

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC.**

HELD AT SAXTON LODGE, STOKE, ON 1 JANUARY 2019 AT 1.30 PM

**PRESENT:**

Management Committee: Elaine Laidlaw (President), Michele Miller (Secretary), Margaret Cantwell (Treasurer), Lee Miller (Education and Training), Debbie Roxburgh (Youth), Sue Lindsay (Membership, Communication and Publicity), Andrew Patterson (IT Coordinator).

Other members (from sign-in sheets): Michael Laidlaw, Katharine Hoskyn, Miriam Laidlaw, Christine Stanton, Isabel Jackson, David Williamson, Frances Williamson, Ruth Taylor, Noleen Harper, Pat Henley, Ian Pearson, Paul Roxburgh, Margaret Bailey, Frances Barnes, Dorothy Wilson, Caroline Samuell, Nicole Trewavas, Joy Dick, Quentin Currall, Ruth Currall, Antanas Procuta, Trish Henley, Desiree Patterson, Emily Currall, Jeanette Patterson, Betty Graham, Duncan McDonald, Wayne McConnel, Vicky Heslop, Su Marshall, Ian Marshall, Hazel Fish, Mary Gray, Shelley McConnel, Katherine Uren, Sue Pearson.

**OPENING:** The President declared the meeting open, thanked attendees for their prompt arrival and asked them to be sure to sign the attendance register if they have not already done so. She reminded those present that comments be concise and directed through the Chair, and requested that when members speak, they introduce themselves, and where they are from.

The President reminded members that the business that we are doing here today is to foster the enjoyment and promotion of Scottish Country Dancing.

All people present were asked to switch off their mobile phones.

**GREETINGS:** The New Zealand Branch received greetings from: Lydia Hedge, Canada; Gary Morris, Wellington Region, Liz Lusher, Auckland Region.

**APOLOGIES:** Linda Glavin (Vice-President), Gary Morris, Lydia Hedge, Liz Lusher, Janet Favel, Beverley Young, Claire Simpson, Graeme Plank, Hannah Roxburgh.

THAT apologies be accepted. Moved by Elaine Laidlaw. Seconded by Vicky Heslop. CARRIED.

**BEREAVEMENTS:** The following dancers passed away during 2018: Margaret Hall. Betty Scull, Aline Gee, Eddy West, Rita Brennan, Hilda Brodie (Smith), Judy Parsons, Keith Wright, Frances French-Wright, Janet Pay.

The President asked all to stand for a minute's silence.

**ROLL CALL:** Region Delegates and voting numbers. 42 delegates were represented.

Auckland	13	Waikato Bay of Plenty	5
Hawkes Bay East Coast	2	Rangitikei	3
Wellington	7	Nelson Marlborough	2
West Coast	1	Canterbury	6
Otago	2	Southland	1

**LIFE MEMBERS:** The President welcomed the following Life Member to the meeting: Dorothy Wilson. She also advised the meeting that Mary Ronnie has moved to a retirement village.

**OTHER ITEMS:** The President asked for notice of any other items to be discussed under General Business, relevant to the Annual General Meeting, which were not already on the Agenda. One item was notified.

**TIMING:** The President advised that, for general matters, speakers would be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes. Time allocations for Remits would be: Proposer 4 minutes, Secunder 3 minutes, Speaker 2 minutes, Right of Reply 3 minutes.

**TIMEKEEPERS:** The President proposed that Joy Dick and Caroline Samuel be timekeepers. The timekeepers were asked to ring a bell 30 seconds before the maximum time allowance for speakers and at the time limit.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 January 2018 were sent to Members earlier in the year.

THAT the minutes be taken as read. Moved by Elaine Laidlaw. Seconded by Margaret Bailey.

CARRIED.

THAT the minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting. Moved by Elaine Laidlaw. Seconded by Dorothy Wilson.

CARRIED.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Report from **Consult2020** presented by Quentin Currall.

A working group called Consult 2020 has been established by the New Zealand Branch Management Committee in August 2018 to facilitate discussion about voting at the Branch AGM. The working party (in alphabetical order) is Quentin Currall, Linda Glavin, Katharine Hoskyn, Antanas Procuta.

At the last New Zealand Branch AGM a remit passed to investigate the possibility of one-person, one vote, rather than the current process of delegate voting.

Objective for Consult 2020: To facilitate a consultative process that feeds into the presentation of a remit/notice of motion at the 2020 AGM relating to one-person, one vote (with interim report at 2019 AGM). In the consultative process the following needs to be included (but not restricted to):

- Comparison of principles involved in delegate voting and one-person, one vote
- Identification of options for managing the vote
- Identify other changes needed – e.g. presentation of remits/notices of motion, handling amendments etc.

In the October Kiwi News, a request was made for members to send us examples of how other not-for-profit organisations manage their voting. No examples have been received.

A discussion forum is being held at Summer School on January 2.

As much as possible Consult2020 aims to investigate the issues relating to voting from all perspectives, so the input of members is important. **Email:** [consult2020@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:consult2020@dancescottish.org.nz)

**Archives:** Elaine reported that the missing archives have not been received. There are still archives in Mary Ronnie's possession. During the year the archives were transferred to a rented storage facility.

**ANNUAL REPORTS:**

**President:** The President advised that she had nothing to add to her annual report.

THAT the President's report be accepted. Moved by Elaine Laidlaw, seconded by David Williamson.

CARRIED.

**Vice-President:**

THAT the Vice-President's report be accepted. Moved by Sue Lindsay, seconded by Duncan Laidlaw.

CARRIED.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer advised that due to additional donations from Tokoroa Club, Auckland Region, Glendarroch Club and Ashhurst Club, the contribution of the NZ Branch towards the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball was reduced to \$890 instead of \$3400.

THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted. Moved by Margaret Cantwell, seconded by Sue Pearson.

CARRIED.

**REVIEWER/AUDITOR:** Margaret Cantwell (Treasurer) proposed that Cross and Associates remain as the Branch Reviewer/Auditor. Seconded by Duncan McDonald.

AGREED unanimously.

**Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator:** Sue Lindsay advised she had nothing to add to her report.

Correction: The 2018 NZ Dancer was edited by Isabel Jackson. Desiree started as editor for the first Kiwi News.

THAT this report be accepted. Moved by Sue Lindsay, seconded by Su Marshall

CARRIED.

**Youth Coordinator:** Debbie advised that the revision of the syllabus for the Medals test will be discussed at the Youth Forum.

Shelley McConnel asked where the issue of rising JAM camp costs was going to be discussed. Debbie and Katharine replied that it will be discussed at the Youth Forum at Summer School and also at JAM camp.

THAT this report be accepted. Moved by Debbie Roxburgh, seconded by Caroline Samuel.

CARRIED.

**Education and Training:** Lee advised he had nothing to add to his report.

THAT this report be accepted. Moved by Lee Miller, seconded by Duncan Laidlaw.

CARRIED.

**IT Coordinator:** Andrew stated that the problem identified in his report has been largely solved with Duncan Laidlaw's support.

THAT this report be accepted. Moved by Andrew Patterson, seconded by Duncan McDonald.

CARRIED.

**Book shop:** Sue advised she had nothing to add to her report.

THAT this report be accepted. Moved by Sue Pearson, seconded by Duncan Laidlaw.

CARRIED.

**Record shop:** Dorothy advised that 2019 will be her last year as shopkeeper. She encouraged members to "give it a go" and serve the NZ Branch.

THAT this report be accepted. Moved by Dorothy Wilson, seconded by Ian Pearson.

The President reported that the Management Committee, Dorothy and Sue Pearson have been in discussion. Sue has agreed to merge the two shops from January 2019. She stated that, when Dorothy retires in January 2019, she will have served as Record shopkeeper for 35 years. Dorothy was acknowledged with applause.

CARRIED.

**SCRUTINEERS:** The President proposed that Sue Pearson and Ian Marshall be scrutineers and asked the meeting for approval. AGREED.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

**President:** The President vacated the chair. The Secretary advised the meeting that one nomination had been received for the position of President: Elaine Laidlaw. (Nominated Ivan Roxburgh, Seconded Ian Pearson). As there was only one nomination, the Secretary asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Elaine Laidlaw be appointed President of the New Zealand Branch for 2019.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

**Vice-President:** The President advised the meeting that one nomination had been received for the position of Vice-President: Linda Glavin. (Nominated Su Marshall, Seconded Alison Shankie). As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Linda Glavin be appointed Vice-President of the New Zealand Branch for 2019.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

**Secretary:** The President advised the meeting that one nomination had been received for the position of Secretary: Michele Miller. (Nominated Elaine Lethbridge, Seconded Margaret Cantwell). As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Michele Miller be appointed Secretary of the New Zealand Branch for 2019.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

**Treasurer:** As no nomination had been received, the President called for nominations from the floor. No nominations were received. The Management Committee will continue to seek a new treasurer. The Treasurer stated that to employ an accounting firm would cost NZ Branch \$10-12,000 per year.

**Information Technology Coordinator:** The President advised that one nomination had been received for the position of Information Technology Coordinator: Andrew Patterson. (Nominated Wayne McConnel, seconded Lee Miller). As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Andrew Patterson be appointed Information Technology Coordinator for 2019.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION.

**Youth Coordinator:** The President advised that there was one nomination for the position of Youth Coordinator: Debbie Roxburgh. (Nominated Yvonne Gray, seconded Caroline Samuel). As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Debbie Roxburgh be appointed Youth Coordinator for 2019.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

**Education and Training Coordinator:** The President advised that one nomination had been received for the position of Education and Training Coordinator: Lee Miller. (Nominated Elaine Lethbridge, seconded Margaret Cantwell). As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Lee Miller be appointed E&T Co-ordinator for 2019.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

**Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator:** The President advised that one nomination had been received for the position of Membership, Communication and Publicity Coordinator: Sue Lindsay. (Nominated Janet Favel, seconded Chris Whittington). As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Sue Lindsay be appointed Membership, Communication and Publicity Co-ordinator for 2019.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

**RETIRING MEMBERS:** Elaine thanked Margaret Cantwell for her excellent work done in the role as Treasurer. Her reports and delivery were succinct, informative, and written clearly for those without an accounting background.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

**REMITTS:**

The President proposed the following timing arrangements for handling remits.

Proposer: 4 minutes      Seconder: 3 minutes

Speakers: 2 minutes      Right of reply - Proposer and Seconder: 3 minutes

The President advised that these are maximum times and, if they wished, seconders could waive their speaking rights, also proposers and seconders could waive their right of reply.

**Remit: Honoria and Payments for Non-Management Committee position holders**

Proposer: Margaret Cantwell Seconder: Michele Miller

Margaret commented that these position holders volunteer with energy and dedication. The payments are a token of appreciation.

Voting:            FOR 42            AGAINST 0            ABSTENTIONS 0            CARRIED

**Remit: Honoria and Payments for Management Committee position holders**

Proposer: Margaret Cantwell. Seconder: Elaine Laidlaw

**Part A: Honoraria**

Voting:            FOR 42            AGAINST 0            ABSTENTIONS 0            CARRIED

**Part B: Management Committee Expenses for Summer Meetings and AGM for 2020 Financial Year**

Wayne McConnel: These expenses are the largest single expense for NZ Branch (and too high)

Duncan Laidlaw: These expenses are should be considered as part of all Branch activities.

Margaret Cantwell: It is common in organisations such as this that a large proportion of expenses is administration.

Question Currall: If voluntary hours were given a monetary value MAC is a small proportion of the total cost of activities.

Shelley McConnel: The Society AGM is held over a weekend.

Elaine Laidlaw: It is difficult to fill Management Committee positions. They are quite often done by retired people who would not be able to attend meetings if they were not subsidised. Noted that the Society has some paid employees.

Voting:            FOR 37            AGAINST 5            ABSTENTIONS 0            CARRIED

**Remit: Membership Fees for 2019/20**

Proposer: Margaret Cantwell. Seconder: Elaine Laidlaw

Margaret noted the fees were unchanged from the previous year.

Voting:            FOR 42            AGAINST 0            ABSTENTIONS 0            CARRIED

**Remit: President's Travel Budget.**

Proposer: Margaret Cantwell. Secunder: Michele Miller

Wellington Region proposed an amendment, to add "and accommodation (where appropriate)" so the President can claim for both travel and accommodation expenses where billeting is not available.

Moved by Duncan McDonald, seconded by Desiree Patterson.

[Discussion break]

Antanas Procuta: At present billeting is the 'go to' option. Concern that adding accommodation will mean that motel accommodation becomes the first option, and therefore the budget would need to increase.

Duncan McDonald: That is a concern for future AGMs.

Margaret Bailey: Astonished to find that all President's expenses were not met. Assumed that 'travel expenses' included transport, accommodation and food.

Shelley McConnel: I am against the amendment but do not intend to offend or belittle the efforts of current or future presidents. Elaine is warmly invited to stay with McConnels.

President: Not all regions and clubs are hospitable.

Voting on amendment:           FOR 37           AGAINST 5           ABSTENTIONS 0           CARRIED

Voting for amended motion:   FOR 42           AGAINST 0           ABSTENTIONS 0           CARRIED

[Afternoon tea break]

**Notice of Motion:** That from 2019 the NZ Branch service fee for RSCDS Life Members be \$0.

Moved: Katharine Hoskyn. Secunder: Murray Corps

Katharine Hoskyn: The purpose is to put right an anomaly that results in the Society and the Branch recognising two different groups of people as Life Members. Life Members who purchased their membership have the option of continuing to make donations to the Branch.

Michael Laidlaw: This appears to be a solution desperately seeking a problem. It is neither desirable nor necessary.

Many years ago the RSCDS offered members the option of paying for a life membership. In the mid-sixties the cost was 3 guineas. At this time annual membership was 5 shillings so members were charged around 12 years fees to take out life membership. Any such current members will therefore have had around forty years free membership. If we convert to today's values. Three guineas in the mid-sixties converts to around £60 today, i.e. 3 years annual membership at current rates with the other 50 or so years being free. This was obviously a very generous deal but we should not in any way denigrate people who took it up. All annual members have been supporting the cost of serving Life members.

The point is not that Life Members should not have taken advantage of the deal, but simply that the Society and the Branch does not currently owe them anything. Why then would we offer them an additional benefit of free Branch membership, effectively supported by all members who pay the Branch fee? If anyone deserves a break, is it not in fact those dedicated Annual Members who have been paying their fees for decades.

In January 1968 the NZ Society became the NZ Branch of the RSCDS. As part of the agreement with RSCDS the NZ Branch could charge a Service Fee for members to belong to the NZ Branch and receive

all the additional benefits thereof. This ensured that the NZ Branch had funding to continue it's the operations previously handled by the NZ Society. Since clubs would no longer be members the only source of funds would be a service charge direct from members.

The commitment of Members to Regions, the Branch and RSCDS as a whole, can be, and is, recognised by various awards including Regional awards, RSCDS Branch Awards, RSCDS Scroll, and NZ Branch Life Membership. Arguably people who have chosen not to belong to the NZ Branch should not be eligible for NZ Branch life membership.

Andrew Patterson: Service fee is sometimes higher than the contribution paid by members depending on the exchange rate.

Ruth Currall: Life is too short to sweat the small stuff.

Elaine Laidlaw: Purchased life membership of the Society in 1967, served as editor, education and training coordinator, vice-President and president. She would be embarrassed to be part of the Branch without paying a membership fee. It also denigrates the Honorary Life Membership that is given in recognition of service to the NZ Branch.

Duncan Laidlaw: This creates an anomaly in Life Members. One group would pay no Branch fees based not on service but on whether they purchased Life Membership of the Society.

Wayne McConnel: A set service fee would avoid problems with exchange rates.

Margaret Cantwell: The method for setting the fee split was changed last year and there are no longer issues with exchange rates.

Katharine Hoskyn: The RSCDS Life Members can still make donations to NZ Branch. They have had a very good deal from RSCDS.

[Discussion in Regions]

Voting:           FOR 17           AGAINST 22    ABSTENTIONS 3           NOT CARRIED.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**BUDGET:** Margaret Cantwell (Treasurer) proposed that the Budget as circulated in the Annual Report be adopted noting that it was prepared on the assumption of the adoption of the Remits at today's AGM.

AGREED unanimously.

## **FUTURE SUMMER SCHOOLS:**

### **2019-20 Cambridge. Antanas Procutas, Organiser**

At St Peter's College. Overseas musicians and tutors are confirmed. Jamie Berg, Mervin Short.

Registration forms are now available. The website will go live in mid-January.

Introduced a high energy "Spring Fling" class. Will run a junior JAM class if there is sufficient demand.

Commuter fee has been set high in order to encourage residents.

### **2020-21 Christchurch. David Williamson, Organiser.**

Accommodation at College House, Ilam. Young committee has been formed. Overseas tutor Tim Bosen, San Francisco.

The President advised that, due to difficulty in finding suitable venues, summer schools may not alternate between the North and South Islands.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** The meeting was advised that the following scholarships were awarded in 2017.

JAM: Isobel Harris, Levin; Edward Fish, Waimate.

Teaching: Evelyn Knights, Waikato BOP.

Dancer Under 3 Years: Su and Ian Marshall, Christchurch. Su Marshall thanked the Management Committee for allowing the scholarship to fund two commuters rather than one live-in recipient.

Dancer Over 3 Years: Anne Hickling, Wellington.

Elaine advised that Scholarships were open to all RSCDS Members. Close 30 June 2019.

**BANK SIGNATORIES:** The Treasurer Margaret Cantwell moved that the bank signatories be Elaine Laidlaw, President, Michele Miller, Secretary.

Any 2 can sign Branch cheques and approve online transactions.

AGREED unanimously.

**PROPOSAL FOR LIFE MEMBER:** Doug Mills. Doug's record of service to NZ Branch was read out. The meeting was asked if it accepted the Management Committee's recommendation.

ACCEPTED WITH ACCLAMATION.

**VOTING CARDS:** Delegates were asked to return voting cards before leaving the meeting.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER:** Attendees were reminded to sign the attendance register if they had not already done so.

**CONCLUSION:** The President thanked the members for attending.

The President advised that the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Zealand Branch Incorporated, will be held at Cambridge, on 1 January 2020.

The meeting closed at 4 pm.

These minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting.

.....President .....Secretary

.....Dated