



# Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

## MAC News

### (Management and Co-ordinator News)

#### Issue 4/June 2016

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### **PRESIDENT**

The last few months have been busy for Frances & Myself. We have attended both the Blenheim and Caledonian Clubs 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. In July we will attend the Levin club's 60<sup>th</sup> celebration and in August the Johnsonville club's 50 Golden Years.

Our North Island trip during May and June took us to 13 clubs, 2 annual dances and of course the Cambridge Queen's Birthday weekend school.

As I write Dance Scottish month is coming to an end. There will be a final report on how many clubs took advantage of the Branch Incentive and what activities took place. My hope is that some fresh ideas will come through to give us new ways to promote Scottish Country Dancing for new members.

The Review of system payments to office bearers and others has now been completed and is available for any NZ Branch member to read. This will be discussed at the AGM. Only 6 months to go until the NZ Branch Summer School which is being held in Christchurch this year. Time to think about nominations for the Management Committee. Forms are available to be downloaded from the Branch website.

### **SECRETARY**

The completed review on Payments to Office Bearers, as per the AGM on 1 January 2016, has been distributed to all NZ Branch RSCDS Members.

The Mid Year Meeting for the Management Committee is being held on 30 July in Christchurch, with members staying over to enjoy the Canterbury Region dance in the evening.

A reminder that Remits and Management Committee Nominations are due by 31 August. Anyone contemplating standing for these interesting and rewarding positions and would require further information please contact the standing member.

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

#### **RSCDS NZ BRANCH 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BOOK OF DANCES**

In 1993 a collection of five dances called "Silver Threads" was published to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NZ Branch. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NZ Branch will be celebrated in 2018 and the Branch Management Committee proposes publishing a collection of dances to celebrate the occasion.

All current members of the NZ Branch are invited to submit a dance for consideration. The dances will be trialed before a final selection is made.

Guidelines:

- The dance should not have been published elsewhere.
- The dance should be suitable for general club dancing.
- The deviser must be a current member of the NZ Branch.
- Suitable music should be recommended.
- Submissions should be received by the NZ Branch Secretary no later than 30 September 2016.

#### **FUTURE SUMMER SCHOOLS**

The NZ Branch Management Committee would like to hear from any Region, in either island, interested in hosting future summer schools especially in 2018/2019.

At present the 60<sup>th</sup> Summer School will be held in Ilam, Christchurch, this year (2016/2017). The following year (2017/2018) the summer school will be held in Masterton, Wairarapa.

As the NZ Branch will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018 it would be a pity if that were to be the last summer school.

Interested – contact: NZ Branch Secretary



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## **COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY**

Dance Scottish month has just finished and I am looking forward to hearing how this went for your club. I would also be interested to hear from any club or dancer regarding this Branch initiative or any other comments that you wish to make.

I have some pamphlets available that promote the RSCDS so I plan to send these out to each club secretary prior to the new Membership year

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

New dancer's dilemma – wanting to be part of your club or region dance, but not wanting to cause concern to other more experienced dancers – it's a constant issue and one that is often hard to overcome with ease. Those of you who have a yearly intake of new dancers know your proven method – be it handing out specific crib sheets to the new dancers for the dances they have practised and are able to do with some assistance or marking the programme to highlight the dances best watched from the sideline. All this works well, until someone asks a new dancer to dance something unknown – not wishing to offend they accept and give it their best effort – with everyone's help (eye contact and subtle hand signals work well) the dance is a partial success. How much nicer would it be if the new dancer was as familiar with the dance as others – another season of dancing and it will happen.

A different hall, real musicians, dancers from other clubs or regions all add to the anxiety for our new dancers. Walking through a dance while the briefing is happening is ideal for new dancers and some of us who need a refresher now and then. Everyone in the set benefits – as well as the pattern of the dance, it allows face recognition of the dancers involved at the exact time to magically phrase steps and formations with the music and really enjoy the dance.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The time is coming for renewal of your RSCDS Membership. If you have any new dancers please do persuade them to join the RSCDS – we all know the benefits so your encouragement will make the difference. Also try to encourage dancers that have either never been RSCDS members or dancers that have let their membership's lapse to join this wonderful organisation.

We had some new dancers join under the Introductory Membership. This is offered to new dancers by giving them the opportunity to be RSCDS members for the half year, rather than having to wait for the next year. I feel that it is a great way to promote the RSCDS.

## **YOUTH**

Work continues slowly on the Youth webpages of the Branch website. Following on from the Youth Forum at Summer School, we have recently been expanding the previous list of JAM groups to include all clubs with young dancers and this will be available soon under 'Directory'. Please let me know if there is anything you have spotted on the website that needs updating or any suggestions you have for the Youth webpages.

I would like to have links to good quality Youth dancing on the Youth webpages. These videos need to be of good quality and all those in the video need to have given permission for the video to appear. The video should reflect favourably on all those in the dance and on Scottish Country Dancing in general.

Numbers of applications for the Youth Fund have been low so far this year. The Branch provides this to support JAMs and JAM events. Check out the criteria on the website to see whether the Branch can assist you/your event with funding. The closing date for the next round of Youth Fund applications is 1<sup>st</sup> December but applications may be submitted at any time.