



# WAIBOP NEWS



Issue March 31st 2021

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC  
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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## 1. President's Pen



What a roller coaster ride this COVID-19 is. Like you, I've really appreciated the events that we have been able to attend; a wonderful Hogmanay thanks to Jane McIlroy, twilight dancing in Hamilton Gardens, thanks to my own club, Lochiel, and the fantastic Paeroa Tattoo, thanks to Wayne and Shelley McConnel. These events are a great way to bring Scottish Country Dancing to the attention of those who may not know of it at all. Many clubs had to delay their start but hopefully we will have a good run from now on and the vaccination rollout will do the job we all hope that it will do.

Now a bit about my early years of SCD as promised (or threatened!). At around the age of 7, I learned highland dancing for a couple of years. My sister was the one keen to learn to dance but once I saw what it was all about I joined in too and we continued to dance, doing exams and competitions, until our teacher moved away. It wasn't until later, at about age 14, that

Mum, my sister and I all joined the Richmond SCD Club (Nelson). The tutor, Colin Barker, was a family friend whom we had known for years, but I have no idea what prompted us to attend at that particular point in time. We took to it like ducks to water, all having done a bit of Highland Dancing. The club was very friendly and the fact that the local young volunteer firemen attended no doubt helped. I remember them occasionally all racing away if the fire siren went off. I then began to attend Saturday Socials, dressed in the only white dress I owned, a rather short tennis dress- mini skirts were the order of the day! I've never really found out why the Saturday Dances, such as my parents had attended in their teens, had disappeared by my teens but it is possibly because of the emergence of

pop music and rock and roll. Most of my generation did not learn to dance the traditional waltzes etc.

My enjoyment of SCD was definitely enhanced by the fact that the local Stoke Venturer Scouts did learn 'old time' dancing and they attended the SC Socials alternating with the Old Time Dances that we SC dancers also attended, since the Nelson Region did not fill the calendar on its own. It was a lot of fun.

At the end of high school and after a year in the UK, I moved to Wellington to Teachers College/University and that is another story. Do ask me about it sometime!

Jill

**A Scotsman and his wife  
walked past a swanky  
new restaurant.**

**"Did you smell that  
food?" she asked. "It's  
smells absolutely  
incredible!"**

**Being a 'kind-hearted  
Scotsman', he thought,  
"What the hell..., I'll treat  
her!"**

**So, they walked past it  
again!**

## 2. Coming Events

### Te Awamutu Club - QBWS

The Te Awamutu Club is hosting this year's Queen's Birthday Weekend School at Otorohanga - come and join us? Saturday 5 June and Sunday 6 June 2021.

Everything is set catering for the full range of dancing abilities with fantastic Dance Tutors and Music during the weekend by Glenfiddle. Ball on Saturday night and Ceilidh on Sunday night - Kiwiana theme.

Elementary - Gaye Collin, Lower Hutt; Intermediate - Katherine Uren, Auckland; Advanced Low Impact, Damon Collin, Lower and Advanced Technical - Helen Smythe, Cambridge.

Our booklet has been distributed to the Region and is on the WaiBOP website. It can also be found on the WaiBOP and Branch Facebook page.

**Registration** - three options available:

Register Online: [qbwe.waibopscd.org.nz](http://qbwe.waibopscd.org.nz)

Email scanned registration form to: [qbwe@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:qbwe@waibopscd.org.nz)

Post registration form to: Agnes Algra, Secretary, 94 Waitomo Caves Road, RD7 Otorohanga 3977

General queries please contact Jane McIlroy - Email: [djmccilroy@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:djmccilroy@yahoo.co.nz)

### QBWS - Ceilidh

Sunday, 6 June 2021 at Otorohanga College,  
Bledisloe Avenue, Otorohanga

**Theme: Kiwiana**



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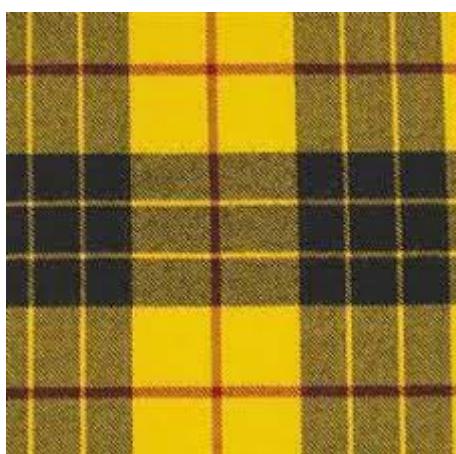
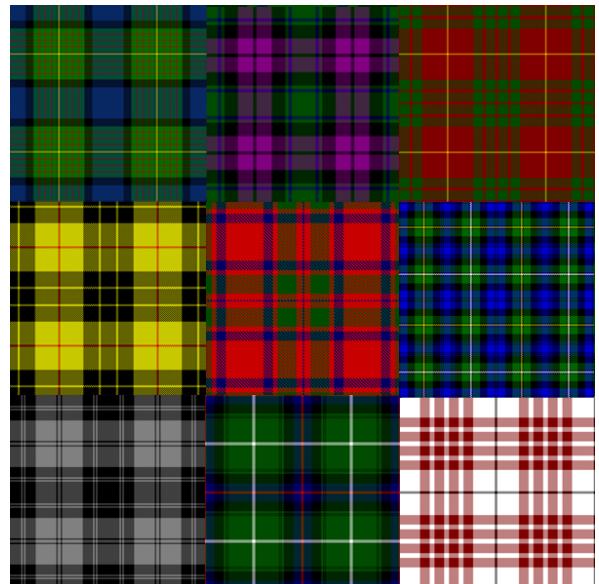
### 3. Feature

#### Tartans - Later colours

Originally the Highlanders used only the natural shades of the sheep's wool - black, brown or white - in the designs of their tartan cloth.

Later they employed a range of leaves, berries, bark and lichens as natural dyes to develop cloth patterns involving many colours. The birch tree, for instance, produced yellow; while the alder produced black or brown; heather gave orange; the crowberry or blaeberry, purple; the bramble, blue; and the flower of tormentil, red. Urine -fual or graith in Gaelic - was used as a source of ammonia to deepen and intensify colours and to remove grease.

Before the dyeing was completed the wool was always washed and a mordant (from the Latin verb, mordere, to bite) was added to make the dye permanent. The substance used was often the salt of alum, copper or chrome, and iron mordanting was obtained from black peat bogs.



The colour of the Clan MacLeod tartan was described in an 1829 letter by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder to Sir Walter Scott; "MacLeod (of Dunvegan) has got a sketch of this splendid tartan, three black stryps upon ain yellow fylde".

The shades of colour in tartan can be altered to produce variations of the same tartan. The resulting variations are termed: *modern*, *ancient*, and *muted*.<sup>[b]</sup> These terms only refer to dye colours.<sup>[12]</sup>

##### Modern colours

Describes a tartan that is coloured using chemical dye, as opposed to natural dye. In the mid-19th century natural dyes began to be replaced by chemical dyes which were easier to use and were more economic for the booming tartan industry. Chemical dyes tend to produce a very strong, vivid colour compared to natural dyes. In *modern* colours, setts made up of blue, black, and green tend to be obscured.

##### Ancient colours

Refers to a lighter shade of tartan. These shades are meant to represent the colours that would result from fabric aging over time.

## Muted colours

Also called *reproduction* colours, refers to tartan which is shade between *modern* and *ancient*. Although this type of colouring is very recent, dating only from the early 1970s, these shades are thought to be the closest match to the colours attained by natural dyes used before the mid-19th century.

The idea that the various colours used in tartan have a specific meaning is purely a modern one. One such myth is that red tartans were "battle tartans", designed so they would not show blood. It is only recently created tartans, such as Canadian provincial and territorial tartans (beginning 1950s) and US state tartans (beginning 1980s), that are designed with certain symbolic meaning for the colours used. For example, the colour *green* sometimes represents prairies or forests, *blue* can represent lakes and rivers, and the colour *yellow* is sometimes used to represent various crops.



Just a thought between penguins

## 4. Letters to the Editor

My grown-up daughter began Scottish country dancing with her grandmother when she was 6 years old. She doesn't get to go dancing anymore. She is a secondary school teacher. Once a year the teachers have to find an activity to organise at the end of the year for fun. Each year Rachel has chosen a Scottish theme and some Scottish country dances. When she was in Auckland she was guided by Esther McKay. Now she's in Wellington so she asked Lyn Scott for some music. It's always a successful session. They break halfway through for some morning tea and the participants always ask for more. Here's a photo from December last year at Wellington Girls College.



Ir ye Scottish? A um. Ye ken ur atrue Scot if ye can properly pronounce Ecclefechan, Sauchiehall Street, StEnoch, Auchtermuchty and Aufurfuksake. Yer used tae 4 seasons in wan day. Ye kinfaw aboot pished wiott spilling yer drink. Ye kin make hael sentences jist wiswear wurdz. Ye ken irn bru is a hangover cure. Ye actually understawn this message and yur gonnae repost it :). .... IM PROUD TO BE SCOTTISH

## 5. Club News

### Hamilton Scottish: Who we are and what we do.

We dance on Wednesday nights 7.10-9.30 pm at the YWCA Hall Pembroke Street (In Hamilton)

Our evening begins with "hellos" as we watch the Zumba class exit the hall.

We set up, sign in, welcome new faces, before warming up.

The first half of the evening is beginners' time, formations, step practice and simple dances are walked and taught.

We break for notices, and a chat over a cup of tea.

The second half of the evening is more advanced dances. Still walked as needed.

The dances include those on current dance programmes around the region.

Then it's "farewells" and home again for another week.

Annually we have club nights commencing in March and ending November.

Highlights are the midwinter dessert evening, our annual ball in September, the AGM (when we always dance Here's Tae Us at the end of the meeting), and the end of year pot luck dinner with friends and family joining us.

We have a Committee that meets as needed to keep things ticking along smoothly. This year Andrea Fox is our President, Rosemary Nicholson is our Secretary and Kathryn Trewavas our Treasurer.

Our teaching team is Wayne McConnel with Pam Godfrey. Each evening music is preloaded as a programme onto the laptop computer by some very able club members. We use the head set microphone, and have a nice little loud speaker to fill the Hall with a good sound.

A new initiative in our last dancing year is one dance before supper and one dance after supper being briefed by an experienced dancer.

Our membership has enough dancers to get two sets dancing each week.

Newer members have found their way to us via the "What's On" section in the community newspaper.

Paeroa Highland Games, personal invitation from club members, or dancers moving to Hamilton. We would love to have more members, especially young dancers.

Our dancers try to attend as many region dances/events as we can.

This year Hamilton Scottish will be 70 years old! We are planning a special club night in April and will celebrate with the region at our Club Dance in September.

It feels like a happy club, we love to have dancers visit. Do pop in with your shoes on a Wednesday night if you are in town.

Shelley McConnell



## 6. Obituaries

### Lorna Weeks

*In Loving Memory of  
Lorna Weeks  
26th January 1932 - 26th January 2021*



It is with sadness we report the death on Tuesday, 26 January 2021 of Lorna Weeks, a Life Member of Hamilton Scottish. Lorna was a long-time dancer with Hamilton Scottish, starting in the early 1950's. She became club president in 1982 and continued in this role until 1993. Lorna also served as Waikato Bay of Plenty President in 1993 and 1994.

Lorna and her husband, Ken, were well-known in dancing circles, especially in the North Island. They attended many Weekend and Summer Schools; Ken selling his shoes, jewellery and other Scottish items

Rosemary

### A Celebration of Mary Sanson

The January Birthday Picnic Dance was held at Greenwood Park Village (home of Colleen and John), Tauranga on Sunday 16 January. Thirtyfour dancers brought food to share and all sat out in the beautiful garden for the meal and to catch up with each other. We were all very grateful to Lynne Hudson who organised her CD player

and the dances, briefed the dances and had the dancing commence after dinner, just as a new moon was rising in the beautiful clear sky - a great time was held by all. The four Birthday dancers cut the cake that Linda Carter had made especially for the occasion and we remembered the fifth January Birthday Girl - Mary Sanson who is no longer with us.



Birthday cake dancers: Heather Sutton, Robin Dowdle, Lynne Hudson & Chris Ingram (with Mary Sanson's photo in front).

## Rose Jacob

Sadly we learned that Rose died on Monday the 22nd March 2021 at CHT Acacia Park Rest Home at the amazing age of 106! Beat that anybody!

It was in the late 1950's that she began Scottish Country Dancing at Te Kuiti. It was while the family lived there that she began her Teachers Certificate for Scottish Country Dancing. She completed this after moving to Levin and taught there for about 20 years.



As the years passed, Rose's eyesight and hearing diminished and it became increasingly difficult for her to live alone and tackle the busy crossroads to the supermarket - although there was plenty of community support in the Shiloh flat where she lived in Hamilton. Eventually she moved into CHT Acacia Park Rest Home in Omokoroa where she was well cared for by understanding and compassionate staff, although initially Rose would tour the home loudly issuing 'advice' to staff and residents alike.

Rose died peacefully on Monday morning at 11:05 am after the usual earlier routine of being dressed and cared for by staff.

Bill Jacob

## Hiroko Sakakubara



Hiroko was another longtime member of Lochiel who died recently. The celebration of her life was on 17th March. She was dancing at Lochiel When I started in Hamilton in 1991 and she stopped dancing around 2013. She had danced at Lochiel for a long time. I remember her especially liking The Peat Fire Flame. She obviously enjoyed the children because she made a generous donation to the club JAMs in 2014 She specified that it was to be for JAM Camps, JAM outfits and Weekend and Summer School fees Here she is dancing with

Howard McNally at a Lochiel Club night.



## 7. 237 Social Dances for MCs

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZB7rQip7B5ov-pA1rB5NqZOhMa\\_tb-wuxR74YmQk0/edit?ts=5be3e6d3#gid=122006433](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZB7rQip7B5ov-pA1rB5NqZOhMa_tb-wuxR74YmQk0/edit?ts=5be3e6d3#gid=122006433)

## 8. What's on

Event	Date	Details
Region General Meeting and Dance	April 10, Saturday:	Where: <u>Hinuera Hall, Matamata</u> Time: Meeting: 1:30, Light meal: 5.30pm, Dance: 6:15
Lochiel Annual Dance	Saturday May 8th	Where: <u>Matangi Hall, Tamahere</u> Time: 6.00pm

Any articles or letters for future publication should be sent to the editor [ruarylaidlaw@gmail.com](mailto:ruarylaidlaw@gmail.com)

250 words in Word format max.

Photos separately in JPG format are especially welcome

### Region Officers:

**President:** Jill Littlewood, [president@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:president@waibopscd.org.nz)

**Secretary:** Colleen Gunn, [secretary@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:secretary@waibopscd.org.nz)

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

**Education/Training Coordinator:** Heather Johnston, PO Box 16211, Bethlehem, Tauranga 3147, [education@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:education@waibopscd.org.nz)

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**Communication & Publicity Coordinator:** Ruary Laidlaw, 45 Whitaker Street, Kihikihi (07) 871 8396 [communication@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:communication@waibopscd.org.nz)

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



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