

WAIBOP NEWS

Issue July 2023

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION



Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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1. President's Pen



It's been a busy time of dancing since Jill and Chris left on their travels. We trust they have had a wonderful break. Meanwhile, the organisation of Jill and others has meant I have been able to ease in as President.

With us well into our dancing "season" there have been enjoyable events to attend at Te Awamutu, Tokoroa and Katikati.

Our Region Ball, celebrating the Society's centenary, was well attended with many people contributing to its success.

It was fun to share our passion for dancing Scottish with those at a recent Clan Wallace Gathering. Hopefully, these types of events may bring others to join us somewhere, sometime. If not now, hopefully in

the future.

The King's Birthday Weekend School exceeded all expectations. It was a delight to see so many dancers taking the opportunity to benefit from the dance tuition of Ruth Budden and Jeanette Watson.

A musicians' class led by Lynne Scott produced some wonderful work if their Ceilidh item is anything to go by. New Zealand is fortunate to have such competent teachers. With Saturday's dance also celebrating Lochiel Club's 65th anniversary a wonderful atmosphere prevailed, enhanced by the music of Wild Heather.

These events don't happen without the voluntary input from many in the dancing community. As I write this our National Volunteer Week is drawing to a close. Our clubs could not continue without the contribution of members. This doesn't just include those who provide the teaching and the music. Those on committees or executive roles, along with those who do the little jobs that help to make our clubs run smoothly and enjoyably, also need our appreciation. Thanks go to you all.

There is lots to look forward to. Keep up to date with events through the region website and facebook pages. Again, thanks to those who maintain these avenues for us.

See you on the dance floor!

Jeanette

2. Editorial

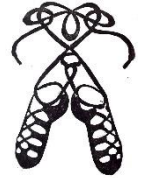
It just feels like last week I was sitting at my computer putting the March newsletter together and here we are in July! I'm sure we have all enjoyed some great dancing since then around our region.

We will all be pleased to know that Jill and Chris had a lovely holiday and are safely back home. Unfortunately, they both brought Covid with them, hopefully they will be back to normal very soon.

Ruary has now left for his trip overseas and I thank him for all the work he put into the newsletter before he left. I'd also like to thank Jeanette for her input and everyone who has contributed to the news we have been able to report.

Happy dancing everyone!

Agnes



3. Region News - Centenary Ball

The Region Ball in early May was an enjoyable occasion. There were a wide variety of dances to challenge us. Heather Johnstone had put together a programme that included the Society's selection of dances through the decades along with some popular New Zealand devised dances.



With music from Glenfiddle filling the hall and great briefing from several region teachers, it was a splendid evening. It was great to see dancers of all ages and abilities in their finery.

There were even a few tiaras and crowns in evidence.

Thanks to all those, including Jill, who had worked to make it a success.

Funding of \$400 from the New Zealand Branch, which helped to keep admission to an affordable price, is acknowledged.

Jeanette



4. Club Reports

Tokoroa News

The club is continuing with several initiatives to increase membership and currently have four newer dancers at most club nights.

Putaruru's "Reel Fun" events are leading to a trial of weekly sessions in the town from the start of the next school term. These will alternate between afternoon and evening sessions in an effort to cater for all.

Recent publicity stalls at Tokoroa's Farmers' Market saw us give away vouchers for free entry for our Tea Dance. A small number of locals took up the offer and popped in for a while. Dancers from around the region enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of less complex dances.

The club is excited to have the opportunity to run a weekly lunchtime class at the school where our club nights are held. Maybe this will help us re-establish our junior membership. Club members have been very supportive of this and our other extra activities, some making up numbers in sets, some keeping our website updated and some being available to fit children with shoes.

All are looking forward to our annual dance in Tirau on Saturday, August 12 with an earlier start time of 2pm. Check the programme on our club and region websites.

Jeanette

Katikati News

Congratulations Yvonne James. What a star!

Yvonne has passed the RSCDS Unit 1 exam with flying colours, built a studio to show off and support Scottish Country Dancing, especially for newer dancers. She certainly has put her devotion to Scottish Country Dancing into action.



Yvonne started dancing with the Tauranga Club, then with Katikati Club. She suffered several injuries whilst working on her lifestyle block and took advantage of the opportunity this presented to study for Unit 1 in her 'rare' spare time this presented.

A very gruelling exam, she passed well and truly, and started building her studio. Yvonne's first class was teaching formations to newer dancers from Katikati in preparation for their upcoming Tea Dance and concentrated on perfecting a relaxed environment for them.

Well done Yvonne – Maybe a venue for summer dancing.

Linda Carter

5. KBWS Impressions

“Ruary invited WaiBoP and other KBWS dancers to write up their thoughts about the KBWS. To get people thinking he gave us his impressions:”

1. **Saturday Night** was a blast! It has been quite a while since I last saw so many dancers on the floor - 11 sets, which is what clubs dream about these days for their annual dance. The programme tempted everyone to give it a go - only a couple of more Advanced dances! Helen did a great job briefing the dances and walkthroughs were helpful for everyone.
2. The **band Wild Heather** added a whole new dimension to the experience - Duncan on the drums and Anne Marie's viola added a nice deeper tone to the fiddles. Just the fact that often dancers were clapping in time to the music tells you that people responded to the band in a way that doesn't happen with recorded music no matter how good it is.
3. The **dinner** before the meal was well attended and satisfied all our appetites. The **supper** was a treat too.
4. The **Ceilidh Night** was really good, and we actually saw some non SCD dancers turn up to give it ago. All the items were imaginative and entertaining. Robyn kept it all flowing nicely.
5. The **committee** all did a stalwart job: helping with the organising, Terence and Paula coordinating the kitchen. Aren't we lucky to have such a diverse group of people all willing to help out.
6. The one thing that I didn't do was attend the **classes**, so some impressions from both classes are hopefully in other reports
7. As well as all that how about:-
 1. New interesting **people** you met
 2. Having a different **teacher** from weekly sessions
 3. A **dance** that you learnt that caught your imagination
 4. What it was like dancing to **live music**
 5. **Anything else**

Ruary

An organiser's perspective

Lochiel Club's 65 year, and the inaugural WaiBoP King's Birthday Weekend School. What a great opportunity!

Our recipe for a successful school: Great venues, excellent musicians, expert teachers, plenty of good food and a committee with varied and complementary skills. Add dancers and mix well!

Our highlights:

- 50+ registrations, from Australia, "Up North", Christchurch, and many points in between.
- Wild Heather brought so much energy into the classes and functions.
- Teachers Jeanette Watson and Ruth Budden extracted the best from their classes.
- 11 sets on the floor for our anniversary ball, and a great programme devised by club tutor Helen Smythe.
- Cutting the cake by our 3 life members: Christina Miller, Bill Jacob and Ruary Laidlaw.
- Dinners on Saturday and Sunday nights attended by most of the dancers registered at the school.
- The musicians' class – Bodes very well for the future of live music at SCD events!



Thanks are due to so many people, you know who you are, I won't list names because I would omit someone important. There were so many instances of something being done when it was needed.

Thank you also to everyone who attended. Without you there would be no school!

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor again soon.

PS We still have 2 lost property items, a black rug with a Glucina Smelters logo, and a lady's green/grey hoodie. Text me 022 6406581 if these are yours.

Robyn Howes

Organiser KBWE School

Jim and Linda Carter

Great to see so many SCD teachers in the Advanced Low Impact Class. If you were really lucky you were able to dance with them, or behind them.

Really encouraging to have these weekend schools. Excellent tutors and so much to learn and re-learn.

My "buzz word" for the weekend is "round" (circle). The standard of the Ceilidh items was excellent, as was the quality of the music for the weekend.

We are so lucky to have so much talent, and we must take advantage of it. The price was reasonable too.

Colleen Gunn

If a function goes smoothly on the day(s), there has been a huge amount of work done beforehand and during the time of the function.

This was so true of the very enjoyable King's Birthday Weekend Scottish Dance School at Matangi (part of Waikato Bay of Plenty Region) on Saturday/Sunday, 3/4 June this year.

Beginner/Intermediate and Advanced Low Impact classes, my tutor was Jeanette Watson – her classes are known for their fun and relaxed informality.

We had Subway for Saturday lunch, outside catering for Saturday and Sunday nights dinners, people jumping into the gap to help when suddenly needed – a great show of teamwork.



The Ceilidh on Sunday night saw amazing skits, and (among others dressed for the occasion) Equestrian Princess Anne (Pat Rigsby), a Grenadier Guard (Lynne Hudson), Queen (Mary Gray), Equestrian Prince Charles (Colleen Gunn) and a very lovely lady dressed for the Garden Party (Jeanette Lauder).

Thank you to Wild Heather - you keep playing and get it perfectly correct all night, right to the last bar played in the last piece of music – a HUGE thank you for giving us the weekend's experience of dancing to live music.

Sheena

I'm a newbie at this Scottish County dancing and since I made the decision to join the Hamilton SCDC, I have enjoyed every minute and was so happy meeting lovely people that extended my lessons and joined the Lochiel SCDC too. It's all great fun, but on a serious note, I want to be as good as the more experienced dancers who have been dancing for years, I'm so impressed.

The KBWS was an amazing experience. I did attend the Saturday lessons and the evening Ball was fantastic. As a newbie (novice) I joined in with a few dances, only wishing I was competent enough to join in all of the dances. I've promised myself I'll stick at it.

I missed out on the Ceilidh night, but I'll make sure I won't miss out on the next one.

The staff were amazing as always, making me feel welcome and part of the celebration weekend. I met quite a few dancers from other regions, and I sat having supper with the band 'Wild Heather' with interesting conversation.

Thank you to everyone involved.



Ngahuia Woolford

Had a fantastic day at KBWS Advanced Low Impact class. It's been a few years since I last attended a class, starting out as a beginner. Unfortunately, I only attended one day but it was nice to catch up with dancers from all over the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region and also meet new people.

Jeanette Watson was a brilliant teacher and made the class fun. It was great to learn different techniques, such as warm up exercises, timing and also a new figure, the "La Barette", and the *Slip Knot* for 2 couples. One of the dances that I can remember was Rougemont Castle (S3X32) set, which incorporated twisted rights & lefts.

Lastly, thanks to the Lochiel Club for hosting the weekend & also live music by Wild Heather, very talented musicians. The venue was perfect for the number of dancers, and it was an easy location to find.

6. Shelfless

We had just settled into our new place when, without warning, we were ejected and are now shelfless and languishing in the back of a car. Please, could some kind Canon Ink Jet Printer owner give us a new shelf?

Magenta 526, Cyan 526, Yellow 526, Grey 526, Black 526 and Black 525.

Contact: billyne@kinect.co.nz

7. Teachers Workshop

The Workshop was held on Saturday, March 25 at the Hinuera Hall, and the focus this year was on two aspects of teaching Beginners. Teachers had been asked to complete a little homework exercise in advance of the Workshop.

For Challenge 1: -

Teachers were asked to devise a 4x32 bar dance of any genre, remembering that their beginners had not learned progression for a 3 couple dance in a 4 couple set, nor for that matter, a 2 couple dance in a 3 couple set. Pas de Basque setting had not been introduced either so there was to be no setting in reel or jig time.

Teachers were asked to choose a basic formation from a certain section of the RSCDS Level 1 list of formations and use that as the basis for their dance. They could assume that other formations in the list had been taught prior and these could be used in their dance.

They were to give their dance a name, list 3 teaching points for their chosen formation and teach any linkages, plus choose suitable music for the dance.

Some very interesting little dances were put forward, and each was lovely to dance. What made each dance even more interesting was the little “story” behind the title, the story adding interest and purpose. For example: Antanas Procuta is in the early stages of working with St Peter’s Anglican Church in Hamilton for seismic strengthening and new works, and his 4x32 bar Strathspey theme was about the Cathedral (pictured).



The chosen music for each of the dances was most appropriate and that too added to the enjoyment of each dance. I know those teachers who were present will value having these extra dances to “ram home” certain formations. It was just a pity that we didn’t have more teachers in attendance to share the experience.

For Challenge 2: -

Teachers were asked to choose a relatively simple 8x32 bar dance from an RSCDS book preferably and teach “progression” for a 3 couple dance in a 4 couple set.

They were asked ~

- How do you go about getting this across to your dancers?
- What aids do you use, if any?

They were also asked to be prepared to demonstrate their method for teaching the progression.

It was soon evident that I had not made my instructions for the Challenge very clear, and the “progression” had been misinterpreted. However, it made for some interesting discussion as did the question of sourcing 2 couple dances (for a 3 couple set). Some of our clubs are struggling with numbers sadly so 2 couple dances are the norm. Some nights, 5 *people* dances even, and yes there are a few 5 people dances around.

Once again attendance was disappointing. I know that other things sometimes get in the way and apologies are unavoidable, but the date for the Workshop was actually set some time before, last November in fact. However, those in attendance (all except 1 who had to leave straight away) enjoyed the debrief and the camaraderie sitting in the sunshine for lunch down at the Te Poi store/dairy, NOT (please note) the Te Poi pub. The latter seemed to be the venue of choice for about 50 bikies! We lost count as they roared past! Conversation was also lost for a bit!

Thank you, attendees. I enjoyed the Workshop and took a lot away from it as I hope you did!

Heather Johnston

Training and Education Coordinator

8. I've Been Thinking

Let me start out by saying that I highly applaud all our SCD Tutors – they are legends for whom I am so extremely grateful to for getting me where I am in my dancing life of today.

When I first went to school in the 1940s, I learned to write, with a pencil, into a writing book, the letters of the alphabet, and these in turn developed into stories and notes for future reference – I could see them.

In 1956, television came into my life for the very first time, and so my family and I watched a screen to learn about anything and everything that the broadcasters thought we should learn about (once we'd gone past looking for hours at the test pattern).

We went to the movies and watched a screen to be entertained.

Go forward another few years when computers came into our lives – we looked at screens to learn about new things, watch the news and be entertained. Just to learn how to use a computer was a challenge, but we watched the screen to help us learn – and we did learn.

Go forward another few years, and, when I was 71 years of age, for the very first time, I joined a Scottish Country Dance class where I had to listen to the teacher, try and understand the idea of formations, sets, jigs, reels, strathspeys, figures of eight, reels of 3 across, reels of 4, lady up, man down, right, left, and listen to the beat of the music to keep me in time for the dance.

There were no screens in class – no overhead projection to show what the dance looked like – we just had and still do have, to take it into the brain (what's left of it!) and interpret accordingly so the feet, the hands, the eyes, hopefully follow through.

OK, we can now look at dances on YouTube, but some prospective SCD members are not computer literate (and I'm definitely not criticising here). Finding the correct choreographer is not always easy.

As I see it – all over the world, SCD clubs are crying out for new members – 99.9% of these prospective members have now been brought up with the help of looking at a screen to succeed with their learning – I wonder if they just may understand the way of teaching that is of today. – no visual aids in class!

Just a thought!

Colleen Gunn - Tauranga

9. Guess Who

This photo was taken by Raewyn Adams at a Ceilidh at the Queen's Birthday Weekend School at Cambridge High School many years ago and featured in our previous newsletter.

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

The question was – who is sitting on her knee? This person is still dancing and very well known in the WaiBop region!

You'll probably all have danced with this person over the years you've been dancing, chatted to the person or at least come across said person at many balls. I know I have, but, everyone I thought that it could be ~ was not correct.

Have another look ~ you'll find the answer further on in the newsletter.

Editor





10. Upcoming Events

John Drewry's 100th Birthday

Saturday, July 15 ~ Hall open at 1pm dancing begins 1.30pm

St Peters Catholic School Hall, Anzac Street, Cambridge

All mainstream and experienced dancers very welcome

Cost \$10 + a small plate for afternoon tea

- R Netherby Hall
 - J Bees of Maggie Knockater
 - S Autumn in Appin
 - R Bratach Bana
 - J A Dacing Career
 - S Scotch Mist
 - R Mrs MacPherson of Inveran
 - J Major Ian Stewart
 - S The Duchess Tree
 - R Ramadan-ce
 - J Jennifer's Jig
 - S Byron's Strathspey
 - R Blooms of Bon Accord
 - J The Alder Burn
 - S Cherrybank Gardens
 - R Oompah, Oompah, Shove up Your Joompah
-

Rotorua Scottish Country Dance Club Afternoon Tea Dance

Saturday, July 29 ~ 2pm-5.30pm

Lynmore Primary School, Iles Road, Rotorua (turn off Te Ngae Road at BP station)

Adults \$15 Juniors/Spectators \$6 Raffle \$2

- R Maxwell's Rant
 - J Miss Allie Anderson
 - S The Gentleman
 - R Flowers of Edinburgh
 - J Quarries' Jig
 - S Scotch Mist
 - R The Clansman
 - J The Lady Wynd
 - S The Belle of Bon Accord
 - R The Montgomeries' Rant
 - ~ Tea Interval ~
 - R The White Cockade
 - S Lammermuir Hills
 - J Light and Airy
 - R None so Pretty
 - S The Birks of Invermay
 - J Major Ian Stewart
 - R Abbotsford Lassies
 - S Furth o' Clyde
 - R Reel On
 - R Mrs MacPherson of Inveran
-

Tokoroa Scottish Country Dance Club Annual Dance

Saturday, August 12 ~ 2pm-5.30pm

Tirau Hall, cnr Station Street and SH1, Tirau

Adults \$10 + small plate of finger food JAMs/Spectators \$5 Raffle on sale

- J The Ayr Promenade
 - R The Summer Assembly
 - S The Tokoroa Trail
 - J The Duke of Atholl's Reel
 - R The Duke of Perth
 - S The Belle of Bon Accord
 - J Flora's Fancy
 - R The Montgomeries' Rant
 - S Anna Holden's Strathspey
 - R Scott Meikle
 - ~ Afternoon Tea ~
 - J Pelorus Jack
 - R Seton's Ceilidh Band
 - S Furth o' Clyde
 - J Bill Clement MBE
 - R The Old Man of Storr
 - S Love to Lois
 - J Farewell to Balfour Road
 - J The Laird of Milton's Daughter
-

Opotiki Scottish Dance Club Ceilidh

Come and help us celebrate our 21st with Twisty Willow

Saturday, August 26 ~ 1.30pm at the Waioatahe Hall

No entry fee Raffle on sale

- J Happy to Meet
 - R The Lass of Richmond Hill
 - S Neidpath Castle
 - J The Hunting Horn
 - R Shiftin' Bobbins
 - S Butterscotch and Honey
 - J Pelorus Jack
 - M MacDonald of Keppoch
 - J Seton's Ceilidh Bank
 - ~ Item ~ Afternoon Tea ~ Item ~
 - J Granville Market
 - S City of Belfast
 - R The Waipu Wanderers
 - J Farewell to Balfour Road
 - S Broadway
 - J The Aviator
 - S Remembering Robyn
 - R Scott Meikle
 - R Mairi's Wedding
-

11. Katakiti Dance



We, the Katikati club, were pleased to be able to hold their annual tea dance on June 24, after a year off.

The afternoon went very well with enough dancers to form five sets.

We have a number of new dancers and were heartened that everyone went out of their way to include and encourage them through the dances. Thank you all so much, it makes a big difference.

Lynne Hudson, our tutor, devised a great programme and briefed the dances. Lynne has been ever patient preparing us.

Thanks to all for coming and for contributing towards a most enjoyable afternoon including a delicious variety of food that you brought along for afternoon tea.

Fiona McCartney



12. Youth

Attracting and retaining younger dancers

It was wonderful to see some younger dancers at both the Region Ball and the King's Birthday Weekend School. A number of young people, including a newly registered JAM from Cambridge Club, attended classes over the weekend. Some of these were JAMs from previous years. Visitors at the Ceilidh were keen to have a go at some of the dances. Our challenge now is to retain them so they continue dancing.



There doesn't seem to be one guaranteed way of attracting young people to dancing. Sometimes our efforts don't bear fruit for quite a while. Such was

the case in Tokoroa when an email was sent to the school, whose hall the club uses, offering to work with their students. Several weeks later a reply was received saying they had a number of students who were interested. So, a weekly lunchtime session has started for them which will likely run until the end of next term. This is a small but enthusiastic group. Not sure what it will lead to, but we hope it will be worth the effort.

Other promotional initiatives I have heard of include publicity stalls at local markets; facebook messages; articles in local papers (if you are lucky enough to have one that is independent); use of supermarket noticeboards; school newsletters; providing all club members with region flyers or business cards to give to people who may be interested; giveaway vouchers to your local dance events; and word of mouth (perhaps the most successful). Try any or all of these!

Regardless of how you get them at club events, please make all new people, of whatever age, feel welcome. As we know, it is not always easy to try a new activity. How people are welcomed and included will be important for them in deciding to join our dancing community.

Jeanette Lauder

Youth Coordinator

(Editor's note: Both photos captured at KBWS – top one at the Ball, bottom at the Ceilidh)



13. Region Gear

Do you know?

Our region has some gear available for use by clubs. The main items are:

- A 4.5 x 4.5m gazebo with the region name on it
- A Samson XP208W portable PA system including speaker stand and two radio microphones – one handheld and one headset
- A promotional teardrop advertising flag with base
- Crockery cups

Contact Colleen, as Region Secretary, in the first instance if you are interested in using any of these items.

13. Membership Report

July already, and our financial year ends on 31 August! The new RSCDS and NZ Branch membership year begins 1 September. Please reflect on the extract from the NZ Branch website below and think about joining the RSCDS (or renewing your subscription) for 2023/24.

RSCDS Membership ~ The full combined fee gives membership to both the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and the New Zealand Branch. Around \$50 of the combined fee is sent to RSCDS HQ, the remainder is retained by the NZ Branch. (Separate membership is not available)

Direct benefits:

- \$100 discount to attend NZ Summer School. (This nearly covers membership!)
- Discount on admission to dances and weekend schools
- 2 Copies of RSCDS Dancer magazine per year with information about SCD around the world
- RSCDS email newsletters
- 1 Copy of NZ Dancer magazine per year with information about SCD throughout NZ
- 3 Copies of Kiwi News newsletter per year Membership supports RSCDS Activities such as:
 - Promoting SCD standards ensuring dances instructions, terminology and technique are the same wherever you dance in the world.
 - Publishing collections of dances
 - Providing recorded music for new dances published by RSCDS.
 - Maintaining a teacher training programme
 - Running examinations and providing examiners for SCD Teaching Certificate in Scotland, NZ and elsewhere.
- General administration costs (both HQ and NZ Branch)
- Supporting Summer Schools (both Scotland and NZ)

(Source: <https://dancescottish.org.nz/member-benefits/>)

Remember that many aspects of SCD happen as a result of voluntary contributions of time, but there are always costs associated with running a voluntary organisation. Put simply, the more members contributing to the pool generally means a lower individual cost.

Robyn Howes

Big Reveal

The answer we've all been waiting for ~ have you worked it out? The person in the Guess Who photo is also in one of the photos from the Region Ball or KBWS Ball in this newsletter.

I'd be interested to know if anyone guessed ~ it's **Rodney Dawson!**

Request from the editor

I enjoy working with the newsletter, but I'd like to make a small request from all you lovely people who send in reports, news and articles for inclusion. Could you please type them up with single line spacing as sometimes I can't change the format they have been set in and it can take up too much space in the newsletter that I can't alter it. Also, if you include photos please give them a name ~ makes it much easier for me to tag them to an article. Thanks so much and please keep your contributions coming in, Agnes

15. What's on

| Event | Date | Details |
|--|------------------------|--|
| John Drewry 100 th Birthday | Saturday, July 15 | 1.30pm, Peters Catholic School Hall, Anzac St, Cambridge. More details under article 10. |
| Rotorua SCD Afternoon Dance | Saturday, July 29 | 2pm, Lynmore Primary School, Iles Road, Rotorua. More details, see article 10. |
| Tokoroa SCD Club Annual Dance | Saturday, August 12 | 2pm, Tirau Hall, cnr Station Street and SH1. More details, see article 10. |
| Opotiki SCD Ceilidh | Saturday, August 26 | 1.30pm, Waiotaha Hall. More details, see article 10. |
| Tauranga Annual Ball | Saturday, September 9 | Details to follow |
| Hamilton Scottish Annual Ball | Saturday, September 16 | Details to follow |
| Hauraki/Thames Dance | Saturday, September 30 | Details to follow |
| Cambridge SCD Annual Ball | Saturday, October 14 | Details to follow |
| Mount Maunganui Ball | Saturday, November 4 | Details to follow |

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

Region Officers:

President: Jeanette Lauder – 021 102 6114 / 07 886 4602. president@waibopscd.org.nz

Secretary: Colleen Gunn - 027 204 5536. secretary@waibopscd.org.nz

Treasurer: Robyn Howes – 022 640 6581. treasurer@waibopscd.org.nz

Education/Training Coordinator: Heather Johnston – 07 579 1556. education@waibopscd.org.nz

Membership Coordinator: Robyn Howes – 022 640 6581. membership@waibopscd.org.nz

Communication & Publicity Coordinator: Agnes Algra – 021 721 222. communication@waibopscd.org.nz

Youth Coordinator: Jeanette Lauder – 07 886 8171. youth@waibopscd.org.nz



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