

WAIBOP NEWS

Issue July 2022

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION



Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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1. President's Pen

What wonderful opportunities we have had for dancing over the last months. A huge thank-you and congratulations must go to the Queen's Birthday Weekend School committee members, who did a fabulous job of a streamlined school. It was a great success. Lots of people have commented to me as to how much they enjoyed it. Well done.

The Saturday balls, Lochiel and Tauranga, have been enjoyable events, each with a great atmosphere. With programmes that include the core dances and the fact that some of us have not done a lot of dancing recently, they have been relaxing but great fun. It is very hard to judge what attendance will be in advance at the moment. It does make the organisation, especially catering difficult but those able to attend have had a great time. We feel for those of you who have had to stay home or even go home mid event and so missed the fun.

Tokoroa's Sunday Dance for newer dancers was well attended with a few newer dancers introduced to the world of Region Dances (and suppers!)

It has been lovely to see some young people join us. Thank you for your patience at QBW. Caitlyn, Hugh's granddaughter had a great time and has since attended both the Tokoroa dance and the Tauranga ball (as a spectator). Cambridge has a new young couple dancing at club nights who also attended and enjoyed the Tokoroa dance. As we often say, young people are the future of SCD and they are well worth supporting but it takes effort and some patience from us all.

Shelley is organising a dance for pre and primary school aged children in Hamilton on the July 24. If you have grandchildren or great grandchildren who would be interested in having a go in a very relaxed way do get in touch with Shelley or myself. Next Dance: Rotorua.

See you there

Jill

2. Editorial

We would like to thank all those who were “shoulder tapped” to write something for the July WaiBop News, and especially all those who responded well. We would also like to remind dancers in the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region that we are keen to receive points of view from anybody who has an opinion on some aspect of dancing in our Region - something/somebody which/who has made a positive contribution in some way, be it small or large. Equally if you have noticed a disturbing trend over the last few years we would like to know - but keep it seemly! Letters to the editor is a section where all points of view can be aired.

What do you particularly enjoy reading about in our newsletter, we'd like your input into it? Look forward to hearing from our dancing members.

Editor,
Agnes Algra

3. Recent Events - Dancing Again at QBWS 2022

Coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and NZ's Queen's Birthday holiday we held a most successful and happy two days of dancing at Trident High School ... and socialising at the Whakatane Holiday Park with 'after Ball' parties for this event.



Superbly organised by Wayne & Shelley McConnel, Jean Smithson and their team of local Whakatane club members, 50 dancers attended classes in the Whakatane's Trident High



School's gym and auditorium receiving lessons from six of the region's tutors enhanced with live music from the “Wild Heather” NZ SCD Band musicians.

Each lesson's focus was for their class to perfect one formation for two different dances.

Essential nourishment between classes and at the Ball was ably catered for by our Whakatane host club.

Taking advantage of the 'once in a lifetime' 70th Royal Anniversary we upgraded our Ball to Platinum status with tiaras, pearls and an occasional wobbly crown adding to the enjoyment and sense of occasion.

N Z Balls are renowned for their sumptuous suppers carried in on groaning trestle tables, which very properly included regal scones with cream and jam - though no marmalade sandwiches!

Comfortable accommodation in cabins at the local Whakatane Holiday Park facilitated late night parties - catch up opportunities spiced with jokes, singing of loved Scottish songs (we're so far away!) and bothy ballads.

Our final event was a lively Ceilidh at the local RSA club who fed all 50 dancers, and then gave us use of the dance floor for 'Come ye All' Ceilidh dances that young and old could enjoy with hilarity, once again with the live music of a 'come ye all band' augmenting Wild Heather.

The dances were interspersed with songs like “Westering Home” and “For These Are My Mountains” (tears in the eyes) and poems like the “Wee Cock Sparra”.

Monday morning we all drifted off back to our homes, some three hours away, brimming with Scottish tunes in our heads and happy memories of the pleasure of Scottish Country Dancing gatherings.

All the more special as we have had few and far between SCD activities since Covid hit our shores.

Chris Ingram



4. Teachers' Talk - Heather Johnston

What effect did, or has Covid-19 had on your Club and dancers generally?

As the Region Training and Education Coordinator, this was the question that I put to all Region Clubs. While there is a common theme, the responses from those clubs who did come back to me have been very interesting, so much so, that I felt I couldn't possibly edit each, so they are here for you to read and compare.

Glenna James probably sums it for the majority of us, if not all of us!

"On a personal note, 2 things stick out for me:

- lack of fitness was notable

- the ability to disseminate information and dance just from a briefing was lost - the brain had forgotten how to condense the instructions."

Whakatane and Opotiki Clubs have both carried on dancing as usual. We made it clear that it was an individual's choice and obviously if anyone had a cold etc to stay home. A few older members are still being cautious and staying away but we average 10 to 12 dancers at each club - quite a few dancers belong to both clubs.

Four members went down with Covid in March so we stopped dancing for three weeks. One person has come back but only if all the windows are open!

The RSA in Whakatane didn't want us there due to Covid so we now dance at the Caledonian Hall in Kopeopeo. A nicer venue anyway.

Everyone seems to enjoy the challenge of learning new dances but also welcome the old familiar ones. We have revived Nottingham Lace, Ramadance, Scotch Mist, and I have plans for Cuckoo Clock! A few new ones on programmes that we like are Sandy's Scotch Broth, Crossing the Line and I want to try Six Mile Road From Pitlochry this week. I only teach dances from the social programmes if requested as most are still a bit wary about mixing with people from other towns. They seem to prefer their own club bubbles.

We are planning a Matariki afternoon at the end of the month in Opotiki so a busy time ahead. We have decided to carry last year's programme (with a few little changes) over to our social this year but will cancel it if things are too bad over the winter.

Jan Pyke

Taupo Scottish Country Dance Club – Coping with Covid

Like everybody else, we stopped dancing in late March 2020 when the first Covid lockdown was put in place. We started up again on June 18 and danced through until August 12, 2021 when the second Covid lockdown was instituted. Even though our usual venue remained closed, we were able to use a local dance studio as an alternative and we started dancing again on October 14, following all the guidelines of dance studios. We remained there until March 2022 when we were able to return to our usual venue, St Pauls. We have enjoyed learning many new dancers during this time.

So, we have continued dancing almost uninterrupted, except for a few weeks during each lockdown. We have two of our older members who decided it was a good time to bow out, but most stayed on. In all this time we had a number of new people come along to see what we were about but only one has stayed on. We have 10-14 dancers each week. Our co-teacher, Margaret Ponga, has moved to Christchurch and, needless to say, we were very sorry to see her go.

Margaret Green.

Mount Maunganui

In 2021 the season was delayed by one week due to Covid and there were no more delays until 11 August which was the last dancing night until December 8. During the time we were dancing there was no loss of dancers. It was a different story in 2022. The Club started in March but with very limited numbers due to the reluctance of dancers to venture out, but numbers have slowly built up. Without our visitors from Tauranga, we would not have had enough dancers. Covid has had a devastating effect on club membership.

By accident one night, every second dance was a Strathspey and several of the much less able dancers thought this was excellent, so we have continued to alternate fast and slow dances to accommodate these people.

Before club dance programmes were being circulated, we tended to put favourite dances and dances that we were curious about on the programme. Once club dance programmes were received, we concentrated on those but with the odd trial dance for variety and suitability for our own dance at the end of the season.

Lynne Hudson

Tokoroa Club began with a few brave souls meeting for outdoor dancing in early March. Unfortunately, one of us tested positive for Covid-19 the next day. Since then we have been quite cautious about meeting kanohi to kanohi. We met fortnightly by zoom from St Patrick's night until mid-April. These sessions kept everyone in touch and we have even been able to retain a new adult dancer over this time. We have managed to hold seven club nights but will zoom again tomorrow as a precautionary measure after my own Covid episode. At club nights we are using masks, especially when dancing.

Our policy around asking for members to be fully vaccinated means we currently only have one JAM. We understand some of the other JAMs are keen to come back but we are reluctant to welcome them just yet as many of our adult members are very wary about this.

We have been able to work on some dances new to us - Sandy's Scotch Broth and The Road to Mallaig - and on trialling some dances for our tea dance and annual dance programmes.

Jeanette Lauder

Te Awamutu Club and Covid

Following a long break from dancing since we moved to level 3 in August 2021, Te Awamutu Club started dancing again on April 21. As most people will know we are a club with few members, and we waited until most of us were ready to start. Some wanted to start earlier while others were a bit more cautious wanting to wait until the Covid numbers dropped a bit, so it was decided to wait until after Easter.

We have temporarily lost one member but not due to Covid. She is currently caring for her elderly mum, who is also living with her so makes it difficult to get out. Hopefully she will be back with us one day.

Having had eight months of no dancing there was some brain fade, and of course the body getting back to the exercise again. We have had a few nights with only four dancers so it was two couple dances for those nights and we've also had a few favourites to get us back into stride.

Fortunately, our members are faithful but of course, we are very aware of the need to stay home if we have any symptoms at all as we don't want to pass anything on to anyone else.

We have had two successful evenings in Te Awamutu, one at the beginning of May and the other in June and we are very grateful for those who come and join us from the Hamilton and Cambridge Clubs. On Thursday, April 9 we also had a visitor from Braemar, Auckland which was great, and a few other more local visitors came too. Maybe they will come and join us again perhaps not every week but when they can make it.

Agnes Algra

Footnote from Jane McIlroy: I'd just add that four dancers (majority number over the eight weeks we have danced) is excellent for learning the Tournée and Alltshellach although not quite a favourite, doesn't strike fear as it does for some!

Tauranga Club

Covid and the long break from August through to March has practically cut our membership by half. We had a mandate (as did the Church where we dance) right through to the end of May and while this only affected a couple of members, a lot of our regulars didn't feel happy about coming back to dancing straight away. Brain fade at the start was evident! Our first dance on Monday, March 7 was that good old reliable and well-known Maxwell's Rant but we danced eight different versions and no competent dancer would have recognised any of them! A general lack of fitness has also been a common theme.

Several of our regular members did enjoy a very different QBWE School and learning a few novel dances made a welcome change, one of those being Sandy's Scotch Broth. We enjoyed this so much that it appeared on our Annual Ball programme, which brings me to another point: we knew that other clubs had reduced numbers attending their club nights so didn't expect a big crowd at our ball on Saturday night (June 25) but four sets! I'm not sure that it was all Covid related, and I was gutted for our members who had put heart and soul into preparing for the ball. Our thanks to those who did attend. We hope you had an enjoyable night.

Heather Johnston



5. Membership Matters - Robyn Howes

For the 2021/22 financial year ending August 31, 2022 the WaiBoP Region has 79 NZ Branch RSCDS financial members, out of a total of 212 club members (as at 31-8-21) throughout the region. Members of the NZ Branch also have voting rights at the WaiBoP Region meetings.

The RSCDS was formed in 1923 to protect the traditions of Scottish Country Dancing. Their greatest object now is "fun and friendship". The RSDCS trains our tutors, supports education and development of dancers, and publishes the books & music that form the core of our activities.

We will soon receive the renewal forms for 2022/23. The NZ Branch fee covers Branch operating costs and includes a capitation fee payable to RSCDS HQ.

I have long maintained that all dancers should join the national body and thus RSCDS HQ. The more dancers who join, the lower the portion of the NZ Branch operating costs to be borne by each member. I congratulate the clubs who have a high proportion of NZ Branch members and challenge others to "up your game".

There has been much discussion recently about how our Branch operates. The WaiBoP Region is actively supporting a 1 member 1 vote amendment to the constitution and our delegates are always proactive in seeking ways to improve Branch operations and reduce costs.

Our only means of influencing the future direction of the NZ Branch is by voting. More members equal more votes.

If you are interested in how our Branch operates, talk to the WaiBoP delegates, the Region committee, your tutors, etc, etc. Be informed!

But most importantly, support your club & your tutor, encourage newer dancers, and enjoy the dance!

Membership Co-ordinator

6. Dancing with Chester



Over the past few months Lochiel and the wider dancing community have welcomed our Assistance Puppy in Training Chester to their club nights and other events.

Recently Chester enjoyed the Queen's Birthday Weekend workshops and dance. He attended the ball where he was a very good boy watching and sleeping. He then attended the Sunday combined class where he was again very good and enjoyed being looked after by several people including Shelley who kindly took him out for a walk.

Last weekend found Chester at Tokoroa Afternoon Dance. He once again was very good and enjoyed the outing.

Chester would like to thank all the dancers who have welcomed him to the club and events as these form an important part in his socialization training and his learning to be quiet and still while we are dancing.



Photos are of Chester being a good boy at the Tokoroa dance.

7. Jigs and More - Jane McIlroy

Firstly, what is it? An afternoon of more complex dances for those more advanced dancers who risk boredom at club level. Club dancing is great for beginners and mid-level dancers. The Junkets were for those who knew formations and could remember dance sequences even if their 1st position was a bit flawed. The attendees are all invited personally, Jane and her class from 2016 at Kihikihi.



Past history: a few decades ago I was living in Hawkes Bay and dancing at Napier SDC club. One year at a demo dance for St Andrew's Night (30th November), I was feeling quite bored with club dances and felt I needed a greater challenge. No one was offering it in Hawkes Bay, so I invited the demo dancers and others from the Napier and Hastings clubs to a Friday evening dance in the Taradale Senior Citizens Hall, teaching those more advanced dances that I so wanted to dance. A great evening was had by all, and the request

was made to continue these dances every 4 – 6 weeks, and so Jane's Junkets (nice alliteration) were born. After I moved to the Waikato, computers were much more used for communication and I was told that some inboxes would not accept 'Junkets' in the subject line and sent the invitation to dance to the spam box, so a new name – Jane's Jigs and More, (JJs) arrived.

Due to Covid and my own Health issues (Atypical bilateral adhesive capsulitis, for those who need to know), there hasn't been much happening on the JJs front. I was encouraged to get going again, and despite many limitations with my own dancing I did that and invited dancers along on Sunday afternoon, April 24.

We had two sets present – a perfect number for me to get my confidence back up and running. On first planning my programme I was remembering the guidance was that setting should be avoided in the first couple of dances, so I put in Rangitoto to begin – no setting BUT that dance begins with eight hands round and back - a formation also considered not so good in the first two dances, so a re-think was necessary. No Hands Please, was the warm-up dance, followed by Rangtoto.

I planned a programme of nine dances with some in reserve if required. The strathspey, Ship of Grace was included – an oldie but a goodie with options in how the 'waves' are danced. People were left to choose which way they wished to dance that formation, and I noticed both the original and the variation were beginning dance. H.L.I. was a new dance for most and is quite different as it was named after the Highland Light Infantry, so it has a more military type march feel. Great to watch.

The Earl of Mansfield is a busy dance, learnt at a previous JJs, but great to repeat. The dance, Fireworks, from the Inverness and Districts publication, not to be confused with the Fireworks REEL, is a work in progress. Andy Patterson requested time to teach Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord as it is on the Rotorua afternoon dance programme. Paper Nautilus has circulating allemandes and we finished the afternoon with Twa Meenit Reel – a fabulous dance from yesteryear – it used to be danced often in this Region.

A further Jane's Jigs and More is planned for July 10.

8. Youth - Jeanette Lauder

Where to next?

There has been a dramatic loss of JAMs (Junior Associate Members) throughout the region over the last several months. I am wondering how we can all work to rebuild these numbers.

There are various reasons for the loss of these young dancers including families moving out the area; individuals pursuing tertiary education in other areas; loss of interest in Scottish Country Dancing; lack of transport; and, in several cases, vaccine requirements relating to Covid-19. While some of these are resolvable issues, we cannot dwell on them too long.

I believe our focus has to be on encouraging new dancers – of all ages. While they were not of JAM age, it was great to see several of newer, younger dancers at the recent Tea Dance in Tokoroa. Thanks go to those dancers who are supporting them in their clubs.

Such support works when everyone is involved. It cannot be left to a few people. Even if you are not able to bring someone along, you can still contribute to their continued interest in Scottish Country Dancing. This may be in ensuring



new dancers (of any age) feel welcome and supported. Whether we realise it or not, we all have an impact on new people continuing to dance and on how they perceive and promote SCD amongst their friends and families.

We all must begin our dancing journey somewhere and, for many, a smile and a few words will go a long way to sustaining their participation in this great pastime. In contrast, our disparaging remarks or gestures can be discouraging and may mean these people do not return.

If classes are offered in your area for beginners, children and/or families please consider how you can help. If numbers taking up these opportunities are small, perhaps you can help complete a set.

Maybe you can help with welcoming people and taking names and contact details; or with answering questions about your club. Make sure there is contact and other club information available. Give them a link to the region website.

Encouraging people, especially young people, into dancing is not always easy but let's give it our best shot!

Where to next? That depends on us all.

Jeanette

Youth coordinator for the region

9. Club News



Hauraki Thames Club

Only nine or 10 dancers presently and any new ones only come once or twice...

We formally only began dancing for 2022 recently. Most of us have been on holiday but not to any other SCD functions.

Photo from QBWS 2019
Liz Pryor Secretary

Katikati Club

The club recommenced on June 23, 2021.

We are happy to see club members returning as they feel able, and to have new dancers join us, including that rare breed.... men!

We are very grateful that Lynne continues to travel over from Te Puke to teach us. We have continued to promote Scottish Country dancing whilst the club was not operating and look forward to fun, friendship, and fitness as the year progresses.

We are sad that Hector and his cheerful presence and participation will no longer be with us and think of him as we resume without him.

Fiona Gregor



The Katikati Memorial Hall

10. Wild Heather QBWS

Wild Heather was delighted to be invited to play at the Queen's Birthday Weekend School in Whakatane. It was great to be involved with such an innovative class plan, and we all enjoyed working with the variety of tutors. We were superbly accommodated at an Ohiwa holiday house, thanks to the generosity of a local dancer.

Our pleasure in playing for the Ball was only slightly constrained by the cold down-draught that besieged the stage. It was a fun evening!

Possibly the highlight of the weekend was the Ceilidh. After a meal at the Whakatane RSA, dancers took over the dance floor, to the bemusement of Karaoke-enjoying locals. Once the dancing got under way, local folk were encouraged to join in ceilidh dances such as the OXO reel and The Waves of Tory. This they did with considerable energy, encouraged and abetted by SC dancers and a wildly enthusiastic band, by now supplemented with drums, accordion and plenty of fiddlers. It was a terrific evening.

It was truly rewarding to see the dancers back on the floor again. QB Weekend schools have always had a truly welcoming and friendly air, and this was no exception. Thank you for having us!

Lynne Scott



11. Children's Family Fun

Hamilton Scottish is hosting an afternoon of introductory dancing for children (3 years+) with adult guidance and supervision being held on Sunday, July 24 2-4pm in Scots Presbyterian Centre corner Vardon and Cunningham Roads, Beerescourt.

Please bring a small plate of healthy food to share, a drink bottle and of course the children.

Dances suitable for primary school aged children. Teens welcome to attend as helpers. Younger children will be encouraged to join in as able or run around and improvise at the foot of the room. They may choose to sit with an adult watching and enjoying the music.

Dancing will be followed by afternoon tea-/coffee and a light snack.

To assist with planning for the teacher please RSVP by text or email to mccannelws@xtra.co.nz or 021 272 1123.

Shelley McConnell, Dance Scottish

12. Answers to March Crossword Puzzle

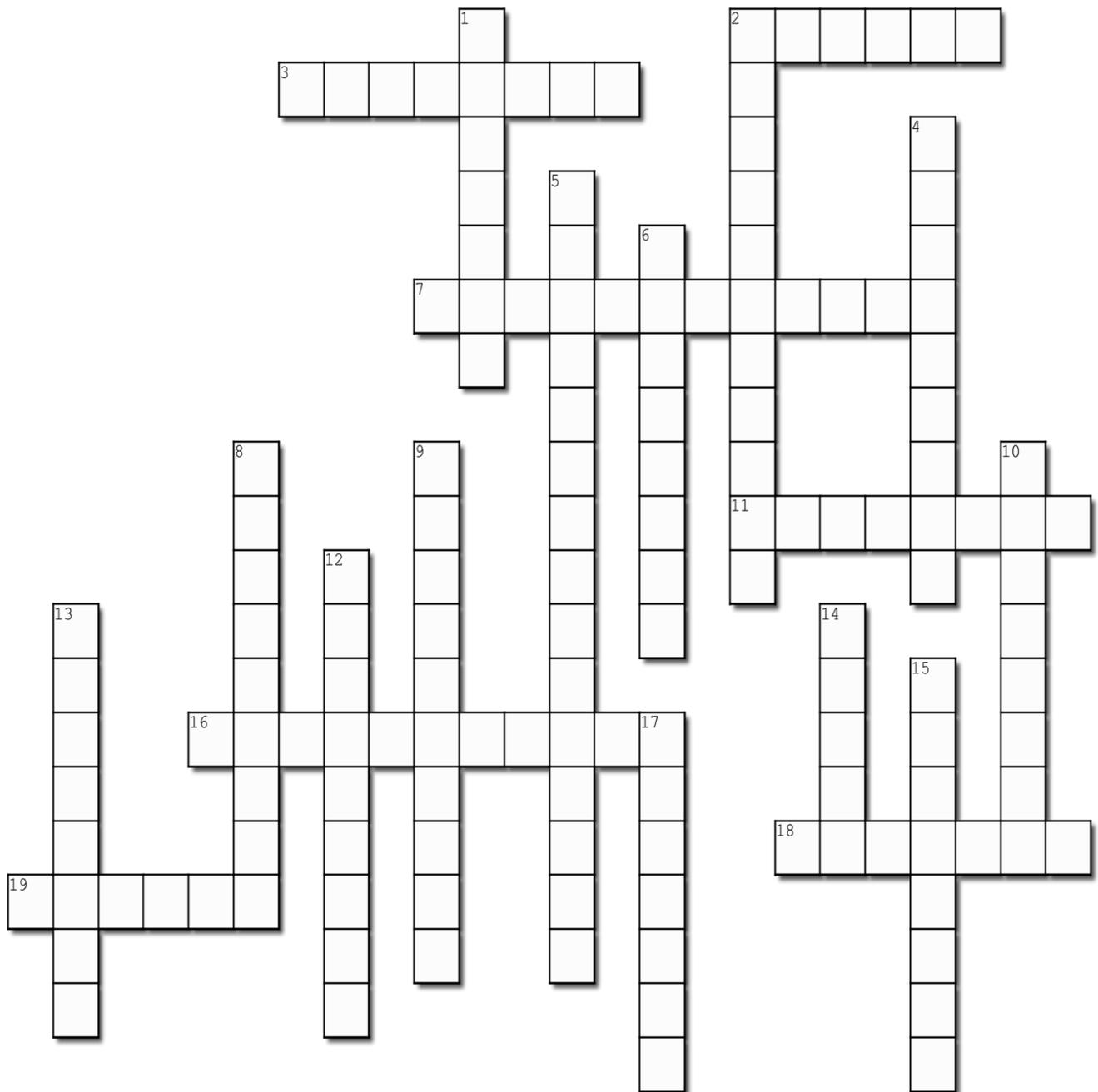
Across:

- 3. Instructions
- 5 Knot
- 6 Lowlands
- 7 Tartan
- 9 Jig
- 12 Clyde
- 14 Glasgow
- 17 Square
- 18 Edinburgh
- 20 Pas de Basque

Down:

- 1 Bannockburn
- 2 Highlands
- 4 Strathspey
- 5 Kilt
- 8 Eightsome
- 10 MC
- 11 Reel
- 13 Poussette
- 14 Bagpipe
- 19 Islay

13. July Crossword



Across

- 2. Square formation for Mainstream dancers
- 3. Where is this year's NZ Summer School
- 7. Secretary of the WaiBop Region
- 11. 2-couple formation
- 16. Where the RSCDS holds its Summer Schools
- 18. What is the first name of the WaiBop Teachers Coordinator
- 19. A formation that uses the slip-step

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Down

- 1. Industrial city of Scotland

- 2. Treasurer of the WaiBop Region
- 4. City that hosts a famous arts festival
- 5. President of the WaiBop Region
- 6. Four four time
- 8. Venue for the QBWS
- 9. One of the clans of the Western Isles
- 10. Traditional sailors dance
- 12. The highest mountain in Scotland
- 13. Six eight time
- 14. River on the banks of which Glasgow is built
- 15. An island that has a long tradition of fiddle players
- 17. How many years has QE been on the throne?

14. Mid-Winter Xmas



Mid-Winter Xmas Dinner & Dance

Saturday, July 16. 2022 from 4.30pm

For a fun event (emphasis being on fun) which will include themed silver/green/red/gold

- Some fun activities (with spot prizes)
- Pot-luck dinner (mid-winter Xmas themed) - please bring main and dessert (but not oversized)
- BYO drinks (please be sensible)
- **Santa's Secret Bottle** – wrap up a bottle (full of your favourite sauce, chutney, beverage) – keep the cost to around \$5
- Some lucky dancers will get to **Pick a Scottish Country Dance, out of the box!** (dances will be well loved favourites)
- Family and friends welcome
- Cost (to cover hall hire) \$5 per adult (children free)

Venue: St Peter's Catholic School Hall, Anzac Street, Cambridge

The **emphasis** for the evening is **FUN**

15. What's on

Event	Date	Details
Midwinter Christmas Dinner Dance	Saturday, July 16	4.30pm St Peters Catholic School Hall, Anzac Street, Cambridge. Details in article 14
Family Fun Day	Sunday, July 24	2pm to 4pm Scots Presbyterian Centre, Cnr Verdon and Cunningham Roads, Beerescourt. Details in article 11
..Rotorua Afternoon Dance	Saturday, July 30	2pm to 5.30pm Lynmore Primary School, Iles Road, Rotorua. Adults \$15, Juniors and Spectators \$6., Raffles \$2
Tokoroa Dance	Saturday, August 13	Tirau Hall, cnr Station Road and WH1, Tirau. Adults \$15 JAMS and spectators \$5

15. The Highland Quaich

The Highland Quaich

Traditionally the “Quaich”, which originated in the Scottish highlands was used both for a “Cup of Welcome:” and also when offering a farewell drink.

The Quaich was originally made from the primitive “staved” wood, then later from horn or leather, eventually pewter or silver becoming popular as it became the favourite drinking cup throughout Scotland.

Being derived from the Gaelic word “cuach” meaning “shallow cup” the distinctive design has remained unchanged over the centuries – a shallow drinking bowl with two handles, colloquially known as “lugs” (meaning ears)



16. Jokes

Wanted Ad

The "Lonely Hearts" column in the Edinburgh Evening News recently carried an advert which read: "Princess, having had sufficient experience with men who think they should be treated as Princes, seeks frog."

Seeing Double

The two old Scots had imbibed overmuch. Saying his good night, the one told the other: "John, man, when ye gang oot at the door, ye'll see twa cabs. Tak' the first yin - the t'ither ane's no' there!"

Any articles or letters for future publication should be sent to the editor:- Agnes Algra -
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