

WAIBOP NEWS



Issue March 2023

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION



Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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1. President's Pen

How nice it has been to be back dancing now that the new dancing year is underway. Hogmanay in Cambridge was a great success, thanks to Jane McIlroy and friends.

Lochiel's twilight dancing in the Hamilton Gardens was hindered by unsettled weather but went ahead and those there had a great time, even if it was soggy at times. Both events were very relaxed and enjoyable.

The Teachers Day at Hinuera on Saturday, March 25 was attended by just eight of us, luckily a set of dancers. If you were unable to attend, you missed a treat. Each teacher had devised a new dance for beginners with basic formations which we danced together, sometimes testing even our memory skills and anticipation! These dances will add to the teachers' repertoire of dances for new dancers and may become

favourites in time. Thanks must go to all the teachers who attended and to Heather Johnston for the organisation of the day.

Recently several Hamilton and Cambridge dancers danced at the Cambridge Town Hall for the Cambridge Can Dance night of the Cambridge Autumn Festival. We danced three dances and then invited the audience up. They rushed up and we had five sets on the floor. What a great response and a fabulous opportunity to showcase SCD and social dancing for enjoyment generally. All the other dancers were dancing to perform though I'm sure that they were enjoying themselves as well. Thanks to Antanas Procuta for organising this.

We have the Te Awamutu Dance to look forward to on April 22 and the Region Ball on May 6. You may remember that I was to hand over the President's reins to Jeanette Lauder when Chris and I headed off for our UK trip in July this year. For personal reasons we are now having to bring the trip forward and so I will hand over the reins after the regional meeting on Saturday. Thanks so much to Jeanette for accepting the challenge.

As we leave on May 3, I will miss the Region RSCDS Centenary Ball on May 6 and King's Birthday Weekend School but I am sure that these are in good hands and you will all have a wonderful time at both events. I will certainly be thinking of you.

The plus for me is that we will be in London for the Coronation pageantry. I'd like to thank the committee members for all their support. You are an easy and dedicated team to work with!

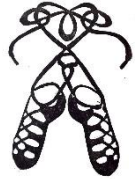
Yours in dancing

Jill

2. Editorial

I hope that everyone has had an awesome Christmas and New Year, seems like so long ago, already the first third of 2023 has gone. Anyway, dancing has started and it's great to be back enjoying the pastime that we all love and catching up with other dancers around the region.

I'd like to thank those who have contributed to this newsletter and hope that any of our dancers will feel they can send an article in to be included in future newsletters. It's great to hear from you about your experiences with Scottish dancing and these articles can be a great encouragement to others.



Thanks to Ruary and Jill for all the input and help they've given me. Ruary gently reminding people about the newsletter and gathering items to be included and Jill for her contributions too and both for their support. To begin with this felt like such a daunting task I had allowed Ruary to talk me into, but with the help given the mountain was conquered.

I will be sorry to see Jill finish as President, I have enjoyed her input and help but wish her safe travels as she and Chris head off on their trip to Europe.

Agnes

3. Summer Dancing

Lochiel club enjoyed hosting Dancing in the Gardens again this year. We had good numbers at the first evening on January 15th, and it was great to have visitors from further afield join us. The round lawn was soggy, but we found a dryish patch and enjoyed the dances.

It was fun to record a dance from Book 1 as the first submission for the NZ Branch "Pick up 52" project.

The 2nd night was cancelled due to the weather. I apologise to anyone who didn't receive notice of the cancellation in a timely matter. We had an unfortunate "perfect storm" (pun intended) when all the people who could access our database were away, and word of mouth didn't extend far enough. We will make sure it doesn't happen again!



Our third night on February 5th did go ahead. Numbers were lower, possibly because the weather was less than perfect but the dancing was still great.

As always, Helen devised programmes of enjoyable dances, and easily made changes to involve interested bystanders. It was a wonderful opportunity spread the word, and a real pleasure to watch small children jig along to the music. Future dancers?!

Shelley McConnel

4. Tokoroa SCD Club

Club Nights began in early February with a loyal band of adult dancers. This included one new dancer encouraged along by one of last year's new members. Our nights have had a bit of variety with a focus on some beginner dances to support new members; trials of dances devised for the Teachers' Workshop; some pertinent themed dances such as The Irish Rover

before St Patrick's Day; and decisions around which dance we might select for the Branch's Pick-up 52 project.

"Reel Fun" events have been run in Arapuni and Putaruru over recent weeks, attracting a few locals. We are looking at where to next with the possibility of continuing these afternoons on a monthly basis in Putaruru.

Our efforts to restart Junior sessions haven't attracted anyone yet, but we will keep trying.

We look forward to our newer dancers being confident enough to join us for our Tea Dance on the afternoon of Sunday 11th June.



Jeanette Lauder

5. Hamilton Scottish is underway for 2023

We started in March. Later than previously, not knowing who would be there, but once we started it was so good to be together again.

Each year we welcome new faces and are glad to see familiar faces again. This year five new faces have arrived, and returned, and dance nicely.

Our publicity is the weekly Hamilton press what's on. This year the YWCA made and circulated a poster through their networks. We are also listed with Sport Waikato and CAB.

This year we plan to do our usual – midwinter coffee and dessert, social in September and potluck dinner at the end of the year. Also, we are looking forward to hosting a day class, and beginner's classes in the spring.

Wayne McConnel is our teacher, he invites each committee member to take a dance in the second half of the evening and it's hard to say no to Wayne.

Our hall is large and wooden – we dance at the YWCA in Pembroke Street on Wednesdays, 7-9.30pm and yes, we break for supper/cuppa at about 8pm. The first half is suitable for all-



comers, with a programme that changes depending on who rolls up. After supper we dance a programme including dances on upcoming programmes and core dances.

So, if you are in town or nearby give Hamilton Scottish a go.

Shelley McConnel

Photo taken at a children's dance held in 2022.

6. Opotiki News

It's fun to be back dancing regularly even though we only have a small group now as Whakatane and Kawarau are not able to join us anymore.

Our dance nights are always enjoyable and its challenging for Jean and Jan to come up with 2 couple dances. We still dance in the evening at present but may change to afternoons soon.

Our group are looking forward to our social/21st birthday celebrations in August with Twisty Willow playing for us. Hope many of you can come and help us celebrate on August 26.

We will travel to Whakatane on some of their Wednesday mornings to practice our dances.

Sue Stilwell



7. Core Dances



Why does the WaiBOP Region have Core Dances and what are Core Dances anyway?

The WaiBOP teachers get together annually to select dances from a list that these same teachers have put forward as possible Cores (basic dances). These dances generally contain simple 8 bar formations which flow logically from one formation to another without any awkward turns or changes of direction yet remain interesting to dance.

Although there are 9 Core Dances from which to choose each year some of them are carried over from the previous year. This means that they become even more familiar.

The main objective of having Core Dances is to enable newer dancers (and sometimes even the not so new) to have a repertoire of at least 9 dances that they feel confident about dancing successfully from just a briefing, as is generally the custom at any Club's Annual Dance.

Annual Club Dances, with programmes usually comprising around 20 dances, are often just two weeks apart, and if each programme of 20 dances is entirely different from the ones that have gone before (as they frequently are), Club teachers are then pressured into trying to teach approximately half of these dances each Club night. Very little time, if indeed any, can therefore be given to repeating and thus consolidating some of these often novel dances let alone any general teaching, formation revision or step practice .

If, however, a quarter of any given programme is made up of Core Dances, more time can be devoted to the less well-known ones and, dare I say it, general teaching. The benefits of this will allow everyone to enjoy other Clubs' Annual Dances, especially those newer to dancing.

Even if a Club's Annual Dance is later in the dancing year, there is still enough variation in the list of Core Dances to maintain dancer interest. The inclusion of Core Dances during this latter part of the year will also enable newer dancers to participate with even more confidence.

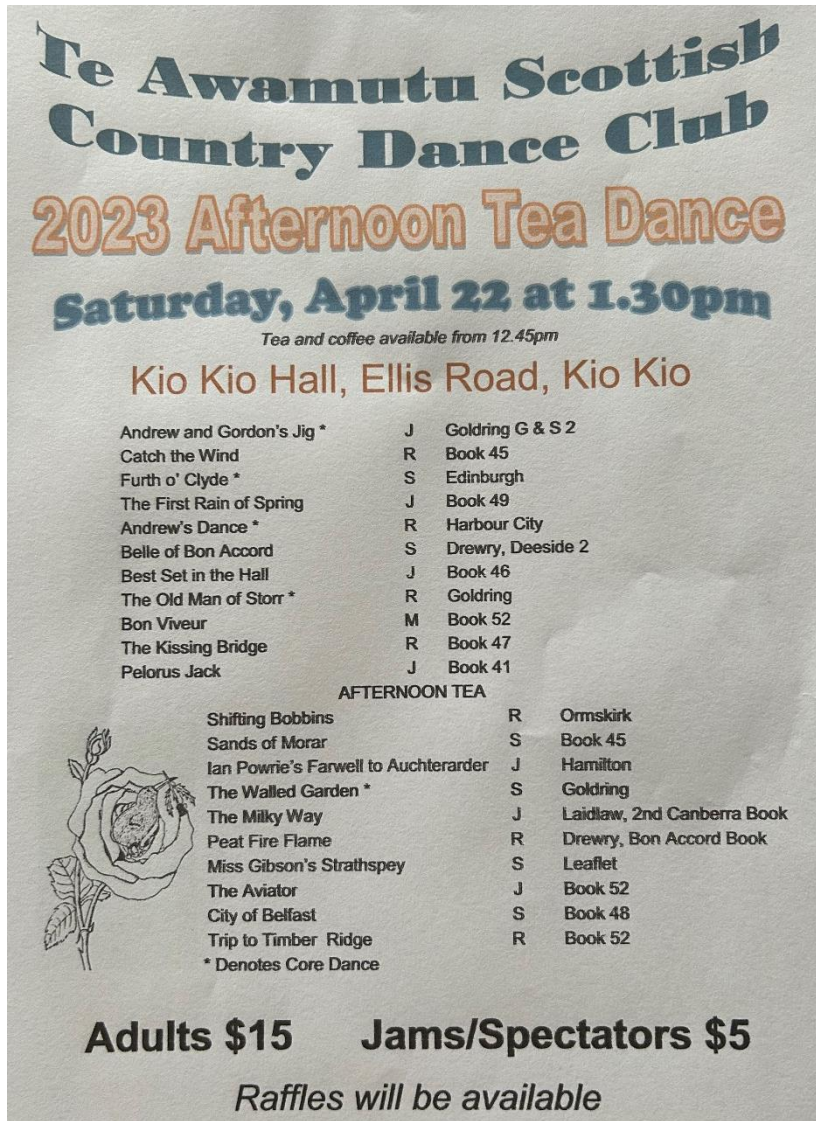
Wouldn't it be great if **every** dance programme had at least **5 Core Dances** on it this coming dancing year! Let's try!

Heather Johnston, Core Dance Day Coordinator

Before leaving the subject of Annual Dances, can I put out a plea to all clubs, to please keep your programmes simple. An odd challenging dance yes, but annual dances should be fun, and enjoyable for everyone. And if you are having a walk-through, be careful that this walk-through doesn't become a "teaching session". A walk-through should be just that, a walk-through and nothing more.

8. Upcoming Events

FIRST ANNUAL DANCE FOR 2023 - hosted by the Te Awamutu Club, will be an Afternoon Tea Dance on Saturday, April 22 at 1.30pm, a cuppa and bikkies will be available from 12.45pm.



Te Awamutu Scottish Country Dance Club
2023 Afternoon Tea Dance
Saturday, April 22 at 1.30pm
Tea and coffee available from 12.45pm

Kio Kio Hall, Ellis Road, Kio Kio

Andrew and Gordon's Jig *	J	Goldring G & S 2
Catch the Wind	R	Book 45
Furth o' Clyde *	S	Edinburgh
The First Rain of Spring	J	Book 49
Andrew's Dance *	R	Harbour City
Belle of Bon Accord	S	Drewry, Deeside 2
Best Set in the Hall	J	Book 46
The Old Man of Storr *	R	Goldring
Bon Vivreur	M	Book 52
The Kissing Bridge	R	Book 47
Pelorus Jack	J	Book 41

AFTERNOON TEA

Shifting Bobbins	R	Ormskirk
Sands of Morar	S	Book 45
Ian Powrie's Farwell to Auchterarder	J	Hamilton
The Walled Garden *	S	Goldring
The Milky Way	J	Laidlaw, 2nd Canberra Book
Peat Fire Flame	R	Drewry, Bon Accord Book
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S	Leaflet
The Aviator	J	Book 52
City of Belfast	S	Book 48
Trip to Timber Ridge	R	Book 52

* Denotes Core Dance

Adults \$15 Jams/Spectators \$5
Raffles will be available

WAIKATO/BOP REGION RSCDS CENTENNIAL BALL

Saturday, May 6 - Matangi Hall, Hamilton

This is an opportunity for us to celebrate 100 years of RSCDS by dancing dances published through the decades and a number of those devised by New Zealanders, all to the live sound of Glenfiddle. We have received a subsidy from the New Zealand Branch which has helped with keeping costs down.

We would love you to dress formally to celebrate and rediscover that tartan sash!



Dancers: \$10 and a plate
Spectators \$5



Matangi Hall side entrance

KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND SCHOOL

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June, 2023



<https://kbwe.waibopscd.org.nz/>

The registrations have begun to come in. We, at Lochiel, would love more of you to register soon. Use the link above.

The theme is 'Royalty' and on Saturday night at Lochiel's 65th Ball and on Sunday at the Ceilidh we would love you to dress in your finery, releasing your inner King or Queen!

See you then.

JOHN DREWRY'S DANCE

Saturday, July 15

When Chris Wilson (he and Liz dance at Cambridge) brought to my attention the fact that John Drewry would have been 100 on 14th July this year, and asked if I was considering having an afternoon of his dances – I thought that was an excellent idea. I have dances many of his dances and greatly enjoyed the vast majority.



He was a prolific deviser – more than 800 dances to his name with about 500 danced moderately often around the world.

I hadn't quite realised what a task I was setting myself – do we go by 'interesting' titles – ie, Oompah, oompah, shove it up your jompa, followed by Breeks are loose and the buttons awa', Holy Knickers and the The Reel of the Badcocks, devised after a gentleman happened to mention to John that he was having difficulty with his Muirland Willie.

Or, people titles – Duchess Tree, Kings Chapel, Pawky Duke, Dancing Master..?

Or perhaps – places – NZ 1990, Prince Edwards Island,

Lady Peaks' Strathspey, Among the Farthest Hebrides, Ayers Rock, Nova Scotia..?

Choices, choices so, come along on Saturday, July 15, Matariki weekend, for an afternoon of John Drewry dances – all **mainstream** and more **experienced** dancers welcome at St Peter's Catholic School Hall, Anzac St, Cambridge. Dancing starts 1.30. Please bring a small plate for afternoon tea and \$10 towards the increased hall hire.

See you there!

Jane McIlroy

9. Guess Who

This photo was taken at a Ceilidh at the Queen's Birthday Weekend School at Cambridge High School.

The person seated and facing the camera is Annie Duff, an ex-member of the Mount Maunganui SCD Club

Do you know who is sitting on her knee? That person is still dancing!

Answer in the next Newsletter

Raewyn Adams



10. Scottish Walking

Last year, during August, I ended up in hospital for a week and that, combined with a bit of arthritis in my hip, meant that when I went back to dancing, I had lost my skip and couldn't find it anywhere.

I thought that my dancing days were done!

However, I discovered that, if I took enough Panadol to quell the arthritis, I could manage to walk the dances and still get some pleasure from the activity, music and social contact. I resigned myself to doing "Scottish Walking" rather than "Scottish Dancing" from then on.

Imagine my joy this year when I went back to dancing with the Beginners in February that, during the warm-up session, I had got my skip back and it continued for the next hour of dancing for the Beginners' Session!



Ruary

11.



I have been asked to contribute a brief article on the Region website at waibopscd.org.nz but, rather than describe the various pages, I will begin by encouraging you to browse the site at waibopscd.org.nz and discover them for yourselves.

That said, it is worth giving special mention to the calendar of events which is probably the item of most interest (and the one which needs your input if it is to be kept up to date). Another feature whose accuracy relies heavily on your participation is 'Find a Club' which gives each Club its own 'Window' where class times, venues and contacts are displayed. Just send updates to me via the contact form at waibopscd.org.nzwebsite-feedback.

Waikato BOP members have the advantage that my 'other hat' relates to the development of the Branch website at dancescottish.org.nz. This means that, when you send me updates to the Region calendar and classes, I may offer to apply the changes to both websites.

However, this happy situation will come to an end at the close of the year so you should consider sending requests to me at itcoord@dancescottish.org.nz (or, even better, submit a form via the Branch website)

Andy Patterson

12. Being Prepared

Region AGM was coming up soon on November 5, 2022 in Tirau ... have to get all documents up to date.

B'n'B in Tirau for previous night – worked perfectly - freshly home-made croissants included with breakfast!

AGM held in meeting room of local café – my hearing ain't wot it used to be. Got through AGM – WHEW! Straight on to Region General Meeting.

Got through General Meeting – started heading back to Tauranga over Kaimais. NOW, I do not drive my car at a fast speed, so I ALWAYS take the "Slow Bays" over Kaimais.

YIKES, there's a huge vehicle right behind me, very, very close to my back bumper, so I decide NOT to take Slow Bay this time and head straight on! YIKES! Red and blue lights flashing in my back seat and siren wailing. Must be ME they want to pull over!

Tried explaining why I didn't use Slow Bay, but not acceptable – I AM A HAZARD ON THE ROAD– told me I was driving too slowly – traffic queuing behind.

13. Membership Report

Membership Report

Region membership has sadly declined again this year. To date I have received the Region subscriptions from all but 2 clubs. NZ Branch and Region membership is summarised in the tables below.

RSCDS NZ Branch Membership Category	Numbers	
	2022/23	2021/22
Adult Single	7	10
Adult Single - Email	46	48
Adult Joint	4	6
Adult Joint - Email	14	14
RSCDS Life Member	1	1
RSCDS Life Member-Email		
RSCDS Life Family		
Young Adult		
Total Membership	72	79

Club	Membership			
	RSCDS 2022/23	RSCDS 2021/22	Club 2022*	Club 2021*
Cambridge	11	13	16	18
Hamilton Scottish	7	9	17	16
Hauraki-Thames	2	3	12	15
Katikati	2	2	14	0
Lochiel	5	5	20	24
Mount Maunganui	4	4	8	10
Opotiki	2	2	11	14
Pauanui			**	13
Rotorua	7	6	9	6
Taupo	0	2	**	18
Tauranga	13	14	25	34
Te Awamutu	7	6	8	12
Tokoroa	10	11	10	11
Whakatane	2	2	11	21
Club Membership	72	79	161	212

** No reply

14.

Six of the Best!

And Two More

Dances by Ruary Laidlaw

If you would like a pdf version of the book: -

Contact: ruarylaidlaw@gmail.com



15. What's on

Event	Date	Details
Te Awamutu Afternoon Tea Dance	Saturday, April 22	1.30pm Kio Kio Hall, Ellis Rd, Kio Kio. Adults \$15, Jams/Spectators \$5. Full details under article 8.
Waikato/BOP Regional RSCDS 100 Centennial Ball	Saturday, May 6	Matangi Hall. Adults \$10 + a plate, Jams/Spectators \$5. Come and dance to Glenfiddle. More details, see article 8.
King's Birthday Weekend School	Saturday/Sunday 3/4 June	https://kbwe.waibopscd.org.nz/ See article 8 for further details or visit the website above.
John Drewry's Dance - celebrating his 100 th birthday	Saturday, July 15	1.30pm at St Peter's Catholic School Hall, Anzac Street, Cambridge. \$10 + a small plate. Further details, see article 8.

Any articles or letters for future publication should be sent to the editor: - Agnes Algra - labradorlane3@gmail.com

Region Officers:

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<http://waibopscd.org.nz>



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