



Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I was at the physiotherapist the other day and noticed a poster on the wall containing a quote from George Bernard Shaw:

*"We don't stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing."*

I hope Mr Shaw didn't turn in his grave when I amended his quote to read: *"We don't stop dancing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop dancing."*

In the first issue of the Kiwi News this year, I wrote about attending the Auckland Region Garden Party, where I caught up with many dancers I have met over the years. I was back in Auckland in July, where I attended the Highland Park Tea Dance and met dancers both experienced and new. The following day we drove to Kerikeri and joined the club for their Monday night class, meeting new dancers who will be attending Summer School in Masterton. Then it was on to Kaitia the next day, where we had a delightful evening dancing with all ages, including a vibrant group of young people, keeping the older dancers 'young and enthusiastic'.

On to more serious matters...

There are still some vacancies on the Management Committee. If you are interested and willing to serve both your Branch and its members and would like some information, please contact the Secretary who will be only too happy to help you.

We are still open to registrations for Summer School. We are aware that the hotel website indicates the Copthorne in Masterton is fully booked – that is because the Wairarapa Summer School has a block booking. However we have not filled every room as yet.

During the school we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the NZ Branch. Come and join in these celebrations.

A number of our Branch members will be completing Units for their Teaching Certificates in the next few months, beginning with Unit 1 (Theory) on 7 October, Unit 2 on 31 December and Unit 3 on 3 January. On behalf of the members of the Branch I would like to wish you all the best for the coming months.

Elaine

Lawrence SCD group
are delighted to have been announced Arts and Culture Regional Winners in the 2017 Trustpower Community Awards on 26th September.

The citation from the judges said the group were
"...bringing joy to people in the Clutha community through their love of dance..."
That just about says it all!

Working with Young People Guidelines

I am delighted to report that my major project for this year, the 'Working with Young People Guidelines' has been finalised. Some minor modification was required before the guidelines were approved at the Management Committee mid-year meeting and they are now available on the Branch website. The purpose of developing the guidelines was as a service to clubs and JAM groups. The suggestion was made for the Branch to provide something that can be used by all clubs to save the unnecessary work involved in each club developing their own guidelines. However, any clubs that prefer to do so can develop their own guidelines if they wish. The guidelines can be found on the JAMs home page <http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz/youth.php>

I would like to thank the vast number of people who have made a valuable contribution to the development of these guidelines - too many to mention by name, but you know who you are. This project would not have been possible without all your advice and suggestions. I hope many clubs and groups will take up and use the guidelines, now that they are available... so, over to you now. The guidelines will be reviewed as required by Management Committee.

New JAM Directory

This is now available on the website, thanks to the hard work of web-master, Duncan Laidlaw. All JAM groups, and clubs that have JAMs, have been notified and asked to check their details for accuracy and request any changes that are required. Thanks to the vast majority who have already done so. For the few who haven't as yet, please check and let me know if everything is good or if anything needs to be changed. Any new JAM groups, or clubs with JAMs, who are not currently on the list can be included. Just send me the required details (see directory) to youth@dancescottish.org.nz

Youth Fund Grants - What We Cover

Do you need any of the following?

- Dance shoes for lending to junior dancers?
- Travel costs to get you to a youth event?
- Rent for a hall to run a youth workshop?
- Travel for a great teacher to come to JAM Camp?
- Accommodation for a musician to come to a youth class?

The Branch Youth Fund is for events, activities or resources that encourage or facilitate youth Scottish country dancing in New Zealand. This includes encouraging JAMs to continue dancing, as they transition to university and work. The age criterion therefore stretches up to 29, rather than the JAM's maximum age of 19. The website has further details explaining what is, or is not funded, as well as the 'Statement of Purpose', Application Form, and what is required of those who do receive a grant. <http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz/yfund.php>
Applications must be received by 1st June and 1st December each year. Young dancers (under age 30), teachers/leaders and organisers can all apply for funds for any future project which is intended to encourage youth dancing or dancers in New Zealand. Preference will be given to RSCDS members (including JAMs). Applications are considered twice a year at the Management Committee mid-year meeting and at Summer School.

SNIPPETS...

Christchurch SCD club will celebrate their 60th Anniversary on Sunday 24 June 2018
Further details will follow. Contact: Sandra at johnnandsandramccormick@gmail.com

Parkvale SCD group has a new day and venue.
Now on Thursdays at *Summerset in the Orchard* pavilion, Ada Street, Hastings
Usual time of 7:00pm – 8:30pm



Waikato-Bay of Plenty Region Queen's Birthday Weekend School 2 & 3 JUNE 2018

hosted by

**Hamilton Scottish Country Dance Society
at Diocesan School for Girls, Hamilton
CEILIDH THEME: "SHORT AND SWEET"**

Contact for more details:

Grietje Badham – Ph. 07 856 2361 – badhamgi@actrix.co.nz



JOINING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A reflection by Diane Bradshaw

I am coming to the end of my three year term as Youth Co-ordinator and would like to encourage any RSCDS member to consider taking up a position on Management Committee and 'having a go'. Joining any committee at club, region or branch level, is a great way to give back to the activity we all love, so I was happy to join the JAM Committee, if I could be of some use.

After three years as Medal Test organizer, I was asked to become Youth Co-ordinator. I said 'no' many times and we searched for someone else but everyone else also said 'no', so in the end I said 'yes'.

I have found it to be a valuable experience and have learned a great deal, as well as developing new skills. I am also pleased with the things I have been able to achieve, very much with the assistance of others. We now have all medal test dances available on the website (with guidance notes where necessary).

With the permission of headquarters we were allowed to record a CD of the music used for medal tests and then distribute it free of charge to all JAM groups, so that they can practice to the same music they will hear in the test.

In response to feedback, I initiated some changes on the JAM pages of the Branch website. It is now possible to see who is on the JAM Committee. We now have a 'JAM Camp' page and a 'JAMs at Summer School' page where information is available as well as feedback from our JAMs. On the videos page there are some great quality videos of JAMs dancing - go and have a look.

Working on the website has been a huge learning curve for me (I'm generally low-tech) and is an on-going project which will hopefully get a boost with an IT person on the Management Committee, as there is still much to be done. Most recent projects include the new look JAM Directory now completed, and the Working with Young People Guidelines.

The Branch has been contacted on behalf of a music collector, looking for a new home for a large collection of records. Includes Scottish country dancing, The Edinburgh Tattoo, Kenneth McKellar, Andy Stewart, Jimmy Shand etc. Interested?
Email Michel Tent mactent@gmail.com

MASTERTON SUMMER SCHOOL



We have a reasonable number of registrations to date and although the 31st August deadline has passed, we are happy to accept more. The late fee will not be applied at this time.

All evening functions will be in the St Matthews Collegiate Gymnasium in Pownall Street. The theme for the President's Ball is blue and gold but this is not compulsory.

Please note that if you check bookings at the Copthorne online you will find it booked out - this is because they have block-booked the hotel for Summer School - there is still room for more registrants.

There are three ways to register:

1. Online: Go to the Branch website, click on Summer School in the left side menu, then Masterton Summer School. The direct link is: <http://www.dancescottish.org.nz/ssonlineregistration.php>.
2. Download registration form – follow the steps above but select the option to download the form in the online process. Complete the form and either mail it or scan it and email it to the Organiser.
3. Contact the Organiser to get a form sent to you by mail or email.

BOOKSHOP BITZ



Recent arrivals

'Book 51', 'A Reel for Alice', 'Spark O' Water'

Delayed: The release of the Compilations of Books 31 to 36, and the 'Index to Formations', expected in July, has been delayed. I will advise when these become available.

For all book enquiries, contact Sue Pearson:

~ bookshop@dancescottish.org.nz
~ NZ Branch website
~ C/- 21 Stafford St, Wanganui 4501

LINDEN SCD CLUB held a Tropical Island Night on July 24th. We were delighted to have three sets of intrepid dancers enjoying a tropical holiday. Dancers were greeted at the door with a friendly **Bula!** or **Talofa!** and given a lei to wear. It was wonderful to see everyone getting into the spirit of the occasion by dressing appropriately – there was a riot of floral patterns, bright colours and of course sunglasses and sunhats. Thanks to the committee and club members there were colourful decorations and even a couple of palm trees!

Club tutor Ann Oliver, had selected a fun programme of well known dances, although they had been renamed in keeping with the theme. Between dances throughout the evening, Ann kept us entertained with little ditties, telling the tale of a kiwi enjoying some tropical travels. Dances on the programme included The Flying Kiwi, Fiji Fancy, City of Suva, Bula Hornpipe, Beach Dancer and many more.



Some of the Linden Club members posing beneath the palm trees

Here are some of the wonderful ditties that Ann entertained us with between the dances:

The Flying Kiwi

*To escape to the tropics a Kiwi might try
To grow bigger wings and take to the sky
But given his nature; his weight and his girth
He knows very well he would fall to the earth
So accepting his chances are really quite slim
He'll book Air NZ to cater for him.*

Pelorus Jack

*The next day out fishing we're eager to catch
Some tuna or mackerel before we head back
Our skipper, he takes us to just the right spot
But golly the sun is really quite hot!
The Aussie beside me is pointing; "hey look
To the left, that's a big one I'll just drop my hook"
But just wait a minute, don't cast out that bait
That's no fish you ninny. It's Pelorus, me mate*

Returning Home

*The holiday over we must say good bye
Homeward and work-ward like good kiwis we fly
But there's many backward glances and sighs of dismay
Oh how we wish we had money to stay
While crossing the tarmac and boarding the plane
We prick up our ears to a familiar refrain
Air New Zealand welcomes us back with a Haka
While the last sounds behind us are Goodbye, Vinaka*

Linden Scottish Country Dance Club

www.lindenscd.org.nz

Rangitikei Region Ball

11 November 2017 - 7.30pm

Marion Anderson & Max Ketchin

College Street Normal School Hall, 402 College St, Palmerston North

All welcome!!

Adults \$25 / RSCDS members \$20 / Spectators/youth \$15

Dress: if possible, Ladies - a sash; Gentlemen – a kilt

Rangitikei Region dancers – a plate of finger food please

Other regions dancers – just bring yourselves

Programme available from Rangitikei@dancescottish.org.nz and the NZ Branch website



Auckland Region Dates for 2018

Visiting Auckland next year?

You might like to know about the Auckland Region social events – dates and bands.

Opening Social:	7 April	Bourach Mor
Region Ball:	21 July	Rose and Thistle
Spring Dance:	22 September	Glenfiddle

Details on aucklandscd.org.nz or
northlandscd.org.nz
or contact us on info@aucklandscd.org.nz

Calling all JAMS past and present

Save the date!

**Next JAM Camp - 12 – 14 July 2019
in Auckland**

Maybe also a senior camp for adults 20 – 40 years?
Possibly a reunion of past JAMs?

If you will be in that age group in 2019 and would
like to be part of the planning – please let us know
jam@aucklandscd.org.nz

Our advance publicity, with hand-crafted tartan
lettering, has been designed
by one of our JAMs.



BURNS SCD CLUB

The Burns Scottish Country Dance Club will be celebrating its 65th Anniversary in September, with a dinner for current and past dancers.

The Club originated from within the Dunedin Burns Society in May 1952 and was one of the first Scottish Country Dance groups in New Zealand.

A gentleman from Holland had met and fallen in love with a lady who was a member of the Dunedin Burns Society as well as a Scottish country dancer. She was homesick and missed her dancing, so rather than let her return home, he made the suggestion that they form a separate committee of the Society to establish a Scottish Country Dance group.

Some of the dances they learned on the first night were, Strip the Willow, The Eightsome Reel (quite an accomplishment for a first night dance), Gay Gordons, Petronella, The Dashing White Sergeant, and Flowers of Edinburgh. For 1/- members received the dancing lesson, a cup of tea and a biscuit. Music was supplied using a combination of Jimmy Shand recordings and Mrs Ethel Matheson and Mr Les Jack on the piano.

A Scot in the University of Otago's School of Physical Education, Mr Joe Wallace, offered to take the dancing. By 1953 the club boasted 300 members, and at its peak an additional 180 juniors; however, numbers have fallen in recent years. The club is still very active and meets weekly throughout the year, with members enjoying their dancing, albeit without the piano accompaniment, but still with tea and biscuits on the first Monday of the month.

Comparatively, the cost of admission was greater in 1952 with 1/- being 0.005 of the average weekly wage of a semi-skilled worker, whereas using today's figures the door charge has fallen slightly.



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Ballet style pumps for women.

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St Andrew's Ball

with

Marian Anderson

The Highland Fair
 The Duran Ranger
 Lady Lucy Ramsay
 It's All Right
 Fight about the Fireside
 John MacAlpin
 The Topsy Vicar
 The Wind that Shakes the Barley
 Miss Gibson's Strathspey
 Bethankit
 The Lass of Richmond Hill
 The Dundee Whaler

Supper

Roaring Jelly
 Rest and be Thankful
 The Byron Strathspey
 Pelorus Jack
 Mairi's Wedding
 City of Belfast
 De'il Among the Tailors
 Ian Powerie's Farewell to
 Auchterader

When: 25 November 2017

Where: Picton School, 5 Buller St, Picton

Time: 7.00 for nibbles
 7.30 for dance

Cost: \$25 for dancers
 \$10 for spectators and children

Payment: Internet Banking: 03 1710 0001846 00
 (Please include your name in the reference)
 or
 By cheque made out to "Picton SCD Club" to:
 L Aitchison
 432 Port Underwood Rd
 RD1, Picton 7281



CANTERBURY

EASTER WEEKEND SCHOOL 2018

TIMARU

Chill out and dance!





Fri 30 March – Mon 2 April 2018

3 Classes:

Advanced
 Intermediate/General
 Children/Youth

+ 2 Optional Classes (2 hours)

Advanced Technique
 Introduction to Scottish Country Dancing



RSCDS, New Zealand Branch Inc

Nelson Summer School

2018/19





We look forward to seeing you at Nelson Summer School in 2018/2019 where we have a great line up of teachers and musicians.

Accommodation will be at Saxton Lodge with classes in nearby Stoke.

Nelson is a city on the South Island of New Zealand, facing Tasman Bay. It's known for local arts and crafts stores, and art galleries. It's also a popular base for nearby vineyards and Abel Tasman National Park. Established by English settlers in 1841, the city's history is showcased at Founders Heritage Park, a living museum with a vintage railway.

Further information and details on how to register will follow soon.

NZ DANCES IN BOOK 51

By Désirée Patterson

Congratulations are due to two Wellington dancers (and tutors), Maureen Robson and Romaine Butterfield, for having their dances included in RSCDS Book 51. Selection of dances for the RSCDS books is rigorous, so it is quite an achievement to have two New Zealand dances chosen for this book.

Maureen's dance "*New Year Jig*", a 32-bar jig for three couples in a four-couple longwise set, is already well known in the Wellington Region. Maureen devised it in 1995, to teach reels of three at a children's class at Upper Hutt.

Peter Elmes composed and recorded a tune especially for it, called *Maureen Robson's Jig*. When the RSCDS publish new dances, they usually choose their own selection of music for them. However in this case, they accepted Peter's tune as the most suitable for this dance. Quite an accolade!

Romaine's dance, "*Come What May*", is a 32-bar jig for two couples in a four-couple longwise set. It was devised on the 1st of May 2010, hence the choice of title. The music, selected by RSCDS, is "*Mickie Banks*" (Robert R Gourlay). Romaine told me that Mickie Banks was a hostage in the Middle East, and she could imagine his family thinking, "come what may", so it seemed an appropriate choice of music for this dance.

Maureen teaches the Tawa Club and Romaine teaches the Waikanae Club. The Wellington Region can be justly proud of these two outstanding tutors.

PLAYING FOR SCD CLASSES

Dancers and musicians are often curious about what it takes to "play for class." This article explores the knowledge and technical abilities that can make it happen successfully.

The first requirement is *confidence*. Dancers need a strong and steady beat, so confident playing is a must. Musicians coming from the comparative safety of a band environment may initially feel rather exposed when playing solo or with (say) a piano accompaniment, so the new class musician must put that aside and project his/her confident inner self!

Next, is the ability to play simple tunes at dance speed. Technical command of your instrument is of key importance here. You don't need to be able to play every tune in the book: to begin with, it's preferable to stick to simple tunes (minims and crotchets), rather than stumbling through a difficult lead tune (the "signature" tune for the dance). But the music does have to be at the right speed for dancing.

The musician needs a good repertoire of jigs, reels and strathspeys, and also some marches and waltzes. So fluent music reading skills are essential. In any 2-hour class or club night, a musician may need to play 20 or more tunes. These need to be at one's fingertips, as the musician responds instantly to the tutor's instruction.

When a musician is present, a tutor usually initiates dancing with the phrase "Ready – And". The musician then plays (in time) a long lead note to provide a confident lead in for the dancers. Although this sounds complicated, in practice most musicians master this skill readily.

So much for practical skills... How about knowledge? Basic experience in SCD helps the class musician enormously. Familiarity with the specialised vocabulary helps follow what the class is learning, and knowing what it feels like to dance basic steps and formations will help guide the choice of tunes to support step and formation practice. You don't have to be an expert, just understand what is happening on the floor.

Where to from here? If you are interested in playing for dancing at your club, have a word with your tutor and see if s/he is amenable. You could start by just playing for a warm-up march and a waltz for stretches. Once everyone is comfortable, try playing for one dance in the evening.

And it's always a good idea to go on a course. Earlier this year, I attended a week-long "Playing for Class" course at the St Andrew's Summer School, taught by the current Music Director, Ian Muir. It was intense but very rewarding. The NZ Summer School also offers music courses. This year there is a "Teachers and Musicians" course, the musician side being taught by Ian Muir. There is also a "band" class in the afternoons. Both are great ways to expand your experience as a SCD musician and to have a great deal of fun!

Questions? Feel free to get in touch:
music@dancescottish.org.nz
Lynne Scott (NZ Branch Music Adviser)

BRANCH RECORDSHOP

July and August were really busy months in the Recordshop. The Nova Scotia CD 'Spark o' Water' (Muriel Johnstone/Keith Smith) was closely followed by 'Full Circle' (Muriel Johnstone / Ian Robertson) and "Music for Book 51" from HQ - all at a time when my thoughts were beginning to focus on the year-end stocktaking and Annual Balance! There was an enthusiastic response to all three of these CDs; I enjoy listening to new recordings but I do value the feedback from teachers and dancers around the Branch, especially when the comments are favourable! If you have not yet placed your order for any of these new releases, please do so. All are priced \$30.

Back in stock is the CD 'Moments in Time' (\$30) recorded by Muriel, together with Jim Lindsay and Keith Smith (14 SCD tracks). If you have yet to obtain a copy of 'Music for Book 50' and/or 'Miss Milligan's Miscellany Part 5', I have these two RSCDS titles in stock. Any other RSCDS recordings I can bring in on request, though HQ advise that many of the early CDs are now no longer available.

Looking ahead, there is the visit by Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin in November. Marian will no doubt bring copies of some of her CDs with her, and I have a selection available in the shop, though not all of her recordings to date. Then we have Summer School at Masterton with Ian (whose band recorded Music for Book 51) and Judith Muir on their return visit to a NZ Summer School.

In nostalgic mood, a popular 'old-timer' is Alex MacArthur & his Band. This CD (15 tracks) marries contemporary technology with traditional technique, bringing back to life the good old dances from the great old bands - Jessie's Hornpipe, A Trip to Aberdeen, Donald Bane, The Last of the Lairds, Ladies' Fancy and many more.

For fans of Jim MacLeod and his Band, I have two copies only of 'The Sound of Scotland' – more of a ceilidh-type CD. Eleven tracks include Grand March, Dumbarton Drums, Highland Laddie & The Black Bear, (grand tunes!) Argyll's Fancy, Reel of the 51st, Gay Gordons, Eightsome Reel, and The Dashing White Sergeant (6 times through). This band has always had a distinctive sound, popular with many teachers and dancers (including Yours Truly) and he uses some great sets of tunes - hard to beat! These are only \$20.00 ea plus P&P.

It is interesting to experience recently devised dances and recently composed tunes, but I always enjoy going back to some of the earlier, older dances. Just the other evening, I had 'Camp of Pleasure' and 'The Linton Ploughman' on my programme. It is fun to remind dancers of these earlier dances and 'give them an airing'!

Finally, fancy something quite different? Something Irish? 'Shamrock City' by the band Solas, is a collection of songs and tunes, telling the story of Michael Conway and the remarkable history of Butte, MT - a mining town in the USA. It is an imaginative collection of songs and tunes from this Irish/American band. NB: This CD arrived by mistake in an order from my Glasgow supplier, and I thought there might be someone 'out there' to whom it would appeal. No set price - offers invited! I would love to find a good home for it.

SEEKING A NEW SECRETARY!

Liz Lusher, our Secretary extraordinaire, is marching on, so we are looking for that special someone to take her place. If that is *you*, then please make yourself known! Contact: secretary@dancescottish.org.nz



Liz at the recent Marching Nationals in Wanganui