

# WAIBOP NEWS

Issue April 2024

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC  
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION



Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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### 1. President's Pen



Welcome to another year of dancing, with a special welcome to those who are new to our Dance Scottish community. I hope it brings you as much enjoyment as it has brought me over the time I have danced.

Already this year, there has been a lot to occupy us. Thanks to all those who have worked to ensure these events have happened.

A challenge for the Lochiel Club to sort another venue for Hogmanay when the Piarere Hall burned down just days before Christmas was met and they hosted a great evening.

It is good to see and hear about opportunities being taken to promote Scottish country dancing whenever possible. Thanks go to all who initiate and support activities such as the Paeroa Tattoo, Twilight

Dancing in the Hamilton Gardens, local classes for newer dancers, Cambridge Can Dance and the King's Birthday Weekend School which is coming up very soon.

I look forward to Te Awamutu's Annual Dance as they open our season of club dances. We have more dances to look forward to after that. Remember that you can keep up to date with what is happening through the events page of our region website.

Recently, an interview on National Radio with Dr Alycia Fong Yang was brought to my attention. URL link below here if you wish to check it out -

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/sunday/audio/2018927502/dancing-is-the-best-exercise-for-mental-health>. She discusses her research relating to structured dancing being the best exercise for mental health. While not specifically related to Scottish Country Dancing, I think it's a good resource to share with others.

And speaking of the benefits of dance, it was special to celebrate Ruary's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday recently at a Lochiel Club afternoon. He, like others, is a testament to the benefits of SCD - still going strong while enjoying his dancing and the friendships he has made.

Yours in dancing,  
*Jeanette*

## 2. Editorial

The 2024 dancing year is off to a good start with the summer events followed by an evening with Lochiel Club acknowledging the graduation of their new members to club and then Hamilton Scottish had Twisty Willow playing at their club night, two very enjoyable evenings of dancing. This Saturday will be Te Awamutu's annual dance and the season is in full swing

Happy dancing everyone!

*Agnes*



## 3. Youth ~ Happy young dancers

It was wonderful to see a great turnout at the recent Kids' Ceilidh in Hamilton run by Fiona and the Dance Folkus team.

With over fifty people on the dance floor and great support from the musicians, this was a wonderful afternoon.

Thanks to Shelley for promoting this. It certainly drew in many from our dance community as they brought along their children/grandchildren.

Back at club level there has been a wee revival of JAMs at the Tokoroa Club. While numbers are erratic, we are seeing progress amongst the group. Remember that the club will hold its annual Tea Dance for JAMs and newer dancers on Sunday, June 9. Check the region website for more information.

Meantime, encourage all new dancers in your clubs. Making them feel welcome and supported is one of the keys to them continuing to Dance Scottish.

*Jeanette Lauder*

Youth Coordinator



*Kids' Free Ceilidh on Sunday, April 14, 2024 run by Fiona Murdoch and Dance Focus at Claudelands – 40 kids and about 20 adults with a 4-piece live band. Great fun ~ Colleen Gunn*

## 4. Ruary Laidlaw 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

Lochiel Club and friends gathered on March 23 to celebrate the 80th birthday of life member Ruary Laidlaw.

Ruary is a longtime stalwart of the club, he was the teacher from 1992 until 2016 and is still involved with teaching and actively participates in all Club activities. He was made a life member in 2011.

It is a mark of the esteem in which Ruary is held that around 50 dancers and former dancers came from the wider WaiBop region to help him celebrate. We began with a potluck luncheon followed by an afternoon of dance.

Club teacher Helen Smythe compiled a dance programme from a list of favourite dances selected by Ruary and included five dances devised by him, including Dianne Murdoch's Promenade & Christine Miller's Reel, both ladies being in attendance.

Ruary has produced two teaching guides for Scottish Country Dancing and published several books of Scottish Country Dances. Many of the dances are named for local personalities or places of particular importance to Ruary. However, until now, no



### Ruary's Rant

(32 bar jig for 3 couples in a 4 couple set)

1-8 1st couple dance symmetric reels of 3 on the side with 2nd and 3rd couples. 1st couple dance in and down to begin, all couples touch hands as they meet in the reels

9-16 1st couple lead down the middle for 3, lead up for 3, cross over and cast to 2nd place. (2nd couple move up on bars 15-16)

17-24 1st couple dance diagonal rights and lefts, 1L giving right hand to 3L, and 1M giving right hand to 2M to begin

25-28 3,1 & 2 L face up, 3,1 & 2M face down and chase halfway around the set

29-32 2s, 1s & 3s turn partner once round with the right hand

Repeat from 2nd place.

On the 3rd, 5th & 7th time through, 4th couple commence the reel by dancing up from 4th place as the 1st couple step out and down to 4th place.

Recommended music: Flights of Fancy from the album Celebrate Fifty Years of Dancing with the Boston Branch

Robyn Howes

March 26, 2024

dances carry his name, so the programme commenced with the debut performance of Ruary's Rant, a dance devised for the occasion.

The programme was interspersed with commentary by Ruary about the history of SCD and links between people and places, plus the interesting fact from Helen that Dianne Murdoch's Promenade has been danced in class at St Andrews Summer School.

I'll leave the last words to Ruary: "I would like to say a big thankyou to the Lochiel Committee, Robyn and Helen for the 80th birthday luncheon and dance last Saturday.

The food was great, and I enjoyed the afternoon of dance and being asked to brief five dances. I am so lucky to have such a friendly community to be part of.

I enjoyed seeing all the dancers from the other clubs in the Region who came, in spite of a fairly unpleasant day weatherwise. It was great being able to have catchups with all those people."

*Robyn Howes*

## 5. Teachers' Workshop 2024

I was approached late last year with a request, asking if we could invite club dancers who might be thinking about teaching SC dancing, and giving them an opportunity to be exposed to fundamental aspects of teaching. It was suggested that these aspiring teachers need not have the desire to take on the whole Teacher Training and working towards being certificated, but who would just like to teach maybe now and then or even full-time at some later date.

Initially, I looked on the RSCDS website to see what if anything was on offer along these lines. There was quite a bit of "stuff" but most of it was geared towards candidates for teacher training towards certification.

I then had some communication with Esther Mackay (Waitemata Club) as she ran a Teachers' Workshop for our Region many years ago. She gave me a couple of pointers:

- Those who might be interested have to do some sort of preparation before they get up and teach and it falls to the Club teacher to sort that out.
- I would probably run a half hour session at the workshop and call it a discussion which would include all the teachers – the certificated teachers may have been in the same position at some time and able to give their advice.
- I would certainly put it back on all teachers taking clubs and hopefully there will be a few ideas they could use. A list of all the ideas can be recorded. Another of Esther's suggestions was to maybe "employ" Ruth Budden to run a half hour session for us in her capacity as NZ Branch tutor for Teacher Training. I had thought along similar lines and looking at what Esther had come up with, thought maybe Ruth could run the discussion to begin with and then do a bit of practical work using some of the points that came out of the discussion perhaps.

I approached Ruth, who is a very busy lady, and she was okay to do this but not on the date we had pencilled in for our workshop. Ruth gave us the alternative date of Saturday, May 4 and in consultation with Jeanette Lauder (Region President) and Robyn Howes who had made the initial request, we booked Ruth in.



*Ruary in full flight!*

Once Ruth had confirmed, I sent a flyer out to club teachers requesting that they encourage would-be and all-comers to attend this workshop. There may be dancers in our clubs who would love to attend but who might be put off by the fact that certificated teachers will make up the bulk of attendees. As we all know there are many fantastic teachers in our Region who are not qualified with a certificate but who have talent and are doing superb jobs in keeping SC dancing alive and well through their own passion for SC dancing and wanting to share this passion.

Please teachers, stress the fact that your occasional “wannabes” are the exact people we are aiming this workshop at, and that attendance would not necessarily mean that they wish to embark on a journey to become a certificated teacher of SC dancing.

Some of our Region teachers attended the Teachers’ Workshop in Wellington over Easter and I’m sure they will come back all enthused and willing to share any “know-how” that came out of that.

Part 2 of the workshop will be an opportunity for all to dance some of the dances included in the new RSCDS Book 53 publication.

*Please see the accompanying flyer for full details of the Workshop. We would love to have you join us!*

*Heather Johnston*

Education and Training Coordinator

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*You are not a certificated SCD teacher. You would like to teach an occasional dance at your Club but don't have the “know-how” to go about it ~ **Then this workshop is for you***

*You have just started out on your Teaching Certificate journey or you are perhaps contemplating doing so ~ **Then this workshop is for you***



For a teachers and all-comers workshop with ~ **Ruth Budden**  
*NZ Branch Tutor for Teacher Training*

At the Hinuera Hall ~ Saturday, May 4, 2024, starting at 9.45am – cuppa from 9.15am

*Attendance does not necessarily mean that you wish to embark on a journey to become a certificated teacher of SC dancing*

The workshop will begin with a general discussion on how to go about teaching a dance; pathways to becoming a teacher; mentoring promising dancers at your club, and encouraging them to teach a dance, plus many other aspects of teaching

## **6. KBWS ~ Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2**



RAGLAN, the dancing programme runs from Saturday morning to Sunday evening, allowing Friday evening and Monday to travel.

It's exciting to see old friends and for newer dancers to make dancing friends.

There are 3 classes on Saturday morning, a high energy class and ball walk through on Saturday afternoon. A ball on Saturday night, combined class Sunday afternoon and Ceilidh on Sunday evening.

Registrations – 50 would be the ideal number but we're not there yet. Please make the effort to enrol, come and have fun. Full School registration fee is \$130.

Accommodation in Raglan includes a motor camp with cabins tourist flats and motels, a centrally located backpackers and other options.

Our region has a tradition of hosting a dancing school every winter over the long weekend. Formerly Queen's Birthday and now King's birthday weekend. We are a region where dancers on the region committee support dancers via the clubs as much as possible.

The clubs are the engine houses for Scottish country dancing. Clubs take a turn at hosting the dancing school, traditionally alternating between Waikato and bay of Plenty, each year.

More recently we've had a couple of years with no club volunteering and in 2022 a loose committee was formed and hosted a school at Whakatane, and this year Wayne McConnel has again invited a few people to help him organise a weekend school. He has chosen halls with care, taken advice and chosen good dance teachers, had a hand in the ball programme, organised musicians for two of the three Saturday classes, and Bourach Mor, our local band, are working hard to give a great sound for Saturday and Sunday evening events.

It's going to be a cracker weekend, cold weather so dress warmly and have fun.

YOU ARE INVITED to register ASAP

Head over to the website to register <https://kbwe.waibopscd.org.nz/>

*Photos were both  
taken at  
Whakatane  
School 2022*



## 7. Technology Matters

First, a reminder to any RSCDS members who have recently changed their email address, particularly if you have discontinued your 'xtra' address rather than pay the annual charge of \$71 which will be introduced in May.

The administrative structure of the RSCDS means that your details are recorded separately at each level of the organisation (HQ, Branch, Region), each of which needs to be informed about any changes. I recommend that you send updates via the 'Member Update' form on the NZ Branch website at ~ <https://dancescottish.org.nz/member-update> ~ This will ensure that the information is passed to both the Region and NZ Branch (which also manages the HQ records).

You may be aware that I have handed over responsibility for the NZ Branch website to Fiona McCutcheon as the new IT Co-ordinator. Previously, having received an update to the Region website (e.g. events or directory), I would also apply the update to the Branch website. Of course, this no longer happens so be sure to keep the Branch informed, ideally using the appropriate form on the Branch website.

Finally, it was 10 years ago that I took on the task of setting up our Region website and email facilities and have continued to keep these up to date. I am now looking for a volunteer to take over this task, partly to ensure that the understanding of the system is not confined to a single individual. The processes are well-documented and the hand-over can be carried out in stages if necessary. Please think about this and let me know ([webmaster@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@waibopscd.org.nz)) if you are willing to help the Region (and the RSCDS) in this small way.

*Andy Patterson*

## 8. Virtual Teachers' Conference

I recently “took part” (well I was a video watcher) in the Virtual Teachers' Conference run by the RSCDS (Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for those of you who may be new to Scottish Country dancing) from February 26 until March 1. This was a week of learning made possible by the “wonderful contributions of Teachers' Associations from around the globe.”

Topics covered over the 5 days were:

Which Music, When – Coordinated by the RSCDS Music Director, Luke Brady

Devising a Dance – Coordinated by the Australian Teachers' Alliance (ATA)

Getting Young Adults Dancing – Coordinated by the Teachers' Association Canada (TAC)

Writing and Teaching a Display – RSCDS Education and Training Coordinator

Start Dancing – Getting School Children Dancing – Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS)

Which Music, When and Devising a Dance. We have covered both of these topics fairly extensively through the Teachers' Workshops which I have coordinated and led during my tenure as Education and Training Coordinator for our Region.

Writing and Teaching a Display Hmmm! I thought I would leave that one to the likes of Katharine Hoskyn (Auckland Region). Choreography plays a big part in this, and Katharine is very skilful in that department!

Getting School Children Dancing. This would be relatively easy if like in Scotland, Country Dancing was in our curriculum, but not so easy introducing this in NZ schools. Many of us have tried, few have succeeded!

Getting Young Adults Dancing. This is the one that I had trouble getting my head around, with gender neutral calling. Young people are reimagining gender roles, and don't necessarily adhere to traditional ones. I get that! They learn to dance from either side of the set and can dance with anyone. I have no difficulty with that, after all, women danced from either side long before I came on the scene. And I can even understand gender neutral terminology in suggesting that one could say “Dance to your right” rather than “woman up” and “man down.” But when it comes to “landmark” calling e.g. “musician's side”, or “wall clock side”, or “larks” and “robins” in the mix, I'm sorry! What!!

In the video the “lark” on the “wall clock side” (presumably a teacher – sorry, not allowed to state his whoops, the gender) said, “We find there are many clever ways to refer to corners, positions, directions, and to be creative with these things instead of using strictly gendered terms. The advantage of this is that it removes a layer of abstraction.” I just wish he, whoops, the “lark” had elaborated because I was left “reeling!”

Okay, further down the track – What happens when these young folk join a group of “oldies” who have never danced with gender neutral terminology? And what happens with our instruction books? Do they all get recalled to be rewritten using “larks” and robins”? What happens if my class relates to “rats” and “rabbits” or “cars” and “trucks” and not “larks” and “robins”?

I understand that for some this is, or could be a genuine concern, and yes, I have been a bit flippant over what that genuine concern for some might be. But, please don't judge me just because I'm going to stick with what I know. I have a few very dear friends who are LGBTQIA or belong to a Rainbow Community but this old dog is too long in the tooth to learn new tricks! If it means that College kids won't come to an event with gendered calling then I'm really going to have to put myself out to pasture!

*Heather Johnston*

Tauranga Club

## 9. Reel Time Dancing

Towards the beginning of this newsletter in the – Ruary’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, article 4 – it was mentioned that Ruary has devised a number of dances during his involvement in SCD. Ruary has a website where you can find the books and dances he has devised and they can be found at [www.reeltime dancing.com](http://www.reeltime dancing.com)

If you haven’t already visited this site it’s well worth having a look – I’m sure you’ll some interesting dances you haven’t realised were available.

## 10. Upcoming Events

### ***Te Awamutu Annual Afternoon Tea Dance***

*Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 1.30pm (cuppa available from 12.45pm)*

*Kio Kio Hall, Ellis Road, Kio Kio*

Eyemouth Harbour Reel R Laidlaw, St Abb’s Collection

The Express J Book 20

Flowering Heather S Musician’s Wedding

Glastonbury Tor R Book 47

The Aviator J Book 52

The Falkirk Lass S Book 53

The Reverend John MacFarlane R Book 37

Farewell to Balfour Road J Book 52

Oriel Strathspey S Book 32

Peat Fire Flame R Bon Accord

Napier’s Index J Book 45

*AFTERNOON TEA*

The Old Man of Storr R Goldring

Ian Powrie’s Farewell to Auchterarder J Hamilton

Broadway S Sunday Class 2

The Duke of Atholl’s Reel J Book 16

The Meeting of the Waters R Strathtay Album

Sugar Candie S Book 26

The First Rain of Spring J Book 49

Scott Meikle R Book 46

The Water of Leith S Book 53

Trip to Timber Ridge R Book 52

*JAMS and Spectators \$5 Adults \$15*

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### ***Lochiel Scottish Country Dance Club***

**Live Music: Glenfiddle**

*Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 6pm*

*Matangi Hall, 480 Tauwhare Road, Tamahere*

Granville Market Graded 2

Orpington Caledonians Book 49

The Water of Leith Book 53

The Express Book 20  
The Reverend John MacFarlane Book 37  
The Falkirk Lass Book 53  
Bill Clement MBE Book 47  
Fireworks Reel Book 48  
Minister on the Loch Thirty Popular Dances Vol 2  
Scott Meikle Book 46  
*Supper*  
The Music Makars Book 33  
Quarrie's Jig Book 36  
Culla Bay Book 41  
Toast to the Mousies Book 53  
White Heather Jig Cosh  
Orchards of Co Armagh Book 53  
Cranberry Tart Glasspool 47 Year Itch  
Reel of the Royal Scots RSCDS Leaflet  
*JAMS and Spectators \$10 Adults \$25*

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## ***King's Birthday Weekend School***

### **Live Music: Bourach Mor and friends**

*Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 7.30pm*

*Raglan TownHall, Bow Street, Raglan*

The Lady Wynd J Goldring Graded and Social Dances 2

The Wind on the Heath R Boyd: Vive La Danse

Monymusk S Book 11

The Rothesay Rant J Guide to SCD

Montgomeries' Rant R Book 10

Lammermuir Hills S Goldring: Auld Friends Meet

The Reverend John MacFarlane R Book 37

Beach Dancer J West: Whangarei Book

Macdonald of the Isles S 30 Popular Dances Vol 2

The Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division R Book 13

*Supper*

The Old Man of Storr R Goldring: RSCDS Children

The Robertson Rant S Book 39

A Capital Jig J Magazine Dances 2005-2009

Baldyquash R The Stoneywood Collection

City of Belfast S Book 48

Seton's Ceilidh Band J Bruce Fordyce Memorial Collection

The De'il Among the Tailors R Book 14

*Please bring your own water bottle!*

*JAMS and Spectators \$10 Adults \$35*



## 11. Kilt for Sale

### Gentleman's Formal Scottish Attire - \$500.00 ONO

Includes:

- Kilt: Gordon Ancient, and plain kilt pin
- Belt
- Sporrán
- Jacket
- Waistcoat
- Dress Shirt: Light cream colour
- Bow ties: 2 of different widths
- Cuff links
- Sgian Dubh
- Socks: 3 pairs: 1 fawn (as in photo) and 2 Gordon tartan
- Sock flashes
- Gillie brogues: Size 9½ - 10

Contact Heather – 021 1855 747 or [heather.lil@xtra.co.nz](mailto:heather.lil@xtra.co.nz)

(SORRY! mannequin is not part of the deal!!)



## 12. What's on

Event	Date	Details
Te Awamutu Afternoon Tea Dance	Saturday, April 27	1.30pm ~ Kio Kio Hall, Ellis Road, Kio Kio. More details see article 10.
Lochiel Ball	Saturday, May 11	6pm ~ Matangi Hall, 480 Tauwhare Rd, Tamahere. Live music by Glenfiddle. More details, see article 10.
King's Birthday Weekend School	Saturday, June 1/2	School - see article 6. Ball ~ 7.30pm ~ Raglan Town Hall, Bow St. Live music by Bourach Mor, see article 10.
Tokoroa Tea Dance Katikati Dance	Sunday, June 9 Saturday, June 22	More details to come

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

### 15. Region Officers:

**President:** Jeanette Lauder – 021 102 6114 / 07 886 8171. [president@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:president@waibopscd.org.nz)

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**Treasurer:** Robyn Howes – 022 640 6581. [treasurer@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@waibopscd.org.nz)

**Education/Training Coordinator:** Heather Johnston – 07 579 1556. [education@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:education@waibopscd.org.nz)

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**Youth Coordinator:** Jeanette Lauder – 021 102 6114 / 07 886 8171. [youth@waibopscd.org.nz](mailto:youth@waibopscd.org.nz)



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