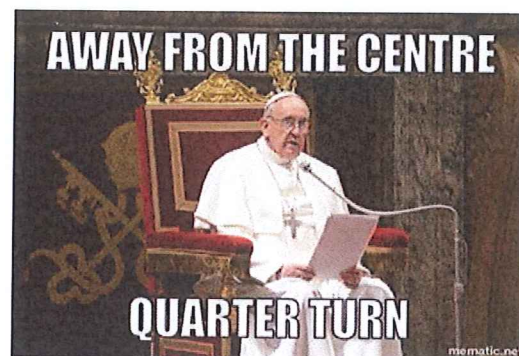
What's On:

- **21-23 March**
— Waibop Social Weekend, Athenree Motor Camp, 1 Athenree Road, Athenree
- **31 March**
— Beginners Dance, St Johns Methodist Hall, Wellington St, Hamilton (7pm)
- **5 April**
— Region Meeting (2pm) Ngongotaha Hall, Hall Road, Ngongotaha
— Rotorua Tea Dance (5.30pm) as above at Ngongotaha
- **12 April**
— Whitianga 30th Anniversary Dance, (4.30pm dancing followed by dinner), Town Hall, Monk St, Whitianga,

THANKS !

Thank you to everyone who attended the two dances - St Andrews Night and Congratulatory Dance for Antanas and Helen....YOU made them special nights with a wonderful atmosphere.

Jane McIlroy



Only Scottish Country Dancers would understand this image!
(Courtesy of Facebook)

Editorial

Well another dancing year has just begun. I hope your clubs have managed to attract some new dancers. Please let the Communication & Publicity Co-ordinator know what worked and what didn't so we can share our knowledge around the Region.

Many of us are enthused about dancing after participating at Summer School, with great teachers, fantastic music, lots of new friends and catching up with people we only see occasionally. What a great bunch of volunteers – I hope they enjoyed themselves while working so hard. As you can see with the photos, Wayne and the Committee also had a lot of laughs and fun inbetween the duck stance – sailing serenely around St Peters with smiles on our faces, whilst at times furiously paddling like mad under the water!

Have a great year of dancing – don't forget, apart from club nights, we have the balls, Queens Birthday Weekend and Labour Weekend Schools – before Summer School arises again. Please support these events if you can or we will end up losing them – what a great shame that would be for Scottish Dancing!

See you on the dance floor ...

Glenna James



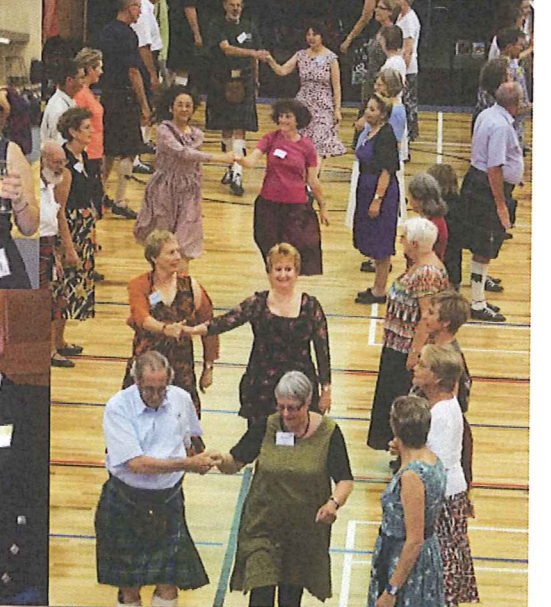
WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://wbopregion.wikispaces.com>



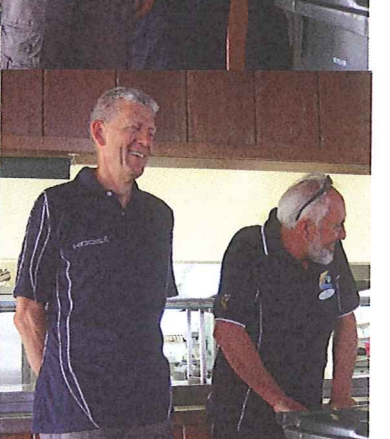
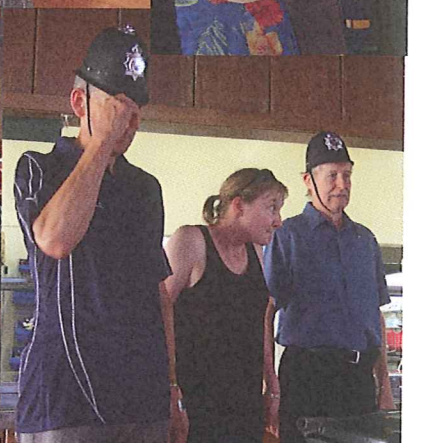
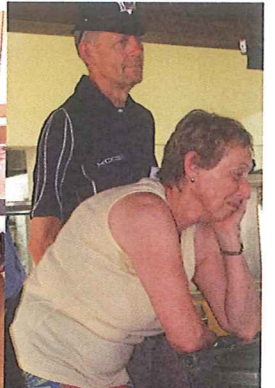
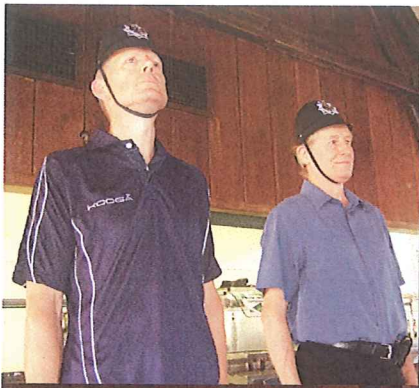
WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

<http://www.facebook.com/waipobregion>



Region Officers:

President: Philip Jamieson, C/- 41F Bryce St, Cambridge (07) 839 1914 Mobile 027 3582408.
Secretary: Jane McIlroy, 63 Otewa Rd, Otorohanga (07) 873 7022 email: djmcilroy@yahoo.co.nz
Treasurer: Andrew Patterson, 34 Stafford Rise, Lynmore, Rotorua (07) 345 6337 andy.pat@gen.nz and
Membership Coordinator
Education/Training Coordinator: Lynne Hudson, 243 Boucher Ave, Te Puke. (07) 573 5055 email: billyne@kinect.co.nz



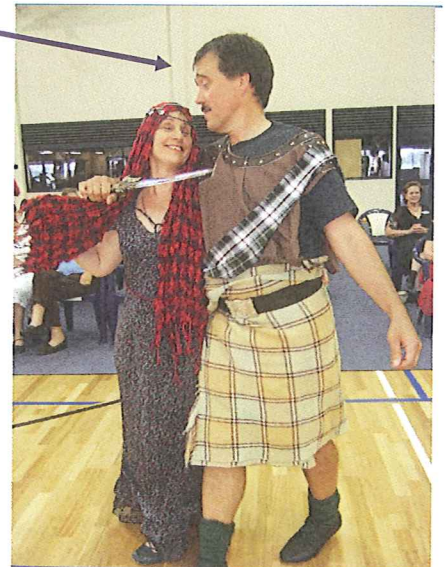


President NZ Branch

Organiser Summer School



President Waibop Region

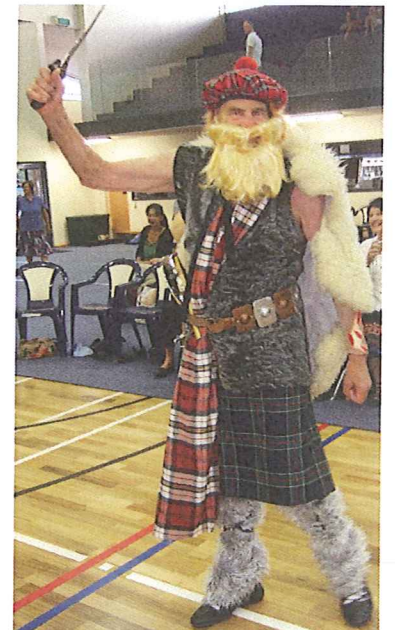
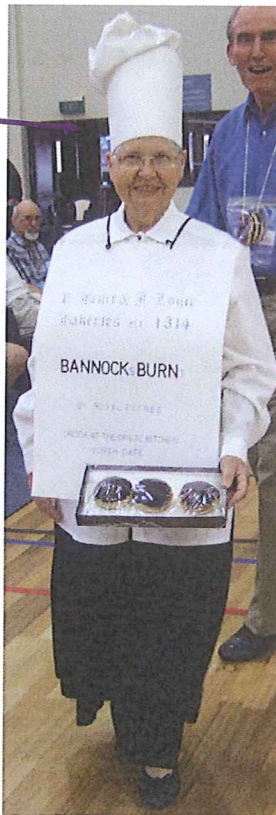


A fearsome warrior from Tauranga

Our local Waibop Band



Waibop Education & Training Co-ordinator



Waibop Communication / Publicity Co-ordinator



The Committee

The Eightsome Reel

The Way We Were!
(we used to dance like this!)

The Way We Are!
(all bar one of us in the photo were dancing 40 years ago - that's why we look like this now!)



Photos in this Newsletter By:

- Michael Jeans
- Andrew Patterson
- Eric Churton
- Jill Littlewood

Thank you!

MICHAEL JEANS

Official 13/14 RSCDS NZ Branch Cambridge Summer School photographer. Cambridge based Michael Jeans offers a full range of photographic services from passport and business profiles, portraiture & family photos to wedding photography. Copying and restoration of old photographs. Photoshop, framing and canvasses. Michael Jeans 0274963802 www.michaeljeans.co.nz or michael@michaeljeans.co.nz