



WAIBOP NEWS



Issue July 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



I have thoroughly enjoyed catching up with you all at the Queen's Birthday Weekend School and at recent dances. We are so lucky to have been able to dance in NZ.

Agnes, Jane and the Otorohanga team must be congratulated on a fabulous weekend school. You said that you wanted it to be inclusive and you achieved your goal. All I spoke to felt welcome and relaxed and had enjoyed themselves. The two day format seems to work well and self-catering not only keeps the costs down but it takes pressure off small clubs. I think other clubs will follow suit for future schools. Thank you for putting your hands up even though you are a very small club and well done to you all.

Heather Johnston and the Tauranga team excelled at putting on an event to remember for the Tauranga club 60th. We all held our breath when Wellington went to Level 2, wondering whether the band or even the rest of the country would be affected. I think that would have been the last straw for everyone! It didn't come to pass and we had a great night. The atmosphere was great, helped by the dance programme, the music from Wild Heather and by everyone looking fabulous in their formal dress. Being welcomed with a glass of wine and nibbles was a nice touch for a special event. It was extra special to have the RSCDS NZ Branch president Linda Glavin and Sue Lindsay attend. Thanks so much for all the work behind the scenes Heather and the Tauranga Club.

The Tokoroa Tea Dance was also a very enjoyable afternoon. I took my young grandson, Jacoby, for his first try of dancing and he had a ball thanks to the welcoming young and not so young members of the Tokoroa Club. It was also his first experience of a dance 'supper' and his eyes popped out of his head. He asked earlier in the afternoon why it was called a Tea Dance but he wasn't expecting an afternoon tea like that. A big tick for Tokoroa! Our club night is a bit late for him to attend as yet-maybe in a few years time.

I am looking forward to the next Ball- Rotorua at time of writing!

Yours in dancing

Jill

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.



Pockets

Did you know that Scots invented pockets in trousers. They used to keep their hands warm in their sporrans holding onto their money. So when kilts and sporrans were banned after the '45 they invented pockets in trousers for the same purpose!

The Dancing Penguin



2. Editorial

Saturday Dance Programmes

It is still a concern to me that Saturday night Dance programmes contain quite a number of new dances that contain quite complex manoeuvres that demand that everyone in the set knows what to do. Even if just one person in the set gets confused then the dance becomes chaotic. The briefing beforehand is not enough to prevent this happening, nor is walking the first couple through, because generally the idea is that you get an experienced couple to do that, so that the briefing is just a demonstration of the “words” - not a teaching exercise.

Having said that, there is no harm in a club having one or two “signature” dances that are always part of their Saturday programme i.e. to me Tauranga with The Cuckoo Clock, or Te Awamutu with Ian Powrie’s Farewell to Auchterarder etc. Other clubs are willing to teach and practice these on their club nights to make sure that their members know what to do, without such practices taking over weekly club nights.

Currently, we are beginning to see groups organizing special practices so that they can cope with the upcoming Saturday dance programme. This is over and above Club Teachers teaching these dances on their club nights for several weeks before the Saturday dance in question!

Dance programmes are not supposed to be an intellectual exercise! Where has the “Fun, Fitness and Friendship” gone - (to quote the RSCDS)?

The dancers who attend Saturday night functions are a “mixed bunch” (no offence intended), ranging from Elementary to Mainstream (Intermediate) to Experienced - with the majority being Mainstream - and programmes should reflect this mixture of experience

What is going to happen to our new and less experienced dancers when they look at the upcoming programme for Saturday night? Are they going to say, “Yeah/Nah”. Who is the loser then? The host club, because instead of a hall full of dancers having “a ball”, it will be half empty. These programmes have to become inclusive of all levels of experience.

The place for these complex dances is not on the Saturday night social dance floor. They belong to:-

1. Club nights
2. Day Schools
3. Weekend Schools
4. SummerSchools
5. Jane’s Junkets

-where the members of the class or school expect to be challenged at their level of expertise and will be miffed if it doesn’t happen.

The RSCDS has not added “Fiendish” into their “Fun, Fitness and Friendship” motto!

Let’s keep such dances in their place and leave Saturday night dances for “Fun, Fitness and Friendship”.

Editor

Write a **Letter to the Editor** with your thoughts for the next Newsletter - ruarylaidlaw@gmail.com

3. Letters to the Editor

Why I enjoy Scottish country dancing in New Zealand.

Here are a few observations having left the UK for NZ a few years ago.

- People at dances hardly ever book a partner for later in the evening. If you invite someone for a dance in the UK the response might well be "Sorry, I already have a partner for this dance but I have a couple spare after the interval".
- Dances are primarily social occasions, rather than dancing marathons (the downside being that programmes tend to be less varied than in the UK).
- Raffle prizes are either consumable, drinkable or useful in some other way. In the UK, there usually comes a point in a prolonged raffle when you start to hope that your ticket is not drawn.
- Finally you are very unlikely to be served pavlova and ice cream at supper in the UK - more likely a ginger biscuit and an egg sandwich!

Andy Patterson - Rotorua

"Outlander"

Jamie Fraser was out for a walk on the hills and he comes across an English soldier supping water from a burn with his hand. Jamie walks over to the soldier and says "Get oot oh that ye daft laddie thir's a deed sheep in the burn up thon hill". The Soldier stands up and in a posh English accent replies "I'm frightfully sorry old chap I didn't understand a word you said". To which Jamie replied "don't worry son, use both hands you'll get more water that way."



4. Recent Events

QBWS at Otorohanga



Lights on in the College Hall, a full car park, sounds of laughter, ladies in pretty dresses, men in their kilts; music – a keyboard, fiddle and the deep, vibrant sound of a viola – ah, Glenfiddle Band from Auckland is playing at the Queen’s Birthday Weekend School in Otorohanga – near the geographical centre of the North Island of New Zealand.



Classes to challenge, encourage and expand skills for Elementary, Intermediate, Low Impact and Advanced Technique taught by Gaye Collin, Katherine Uren, Damon Collin and Helen Smythe respectively. Each class had a musician or two providing the music – those from Glenfiddle plus Glenice Saunders and Margie O’Connor.

The Ball on Saturday, danced to Glenfiddle – Anne-Marie Forsyth on viola, Sharlene Penman on keyboard and Margaret Peace on Violin. Dances ‘walked to the brief’ to help the newer dancers. Most dances familiar to Waikato/ Bay of Plenty folk but less so to those from Auckland, Wellington and places in between. Ian Powrie’s Farewell to Auchterarder and The First Rain of Spring got a repeat but no others as we still had to find legs for a combined class and then the Kiwiana Themed Ceilidh on Sunday evening.

The Ceilidh was superbly MCed by Damon – alias Fred Dagg, and his mates Bruce, Bruce and Bruce. Folk from our town came and joined in having seen the advertisement in our local paper. Dancing to the expanded band – now 7 fiddles and a viola, drums, recorder, accordions and keyboards filling the

stage and the hall with fabulous, toe-tapping music.

Laughter, companionship, fun, friendship and fitness are all present in a wonderful weekend of dancing.

Jane McIlroy - Otorohanga Club

Tauranga SCD Club, 60th Anniversary Ball



Tauranga SCD Club celebrated 60 years with a magnificent ball on Saturday 26th June 2021 (delayed twelve months on account of a Covid lockdown last year). We were honoured to have in attendance distinguished guests, Linda Glavin, RSCDS NZ Branch President; Sue Lindsay, NZ Branch Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator; and our Waikato, Bay of Plenty Region President, Jill Littlewood.

We were joined by dancers from far and wide, including, Christchurch, Blenheim, Wellington, Palmerston North and Auckland.

A welcoming glass of wine and nibbles was enjoyed during a mix and mingle time before some 80 dancers took to the floor.

A wonderful dance programme compiled by the Club Tutor and MC for the night, Heather Johnston, was supported by the superb music of Wild Heather, consisting of Sharlene Penman on keyboard; Lynne Scott on fiddle; Mary McDonald on fiddle; and Anne-Marie Forsyth on viola.

A highlight was their outstanding rendition of “hoe-down” tunes for Polharrow Burn.

A magnificent and tasty anniversary cake was cut by Life Members Betty Clethro (Photo above), Charmaine Burgess, Heather Johnston and Rodney Dawson. We enjoyed a wonderful supper spread provided by a local catering company.

A very big “thank you” to all who helped us celebrate 60 plus years of Scottish Country Dance in Tauranga.

Heather Johnston Tauranga Club Tutor



Tokoroa Tea Dance



In mid-June, Tokoroa Scottish Country Dancers welcomed club members from Tauranga, Mount Maunganui, Hamilton Scottish, Lochiel, Taupo and Rotorua to their first Tea Dance since 2019. It was great to be able to share the joy of SCD with so many other dancers.

While the programme was more particularly aimed at junior and newer dancers, there were a number of experienced dancers amongst the crowd. Their support was appreciated and added to the friendly atmosphere of the afternoon.

A number of kilts and tartan skirts surplus to the club's requirements were sold. Those remaining will again be available for sale at the club's Annual Dance in August.



The iconic Waverley paddle steamer that travels down the Clyde from Glasgow out to the Western Isles.

5. Theme

Klean your Kilt

This is the last of our mini series about kilts and their care.

When you get home after a dance you should always lay out your kilt with the lining exposed to enable it to air and dry before you put it away.



When you go to hang your kilt there are several choices. One option is to use a classic kilt hanger of the sort with 4 spring clips.

Option two is to use two standard trouser hangers, the sort with the 2 spring pegs used to normally hold the waist band. One simply clips each along the waistband and then fold the kilt and hang on both hangers.

If you are unfortunate and get marks on your kilt, first try sponging the spot with WARM water not hot and a gentle soap. Remember to sponge the marks and rinse the material to remove soap. Then lay your kilt out flat on a towel to dry before hanging back in the wardrobe.

If you need to press the pleats I would suggest taking it to a dry cleaner and asking them if they have much experience with a kilt. You can do it yourself if you are keen enough. Remember not to let the iron sole plate touch the material. One should always have a damp clean cloth between the iron and the material even if it is a steam iron.

From "The Dancing Penguin"

A Scotsman an Englishman and an Irishman
were at a bar and had just started drinking
their first round when a fly landed
in each of their drinks.

The Englishman refused to drink his
and ordered another.

The Irishman blew his away in a cloud of froth
and carried on drinking.

But the Scotsman, well he carefully
lifted the fly out by its wings
and held it over his glass.

"Go on!" He said.
"Spit it oot ya wee bastard!"

6. Club News

Opotiki Dance Club

We continue to have a very enthusiastic group meeting once a week on Thursday evenings, although we are going to meet in the afternoons from 2-4pm during July as it's hard for some of us to go out on these cold, dark, winter nights.

Many of our dancers attend the Whakatane group on a Wednesday and they continue to support us with a carload joining us most Thursdays.

We have a new couple who have bought property in the area and they used to dance in Auckland, so have joined our club. Most meetings now we have at least 2 sets.

We still combine with Kawarau & Edgecumbe at Nukuhou once a month.

Our teachers Jean & Jan continue to challenge us by bringing in at least one new dance most weeks (or maybe a dance that we haven't done for ages or forgotten ☹). Often we have been dancing them 3x through which really helps to remember the dance.

4 of our members attended the QBWS and thoroughly enjoyed it.

We are starting to put together our social programme for the 28th August,

"Every Season has its Joys"



is our theme, look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it.
Happy Dancing Everyone ☺

Opotiki Club Secretary, Sue Stilwell.

The Mount Club News



It has been a quiet year for the Mount Maunganui Club so far. At the beginning of the season we had quite a scare as we had been contacted and told our hall could be sold if the Senior Citizens could not get a committee together. It was with relief that we got the news that they at least had a chairman, so we continue to dance at the Senior Citizens Hall. There are no other halls in the district with a wooden floor and the right dimensions.

The club continues to support Robyn Dowdle who is training to become a dance teacher and she takes a dance each club night.

On Thursday 22 September, with help from dancers from the Tauranga Club, we demonstrated a selection of dances to the residents of the Somervale Resthome in Arataki. Before each dance, a small talk was given about the title of the dance and each dance movement was explained to show what the audience could expect to see (and it also served as a reminder for the dancers as we had not had a rehearsal!). After the dancing demonstration there was a "show and tell" at the request of one of the audience and with Frank Begley in a kilt and John Rowlandson in his tartan triubhas we had perfect examples of Scotsmen's attire. Each dancer then explained the tartans they were wearing. The whole event was well received by a very alert audience.

Lynne Hudson, Secretary MMN SCD Club

Lochiel Club News



When I think about Lochiel and dancing this year what comes to mind is a lot of fun, laughter and enjoyable evenings of dancing. We have hugely appreciated Helen, our tutor, for being so adaptable with evenings when new dancers turn up or don't and we dance a suitable set of dances to enable the assembled company to have a good evening.

Events that club members attended included Hogmanay and the Paeroa Games. A benefit night at a local theatre and Caron Rogan selling blueberries on our behalf gave us nearly \$1,000 towards a new sound system. Very good insurance as our system sometimes has hiccups.



Sadly three of our longtime dancers have died. Rose Jacob, Hiroko Sakakibara and Nina Sherson/Foukes. Rose was 106 and danced with us into her 90s. Hiroko generously gifted a large sum for our young dancers and this has been much appreciated by them.



Nina's suggestion of the name of Lochiel, for our club, won when picked out of a hat. She billeted John Smith and Peter Elmes for many years, when they came to play at our balls.



Ball night was enjoyable with Glenfiddle providing their lively music with some great tune combinations. Our Region President, Jill, also Lochiel president, presented WaiBoP Region Certificates of Appreciation and thanks to Christine Miller and Ruary



Laidlaw. Both were introduced to dancing by their mothers and have been involved in running Summer Schools, Weekend schools, and have been club tutors. Christine is a founding member of Lochiel (over 60 years ago) but was dancing before that and Ruary has devised several dances and written a number of dance books, and books for teachers of dancing.

Kate Corfield - Secretary Lochiel Club

7. Youth

A trip down south...

I recently had the opportunity to visit some clubs surrounding the Wellington region, though I didn't get to visit all of them, the ones I did visit were very welcoming.

Here are some things I noticed while down there. The teachers were all very patient and helpful, they didn't lose their tempers or get impatient when someone got a dance wrong. A very good trait to have in a teacher in my point of view. But that is the case pretty much everywhere.

The Upper Hutt 50th anniversary ball was definitely worth going. The program was a wonderful selection of dances I had done and some never seen before. A big shout out to Strings Attached for bringing the wonderful music to life. The food was amazing. The decorations were awesome, especially the pinecone fantails. There was also a display of all their exciting adventures dancing, books of photos, it was fun looking through them. I cannot thank Upper Hutt enough for making it a very enjoyable night.

The Lower Hutt club was extremely fun, again everyone was welcoming and it was an absolute pleasure to dance with such wonderful people. I felt a bit shy at first but that was cured easily and I was soon just dancing carefree.

The Kelburn club was also wonderful and very fun. I now know what I must work on so thank you to the club teacher for pointing that out to me. Again I felt shy and stressed about meeting new people but I was having fun by the end of the night. Also a pleasure to have been able to dance there.

So a final thank you to everyone who made my trip worthwhile and enjoyable.

Please feel free and don't hesitate to email me if you would like me to write anything specific, my email address is pearlsummers43@gmail.com I would love to hear from you and your views on how we can make our dancing community a better and more enjoyable place.

Written by Pearl Summers.



8. Music



What's in a name?

Bourach - a word from North-eastern Scotland meaning a group of assorted people or things. In the Highlands Boorach has the slightly different meaning of a mess or disorderly state or heap. Both senses are from the Gaelic burach a digging. Mor means big. Generally, the first meaning applies to us musicians but when starting a new set of tunes, the second meaning can also be applied! The dynamics of the group change from time to time with musicians coming and going depending on their personal commitments.



In 2020 many gigs were cancelled but the year ended on a high note with Cambridge Club's final night. 2021 had a promising start. The Band played at a Fund-raising Ceilidh for the Waihi Surf Life Saving Club on a Saturday and the following Friday, a Ceilidh in Hamilton. The Band had been booked to play at a SteamPunk Ball in Thames in April but was cancelled due to lack of ticket sales. A smaller version of a SteamPunk Ball was held the following month in Cambridge.

SteamPunk - Oamaru

Bookings so far for the end of 2021 have Band members looking forward to playing for the Hauraki/Thames, Mount Maunganui and Ingleside dances.

When it is not possible to get together in Cambridge the Band practises with Zoom sessions, always challenging with differing strengths of internet signals. To answer the question "what keeps us all coming back"? Apart from the music, it is the camaraderie gained from playing as a group.

Lynne Hudson

9. Dance of the Month

My favourite dances

Why? The dance, the music, the memories.

Reel: The Montgomeries' Rant - Book 10



Strathspey: The Birks of Invermay - Book 16



Jig: Bonnie Anne - Mary Isdal MacNab Dances #14



Andy Paterson - Rotorua

French

"They French cannae count - ye ask for twa rolls and they gie ye three."

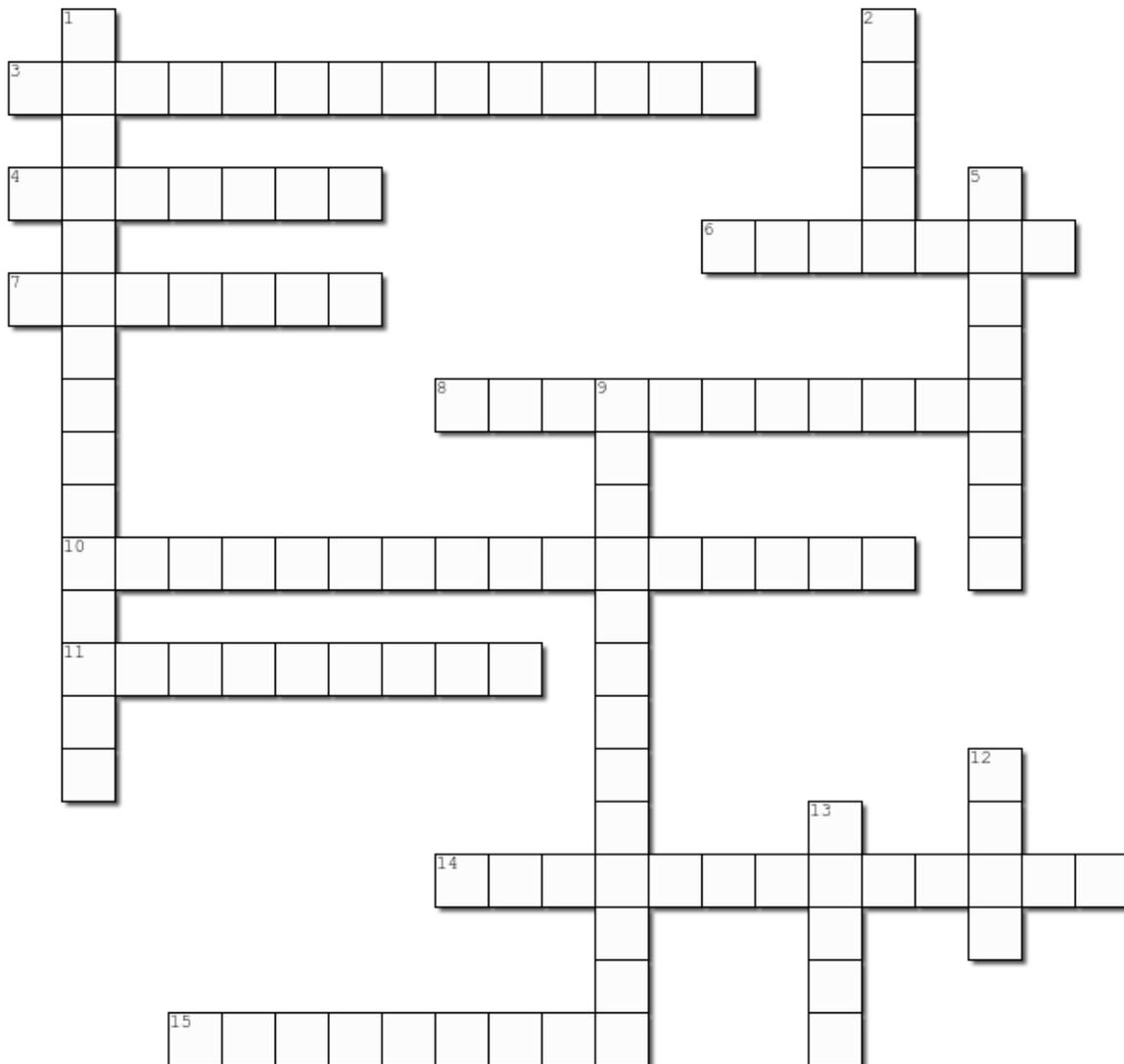


10. Puzzle

Name: _____

Scottish Dance

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

3. Edinburgh's access to the sea
4. An advanced formation for two couples
6. City with an history of ship-building
7. Name of a novel by Sir Walter Scott
8. Travelling step in Reel time
10. Square formation for Elementary Dancers
11. Capital of Scotland
14. Founder of the RSCDS in Scotland
15. Progressive movement for three couples

Down

1. Leader of the Scottish National Party
2. Music in 4/4 time
5. 2-couple formation in Jig time
9. Setting step in Jig time
12. Music in 6/8 time
13. River that runs through Glasgow

Solution in the next WaiBoP News

11. Obituaries

Dan Sharpe - Died on Monday 26th July 2021. Dan was the **President** of The RSCDS NZ Branch from 1970 to 1972, and supported his wife Betty, who was the tutor of the Knox SCD Club in Auckland for many years.

12. 237 Social Dances for MCs

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

13. What's on

Event	Date	Details
Tokoroa Ball	Saturday 7th August	Tirau War memorial Hall \$15 and \$5
Opotiki Ball	Saturday 28th August	Waiotahi Settlers Hall, Main Road, Waiotahi 1.30pm start \$15 Entry fee & Raffles You are welcome to join us for dinner afterwards (venue to be arranged)
Hamilton Scottish Dance	Saturday 12th September	Matangi Hall, 5:00pm \$15 and \$5
Thames/Hauraki Dance	Saturday 19th September	See https://waibopscd.org.nz/

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

“Letters to the Editor” are especially welcome.

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