



# WAIBOP NEWS



Issue: No. 4 October 2019

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC  
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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## 1. President's Pen - October



Spring has sprung and Scottish Country Dancing is humming. There have been several very successful dances recently and I am sure those still to come will also be very successful. How do we judge what is successful? Numbers are one measure, but I feel a better measure is the smiles and the chatter. There are always lots of "smiles and chatter" at dances I have been at. Congratulations to all who run such successful events - we all know they do not just happen!

The Summer School Committee continues to work hard on the upcoming Summer School. While it is a very busy time of year for all, I know many of you will offer to help in any way you can - and it is not too late to consider registering to dance in one of **seven** classes. There is bound to be one to suit you.

The Lochiel Club have come up with an extra "Spring Fling" and associated "Reelly Good Workshop" for all, but especially for our newer dancers.

The Region meeting was very well attended. Thank you all. As I said these occasions do not just happen!

It is great that we have such a variety of starting times and ways of conducting our dances - Afternoon tea, Dinner, Supper - always around delicious food! Dancing and food and fun go hand in hand. Keep up the good work everyone. See you on a dance floor somewhere soon.

**Jean Smithson**

The WaiBOP Region recently decided to acknowledge two of our past members for the outstanding service they have given Scottish Country Dancing in the Waikato and the NZ Branch.



**Howard McNally** who, apart from the many roles he held in this region, was the NZ Branch President and either ran, or was involved in, four Summer Schools held in Hamilton.

**Dianne Murdoch** who, also held many roles in this region, was tutor and mentor to many of our current RSCDS dancing teachers and also prepared a set of guidelines on how to run a weekend school. These are still in use today.



A huge thank you to you both.

## 2. Senior Moments - Christine Miller

A long time dancing and how it has changed. I learnt as a 6 or 7 year old from the memories of my Scottish migrant family: pas de basque, turn your partner elbow grip and pivot, Reel o' Tulloch, Eightsome Reel, Highland Schottische were all learnt this way. As the club was formed we travelled great distances to Balls. Any new dance on the programme I would dance with Betty Aitchison, who was the first teacher at Lochiel Club. After the dance, we would dash out hastily and scribble instructions. Now, you switch on a computer, laptop or phone. Technology is wonderful.



In the early days Flora Thomson of Cambridge was a wonderful help. If Betty came across a sticky situation, we would visit Mrs Thomson to iron out the problem. We were regular visitors to Cambridge and with many happy times. As a club we were privileged to have the tuition of Florence Lesslie, an Examiner from Scotland, living in New Zealand, fortunately in Te Awamutu. Mrs Lesslie visited once a month and a new dance was taught each visit, with revision of previous dances taught on next occasion. I can hear her voice saying "just get there". The Silver Tassie was the dance. On attending an early summer school in Wanganui 1956/1957 Marion Cunningham, the teacher got rid of the bent knee action, which I now

see creeping back into dancing. Gary Morris, also an examiner was a big influence on my dancing. I attended day and weekend schools where he was tutoring and remember being taught the all round poussette.

Some memorable occasions - Jimmy Shand, two visits, Ian Powrie's Band travelling with Andy Stewart Show. A great time dancing and entertaining also with Kenneth McKellar.

In the early 1950s I remember the formation of the Waikato SCD Association, now the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region of the NZ Branch. Archie & Peggy McAuslin of Hamilton and Dr. Jack and Flora Thomson of Leamington were the instigators. The details of the new organisation were hammered out at the Thomson's house in Leamington. Then an inaugural meeting was held in Hamilton. Flora Thomson became the president and yours truly became the Secretary/Treasurer.

Coronation Ball 1953 - a few firsts in Hamilton, on that occasion. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh reel danced, dancing pumps for ladies, men refused to wear them, but were told no heels on the floor - and they complied. Live music, piano, fiddle and drum, ladies white dress and sash and men "The Kilt". One of the more memorable occasions was travelling to Morison's Bush and staying in the Coe's home. Everybody left Frankton on Friday and travelled by train to Marton where we changed to a railcar to Greytown. Then Jack Seton's son Ian picked us up and took us to the Coe homestead for lunch.

Two members of the then Caledonian Club in Hamilton attended the Highland Games in Hastings and met the legendary Jack Seton and also Madge Laing.

New era dances have a nice flow to them and are great to dance especially to a different type of music. Do not forget the old faithfuls which give the background knowledge formations, timing and progression. Also, as they were danced two or three times through. You learnt the dance. The new dance was always on the following night's programme. The enjoyment of dance, music and friendships made, keeps me coming back.

The Dinosaur - July 2019

It is meeting and renewing friendships that keeps me coming back.

Dancing on a Saturday is the highlight of the month for me. Dancing is fun and uplifting .....special.

I really enjoyed the KatiKati Weekend School. It was heaps of fun and ideas. Good friendships.

**Chris Ingram** (Tauranga)

At an art auction in Edinburgh, Scotland, a wealthy American lost his wallet containing £20,000 [\$45,000]. He announced to the gathering that he would give a reward of £200 to the person who found it. From the back of the hall a Scottish voice shouted, 'I'll give £250.'

### 3. Music

#### **Bourach Mor - A History**

It all began with our pianist, Virginia, needing to practice what had been learnt at a QBWE School Musicians class learning to play just chords as an accompaniment. Wayne, who was learning the violin, teamed up with Virginia to provide the tunes. Gradually other musicians were invited to join and soon we were a group, meeting and practising regularly. After being invited to play for several public functions the decision was made to find a name for ourselves. Several were put forward and Bourach Mor was chosen. Bourach or boorach is a word used in North Eastern Scotland to mean a group of assorted people or things. (In the Highlands the word has a different meaning of a mess or disorderly state or heap.) Both meanings are from the Gaelic burach a digging. We prefer the first meaning, though sometimes when learning a new set of tunes the latter meaning could apply. The band meets twice a month in Cambridge unless they have an engagement and then they meet weekly in the weeks leading up to the 'gig' with members travelling from as far afield as Te Puke, Tuakau and Hamilton. The size of the band varies depending on who is available or how many are required to play, from a trio to the full contingent of, at present, nine. The band plays for Scottish Country Dancing and at Ceilidhs (the band has two callers amongst their number) at Regency and Colonial/Old Time dances and at private functions.



#### **Lynne Hudson**

**Yes to live music.** It gives a buzz, more of an occasion. Our objectives say to support Scottish culture so Musicians need all the support they can get.

#### **Chris Ingram (Tauranga)**



## 4. New Dancers and Walk-throughs

- a) Sure thing! It doesn't take much longer and an encouragement for learners to know it'll be done.

**Chris Ingram** (Tauranga)

- b) Yes, having the MC brief while first couple walk through would be great. The downside to this would be the extra time taken per evening to do this. I usually come to a dance fully prepared and have this jumble of dance routines buzzing round my head and find it difficult to separate each one from the other, on top of this you can guarantee when the sets are formed I end up as first couple. There is always reluctance from others in your set to change place. A briefing with the easier dances works ok but as we get into the evening the briefing does not work as well for me but either doing or seeing the walk through is exactly what I need.

**Carol Lenon** (Cambridge)

- c) I am not happy with having to walk through dances at a Saturday dance.

**Frances Stout** (Tokoroa)

- d) We think it's a good idea to have the first couple walk through the dance while the MC talks us through it. I know this takes a little more time but for newer dancers, and even some of the senior dancers, it is an opportunity to reinforce the dance formation and hopefully not make too many mistakes, finishing the dance on a high note.

**Carol & Owen O'Meagher** (Lochiel and Cambridge)

- e) It was such a joy dancing last week at Thames with the dances being walked through by the first couples. Both Sophia and I found this dance the most enjoyable that we have attended so far this year. We agreed that the walk through before the dances enhanced our enjoyment and gave us much more confidence in remembering the dance. "Enjoyment" is the key word and if walking the dances brings us more of that, I am all for it.

**Gaye Hoskin** (Cambridge)



## To Walk or Not to Walk that is the Question

First, I would like to say that I have only been dancing since February this year but have been extremely lucky to have had some great teachers and fellow dancers who have invested time into me. I dance at Lochiel and Cambridge each week and I also attend Te Awamutu once a month.

I have warned them that there can be an extremely fine line between elegance and elephants and sometimes I may cross that line, but it's getting less.

As a newer dancer and a kinesthetic learner I like the walkthroughs before a dance. **Hold on don't shoot me!** I also understand that the more accomplished dancers may well find these a bit tiresome. **But now here's the argument**, would it not be better even as an advanced dancer to have 21 dances on the programs that all people could do well, rather than having 22 dances that only a few do well and several "stuff up", surely this would make your evening more fun and less stressful as well.

We also need to be encouraging people to advance their skills and hence you will have more partners at a higher level to dance with in future.

Some people can be left feeling unsure and vulnerable at the start of a dance and if this happens too often we could lose them altogether.

Yours in Happy Feet

**Peter Mahon** (Cambridge and Lochiel)

Hi I think it is a good idea to have one quick walk through not only for beginners but because we are all so much older now it gives us a quick reminder of how the dance goes.

**Raewyn Adams** (Tokoroa)

Yes, walk-throughs for 1<sup>st</sup> couples as dance is briefed assist the whole set, particularly given that verbal briefings vary slightly between tutors. Little time seems to be lost in doing so. Caters for a range of experience.

**Rob and Wendy** (Tokoroa Club)

Thames had a good idea - they asked a couple who knew the dance to come up to first place and walk through the dance while the MC briefed it. That meant there was no untangling of a couple who got the brief muddled, it went at the same speed as the briefing and everyone got to **see** how it went!

**Editor**

## 5. JAMs

I started dancing at 4 years old. Most of my family dances. My teacher is Jeanette Lauder. I keep coming because of the people and for lots of fun. I have been to 4 JAM camps and will be attending my first summer school this year.

I passed my silver bar in 2016.

**Petronella Verhaegh** (Dancing with Wayne McConnell)



## 6. Summer School

### **JAM Summer School Subsidies**

Cambridge Summer School has received funding from the Lottery Grants Board to support juniors/youth dancing. The organising committee has decided to use this grant to discount the fees for JAMs to attend the school.

Fees will now be:

- Junior commuter \$200
- Junior resident \$600

JAMs who have already registered will have the discount automatically applied to their fees.

Only a limited number of discounted fees will be available and these will be allocated on a 'first in, first served' basis.

This is a great opportunity to attend summer school, so get your applications in quickly.

### **Volunteers for Summer School**

Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the school. Such things as: helping with evening suppers, morning and afternoon teas, teachers' gofors, class top-ups, transport to and from the bus station and airport, driving people around the campus etc

Please contact Glenna [gdansa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gdansa@xtra.co.nz) if you would like to help

## Newsflash - Cambridge Summer School Polo Shirts

The Cambridge Summer school is offering everyone Souvenir polo shirts for purchase.

Price \$ 35.00

Complete the form on the website or print it and send it off.

Orders may be submitted online at <https://ss2019.waibopscd.org.nz/polo-shirts>



All orders must be submitted by 12th November 2019 and the polo shirts must be collected at Summer school from 28th onwards.

All details are on the website.

**Jeanette Patterson**

### Summer School Programme:

**Saturday 28 December** - Opening Night Social (7.30pm to 9.30pm) Robb Centre \$15 / \$10 (JAMs and Non Dancers)

**Sunday 29 December** - Social Night (7.30pm to 9.30pm) Robb Centre \$15 / \$10

**Monday 30 December** - Fancy Dress Night [1920s Razzamatazz] (7.30pm to 9.30pm) Robb Centre \$15 / \$10

**Tuesday 31 December** - Hogmanay (8.00 pm to 1.00 am) Robb Centre \$30 / \$10

**Wednesday 1 January** - (AGM 1.30pm)

- Showcase of Talent [items, skits, songs... from anyone] (7.30pm to 9.30pm) Valentine Centre FREE

**Thursday 2 January** - Ceilidh [easy fun dances - open invitation to family and friends] (7.30 pm to 9.45 pm) Robb Centre \$15 / \$10

**Friday 3 January** - Consult 2020 Forum (discussing the postal voting issue) Valentine Centre

- Presidents Ball [formal dress] (Drinks 7.00pm ; Grand March 7.45pm; Dance 8.00 pm to 12.00 pm) Robb Centre \$30 / \$10

**Saturday 4 January** - Final Night (7.30pm to 10.15pm) includes Musicians class with Band] Robb Centre \$

### NOTE:

A season ticket for all evening events can be purchased for \$120.

The Teacher Refresher class has 3 afternoon sessions (29 Dec; 30 Dec; 2 Jan) with the overseas teachers taking one each.

## 7. Club News

### **Tokoroa Club**

We began our dancing activity in January when club members contributed their reasons for starting or continuing to dance. These were incorporated into a display in the Tokoroa Library foyer in the last half of the month. Our Club Nights started, as always, on the first Thursday after Waitangi Day - yes, it can be quite hot but we do this in an effort to maintain and, hopefully, add to our junior membership.

It has paid off. Over the first half of the year several young people have joined us. We have also enjoyed the company of an Alaskan couple who were in Tokoroa where Charlie was working as a locum in a medical practice for 3 months. They had some knowledge of contra and English Country dancing so have headed back to Alaska to look for their closest Scottish Country Dance Club. That might be in Canada!

While we had to abandon dancing at the Cheese Rolling Championships because of a downpour of rain we have danced at the Rangiora Home and for the local Creative Arts group who wanted to see some Scottish Country Dancing. Some of them joined in and may join us at Club Nights later in the year.

Talking of Club Nights we have changed our timing slightly so that juniors dance for an hour before adults start at 7:30. This seems to be working well and we manage one or two sets each night. Our end of school term themes have been 'Autumn' and 'Winter'. Perhaps we'll have to make the next one 'Spring'!

While our numbers at events in the region are declining we try to have a presence at these.

Many of the JAMs who have been with us for several years went off to JAM Camp recently. We hope they will inspire our newer JAMs to get to the next camp.

We appreciated having the Young Demonstration Team display their talents at our Tea Dance and are looking forward to welcoming dancers to our Annual Dance on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Jeanette Lauder**



## 8. Programmes

"These are a few of my favourite things"



Favourite Band (Recorded) Bobby Crowe  
Favourite Band (Live) Ian Robertson  
Favourite Programme Any well-balanced programme  
(traditional/modern, elementary/advanced, frequently/rarely danced)  
Favourite Finale Mrs Macpherson of Inveran  
Favourite length 20 dances  
Favourite Dance Bonnie Anne  
Favourite Venue (UK) St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St, London  
Favourite Venue (NZ) Cambridge Town Hall  
Favourite Partner Anyone who looks up and smiles with the eyes

Favourite Supper Pavlova, jelly and ice cream (unheard of in the UK where catering tends towards the basic)  
Favourite Memory My first real ball in 1961 when 300 or more danced to the music of Jimmy Shand.

Here is a typical programme from the same year.

Two and Two	Machine without Horses
Cadgers in the Canongate	None so Pretty
Bonnie Anne	Haughs of Cromdale
Miss Ogilvies' Fancy	Sleepy Maggie
Lord Rosslyn's Fancy	New Rigged Ship
Waltz	Waltz
Eightsome Reel	Earl of Errol's Reel
Foursome Reel & Reel of Tulloch	Duke of Perth
Ladies' Fancy	Argyll's Fancy
General Stuart's Reel	New Scotland Strathspey
Robertson Rant	Rakish Highlandman
Hamilton House	Mairi's Wedding

Times have changed, but Scottish Country Dancing is still top of my list of favourite things!

**Andrew Patterson**

## Programmes - Starting times

A mix of start times works well especially an afternoon start for distant venues. With 5.00pm starts the early supper works well. There is also always room for the traditional starts of 7.30pm. I would like to see a spread of these varying times through our dance year.

Regards

**Carol Lennon** (Cambridge)

Start times are all good although I find the 5.00pm one difficult to have dinner prior to going so that supper ends up being most people's dinners. Like this time though as the dance ends generally at 9.30pm and if you have a couple of hours drive you get home prior to midnight. The 7.30pm start only works when the venue is close to where you live.

**Ann Mahon** (Lochiel and Cambridge)

A 5.00pm start is good again for us oldies it means we are not so late getting home .During the winter months at we can get there in the daylight.

**Raewyn Adams** (Tokoroa)

The earlier starts are helpful in winter, especially for travellers going home, but also because afternoon temperatures are milder for dancing. People are not so preoccupied with outdoor activities at that time of year.

Perhaps 1.00pm starts are ideal then, followed as a preference by 5.00pm, and then by 7.30pm starts

In Autumn and Spring, the higher temperatures make 5.00pm and 7.30pm starts more appealing than 1.00pm. Our days are then busier with gardening and other forms of exercise.

Hope this helps,

Regards

**Rob and Wendy** (Tokoroa)

Times: 5pm is OK for retirees but too early for those of us working. 7 . 30pm not too early for business people or too late for retirees.

**William Veitch** (Cambridge)

## 9. Poems

### 1.) The Two-sex Scottish Dancer

I'm a two sex Scottish Dancer and may seem rather dim,  
But I never spend one evening as a full time her or him,  
I change my sex from dance to dance, my corners always alter  
It's really not surprising I occasionally falter.  
The old and simple dances I can manage very nicely  
And I can learn a new dance and do it most precisely,  
But when it comes to next week I don't know if I can  
For I learnt it as a woman and dance it as a man.  
And so you men who have the luck to always stay the same  
When female gentlemen go wrong be sparing with your blame.  
I'll add a postscript to this tale - one comfort I have got  
When both the women change their sex it doesn't show a lot!  
... and my pumps don't fit anymore!



Patricia Batt

*This is taken from a series of small booklets, "Pat's Party Pieces" published in aid of the North London hospice. Since Pat can't provide these any more, Ron Mackey will provide them in return for a donation to charity. Contact: Ron Mackey, 39 Grove Park Road, Mottingham (?), LONDON SE9 4NS*

<https://www.scottishdance.net/scd/>

Submitted by Bev Crawford

### **HAURAKI THAMES SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**

May we say "Thank You" to all of you who attended our Day School on 3rd August 2019, and special thanks to our Tutor - Kathryn De Roles - who put us through our paces at a steady rate. The day was really 'quite relaxed' and hopefully we all gained something, no matter how small, from the tuition.

It was a pleasure to welcome you all to Thames - a rather far-flung venue!

## 2.) Dressing Up or Dressing Down

A guide for new Scottish country dancers ...  
And a reminder for experienced ones!

Dressing up or dressing down, what should I wear? A full ball gown?  
Or shorts and top, or skirt or dress? I really shouldn't look a mess.  
That's right, tradition says no pants, for girls that is, in reels and rants,  
Allow the legs to freely move, a good full skirt for Strathspey smooth.  
The length .... that's really up to us, no-one's going to make a fuss  
As long as feet can do their bit, and things don't show when down we sit!

The guys have got the easy choice, the kilt, the hose, the real Rolls Royce!  
They can wear pants if they so wish, but men in kilts are such a dish!  
The tartan needs to stand alone, so wear with white, or some plain tone.  
That goes for ladies' sashes too, please wear with white, or plain, or blue.  
A brightly coloured blouse or shirt, just doesn't fit with a tartan skirt!  
And neither does a tartan sash with flowery dress look quite so flash!

Let's think about our girls' nightmare and not forget good underwear,  
For see-through skirts and bouncing b.....s can put our ego to the test.  
And fellas shouldn't feel missed out, for often we have heard folks shout ...  
"We've heard there's nothing under there", so you make sure you've got a pair  
Of underpants that pass the test, of good elastic ... not a jest!  
A goodly basis for our dress will help us feel we're not a mess.  
(And dancing makes us puff and pant, so don't forget deodorant!)

For Balls it's time to go to town, to find a lovely flowing gown.  
For kilted guys the doublet choose, It's D.J.\* time for men with trews.  
We hope you'll take this as it's meant, to give support is the intent.  
Your dancing friends have all been there, and may again but for a prayer.  
We hope you'll come and join the dance, the social spirit to enhance.  
And just in case a strap should break ..... a safety pin's what you should take!

\* D.J. Dinner Jacket

I came across this poem written by Anonymous, many years ago. It sums up the standard of dress that was certainly applicable when I started dancing in Christchurch in 1990. (Note: not the 1950's) One of our tutors (who was held in high regard nationally) insisted on ladies wearing a skirt and top or a dress. Not to do so in her opinion was being disrespectful to "the dance". I never considered wearing anything different, and still don't. In the three clubs in this area (Tauranga, Mt Maunganui and Katikati) ladies are "encouraged" to wear skirts (or dresses). It's not policy, it's not mandatory - it's just what we do.

As to men being allowed to choose whether they wear shorts or trousers, is this not the same as a lady being able to choose between a summer skirt or a winter-weight one. In my opinion we ladies are better off than the men as trousers are much hotter and more cumbersome to dance in than a free-flowing skirt.



Some ladies may argue that they don't have a suitable skirt (or dress) and maybe can't afford one. Such skirts can be picked up very cheaply at Op shops.

Should (female) visitors come to dance with us on a Club night, we would certainly not turn them away if they were wearing slacks. Should they become regulars however, we would encourage them to come dressed in skirts (or dresses). More often than not, we do not have to say anything; they see what others are wearing and come dressed accordingly the next week.

I have never been told that wearing a skirt was to allow the teacher to view my technique. It was, as stated, more about respect. Call me old-fashioned,

but with respect for "the dance" I will continue to be suitably dressed in a skirt and top or a dress for all SC dancing occasions, be they club nights, classes, schools or annual balls/dances, dress-up ceilidhs or similar being an exception.

Heather Johnston

## 10. What's on

1. Saturday 9th November - Mount Maunganui Dance
2. Saturday 16th November - "A Reely Good Workshop" - Lochiel
3. Saturday 16th November - Spring Dance - Lochiel
4. Saturday 23rd November - Core Dance Day
5. Saturday 23rd November - WaiBop Region AGM

For more details about all of these events go to:

<http://waibopscd.org.nz/>

## 11. Advertising

### Social Dances for MCs

#### 205 Social Dances for MCs/Club Tutors

Did you know that on the Waikato Bay of Plenty Website <http://waibopscd.org.nz/> , there is a page under "Links", then "Dance Resources" called "Ruary's Dance Resources" that displays a spreadsheet with 205 dances that have been done in the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region over the last ten years. They are organised under the headings Jigs, Reels and Strathspeys and each category is further divided into Elementary, Mainstream and Advanced. The aim is to help MCs/Club Tutors select dances for their ball programmes!

#### Bruce Fordyce CD



We have copies of CDs of Bruce Fordyce himself playing the music for a selection of 8 of the 17 dances in the book "**The Bruce Fordyce Memorial Collection**"..

All these tunes were composed by Bruce himself.

The tapes of Bruce playing were provided by Jane Mcllroy and configured by Bill Jacob, as the speed varied considerably

Track 8 is of Bruce himself playing the music for "Seton's Ceilidh Band". He wrote the music, composed the dance and played it! How many SCDers can say that they have done all that!

The CD costs \$10 +pp

The Book is \$15 +pp

If you are interested in purchasing both, or just one of these, contact Ruary - [ruarylaidlaw@gmail.com](mailto:ruarylaidlaw@gmail.com)

#### Region Officers:

**President:** Jean Smithson [president@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:president@waibopscd.org.nz)

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**Youth Coordinator:** Shelley McConnel, 15 Hinton Street, Forest Lake, Hamilton (07) [youth@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:youth@waibopscd.org.nz)



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