



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
New Zealand Branch Incorporated

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019**

## **AGM Papers**

### **Part 1:**

Reports

Nominations and Nominees' Profiles

Remits for Determination of Fees and Expenses

## **REPORTS**

### **President's Report - Elaine Laidlaw**

I am pleased that this year the Branch has acknowledged the service and commitment of some of our members. I had the pleasure of conferring Life Membership of the RSCDS NZ Branch Inc on Doug Mills at the summer school in Nelson. Later in the year RSCDS Branch awards were presented to Maureen Robson and Alan Burn.

During the year I have had the opportunity to join dancers around the country. Some of the clubs I visited were celebrating significant anniversaries. These included the Scottish Society in Christchurch in April, Tam O'Shanter in July, Picton in August and Lincoln in September. While visiting the Canterbury Region I danced at the Banks Peninsula, Caledonian and Rangiora Clubs. In Nelson/Marlborough Region I visited Richmond, Motueka and Nelson Clubs. It was also a pleasure to visit the JAM Camp in Auckland and meet the brilliant team of organisers – both JAMs and adults.

In June/July Michael and I enjoyed an overseas trip. While we were in Scotland we visited RSCDS headquarters and met many of the staff members. We had a very enjoyable lunch with Lorna Ogilvie, Chairman Elect who is chairing the Centenary Working Group.

I have been fortunate this year to have the support of the members of the Management Committee. Margaret Cantwell stepped down as our very capable Treasurer after three years leaving the position vacant but during the summer school in Nelson Quentin Currall from Lawrence volunteered his services.

### **Vice President's Report - Linda Glavin**

My year began with a trip home with Sue Lindsay to attend the Winter School at Pitlochry. The weather was very kind to us and the school was great. We managed to fit it a couple of trips and to Oban for a weekend school. We visited the RSCDS headquarters; it was good to meet everyone as it is always nice to put a face to a name. Also we networked asking teachers and musicians who would be interested in teaching or playing at a New Zealand Summer School.

I have been keeping in touch with Antanas, the organiser of the Cambridge Summer School, and it is great to see that they have sufficient numbers and are offering more classes.

The current and future Summer Schools for the New Zealand Branch are part of my portfolio. I am happy to let you all know we have Christchurch for 2020/2021 organiser David Williamson. Then we will be off to Auckland for 2021/2022 organiser Duncan Laidlaw. We are very hopeful the 2022/2023 school will be back in Dunedin organiser Quentin Currall.

I attended Waimate Scottish Country Dance Clubs 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dance. They had good numbers and a beautiful sunny day.

This Summer School brings the end of an era as our recordshop keeper; Dorothy Wilson retires after many years of service. She has had many trips overseas bringing back the music for all of us over the years. She was always found in the shop at Summer and Weekend Schools with a great selection of music and always ready to take our orders. She was always willing to help you, you could bet she would know the record, cassette or CD that the music for the dance you needed would be recorded on. I am sure we would all like to say a big thank you to Dorothy and wish her all the best.

### Treasurer's Report - Quentin Currall

Accumulated funds increased by \$7,054 over the year:

- Surplus from the Nelson Summer School of \$9,026
- Reduction in shop funds of \$1,714
- Interest on and donations to Special Funds \$2,218
- Grants made from Special Funds \$1,650
- Decrease in General Funds \$2,023
- Decrease in Region held Funds \$222

Membership fee income dropped by \$4,396 due to the reduction in the portion of the combined fees allocated to the Branch, this will increase again by about \$2,000 in the 19/20 year.

Membership Numbers	2017/18	2018/19
Adult Joint	58	54
Adult Joint Email	153	152
Adult Single	166	146
Adult Single Email	324	357
Complimentary	16	16
NZ Branch Life	7	7
RSCDS Life	5	5
RSCDS Life Email	6	6
RSCDS Life Family	3	3
Young Adult (18-24)	2	1
Young Adult Email (18-24)	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>736</b>

Looking at the 19/20 renewals, the new process was extremely smooth from the Treasurer's point of view and I am very grateful to Andy Patterson for designing it and the Regions and Clubs for using it. One point though stands out – 59 members ceased their membership (60 new members joined), it would be good to reduce that level of churn.

Interest income – both that on general funds and on special funds has declined in line with falling interest rates, this trend will continue.

Expenses include 2 items that are of a non-recurring nature: the final costs of the 50th Anniversary Ball \$2,281 (partially offset by \$830 of income received in 18/19) and a \$2,000 grant made to the organisers of the 2019 JAM Camp.

Increases in postage costs continue to have an effect. With a further increase in July 2019 it was decided to buy a quantity of prepaid envelopes before the price change. As it was significant, the value of the envelopes on hand has been treated as a prepayment at year end – they will be expensed as they are used for AGM and Magazine mailing.

It was decided to change the Branch accounting system to Xero from 1 September 2019, this will have a lot of advantages and will make the job of Treasurer easier, something I am keen on.

### **RSCDS Subscription Accounts**

RSCDS NZ Branch operates a subscription account that holds funds from members to cover subscriptions to RSCDS in Scotland. Over time funds have accumulated when the amounts collected (in NZ dollars) have exceeded the amount payable (in pounds). These are not NZ Branch monies but are Member funds and for full disclosure the amounts are shown in the Branch Statement of Financial Position (as part of funds and with an equal and opposite liability amount).

<b>Movement in RSCDS Subs Account</b>	<b>\$</b>
Opening Balance 1 Sep 2018	9,631
Total Subscriptions Received	26,176
Interest Earned	14
Subscriptions remitted to HQ	(25592)
Bank Fees	(48)
Closing Balance 31 August 2019	10,181

In order to minimise the cost to members of making payment to Scotland, NZ Branch has established an account with the money transfer service TransferWise. Compared with using a bank to make the transfer this service gives us a much better exchange rate (the mid-rate on the day) and means that there is no fee charged by the receiving bank in Scotland; there is however a higher explicit payment fee paid here. Overall this has saved about \$400 on the 19/20 subscription payment made in October and will make payment of exam fees and similar during the year much less expensive.

Please note in the remit, *Membership fees 2020-21*, Adult Single Email should be \$80 not \$90.

*Refer also to the Financial Statements in AGM Papers Part 2.*

### **Youth Coordinator's Report - Debbie Roxburgh**

Membership of the JAM Committee remained unchanged in 2019 however there will be some changes for the 2020 year. We farewell and thank Amy Luxton-Esler who has edited Jigs and More for the past 3 years and Saskia van de Graaf, youth representative. We welcome Su Marshall from Christchurch and Megan Spittle from Auckland who will take over the roles of Jigs and More editor and youth representative respectively.

Members – this was the first year when registration for all JAMs occurred in March. Results are disappointing with 79 JAMs registered, a decline of 64 over the 143 registered in 2018.

Increasing the number of registered junior dancers is a priority, and the JAM Committee will need the assistance of all clubs to achieve this. Registering all junior dancers, whether they dance in a dedicated youth class or are integrated into adult classes, enables us to keep in touch with all juniors and make sure they are informed of youth activities.

Strategies for achieving an increase in the number of registered juniors will be one of the topics for discussion during the JAM forum at this year's summer school in Cambridge.

Medal tests – 2 separate medal test events were held this year one at Milford Club and one at the JAM Camp. The following medals and bars were awarded: Bronze (8), Bronze Bar (2), Silver (6), Silver Bar (2), Gold (6), Gold Bar (3).

The review of the Medal Test Syllabus was completed in late 2018 and the revised syllabus sent to all junior clubs/groups. There is now a choice of dances at each level of the syllabus. The revised syllabus was examined for the first time at the JAM camp in July 2019.

JAM Camp – a highlight of the year was the JAM Landing in Auckland. This was attended by 50 JAMs who were supported by 31 helpers (teachers, musicians, parents...). The organising committee is to be congratulated on the way in which they involved JAMs in the planning and organisation of the camp. The massed

display, which involved every junior at the camp, was an amazing spectacle and an awesome first demonstration experience for some of the youngest dancers.

Priorities for 2020 – 1. Increasing the number of registered junior dancers 2. Transition of the Youth pages to the updated format of the New Zealand Branch website.

My thanks to the members of the JAM committee –Amy Luxton-Esler, Chris Totton, and Nicole Trewavas - much of their work happens behind the scenes but rest assured they are working hard on behalf of our junior dancers and their ongoing contributions make my role considerably more straightforward.

### **Education and Training Coordinator's Report – Lee Miller**

During the year I liaised with the organisers of future Summer Schools about their choices for teachers and musicians.

I was also in extended discussion with Auckland Region over the possibility of trial Dancing Achievement Awards being run there - but so far we have been unable to establish what level of demand there is for these.

### **Examinations**

5 trainee teachers submitted their applications for Unit 4 during the year and are continuing on to Unit 5 at this year's Summer School.

3 candidates sat the written Unit 1 exam in October - a big thank you to all those who provided their homes as exam venues and who spent a Saturday morning acting as invigilators at the exams.

### **Branch Awards**

During the year the Branch agreed guidelines on the criteria for a Branch Award from the NZ Branch together with the process to nominate someone. These guidelines are published on the NZ Branch website.

I'd especially like to thank Lynne Scott for all her work as **Branch Music Adviser** during this year. Lynne reports "This has been a busier year than usual, with a number of workshops in different centres:

June - One-day Workshop for dancers in Lower Hutt, explaining how the music is set out for SCD, and some practical playing for some of the attendees. 6 attendees

June - 1-hour Talk at QBW Katikati school, on SCD music for non-musicians. Several dozen attendees.

July - Afternoon workshop for musicians in Christchurch, focusing on the practical aspects of playing for SCD. 6 Attendees.

September - Morning workshop in Christchurch for tutors on Working with musicians - 8 attendees

September - Afternoon workshop in Palmerston North for dancers explaining how the music is set out for SCD, and some practical playing for some of the attendees. 12 attendees.

All of these were funded by small fees/koha/small donation from the Region. The out-of-town events took place when I was there to play for a dance.

A two-day workshop for musicians is planned for Labour Weekend, along the lines of the one held last year near Hamilton which had about 15 attendees. 1 1/2 days of convention - style presentations and discussion, then a Tea Dance on the Sunday afternoon. This year we are in the Browns Bay area on Auckland's North Shore.

In addition, I have been in discussion with the organisers/committees of the upcoming Cambridge, Christchurch and Auckland schools, providing recommendations for the selection and disposition of musicians and the establishment of Musicians Classes. Lynne Scott, Music Adviser

### **Information Technology Coordinator's Report - Andrew Patterson**

It has been a year of change.

The new Branch website went live in March and appears to have been well-received by our members. I am particularly pleased that so many of you are using the online forms to submit new memberships (44), updated memberships (37) and entries for the calendar.

Then it was on to the business of renewing RSCDS memberships. A lot of thought (and several rethinks) has gone into this over the past few months and feedback was sought from Regions and Clubs at critical stages of development. A few improvements were suggested, the workbooks were distributed and, at the time of writing, several Regions have completed their membership renewals. All seems to be going well, but we will see how it pans out when I start updating the membership database.

Also, you should all have received your membership cards by now. I decided to adapt a system used by some Branches in the UK and simply email card images to be printed and cut out by members, thus saving both time and money. Along with the card, each member is given a print-out of the contact information (address, phone, email) which the Branch holds about them, so that it can be checked and updated if necessary. Several Regions have asked the Branch to provide them with a list of all their members, together with full contact details. So it is likely that the 'membership card' procedure will be extended to provide each Club and Region with its own membership listing with all this information.

And so to next year ...

'Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better' - Sydney Harris

## **Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator's Report - Sue Lindsay**

2019 has been a relatively quiet year for me. I have sent out new membership packs and advertising material as requested by clubs.

At present I am putting together the finishing touches for the Branch's initiative for 2020 – this will take the form of a national ceilidh. Also in the pipeline is some new advertising material suitable for New Zealand (rather than the current pamphlets from Scotland) and a new information booklet for new dancers in the NZ Branch.

I would like to thank Desiree Patterson for all her continued hard work in putting together The Dancer magazine and the quarterly Kiwi News as I am sure that you all enjoy hearing what is happening in clubs and regions around New Zealand.

## **Bookshop Keeper's Report - Sue Pearson**

With the RSCDS not publishing a book of dances this year the overall value of sales through the Bookshop has been impacted. I continue to provide a service to procure any books that are requested which I don't hold in stock. However, there have been steady sales throughout the year, with a particularly good level of sales during Summer School in Nelson. As well as attending Summer School, the Bookshop was also able to attend the Queen's Birthday weekend school at Katikati and good sales were also made.

I look forward to the challenge of taking on the Recordshop service and will try to at least provide CDs which have matching books.

I wish Dorothy well in her well-earned retirement from running the Recordshop.

## **Record Shop Keeper's Report - Dorothy W Wilson**

Welcome to this, my final Annual Report to you as Recordshop Keeper.

Sales were up slightly compared with the previous trading year. This was due to the outstanding popularity of the RSCDS production "Music for Book 52" recorded by Jim Lindsay & his S D Band. Sales were far in excess of any other earlier release by the Society. However, sales overall continued to be low and the overall result of trading for the year once again recorded a loss, albeit less than the 2017 – 2018 trading year. This is the inevitable result of fewer New Releases and the ever-increasing popularity of downloading from the Internet.

Trading is indeed much quieter but the operational costs increase, and the Committee's decision announced at the previous AGM - to close the Recordshop as a separate stand-alone service and for future sales to be handled via the Bookshop service - is a sensible one. It also brings the NZ Branch into line with other Branches, including the Society itself, which operate one Shop

catering for all members' needs. The trend is for New Releases to relate to already published dances or book of dances, so the merger will avoid much of the current -"double-handing" and keep down expenses! It should prove a win-win situation for all concerned; all, that is, except for.....the Recordshop Keeper!

When in 1984 I accepted the NZ Branch Council's request to take on this voluntary position, (I was working full-time and had four children grownup but not yet married) I had no idea it would span so many years. Looking back, though, with Jim Ronnie 30+ years as Bookshop Keeper, and Marjorie Crawford 20+ years as Giftshop Keeper, it does look as though it tends to be a long-term commitment! Obviously, each of us accepted the responsibility, loving the contact with so many wonderful people, from the dancers themselves through to the suppliers and (in my case) the musicians, world-wide. Here, I would like to make special mention of Peg Hutchison, Life Member of the NZ Branch who as my Auditor till 2008 gave me inestimable help and advice on the "accounting" side of the job, especially in the early days. The Society is exactly that, a world-wide family, and as Recordshop Keeper I have been privileged to play such an interesting part. I have always loved SCD music and consider it the most important part of SC dancing – the success of a dance depends on the music and how it is played. Although with already many years' experience as a dancer and as a teacher, being Recordshopkeeper offered another aspect and afforded me the joy of sharing this wonderful music with so many more people.

My life has been enriched, my horizons broadened and it is all due to being a member of the Society and the NZ Branch. Going to a SCD class as a teenager and then joining the RSCDS proved to be one of the best things I ever did. Thank you to the Society, the NZ Branch and to you, its members for the pleasure gained, the friendships made, the support given by members, Region and Branch office-bearers, fellow Shopkeepers and last but not least, Bruce Dwerryhouse who agreed to audit the books until I demitted office. As I say at the start, the merger is a win-win situation for almost everyone, but I know I shall greatly miss that regular contact.