



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

MAC News

(Management and Co-ordinator News)

Issue 2/April 2019

President:	Elaine Laidlaw	president@dancescottish.org.nz	06 377 0322
Vice-president:	Linda Glavin	vicepresident@dancescottish.org.nz	03 354 6694
Secretary:	Michele Miller	secretary@dancescottish.org.nz	021 237 6507
Treasurer:	Quentin Currall	treasurer@dancescottish.org.nz	03 485 9646
Co-ordinators			
Communications, Publicity & Membership:	Sue Lindsay	communication@dancescottish.org.nz	03 347 8234
Education & Training:	Lee Miller	education@dancescottish.org.nz	021 046 2015
IT:	Andrew Patterson	it@dancescottish.org.nz	07 345 6337
Youth:	Debbie Roxburgh	youth@dancescottish.org.nz	06 343 2160

PRESIDENT

April already! Hard to imagine that it is four months since summer school in Nelson. Antanas and his organising committee are busy with planning for the next summer school in Cambridge. If you have never been to a summer school do give it serious consideration. St Peters College is a great venue and Cambridge is a lovely part of the country.

My travels have begun with a trip to Christchurch to share with members of the Scottish Society their 70th Anniversary celebrations. While in Christchurch I had the pleasure of presenting the RSCDS Branch Award to Alan Burn for services to dancing, music and the NZ Branch. I also had the opportunity to visit the Banks Peninsula Club and the Caledonian Society.

VICE PRESIDENT

I am happy to say I have had a discussion regarding the possibility of the Summer School for 2022/2023 being held in the Otago Region. I would like to keep ahead with our Summer School venues, if there is a Region in the North Island that would be interested in organising the 2023/2024 school please email me.

CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLICITY & MEMBERSHIP

Sorry I put you wrong in the last MAC News. I now have some new members packs and more are on the way so please contact me with what you require, with an address to send them to and these will be put in the mail to you.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

If you want to apply for any Scholarship the closing date is the 30 June 2019 and no extensions will be approved. Scholarships available are Teaching Certificate, Musicians, Dancer with less than 3 years continuous dancing and Dancer with more than 3 years continuous dancing.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Branch website finally went live in March and I have been pleasantly surprised at the number of people who have

used the online forms for requests such as new memberships, member updates and calendar entries. This really makes administration a lot easier and I encourage everyone to make use of them where possible.

I have also been in frequent contact with Cecile Hascoet at HQ following the introduction of the new membership database. There were a lot of problems and omissions initially, particularly with joint membership, and the incorrect formatting of phone numbers and post codes has yet to be resolved. Another surprise was that the member attributes (dancer, teacher etc) were not transferred from the previous database and HQ anticipates that all members will log on to the website and re-enter this information - I think they are being very optimistic!

Recent activity has revolved around possible improvements to the membership renewal procedure which the Branch is required to carry out every August/September. A tentative proposal was presented to the Branch Management at Nelson and a more detailed report was sent out in April. After further refinements, this was distributed to all Regions in early May for comments. It must be stressed that a decision will need to be made by the end of June if any changes are to be implemented for the 2019/20 renewals.

YOUTH

2 reminders about funding and scholarship opportunities:

- Branch Youth Fund – grants are offered six-monthly, to provide funding for events, activities or resources that encourage or facilitate youth Scottish country dancing in New Zealand. Preference will be given to applications by RSCDS NZ Branch members (which includes registered JAMs), but non-members may also apply. Applications must be received by the Youth Coordinator before 1 June 2019.
- Summer School Scholarship – this is available for JAMs with a minimum of 1 year's dancing experience, who have not previously received the scholarship. It covers attendance at summer school as a resident (travel costs are not covered). Applications must be received by 30 June 2019.

For further information about the Youth Fund or Summer School Scholarship, including criteria and application forms, go to the Youth (JAM) pages on the NZ Branch website.