



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc. **MAC News** (Management and Co-ordinator News)

Issue 4/August 2017

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PRESIDENT

This has been an amazing year to date with visits to clubs at both ends of the country. Kaitaia and Kerikeri in the North and St Andrews Club in Invercargill in the south. What a pleasure to meet and dance with a group of adults and JAMs in Kaitaia. At the Auckland Region's 60th Anniversary Ball in July I met some of the senior JAMs that I had the pleasure to teach at the JAM Camp earlier in the year. I can see the future of the NZ Branch in these young people and their obvious enjoyment in Scottish country dancing.

The 50th Anniversary Collection of dances will be launched at the Wairarapa Summer School. Thanks to the members who submitted dances and also the groups of dancers around the Branch who took part in the trialling.

Planning for the Wairarapa Summer School continues. Contrary to rumour the accommodation at the Copthorne is not full but we do have the whole hotel booked at this stage and are still accepting registrations. We reserve the right to charge a late fee but the organising committee has agreed not to do so at this time.

To date the Branch Secretary has not received nominations for all Branch Management Committee positions. Nominations from the floor will be taken at the AGM for any vacancies. The Management Committee is there to support the growth of Scottish Country Dancing within the NZ Branch but without people to give just a few years to it this support may end. We have a strong youth movement, teacher training and teacher support within the Branch and are working on ways to support the dancers and increase membership.

SECRETARY

Remits for the AGM will be forwarded to the Regions next week so they are available for discussion before the Annual Report is distributed. Also a list of nominations received for the Management Committee. A reminder to all Region and Club secretaries please complete the annual questionnaire promptly when it is forwarded to you.

TREASURER

The end of the Branch financial year is upon us. In mid-August I contacted all the Region Treasurer's requesting the information to complete the Branch Financial Statements. If you are a Region Treasurer and have not yet sent your account balance information as at 31 August 2017 please do so urgently. Once your Region Financial Statements have been completed please forward me a signed copy.

At the mid-year meeting in July the Management Committee had a good discussion with regards undertakings for the next financial year. A budget has been drafted with the aim of

circulating it to Regional along with the AGM papers. This should give all Regions an opportunity to discuss the budget ahead of the Branch AGM.

The Branch and Society membership renewal period has commenced. Just a reminder that all memberships renewals should be paid via a Club, with the Regions collating and forwarding the information for the clubs in their area.

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

I have heard from several clubs that are going to take up the Dance Scottish 2018 initiative but would like to hear from all clubs as to whether you are going to take up the initiative or not. Don't forget that I have posters and pamphlets for you to use at any time so just let me know what you require at communication@dancescottish.org.nz

YOUTH

I am delighted to report that my major project for this year, the 'Working with Young People Guidelines' has been finalized. 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 who 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, there are 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/groups will take up and use the guidelines now that they are available, so it's over to you now. The guidelines will be reviewed as required by Management Committee.

I am coming to the end of my 3 year term as Youth Co-ordinator and I would like to encourage anyone considering taking a position on Management Committee to 'have a go'. Although I said 'no' many times before I finally said 'yes', I am pleased that I have been able to work on the JAM Committee as Medal Test organiser and then as Youth Co-ordinator. I have found it a valuable experience and have learned a great deal and developed some skills in the time I have been in this position.