



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
New Zealand Branch Incorporated

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021**



## **President's Report**

The year began with hope of a full year of dancing. I travelled to Rangitikei in April and attended the Hawkes Bay Region Dance and the Glendarroch Club night. It was great to be able to fly to Tauranga and Upper Hutt to join them in celebrating their clubs' special anniversary dances. It was disappointing for Innes Club who had to cancel their special anniversary dance due to lockdown. Whilst my planned visit to the clubs in the Wellington Region did not go ahead as planned, I was able to attend the Wellington Region's 60th Anniversary Ball. I managed to catch up with a few of the dancers during my recent trip to Wellington. Again, it was good to speak with newer dancers and the not so new dancers.

I would like to thank all my uber drivers and hosts for picking me up and dropping me off at the airports. Also, for offering me a bed and their wonderful company. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time visiting the clubs and I meet so many dancers during my visits and had great conversations. It has been great to have the time to travel more freely now I am no longer working as this would have proved a bit more difficult while working. I had planned to visit clubs down South this year and hopefully I will still be able to visit some although Covid-19 lockdown shortens the time to travel.

The Vice-President (Debbie Roxburgh) and I have been working on reviewing the roles and responsibilities of all the coordinators. Whilst this is taking a little longer than expected, work on the Comms/Publicity/Membership and Information Technology coordinators roles has now completed, and copies of the revised job descriptions sent to each region. Members may have already noticed some changes especially around the membership renewal process.

Going forward our aim is to work on a '4-year Strategic Plan' for the New Zealand Branch. The plan will include long-term goals and specific targets for each year. Each Region has been asked to submit suggestions for how the New Zealand Branch can better support dancing and dancers across the country. These suggestions will feed into the development of the strategic plan.

I would like to say thank you to both Michele and Lee Miller for all their support and all their work during their years on the Management Committee. It has been great working with both of you.

Thank you to all the Management Committee for their giving their time, support and all the work they have done during the 2021 year.

Thank you to all the NZ Branch members for their support and feedback. As I have said, if we do not know the good, the bad and the ugly, we cannot move forward.

Linda Glavin

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

After attending the Branch AGM via zoom I was looking forward to a year of dancing uninterrupted by Covid-19. In hindsight that was more than a little naïve as most dancers have experienced one or more interruptions through lockdowns. So, it was a real pleasure to attend those dances and celebration events that were able to proceed. I was delighted to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hastings Club and to then join most of the Management Committee at the ball celebrating 60 years of the Wellington Region. These were happy events where members past and present gathered to mark reaching a significant milestone.

During the year Linda and I have been working on the review of all Management Committee job descriptions. The revised Membership Communications and Publicity, and Information Technology Coordinators job descriptions have been sent to each region prior to being tabled at the 2022 AGM. Work on the remaining job descriptions will continue in 2022. Once finalised all Management Committee job descriptions will be made available on the NZ Branch website.

As part of my portfolio, I have been liaising with the organisers of future Summer Schools, especially the 2021-2022 Christchurch School, organiser Ian Marshall. We have also confirmed schools in Auckland 2022-2023 organiser Liz Hickey, Nelson 2023-2024 organiser Doug Mills and we are hopeful that the 2024-2025 school will be in the Wellington Region.

Debbie Roxburgh

## Treasurer's Report

As a preface rather than as an afterthought, if there is anyone who is interested in serving as Branch Treasurer please get in touch – although I am standing for the 2022 year it would be excellent to have plenty of time for a new person to get to grips with the role during that year.

At the time of writing this report the Branch financial statements are complete (apart from reflecting movements in Region funds) but have not yet been finalised and audited. Some small adjustments to the numbers I use in this report may therefore arise.

The year has been an unusual one in the financial history of the Branch, decisions were made to postpone Summer School, to waive part of the Branch membership fee and to make funds available to Regions to help restore and maintain an enjoyment in dancing. As a result, fee income was half that of the previous year, no scholarships were paid to attend Summer School, no Summer School surplus was made (no Summer School income or costs), there was no cost of having the Shop at Summer School nor of accommodating the Management Committee for meetings at Summer School, there was a significant expenditure on “promotion” (grants to the Regions). In addition to the Covid related factors, interest rates have been at historic lows and we received a generous donation to the Youth Fund. In short, little in the year has been directly comparable with previous years.

Against this background it is a good time for all members to give some thought to how Branch funds are used – both what are they spent on and how those decisions are made.

Accumulated funds increased slightly over the 20/21 year (note these numbers are not yet final and might change and exclude Region held funds):

Increase in shop funds of \$127

Interest on and donations to Special Funds \$9,750

Decrease in General Funds \$9,505

Membership fee income dropped by \$17,105, due to the waiving of some of the Branch service fee.

Membership Numbers	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Adult Joint	58	54	47	42
Adult Joint Email	153	152	154	163
Adult Single	166	146	127	106
Adult Single Email	324	357	375	376
Complimentary	16	16	16	16
NZ Branch Life	7	7	8	8
RSCDS Life	5	5	5	6
RSCDS Life Email	6	6	6	5
RSCDS Life Family	3	3	2	1
Young Adult (18-24)	2	1	2	2
Young Adult Email (18-24)	5	5	6	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>732</b>

The 21/22 renewals are proceeding but at this point there is still some work to do to resolve outstanding points – not helped by Covid restrictions which have limited the ability of many Clubs to meet.

Interest income – as referred to last year, with lower interest rates interest income is dropping. Maintaining the capital of the Special Funds by replacing their interest income with money from General Funds has not been necessary this year as no Summer School meant no scholarships being paid from Special Funds

I received proposals from most Regions wanting to make use of the Branch funds that were made available to help put some “zing” back into dancing after a disrupted year. They included equipment purchases (sound equipment, promotional banners etc), band fees and hall hire for dances, running courses and, from one Region a long term commitment to (re) establishing the connection to the university.

Although the Financial Statements will not be ready for distribution for a while, there is one change in presentation that I want to bring to member’s attention. It was requested at the 2016 AGM that the Financial Statements show any payments to officers and others (honoraria and costs of attending Summer School meetings) that are not taken up, as a cost (as if it had been paid) and as an equal (and opposite) donation. The reason is so that the accounts show the true cost commitment (independent of whether taken up) and that no one serving should feel pressure to not take up a payment because of what previous people have done. This presentation has now been adopted – both in the body of the financial statements and in the Related Party Transactions disclosures. It has been done for honoraria and for Summer School accommodation but not for travel costs as it is not easy to

objectively determine individual travel costs that someone has chosen not to be reimbursed for.

### 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). The future purpose of the balance is to ensure that any movement in exchange rates between the date that the amount to be collected from members for the Subscriptions is set (late July/early August) and the date the money is sent to HQ (late October) can be covered. In the 20/21 period the renewal payment from one member was duplicated and they asked for it to be treated as a donation. Rather than create a new account code to reflect this unique and small \$ event it has been coded as Subs Fund Interest – hence higher level of interest earned.

Quentin Currall

## Youth Coordinator's Report

The JAM committee started the year with some changes amongst the committee; I took over the Youth Coordinator role, and Chris Totton took on the role as organiser for medal tests. We welcomed Anna Verhaegh as the JAM membership coordinator and Emily Currall has continued her role as the editor of the JAM newsletter - Jigs and More.

My aim for the year, after finding my feet, was to continue the hard work Debbie Roxburgh, previous Youth Coordinator, had put into updating the Medal Test process and the associated forms. You can now find all these forms and other information about the medal tests on the Branch website - my thanks to Andrew Patterson, IT coordinator, for making them available and updating the youth page on the website.

We have had another very quiet year on the JAM front with no medal tests held this year. However, there were some in the pipeline for October to be held in Wellington but due to the current covid-19 (Delta) lockdown we have recently had, it made planning and preparation time for the JAMs near impossible, so fingers crossed they can try again mid next year!

Members – Our current JAM membership is very low! We have a disappointing number of only 72 JAMs registered - Canterbury 7, Wellington 13, Rangitikei 22, WBOP 11, Auckland 19. 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.

JAM Camp – Originally JAM camp was due to be held this year, in Canterbury, before it was postponed to next year. Unfortunately, we have had to make the decision to postpone it for another year, mainly due to lack of JAM numbers. Watch for details of an alternative JAM event mid 2022!

Priorities for 2022 – Rebuilding and increasing the number of JAMs is the biggest priority for the JAM committee! This has been a focus over the last few years, and we will continue with this into the future – Covid-19 has not helped! We need the assistance of all clubs to achieve this. You may not have a specific youth class, but I encourage you to welcome any young people to dance with you.

I would like to thank the members of the JAM committee – Chris, Anna and Emily for all the work and time they have put into the running of the JAMs this year. I would also like to thank Debbie Roxburgh for her mentoring as I stepped into the youth coordinator role this year.

Nicole Trewavas



## **Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator's Report**

2021 again has been disrupted by Covid-19 forcing a major shutdown of dancing for a lot of dancers since August 2021.

Membership renewals this year were conducted during the latest lockdown so my thanks go out to all the secretaries for the extra work that was needed to get these in on time as we also shortened the timeframe when these had to be back in.

This year we have a total of 732 members. Below is just a few statistics:

- 140 members receive their communications by post
- 580 members receive their communications by email
- 206 members are joint
- 17 life members

The new New Zealand branch information booklet for new members has been sent out to all members joining the RSCDS for the first time and I hope that they have enjoyed receiving this.

I would like to thank Desiree Patterson for all her continued hard work in putting together The Dancer magazine and the quarterly Kiwi News, and Jill Littlewood for keeping the facebook page updated.

Sue Lindsay

## **Education and Training Coordinator's Report**

### *Examinations*

4 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. Especial mention needs to be made of the arrangements made to allow the candidate in Auckland to sit the exam while complying with the Level 3 restrictions in place.

At the time of writing this report there are doubts as to how the Unit 2/3 classes and examinations planned to be held in conjunction with the Christchurch Summer School can take place.

### *Core Training for Instructors*

This new initiative from the RSCDS has been under development during the year and details were announced in the October edition of the Scottish Country Dancing magazine. A number of teachers from New Zealand have

expressed interest in becoming Trainers for this new scheme. This scheme will offer a different pathway for people interested in teaching at club level and who do not have the time or footwork to go through all the steps leading to full certification as a teacher.

### *Music*

Lynne Scott, the Branch Music Coordinator, continues her great work to encourage musicians to play for Scottish Country Dancing.

Unfortunately the Scottish Country Dancing musicians' weekend scheduled for Labour Weekend in Hamilton had to be cancelled at the last minute.

Lee Miller

### **Information Technology Coordinator's Report**

The year began on an optimistic note with a reworking of the Summer School pages on the NZ Branch website. I adopted an approach which would make it easier for the Summer School organisers to update the website themselves, as they saw fit, and this has proved very successful thanks to the enthusiasm of Ian and his team.

It also seemed to be an appropriate time to return the management of the Membership database to its rightful owner - the Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator. It made sense for me to take a hands-on role while I was developing the underlying IT procedures, but these have now largely settled down. I have been encouraged by the members (and Wellington Region deserves special mention) who have come forward with ideas for improvement and I have taken on board the fact that members find the annual renewal an ideal opportunity to update their membership details such as email and postal addresses. Better still, the update form on the website can be used to inform the Branch about changes during the year, with the added advantage that the information is forwarded automatically to the Region Secretaries.

The slightly reduced workload means that I have had time to embark on the bane of the software developer's life - documentation. A couple of ring binders worth so far, and rising, but essential if there is to be a smooth transition to a new Information Technology Coordinator, as I would hope, in twelve months time.

Andy Patterson

## Nominations for Management Committee 2021 - 2022

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominator</b>	<b>Second</b>
President	Linda Glavin	Lynda Aitchison	Dianne Gullery
Vice President	Debbie Roxburgh	Elaine Laidlaw	Ian Pearson
Secretary	Gaylia Powell	Michele Miller	Sue Lindsay
Treasurer	Quentin Currall	Xiaowen Yu	Michele Miller
Communication, Publicity and Training Coordinator	Sue Lindsay	Pamela Fisher	Coreen Wallis
Education & Training Coordinator	Jeanette Watson	Debbie Roxburgh	Doug Mills
IT Coordinator	Andrew Patterson	Jill Littlewood	Michele Miller
IT Coordinator	Fiona McCutcheon	Linda Glavin	Elaine Laidlaw
Youth Coordinator	Nicole Trewavas	Veronica Cullen	Helen Allan



