



# WAIBOP NEWS



Issue: November 2015

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC  
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

**Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!**

## Letter from the President

Region meetings are done and dusted for 2015, including the AGM which saw 11 RSCDS members and 2 non RSCDS members in attendance. Actually the meeting should have been called off as we did not have the requisite number of members present for a quorum. According to our Constitution we required 12 members being 15% of eligible members. We had 3 courses of action open to us:

- ◇ We could wait for 15 minutes in the hope that more people would arrive - and we did wait, 20 mins in fact.
- ◇ We could just pack up and disappear - the Irish bar down the road was beckoning!
- ◇ Or we could begin discussing things informally, making informal decisions that could not be acted upon until the next meeting in the hope that there would be a quorum then.



However, as President and with the backing of the others, I made the decision to carry on with a formal meeting, taking into account that we had 13 attendees albeit with 2 non-members but those 2 having been members in the past and both of whom had a wealth of experience behind them, both at the Region level and that of the Branch. With Remits for the Branch AGM needing our attention so that Region Delegates could vote according to the wishes of the Region (which were the wishes of we 11+2), it seemed the best course of action, an action which I take full responsibility for!

Membership Coordinator, Andy Patterson, gave the following figures in his Report to the AGM:

210 = Total number of financial Club members as at 31 August 2014 (2015 figures are only just being Invoiced for).

81 = Total number of RSCDS members within the Region. (And just out of interest, this means that only 26% of the Region's dancers are RSCDS members.) Of those 81 only 11 felt it necessary to attend the AGM.

Is it apathy that keeps people away? Don't the rest of you 70 RSCDS members care about the decisions that are being made on your behalf? Are you not interested to know that there are some who are doing their darndest to bring down that portion of your combined fee paid to the New Zealand Branch?

It brings to mind Henry Ford, that revolutionary industrialist, who said,  
*"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got."*

It really would be great to see larger turnouts and more support at our Region meetings, and so heartening for those of us who are striving to bring you Region Dances and Day Schools, reduce your fees, encourage and assist Region dancers to become certificated teachers, provide and run events like the JAM Camp and Medal Test days for our youth, keep you in touch with Region happenings through newsletters and other communications .... the list goes on!

But enough! The Festive Season will soon be upon us, and as this will be the final Newsletter for the year, it does give me much pleasure on behalf of the Region, in thanking Clubs for the annual dances that we as dancers have enjoyed throughout the year, and to those who organised and ran Day and Weekend Schools, JAM Camp and Medal testing, we give our sincere thanks also.

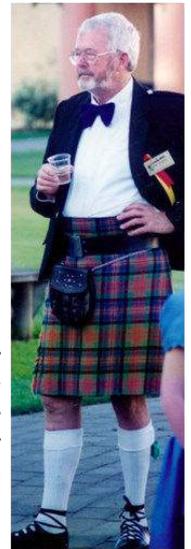
I wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas, a very safe and happy summer break, and the best of health, happiness and prosperity for 2016.

**Heather Johnston**  
Region President

## Cambridge Club

Firstly, we mark the sad loss of John Murdoch who has been a very large part of the Cambridge Club for many many years, and who has supported Dianne with her love and commitment to dancing over this time.

The Cambridge Club has had a very enjoyable dancing year, with Helen Smythe, Sue Wrigley, Lesley Gousmett and Antanas Procuta sharing the teaching and dance briefing. Over the last few weeks, the club has been dancing through the new Book 49, and these dances are proving popular.



We marked its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a well-attended and 'warming' Ball at the Cambridge Town Hall, with dancers and friends from the Waikato and Bay of Plenty region and as far afield as Auckland and Whangarei, coming to join the Cambridge club in celebrating.



Club patron Dianne Murdoch – who has been Cambridge's predominant Scottish Dancing tutor for the last forty years – cut the anniversary cake, and was honored with the first dance of the evening 'Dianne Murdoch's Promenade'.



A great night of dancing was enjoyed with music by Auckland-based Celtic band Glenfiddle playing a range of reels, jigs and strathspeys.

Dancer Graeme Hall of Tokoroa came forward to be acknowledged, having danced at all of the sixty annual balls excepting the first.

The Cambridge club is looking forward to hosting the region's Scottish Dancing and music school at Queens Birthday in 2016.

The club is holding a series of evening workshops early next year for new and beginner-level dancers.



## Tokoroa Club

Tokoroa Club's final night is set for Thursday 3 December, at Amisfield School Hall, Moffat Road, Tokoroa., starting at 6.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join them. Please bring a \$5 gift.

## Hamilton Scottish Club

On November 11<sup>th</sup> Hamilton Scottish had a dress up night where dancers came along dressed up as the title of a dance.

There were five Ladies in Red, three Gardeners for Gardener's Fantasia, as well as a Minister, some Sugar Candy and a Fisherman. Our three young dancers also got in on the act; Amy came as a Penguin (the Piper was left at home) and Emma and Kaylee dressed as cats for the dance, The Auld Grey Cat. Pam and Wayne, our tutors, made up a programme containing the dances depicted.



During November, dancers have enjoyed more challenging dances after supper. As a club, we are looking forward to the end of year Pot Luck Dinner with family and friends on 25 November.

## JAM Afternoon



Several JAMs (Junior Associate Members) took the opportunity to share an afternoon together recently.

They met at St Peter's Catholic Community Hall in Cambridge to enjoy a variety of dances together – from simple dances like The Cumberland Reel to more complex dances like The Magic of Summer School. It was good to see young people helping others out in a set when needed.

As part of the entry fee each family was asked to donate a jar of JAM or other spread. Since the majority of those who came were from Tokoroa these were donated to the Tokoroa Food Bank. Ruth, from the food bank was most appreciative and asked that the group's thanks be passed on to all who donated.

All who came had the chance to take home a poster left over from JAM Camp. These were displayed around the hall and as each name was drawn JAMs (and parents) got to choose a poster to take home.

An earlier date of July 2<sup>nd</sup> has been set for next year which we hope will suit more JAMs.

Please encourage your young dancers to register as JAMs so that they are aware of what other young dancers around the country are doing. Here's the url to access a membership form and more information about JAMs: <http://dancescottish.org.nz/ymembership.php>

## AWesome Weekend School

To all our young dancers across the Region:

Have you heard about the AWesome Scottish Country Dance Weekend School? In January this is being held in New Zealand for the first time. Previous AWesome weekends have been held in Australia so this is largely aimed at dancers from there and NZ who are aged 18 to 40. This one will be in Lower Hutt over the last weekend of January.

Check out the back page of the Kiwi News or go to <http://lowerhuttscd.org.nz/awesome>

## Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo

In February this year Scottish Country dancers were invited to dance during the day at the Highland Games in Paeroa. There were many of us already there supporting pipe bands and soaking up the atmosphere and it was lovely to see people who no longer dance and family of dancers. On 13 February 2016 all dancers and family are welcome again at Paeroa Highland Games in the afternoon. Come ready to join in a couple of dances, they will be briefed and walked. We are not aiming for perfection - just showing how much we enjoy our sport. Details in the New Year, but contact Shelley McConnel if you are interested. [mconnel@clear.net.nz](mailto:mconnel@clear.net.nz) 0212721123

## Summer School—Auckland

Don't forget Summer School is close to you this year, based at Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, Mt Wellington. Apart from the Concert (held at the Cole Theatre at Waipuna Hotel), all evening functions will be at the Edgewater College, 32 Edgewater Drive, Pakuranga.

- 28 December - Opening Social
- 29 December - Youth Night
- 30 December - Reel of Seven Concert
- 31 December - Hogmanay
- 2 January- President's Ball
- 3 January- Ceilidh Night
- 4 January- Closing Social



RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.  
Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region

*On Your Bike to the*

### **The Queen's Birthday Weekend School 2016 at Cambridge.**

#### **Dance School**

**Saturday 4 June to Monday 6 June**

*including*

Sunday 5 June ~ Music Class / Dance Classes / Social

Monday 6 June ~ Morning Combined Dance Class

And the

#### **Cambridge Ball**

Saturday 4 June 7.30pm at the Cambridge Town Hall

*Hosted by the*

**Cambridge Scottish Country Dance Society**

#### **Classes and Tutors:**

Beginners / Elementary

Technique

Advanced Social

JAMs

Musician's Class

& Music for Dancers

Andrea Wells (Wellington)

Doug Mills (Nelson / Marlborough)

Mary Thomas (Waikato / Bay of Plenty)

Nicole Trewavas (Rangitikei)

Lynne Scott (Wellington)

& Sharlene Penman (Auckland)

*And the music of*

***Glenfiddle***

## What's On in the Region:

- **Final nights for most clubs this week**
- **Saturday 28 November**  
— St Andrews Ceilidh (7pm)  
Hamilton Caledonian Hall, 86 High Street, Frankton,
- **RSCDS Summer School**  
28 December 2015 — 5 January 2016

## Generic Emails for Clubs

Please note that if the secretary at your club changes, you need to notify NZ Branch in order that the generic email address ([.....@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:.....@dancescottish.org.nz)) is changed and you keep receiving information.

Not only do NZ Branch use this, but also Waikato Region when sending all information to clubs.

The easiest way is to send the request (via the Branch website) to:

- Branch Secretary
- Website Issues - Sue Lindsay

### Scottish sayings.....

Haud yer wheesht! – *Be quiet.*

I'm fair puckled! – *I'm short of breath.*

Gie it laldy. – *Do something with gusto.*

I'll gie ye a skelpit lug! – *I'll give you a slap on the ear.*

Black as the Earl of Hell's Waistcoat! – *Pitch black.*

Dinnae teach yer Granny tae suck eggs! – *Don't try to teach someone something they already know.*

Do yer dinger. – *Loudly express disapproval.*



**Pas de Basque**

## Easter Weekend School



### CANTERBURY EASTER WEEKEND SCHOOL 2016

#### KAIKOURA

*Come and have a whale of a time!*



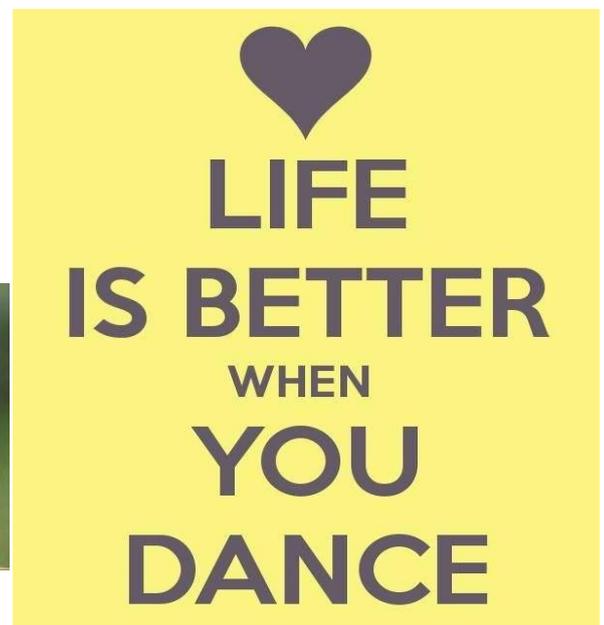


Dates: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Teachers: Diane Bradshaw (Lower Hutt)  
Maureen Robson (Wellington)  
Doug Mills (Picton)  
David Williamson (Christchurch)



Music by **Scotch Measure** with guest  
**Lynne Scott**



I have to say I was very disappointed that our 8 remits to the NZ Branch AGM went down without a whimper!

I still have concerns about the large cost of members' subscriptions to the NZ Branch - \$60!

Many years ago the NZ Branch in its heyday had about 1200 members. Now it has about 700! If it doesn't do something about the cost of membership fees this process is going to continue.

The purpose of each of the 8 Remits was to collectively reduce the membership fee from \$60 to \$30 (what the RSCDS charges) and see if that helped to reverse the trend.

I did a bit of research into the fees that other Branches charge:

Sydney:	\$9.33NZ
Melbourne:	\$22.00NZ
Leeds in the UK:	\$10.02NZ
Headquarters Branch of the RSCDS :	\$26.04NZ
The RSCDS itself	\$30.04NZ

The NZ Branch charges at least **twice** what the next most expensive Branch in the world charges, and in a lot of cases, **three, four, five and six** times!

It doesn't have to be that way! The NZ Branch **chooses** to be expensive and could just as well choose to be about \$30 if they really wished!

Swampy

Region Secretary....

It has been another enjoyable year of dancing. When you see the smiles of dancers around the room while they are dancing, the fantastic music, all the conversations around the hall with people catching up with friends, WHY is it that people outside dancing don't see what they are missing and be enthused about joining a very sociable, fun activity?

We need to market that! Perhaps inviting new people along to a ball would be a better option, where they can see the interaction and enjoyment, rather than along to a club night where some of our clubs are struggling to get enough people; or in the case of JAMs, where they can see other young people having fun.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and holidays. I hope to see some of you at Summer School.

*Glenna James*

Region Officers:

- President:** Heather Johnston, PO Box 8377, Cherrywood, Tauranga (07) 576 8855 [president@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:president@waibopscd.org.nz)
- Secretary:** Glenna James, 3/697 Teasdale St, Te Awamutu (07) 870 3447 [secretary@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:secretary@waibopscd.org.nz)
- Treasurer:** Andrew Patterson, 34 Stafford Rise, Lynmore, Rotorua (07) 345 6337 [treasurer@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@waibopscd.org.nz)
- Education/Training Coordinator:** Lynne Hudson, 243 Boucher Ave, Te Puke. (07) 573 5055 [education@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:education@waibopscd.org.nz)
- Membership Coordinator:** Andrew Patterson, 34 Stafford Rise, Lynmore, Rotorua (07) 345 6337 [membership@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:membership@waibopscd.org.nz)
- Communication & Publicity Coordinator:** Glenna James, 3/697 Teasdale Street, Te Awamutu (07) 870 3447 [communication@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:communication@waibopscd.org.nz)
- Youth Coordinator:** Jeanette Lauder, 134 Makaanuku Rd, RD 1, Tokoroa 07 886 8171 [youth@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:youth@waibopscd.org.nz)



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://waibopscd.org.nz>



WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

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