



# Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

## MAC News

### (Management and Co-ordinator News)

#### Issue 1/February 2020

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#### **PRESIDENT**

Welcome to another dancing year. At the AGM on 1st January 2020, we had one change on the management committee - Elaine Laidlaw retired as the NZ President and Linda Glavin was nominated NZ Branch President, Michele Miller Secretary, Quentin Currall Treasurer, Lee Miller Education & Training Coordinator, Debbie Roxburgh Youth Coordinator, Sue Lindsay Membership Communication & Publicity Coordinator, and Andrew Patterson Information Technology Coordinator. Have a great dancing year and I hope to see you at some of the dances throughout the year.

#### **TREASURER**

In the end of year rush, followed by a summer break, Regions may have forgotten to forward a copy of their Financial Statements to the Branch after they were audited or reviewed. If that is so, please send them as soon as possible so I can finalise the Branch records for 2018/19 and file them away.

A Region that was sorting out its "authorised person" with IRD has received an email from an IRD employee expressing "concerns whether the region relative to the branch is a separate legal entity. Consequently I have created a work item on our system for the IRD number registration for the regions and the branch to be reviewed (sic)". If Regions are contacted by IRD regarding this please let me know and keep me in the loop, I will do likewise. I believe the position is very clear, the Regions are independent bodies; they are comprised of members of RSCDS who live within the region, they have their own constitutions and although these must be approved by the Branch the operations of the Regions are not controlled by the Branch, the Regions send delegates to vote at Branch General Meetings.

Regions and Clubs should be planning for Covid-19. Aside from the basic messages of washing hands, having hand sanitiser available and staying home if unwell; consider the financial effects of non-cancellable commitments such as hall hire and know what you would do if numbers are down or you are unable to meet. Also be aware that the standard "\$10 travel insurance" sold by Air NZ with flights is very restricted in scope and would not provide reimbursement if an event is cancelled nor if travel or gatherings are prohibited by the authorities. In simple terms make sure you have enough reserves to meet any unavoidable costs if you have no income.

#### **CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS**

#### **MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY**

A new Welcome to the NZ Branch publication has been

sent to a publisher and will be available for new members to the Branch late March/early April

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Those of you who follow NZ Branch on Facebook will have noticed that it has recently taken on a new lease of life. This is down to Jill Littlewood who is administering the page - **and needs your help**. Please send her any items, including photos and website links to catch peoples' attention. If you are responsible for publishing a Region newsletter, consider sending a copy to Jill who will pick out any information that is relevant to dancers in other Regions. Her email address is [cjlittlewood@gmail.com](mailto:cjlittlewood@gmail.com). You can see the page at: [facebook.com/Dance-Scottish-New-Zealand-175839722594776](https://facebook.com/Dance-Scottish-New-Zealand-175839722594776)

Directories on the NZ Branch website now have up to date information for Regions, Clubs and JAMs, along with the calendar for 2020. Please check your own information and let me know if any corrections are necessary. For a change of Secretary, be sure to let me know if emails need to be forwarded to a different personal address. Any additional calendar entries should be made via the online form on the website, while an email is sufficient for submitting updates and documents for downloading (such as programmes). The major development over the next 2-3 months will be the incorporation of the JAM website into the main Branch website. This will necessitate a few other changes and the main difference that you will see is a much improved menu. I will also take the opportunity to bring the software up to date which means that the website is likely to be unavailable for 2-3 days, following advance notice via Facebook a few days beforehand. Be assured that this will not affect the use of the '@dancescottish.org.nz' emails.

#### **YOUTH**

**JAM fees 2020:** \$5 per junior per year or \$10 per family (all with the same postal address). The fee collection process will start shortly, with all fees due at the end of March 2020. We are aiming to increase the number of registered JAMs so remember to register all juniors, including those who dance at clubs without designated junior classes.

**Summer School:** If JAMs from your area enjoyed the 'Spring Fling' style class at Cambridge Summer School then the Youth Challenge Class in Christchurch will be just what they are looking for. Now is the time to encourage JAMs at your club to attend. Remember there are 2 scholarships for JAMs to attend Summer School - apply by 30<sup>th</sup> June, using the form on the NZ Branch website. Any suggestions or questions about dancing for JAMs/Youth, please email [youth@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:youth@dancescottish.org.nz)