



WAIBOP NEWS



Issue July 31st 2020

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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1. President's Pen



Hello Dancers,

It is exciting to be back into dancing. We are obviously very lucky to have been guided through the Covid Crisis competently. We have to keep in mind that we are a part of the world, and our borders cannot be closed forever. Meantime let's dance and enjoy dancing, using good handwashing and staying home if unwell.

It is ironic that we, Opotiki, have "Flight to Melbourne" on our programme and that is not a place we could be going anytime soon, except virtually! What is in a name? The stories behind the name of a dance are fascinating, or that is my observation.

"Thirty Popular Dances Volume Two" is well worth getting hold of/borrowing if you also believe the stories are interesting.

Our history is important and celebrating it is equally so. What a shame we missed the celebration of Tauranga's 60th Ball last month. Maybe next year we can have a 61st celebration. I have not heard if all clubs are now dancing. Hopefully so. Looking forward to seeing lots of you in Opotiki soon. Thank you to Cambridge for hosting the "Let's Flag Covid" social. And thank you Jill Littlewood for organising the Social Weekend in August. All exciting to look forward to. See you on a dance floor soon. Keep warm, and stay well.

Jean Smithson

2. Recent Events

Saturday Night Fever - "Let's Flag Covid-19"

Last Saturday night the 25th July was exceptional for two reasons:- first, we had nine sets on the floor at one point, and second, it was the WaiBop's first Social Event for months! I think everybody couldn't wait to get out and go to a dance.

The programme was great and giving the first couple a walk-through was reassuring to lots of new dancers and older ones! Our grateful thanks go to the organisers Lesley and Helen for doing a great job! The Cambridge Club provided great support as well.

The sit-down meal at the end went down well (so to speak) - plenty of interesting food and a nice way to finish up.



3. Club and WaiBop Histories

History of the WaiBop - Waikato Association

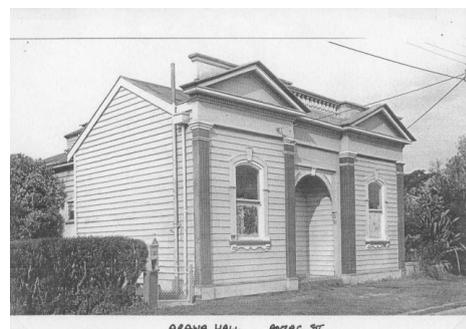
Flora Thomson was involved with the Waikato Association, a group set up to service the needs of the SCD dancing population in the wider area of the Waikato. She attended meetings in Matamata or Morrinsville. From that came a request for assistance in encouraging local tutors to become 'trained' in SCD, without having to attend summer schools. This was agreed to, and Mr Ray Hogg from Huntly was delegated to teach keen dancers and would be teachers. Prospective teachers came from the South Waikato, Hamilton, Tokoroa, Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Otorohanga and Huntly. We had a 6 week course - meeting every week or month - with written homework every week and regular dancing practice. We met in the Cambridge Intermediate school hall for tuition. Members sat exams, practical and written, and finally an afternoon for our own personal dancing, before the Examiners Nona Craig and Terence Pyle. This was held in the Cambridge Arawa Hall.

Teachers who passed were Dawn Spence, Dawn Gaskin, Marie-Helen Jamieson; Diane McNally from Hamilton; Dianne Murdoch from Cambridge.

The next exam was held at a Summer School as it fell on that year but regular teaching of trainees continued in the greater Waikato area.

Hopefully my memory is correct.

Dianne Murdoch



Vacancy : Secretary, WaiBOP Region

As I will have completed three years as Secretary of the WaiBOP Region at the next annual meeting, would you please consider who might be available to fill this position at the AGM in November. If you would like to know what the position involves you may contact me any time and I will endeavour to explain. Maureen Jacob.

Lochiel History

The club started officially, according to the minutes of the Hamilton Caledonian Society Inc., in March 1958, but it was actually 10th April 1958 that dancing began in the YMCA Chapel. The tutor was Betty Aitchison and Andrew Mackay was the President.

Eventually that became too small so the club moved to St. Peter's hall in Victoria Street. Then we went to The Old People's Association Hall in Clarence Street where the Trust Bank Theatre now is. We often had 9 or 10 sets dancing on a club night. The gramophone and RSCDS Books were donated by Bill & Greta Miller.



By that stage The Hamilton Caledonian Society had built their new hall in Grey Street, Hamilton East, so the club moved there too, to be part of their Scottish activities, as did the Pipe Band.

However, as a result of a disagreement, between the Hamilton Caledonian Society and The Scottish Dance Class, as to who owned the gramophone and the books the members decided to sever ties with the HCS and moved to the Fairfield Intermediate School hall, starting on the 14th March 1972. As part of the move club members were asked to come up with a new name for the club. All these were put into a hat and a draw was conducted. Nina Sherson's suggestion of Lochiel was pulled out and we have been that ever since. It was really only a change of name as it was the same people dancing.

Later the Lochiel Club shifted to The Knox Presbyterian Church Hall in Albert Street where they stayed for at least 27 years. The move to St. John's in Wellington Street occurred in 2008 because it was cheaper!

Christine Miller

History of the Opotiki Club



Our founding teacher was Pam Perkins under the Adult Education Scheme.

Started in 2002.

The courses were first held in the Opotiki St John rooms. Because it was a course under the Adult education scheme there was no committee originally.

When the scheme was discontinued in 2008 the club wanted to continue and Philip Jamieson became the President, this is when we also moved to the Waitotaha Hall.

The Queens Birthday Weekend School was held in Opotiki 2009 and the funds raised enabled the club to buy a Coomber for our music which we still use today.



In 2011 Victoria Radley took over as President. The same year Pam resigned as Teacher. Jean Smithson and Jan Pyke have been doing a fabulous job at teaching us ever since!

Photo: Pam Perkins on the left.

Hamilton Scottish Country Dance Soc.

In the 1940's 15 enthusiastic Scots friends heard the lilting music of Jimmy Shand's band & were inspired to form a dance club, prominent names were McAuslans, Miller & Robertson families. They danced in Frankton Bowling, Seddon Park Soccer pavilions, next was the YMCA Hall, Bryce St, where in 1951 the Inaugural meeting was held & membership grew to 100 members,

ages from 15 to 60 years.

Since then we have danced at Toorak Hall, Cultural Hall where a big membership packed this small hall for many happy years until it was demolished. On to Fairfield Park Hall, problems with security moved us to the brand new Nawton School Hall until a move to more central YWCA, PalmerstonSt, our current home.



Lorna & Ken Weeks

A few of our great long serving members have been, Archie & Peggie McAuslan early teachers, president, secretary, Lorna Weeks, president in the same era as Lorna Whitford teacher & Pam Godfrey, a long serving teacher & still active member.

Many others have contributed greatly to our Club. Music has followed various new trends from 78 records on a portable wind-up gramophone to Lap-top computer.



Pam (standing)

Jill Monds

Balmoral Kawerau Resurrected



Until May 2015 Balmoral based in Kawerau was sadly in hibernation. It took the return of Mary Thomas and John Webb from England to wake it from its slumber.

The Awakeri hall was the venue and after an article written by John appeared in the local paper we attracted 9 keen dancers.

Since then of course members have fallen away and others have taken their places.

Mary Thomas is our tutor and there are loads of laughs and fun. Fortunately for us she has all the music equipment.

Because of the threat of the Awakeri hall being sold we relocated to the Presbyterian

Church hall in Edgecumbe and dance there on a Thursday evening.

We are so keen that in August last year we also began dancing in Kawerau at 4.30pm at the Concert Chambers.

Now, we are very proud of our newest, youngest member, 10 year old Roslyn who is studying for her bronze medal.



Anne Bailey

Two Sotsmen are in a bar

Jock to Mac - "I hear that you speak Gaelic?"

Mac - "Only after a few good single malts!"



HAURAKI THAMES SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

In 1989 Charlie Ross and about 8 others formed a club which they named "Hauraki Scottish Country Dance Club" and they danced in Waitakaruru Hall. As the numbers increased it was decided to move the weekly dancing to St. George's church hall in Thames. Dancers performed for the Maramarua School Gala and also, in 1994, danced in Goldfields Centre.



Quentin (Piper) Peggy and Charlie

Over the years, even presently, the club has entertained the elderly and danced/dances at both Tararu and Booms rest homes. Charlie and Peggy were tutors from the outset with Glenda Hammond and Rosalie Howard joining them around 1999. At this time Jan Mc.Ivor and Allister Campbell devised and painted a castle backdrop which always gives the stage extra special character at annual dances and this has been loaned to others at times. The club has always been well supported by dancers from throughout the area - Whitianga, Tairua, Pauanui, Paeroa and Te Aroha - which has been very gratifying. Mind, the club has also driven weekly to both Hikuai/Tairua and Paeroa to support these clubs, and sometimes to Pauanui, the latter being the only existing club. For many years Paeroa Highland Games has been part of the club's agenda, where much enjoyment has been experienced. 2006/7 was a very lean year and so weekly dancing moved to Thames Band Room in 2008 as the hall was smaller and it is still there today. Olina and David Carter joined in 2009 with Olina as tutor. This meant help for Glenda who was the sole tutor from 2002 when Peggy resigned. The advent of Olina saw the club hold Tuesday afternoon as well as Thursday evening dancing, something which has vastly increased our membership, more especially as Olina held a beginners class which resulted in an overwhelming response. Music has certainly changed over the years with tapes and the Coomber a long term provider but computerization has now made it all 'a breeze'.



Photo from 30th Birthday dance

Winnifred Sheehan

4. Letters to the Editor

"Thank You, Set"

"Good manners should be an integral part of Scottish country dancing and should be evident even before the dance begins."
(RSCDS Manual).



This is particularly evident in New Zealand where it was a joy to discover that dancers rarely book partners at a dance. If you invite someone to dance in the UK, the response may well be "Sorry, I am booked up for the first half, but have a couple spare after the interval".

So I was surprised to find that, here in New Zealand, such etiquette rarely extends to the end of the dance when couples frequently leave the floor without a word of acknowledgement to the other members of the set.

To quote the RSCDS Manual again:

"After the dance is finished, it is good manners to thank the other dancers in the set for their participation, and then clear the floor."

Andy Patterson

5. Club News - The Opotiki Club had a real treat this month.

Teacher Jean Smithson heard that the ceilidh band Twisty Willow would be passing through Opotiki on their way to Gisborne and offered them a bed for the night. As they would be here on our club night, in return for Jean's hospitality, they happily agreed to play for us.

Luckily some of the dances on the programme for our annual social (8th August) were on their playlist. We invited Whakatane and Balmoral Clubs and had a fantastic evening, everyone enjoying the music and dancing. An extra bonus was Barb singing the Skye Boat song.

Teacher Jan Pyke was especially thrilled as Wes and Barb had put together three Jig tunes to make a seven times through bracket for her dance Matariki. This dance is for 7 dancers and represents the 7 stars of the constellation Matariki or Plaiides.

As a further nod to Matariki Margaret Greer had made delicious star shaped biscuits and these with yummy fruitcake and a cup of tea finished our evening.

The Balmoral and Whakatane members commented it was well worth their trip on a wet and cold evening. A wonderful night indeed!!!



6. Music

Cambridge Club Music Players over my time. 1963 - 2011

When I took over as teacher of the Cambridge Club in the early 70's, we had an old record player complete in one box - that is turntable and speaker - but with a variable speed control. I lumped this around to all our displays and really appreciated the control available.



At my first Summer School, I discovered a technician who could update our old machine for a reasonable price. He was a Scottish country dancer and understood my requirements. He transformed one heavy portable player into a light weight portable, using the original turntable with variable speed, and added two separate speakers (light weight). This was for normal use in the old Oddfellows Hall in Anzac St (now gone). He added 2 further speakers for use in the Town Hall - this gave us four speakers and good sound. This was much lighter but a lot more carrying of objects when setting up or demonstrating.



Enter the Coomber - a lightweight portable player for demonstrations. These units became very popular amongst Clubs and Tutors as they were so much easier to carry and set up. However, they played Cassettes only. This meant that tunes you wished to dance to, had to be recorded on to cassettes - time consuming. Pre recorded cassettes were available but not all the tunes. We bought empty cassettes and covers and several of us endeavoured to record

the contents of our Record collection on to cassettes (some of these empty tapes still exist). The best sound comes from a vinyl record. Our Coomber even had a variable speed control. Variable speed control is essential for teaching dancing - not all recordings have been done at good tempo. This applies to CDs as well. Our larger machine was still very essential for use in large venues.

Enter the Coombers big sister - this unit played CD's as well as cassettes!!! Our committee was far-sighted and purchased the new version. But now we had to reduce the amount of equipment we had to store. Storage is ever a problem. So we sold the units, records and tapes and after much looking and making decisions, a new player was purchased which met hall size requirements while providing a cassette/CD unit. This could also be used for burning of CDs. The Coomber was to be used for demonstrations.

Modern technology now has an easier system to carry & to sort out music for an evening. Variable speed has been sacrificed, as has sound reproduction - but it is light & fast. Still time consuming though for the teacher's preparation. On with the Dante!



Dianne Murdoch

7. Dance of the Month

This list of dances came from the Facebook Challenge carried out by the WaiBop Editor during Level 3 & 4 of the Covid-19 Lockdown:

Old Dances to be Done More often:-

1. The Duchess Tree - John Drewry, The Brodie Book
2. The Alewife and Her Barrel - Book 19
3. Red House - Book 7
4. Petronella - Book 1
5. La Tempete - Book 2
6. The Golden Wedding Strathspey - Book 33
7. The Glens of Angus - Book 23

8. Obituaries

SANSON, Mary Christina. Suddenly on Sunday 12 July 2020 aged 84 years.



Mary Christina Sanson (nee Doyle) 4.1.1936 – 12.7.2020

Mary Sanson was born in Gisborne. When Mary was about 2 years old the family relocated back to Whanganui. She attended Whanganui Girls' College and then went on to Teacher Training in Christchurch. One of her first teaching positions was in Foxton and from there she taught in Whanganui.

Mary met and married Keith Sanson on 25 August 1959. They moved from Whanganui to Christchurch in 1970. Then Keith aged 62, sadly died.

Mary absolutely loved Tauranga. Mary joined the Tauranga SCD Club shortly after shifting to Tauranga and was an active and loyal member right up until her death. She had been a dependable committee member for a good many of those years, only standing down in 2018 saying it was time for "new faces and new ideas". She had also been the treasurer for a year or two.

Other attributes accredited to Mary when the condolences came flooding in at the time of her sudden and unexpected passing, were: *kind, personable, caring, funny, modest, knowledgeable with a continuing thirst for knowledge, and creative as with her pottery and art work.*

Mary was well-loved and will be missed right around the Region. Sadly, she will not be here to join in the celebration of our Tauranga Club's 60th Anniversary next year, the event we had to postpone this year. However, Mary enjoyed life and lived it to the max; in fact she lived her BEST life every single day.

Mary is survived by her 3 children, Catherine who lives in Hamilton, Gordon who lives in Napier with his wife Sharon, and Susan who lives in Canada; her 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and younger sister Helen and husband Rod who live in Whanganui.

Long may she dance with the many of our friends who have also passed.

Cath Dawson was aged 97 when she passed away recently. She credited SCD with helping her to settle into New Zealand when she was a reluctant immigrant. The friendships she formed through dancing at the Hamilton Scottish Club lasted for the rest of her life. She took on various roles within the club including Secretary and Treasurer, in fact she was known for not going to bed until "the money was right". She had a great relationship with Lorna Whitford: the tutor and Ken and Lorna Weeks who are also long time club members. Jill Monds and Greitje Badham were often regaled with Cathy's stories when taking her to and from club nights. After a lifetime of service she was awarded Life Membership of the Hamilton Scottish Club.



9. 237 Social Dances for MCs

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZB7rQip7B5ov-pA1rB5NqZOhMa_tb-wuxR74YmQk0/edit?ts=5be3e6d3#gid=122006433

10. What's on

Event	Date	Details
Opotiki Dance	Saturday 8th August	1.30pm Waiotahi Hall, main Road to Opotiki Dancers \$15 + Raffles Dinner at the RSA afterwards \$25/pp Bookings essential - j-j.smithson@xtra.co.nz
Tokoroa Dance	Saturday 22nd August	Saturday 22nd August 2020 from 6pm to 10pm in the Tirau Hall, cnr Station Street and SH1, Tirau. \$15 and \$5
Post Covid-19 Social weekend	Friday 28th - Sunday 30th August	Shelly Beach Top Ten Holiday Park, Coromandel. See separate table below.
Hamilton Scottish Dance	Saturday 12th September	see http://waibopscd.org.nz/
Thames/Hauraki Dance	Saturday 19th September	see http://waibopscd.org.nz/

You are invited to a **Post COVID-19 Social Weekend** for Scottish Country Dancers, their families and friends.

The more the merrier.

Where: Shelly Beach Top 10 Holiday Park, Coromandel

<https://www.shellybeachcoromandel.co.nz/>

When: Fri 28th - Sun 30th August 2020

Cost: \$5 a head for the dance. Your accommodation is to be booked directly with the camp. A discount has been arranged. See booking below.

Let Jill Littlewood know if you are attending the whole weekend, part of the weekend or just the afternoon dance.

Ask Jill for the brochure with all the details of the programme and booking arrangements.

cjlittlewood@gmail.com

or text 021 264 3939

Region Officers:

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Treasurer: Bill Jacob, 82 Margaret Drive, Omokoroa 3114 (07) 548 2061 treasurer@waibopscd.org.nz

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



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