



WAIBOP NEWS



Issue: September 2017

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

Letter from the President

What a feast of annual club dances we have had recently, and what better way of getting through our rather wet and dismal winter. However, if we thought our weather has been bad, we should spare a thought for the millions in other countries who have lost loved ones, homes and possessions through extreme flooding, ferocious hurricanes and even earthquakes. Such unbelievable devastation!

It has been an interesting year with the results of the Questionnaire leading to a special meeting held in July with some thoughtful discussion taking place. While no clear mandate was given to implement change at the Region level, it did provoke thought and the proposing of remits, two of which have gone forward to the NZ Branch. Space restricts anything other than the actual Remit here, but if you are interested in reading more (and I hope you are) then the Rationale and further information for each is included in the Minutes from the August General Meeting.

REMIT - Voting Entitlement —That the Management Committee of the RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc. establish a two-year consultative process to review and consider the possibility of the NZ Branch adopting a membership-based voting system that enables each financial member to be responsible for the allocation of their own vote - whether directly, or by proxy, postal or electronic voting - at General and Special meetings of the NZ Branch, with a view to the recommendation of an appropriate remit to the 2020 AGM of the NZ Branch (with a progress report provided to the 2019 AGM). Such a remit would envisage voting entitlement be granted directly to financial members of the Branch, and replacing the current delegate-based voting system.

REMIT - Removal of Vice President Position —That the Constitution of the NZ Branch be amended to remove the position of Vice President and re-distribute allocated tasks to other Management Committee roles.

A third Remit which missed the date deadline last year has also been submitted:

REMIT - Establishing University SCD Clubs —That NZ Branch aim to establish Dance Scottish Clubs at all NZ Universities within the next three years.

Now it is a case of wait and see what eventuates from the NZ Branch AGM to be held 1 January 2018.

Something that has been on my mind for a while now is the small matter of dance etiquette. This was actually brought to my attention by a Tauranga Club member recently and since then I have been taking note of what happens at annual dances. The etiquette of country dancing is not always obvious to the beginner, and more experienced dancers occasionally need reminders so here's some little points that maybe we should all bear in mind:

- When joining a line of dancers, always join at the bottom of the line since it is counted (into sets) from top to bottom. If you join in the middle you may confuse the count. It is also considered rude to push in!
- Do not walk through a set of dancers, walk around instead.
- Be aware of other dancers in your set. An elderly person or a beginner may need some form of assistance - helpful hands or an encouraging smile may be all that is needed.
- When the dance is finished, thank your partner and then thank the other dancers in your set - remember without them you could not have completed the dance
- The dance floor is the place for social contact - it is rude to study dance notes once you are on the floor.
- If dancing to live music, acknowledge your enjoyment of the music by facing the musicians at the end of the dance and clapping.

Yours in dancing,
Heather Johnston
Region President



PS: DO support the Cambridge Day Schools on Saturday 30 September. Schools are an excellent way to improve or refine your dancing skills as you are working with people of a similar level.

Rotorua Club—Queen's Birthday Weekend School

The Rotorua club held the 2017 SCD Queens Birthday Weekend School. Overall the club felt this was a very successful school with many compliments being made by attendees to individual club members. It was very well attended which may in part be due to the great advertising by committee members and/or Rotorua being a very centralised location plus a great tourist destination.



The venue was at a local high school which had enough separate dance spaces in the one vicinity allowing all the dancing classes and events to be held in one location. This allowed for more socialisation at eating times etc.

The classes all ran smoothly. The teachers were well suited for their class level and the attendees all seem to enjoy their classes and gain a great deal of confidence and competence in their dancing.

Catering was well organised and run by Angela, supported by current and past club members. A very detailed roster helped with this.

The Rotorua Club Annual Ball was also very successful and enjoyed by attendees.

The club would like to acknowledge and thank our main sponsors Pub Charity. Also the extra support/help we had from other clubs; this was most appreciated and- certainly contributed to a successful school.



Mt Maunganui Club



The shortest day was celebrated in grand style by Mount Maunganui and Tauranga dancers at Mount Maunganui in an array of *short, medium and long garments*.

The evening began with a selection of dances of 16 and 24 bar lengths, some of which were fun to do.

Supper consisted of different styles of shortbread and short cake and even the weather got into the act with short rain showers.

A great evening - the highlight? Jim in his short kilt!

Jim Carter and John Rowlandson

Tokoroa's 40th Ball

Tokoroa Club members were delighted to welcome a great crowd to their 40th Ball in August. It was lovely to welcome previous members back to the club. Dancers had travelled from Wellington and from Auckland to celebrate the occasion.

The music from Bourach Mor made for a great atmosphere and was a delight to dance to.



Decorations from previous ball themes adorned the walls. These included items from the Pre-School Ball that was held the year before their first Queen's Birthday Weekend School and from the Graduation Ball held the year after that, to the China theme of their next Queen's Birthday Weekend School in 1997 which happened to be the club's 20th Ball. Numerous photo albums, Ball and Tea Dance programmes along with newspaper cuttings featuring the club were also on display.

Since rubies signify a 40th anniversary, Club member, Sophie, had created and decorated two red velvet cakes. As the two original members who are still dancing with the club, Genny and Graeme Hall cut these.



Tokoroa JAM Fundraiser

The Tokoroa Club is delighted to have been gifted a painting by Sonnett Olls. Sonnett is a South African artist who has two granddaughters dancing with the Tokoroa JAMs.

The club had asked her to incorporate a koru into the painting and they are very pleased with the result. It was completed in time to be on display at the Club's 40th Ball and is being offered for auction on-line with the proceeds going towards funding the Club's JAMs.

Gabriella and Abigail are seen here with the painting.



Balmoral Dance



Thanks go to Mary, John and their team who put on another great dance at Awakeri, with Bourach Mor playing.



Hamilton Scottish Dance



Hamilton Scottish held their Annual Tea Dance at the Matangi Hall on Saturday, 2 September 2017. We were delighted with the number of dancers from around the region who joined us.

With so many dancers there, it was a wonderful chance to say thanks to Pam Godfrey, who is standing down as Hamilton Scottish Tutor after 23 years.

During these years, Pam has missed very few Wednesday evenings. At one time, after breaking her leg, she taught from a wheel chair. Pam has kept Scottish Country Dancing in front of the community by organising many demonstrations at functions, rest-homes and Care & Craft. Pam also organised Core Dance Days for the Region for many years.

Thanks to Pam for her enthusiasm and dedication to Scottish Country Dancing.



Birthday celebrations for 3 out of 4 people at the dance!
Shelley, Alison & Fiona, with Joy Morgan missing on the night.

Waikato-Bay of Plenty Region
Queen's Birthday Weekend School
2 & 3 JUNE 2018

to be hosted by
Hamilton Scottish Country Dance Society
at Diocesan School for Girls
Hamilton

Ceilidh Theme: "Short and Sweet"

Contact for more details:
Grietje Badham - Ph. 07 856 2361 - badhamg@actrix.co.nz

Someone left a man's light green sweatshirt at the Matangi Hall after the Hamilton Scottish Tea Dance.

Please contact Grietje Badham if it is yours.

Coming Up:

- 23 September: Election Day
Daylight Savings begins—clocks forward
- 30 September: Day Schools & Social
- 14 October: Cambridge Ball
- 23 October: Labour Weekend School (Auckland)
- 28 October: Waikato/BOP Region AGM & Dinner
- 11 November: Mt Maunganui Dance
- 18 November: Core Dance Day
- 28 December: Summer School (Masterton)
- 10 February: Paeroa Tattoo (dancing daytime and evening)



If you feel like baking—a variation on Gingerbread Men ?

A Scottish winter poem

It's winter here in Scotland
And the icy breezes blow
At seventy miles an hour
& at 20 degrees below

Aye, I love my Scotland
When the snow is up yer butt
Ye take a breath o' winter air
And yer nostrils just freeze shut!

Aye the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll stick around
I could never leave my Scotland
Cause I'm frozen tae the ground!



You know you're a dancer when "and" is a number.

Letters to the Editor

Are traditional dances a thing of the past?

The purpose of the Society shall be to ...

Preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dancing.
(RSCDS Constitution)

Of course, people have different views on what is meant by traditional dances. Are they dances which were written:

Prior to the formation of the RSCDS in 1923?

In the style of traditional dances (if we can agree what that means)?

Sufficiently long ago to have joined the ranks of 'popular' dances?

I am inclined towards the first definition which, generally speaking, means dances published up to Book 30. While these may lack the sophistication of modern dances, they have a character of their own and their inclusion can add variety to any dance programme. They typically comprise four 8-bar phrases with, quite often, a noticeable absence of flow. We may admire the flow in dances by Goldring (in particular) and Drewry and this can certainly add to the elegance of a dance, but there is also merit in dances which comprise a few distinct formations where the emphasis is on technique rather than 'remembering what comes next'. Furthermore, these are likely to be the basic formations (such as set and turn corners, double triangles and poussette) which are becoming increasingly rare in today's dances.

While I readily admit that the attraction of modern dances means that they are bound to predominate on programmes, the total exclusion of traditional dances is to be regretted. A glance through the ten most recent programmes in our Region shows that, thankfully, half of them include three or more traditional dances. I would encourage all clubs to follow their lead in order to devise balanced programmes which give dancers the opportunity to put into practice the techniques which they learn in their weekly classes and, more probably, at day and weekend schools.

Andrew Patterson

Region Secretary...

This newsletter has been a long time coming sorry! With the extra Special Meeting and a General Meeting a month earlier than usual, and lots of remits to discuss, analyse, email discussions by the truckload, it has been all go...

This year is my last year as Region Secretary and Communication and Publicity Coordinator. I have done 3 years (plus the 2 years prior) so it is time for someone else to give back to dancing in this way. It has been enjoyable in both roles and I have certainly learnt a lot about how the clubs, regions, NZ Branch and RSCDS intertwine. Please have a think about the roles and put your name forward—it is not too onerous AND you will have Heather Johnston still as President to help you out, along with the other coordinators. The only condition is that you are an RSCDS member.

It is a nice time of year for dancing—the weather is improving (well at least the temperature is getting warmer!), it is still light when I get home from work so it is far easier to be cheerful about going out again, and its not too hot for dancing. Enjoy it while you can...only a couple more months of club dancing left. I won't even mention Christmas!

On another more sombre note, a lot of talk in the media recently about suicide—do you realise how important dancing is to all of us? The social aspect of club nights, balls and schools is a major part of dancing and this keeps us all connected, happier, and grounded. Aren't we lucky...

Do keep an eye on other members of your club and ask after their welfare and KEEP DANCING!

Glenna James

£5.3m Raised to Restore Moat Brae House, where Peter Pan Began, as National Centre for Storytelling

JM Barrie's original Neverland will help give young local people a great start in life and regenerate Dumfries with investment, jobs and visitors.

A total of £5.3 million of capital funding has been secured to transform the derelict Georgian house and gardens where Peter Pan began into a national centre for storytelling and children's literature. The finance means the historic Moat Brae House has finally been saved and will soon bring a whole range of benefits to Dumfries and its people. The Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust (PPMBT) will create a visitor attraction which is expected to welcome 40,000 visitors a year from all round the world contributing a much-needed additional £1.3 million for the local economy. Children from across the region, and far beyond, will have a wonderful place to visit and play, and enjoy a year-round programme of creative events and activities.

Tremendous news for Dumfries

The centre will open in 2018 and will be a place to discover children's literature and storytelling across many eras, countries and cultures. The grounds will be reinvented as a Neverland Discovery Garden. Actress Joanna Lumley, PPMBT Patron, said: "This is tremendous news for Dumfries and a lovely gift to young people everywhere. Moat Brae inspired J M Barrie to write one of the best-loved children's stories of all time and we hope it will give new generations of young people the courage and confidence they need to lead

Courtesy of 'The Scottish Banner'



creative lives. It's an awfully big adventure, and this is just the start."

Author and playwright J M Barrie played at Moat Brae when he was a pupil at the nearby Dumfries Academy in the 1870s and later described his time in Dumfries as 'the happiest days of his life' and the garden as "enchanted land to me - the genesis of that nefarious work - Peter Pan". JM Barrie lived in Dumfries from the age of 13 to 17, and played in the garden at Moat Brae. His first work of fiction was a "log book" recording the games of pirates and adventure that he played there under the name of "Sixteen String Jack". He attended the nearby Dumfries Academy and enjoyed his first experiences in staged productions at Dumfries Theatre Royal.

For more information log onto the Trust website www.peterpanmoatbrae.org

2010 was the 150th anniversary of Sir James Barrie's birth. Rob Sargent of the Inverness Branch devised the following dance, referring to the fictional town (which is really Kirriemuir) in the book, Peter Pan.

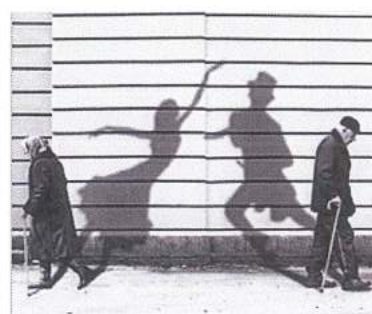
Courtesy of 'Jigs And More Issue 1/2010'

Sir J. M. Barrie of Thrums

a 4 couple reel in a longwise 4 couple set

- 1 – 12 1st woman (followed by 2nd 3rd & 4th women) dances across the set, behind 1st man, in front of 2nd & 3rd men, behind 4th man, across the set, and up to place
- 13 – 16 1st woman pulls back right shoulder to turn 2nd woman right hand [similarly 3rd woman with 4th woman] WHILE 1st man with 2nd man, & 3rd man with 4th man turn left hand
- 17 – 28 Men repeat bars 1 to 12 [4th man leading, across the set, weaving up, crossing back and finishing in place]
- 29 – 32 Repeat bars 13 to 16 [2nd & 4th men pulling back left shoulder to turn left hand; women again turn right hand]
- 33 – 40 1st couple lead down for 4 steps, turn right hand for 4 steps, finishing in 4th place [2nd, 3rd & 4th couples move up on bars 35 & 36]
- 41 – 48 Dance 8 hands round and back [in the final time through, dance into the centre with hand in the air and shout Hooray]

Repeat with new top couple



"No matter what, nobody can take away the dances you've already had."

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