

WAIBOP NEWS



Issue: November 2014

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

Farewell from the Ex-President



Farewell from me... Thank you for your support, especially those who were always there to help. along with Jane and Jamie, to totally support me in my role. We have been a great team and always put our best foot forward.. I may have stomped on a few feet but always with the majority of members in mind.

Our decision to have Marian and Max was very successful and showing leadership and acting very quickly certainly was the right choice.

Something I have not achieved is to get the WaiBOP News to everybody in hard copy - very disappointing.

In summing up, its been fun, stressful but enjoyable. I wish the Region and new committee all the best.

Philip

Farewell from the Ex-Secretary



Monday, 27th October 2014...I am sitting here looking at a blank piece of paper and wondering how I can put some of my thoughts about having been the Region Secretary for 3 years into a "Secretary Says".

So.... just over 3 years ago, we (as a region) were looking for both a Region President and Secretary. I asked Philip if he would be interested in the Presidents' role, - silence for some time, but later in the evening – this was during the Thames dance, he came back to me agreeing to allow his name to go forward. Then I was left thinking of who could be asked to stand as secretary to work with Philip. As it happened, that was taken out of my hands by Philip stating he would work with me and not anyone else. **That** was not my original plan; I was looking for someone else!!

Anyway, we were duly elected – although I was cycling around Iceland at the time. Once back, there was a very steep learning curve – firstly meeting with Glenna – the previous Secretary (and she's brave enough to have another go), and Jill Littlewood to get signatories changed. Heather Johnston had, in her term as Secretary, made a list of what should be done and when – book hall for this, send letters out for that, etc... That became my go-to book to try to stay one step ahead.

I guess I became more organised as time went on; my attaching of documents to emails improved, - many were the times I received a very short note to say: "no attachment". I did feel like suggesting those people might like to do the job, but muddled on.

Taking minutes at a meeting was a new experience, trying to spell folks names correctly became a challenge, but one that could be accepted and was.

At the end of our second year, with St Andrews Day falling on a Saturday, I thought it would be fun to have a St Andrews Night dance because this is what SCD is all about. Jamie and Philip supported this plan and so the first of our "independent of the region" dances was held. There have been others, and there may be more yet to come.

Overall, I think Philip and I made a good team, we got stuff done, and had fun on the way. Jamie would roll his eyes at the long phone calls, but communication is essential and without email, phones are the simplest way to go.

Congratulations go to Glenna and to Heather Johnston for stepping up to their new roles in the Region. I hope you will support and encourage them as you have me – a word to say, well done, can make a huge difference at the end of the day.

Thank you, and see you on the dance floor.

Jane

Welcome from the New President

Greetings fellow dancers!



As in-coming President I would like to take this opportunity to firstly, thank Philip and Jane for the great work that they have done for, and on behalf of the WaiBOP Region over the last three years. They made an awesome team, working tirelessly to keep things ticking along smoothly and also taking the initiative to organise some great social dances which we all enjoyed at one time or another. Together they were also largely instrumental in organising the Region Ball in conjunction with the Cambridge Club and bringing us that wonderful music of Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin to dance to and enjoy. Well done, Philip and Jane. Take a bow!

Secondly, I would like to express my thanks to Glenna who has stepped up to the mark to take on, for the second time, the position of Region Secretary. Glenna as you know is the Communication and Publicity Coordinator for the Region and she saw herself continuing in that role, but with a little "persuading" she also accepted the Region Secretary's position when no other nominations were put forward at the AGM. She now wears two hats, and I take my own hat off to you, Glenna.

Hopefully Glenna and I will be able to continue the trend of organising the kind of social dances that Philip and Jane put in train, but as well I would like to encourage clubs to host and organise Day Schools throughout next year's dancing season. Traditionally, Day Schools used to be an integral part of our Region's dancing calendar, but we seem to have fallen off the pace somewhat. My belief is that we should be teaching dancing (as opposed to teaching dances), but club teachers can only go so far with the wide range of dancing abilities that they are faced with in their clubs. Schools or classes can do so much more when a teacher is working with participants at approximately the same level of experience and expertise, be it advanced or elementary. Will your club take up that challenge to host a Day School next year?

As this will be the final Newsletter for the year, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy summer break. If you are going to Summer School I wish you happy dancing with friends old and new, and to all of you, along with your loved ones, I wish a very merry Christmas, and the best of health, happiness and prosperity for 2015. I look forward to meeting you all on the dance floor again next year.

Yours in dancing,
Heather Johnston
Region President



Some fun after the marathon
General Meeting and AGM!

Club News...

HAMILTON SCOTTISH

On 22 October 2014, Hamilton Scottish celebrated the 80th birthday of Ken Weeks, who has been an active member of the club since 1954. We thoroughly enjoyed dancing some of Ken's favourite dances followed by a tasty supper supplied by Ken and Lorna. We had the added pleasure of some members of the Cambridge Club joining us, as their hall was unavailable that evening. We are delighted with our move to the YWCA Hall, and will finish the year on 26 November with a finger food meal and dancing for club members' family and friends.



OPOTIKI CLUB

The Opotiki Club would like to thank everyone who came to our afternoon tea dance at the end of August and helped to make it into such a fun afternoon of dancing. Once again the spring weather was kind. Our theme this year was "Faces and Places"- so each dance name included either a place name or a person's name. This left lots of scope for the programme, which, with 24 dances, was much enjoyed. About a third of the dances were ones that are not commonly danced - but these, in particular, proved to be very popular. Many people commented that they had liked having their repertoire extended - and it has been good to see some of these less common dances chosen for subsequent socials in the region. The break for afternoon tea was much appreciated, with many people taking advantage of the weather to step outside and enjoy the spring sunshine. We are a small club, and organising our social is a highlight in our dancing year - so thank you again - and if you did not make it this year, maybe we will see you next year!

Tauranga Club—Day School 2015

Tauranga Club will host a Day School for Elementary dancers in early to mid April, probably at Katikati. Details to follow at the beginning of the dancing year.

JAM Medal Tests

Congratulations to those JAMs who took part in the latest Waikato Bay of Plenty Medal Tests...all have passed!

Bronze:

Natalie Garcia Gil, Breana Nobilo (Lochiel)
Caitlyn Alexander, Kassia Alexander, Olivia Kneebone, Samantha George (Hinuera)
Robyn Pascoe (Tokoroa)
Saskia de Graaf (Auckland)

Bronze Bar:

Erike Hancock, Jade Larsen, Hendrik Verhaegh, Petronella Verhaegh (Tokoroa)
Saskia de Graaf (Auckland)

Silver Bar:

Xavia Fraser (Lochiel)
Anna Verhaegh (Tokoroa)

Photos—Mt Maunganui Dance



Photos—Region/Cambridge Ball



Come and join us at Vardon School Hall Saturday 29th November

ST ANDREWS' DAY CELEBRATION



Social CEILIDH Dancing ,fun for all ages ,
Dances called by Noel Armstrong

Ceilidh band Bourach Mor.



Scottish themed songs and
Items
pipe band
Highland dancers



6.30pm young peoples items

Dancing and songs from 7.15
supper 7.45PM

Admission \$ 10 adult \$7 unwaged,\$5 children, families \$20.

Further details and RSVP Scots Church

by email: scotspres@xtra.co.nz

or phone the office 8492685- (leave a message if no reply)

St Andrew's Day Dance

Hosted by Waikato/BOP Region

Hinuera Hall, Hinuera

Sunday 30 November 2014

4.00 pm—8.00 pm

\$10 and a plate for shared supper

Fundraising
for:

JAM
Camp
2015



Dance Scottish "What's Hot"

- Mixing socially with a wide variety of people!
- Dancing to a great piece of music, like "Jennifer's Jig" by McBain.
- Anything by Jimmy Shand or the Berkley Players.
- Seeing kids, mum's and dad's, adults and oldies all having a great time together doing Scottish Dancing - that's community!
- The company of friends.
- Mastering a challenging dance.
- Enjoying an evening of mostly familiar dances!

(Swampy)

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.
Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region

Follow the Yellow Brick Road
to
Tauranga

Queen's Birthday Weekend School 2015

Friday 29 May – Monday 1 June

Hosted by the

Tauranga Scottish Country Dance Club

Venue: Greerton Community Hall
1247 Greerton Road

Classes and Tutors:

Elementary	Jeanette Lauder	(Tokoroa)
Social	Antanas Procuta	(Cambridge)
Intermediate Mainstream	Diane Bradshaw	(Wellington)
Upper Intermediate/Advanced	Neil Horne	(Auckland)
Advanced Low Impact	Kathryn Deroles	(Levin)
Very Advanced Technique	Damon Collin	(Wellington)

~ Music by ~

The Balmoral Band

Organiser: Heather Johnston Ph: 07 576 8855

Email: heather.lil@xtra.co.nz

What's On:

- **16 November (Sunday)**
— Hinuera JAMs Fun Dance & BBQ, Hinuera Hall, Hinuera (1pm-4pm)
- **29 November (Saturday)**
— St Andrews Day Ceilidh, Vardon School Hall, Cunningham Road, Hamilton (see flyer)
6.30pm onwards
- **30 November (Sunday)**
— St Andrews Day Scottish Dance, Hinuera Hall, Hinuera
A Fundraiser Dance for the JAM Camp 2015
4pm-8pm
- **4 December (Thursday)**
— Tokoroa Club's final night. Christmas theme, Amisfield School Hall, Moffat Road, Tokoroa
6.30pm
- **13 December (Saturday)**
— Christmas Dance, Cosmopolitan Club, Cambridge
Please confirm attendance to Lesley at cambridgescd@yahoo.co.nz

Other Regions' Events:

Saturday 22 November
Auckland Highland Games

28 December—5 January
Summer School, Dunedin

Editorial

The end of the dancing year awaits. I always find the energy and enthusiasm to go to club nights at this time of year, when you are counting down to the final sessions. It might also have something to do with the longer evenings and driving down while its still light to Otorohanga!

For me this year part of the challenge has been to start helping out Jane and Agnes with the teaching at club. It has been an eye opener....knowing the dances is all very well, but knowing the correct words to utter is another matter altogether! I have come to realise that I am a gesticulator—when I run out of the right words, I start showing the way with my arms. I think practice might be the best answer! Thanks goes to the club members who I have to practise on...they keep coming back yaay!

Of course, now there is another job to get my head around. I feel as if I should know what to do, but being Region Secretary was a while ago—that is my excuse anyway. Now if anyone decides they would like to put their hand up, the AGM is only 11 months away.

See you on the dance floor for the last couple of social events, and if I don't manage to catch up with you, have a lovely Christmas and holidays. Keep safe...

Glenna James

A few fine old Scottish sayings which you might just find useful at one time or another:

- I'll gie ye a skelpit lug! - *I'll give you a slap on the ear.*
- Whit's fur ye'll no go by ye! - *What's meant to happen will happen.*
- Black as the Earl of Hell's Waistcoat! - *Pitch black.*
- Failing means yer playin! - *When you fail at something at least you're trying.*
- Is the cat deid? - *Has the cat died? Means your trousers are a bit short - like a flag flying at half mast.*
- I'm fair pucked! - *I'm short of breath.*
- Gie it laldy. - *Do something with gusto.*

Letters to Editor....

In response to Swampy's letter in the last newsletter, three letters in reply — the subject is a passionate one it seems! (I have attached to this a copy of Swampy's comments....

I wish to raise the issue of diverse dance programmes throughout the Waikato, Bay of Plenty Region, as an issue that I believe has the potential to have a negative effect on both the region as a whole, and the strength of individual clubs.

This last year in particular has seen a very wide range of dances on the various regional dance and ball programmes, resulting in club nights being almost dedicated to learning unfamiliar dances. Scottish Country Dancing is meant to be fun and a social occasion. I don't believe that this is being achieved when, on a club night, most of the dances are unfamiliar, and many, a struggle for newer dancers, and those less able to cope with change.

I am aware that some of our club members are going home at the end of the evening stressed, and questioning whether there is enough enjoyment, to continue. We need to retain newer dancers to maintain strength in the clubs, or the clubs will decline.

I also believe that this imposes a significant additional load on tutors as they have to try to resource music and instruction for these dances, and frequently, have to instruct from potentially ambiguous crib notes. Tutor's also get no joy from watching club members struggle through the night's programme. Everyone goes home dissatisfied.

This also has the potential to reduce the number of dancers willing to travel, often significant distances to the region's balls and dances, if they feel that the programme is too unfamiliar to them. Many great friendships are made at these regional events, and it would be a pity if this were diminished or lost.

We feel that, for the protection of our club members, we will need to be more discerning in the dances we select to teach on club nights, and this might mean some sitting out the more unfamiliar dances at balls, or maybe in some cases, deciding not to travel. Another potential result is formations breaking down, spoiling the enjoyment of others in the set.

We need to be careful not to stifle development, and I'm not suggesting that we turn our backs on new (including the old "new") dances. We do need change and renewal, but this needs to be measured and not dominate. If we introduce a "new" dance we need to be able to dance it over a period so that it becomes familiar and part of our repertoire of dances for the time being.

There have been so many newer dances on the programmes this year, that many we have danced once or sometimes twice, and we may not see them again.

Jim Carter

With all due respect to the venerable Swampy and his many years of dancing but there are a lot of people who have danced for 10 years or more whose main purpose in going to Region dances is to DANCE. Not for us the huddle by the water cooler, no we are there to wear out our dancing shoes!!!

Dancing with people other than our club mates, (lovely as they are) dancing in proper 4 couple sets, dancing the more difficult dances that we have enjoyed learning and would not have known about if they had not been on a Ball Programme and just enjoying Scottish Country Dancing!!! And the music; what a bonus if there is a Band!!

Sorry Swampy but I think it is great to learn new and challenging dances and then to dance them at a Social. By all means have some good old favourites on the programme that we can dance without too much concentration as well, but as they say variety is the spice of life; let's embrace the variety!

Beach Babe

The one point on which I agree wholeheartedly with Ruary is that balls are social occasions to be enjoyed by all. I just happen to take a different view on how dance programmes can influence the achievement of this admirable objective.

Familiarity

I sometimes hear the comment that 'programmes should not include unfamiliar dances'. Well, remember that ALL modern dances began life as unfamiliar and, if this attitude had prevailed, few of today's popular dances would appear on dance programmes. Dances became familiar through their inclusion on programmes over the years. In reality, of course, dances themselves are neither 'familiar' nor 'unfamiliar' as this is an attribute which varies according to the repertoire of individual dancers. A well-balanced programme will include dances which have been selected from across the entire range of this wide and varied repertoire.

Obscurity

The inclusion of obscure dances is an entirely different matter and, unlike familiarity, this is an attribute of the dance itself. Of the 15,500 published dances, as many as 13,000 could probably be described as such. There is an element of subjectivity here but I am sure you have all come across programmes which include a dance that you have never seen before and do not expect to see again. Great care should be taken when including such a dance, particularly when it has been chosen just because the name happens to suit the occasion. Locally-devised dances are a special case and, as Ruary points out, it is usually acceptable to include one such dance on a programme.

Inclusiveness

I also hear it said that 'programmes should only include dances which are within the capability of all those present'. This sounds like harking back to the monthly socials of my youth but, like it or not, Scottish Country Dancing has evolved dramatically since then. Programme devisors need to take account of the wealth of dances now in the repertoire of dancers at all levels. I am pleased to see that our annual calendar generally includes a few evenings which are particularly suited to JAMs and less experienced dancers. These need and deserve the support of all of us, even though we might not always find the programme to be to our taste. So, while newer dancers should always be encouraged to come to more typical dances, perhaps it is a time for them to reciprocate by not expecting to take the floor for every dance on the programme.

Advance notice

I also endorse Ruary's suggestion that programmes should be advertised well in advance in order that people have plenty of opportunity to familiarise themselves with the dances beforehand. Only then can they (and, more importantly, their fellow dancers) enjoy the evening to the full. I suppose that I am influenced here by the practice in the UK where 3-months' notice is not unusual and, although recaps at dances are becoming increasingly common, it would be unwise to assume that dances will be briefed.

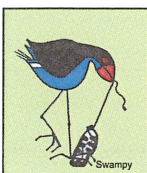
Balance

The role of the programme devisor is to construct a balanced programme, taking account of the particular occasion, where just some of the factors are:

- Traditional / Modern
- Familiar / Unfamiliar
- Simple / Complex

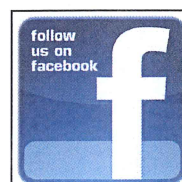
By getting the balance right it is possible to create a programme which is attractive to visitors and locals, alike, is not biased towards any particular level, broadens the horizons of our own dancers and satisfies the enthusiasm of all present while still providing the convivial evening for which Scottish Country Dancing is renowned.

Andrew Patterson



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://waibopscd.org.nz>



WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

<http://www.facebook.com/Dance Scottish Waibop>

Reels

Kissing Bridge, The	Book 47 – 2	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	Carried over from 2014
Anderson's Rant	MMM 1 – Page 2	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	
Mrs MacLeod (of Raasay)	Book 6 – 11	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	

Jigs

EH3 7AF	Book 40 – 6	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	Carried over from 2014
Hunting Horn, The	SCD Archives	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	
Alan J Smith	Book 45 – 3	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	

Strathspeys

Sugar Candie	Book 26 – 9	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	Carried over from 2014
Balquidder Strathspey	Book 24 – 2	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	
Paisley Weavers, The	Graded Bk 3 – 5	3 x 32	3c set	

For Sale:

- Mans Kilt Modern Hunting Ross
- Prince Charlie Jacket and Waistcoat
Both purchased in Scotland, kilt manufactured by MacNaughtons of Pitlochry.
Open to offers
- Music system:-
Amplifier DENON PMA250
Disc Player DENON DCD 685 (Adjustable speed)
This unit is as new and had more volume available than you could use at a Ball.
2 x Speakers KEF AUDIO 8OHM 15-120 Volt
Can be heard in use if required.
Open to offers

Charlie Ross 021 94 11 21

Wanted:

- Dancing Shoes:
Different sizes required.

Laura and Athol Arbutnott, Ohakune

Associate Members of the Region

If you wish to become an Associate Member of the Region and receive directly all information presently sent to club secretaries, please contact Andrew Patterson. The cost is \$5 per year for email, or \$10 for hard copies mailed to you. Payment by 31 December.

Website

The new website is up and running. Please check it out, its looking good! Thanks go to Antanas for the ideas and Andrew Patterson for the hard work in getting this up and running! <http://waibopscd.org.nz/>

Contact Details Region & Clubs

Club email addresses have been set up by NZ Branch (eg rotorua@dancescottish.org.nz) who is also responsible for maintaining them. Club secretaries will need to advise the Region and Branch of any changes to your personal email addresses.

Region Officers:

President: Heather Johnston, PO Box 8377, Cherrywood, Tauranga (07) 576 8855 president@waibopscd.org.nz

Secretary: Glenna James, 3/697 Teasdale St, Te Awamutu (07) 870 3447 secretary@waibopscd.org.nz

Treasurer: Andrew Patterson, 34 Stafford Rise, Lynmore, Rotorua (07) 345 6337 treasurer@waibopscd.org.nz

Education/Training Coordinator: Lynne Hudson, 243 Boucher Ave, Te Puke. (07) 573 5055 education@waibopscd.org.nz

Membership Coordinator: Andrew Patterson, 34 Stafford Rise, Lynmore, Rotorua (07) 345 6337 membership@waibopscd.org.nz

Communication & Publicity Coordinator: Glenna James, 3/697 Teasdale Street, Te Awamutu (07) 870 3447 communication@waibopscd.org.nz

Youth Coordinator: Jeanette Lauder, 134 Makaanuku Rd, RD 1, Tokoroa 07 886 8171 youth@waibopscd.org.nz