

# WAIBOP NEWS



Issue: April 2018

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC  
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

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

## Letter from the President

At long last the NZ Branch has taken on board the fact that we in New Zealand don't necessarily want a Dance Scottish Week in the middle of our dancing season. The Branch funding that was made available at the beginning of this year therefore enabled clubs to hold Ceilidhs or Wee Scottish Events in a bid to attract new dancers. What made it even more appealing was the fact that clubs could apply and then pool their funding with neighbouring clubs thus making advertising and hall hire less of a financial restriction. Although participating clubs had mixed success in attracting new dancers through their Dance Scottish activities, it did put Scottish Country Dancing "out there" in many communities around the Region and I'm sure, in communities around New Zealand.



Our first Region meeting for 2018 held in Rotorua on Saturday 14 April was well attended and some lively discussion took place around some matters. Shelley McConnel was confirmed as the Youth Coordinator at the meeting and our grateful thanks go to Shelley for accepting this role. No nominations were received at the AGM last year, leaving a vacancy and a real need for someone to take on the responsibility of coordinating events for our junior members and also looking after their welfare so to speak. For our newly appointed Region Secretary Maureen Jacob, this meeting was probably a little like a baptism by fire but Maureen handled it very well as she has done with all the tasks that she has been asked to attend to since taking office.

One important point that did come from the meeting was a plea from both Maureen and Andrew Patterson, our Region "webmaster" to keep them up to date with executive changes made within clubs. Clubs have their AGM's at different times during the year and the only way Maureen and Andy are going to know when your club has a change of president, treasurer or secretary is when you inform them. It is not their place to continually ask the question, so if they get it wrong, the blame clearly lies with clubs. Communication is at all times paramount, as it is for you to send Ball programmes and information regarding other events like QBWE School to the Region Secretary in the first instance so that she may email that onto club secretaries. Of course send it to Andy for the website as well.

For those of you who are NZ Branch members you will have received the latest copy of the NZ Dancer magazine recently. Included in that mailout was a flyer advertising the NZ Branch's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance to be held at Government House on Monday 20 August. An email has gone to all club secretaries asking that they forward an email to all NZ Branch members within their club regarding the allocation of tickets for this event. We are now asking for expressions of interest which will put members into a ballot for our Region's (pro rata) allocation of eleven tickets. If you are a NZ Branch member and haven't received this email, please ask your club secretary to send it to you. Club secretaries, if you haven't received it from me please let me know asap.

As you all know, Rotorua started the year's round of Annual Dances earlier this month. It was not as well attended as it has been in the past. One has to wonder if it was the weather that kept people away (I can't remember when Rotorua last had rain on their Dance night) or was it because we are an ageing population of dancers in this Region as is the case in many, if not most, communities. If the latter is true, then it is more important now than ever before, that we endeavour to attract younger dancers to ensure the future of Scottish Country Dancing. What can we as clubs do about this? What can we as a Region do about this?

Yours in dancing,  
**Heather Johnston**  
Region President

### JAMS

Are you going to the Queen's Birthday Weekend School? Read on...

At the recent WaiBOP region meeting it was decided to offer a subsidy to FULL time JAM attendees at the Queen's Birthday Weekend School, (up to 10 in number). These subsidies will be allocated on a first come first served basis. You should apply through your club if you are interested.



## Katikati Club

Katikati SCD Club has got underway early in 2018 by performing at the local AP show. We danced four dances in the scorching heat arranged by our lovely tutor Lynne Hudson. Jim Carter had just purchased a flash Samson blue tooth sound system which enabled us to dance without power (thank you Bill Jacob). We intend to get around!

We also danced at a fund raising concert at the Katikati Christian Centre.

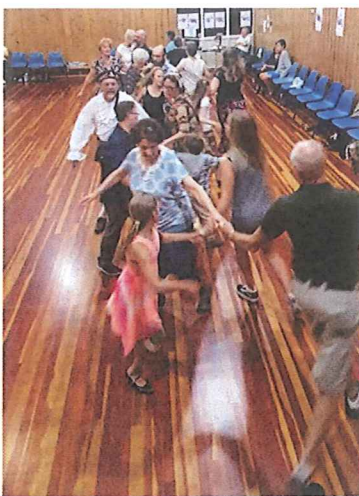
We joined Tauranga and Mt Maunganui in a beginners Ceilidh encouraging new people to see the pleasure Scottish Country Dancing can give.

Adding to the list was performing at an 80th birthday.

We have started our afternoon classes on Mondays and planning a Tea Dance in October.



## Friday Night Dance at Hamilton Scottish

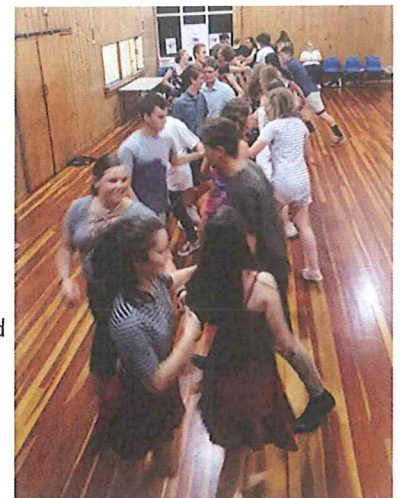


A ceilidh was hosted by the club in March to publicise dance Scottish.

To our surprise and delight 60 people attended. They danced vigorously, with the dances called by Ruth Budden and Wayne McConnel. We invited Ruth as she has Ceilidh calling experience, and a smile on her face.

Our publicity included the invites to clubs around the region, posters in libraries, at the university, community newspaper what's on pages, Waikato what's on website, and a facebook event.

32 of these were young late teens to mid-twenties who knew each other via social media. A family from Morrinsville also found us on a facebook page.



It was the sharing and making connection via Facebook that got these people to the dance, they got a taste of Scottish music and dance, and asked when we were doing it again.

No new club members but a higher profile of dance Scottish around the Waikato. And a lesson in the use of social media for reaching people.

## Beginner Dance — Lochiel Club

As I was driving to the Beginner's Dance I had the ghastly thought that we had not booked the hall. It had not crossed my mind until then. It was with trepidation that I drove into the carpark and absolute relief when I saw that it was empty. At least no-one else was in the hall.

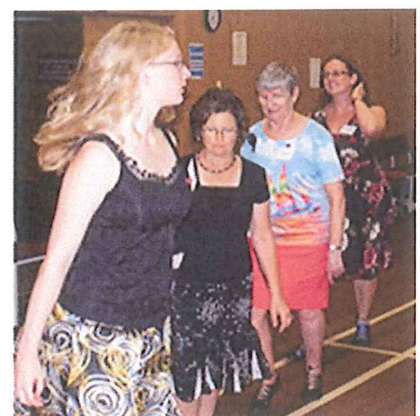
My first words to the committee were, "We did book the hall didn't we?" "No," said the first person. "No," said the second, quickly followed by, "Oh, yes I did. Last year." The relief I felt is indescribable.

Then we entered the hall. No lights in the foyer. That is unusual. Phew, the lights in the hall were working. Then we saw it. We couldn't comprehend it at first and couldn't believe our eyes. The kitchen was gone! The room was still there of course but no benches, no cupboards, no lino and no water! The church had decided to strip and replace it but had not informed us.

What were we to do - too late to change halls, too late to let everyone know, too late to do anything really.

In true, stoic Scots style we decided we would just make the best of it. We filled the water containers outside. We set up trestles for the food in the hall. We explained that there would be no hot food or drinks and we just got on with it.

Thanks everyone for your understanding! I hope that you still had a great night, as we certainly did.



## SCD at Paeroa Highland Games/Tattoo

A huge thanks again goes to Shelley and Wayne McConnel for organizing dancers for this event. It is not a small undertaking, especially having 2 sessions in the afternoon with audience participation and then the main event at the Tattoo. It turned out to be a great day weatherwise, after everyone anxiously checking with Shelley to see if the torrential rain was going to cancel the day....No. By the time we arrived, the rain had stopped thankfully. It is a great way of showcasing SCD to the public—not everyone there had Scottish connections. We even got asked to hand out the haggis to the crowd in the evening. (A rumour that next year possibly we will get asked to join in the Street March, carrying the banner for each Pipe Band, instead of the marching girls!)



## Dance Scottish Promotion in Tokoroa

The Tokoroa Club started their dancing year with a 3 week Dance Scottish promotional display in the foyer of our local library. (It helps to have a dancer working as a librarian.) While the display was a static one we managed to include a looped video that was an added attraction.

The Club organised Beginners' Classes for the first six club nights of the year, beginning in the week of Waitangi Day. In place of our normal club nights we ran two classes. In the first hour the classes were aimed at children and their families. These were followed by a class for adults.

As further publicity the display was moved from the library to our local Festival of Cultures held on the Saturday following Waitangi Day. Some local schools followed up on our request to promote our Beginners' Classes in their school newsletters. We paid for a couple of ads in the local paper and the library display was included in the papers "What's On" page. It seems that the most effective advertising was via school newsletters.

From the classes three new JAMs and two adults are still dancing. The adults have both danced before - one with our club and one in Whangarei and Tauranga.



## May Month for Beginners—Rotorua Club

The Rotorua club is holding "*May Month for Beginners*" on our club night. Please pass onto any family/friends etc you know in Rotorua - we would love to see them.

Details: Monday nights - 7<sup>th</sup> May to 28<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm at the Maranatha Centre (My Family Wellness Centre) on the corner of Devon St and Old Taupo Road.

Cost is Free!

Save this date: 11th August 2018

The Tokoroa Scottish Country Dance Club  
are delighted to announce that  
Ian and Judith Muir  
will play at the club's annual dance  
in Tokoroa's Catholic Hall  
on this date  
More details later



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  
River Road, Hamilton

Ceilidh Theme: "Short and Sweet"

Music by Glenfiddle

Contact for more details:  
Grietie Badham – Ph: 07 856 2361  
[badhamgi@actrix.co.nz](mailto:badhamgi@actrix.co.nz)  
website: [qbwe.waipopsd.org.nz](http://qbwe.waipopsd.org.nz)

I am intending to hold a two day Basic Teaching Skills workshop later this year.

The Basic Teaching Skills Course is for those who are already leading / teaching a group but who do not want to take the RSCDS teaching exams. It will also suit those starting out on their teaching certificates who have limited teaching experience and those who like to take the occasional evening.

Topics include dance analysis, lesson planning, briefing a dance, selection of music, how to break down the basic steps, teaching formations, and others. The course involves discussion and participation.

If you are interested could you please contact me by email: [billyne@kinect.co.nz](mailto:billyne@kinect.co.nz).

Lynne Hudson: Education & Training Coordinator WAIBOP Region

## Letters to the Editor...

### Publicising a Club Dance

Over the last couple of years Lochiel has found it challenging to attract the numbers of old to our annual ball.

#### **Here's an idea!**

In the digital age, and the ease of creating a Word document and then attaching it to an email, we at Lochiel tended to think "Job Done!" We could then turn up to previous functions and "remind" dancers of the upcoming event and the fact that clubs had an email with all the details

#### **However, maybe not so!**

Dancers, I fear, have a tendency to watch someone standing up and talking about their dance and the associated email, but not register the exact date place and time, and forget everything within a short space of time.

#### **So what do we do?**

Print off multiple copies of our dance programme with all the details of date, time and place etc and take them to some of the previous dances and as well as standing up and talking up about our function, hand out a paper copy of the programme to every dancer sitting there listening to notices. They then take it home and stick it up on their fridge or notice board and there it is as a constant visual reminder!

What do you think?

*Swampy*

### Region Calendar

I admire and applaud the initiative taken by some clubs and/or individuals to further promote Scottish Country dancing by holding dances additional to Club's annual Balls, Tea or Afternoon Dances. However, I would ask most sincerely that consideration be given to the "positioning" of these on our Region Calendar.

As tutor of the Tauranga Club I was a little dismayed by the fact that another club wished to hold a "levelled" afternoon dance the Sunday before our Ball and another "levelled" afternoon dance a week later, and both of these relatively soon after the QBWE School. I would not have a problem with an extra dance being positioned either before or after our Ball, but one either side is a little threatening, and could possibly jeopardise attendance at our Ball. While this concern may seem petty to some, it is an uneasiness that other clubs share.

As a Region (for as long as I have been associated with the WaiBOP Region at least) we have endeavoured to have a two week gap between annual dances, reasons for which should be abundantly clear. This has not always been possible when taking into account school holidays, hall availability etc, but it has been the intention. Intervals between annual dances has worked well and has come to be accepted. I would hate to see this practice undermined.

*Heather Johnston, Tutor, Tauranga SCD Club*

Hints for MCs

I certainly do not claim to be an authority as an MC, but I have developed a few guidelines over the years and I thought others might find them of interest.

**Planning** is vital.

**Time** the programme. As a rule of thumb, I allow 9 minutes per dance overall. This assumes an interval of 4 minutes between the final chord of one dance and the first chord of the next dance. It is not an exact science, so I divide the evening into 15 minute intervals with an indication of where I would like to be at the start of each interval.

Make it clear if a dance is only suitable for **experienced dancers**. Having done so, do not spend a lot of time calling for dancers to make up an incomplete set. Consider encoring the dance with a change-in of dancers.

**Briefings** are not "teachings" and are intended to remind those who already have some familiarity with the dance.

Know the dances intimately.

An ad-libbed briefing generally results in better interaction with the dancers, but a well-read script is far preferable to an uncertain ad-lib. In either case, have the script handy in a large font.

If using a script, stick to it rigidly to avoid losing the thread.

Too much detail can detract from the main purpose of the briefing. Do you really need to mention bars, stepping up/down, which shoulder in a reel or which hand when turning? On the other hand, plan exactly how you will describe complicated formations.

Avoid being dictatorial, as illustrated by the MC I heard insisting upon precise covering. A dance is a social occasion.

Do not digress. Dancers do not want to hear about the time that you partnered the daughter of the devisor. An MC is not a stand-up comedian.

**Walk-throughs** are to be avoided where possible (with exceptions for beginners' dances). If walk-throughs are to be permitted for one or two more complicated dances, the briefing notes are unlikely to be sufficient. Any such dances should be predicted in advance so that extended notes can be prepared.

**Encores** should be announced within 2-3 seconds of the final chord, or all impact is lost.

Do not ask the dancers if they want an encore. The MC should be able to judge whether it would be welcomed. Make the decision before the end of the dance or, in some cases, when planning the programme.

Finally, remember to **enjoy** yourself. An MC may not get to dance, but can still revel in the atmosphere of the occasion.

*Andrew Patterson*

**Editor...**

It has been a very busy start to the dancing year, with Summer School or Region Hogmanay, two lots of Twilight Dancing, Lesley Gousmett's birthday dance, Paeroa Games/Tattoo, A Wee Taste of Scotland in Otorohanga, Ceilidhs at Otorohanga and Hamilton Scottish, Teachers Workshop, Beginners Dance, Rotorua Ball and Region Meeting, not forgetting about club nights too! I danced also in Wellington last weekend with an advanced group which is always a wonderful experience—just thinking for yourself. It was interesting that one of the tutors from the South Island who took a dance had the quickest briefing of a dance I have ever heard! apart from one formation we were allowed to walk through. Quite a challenge...

Enjoy the next wave of dances and don't forget to push the QBW School to everyone!

*Glenna James*

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