



WAIBOP NEWS



Issue: November 2016

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

Letter from the President

According to Dr Seuss, it was the Grinch who stole Christmas, but I want to know who it was who stole 2016? I simply cannot believe that our dancing year has almost drawn to a close, and for some clubs, dancing has already finished for this year.

It has been an exciting year for the Region with the Balmoral Club up and running again, and putting on a very enjoyable and well attended afternoon dance at the Awakeri Memorial Hall towards the end of August. Then just 3 weeks later, the Taupo U3A Group staged their inaugural dance, which Region dancers arrived in their droves for, and from which, photos taken made the local newspaper. Well done to both, and in Taupo's case, we hope it will become an annual event.

It was very gratifying to have so many members attend the Region AGM this year, especially after the dismal turnout last year. The experiment of having this meeting as a stand-alone and not as a "curtain-raiser" for a Club's annual dance was certainly met with approval if the numbers in attendance were anything to go by, and being able to relax and socialise over dinner at a local café in Tirau after the meeting was most pleasant. Those of you who for one reason or another weren't able to attend might be pleased to know that we will possibly replicate the format again next year.

To those clubs who were so welcoming when I visited on an ordinary Club night (or morning in Whakatane's case), thank you. It was such fun dancing with you on these occasions. My only regret is that I wasn't able to get around every club this year but as most of you know house-hunting for Bruce and me was the number one priority. However, for the 3 or 4 remaining clubs please be assured, you have not been over-looked and I will endeavour to spend an evening with you early next year.

While visiting clubs throughout the Region, I have been reminded of the dedication and great work that our teachers do for very little reward other than the feeling of satisfaction of having shared their passion with you, their dancers. Our teachers turn up week after week, in fair weather or foul, with interesting and varied programmes that they have spent time preparing so that you might enjoy a night of dancing. Spare a thought for your teachers from time to time; a kindly "Thank you" as you leave the hall goes a long way.

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 2017. I look forward to meeting you all on the dance floor again next year.

Yours in dancing,

Heather Johnston
Region President



What's On:- Final Sessions for the 2016 Year!

Tomorrow - Monday 28 November

- Rotorua's last dancing night for 2016 will be Monday and we would be very happy to welcome anyone who fancies coming over to help us celebrate. Dancing starts at 7.30pm and is at the old St Andrew's Church Hall, behind the Family Wellness Centre Church on the corner of Old Taupo Road and Devon Street.

Thursday 1 December

- The Tokoroa SCD Club's final night is on the 1st December from 6.30pm at the Amisfield School Hall in Moffat Road, Tokoroa. A Christmas theme, so dress up if you like and bring a \$5 gift. All welcome to attend.
- Te Awamutu Final Night - celebration for St Andrews !!! Our final combined night of the year will be held in Te Awamutu at the Methodist Church Hall, at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Monday 5 December

- Tauranga Club's final night will be on Monday 5 December. Games, items etc as well as dancing, and everyone is encouraged to wear something Christmassy.

Wednesday 7 December

- Cambridge Club's final night, at St Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall. Bourach Mor will be playing and a very social night will be held. \$5 charge. Wear something Christmassy.

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| * Granville Market | Hooper's Jig |
| * Mr William Brown's Reel | City of Belfast |
| * Cranberry Tart | Meeting of the Waters |
| * Library of Birmingham | Best Set in the Hall |
| * Mairi's Wedding | De'il Among the Tailors |

Hogmanay Dance

31 December 2016 at the Cambridge Senior Citizens Hall, Commerce St, Cambridge. Start 8pm.
\$10 plus plate for supper (see poster on the website).

Region Social Weekend (10-12 February 2017)

Have a social weekend with a Scottish theme. It's a great opportunity to have fun and to include your family and friends.

Arrive Friday and have a combined dinner together. Spend Saturday at the Paeroa Highland Games (or stay at the Camp and make your own fun). Saturday afternoon at the Games there are demonstrations to publicise SCD and get people to have a go. Stay on for the Evening Tattoo (with a massed SCD demonstration). *If you are participating in the demonstrations, a free pass is available to both the Highland Games and Tattoo.* Sunday picnic and water games at Bowentown. Travel home safely late Sunday afternoon/evening.

Athenree Hotsprings Motor Camp has accommodation options as well as hotsprings available. Come as an individual or bring a group. To book accommodation, contact Athenree Hotsprings Motor Camp direct, and let them know you are part of the Scottish Dancing Group. 07 8635600 hotsprings@extra.co.nz. Then let Shelley McConnel know you are coming along.

Demonstrations (a list of the dances will be sent out in the next week:

- Social dancing at the Highland Games in the afternoon — contact Shelley McConnel
- Demonstration at the evening Tattoo — contact Wayne McConnel

Mt Maunganui Dance

The final club dance for the year was a very good night, and as you can see from the photos, everyone was having so much fun!



Core Dance Day

16 teachers and interested dancers gathered at the Hinuera hall for the annual selection process of Core Dances for the 2017 dancing season. There were apologies from 3 teachers.

The morning started with some sad news being relayed to us by Jane McIlroy, that of the sudden death of Ross Cressey. Our thoughts go out to Betty at this very sad time.

At first glance there didn't seem to be as many dances this year from which to choose, but the dances that had been put forward were interesting and varied, and as always there was some lively debate as to which should or should not make the cut.

We started the morning by deciding which of the Year 1 dances should be carried over and there was very little disagreement on this. It was decided that *Crom Allt* (Reel) could definitely do with some work on the Advance and Retire formation, so *Crom Allt* stays, as does *The Laird of Milton's Daughter* (Jig). For the Strathspey, *The Haar on Skye* was an easy choice given the formations that it offers.

Of the dances put forward in the Reels and Jigs sections, there were one or two stand-outs and some that were lovely to dance but which didn't fit the criteria, that of consisting of basic formations from List One, so unfortunately these had to go. Then we got to the Strathspeys! There was one dance in particular that we all favoured except for one thing, it had an All Round Poussette which is not in List One. What to do! Well, popular vote eventually won out over criteria and this lovely dance from Book 49, *Midsummer Common*, is IN!

At the conclusion of the day, it was put to Lynne Hudson (Region Training and Education Coordinator) that at the Teachers' Workshop early in 2017, the criteria for Core Dance selection be seriously looked at. The List One that we have worked with up until now was formulated by the NZ Branch many years ago and doesn't really take into consideration the evolving nature of dances and formations.

I would like to thank those teachers who sent in their selections, and especially thank dancers who gave up all of their Saturday morning and a good part of their Saturday afternoon to trial and compile a list of Core Dances. I believe that the dances we have chosen are interesting without being too challenging for WaiBOP Club dancers of Elementary level and above, and for them to learn and enjoy at dances and balls next year.

Core Dances 2017

As a matter of interest the following is a breakdown of the number of Core Dances on Club programmes this year:

♦ Balmoral	6
♦ Cambridge	3 (QBWE)
♦ Hamilton Scottish	3
♦ Hauraki-Thames	2
♦ Lochiel	4
♦ Mt Maunganui	7
♦ Opotiki	1
♦ Rotorua	3
♦ Taupo	4
♦ Tauranga	6
♦ Te Awamutu	6
♦ Tokoroa	6

Reels

Crom Allt	Graded 3 - 4	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	Carried over from 2016
Orpington Caledonians	Book 49 - 2	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	
Tap the Barrel	Graded 3 - 1	3 x 32	3c set	

Jigs

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	Book 22 - 10	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	Carried over from 2016
Napier's Index	Book 45 - 8	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	
Mrs Stewart's Jig	Book 35 - 1	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	

Strathspeys

The Haar on Skye	Graded 3 - 7	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	Carried over from 2016
The Birks of Invermay	Book 16 - 2	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	
Midsummer Common	Book 49 - 3	8 x 32	3c in 4c set	

NZ Branch Dance Book

NZ Branch are publishing a collection of dances in a book to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NZ Branch. There has been a great response by members submitting dances for inclusion in this collection.

All Regions were asked if they or clubs in their Region would be interested in trialling some of the dances.

As we have had a lot of interest from clubs in this Region, a decision was made to hold a day where these could be done. It will be open to all dancers in the Region, as we want views from all levels of dancers — it is important that we have a cross-section of opinions.

As this exercise will need to be completed by 30 April 2017, a date of 25 March has been chosen, at a venue to be advised.

28 Dec 2016 – 5 January 2017	Summer School	Christchurch
31 December 2016	Hogmanay Dance	Senior Citizens Hall, Cambridge
21 January	Scottish Cultural Day	Otorohanga Village Square
22 January	Twilight Dancing (Lochiel)	Hamilton Gardens
30 January	<i>Auckland Anniversary Day</i>	
6 February	<i>Waitangi Day</i>	
10 – 12 February	Weekend Retreat	Athenree Camp (Shelley McConnel)
11 February	Paeroa Highland Games	Paeroa
26 February	Howick Tattoo	Lloyd Elsmore Park, Pakuranga
11 March	Teachers Workshop	Venue to be confirmed
18 March	Katikati Ceilidh	
25 March	NZ Branch Dance Book trial	Venue to be confirmed
1 April	Beginners Ball (Lochiel)	Venue to be confirmed
8 April	General Meeting	Venue to be confirmed
14-17 April	Region Dance	
<i>Easter (14-17 April)</i>	Easter Weekend School	Cromwell, Otago
<i>School Holidays (14-30 April)</i>		
21 – 23 April	JAM Camp	Wairarapa College, Masterton
25 April	<i>ANZAC Day</i>	
6 May	Lochiel Ball	
20 May	Opotiki Dance	
2-5 June	Queen's Birthday Weekend School	Rotorua
3 June	Rotorua Ball	
11 June	Tokoroa JAM Dance	
24 June	Tauranga Ball	
1 July	Elementary Day School	Cambridge Club
	Mainstream Day School	Cambridge Club
	Evening Dance	To be confirmed
<i>School Holidays (8-23 July)</i>		
9 - 16 July	Australian Winter School	Hahndorf, Adelaide Hills
29 July	Te Awamutu Dance	
12 August	General Meeting	
	Tokoroa Dance	
26 August	Balmoral Dance	
2 September	Hamilton Scottish Dance	
16 September	Thames Dance	
<i>School Holidays (30 Sep-15 Oct)</i>		
14 October	Cambridge Ball	
23 October	Labour Weekend School	tbc
28 October	Annual General Meeting	
	Social Evening	tba
11 November	Mt Maunganui Dance	Date to be confirmed
November	Core Dance Day	Date to be confirmed

Region Secretary...

The end of the dancing year is here - time for a break and sadness all wrapped up in one! Time for Appreciation! Regular dancers coming along week after week, whether its good weather and they would rather be at the beach, or a thunderstorm when they would much rather stay at home by the fire ... So a big thank you to them all, because if we didn't have them, there wouldn't be a club. Tutors, officers, members. Appreciate them especially at the end of the year, make a fuss of them....one of the nice things at the end of the year is usually a social event - people having fun, plenty of time to talk and having partners along, making them feel part of the family too. Have a Happy Christmas, great New Year's Eve dancing, a lovely holiday, and look forward to a new year of dancing in 2017!

Glenna James

The Eyes Have It

It never ceases to amaze me how a couple can lead down the middle and back without even looking at each other. Scottish Country Dancing provides numerous opportunities for eye contact: turns, circles, wheels, chains. There is not a single formation which cannot be enhanced by glancing at your partner or other dancers in the set. Even when chasing round in a square, rather than staring doggedly ahead, remember that there is someone on the opposite side who might welcome a friendly nod and a smile.

Some dances are noted for the opportunities that they offer. I once knew a teacher (a bit of a ladies' man) who reckoned that, when dancing The Minister on the Loch, he could be gazing into his partner's eyes for all but six bars. Another dance which is sometimes quoted in relation to eye contact is Red House, where the complete lack of any physical contact means that the eyes are the only means of keeping in touch with your partner.

Of course, it is possible to overdo it. I knew a dancer in Oxford who would stare constantly at her partner and this could be quite unnerving. To take a less extreme example, some dancers might well find that gazing into each other's eyes throughout a strathspey poussette makes for a rather uneasy eight bars. Just the occasional glance may be all that is necessary.

I suspect that the tendency for beginners to avoid looking at other dancers might stem from a lack of confidence and the need to concentrate on the formation rather than the social niceties. These are most easily learned by dancing with those who are more experienced and it therefore falls to us all to lead by example so that ...

'On looking at a Scottish Country Dance, the first thing that should be noticed is the expression of happy enjoyment on the faces and in the movements of the dancers' (Won't You Join the Dance, Miss Jean Milligan)

Andrew Patterson

Promoting Scottish Country Dance, retaining the newer dancers & promoting satisfaction

I have been considering how we can promote Scottish Country Dance and more particularly, to retain the interest of newer dancers that may feel they are struggling a bit.

My suggestion is for clubs to consider, fewer dances on Ball and Tea Dance programmes to allow time for a couple of demonstration dances by the more experienced dancers, to show less experienced dancers what they are aiming for.

These dances should be used to demonstrate good footwork, timing and positioning, and social interaction between dancers, aspects that are sometimes missing from some of the sets, as maybe someone struggles with a dance they are not fully familiar with.

My second, but related suggestion is to dance more of the dances a second time. The dance inevitably "goes better" the second time, with hopefully, the odd stumble or mistake the first time through not being repeated. This would also allow more emphasis to be placed on making the dance an elegant social and fun occasion, rather than a bit of a struggle, that leaves the lesser able, and possibly newer, dancers feeling frustrated, and concerned that they have "let the side down".

As a newer or less competent dancer, it is sometime difficult to interpret the briefing, and nervousness can lead to "silly mistakes" the first time through.

Linda Carter

Confounded Corners

When describing "corners" it is not uncommon for us to hear the teacher or briefer say "first corner position" or "first corner person" or "partner's first corner position" etc. This sets up in the mind a concept that the dancing couple has to keep track of where their corner people may be and/or where their partner's corner people may be - that could overload the brain somewhat if it were true. It is also contrary to what The Manual states. See paragraph 6.8 (edition May 2013) and the note at the bottom. Quote: "Corner positions remain fixed, but the corner dancers may change position.....". Reference is also made to third and fourth corners.

So come on briefers, stop the unnecessary complication, there is no need to say anything other than "First Corner", "Second Corner", "Third Corner" or "Fourth Corner".

Bill Jacob

NZ Branch Management Committee Remit 2

At the Auckland Summer School 2015/16 AGM a remit was passed that asked for a review of systems of payments to office bearers and others. This arose out of a growing concern about significant monies being paid to the individuals on the Management Committee for two particular categories: honoraria and Summer School fees. (There are other areas of spending that need to be looked at as well - publications and administration.)

Liz Hickey was appointed to produce a report. The result was a comprehensive and detailed 30 page report containing 15 recommendations (Page 21) applying the following principles:

1. Reimburse volunteers for reasonable actual expenditure on behalf of the RSCDS NZ Branch.
2. Reimburse volunteers for travel costs in accordance with the travel costs policy. In addition, re-imbursment of the annual amount agreed for the President's travel costs.
3. The subsidy paid by the Branch for Summer School accommodation costs should treat all office bearers equitably, within the financial constraint of what the NZ Branch can afford.
4. Honoraria should be commensurate with the relative workload of each position.

Swampy's Personal Opinion:

Instead of looking for ways to address concern about Management Committee spending, it is ignoring the reviewer's recommendations on two counts and proposing to increase the spending on both Summer School Accommodation and Honoraria! Management Committee members attending Summer School who complain about the costs involved in attending night functions (see rationale under Remit 2) need to remember that Summer School is not part of their business. Their attendance is for the one day of the NZ Branch AGM only! Summer School is a separate event from the AGM.

Points of interest:

The RSCDS in Scotland hold their AGM on one particular day, entirely separate from the Summer School. They gather from Friday evening one weekend, the AGM is held on the Saturday afternoon, they have a formal ball on Saturday evening and everyone goes home on Sunday afternoon!

The RSCDS international organisation has an annual membership subscription of approximately \$30. The benefits are easily identifiable: music, dance books, teacher training, etc.

The NZ Branch subscription should cost the same, or less, not more, if they want to expand their membership. The benefits of the NZ Branch membership are more difficult to identify.

Comments:

1. The NZ Branch needs to remember that Scottish Country Dancing is an organisation composed of club and Region volunteer Teachers, Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Co-ordinators, many of whom hold down busy day-time jobs as well.
2. Are NZ Branch fees (\$60) going to rise from their current level to fund their rising Management Committee costs?
3. The NZ Branch is getting too expensive to maintain with a falling financial membership.
4. We can already get all the services we need from the RSCDS or on-line Services: magazines, books, music, dances on YouTube and examiners.

Ruary Laidlaw

Clan MacGillivray Gathering

Bendigo, Australia was bursting with sunshine and bagpipes were booming on 30 October 2016 when the Pipe Band proudly paraded into the MacGillivray Hall, marking an historic Scottish-Australian event which was a celebration to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Clan MacGillivray Society in Australia. MacGillivray Hall was the ideal place for the Gathering. Clansfolk mostly from Victoria with a few from Queensland and New South Wales met in the Hall named after the noted scientist and Bendigo doctor, Paul Howard MacGillivray.

The significance of this occasion was augmented further by the presence of the Commander of Clan MacGillivray, Iain Donald MacGillivray, who had travelled from Scotland to attend. Members, families and friends of Clan MacGillivray and the Confederation of Clan Chattan had come from all over Australia, to pay tribute to the clan, welcome the Commander and strengthen their connections with each other and Scotland.



Prior to the official opening there was time and opportunity for those present to relax, eat their lunches, share anecdotes and information about their MacGillivray forebears.

The formal proceedings began at 2pm with the piped arrival of the Commander of the Clan, Iain Donald MacGillivray, followed by the introduction of the Commander to the Gathering by the President, Jillian MacGillivray of Clan MacGillivray Society Australia. The Commander's first words were a greeting spoken in the rich, earthy tonal language of Scottish Gaelic. The Commander gave a brief presentation on the history of Clan MacGillivray and how it became part of the Clan Chattan. He urged everyone in the clan, both young and old, to attend the upcoming gathering of Clan MacGillivray in Scotland in 2020.

The Clan Commander was genuinely delighted with the Scottish cultural legacy that welcomed him throughout this 40th Australian Anniversary Celebration.

"Those who dance are considered insane by those who cannot hear the music."
Anonymous



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