

## Minutes of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) NZ Branch Annual General Meeting 2023

Held on Saturday 1 January 2023 at The Parnell Hotel & Conference Centre, 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland, commencing at 1:30pm

### PRESENT (40)

**Management Committee (7):** Linda Glavin (President), Debbie Roxburgh (Vice-President), Gaylia Powell (Secretary), Coordinators: Sue Lindsay (Communication, Publicity and Membership), Andrew Patterson (IT), Nicole Trewavas (Youth), Jeanette Watson (Education and Training)

### Delegates (21):

*Auckland-Northland:* Catherine Linnen, Fiona Bullivant, Jill Memory, Lesley Nicol, Pat Henley, Shona Greer, Trish Henley

*Waikato-Bay of Plenty:* Andrew Patterson (also on MC), Jim Carter, Linda Carter, Rodney Dawson;

*Rangitikei:* Sue Pearson, Ian Pearson, Paul Roxburgh

*Hawkes Bay-East Coast:* Betty Mahy-Cressey

*Wellington:* Ann Oliver, Lee Miller, Michele Miller

*Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast:* Noleen Harper

*Canterbury:* Sue Lindsay (also on MC)

*Otago:* Xiaowen Yu

*Southland:* Nil

**Others (14):** Adela Han, Andrew Oliver, Andrew Uren, Antanas Procuta, Anthony Han, Doug Mills, Ed Duggan, Elaine Laidlaw, Jeanette Patterson, Joy Dick, Katharine Hoskyn, Katherine Uren, Liz Hickey, Mary-Ann Kaye, Michael Laidlaw

The President welcomed everyone to the 55th Annual General Meeting and declared the meeting open. The President reminded participants “the business that we are doing at the AGM is to foster the enjoyment and promotion of Scottish country dancing. This is also a General Meeting managing matters of concern to the Branch. Any members of the Branch can speak and raise questions at the meeting.”

### APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Clare Simpson, Dianne Reyburn, Dorothy Wilson, Elaine & Steve Goldthorpe, Emily Currall, Quentin (Treasurer) and Ruth Currall, Esther and Campbell Mackay, Gail Schofield, Glenice Saunders, Hannah Roxburgh, Isabel Jackson, Lydia Hedge, Lynda Aitchison, Sharlene Penman

That apologies be accepted.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Lesley Nicol CARRIED.

### BEREAVEMENTS

The following members of our dancing community passed away in 2022. The President asked all attendees to stand for a minute’s silence to honour them.

- HM The Queen, the Society’s patron
- Alan Robson
- Allan Twort
- Alwyn McLeod
- Barbara Cantwell
- Barbara Smythe

- Bunny Honiss
- Donald Readerlear
- Donald Sharp (Don)
- Gillian Taylor
- Ian French-Wright
- Janet Connell
- Laura McLeod
- Laurie Cantwell
- Margaret Younger
- Maureen Paviour-Smith
- Mike Evered
- Simon Barbour

### **ROLL CALL**

The President noted the AGM uses delegate voting, which means that the dancers in each Region are represented by nominated delegates. There were 21 delegates present, representing eight of the nine Regions. The number of votes allowed per Region, based on the number of NZ Branch Members in each, is as follows, with a total of 37 possible votes if all Regions fully participated in the voting:

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

There were no Southland delegates present; there was just one for Canterbury, carrying three of the five votes for that Region. As a result, there was a maximum of 34 votes, not 37.

### **LIFE MEMBERS:**

The President welcomed to the meeting NZ Branch Life Members Debbie Roxburgh, Doug Mills and Elaine Laidlaw.

The President notified the timing and speaking processes. The time-keeper was Michael Laidlaw. Ed Duggan and Elaine Laidlaw were the scrutineers.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 January 2022 were sent to Members earlier in the year and have been published on the Branch website.

THAT the minutes be taken as read.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Debbie Roxburgh      CARRIED

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

Moved by Gaylia Powell, seconded by Linda Carter      CARRIED

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **President's Report**

No further comments or discussion. The President thanked the people who had assisted her and the Branch during the year.

THAT the President's Report is accepted.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Ian Pearson CARRIED

### **Treasurer's Report and approval of the Annual Financial Statements**

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting. However Lesley Nicol was available to answer questions of a general nature if required. One question was raised, and that was seeking an explanation for why the sizable bequest from Bernice Kelly in the previous year did not appear in the accounts and what it was being used for (having been bequeathed for education and training purposes). The Education & Training Coordinator could not confirm why it did not appear in the accounts but perhaps because it had not gone through probate? She could however announce that the first decision on use of the funds had been made at Committee meetings at Summer School - some of the money will be used to meet future candidates' fees, for both Unit and CTI examinations, so candidates do not have to meet this expense. After a productive discussion with teachers at this Summer School, other initiatives will be introduced, making use of the fund.

THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Lesley Nicol CARRIED

THAT the financial statements be approved.

Moved Liz Hickey, seconded by Duncan Laidlaw CARRIED

### **Reports from other members of the Management Committee**

There was no discussion about the reports from the following; Vice-President, Communications, Publicity and Membership Coordinator, Education and Training Coordinator, Youth Coordinator, Information Technology Coordinator, Shopkeeper.

THAT the reports from other members of the Management Committee be accepted.

Moved by Debbie Roxburgh, seconded by Jeanette Watson CARRIED

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The nominees, nominators and seconders as given in the AGM papers (position of Treasurer listed as 'No nominee') were read out. Linda Glavin sat aside for the election of President; Linda was re-elected and took the chair again.

THAT all those nominated by 31 August 2022 be elected onto the Committee.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Liz Lusher CARRIED

After nominations closed on 31 August, Lesley Nicol was nominated for the position of Treasurer by Fiona Bullivant and seconded by Liz Lusher.

THAT Lesley Nicol be elected Treasurer.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Trish Henley CARRIED

The Management Committee for 2022 will be:

President:	Linda Glavin
Vice-president:	Debbie Roxburgh
Secretary:	Joy Dick
Treasurer:	Lesley Nicol
Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator:	Su Marshall
Education and Training Coordinator:	Jeanette Watson

IT Coordinator:  
Youth Coordinator:

Andrew Patterson  
Nicole Trewavas

### **APPOINTMENT OF BANK SIGNATORIES**

THAT the bank signatories be: Linda Glavin, President; Joy Dick, Secretary; and Lesley Nicol, Treasurer, and that current signatories, namely Linda Glavin, Quentin Currall and Gaylia Powell, remain in place until the changeover process is completed. Any two signatories can approve online transactions.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Sue Pearson CARRIED

### **FINANCIAL NOTICES OF MOTION** (see Appendix 1)

The President reminded the meeting the maximum time allocations are: Proposer 4 minutes; Secunder 3 minutes; Speaker 2 minutes; right of reply 3 minutes for both proposer and secunder.

#### **1. Appointment of auditor or reviewer**

Proposer: Quentin Currall                      Secunder: Gaylia Powell

THAT Cross Financial Services Limited be engaged as the auditor or reviewer for the current financial year, i.e. 2022-23.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Rodney Dawson CARRIED

#### **2. Determination of Membership fees for 2023-24**

Proposer: Quentin Currall                      Secunder: Gaylia Powell

No discussion.

THAT Determination of Membership fees for 2023/24 be accepted

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Xiaowen Yu

Voting: FOR 30      AGAINST 4      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

#### **3. Honoria and payments for Management Committee position holders**

Proposer: Quentin Currall                      Secunder: Gaylia Powell

##### **Part A: Honoraria**

The honoraria were agreed by the Management Committee, at a half-day facilitated meeting, as appropriate in relation to the report written by Liz Hickey in 2016. Like the expenses for summer meetings in Part B below, they strike a balance between benefit to the officials and benefit to the Branch.

Wellington spoke against the reduction in honoraria for the Secretary and Treasurer, in view of the workload they carry.

Voting: FOR 20      AGAINST 14      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

##### **Part B: Management Committee expenses for summer meetings and AGM for 2023 Financial Year**

There was a substantial discussion about this Notice of Motion. The intention is to reduce the number of Management Committee meetings required at Summer School, while allowing for

Management Committee members to be reimbursed for attendance at these meetings and the AGM if they wish to claim. It was agreed that if Management Committee is required to attend further meetings, reimbursement may be claimed. Overall costs to the NZ Branch will therefore be reduced.

The question was raised, how do the reductions fit in with last year's remit to ensure people are not out of pocket for participating in the management of the Branch, i.e., what has changed in the thinking?

Katharine Hoskyn pointed out that the Notice of Motion reflects what consultants have recommended; if a member of the Management Committee is required longer at Summer School, e.g. for Education and Training activities, they will be entitled to claim for the cost of additional days or the whole of Summer School. It continues to be accepted that no-one should be out of pocket as a result of the proposed changes. Auckland will monitor this, and that the Management Committee is doing what is expected of it.

A number of points were raised:

- It is a huge advantage for people to meet the Branch officials face to face at Summer School - it is not just about meetings.
- Zoom meetings have their place, but do not have all the advantages of face-to-face meetings.
- There may be more difficulty recruiting officers without some financial incentive.
- Concern about logistical issues regarding the accommodation provider and cost of a vacant room if some of the Management Committee leave Summer School after the series of meetings. (This may not be the case if sufficient warning is given)

Voting: FOR 27      AGAINST 7      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED.

#### **4. Honoria and payments for non-Management Committee position holders**

Proposer: Quentin Currall      Seconder: Gaylia Powell

No discussion.

Voting: FOR 34      AGAINST 0      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

#### **5. President's travel budget**

Proposer: Quentin Currall      Seconder: Gaylia Powell

No discussion.

Voting: FOR 31      AGAINST 3      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

### **PROPOSED BUDGET**

It was noted that the budget was distributed close to the end of the year, and the Delegates have not all been instructed how their Regions would vote. The President apologised on behalf of the NZ Branch for the late distribution of the proposed budget. The Constitution does not require that the AGM accept the budget, and so it was agreed to 'note' the Budget rather than vote on it.

**OTHER NOTICES OF MOTION** (see Appendix 2)**1. Region Constitution amendment: Amalgamation of Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast Regions + Amendment to Notice of Motion regarding Clause 5.1 of Branch Constitution**

Region Constitution amendment: Amalgamation of Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast Regions - Proposer: Janet Tavener      Seconder: Kelly Walker

Amendment to Notice of Motion regarding Clause 5.1 of Branch Constitution - Proposer: Gae Beckingsale      Seconder: Katharine Hoskyn

THAT the amendment to Notice of Motion regarding Clause 5.1 of Branch Constitution be accepted.

Moved by Linda Glavin, seconded by Fiona Bullivant

Voting: FOR 34      AGAINST 0      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

Vote on amended Notice of Motion i.e. that Clause 5.1 be amended by deleting West Coast and changing Nelson-Marlborough to Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast and also that Auckland be replaced with Auckland-Northland

Voting: FOR 34      AGAINST 0      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

**2. Branch Constitution – Amendments to the maximum term of office for Management Committee members**

Proposer: Elaine Laidlaw      Seconder: Debbie Roxburgh

Elaine Laidlaw spoke to this Notice of Motion, followed by some discussion. The question was asked, would the terms of different Committee members overlap? Most years, there will be a few changes to the Committee, and the number of changes will depend on the length people chose to stay on the Committee - they commit to one year, and may stay for one, two or three years (or now under exceptional circumstances, four).

Voting: FOR 31      AGAINST 3      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

**3. Branch Constitution – Amendments to reflect change to the Incorporated Societies Act + two amendments**

Branch Constitution – Amendments to reflect change to the Incorporated Societies Act

Proposer: Jeanette Watson      Seconder: Debbie Roxburgh

Minor amendments to Notice of Motion Branch Constitution – Amendments to reflect change to the Incorporated Societies Act

Jeanette Watson explained that the minor corrections were of a typographical nature only and did not change the intent of the Notice of Motion nor would the Notice of Motion itself interfere with implementation of Notices of Motion relating to one-person, one-vote. Furthermore, Management Committee wanted to embark now on work to comply with changes to the Act as it is a substantial piece of work and it takes time to get changes made via the AGM schedule. Legal advice has been sought from lawyer and Scottish country dancer, Chris Kelly. Acceptance of the amendment relating to Minor amendments to Notice of Motion Branch Constitution – Amendments to reflect change to the Incorporated Societies Act was put to the vote.

Voting: FOR 27      AGAINST 7      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

Amendment to Notice of Motion re Branch Constitution

Proposer: Vicky Heslop      Seconder: Kelly Walker

Noleen Harper put forward changes in the wording of the amendment, changes which were

provided by the proposer and seconder. Discussion concluded that the suggested changes did not alter the intent of the amendment, and acceptance of the amendment with its original wording (see Appendix 2) was put to the vote.

Voting: FOR 26 AGAINST 8 ABSTENTIONS 0 CARRIED

Acceptance of the Notice of Motion together with its two amendments was put to the vote.

Voting: FOR 27 AGAINST 7 ABSTENTIONS 0 CARRIED

Katharine Hoskyn thanked Jeanette Watson and others for the enormous amount of work they had put into this.

#### **4. Alteration to the Constitution to enable one-person, one-vote for determination of Branch fees and expenses for Office Bearers**

Proposer: Katharine Hoskyn                      Seconder: Antanas Procuta

Katharine Hoskyn outlined the background to this Notice of Motion, which was initiated four years ago, and now needs a two thirds majority in favour to proceed. It will allow each Member to be heard. The process for one-person, one-vote voting will be: 1) A Notice of Motion will be sent out to Members along with instructions for voting and 2) The Member may vote on-line or by post by a specified date well before the AGM. If the Motion is not carried, i.e. Members vote "no", the Proposer (in this case the Management Committee) will have time to amend the Motion. No one Region will be able to dominate the voting, and current protections will continue.

In the discussion that followed, other points raised were;

- The delegate system is outdated, and there are now tools to allow all Members to vote.
- This is about encouraging active, engaged Branch Members.
- People who can't get to Region meetings, where the Delegates are instructed, are not necessarily uninvolved (although they may be).
- Members need to understand fully what they are voting for, hence they need opportunities to discuss any Notice of Motion; some newer Members may have difficulty with Branch operation
- Hence Branch AGM papers need to be sent out early to Members, as well as to Regions, in order to be able to discuss any Notice of Motion at Region meetings (i.e. six weeks prior to the AGM is too late).
- Those who don't want to vote can abstain; this will work better for those who do want to.
- There remains work to be done on setting a minimum number of respondents (quorum) to ensure fair representation; there are ways to do this; noted the response to Auckland's recent online survey was well short of 25%.
- Much of the voting process will not change.

Voting: FOR 27                      AGAINST 7                      ABSTENTIONS 0                      CARRIED

Pat Henley thanked Katharine Hoskyn and Antanas Procuta for the work they had put into this, over the last four years.

#### **5. Alteration to the Constitution to enable one-person, one-vote for voting on Notices of Motion**

Proposer: Katharine Hoskyn                      Seconder: Antanas Procuta

Katharine explained that this Notice of Motion applies to ordinary matters, for example for ideas generated by Regions, and does not apply to voting on complex constitutional matters. The system of delegate voting will continue for complex constitutional matters.

Additional questions raised:

- Would the result of the online voting be binding?
- What happens if the Members vote, “no” and the AGM decides otherwise?
- How would multiple amendments be handled?

Right of reply (Katharine Hoskyn)

- This is all about hearing Members’ views, and those views would need to be accepted.
- The Chair will still have the right to decide how amendments will be handled.
- The need for amendments will be reduced by discussion.
- If something is seriously wrong, there are mechanisms within the Constitution to address it.

Voting: FOR 27      AGAINST 7      ABSTENTIONS 0      CARRIED

## **FUTURE SUMMER SCHOOLS**

### **Nelson 2023-2024 (Doug Mills, Organiser)**

Doug Mills outlined the arrangements for the next Summer School which will be held at Saxton Lodge, Stoke, the same venue as the previous Nelson Summer School. All dance venues will have wooden floors, tutors will come from New Zealand and Australia. Afternoon excursions are envisaged. Online registration will be available within the next few weeks. Pat Henley acknowledged Doug for taking on a fourth Summer School.

### **Wellington 2024-25 (Ann Oliver, Organiser)**

Ann Oliver outlined arrangements to date for the following Summer School, which will be held at Scots College, Strathmore Park, Wellington. Accommodation and events will be on-site, and classes nearby.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The following people were awarded scholarships in 2021:

Heather Gregg, Noleen Harper, Virginia Brownlee, Isabel Jackson, Cassandra Bahr. Because the Summer School was cancelled, these Members were given the option of deferring until Summer School in Auckland or Nelson.

The following people were awarded scholarships in 2022:

5 years & under years dancer:	Valerie Kinley	Auckland
6 years and over dancer:	Philip Oliver	Wellington
Teacher Certificate:	Emily Currall	Otago
Musician:	Neda Baldwin	Christchurch

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The President asked if there were any other items to add to the agenda. There were none.

The President reported that revised job descriptions for the Management Committee positions will be presented at the next AGM.

## **Pick-up 52**

Andrew Uren (and later Katherine Uren) spoke about their concept (Pick-up 52) for celebrating the RSCDS Centenary, and showed a short video taken at the Summer School to demonstrate



the kind of material they are seeking from clubs. The aim is to involve as many dancers as possible, in video clips of 30 seconds to one minute, using dances devised by New Zealanders as much as possible. To date, a substantial number of clubs have indicated their interest in participating.

Michael Laidlaw proposed a vote of thanks to Linda for leading us through this meeting.  
AGREED BY ACCLAMATION.

The President thanked attendees for coming to the AGM and noted that Liz Hickey and her team have done a fantastic job in organising and running Summer School 2022/23. The President also thanked all speakers at this meeting, and the three outgoing Management Committee members for their contribution to the NZ Branch.

The date and venue for the next Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Zealand Branch Incorporated, will be notified to members by November 2023, likely to be 1 January 2024, at the Nelson Summer School venue.

The meeting closed at 4:43 p.m.

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

.....President

.....Secretary

.....Dated