



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Incorporated

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

President's Report

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of New Zealand becoming a branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society began at the Branch AGM on the 1st January 2018 at the Wairarapa Summer School. To continue the celebrations Mary Ronnie and Peggy Hudson were invited to cut the birthday cake at the President's Ball on 2nd January. The celebratory Ball at Government House on 20th August was organised by a committee comprising Katharine Hoskyn, Michele Miller, Lee Miller and Diane Bradshaw. They also organised the short tour by Ian and Judith Muir who played at other events during their two weeks in New Zealand including Tokoroa, Auckland, Whanganui, Ashhurst and Christchurch.

During the year I have had the opportunity to join dancers around the country on the dance floor. Some of the clubs I visited were celebrating significant birthdays. These included Timaru in May, Christchurch SCD Club in June and Napier in August. There are still some celebrations to attend including Tawa and Whangarei. It is unfortunate that I often receive invitations for events that coincide with dates I have already committed to.

I have been fortunate this year to have the support of the members of the Management Committee. Linda Glavin took on the position of Vice-President that had been vacant for a year and Michele Miller succeeded Liz Lusher in the vital role of Secretary. At the AGM on 1 January 2019 Margaret Cantwell steps down as our very capable Treasurer after three years in that position.

Elaine Laidlaw – President

Vice-President's Report

I have had a year of learning that the role of Vice-President is quite different from the Membership Coordinators role.

I received quite a few emails nominating dancers for the awards. It has been great to see nominations from both South and North.

Currently I am involved in a committee formed to look at the proposal put forward at last year's AGM by Antanas Procuta regarding one member one vote. As this relates to all RSCDS dancers it is good to see there will be a forum at the Nelson Summer School for open discussion. Please remember when thinking about this to look at both the positive and negative sides as this will help us to reach the best decision for all members.

We can discuss this at Regions, clubs or amongst ourselves, prior to the Nelson Summer School. This way the members who are at the school can bring the thoughts of those who are unable to attend. EVERYONE's opinions count.

I have also been the contact for the organisers of future Summer Schools and I have found this very interesting and a great learning experience.

I have kept in touch with both the Book Shop and the Record Shop keepers to ensure that all is going well for them especially with the increase in downloading books and CD's. As always both Dorothy and Sue have a great selection of CD's and Books for us and what is not in stock they will seek it out. Thank you both on behalf of the NZ Branch for the work you both do.

I will have to apologise to the members for not being at the AGM to present my report as I have had to work through Christmas this year.

I hope you all have a fantastic Summer School and I wish you all a very good New Year.

Linda Glavin – Vice-President

Treasurer's Report

The year has seen the accumulated funds down \$523 represented by

- a decrease in the funds held in the Regions of \$4,053
- a profit of core Branch activities of \$4,270
- a reduction in the shop funds of \$1,672
- an increase in the Special Funds of \$932.

Membership fees increased this year with an increase in membership and a larger portion of the combined fees being allocated to the Branch for the 2017-18 renewal period.

The table below provides a breakdown of the membership for 2018 compared to the prior year.

Membership Numbers	2016/17	2017/18
Adult Joint	52	58
Adult Joint Email	147	153
Adult Single	175	166
Adult Single Email	317	324
Complimentary		16
NZ Branch Life	7	7
RSCDS Life	7	5
RSCDS Life Email	4	6
RSCDS Life Family	4	3
Young Adult (18-24)		2
Young Adult Email (18-24)	6	5
Grand Total	719	745

The income received from subscriptions is sufficient to cover the expenses of the Branch and as such Management Committee have recommended the combined Society and Branch fee remain unchanged for the 2019/20 subscription period.

The income from the NZ Branch 50th Anniversary ball was a one off increase in the income for 2018 (\$8,025). This was largely offset by the ball expenses (\$7,441). Note that the final expenses from the Government House Ball will be reflected in the 2019 financial statements. Overall the 50th anniversary celebrations are expected to have cost the Branch \$3,000. This cost represents the contribution made by the Branch to Regions and Clubs around the country that took the opportunity to enjoy Ian and Judith Muir's playing at functions around NZ while they were in the country. The international airfares for the musicians were \$7,422 with over half of this cost being funded from ticket sales to the ball at Government House. The Branch would also like to acknowledge the contribution received towards these expenses from Little Thistles.

Not reflected as income in the accounts in the sum of \$3,000 transferred from the accumulated earnings of the Record Shop to the main Branch account. I would like to acknowledge the work done by both Dorothy Wilson and Sue Pearson in running the Record Shop and Bookshop to support our dancing community.

Overall expenses were up in 2018. This was largely due to the Dance Scottish promotion (\$5,500) that was run in 2016 and again in 2018, but not in 2017. The decision to run this promotion at the beginning of the NZ dancing year saw a pleasing increase in the number of clubs participating.

Printing and postage costs have increased over the past year with the magazine, the only item received in hard copy by all members, being particularly impacted by these increased costs.

The Branch insurance costs increased this year with the addition of a Statutory Liability contract to assist with legal expenses were the Branch to be sued for a breach or perceived breach of any statutory obligations.

A professional storage facility has been arranged, with the Branch archives being organised and securely filed. This will be a regular ongoing cost of around \$1,500 but has incurred some additional cost in this first year due to the payment of the bond and the purchase of archive boxes and shelving to ensure appropriate storage.

Due to the cash accounting methodology the cost of the 2018 audit will be reflected in the 2019 financial statements. The audit for 2016 financial year was conducted on an honorary basis with no fee being charged, hence there is no audit fee reflected in the comparative 2017 results.

The Special Funds contributed \$932 to the 2018 financial result, a significant improvement on the \$10,683 shortfall from the previous year. Of note the 2017/18 Summer School in the Wairarapa made a surplus of \$1,784.54 in addition to contributing \$1,400 to the Musician's Fund. Unfortunately to date the 2016/17 Christchurch School have been unsuccessful in recovering some \$6,700 that they believed would be forthcoming.

The accounts have been audited by Gillian Cross of Cross Financial Services and her report can be found at the back of the Financial Statements. As this is my final year as Treasurer for the Branch the accounts have been audited, rather than reviewed, as agreed with members at the AGM on 1 January 2018.

RSCDS Subscription Accounts

The RSCDS NZ Branch runs a subscription account on behalf of the RSCDS, "the Society". This account collects money from NZ Branch members to cover their annual subscription to the UK Society. These funds have accumulated over time as the amounts collected (in NZ dollars) have exceeded the amount payable to the Society (in pounds). While these funds are not part of the NZ Branch assets they are Member funds. A summary of the transactions through this account is presented below for completeness.

Movement in RSCDS Subscription Account (\$)	2018
Opening Balance 1 Sep	13,891
Total Subscriptions Received	21,380
Interest	16
Remittance to Society	(25,610)
Bank Fees	(47)
Closing Balance at 31 August	9,631
Cheque	2,060
Savings	7,571
Total	<u>9,631</u>

Margaret Cantwell - Treasurer

Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator's Report

Dance Scottish 2018 was held over the February/March months so that events could be held prior to or as Clubs were starting for the dancing year. Initially 41 clubs indicated that they were interested in participating but then two clubs had to pull out due to unforeseen circumstances. It was disappointing to only receive reports from 21 clubs as this was a condition of them receiving financial support. A full report of this will be in the 2019 Dancer but it does appear that we have gained some new dancers from this Branch initiative – some areas were more successful than others.

I would like to thank Desiree Patterson for all her hard work in putting together The Dancer magazine and the quarterly Kiwi News.

Sue Lindsay - Communication and Publicity Coordinator

Youth Coordinator's Report

We welcomed 2 new members to the JAM Committee this year; myself as Youth Coordinator and Nicole Trewavas who has taken over the organisation of medal tests. Chris Totton and Amy Luxton-Esler have remained on the committee taking responsibility for membership and the *Jigs and More* newsletter respectively.

My aim this year has been to build on the achievements of the previous Youth Coordinator, Diane Bradshaw, and begin work on some new projects e.g. revision of the Medal Test Syllabus, and transition of senior JAMs into adult classes.

Members – There are currently 143 JAMs registered, with 20 having started dancing this year. Of these 29 prefer to receive *Jigs and More* by email, the rest receive the newsletter by post.

2018 is the first year that we have collected JAM membership based on the calendar year rather than the membership/subscription year used for adult members. The effect of this was that all JAMs who were members at 1 September 2017 had their membership extended for the 2018 year, and fees were only collected from dancers who were new at the start of 2018. In 2019 fees for all JAMs will be due for payment in March.

It is important to register all junior dancers, whether you have a dedicated junior/youth class or not, as this information enables us to keep in touch with all young dancers and make sure they are informed of youth activities. We need the assistance of all clubs and teachers to achieve this.

Medal tests – 2 separate medal test events were held this year one in Waimate and one in Waikanae. The following medals and bars were awarded: Bronze (9), Bronze Bar (5), Silver (3), Silver Bar (3), Gold Bar (1).

Following feedback at the JAM Forum in Masterton a review of the Medal Test Syllabus has been undertaken with a view to making some changes to the prescribed dances and updating the procedures and documentation. The revised Syllabus will be available at Summer School in Nelson, with the first examinations using this syllabus taking place at the 2019 JAM Camp.

JAM Camp – I have received the following statement with an update on planning for the 2019 camp.

The Auckland Region Committee and the JAM Camp Working Party appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the AGM report of the Youth Co-ordinator of the New Zealand Branch Inc. with the following:

The JAM Landing (name of the 2019 JAM camp) is being held July 12 – 14, 2019 at St Cuthbert's College, Epsom, Auckland using boarding facilities and halls. The theme is based on the first moonwalk for which the 50th anniversary occurs the week after the camp. As usual the camp will be preceded by Medal Tests on Friday afternoon. A new opportunity is the option for JAMs and adults at the camp to perform at the North Shore Tartan Day Tattoo (a major Scottish event) on the Sunday afternoon after the camp.

One issue needs some future consideration within regions and the branch. Registration fees have not increased since the Auckland Region ran the camp in 2011. The fees for the 2019 camp will be higher than in the past. We had hoped to cover the cost of accommodation and food with registration fees. However such an increase would be too substantial. As a large region, Auckland will probably be able to cover most of the shortfall in some way. We also have the Edna Smith Memorial Fund to assist JAMs for whom the increased fees are difficult. These options may not be available to other regions. We do understand the desire to encourage and support youth dancing. However it is probably desirable that accommodation and food are covered by registration fees and encourage future regions to consider this.

Having raised this issue, it is important that it is discussed – but not too much. The main focus is on holding the JAM Landing for the benefit of the young dancers in New Zealand. *One small step for a dancer, one giant leap for Scottish country dancing.*

Debbie Roxburgh – Youth Coordinator

Education and Training Coordinator's Report

At the Masterton Summer School 8 dancers passed Unit 2 of the Teachers Examinations and 6 dancers passed Unit 3 – congratulations to all those who are on their way to becoming the next generation of teachers!

The Management Committee has established a policy to provide financial support to classes that are looking in some way to improve the skills of those teaching Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand. During the year Canterbury and Waikato/Bay of Plenty regions took advantage of this financial support from the Branch to hold Basic Teaching Skills courses – thanks to David Williamson and Lynne Hudson for their roles in organising and teaching these courses.

The New Zealand branch participated in providing nominations for dances to be included in the planned RSCDS Book for 2019, a book of 30 popular dances. The results were sent through to the RSCDS Publications Committee and published in Kiwi News. The process of asking members for a direct response through SurveyMonkey worked well and has proved instructive for those considering alternative ways of member input to branch decisions.

I also want to acknowledge the considerable amount of effort and thought that Lynne Scott has put into her role as Music Advisor to further the development of the music and the musicians that are a large part of our enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing.

Lee Miller - Education and Training Coordinator

Information Technology Coordinator's Report

I am writing this having taken a break from processing 700+ membership renewal forms, convinced that all concerned (Branch, Regions, Clubs and Members) would benefit from a far simpler process which requires less effort and less paperwork while improving the accuracy and timeliness of updates to the membership database. That is my aim for next year, if elected.

I have also been tackling the email system that is administered by the Branch. This includes the removal of obsolete addresses since these can result in genuine messages disappearing into a black hole, unbeknown to the intended recipient. This is an ongoing process which may also eliminate the duplicate addresses which make administration more difficult. On the question of emails, I am aware that those which are forwarded to personal email addresses (extra, gmail and hotmail, in particular) sometimes go astray. Duncan Laidlaw, who manages our email hosting service, has investigated this and made any adjustments which he considers to be necessary. This means that if errors persist it may be necessary for individuals to approach their own email provider for further diagnosis and support.

My other main task this year has been to develop an improved Branch website which is:

- more attractive
- more mobile-friendly
- more focused on the promotion of SCD

Comments from those who have reviewed it so far have been very encouraging and I have also been pleased to receive several suggestions on how it might be further improved. The website has been developed using the popular 'WordPress' framework (as used by numerous RSCDS websites, including several in NZ). Unfortunately, a problem has arisen which may be related to an incompatibility between WordPress and the underlying hosting software. This is currently under investigation and I hope to give better news at the AGM.

Along with all of the above, I have continued to apply updates to emails and the Branch website. With regard to the website, please remember that I only make changes on request. For example, if a page refers to a particular coordinator and someone else takes over the role, don't assume that I spend my time looking for things that need changing. Every page or document on the website is 'owned' by someone – and, with rare exceptions, it is not ME.

Andrew Patterson - Information Technology Coordinator

Bookshop Keeper's Report

The past year has seen good sales throughout the year, with a particularly good level of sales during Summer School. This was helped by the launch of the 50th anniversary book published by the Branch, as well as new books published by some of our branch members.

As well as attending Summer School in Masterton, the Bookshop attended the Queen's Birthday weekend school at Hamilton. Some stock of recent books was provided for the Easter weekend school in Otago.

Sue Pearson - Bookshop Keeper

Record Shop Keeper's Report

Last year's sales (394 CDs) were encouraging after a previous poor year (258), but the pendulum has swung back again and CDs sold in the 2017/18 period totalled only 195 (Mail Order – 118, Masterton S.S – 54, Timaru W/E School - 23). Inevitably, the end of year result is disappointing.

RSCDS sales can and often do account for approximately 50% of the total Recordshop annual trading. Last year the Society released TWO new CDs – "Music for Book 50 " and "Miss Milligan's Miscellany No. 5" - compared with the one CD for 2017/18 "Music for Book 51". The ever-increasing popularity of downloading from the Internet is proving a formidable challenge.

I am very grateful to those members of the New Zealand Branch who steadfastly continue to support and purchase CDs through the Branch Recordshop. Despite the rise in the cost of postage not only from overseas to New Zealand but also within New Zealand itself, I try to give members the best possible service at the best possible price, and I do appreciate the fact that over the past 30+ years that I have been managing the Recordshop, I have never ended the financial year with any accounts outstanding.

I take this opportunity to thank the many people who have helped me during the past year, Branch committee members, editors of both Branch and Region publications, and the Recordshop Auditor, Bruce Dwerryhouse. My IT skills are limited, and in this regard I would like to record my thanks to Lydia Hedge for helping me keep the Recordshop_Catalogue not only

uptodate but so clear and informative, and also for adding colour to my Recordshop Newsletter this past year - a picture or two makes it much more attractive and eye-catching, doesn't it!

Dorothy W. Wilson – Record Shop Keeper