WAIBOP NEWS

Issue: August 2015

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

Letter from the President

The Tauranga hosting of the 2015 QBWE SCD School is well and truly behind us which is more than can be said for the cold weather we are experiencing. Bruce and I were in Palmerston North for a week just recently and the temperature there was - 4° on a couple of mornings! I can't remember it being that cold when I was growing up in Palmy, and I'm really glad it doesn't get quite that cold here.

Winter nights usually mean cosying up by the fire or heater, watching TV, with the cat on your lap maybe, possibly a glass of wine at hand, knitting needles clacking perhaps, or the newspaper rustling while being read from front to back. We all know how hard it is sometimes to leave the warmth and comfort of our homes to go out on cold nights whether it be to dancing or some other engagement, but perhaps you could spare a thought occasionally for your SCD club teacher. He or she has to prepare that weekly programme and be ready to deliver it, be it to one set of dancers or several, or maybe even having to change the entire programme to cater for the five or six people who brave the weather and do turn up. Teachers, believe it or not, also like the warmth and comfort of home, but they are prepared to make that sacrifice week after week during the cold winter months so that they can share the joy of our wonderful past-time with you. As much as they would like to stay home on occasions, they don't! Bear in mind that the very night you decide to stay home, might be the night that your club needs just one more dancer to make up the set!

Our club's hosting of the QBWE School this year brought with it a few surprises. Yes, the class numbers were down and that did surprise (and sadden) me a little, but what was even more noticeable was the fact that we SC dancers are very much an ageing population. Some dancers who a year or two back would have registered for the Very Advanced Technique class, this year opted for the more sedate Advanced Low Impact class. Some didn't attend classes at all, deciding instead just to dance at the evening functions, knowing that their bodies wouldn't allow the sustained effort and stamina required for both classes and social dancing in the evenings.

For SC dancing to continue to flourish we need to attract, and retain, dancers at the other end of the spectrum – our young ones. The National JAM Camp as you know was held in our Region recently, and was attended by some eighty or so young folk. This has to be good for the future of SC dancing, and we should be grateful to those adults who organised or helped out with this event. Most of them no longer have school-age children themselves, but they were prepared to give freely of their time and expertise to make the camp the success that it obviously was. Without this dedication these events would not take place and that would not bode well for the future of SC dancing. Young people getting together and dancing together will do more for our continued growth than we at our clubs can do with one or two young people dancing in our ageing ranks. The Region financially supported our own young folk who attended the camp, but maybe we need to reflect on what more we could do.

I'm reminded of the late John F Kennedy's Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961: "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

Yours in dancing,
Heather Johnston

JAM Camp Fundraiser Raffle

Thank you to all those who took a ticket in this raffle. Unfortunately we did not reach the target of $200 but we were close with $182. The raffle was drawn by the duty officer at the Te Puke Police Station on 9 July and the winner was **Virginia Mathieson** of Cambridge.

Region Meeting!

Saturday 5 September — 2.15pm cuppa; 2.30 pm start to the meeting.
St Francis Church Lounge, 92 Mansel Ave, Hillcrest, Hamilton – parking available 13 Morrinsville Road entrance, followed by the Hamilton Scottish dance, Matangi Hall at 5.00pm

Hamilton Scottish Club

Hamilton Scottish celebrated mid-winter with a coffee and dessert fun night. The children and family members enjoyed the first part of the evening. They danced together the easier dances our tutor Pam had chosen.

A "demonstration" set danced Mrs Stewart's Jig, with Pam and three gentlemen dancing on the ladies side of the dance dressed in colourful feminine skirts. The Ladies Chain did cause a few problems!

A wonderful supper supplied by members was enjoyed by all. The second part of the evening included our favourite dances as well as a Monte Carlo.

Hauraki Thames Club

Hauraki Thames Club is looking very positive these days. Olina Carter's "White Heather" Group meet on Tuesdays and, probably being an afternoon session, they have more than enough for two sets, which is great. Having been dancing for a while they were all invited to attend Hauraki Thames Club night when a cuppa and chat concluded the evening. This has resulted in the Thursday evening group now having a muster of about 12 members which is fantastic, and it would be nice to thank all those who are supporting this 26 year old club.

Additional to this we have had a pot luck evening when the majority of dancers from both groups came along and we had a most enjoyable evening 'getting to know our fellow dancers'.

It is just a shame we do not have any younger dancers.
Best wishes to all from Thames.

White Heather Group

The White Heather Tuesday afternoon group, tutored by Olina Carter has scored a resounding tally of 12 new dancers. These new dancers are the result of a well advertised Beginners Class of 6 weeks duration.

We hope they will also join the Thames Hauraki Club on Thursday evening and so further develop their enjoyment and skills, and add to the dancing presence in Thames long term.

Eastern Bay of Plenty

Scottish Country Dancing in the Eastern Bay of Plenty is in good form.

The Awakeri Group has nine new members meeting in the Awakeri Memorial Hall on Mondays from 7-9pm. Recently the Awakeri cubs group of eight came in and joined the dance group for two nights – they were full of enthusiasm.

A group of dancers meet at the RSA club in Whakatane from 9.30-11.30am on Wednesdays.
The Opotiki dance club meet in the Waiotahi Hall on Thursday evenings 7-9 pm and generally have 8-12 people attending.

Recently a day school for dancers met on Saturday 2 May at Waiotahi and on 1 August a day school for mainstream dancers was held during the day, with a social in the evening.

This is a wonderful recreation with fun, fitness and friendship.

Mary Thomas taking the Opotiki day school—everyone concentrating hard!

Queen's Birthday Weekend School

..hosted by the Tauranga SCD Club

What is it that measures the success of a Weekend School? Is it how much you finish with in the bank account? If it is the money in the bank then we failed miserably! Well not quite as drastic as that, but we're certainly not planning a cruise for all club members any time soon.

Right from the outset, we reckoned on at least 50 registering for the whole school to reach a break-even point. We fell short of that with only 45. Could we have done more to attract more dancers? We doubt it. Advertising began before the end of 2014 with Registration Booklets being taken to, and distributed at Summer School in Dunedin. When dancing recommenced in March every club in our Region received several hard copies and also an electronic version of the Registration Booklet as did every club throughout the whole country. Flyers were sent to all clubs for notice boards. Advertising was also done through the Kiwi News (NZ Branch Newsletter) and the Reel News (Auckland Region Newsletter).

We felt we had secured some of the very best teachers for our 6 classes and this should have attracted dancers, but sadly it didn't seem to. Numbers were low across the classes and one, sadly had to be cancelled. Our appointed 'gofors' were well able to dance at the level to which they were assigned and it was thanks to them that some classes had at least one full set.

The Balmoral Band is well recognised (through the North Island at least) and highly thought of, so the music being provided for the evening social events was obviously going to be of a high standard as was definitely the case. (I'm still in awe of their rendition of 'The Cuckoo Clock'.) Classes also had the benefit of the band members' expertise for at least one session, so good music was provided through the whole weekend.

Despite the low numbers we have had some very positive feedback, and I would like to share some of that, because despite the low class numbers and the fact that we did not break even (but did not entirely run at a loss thanks to our very generous sponsors) we can honestly say that by all accounts, the 2015 QBWE School was a success:.

Getting everyone together for dinner on the Saturday evening - one can mix and mingle so much more easily over a meal than at the dance itself.

The Hall was superb as the main venue. I am sure the other Shopkeepers echo my comment. It was interesting to have a class in progress too.

The Greerton Hall was an ideal venue. The position of the shops in this hall was great.

The food – always available. Soup – delicious!

The music by the music class is always good.

Heather, you all must have been absolutely exhausted, but happily so, after months of hard work and planning, not forgetting the anxieties at times, culminating in such an enjoyable weekend for us all. The atmosphere throughout was relaxed, friendly, a-buzz.

I wish now to publicly thank **all** Tauranga Club members for their total commitment, hard work and support. You were, and are a great team! And thank you to all Region members who supported this QBWE School. We hope that you will get in behind Cambridge now as they plan next year's event.

Heather Johnston—2015 QBWE School Organiser

Hoppit JAM Camp

So many positives from the camp:

- 79 JAMs registered accompanied by 33 adults with 5 teachers, 3 musicians and 7 committee members (2 of them JAMs)
- A very cold but dry and sunny weekend. You had to dance to keep warm!
- 4 classes named after Hobbit families : the Tooks, the Gamgees, the Proudfoots and the Bagginses.
- 3 buses each with a great guide for the Hobbiton visit on a stunning afternoon. There was even some dancing at the maypole by the Green Dragon.
- 4 great dance teachers that worked very hard throughout the weekend
  - ◊ Susanna van der Gulik, who had danced at Huntly and been to JAM Camp as a youngster
  - ◊ Katharine Hoskyn who has much experience in teaching young dancers and was the organiser of the first Auckland based JAM Camp
  - ◊ Antanas Procuta our local teacher who set his class challenges that they accepted and met
  - ◊ Cairistiona Tait from Melbourne who expected much from her class – and they rose to her expectations
- 4 interesting music sessions with Lynne Scott to give each class an understanding of the music that enhances Scottish Country Dancing
- 3 musicians that provided music for class dance sessions – Ruth Budden, Virginia Mathieson and Lynne Hudson
- 1 wonderful band, Bourach Mor, to provide inspiring music for Saturday's evening dance
- Lots of helpers to support 14 candidates in their Medal Tests on the Friday afternoon

- Lots of support from the parents and the teachers that came with the JAMs – it all helped to make the camp run smoothly – everyone was prepared to help out to make the weekend successful.
- All made possible through the support of so many within the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region - individual dancers, clubs and a hardworking committee. Thank you all so much.
- Our young dancers have gained so much from the camp.

Wairoa Dance

A number of dancers from the Bay of plenty went to Wairoa to support Kylie, Roger and Christine Scofield and the Wairoa Club members. There were in excess of 50 dancers there and many spectators. Kylie made a great job of briefing the dances and Roger supervised the music – a task he is well experienced at.

For John Webb, it was an occasion to renew friendships in the Wellington/Hawkes Bay Region, particularly Napier and Hastings clubs, accompanied by Mary.

Betty Mahy-Cressey enjoyed meeting friends. Betty tutored in Wairoa for 20 years and now takes a group in Whakatane.

Rodney Dawson and his partner from Tauranga made the trip to enjoy dancing with Kylie and Roger. He and John have danced with Kylie for many years.

We all travelled 4-5 hours each way and were rewarded with good dancing, friendship and a fine supper. A ball is planned in 2 years' time and we look forward to returning to support the club.

4th July Tea Dance

"Stars and Stripes" – 4th July 2015
Senior Citizen's Hall Cambridge

This was a fun-filled colourful casual evening. Dancers came from: the Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Hauraki, Tokoroa, Te Awamutu, Cambridge and Hamilton.

It was populated with the Statue of Liberty, red white and blue, cowboys, rockers, an American sailor and all the way from the deep past to our astonishment, later in the evening – Abraham Lincoln himself! Who knew that Abe could execute a mean pas de Basque. After a short visitation he drifted off into the night and was replaced by none other than Captain America, who was a bit camera shy!

The supper was impressive – thanks to every one for their plate and the "staff" who set it all up!

Thanks go to Glenna, Heather, Antanas, Geoffery and Ruary for briefing the dances, and also to the Lochiel Club for the use of their sound gear. The "team" did well.

Great to see Howard McNally on the door and Dianne Murdoch – all the "old guns" out in force.

Te Awamutu Dance

A very large supper, a smaller than usual crowd (undoubtedly due to the horrendous weather) but an enjoyable and social night nonetheless. The programme was enjoyed by all and even our newer dancers managed "Ian Powries' Farewell to Auchterarder"! (We did however manage to place them in the same position as when we practiced it two weeks in a row which they were thankful for)...

Bourach Mor played for half of the programme. Some of the musicians danced inbetween playing, which warmed them up, but there was a huddle around the heater on the stage for the others!

Welcome to Summer School, offering dance classes for most levels over 6 mornings between the 28th of December and the 5th of January. Register now to enjoy a week of fun, fitness and friendship in the Mount Wellington area of Auckland.

We offer a full residential option for those travelling which includes meals and accommodation at the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre.

Classes:
The following classes are offered for dancers attending the Summer School: Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced, Very Advanced, Advanced Low Impact, Teachers and Musicians, Teacher Preparation

We have 8 members from Reel of Seven joining us for the school. Reel of Seven will be teaching the musicians course as well as playing for evening functions. There is a wonderful write up on our website detailing Reel of Seven and offerings for musicians at Summer School.

Teachers:

- Kathryn Deroles - NZ, Wellington
- Dianne Bradshaw - NZ, Wellington
- Beverley Young - NZ, Auckland
- Rebecca Blackhall-Peters - Canada
- Ruth Budden - NZ, Auckland
- Maureen Robson - NZ, Wellington
- Debbie Roxburgh - NZ, Wanganui

RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc.
Summer School
2015 - 2016 Mount Wellington

Register before the 31st of August to avoid late registration fees!

RSCDS NZ BRANCH

Letters to Editor....

RSCDS Branch Fees

It was quite understandable that Ruary should express his disappointment (shared by many of us) in the outcome of our remits with regard to branch fees. However, although the contrast between our fees and those of other branches may be interesting, a direct comparison may not be entirely meaningful.

A typical RSCDS branch is **actively involved in Scottish Country Dancing**. Take London Branch, for instance. The branch itself (not just the clubs in the area) runs three weekly classes during the year, a musicians' class, a children's class, a day school, about ten evening dances and open-air dancing. Some of these activities are budgeted to run at a profit so the branch is not so dependent on membership fees for its income and these convert to just $12 at present. I suspect that most branches are organised on similar lines where the value of the branch to the local SCD community is plain to see. The record probably goes to Bristol Branch with a $4 annual fee PLUS discount on weekly classes!

Contrast this with NZ Branch which appears to have **very little to do with Scottish Country Dancing as an activity**, such as the classes and dances which are the mainstay of SCD. The branch certainly has its uses. It facilitates Summer School and JAM Camp, implements training programmes for teachers and musicians, organises insurance cover and provides some valuable nationwide services such as the bookshop and record shop. However the branch, as distinct from the regions, is primarily an administrative body which relies on annual membership subscriptions to cover its costs (to the tune of $4300 in the case of the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region). It is this role of NZ Branch as a country-wide umbrella organisation which explains why the subscriptions are (and, probably, always will be) significantly higher than those of a typical branch of the RSCDS.

Andrew Patterson

Briefing

"Concise instructions, clearly articulated" - the hallmarks surely of good briefing and the aim of all who aspire to brief our dances. No matter how well prepared the brief is, unless delivered in a clear, well projected voice, it falls short of its aim.

Ideally all dancers on the floor will be able to hear the brief. My recent experience tells me this is not always so. Technology, in the form of a good microphone might help, but it will not correct, and indeed, may exacerbate poor diction.

The Club Annual Dance is an anticipated occasion to meet friends, enjoy hospitality and above all, share the pleasure of dancing together.

Unless we eliminate the need for a brief and memorise an entire programme of dances, can we please expect a higher standard of briefing from the experienced people chosen to perform this duty.

Marcia Sowman

Events....

Other Regions' Events:

Saturday 15 August
St Heliers Dance
St Aidans Hall, Ascot Ave, Remuera, Auckland
7.30pm

Saturday 22 August
Bay of Islands Dance
Kerikeri Primary School Hall, Kerikeri
7.30pm

Saturday 3 October
Whangarei Dance
Onerahi Community Hall, 130 Onerahi Road, Whangarei
5.30pm

Sunday 11 October
Howick Dance
Owairoa School Hall, 85 Nelson Street, Howick
2.00pm

Saturday 17 October
Innes Dance
St Aidans Hall, Ascot Ave, Remuera, Auckland
7.30pm

Saturday 14 November
Royal Oak Dance
St Aidans Hall, Ascot Ave, Remuera, Auckland
7.30pm

What's On in the Region:

- **22 August**
  — Opotiki Dance: Waiotahi Hall, Opotiki
  1.30 pm

- **5 September**
  — Region General Meeting, St Francis Church, 92 Mansel Ave, Hillcrest, Hamilton
  2.30 pm (cuppa at 2.15 pm)

  — Hamilton Scottish Dance, Matangi Community Hall, Tauwhare Rd, Matangi
  5.00 pm Dancing; 6pm Meal

- **16 September**
  — Hauraki/Thames Dance, St James Church Hall, Pahau Street, Thames
  6.30 pm

- **10 October**
  — Cambridge Ball, Cambridge Town Hall, Cambridge
  7.30pm

- **7 November**
  — Region AGM, Te Puke Memorial Hall, Te Puke
  1.30 pm Meeting (refreshments after)

  — Mt Maunganui Dance, Te Puke Memorial Hall, Te Puke
  5.30pm

- **21 November**
  — Core Dance Day
  Details to come

Some Scottish sayings that are not so old .....

Gonnae no' dae that! – *Going to not do that.*

Pure dead brilliant – *Exceptionally good.*

Yer bum's oot the windae – *You're talking rubbish.*

Am pure done in – *I'm feeling very tired.*

Am a pure nick – *I don't look very presentable.*

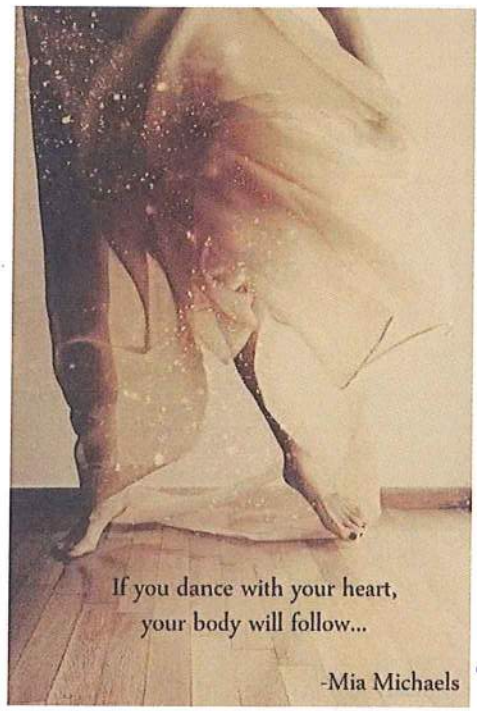
Ah umnae – *I am not.*

Ma heid's mince – *My head's a bit mixed up.*

Yer oot yer face! – *You're very drunk.*

Yer aff yer heid – *You're off your head – a little bit daft.*

Region Secretary....

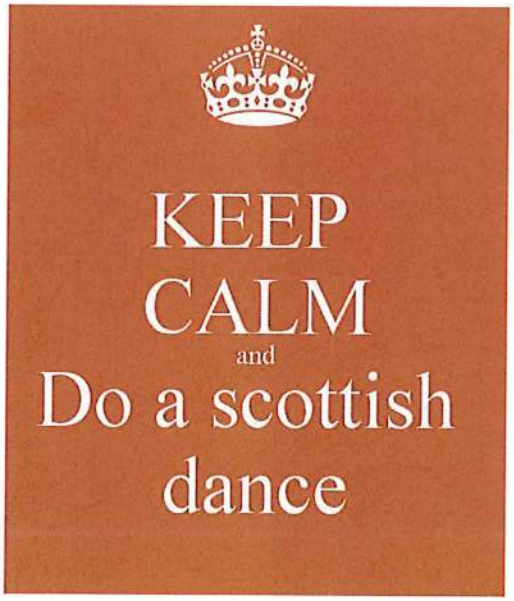


This season of dancing is going so fast—make the most of the rest of the year, especially now its heading towards spring!

Some of my free time is now going to be spent brushing up on dancing skills and learning some teaching points—I have been lucky enough to have received the NZ Branch Scholarship to Summer School this year for the Teaching Preparation class. This is the first time a scholarship has been awarded for this particular class, and I am privileged to be the recipient. I think my two fantastic references from Damon & Gaye Collin and Doug Mills helped a lot—thanks guys! This is a good example of what NZ Branch/RSCDS can do for members, apart from the books and CDs and schools... Sorry Te Awamutu Club members—I think I might be practising on you! Summer School here I come (I think partying every night may not be on the cards for me though).

Happy Dancing everyone.

Glenna James



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

http://waibopscd.org.nz

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

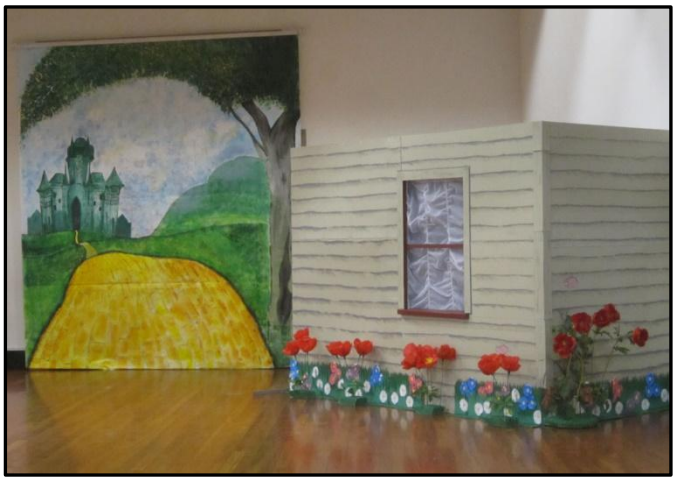
http://www.facebook.com/Dance Scottish Waibop

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND SCHOOL 2015

Hosted by the Tauranga SCD Club

Saturday Night's Ball.

The Balmoral Band playing for the Ball.



Before the tornado!

Mary and Heather position the witch's legs!

Glinda (aka Philip) makes a dramatic entrance!

“See what your house has done to our sister!”

The Grand Parade …..

Wizards and friends.

Happy little Munchkins!

Ceilidh Item.

Music Group.