



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

MAC News

(Management and Co-ordinator News)

Issue 1/February 2019

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PRESIDENT

A very warm beginning to the 2019 dancing year in the Wairarapa with temperatures at +30. However we had a good response to our advertising the start of an Introductory course.

At the AGM on 1st January the Branch Treasurer, Margaret Cantwell, retired and as no nominations were received the position remained vacant. Before the end of summer school we were fortunate to receive an expression of interest from a volunteer. We are pleased to welcome Quentin Currall to the Management Committee as Branch Treasurer.

Do enjoy your 2019 dancing year. I hope to see many of you on the dance floor this year.

VICE PRESIDENT

I have had a quite start to the year. I am heading off to Winter School in Pitlochry with Sue Lindsay, looking forward to the dancing not so sure about the weather. I would like to thank Dorothy for all the years she has managed the Record Shop buying the latest CD's (Records and Tapes previously) for all of us to enjoy. As a teacher it is great to know that you can get the music for the book you have bought. Sue Pearson, will be taking over at the end of 2019 so that we can buy the latest RSCDS book and CD together. It is as Dorothy stated the sign of the times as we can download the music and books via the internet.

SECRETARY

Upcoming mailouts:

28.02.19 – AGM Minutes NZ Branch, NZ Dancer and MAC News

31.03.19 Jigs & More to the JAMS

30.04.19 Kiwi News and MAC News

TREASURER

As a new Branch Treasurer at the start of a new dancing year I would appreciate it if all Regions would confirm the contact details for their treasurer (both new ones and those who are continuing in the role).

CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLICITY & MEMBERSHIP

If you have new members at your club, the Society has new members packs that you can order at reception@rscds.org. Just send them an email advising how many you would like and they will be happy to send them

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Those of you who attended the AGM at Summer School will have seen a preview of the NZ Branch website which has been under development for several months. This seemed to meet with general approval and I was pleased to receive suggestions on how it might be further improved. By the time you read this, Duncan and I should have carried out a trial launch of the website in order to resolve any problems which might arise when it finally replaces the existing website.

The other major change which is due at the end of February is the launch of the new HQ website which has been completely transformed (hopefully, for the last time!). One side effect is that some of the links in our website which relate to the HQ site (such as references to Teacher Training) will no longer be valid and will need to be corrected right away.

The new HQ website will be accompanied by a new membership database. Although this should not really affect individual users, there will be some quite significant administrative changes. This leads to my other objective for this year which is to introduce a membership renewal procedure which is more streamlined and less time-consuming for everyone. I plan to start work on this as soon as the details of the HQ database have been published.

YOUTH

2019 began with the JAM forum at Summer School in Nelson. This was attended by teachers, parents, JAMs and other interested parties. Two main issues were discussed:

- Review of the syllabus for New Zealand Branch JAM medal tests. The revised syllabus will be on the Branch website shortly.
- The 'Spring Fling' style class being offered at the 2019-2020 Cambridge Summer School. This class particularly targets energetic and youthful dancers and should appeal to senior JAMs.

JAM fees: These remain at the same level i.e. \$5 per year or \$10 per family (all with the same postal address). The fee collection process will start in mid-February, with all fees due at the end of March 2019. Remember to register all juniors including those who dance at clubs without specific junior classes.

If you have suggestions or questions about dancing for JAMs/Youth please email youth@dancescottish.org.nz