

WAIBOP NEWS

Issue November 2024

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION



Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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1. President's Pen



As the year draws to a close, I reflect on the many Annual Dances I have enjoyed on our region calendar over the last few months. It is great to see dancer numbers increasing at these events. With a number of new faces amongst these dancers, my thanks go to all who support and encourage them. Getting to grips with terminology, footwork, formations and dances that are likely new to them can be daunting for many, so a smile and a friendly word can help to put them at ease.

Most recently, it has been wonderful to experience the music of Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin at dancing events. Special thanks go to the Cambridge and Mount Maunganui Clubs who initially took up the baton to host them at their Annual Dances. Thanks also to those clubs who organised Ceilidhs where Max and Marian have played.

On a sadder note, my sympathies go to the family and dancing friends of Pam Godfrey, who passed away in late September. Pam was a long-time teacher at Hamilton Scottish and also taught in her local retirement community for a number of years.

Hoping to see many of you at our region meetings coming up on Saturday, November 9 in Cambridge.

Jeanette

2. Editorial

The final dance for the year was at Mount Maunganui on Saturday. We seem to be racing towards the end of the year, the dancing season is nearly over and we'll soon be making plans for everything beginning in 2025. Thanks to everyone who have contributed to this newsletter and also previously throughout the year. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Agnes



3. Young Dancers

The first Sunday of the recent school holidays saw a number of youngsters at a Kids' Ceilidh in Hamilton ready to have a go at Ceilidh dancing.

This is a fun way to introduce them to the dancing that we enjoy. Thanks to Fiona Murdoch and the local musicians who worked to make this an enjoyable afternoon. Fiona hopes to run further Ceilidhs next year so keep an eye out for details.

I was delighted, recently, to have the daughter of a previous JAM from Tokoroa Club come along to join us. It probably should make me feel old but it didn't. It was just great to know that good experiences had been recalled by the mum for her to encourage her daughter to have a go.

Jeanette Lauder

Youth Coordinator



4. Opotiki Dance

The bonus delight of having dances briefed by their devisers.

Ever since Scottish Country Dancing started to happen in an organised way in New Zealand, about 70 years ago, New Zealanders have been devising some lovely dances.

When we were starting to plan our annual August social for this year, we realised we had been very much enjoying several New Zealand devised dances and decided to celebrate the contribution those people have made to the joy we all have dancing here in New Zealand.

Whakatane dancers were happy to share our social and share the theme - but what none of us had anticipated was how lovely it was to have some of the devisers able to brief their own dances and give us more background on the story behind the dance.

We had fun decorating the hall, adding a poster with the history and story behind each dance, and used the Twisty Willow CD of New Zealand dances.

Victoria

Opotiki



5. WaiBop Region Secretary

The WaiBop Region has been very grateful to have had Colleen Gunn as our secretary for the past four years and sincerely thank her for her hard work keeping us all informed about what is going on in SCD. However, Colleen will be retiring from this position at the AGM on Saturday, November 9 and we are searching for someone else to take over the reins. Colleen will be happy to help the new secretary to ease into the position. If you know of someone who may be interested to take up this position, please approach them and nominate them to the position if they are willing.

Agnes Algra

Editor

6. Volunteer Needed

It is now over 10 years since I agreed to take on the role of 'webmaster' for the Waikato/BOP Region, setting up the website and managing our email addresses. Although it is not particularly onerous, I am now seeking a volunteer who is willing to take on some of the routine tasks with the eventual aim of ensuring that the system continues to operate should I fall under the 'proverbial' bus!

My plan is to complete the handover in July 2025 which is about the time that the hosting of the website will be renewed for another year. In practice, this means that a volunteer needs to come forward early next year to allow a gradual take-on of responsibilities. In the meantime, I will ensure that all the processes are fully documented.

If you think that the website/email services are worth preserving and you have the basic computer skills required (ability to logon, remember a password and perform Excel-like updates) then please let me know or ask any questions via webmaster@waibopscd.org.nz. Otherwise, the facilities will start to wind down in July with no further updates until they finally disappear for good in mid-2026.

Also, a reminder that our Region communicates with Clubs by sending emails to their 'dancescottish' address, e.g. rotorua@dancescottish.org.nz, which is usually forwarded to the personal email address of the Club Secretary. This is about the time of year when a new Secretary may be appointed so it is important that this is reflected in the forwarding. Updates are the responsibility of NZ Branch which should be informed via an email to secretary@dancescottish.org.nz. Alternatively, you can use the email link at the foot of the Region page on the NZ Branch website at

<https://dancescottish.org.nz/region-waikato-and-bay-of-plenty/>

Andy Patterson

7. Dancers Survey ~ (Answers to Ruary's question from two dancers)

Hamilton East made me very welcome as an associate member. Friendly bunch.

Prefer afternoon dances as I don't like driving at night

Tirau tea dance, Opotiki (really good), Hamilton Scottish Group, Region Dance, all great dances. I find the walk through very helpful

Live music is good but can be expensive to the host club

Suppers - great variety of food

Schools I have attended - Kings B/D 2023, and Tauranga Core Dances 2024

Cambridge Ball was fabulous with live music and lots of sets on the floor

The last few weeks of the year are not good for me as it is my lawn bowling season

Bowls comes first sorry!

Lyn Young

It took a few weeks to really feel welcomed into the group; the good thing was I started in a beginner's workshop being asked to dance by the more experienced people, and them always being super patient!

I've only been to one event in WaiBop Region and that was the recent Cambridge Ball. Yes to a walk through and I loved the live music.

Thinking about dances outside WaiBop, I would be unlikely to go to any dances regularly.

I would attend ceilidhs. I think ceilidhs attract the general public more (seems to me that the balls/dances are really for the clubs), and you could easily sneak a dance demo in the middle while you've got a captive audience. Could be a good way to grow numbers, especially younger people.

I really enjoyed the Cambridge ball, interesting figuring out the protocol of getting the numbers in each set etc. I thought experienced people would be avoiding the beginners, but it felt very inclusive.

Trisha Wren

8. Andy's 80th Birthday Celebrations

On October 26, 2024, Andy and Jeanette Patterson invited everybody to come to an afternoon dance to help Andy celebrate his 80th birthday. The Senior Citizens Hall in Cambridge was well chosen as a central point for SCDers and starting at 2:00 pm meant that people could get home in daylight.

About 40 dancers turned up which made for a great social occasion. Andy had created a nostalgic experience by choosing dances from the early RSCDS books. The result was that we did a lot of dances that we hadn't done for quite a while, but it reminded us of "Oldies but Goodies" like: -

1. Maxwell's Rant - Book 18
2. Red House - Book 7
3. None So Pretty - Book 19
4. Lord Rosslyn's Fancy - Book 15
5. La Tempete - Book 2
6. The Gates of Edinburgh - Book 15
7. The Duke of Atholl's Reel - Book 16
8. Triumph - Book 1
9. The Montgomerie's Rant - Book 10



Wayne McConnell was the MC and did a great job shepherding us through them all.

Everyone had brought a plate for the Pot-Luck afternoon tea. It is amazing how good these are.

Towards the end of it a beautiful 80th birthday cake provided by Robyn Howes was produced, but before Andy was allowed to cut it Jeanette Lauder, the Region President, presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region for all the work he has done over the past years at Rotorua Club, WaiBop Region and



NZ branch level, particularly in relation to designing, displaying and managing the WaiBop Region and NZ Branch websites. An act that is going to be hard to follow.

Jeanette Patterson read messages of congratulations from his old friends in the UK.

The dance finished off with Montgomerie's Rant and everyone went home happy one hundred percent!

Ruary Laidlaw

9. Remembering Pam Godfrey

In the afternoon of St Andrews Day – Saturday, November 30 - Pam Godfrey's family along with Hamilton Scottish are hosting an afternoon of chat and dances to celebrate Pam's love of dancing. This will be held from 1-3 pm at the Hamilton Caledonian Hall in Frankton. For further details Contact Shelley McConnell ~ 021 272 1123.



10. Ceilidh

On 30 November, St Andrews day a traditional ceilidh will be held at Caledonian band hall in Frankton starting at 7pm and hosted by the Caledonian Society with input from Hamilton Scottish. At this stage there is no information where these tickets can be purchased. For further details contact Shelley McConnell ~ 021 272 1123.

11. Index to Formations and Movements

Recently I was looking for a straightforward dance with mirror reels of three on your own side, so I turned to the 'Index to Formations and Movements' on the RSCDS website. This impressive development of the original index was launched by HQ last year but, if you missed the announcement, you may be unaware of this valuable resource.

Essentially, it comprises a PDF which lists all formations (with every possible variation) a list of its formations and, if this was not enough, links to the entries for the dance on the SCD Dance Database and SCD Dictionary. As you would expect, only the dances published by the RSCDS are listed.

It is only available after logging on to the RSCDS website at which point you can navigate to it via: /Learn/ Resources for Dancers/ Index to Formations and Movements/

Andy Patterson

12. Luckenbooth Brooch

We recently danced The Luckenbooth Brooch (book 53) so new to us all where the deviser J B Dickson manages to introduce extra twists and turns.

This was of interest, so when researching, I learned the Brooch - (note pronunciation!) dates back to the 15th Century where at the top of Edinburgh's Royal Mile gold and silversmiths by day created their jewellery in small booths which they locked up at night.

Of especial note were their small silver brooches; one heart, or two intertwined, surmounted by a crown, perhaps that of Mary Queen of Scots. Some, as reflected in our dance, were extremely complex in design.

The Luckenbooth meaning is that of love, loyalty and protection and was commonly given as a gift from a mother to her daughter. Also, a symbol of love and devotion which often was given to his betrothed at their wedding, then traditionally, in some areas, pinned to their first baby's shawl to ward off evil spirits while ensuring a free flow of milk for them. This is going back 600 yrs ago when many babies didn't survive.

Out of interest I asked if any of the (lady) dancers possessed one, several raised their hands, with one brooch passed on by her mother - which could put it back nearly 100 yrs!

It would be of great interest if readers could share the story of their own Luckenbooth brooch - or a story of their walk along the Royal Mile. Did you spot the Heart of Midlothian in the cobblestones if you've walked the Royal Mile?

Chris Ingram



*Queen Mary
Luckenbooth*





13. Obituary ~ Pam Godfrey

Pam Godfrey, a past tutor at Hamilton Scottish, passed away on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Pam was a dancer from an early age dancing Ballet and Tap as a child and still taking part in Scottish Country Dancing and Tap well into her 80's.

She became involved in Scottish Country Dancing when her young daughter started with Hamilton Scottish in the 1970's. She studied for her Teacher's Certificate, attending several Summer Schools, and gaining her certificate in 1982.

She helped Club tutor Lorna Whitford with class tuition and in 1997 she became the club tutor. Pam was Club Tutor for 20 years and in the years before Covid helped present tutor Wayne McConnel with Wednesday night's tuition. Pam was also club secretary from 1979 to 1982, and in 2006 became a Life Member of the club.

Pam loved teaching both adults and children. Her specialty was Theme evenings when club dancers dressed up and Pam created new titles for known dances. One of the best ones was a pyjama party and an annual one was dress-up as a dance title.

She gave encouragement and support to young dancers going for their medal tests. This was also good for the adults in improving their dancing steps and formations.

Her dedication to teaching was exemplified when she broke her leg delivering meals on wheels. She arrived at the next club night in a wheelchair and her leg in plaster, a programme mapped out and able dancers ready to demonstrate.

Scottish will hold an event to honour the life of a wonderful lady who loved dancing and teaching. *(See article 9 for further details)*



Hamilton Scottish Club photo taken in 2020 – Pam is seated

14. RSCDS Membership

Thank you to all club Treasurers and Secretaries for your assistance with this year's renewal of RSCDS subscriptions and the Region Affiliation fees.

I had a few instances where my initial emails did not reach club officers, and I suspect it was because the NZ Branch had not been asked to link new officers to the @dancescottish.org.nz email address. Please see Andy Patterson's article in this newsletter to make sure you get all the emails you should, including any enquiries that may result from various Region publicity fliers, etc.

This year we have 2 new members and 64 WaiBoP dancers who renewed their RSCDS membership.

From the information received to date there are 183 club members in our region.

RSCDS NZ Branch Membership Category	Numbers	
	2024/25	2023/24
Adult Single	5	6
Adult Single - Email	50	48
Adult Joint	2	2
Adult Joint - Email	8	14
RSCDS Life Member	1	1
RSCDS Life Member Email		
RSCDS Life Family		
Young Adult		
Total Membership	66	71

Club	Membership			
	RSCDS 2024/25	RSCDS 2023/24	Club 2024*	Club 2023*
Cambridge	8	8	***	19
Hamilton Scottish	6	7	16	19
Hauraki-Thames	2	1	12	8
Katikati	2	3	16	***
Lochiel	5	5	27	22
Mount Maunganui	3	4	9	10
Opotiki	2	2	10	6
Pauanui	1	1	10	12
Rotorua	7	7	13	9
Taupo	0	0	**	**
Tauranga	12	13	24	27
Te Awamutu	8	8	10	10
Tokoroa	8	10	12	13
Whakatane	2	2	10	9
Club Membership	66	71	169	164

* As at 31st August

** Not a club, but included on WaiBoP distribution list

*** No reply at the date of this report

Robyn Howes
Membership

15. Cambridge Ball

As we have a few photos to share from the Cambridge ball I thought I'd write a small piece about this event which, of course, was held in the Town Hall in Cambridge, a great venue for such an event.



It was extra special having live music from Scotland ~ Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin who kept us on our toes all night!



Of course, we have to mention the lovely supper provided and the lovely people working in the kitchen. All in all an evening which was thoroughly enjoyable. Well done Cambridge.

Editor



	<p>Ruary Laidlaw has created the following website:-</p> <p>www.reeltime dancing.co</p> <p><i>... for those interested in:-</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teaching Elementary and Mainstream (intermediate) Dancers 2. Finding copies of Ruary's books 3. Downloading copies of Ruary's dances 4. Bruce Fordyce's "Memorial Collection" of 17
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16. What's on

Event	Date	Details
WaiBoP Region AGM ~ Followed by a General Meeting	Saturday, November 9	10am ~ St Peter's Catholic School Hall, 22 Anzac St, Cambridge
Core Dance Day	Saturday, November 16	10am ~ St Peter's Catholic School Hall, 22 Anzac St, Cambridge (cuppa after 9.15)
Afternoon remembering Pam Godfrey	Saturday, November 30	1-3pm ~ Hamilton Caledonian Hall, Frankton see article 9.
Ceilidh	Saturday, November 30	7pm ~ Hamilton Caledonian Hall, Frankton see article 10.

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

17. Region Officers:

President: Jeanette Lauder – 021 102 6114 / 07 886 8171. 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 – 021 102 6114 / 07 886 8171. youth@waibopscd.org.nz



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