



WAIBOP NEWS



Issue May 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



President's Pen May 2021

How great it is to be back attending dances, and judging by the good attendance at Lochiel and Katikati Clubs' dances and the 80 registrations for the Otorohanga Queens Birthday Weekend School, you are all enjoying getting out and about too.

How do we get more people to understand how great it is??? Promoting the 'growth' of SCD is the challenge that I would like to take up in this newsletter. Your thoughts on how we can get the message out there to those who know nothing about us, in a way that will make them want to join us, would be very welcome. This challenge was discussed at the last Region Meeting. It is not only our Region that is grappling with this problem as it came up at the NZ Branch AGM as well.

I have some questions for us all to consider and would love feedback through the newsletter:-

1. What can we, as a region body, do to help you as a club grow SCD?
2. What is our target audience? Is it our young people still at school or tertiary education or is it the more mature, post young family, who are able to get out in the evening? Who would feel more comfortable and fit into your club?
3. What do clubs need to consider in order to ensure that a visitor to a club night returns for a second or third night?
4. If you are a newer member, what made you keep coming and when did you start to really feel part of the group? What was it that made you feel that way?
5. Conversely, what might have put you off?
6. What has more impact, the cost, the people or the programme?

7. And how do we manage, in a positive way, the attitudes or behaviour of our members who might be responsible for putting newer people off?

I have recently joined the U3A in Hamilton and hope to attract some new members through a Scottish Country Dancing group. Already I've discovered some misconceptions that will need to be changed: the picture chosen for our 'group' list was of a highland dancer and the groups' organiser showed amazement that men would dance. It may be a challenge but one I hope to meet! Watch this space.

Jill Littlewood

Editor's note: There is an interesting article in 6. Youth about this very topic - have a look and see what you think. Write a letter to the editor!

2. Notices

New Editor for the WaiBop News

At the end of this year I will have done three years of being the editor of the WaiBop News and will retire from the job.

We all need to be looking around to see who would take over, or better still get themselves nominated.

Tauranga Scottish Country Dance Club

60th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 26 June 2021

A few tickets are still available ~ \$25.00 each

Also Spectator tickets ~ \$15.00 each

There will be NO Door Sales!

The bank account number for internet banking is as follows

03 - 0445 - 0168455 - 00

Please put your name and Ball Ticket as a reference.

We would love to have you join us as we celebrate

60 years of Club dancing.

See you at the Ball!

Queen's Birthday Weekend School

Not long now until Queen's Birthday
Weekend School

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June

but it's not too late to be involved

Registrations are closing on Tuesday, June
1st so

hurry if you want to come to the school

Otherwise there is the ball on Saturday, June at 7pm, \$20

or the Ceilidh with a Kiwiana theme on Sunday, June 6 at 7pm, \$15

Both being held in the Otorohanga College Hall, Bledisloe Avenue, Otorohanga

We will be dancing to the music of Glenfiddle.

For more information see <https://waibopscd.org.nz/>

*Te Awamutu SCD Club acknowledges financial support from
Creative Communities Otorohanga District Council*



**WHIT'S FUR YE'LL NO GO BY YE
LANG MAY YER LUM REEK
HAUD YER WEESHT
PEELY WALLY
BLETHER
DREICH**

3. Recent Events

Hamilton Scottish's 70th Anniversary



On Wednesday 28 April Hamilton Scottish celebrated our 70th (Platinum) Anniversary. A message inviting nearby clubs was sent out asking them to join us to mark this occasion and we were overwhelmed by the support from our fellow dancers. Word obviously spread a bit further because we had a past member now living in the Christchurch area join us. Dancers were asked to dress in clothing that signified a favourite decade or the colours of Platinum.

The evening started with Beginner friendly dances and we were overjoyed to have six sets on the floor. The last dance before supper was an around the room dance Nice to See You which left everyone more than ready for a cup of tea and a catch-up with friends old and new.



Hamilton Scottish was recognized as a Constituted Society on 25 April 1951. Formalizing a group of friends that would get together to enjoy the music and dance of Scotland. There were 15 Foundation Members including a Mr & Mrs Millar and their teenage daughter Christine. (Now a member of Lochiel and still dancing).

A brief speech outlining some of the Club's history was followed by the cutting of the cake by two of our Life Members Pam Godfrey and Ken Weeks. Ken joined the club in the 50's so has a very long-standing commitment to the Club. Pam has held many roles on the Committee and continues to be involved with Tutoring each week.

We had a most enjoyable evening and I'd like to thank all that attended and those that made the night a success.

Andrea Fox President Hamilton Scottish.



Region Certificates of Appreciation and Thanks

These certificates are for those in the Region who have given great service and are nominated at the Region AGM. It gave me much pleasure to present two Region Certificates at the Lochiel Ball, to Christine Miller and Ruary Laidlaw.



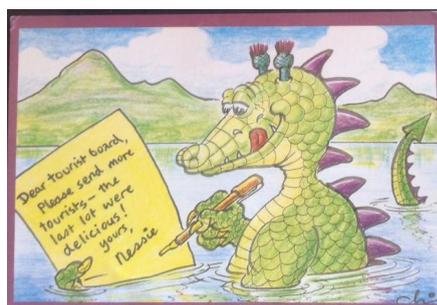
Christine Miller has been involved in Scottish Country Dancing for as long as she can remember, introduced by her mother, Greta Miller, who helped to found the Hamilton Scottish Country Dance Club, along with her sister Margaret, in 1951. Later they danced at the Hamilton Caledonian Scottish Country Dance Class, along with Betty Aitchison the tutor, which began in 1958. This later became the Lochiel Scottish Country Dance Club. She has been President of both the Lochiel Club and the WaiBoP Region, a club tutor and has been involved with running several Summer Schools and Weekend Schools in the Region. Christine continues to be a great ambassador for Scottish Country Dancing.

Ruary Laidlaw was also introduced to Scottish Country Dancing by his mother at the Knox Church Club in Auckland in 1953 and has been dancing ever since. He has held the Region post of Education and Training Officer supporting teachers and he has mentored a number of tutors through their training. At present, he is the Communications and Publicity Officer and is keeping us all connected and informed. He has been a SC dance teacher at clubs like Ardmore, Royal Oak, and Lochiel for many years and has taught at many Day, Weekend and Summer Schools. He has also been on several Summer School and Weekend School committees held within the Region. Ruary has devised a number of dances, many of which have been published. He has also written a number of dance books, including some especially for primary schools. Many SC Dance teachers use his book "For a Year and a Day" for structuring their teaching of formations, from Beginners to Advanced level. If you don't know it, just ask him!



Congratulations and a big thank you to you both.

Jill

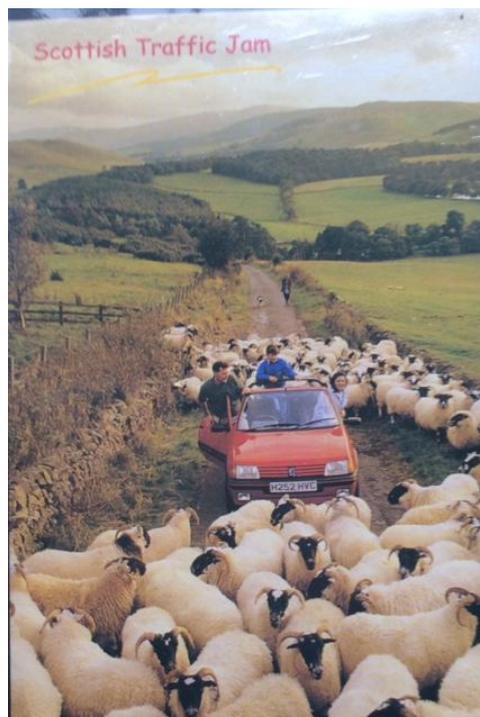


Waikato Show

This is the dancing group at the Waikato Show 11th April.



Kind Regards always
Gaye



4. Youth - JAMs

JAMs dancing with JAMs vs JAMs dancing with adults

Why is it important?

The way I see things, is that the reason why it's so important that jams should be able to dance with adults more, is because as jams being able to dance with adults or older jams entering adulthood, we are given the opportunity to learn from their experienced level of dancing.

Dancing with adults can also help jams respect older dancers and also earn their respect in return, and to understand that not everyone is as young or as fit as they are. The reason I added this part is because adulthood is at my doorstep and it scares me, so when I am older I would love to have earned the respect of many dancers both young and old. And also to be half as fit as most of the older dancers would truly be a gift.

There are also the jams who may be a bit put off at the prospect of dancing with adults. And even think them to be boring, but this is where the respect I mentioned earlier comes into motion. A dancer who does not give respect and therefore does not earn respect is like a red leaf on a tree full of green leaves so they fall from the tree first.

Some jams may get shy or even nervous when being partnered with an adult or even just in the same set. I speak with experience on this because when I was younger I used to be afraid that I would make a mistake and that I would get told off. It was only when I was older that knew differently, and that is not how jams should be feeling when they dance with adults.

Jams should feel welcome and not have to feel worried about making mistakes. I also understand that some adults don't like it when others make mistakes and that is okay. It's not fun if someone makes a mistake and the dance turns to custard. But most of the time the whole set just laughs, because after all it was just a silly mistake. It's okay to make mistakes, everyone makes them, jams and adults alike. Mistakes help us to become better dancers.

Words. Words. words. You may think what I have written is just words on a page, now think of each individual word as a dancer and each sentence as a dancing club. Alone each word is useless but bring them together and they make a story or a community.

When jams dance with adults, we bring older and younger generations of dancers together which helps make a stronger dancing community. And so with the experience and wisdom of adults and the energy and youth of jams we can take over the world with Scottish Country Dancing. This is why I believe it is important that jams dance with adults more often.

Written by Pearl Summers (aka Petronella)

A poem

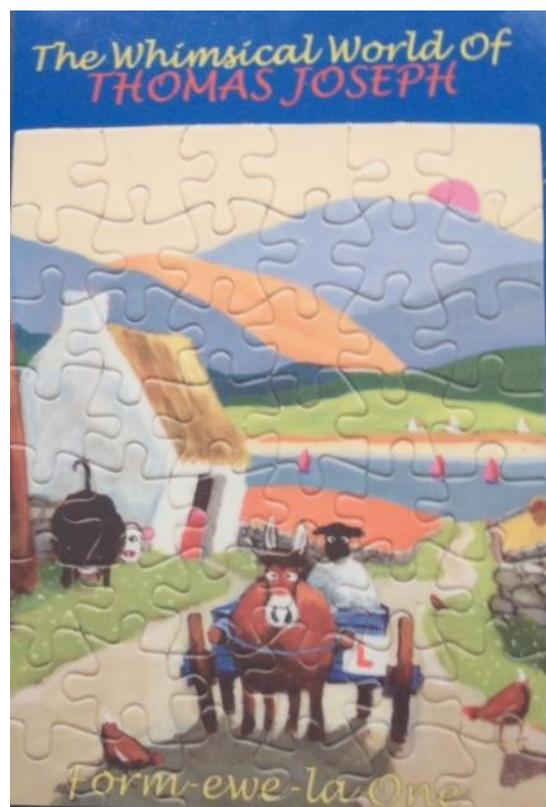
“Hands Across”

Hands Across, Cross and Cast
Turn with my partner and I've lost the dance.

Reels of three, Tournee and Spoke,
This way, that way,
They're not kidding... it's no joke!

Catch the Wind, Culla Bay,
Bowling Out?? I think I may!

by Anna Verhaegh



5. Club News

KatiKati club and a promotional idea 💡 ❖

The club is doing well with enough people to form 2 sets most weeks.

We recently held our annual dance which was very well attended. It was lovely to see everyone and we thank all those who came along for the afternoon and helped make it a most enjoyable occasion.

Here is a photo of Douglas at our local Farmers Market advertising Scottish Country Dancing and our local clubs. He plays dance music and has promotional material to hand out to those who express an interest and encourages them to come and give it a go.



6. Dance of the Month - "The Flowers of Edinburgh" - RSCDS Book 1

In the old days the city of Edinburgh was less famous for its greenery than for the smoke and bad stench pervading the Old Town, which gave rise to its nickname, »Auld Reekie« (Old Smelly). The tenements (high rise flats) of the Old Town did not feature the indoor sewage disposal technology that we are accustomed to today, and it was by no means uncommon for the good citizens of Edinburgh to greet the early morning by emptying the content of their chamber pots out of a 5th-story window with the cheery cry of "Gardylloo" (from the French *gardez, l'eau*, or "Watch out, some water") to warn hapless passers-by. Hence, one interpretation of the title of this dance views it as a kind of super-euphemism for these "blooms" of crudity and tastelessness. More delicate and tender sources prefer to relate the title to the young ladies of the city.

Ref. SCD Data Base

According to a self-deprecating secondary report in "A Native's Guide to Edinburgh" By Tom Mc Rae, "The stench from the loch permeated the old City and probably gave rise to the traditional tune "The Flowers of Edinburgh."

Wikipedia

THE NOR'LOCH

In 1460 King James III ordered that the ground between the Old Town and Princes Street be flooded in an effort to strengthen the Castle's northern defences.

A dam was built at the east end, where North Bridge now stands. Natural spring water flowing from the original St. Margaret's Well at the foot of the castle was used to flood what once was a forested valley.

Initially it was a picturesque and relaxing haven for the residents of Edinburgh who would boat in the summer and skate in the winter. It must have been a beautiful sight reflecting the magnificent castle.

Over the years however it became a convenient dump for all sorts of waste including human excrement in the days before proper sanitation and over the years it became a stinking cess-pool.

When obnoxious fumes and gasses began to seriously affect the health of the local residents. Methane gas would be concentrated up the narrow closes, many of which led to the banks of the Nor' Loch, and cause them to have hallucinations.

The decision was taken to drain the Loch in 1759 around the same time as the building of the New Town to the north.

The valley is now Princes Street Gardens

The rubble from the building of the New Town was used to create what is now 'The Mound' On which sit the Scottish Royal Academy and The National Art Gallery.
Wikipedia

The story that I heard from my mother, Margaret Laidlaw (an Edinburgh lady), was that when the judges paraded down the Royal Mile from the castle to Holyrood Palace they carried a bunch of flowers at their nose because the general populace watching, and the street, reeked! Ruary Laidlaw



Scottish Judges - Google Images

So, you can imagine when the first couple dance down the middle of the set and back, that they are the judges and that the 2s, 3s and 4s watching are the "reeky" populace!

7. Obituaries

Alan Billing

It is with great sorrow that I have to advise the passing of Alan Billing, Club member and former President of the Tauranga SCD Club. Despite his age, Alan had been a keen dancer, attending dances throughout the Region.

With declining health Alan had been a resident in the Hospital Wing of the Bob Owens Village for the last few months of his life, but he was still very interested in Club and Region matters right up until the end. Although wanting to attend the Tauranga Club's 60th Anniversary Ball, his last SCD outing was at the Garden Party put on by the combined Tauranga and Mt Clubs in January of this year.

In accordance with Alan's wishes, there is to be a private service only.

Best wishes,

Heather Johnston

For the Tauranga SCD Club

8. 237 Social Dances for MCs

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

9. **What's on** - see <https://waibopscd.org.nz/events-in-our-region/> for more

Event	Date	Details
QBWS	Saturday June 5th to 6th	Otorohanga College, Bledisloe Avenue, Otorohanga
Tokoroa Tea Dance	Sunday 13th June 2021 from 2pm	Amisfield School Hall, Moffat Road, Tokoroa
Tauranga SCD Club	26 June 2021	60th Anniversary Ball Dancing to the music of Wild Heather Greerton Community Hall 1247 Cameron Road, Greerton Tauranga Saturday. Pre Booked tickets only.
Rotorua Scottish Country Dance Club	31 July 2021 Ngongotaha Hall, School Road, Ngongotaha	Light Refreshments at 5.30pm - Dancing from 6.00pm Adults \$15 Juniors \$6 Spectators \$6 Raffle \$2

Any articles or letters for future publication should be sent to the editor ruarylaidlaw@gmail.com

Region Officers:

President: Jill Littlewood, president@waibopscd.org.nz

Secretar: Collen Gunn, secretary@waibopscd.org.nz

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

Education/Training Coordinator: Heather Johnston, PO Box 16211, Bethlehem, Tauranga 3147, education@waibopscd.org.nz

Membership Coordinator: Bill Jacob, 82 Margaret Drive, Omokoroa 3114 (07) 548 2061 membership@waibopscd.org.nz

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

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



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