



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

MAC News

(Management and Co-ordinator News)

Issue 2/May 2017

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PRESIDENT

2017 is proving a really busy year. I seem to be wearing three hats now – President of the Branch, Summer School organiser and last but by no means least teacher of the Carleton Club.

In early April I had the pleasure of visiting some clubs in Auckland and attending the garden party to celebrate the Region's 60th anniversary. There were people attending the garden party that I remembered from early schools and my time in the region in the 1970's.

Registration forms and brochures for the Wairarapa Summer School have been mailed to members and club secretaries. On line registration is also available. The first newsletter is available on the Branch website.

SECRETARY

A busy distribution time, so I hope you have enjoyed your NZ Dancer Magazine and Kiwi News, with a reminder to advise any change of address (both email and snail), plus your Scottish Country Dancer from Scotland with our Senior JAM Dancers on the front cover.

Remember that Summer School Flyers and Registration Forms are available from Secretary:

secretary@dancescottish.org.nz or Summer School

Organiser: ss2017@dancescottish.org.nz.

Minutes of the AGM on 1 January 2017 have been distributed. Further copies are available along with minutes of Management Committee meetings held at Summer School.

I will be checking the PO Box regularly for all those Scholarship Applications, due by 30 June. Notification of all Scholarships were sent to Regions and Clubs.

Our Mid Year meeting date has been set for 22 July, to allow us to attend the Auckland Region 60th Anniversary Ball.

TREASURER

It has thankfully been a quiet couple of months in the Treasurer's Chair. The Expense Policy having been finalised there have been minor changes made to some of our expense templates to ensure all the documentation is correct. Largely the Branch was already in compliance with this policy.

In prior years the split of subscription between the Society and the Branch fee for the upcoming year (2017/18 in this case) would have been notified to Regions by now. I do not plan to set this split until mid-August in order to minimise any cost to the Branch associated with a movement in the NZ/UK exchange rates. If this is a problem for any particular Region I would be keen to hear from you.

With the new financial year commencing in September 2017 we are already turning our minds to what might be in store for next year.

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

I have been asked by a few people why we intend to hold the next Dance Scottish month in February rather than March. The reason that the Management Committee decided on February is that it is before most clubs start plus also this is the time that potential new dancers are looking for something new to try. So start brain storming of how to attract new dancers and I do still have some pamphlets and fliers available that promote Scottish Country Dancing

YOUTH

My last report said I was still working to get photos and bios of the JAM Committee on the Branch website. This is now completed. Early this year we welcomed Chris Totton onto the JAM Committee looking after membership. I am also pleased to welcome our new Youth Representatives Amberly Middlemiss and Saskia de Graaf who are taking over from Philip Oliver. Thanks Philip for all your hard work over the past 2 years.

The recent JAM Camp in Masterton was attended by 68 JAMs dancing in 4 classes and a total of 26 JAMs took medal tests. Congratulations to all those who passed. Well done to Elaine Lethbridge for a successful JAM Camp. The next JAM Camp will be July 12th – 14th 2019 in Auckland. A question was raised about the Branch having a 'Working with Young People' policy that was available to all clubs to avoid the need for each club to do this work themselves. A document sent out brought in 5 pages of collated feedback and 3 longer pieces of feedback. The original document, all the feedback and an updated draft policy were all available for further consultation at JAM Camp and a discussion group spent a good part of Saturday morning going through the various items whilst the JAMs were in class. Thanks to everyone for your feedback either before or at JAM Camp. The decision on the final document will be made by Management Committee at the mid-year meeting in July. If you would like to attend Summer School in Masterton, now is the time to think about sending in a JAM Scholarship Application. There are 2 available and anyone who hasn't received one before is eligible to apply. It covers accommodation, food (except for dinner on New Year's Day), classes and all evening functions. Travel to and from Summer School is not included. Applications close on 30th June and late applications will not be accepted. The form is available on the Branch website under 'Forms' or on the JAMs at Summer School page.