

WAIBOP NEWS



Issue August 2024

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION



Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

Contents

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. President's Pen | 2. Editorial | 3. Youth |
| 4. KBWS | 5. KBWS - Musicians | 6. Region Dance |
| 7. Letter to Editor | 8. Winter School | 9. Bourach Mor Weekend |
| 10. Workshop | 11. Tokoroa SCD Club | 12. Upcoming Events |
| 13. SCD 10 Commandments | 14. Kilt for Sale | 15. What's on |

1. President's Pen



There always seems to be something on the go in our dancing circles. While sometimes small in numbers there have been warm welcomes and great dancing at recent events around the region.

Especially enjoyable, for those who were able to make it, was our King's Birthday Weekend School at Raglan. After a number of location considerations this finally got underway due to the drive and determination of Wayne McConnel and his small band of organisers. Check Lorelee Hyde's report on her club's website <https://www.johnsonvillescd.org.nz/2024/06/07/raglan-2024/>.

If you missed this school perhaps you will be able to make it to next year's school in Cambridge.

While it's sometimes hard to leave a warm home on a cold and/or dark winter night, I hope you find the rewards of venturing out to club night worthwhile. I know that in the early days of my dancing journey (yes, I can still remember those times), the stresses of my job were forgotten once I made the effort to get along to dancing. It was so different to my work role and a great way to unwind at the end of a working week as in those days we danced on a Friday night.

Our clubs are such a critical part of our activities. They are often the initial experience for our new dancers so it is important that everyone is welcoming to, and supportive of them. Thank you to all those (not just office bearers) who work to ensure these people continue to Dance Scottish. Speaking of office bearers, it won't be too long before AGMs roll around. Perhaps you could take on a role within your club – or maybe within the region. It's surprising what you can learn.

We are fortunate this year to have benefitted from workshops for teachers, aspiring teachers and others interested in briefing dances. The NZ Branch workshop led by Graham Donald in Wellington over Easter saw many travel from our region to take advantage of this opportunity. This was followed a month later by our region workshop led by Ruth Budden. It was wonderful

to see the interest from so many dancers. I am sure we all learnt from these workshops, regardless of our previous experience.

Finally, my personal thanks to all those who willingly worked to see that our recent Region Dance was successful when I was unable to make the first half of the programme.

Jeanette

2. Editorial

Our 2024 dancing year is racing along – nearly at the end of July already – the weeks pass quickly when we're enjoying Scottish Dancing. Andy and I had a great holiday in the UK catching up with family and friends and a fair bit of sightseeing. Look forward to seeing many on the dance floor over the next few months.

Happy dancing everyone!

Agnes



3. Youth ~ Lots of fun and learning for young dancers

I am hearing of wee pockets of young dancers around the region. While these pockets are usually only made up of a few dancers it is good that these youngsters are continuing to dance and make progress.

Please be sure to register your club so that we can keep in touch with them and let them know what may be coming up. Club registration is free and can be done online through the NZ Branch website.

The Tokoroa Club was pleased to welcome a number of dancers to their Tartan Tea Dance last month. The young dancers had no idea what to expect but they really enjoyed the experience. It was lovely to see the support and encouragement given to them by those who came along. Thank you all.

One huge bonus from the King's Birthday Weekend School was the Ceilidh in the Country held at Te Uku. The hall was packed with locals and dancers alike, including many younger people that kept both Ruth Budden and Helen Smythe busy. While there is no local club for them to go to, I believe experiences like this are a great way to promote dancing Scottish. It may be some time before there is payoff but the memory of this event may trigger an interest in Scottish dance for them in the future.



Jeanette Lauder

Youth Coordinator

4. KBWS - Raglan

King's Birthday weekend WAIBOP region dancing school

52 of us registered for a dancing weekend at Raglan.

Programme ~ Following an early morning muster at Raglan town hall there were three classes on Saturday morning; intermediate, advanced, and low impact.

Afternoon ~ "High Energy," followed by a walkthrough of some Ball dances.

Saturday evening ~ Ball at Raglan Town Hall

Sunday afternoon ~ Combined class

Sunday evening ~ Ceilidh in the Country at Te Uku

Staff ~ The organising committee were Wayne and Shelley McConnel, Jeanette Lauder, Jill Littlewood, Andrea Fox, Robyn Howes.

Teachers ~ Jeanette Lauder, Catherin McCutcheon, Dianne Bradshaw, and Helen Smythe was the reserve Teacher.

Musicians ~ Bourach Mor and friends - including Lynne and James Scott, Glenice Saunders, Ksenia Soucha, Lynne Hudson, Ruth Budden, Joy Harding and Margaret Mathieson.

Venues ~ Raglan town hall was the base with a beautiful Hall, a supper room and a kitchen where Jill, Andrea and Jeanette were very busy organising morning and afternoon teas and suppers.

The Raglan Motor camp accommodated many of us, with a couple of late night gatherings and a base for the musicians who were hosted by Lynne Scott and James Scott.

Te Mata Hall was 15 minutes away and very rustic! Te Uku Hall on the main road to Raglan is relatively modern and it provided a great space for the ceilidh

Highlights ~ catching up on Saturday morning was a friendly way to start; classes were very good; ball was formal with a diverse programme set by the Wellington based tutors, and the band was brilliant. A lavish supper was laid out by Jill, Andrea and Jeanette.

Meeting people downtown between classes was fun, as were beach walks and a visit to Bridal Veil Falls. Contributions of baking and fruit were appreciated ~ thank you.

Have you heard about the Ceilidh? It ROCKED. Ruth Budden corralled about 150 people including school participants, the ceilidh crowd from Hamilton and Auckland and the locals, Wowee.

Helen led the littlies in some impromptu dancing which kept them safe from the riotous dancing in the packed hall. Winding up with Alec addressing the haggis and another fine supper.

The Weekend was different in that there was no club hosting, the hard work was done by the committee.

Great to catch up with dancers from around the region and beyond - Kaiwaka, Auckland, Hawkes Bay and Wellington.



Best wishes to Cambridge for next year

Shelley McConnel

5. KBWS Musicians

Once the teachers were selected, programmes chosen, then work began for the musicians. Music to be sourced, sets created, distributed and learnt. Bourach Mor's pianist was unavailable that weekend, so we borrowed Lynne Scott from Wellington.

We also borrowed a violinist for playing for class, Glenice Saunders from Palmerston North. In April, apart from our bass guitarist, all were attending ScotStringsNZ fiddle camp at Oratia, so were able to meet, practice as a group, in pairs for class playing and to solve any problems.

Thursday before KBWS we all gathered for a full band rehearsal in Cambridge. On Friday the class musicians were able to have another practice, Glenice and I in Cambridge, Ruth and Lynne at the Raglan Motor Camp.



Saturday, after registering, everyone dispersed to their various venues. There were three classes, one using CD's, the other two classes had musicians, Ruth Budden and Lynne Scott for one, Glenice Saunders and I for the other.

Late afternoon all the band members assembled on stage for a sound check and to get the stage ready for the evening.

Sunday afternoon was a Combined Class in the Town Hall with the class musicians combining to play for this

before quickly packing up and driving to Te Uku to set up and sound check for the Ceilidh. Here the band was joined by Margaret Peace from Auckland. There was so much enthusiastic noise from the floor caused by the excitement of the dancers we could hardly hear ourselves! A satisfying, rewarding musical weekend.

Lynne Hudson

6. Region Dance

This was held on Saturday, July 6 at the Senior Citizen's Hall in Cambridge, starting at 6pm. The programme consisting of six Region Core dances and some old favourites and was put together by the Region President, Jeanette Lauder.

Bourach Mor had been engaged to provide the music which was lively and well received. Always great to dance to "live" music. A shared "finger food" tea was enjoyed by all partway through the evening.

Following on from the Teachers' and All-comers' workshop in May, President Jeanette decided to approach some of those who had attended the workshop to offer them an opportunity to brief some of the dances on the programme.

Not all took up the offer, but two dancers from Lochiel (Carol O'Meagher and Lisa Janek) briefed dances in the first half of the programme and one from Tauranga (Colleen Gunn) briefed in the first part of the second half. Robyn Dowdle was also to have briefed but sadly she was unwell on the day. The three who did brief are to be congratulated for their clear and concise recap instructions.

Jill Littlewood briefed the remainder of the dances in the first half. I briefed some in the second half and President Jeanette rounded off the evening by briefing the last few dances.



Sadly, the attendance was disappointing, with only three sets on the floor. However, those who did attend had a most enjoyable evening which finished at 9.30pm. Many would have been home in time to catch the delayed broadcast of the second half of the first rugby test match between the All Blacks and England, which for the record the All Blacks won by 1 point!

Heather Johnston

Education and Training Coordinator

Many smiles at the Region Dance

7. Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

I am dismayed that there is now an element within our region that is advocating not attending social events until a dancer has at least four years' experience.

When I started dancing 50 years ago, I was encouraged to attend social functions, and THAT is the reason I am still dancing today. The Fun and Friendship from those evenings hooked me in.

There is no magic rule that says it takes four years and you will suddenly be "capable". Some are extremely capable dancers in their first year, others will never reach that magic level of achievement that makes them "experienced". But they can all have great fun dancing in a welcoming environment with dancers who are willing to go a little bit out of their way to assist as necessary.

It is up to club teachers to guide newer dancers as to what they can attempt, and equally, what they should watch, but also up to other dancers to treat newcomers with respect and invite them to dance appropriate dances. We all started somewhere!

Can we turn this around? Instead of worrying about newer dancers spoiling our own dance experience, many of us make the effort to invite someone new to dance one of the core or simpler dances. You can provide gentle guidance IF it is required, and everyone enjoys the dance. And if it gets mucked up, so what! We have all done it. Have a laugh and move on!

Yours in dancing

Robyn Howes

President, Lochiel Club

8. A Trip to Winter School – Brisbane, Australia

Boy, was I looking forward to attending Winter school in Brisbane.

Unfortunately, I broke my arm and knee four days before we left, but I observed classes for three days and watched everything.

- William Williamson, from Dumfries in Scotland, is the current chair of RSCDS, He's a good teacher; I knew that, as I had done his online class during lockdown and found it memorable.
- Antoine Rousseau, from Paris France, he taught here in 2013 summer school, and still has a way of asking dancers to move with elegance and consideration of those around.
- Raphaëlle Orgeret from Lyon in France, she's a bundle of energy and enthusiasm and knows how to get the best out of dancers, I watched her work a miracle with the intermediate class.



By coincidence they all taught the knot on the day I was watching. Interesting to see three ways to achieve the same outcome.

Musicians: Well I had been working really hard to be ready to play the recorder in Ian Muir's class, (I have improved so much over the last few years.) He was so good at making the music Scottish and teaching the muso's to learn not to play what's on the paper but interpret it with snaps lilt and colour, he really ran a master class.

It was interesting to hear Ian Muir and Iain McKenzie, play their accordions together and lead their bands on different evenings, they are both accomplished accordionists and have nailed the Scot's style; Ian Muir softly and cleverly lifts the dancing, while Ian McKenzie is strong and encouraging. Of course the rest of the musicians were also world class including Anne-Marie Forsyth and Sharlene Penman.

It's so good not to be on the committee, and this committee worked hard, the catering for suppers and morning/afternoon teas was marvellous for the whole week, as well as fab home baking they had savoury stuff - lots of carrot and celery sticks and crackers with very nice cheeses and dips, and a delicious savoury keto frittata slice.

They organised transport, produced newsletters, decorated the hall every evening and hosted before dinner drinks. And they were friendly and smiley to us all.

Seeing old friends and making new ones is a big part of these schools. Our region was represented by the lovely Wayne, Helen, Lesley, Jean and myself, we did you proud, also Saskia who dances at Tuakau was everyone's favourite. I made new friends in dancers Jan and Janet newly from Wellington, and Jenny who was at the musicians dance the week before in Levin.

Dancing at club is the heart of dancing, but if you get the chance do dance out of town you won't regret it.

Yours in dancing

Shelley McConnel

9. Bourach Mor

On the Thursday before the Matariki Weekend holiday, three members of Bourach Mor made their way to Koitiata, a small beachside settlement on the west coast out from Marton where they stayed at a fascinating collection of assorted buildings at the Red Bach Retreat.

They were joined by representatives from other New Zealand bands for a weekend of intense discussion and sharing of knowledge and experiences. These weekend meetings, arranged by the NZ Branch Musical Director, are essential, keeping the musicians abreast of changes in the music world not only about the actual music but also about sound equipment and balancing of sound as each hall has different acoustics and how to overcome these sound problems.

On Saturday morning all the musicians drove down to Levin for rehearsals. In the afternoon dancers from around the lower North Island gathered at the hall in Levin for an afternoon of dancing to live music.

Each group of musicians from the different bands played for three sets of dances and then all the musicians played as a massed band. As some of the musicians were representing more than one band and as each band has a distinctive "uniform" there were some quick changes made in between dances. Bourach Mor borrowed a pianist and a violinist to make a five-piece band.

Lynne Hudson



10. Teachers' and All-comers" Workshop May 2024

As mentioned in the April Region Newsletter, the Teachers' Workshop this year was to be thrown open to any/all who might be thinking about teaching SC dancing, whether they wanted to do the whole RSCDS Teacher Training or not. An invite was also extended to those who might just want to brief a dance from time to time.

With that in mind Ruth Budden, NZ Branch Tutor for Teacher Training, was "booked" for just such a workshop which was held on Saturday, May 4 with 25 teachers and "all-comers" gathering at the Hinuera Hall for a 9.45am start.

Ruth's first exercise saw us in turn, standing in a corner far away from where we were all seated, and to give our name, club affiliation, SCD experience etc. The idea behind this was to have us project our voices so that we may be heard. While this was an excellent exercise, numbers present meant that a large chunk of time was spent on it.

In selecting appropriate music for dances, Ruth had us in sets and dancing a known dance to different styles of music. Ruth asked us which music we preferred dancing to and why – Did it give (or not) a lift? Did it help (or not) with phrasing? Did it have (or not) a strong beat? Did it "fit" (or not) the dance? This particular topic was one that I had covered fairly extensively in a workshop a year or so ago, so it was good to have this reinforced, and those who had not attended my workshop certainly found this quite valuable. Ruth also touched briefly on working with musicians.

Other topics that Ruth covered were - Teaching v Briefing

The difference/s between teaching and briefing and being careful not to confuse the two.

- Don't try to teach the dance in your briefing.
- In briefing give clear and precise instructions, including enough detail so people will know what to do.
- When teaching, demonstrate, demonstrate, demonstrate.
- Cut talking to a minimum - demonstrate whenever and wherever possible.

Dance Analysis:

Ruth gave us a blank analysis handout and the instructions for her chosen dance: Something in the Air.

We were to note certain aspects of the dance.

- main step
- change of step/direction
- progression - where this takes place,
- new formation, or departure from standard formation
- trouble spots

Apparently, the chatter in "pooled" cars on the way home was exuberant. Some of the comments that have come out of the workshop:

- I didn't know that teaching was different from briefing!
- Some music does make you want to dance!
- I learn much quicker if I can see it demonstrated!
- I can see now how much work teachers put into their preparation! (YAY!)

Feedback has all been very positive, and everyone thought it had been a very worthwhile workshop.

Part 2 of the workshop was to have been an opportunity to dance some of the dances from the new RSCDS Book 53. Unfortunately there was very little time left in the time-frame we were working to (we only managed 3 dances) as Ruth's workshop had been a bit longer than anticipated. Perhaps her introduction could have been shortened by having just "all-comers" being given the opportunity with the voice projection exercise as club teachers should be able to project their voices already.

Heather Johnston

Education and Training Coordinator

11. Tokoroa SCD Club

The club was pleased to host numerous dancers at their Tartan Tea Dance last month and are looking forward to their Annual Dance in Tirau on August 10th with a 2pm start time.

In an effort to cater for allcomers, including our junior dancers, the programme is a mix of simpler and more complex dances. We hope you can join us and that you encourage newer dances from your club to attend.

We are pleased with the progress of our young people. They are gradually picking up new formations and improving their steps and their phrasing. There is so much to learn when you are starting out! They will be able to keep a record of this in their Junior Handbooks from the RSCDS which have arrived in time for the start of dancing this term.

Jeanette Lauder



Bella and Bev at the Tartan Tea Dance

12. Upcoming Events

Tokoroa SCD Annual Dance

Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 2pm – 5.30pm

Tirau Hall, cnr Station Street and SH1, Tirau

Jig to the Music J 2nd Graded Book of SC Dances

Sandy Butterly J Let's All Dance Too

The Falkirk Lass S Book 53

Yo-Yo Tweedly J The Devil's Quandary Book 1

The Merry Lads of Ayr R Book 1

The Walled Garden S 24 Graded & Social Dances

It Should be Fun J Graded & Social Dances 3

Red House R Book 7

Slytherin' House S Book 52

Tribute to the Borders J RSCDS Leaflets

AFTERNOON TEA

Le Papillon J RSCDS SCD for Children

J B Milne R The Angus Fitchet SD Album

The Wind on Loch Fyne S Dunedin Dances

The Duke of Atholl's Reel J Book 16

The Reverend John MacFarlane R Book 37

The Orchards of Co Armagh S Book 53

Clutha R Book 31

Mairi's Wedding R Twenty-Two SCD - Cosh

JAMS and Spectators \$5 Adults \$15 Raffles on sale

Opotiki and Wakatane Annual Dance

Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 1.30pm

Waioatahe Hall

Opotiki Rant – walking warm up dance

Happy to Meet J Iain Boyd

Coldingham Sands S St Abb's Collection

New Year Jig J Book 51

Reverend John MacFarlane R Book 37

Remembering Robyn S Jan Pyke

Best Set in the Hall J Book 46

Catch the Wind R Book 45

Balmoral Strathspey S Book 22

Pelorus Jack J Book 41

AFTERNOON TEA

Cabbages and Kings J Harbour City

Cradle Song S Alec Hay 20 SCDs

Seton's Ceilidh Band J Book 53

Two Gray Cats R Other Kangaroo Paw

Love to Lois S Land of Milk and Plenty 1

The Milky Way J Second Canberra Book

Waipu Wanderers R Eddy West

Entry \$15 Raffles on sale

Taupo Tea Dance

Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 1.30pm

St Paul's Union Church, Taupo

The Express J Book 20

Catch the Wind R Book 45

Triple Happiness S Book 52

Machine Without Horses J Book 12

The Merry Lads of Ayr R Book 1

Jean Martin of Aberdeen S 3 Dances 2006

Jubilee Jig J RSCDS Leaflet Dances 11

Orpington Caledonians R Book 49

The Falkirk Lass S Book 53

Zytglogge R Terry Blackburn Collecta Ursis

AFTERNOON TEA

The Laird of Milton's Daughter J Book 22

St Columba's Strathspey S Vicky Sproule and Sadie Gillan

The First Rain of Spring J Book 49

The Kissing Bridge R Book 47

Culla Bay S Book 41

Farewell to Balfour Road J Book 52

Neidpath Castle S Book 22

Mairi's Wedding R Cosh 22 SCDs

Dancers \$15 Spectators \$5

13. SCD ~ 10 Commandments

Ten Commandments for SCD Balls and Socials (King James version)

These may not have been carried down from Mount Schiehallion on shortbread tablets, but anyway, you will not make a mistake by trying to adhere to them:

1. Thou shalt not overestimate thyself when asking people to dance, lest thou beest embarrassed if the set breaketh down six times out of eight because of thee.
2. Thou shalt dance now and then with people other than thy spouse and immediate clan – possibly even with someone from the other table or yon wallflower from the outer reaches of the hall.
3. Thou shalt not walk on the dance floor too early, neither shalt thou do thus alone, for lo! the MC will announce the dance when it is time, and even in Scotland it taketh at least two to dance.
4. Thou shalt join a set at the bottom and not in the middle (especially if it hath already been counted), lest thou causeth much wailing and gnashing of teeth before the dance hath even started.
5. Thou shalt count the lines if thou art the top man, for the knowledge of one's station in the set produceth good will in all men (and women!) If thou art a woman on the men's side and wouldst rather not do the counting, this commandment applieth to the next man down the line. Also if the first couple wanteth to do the counting together, do not hinder them.
6. Thou shalt look at thy partner during the dance and not at thy briefing notes or Pillings*, so that she (or he) may remain friendly towards thee and thou mayest ask her (or him) to dance again.
7. Thou shalt not hinder thy neighbour's dance by returning from thy Down-the-middle-and-up on bar 9, blocking forever the centre of the set with extra twiddles and hand-clapping during a half diagonal reel of four, or otherwise not acting as a team player acteth.
8. Thou shalt honour thy musicians, that thy dance may be long into the night and they might even repeat a dance that thou hast liked. But similarly shalt thou help thy MC; clap both loudly and long, but remain on the dance floor if thou wilt do that dance again or clear it speedily if not.
9. Thou shalt not chide, lest thou be chided – for verily, nobody hath appointed thee (of all people!) judge of thy neighbour's dancing ability or outlook on what is enjoyable. If thou must chide people, become a dance teacher and chide them in thy class; at balls and socials it is an abomination.
10. Thou shalt enjoy thyself – in spite of these tedious commandments – and help others enjoy themselves, too.
11. Other dancers will be commented upon on thy way home.

* *Pillings: SCD diagrams*

14. 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

Thanks to Rodney for “modelling” the regalia, all of which is
Being sold on behalf of an acquaintance of both his and mine



15. What's on

| Event | Date | Details |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Tokoroa Annual Dance | Saturday, August 10 | 2.30pm ~ Tirau Hall, Tirau. More details see article 12 |
| Opotiki and Whakatane Annual Dance | Saturday, August 24 | 1.30pm ~ Waiotaha Hall. More details, see article 12. |
| Taupo Tea Dance | Saturday, September 14 | 1.30pm ~ St Paul's Union Church, Taupo. Live music - Saltire Band, More details see article 12. |
| Hamilton Scottish Tea Dance | Saturday, September 21 | More details to come |

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

15. Region Officers:

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