



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
New Zealand Branch Incorporated

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

President's Report

I began 2022 with the hope that Covid would have less of an impact on dancing. I was proved wrong when the date set for the Management Committee's face-to-face meeting in early February 2022 was cancelled due to Covid. Our face-to-face meeting took place on 2nd and 3rd July 2022. We invited Dan Bonifont from Morrison Low to facilitate our discussion of the review of the Liz Hickey report of 2016. It was at the Sunday session that the scholarships for the Auckland Summer School were drawn. Our meeting was very productive, and we are aware that work still needs to be completed.

As I look back over the last three years, I wonder how different things might have been if it was not for the Covid lock downs. Unlike other years, travel was limited along with attending Region or Clubs' special events. I believe Scottish Country Dancing numbers will start to increase but it will be slow and steady. I noticed in some areas they are offering morning or afternoon classes. At first, I was a bit hesitant about this idea, but having attended a morning class that is well supported, I feel this may be another way to encourage new dancers who are not able to go out at night. Holding introductory classes over the winter period and at the start of the year may work. As we say, all ideas are worth thinking about.

President's travel report

Special Anniversaries

Braemar 60th Anniversary

Milford 60th Anniversary

Andrew Carnegie 35th Anniversary

All three clubs combined their dance to celebrate their anniversaries. The ball was well supported, and I am sure everyone who attended enjoyed dancing to live music and a great programme.

Ashhurst 50th Anniversary

The occasion began with the Grand March with piper Nicole Trewavas leading us into the hall. Again, the dancers were able to enjoy dancing to live music and a great programme. It was good to see they were well supported by dancers from other areas. The MCs, Anne Hall and Gae Stephenson, gave us a little history behind why dances were on the programme and the cake was cut by Suzanne and Doug Drysdale.

Club visits

Before attending Ashhurst I visited the following clubs:

Seatoun

Carterton

Parkvale/Napier

Clive

These clubs are small in numbers but full of enthusiasm, laughter, and fun. Their Members were happy to see the Branch President, as they stated a visit made them feel that they are part of the New Zealand Branch. Some of the topics I was asked for more information on were roles on the Management Committee, future planning, reason for fee increase, how to grow numbers.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Hastings club as the evening was cancelled.

Thank you to all the clubs for their warm welcome and a great evening of dancing and conversation.

Branch Award

I travelled south to present a Branch Award to David Williamson at the Canterbury Region Ball on 11th June 2022. I will say I had a moment of panic when I found out that Hoon Hay's dance date had to be moved. Crisis short lived, as the Canterbury Region decided to hold their dance on 11th of June.

I attended Nelson Club on their club night and a very good night we had. Thank you to Nelson Club Members for their invitation.

Custodian of the Memorial Book

As many of you will be aware, this year Maureen Robson handed over the Custodianship of Memorial Book. While in Wellington I visited Maureen to say thank you on behalf of the New Zealand Branch for the great work she had done maintaining the Memorial Book for 45 years. I presented Maureen with a rose for her garden and a thank you card.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has billeted me, picked me up and dropped me off at airports and transported me to club nights and dances. Your generosity and kindness in opening your homes to me has enabled me to connect with dancers in many parts of the country. Also thank you to those dancers in Wellington who provided billets for members of the Management Committee.

We have three of the Management Committee standing down this year, Quentin Currall, Sue Lindsay, and Gaylia Powell. Thank you for all your support and work - Quentin for four years, Sue for seven years and Gaylia for one year.

To the whole Management Committee thank you for all your support and work over the year. I am aware that the last few years have not been easy.

Thank you to all the Members for your support over the last year. As we move forward into a new year, I hope we can work together to share our ideas and knowledge for us all to grow stronger.



Linda Glavin

RSCDS New Zealand Branch President

Vice-President's Report

During 2022 work has continued on the review of all Management Committee job descriptions. This work will be completed by the end of the year and once finalised all the revised job descriptions will be available on the NZ Branch website. As part of a general review of our documentation and processes, the Management Committee is also progressively reviewing and updating the Branch Guidelines including the Summer School Guidelines.

The Management Committee is keen to take a more planned and considered approach to its work. To help achieve this, we have developed Strategic aims for the NZ Branch and Strategic priorities for 2022-2023. Plans for local activities to mark the centenary of the RSCDS, which will be celebrated in 2023, are also under development.

As part of my portfolio, I have been liaising with the organisers of future Summer Schools, especially the Auckland 2022-2023 organiser Liz Hickey. We have also confirmed schools in, Nelson 2023-2024 organiser Doug Mills and Wellington 2024-2025 organiser Ann Oliver.

Debbie Roxburgh

Communications, Publicity and Membership Coordinator's Report

The 2022 dancing year, after two years disrupted by Covid-19, wasn't disrupted as severely as the previous years. Most clubs have enjoyed dancing for the complete dancing year while some others have struggled to entice their dancers back.

The timeframe for membership renewals this year has mainly been supported with just one region still to send in theirs at the time of writing. I have noticed that several of the older dancers this year have decided not to renew their membership, so whether this is because they are no longer dancing, I'm not sure.

Provisional membership figures are as follows, and will be confirmed or updated at the AGM on 1 January 2023. Membership has dropped, from 732 at the end of 2021/22, to 651 as at 29 October 2022, including 34 new or re-joining Members. This is an overall loss of 81 Members.

The 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 Désirée Patterson for her work in putting together the *New Zealand Scottish Country Dancer* magazine and the quarterly *Kiwi News*, and Jill Littlewood for keeping the Facebook page updated.

Sue Lindsay

Treasurer's Report

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 reviewed/audited. Some small adjustments to the numbers I use in this report may therefore arise.

As has now become usual, this has been an unusual year.

The income statement is dominated by the bequest by the late Bernice Kelly which has taken our donations to well above the normal level. This bequest is for the purposes of education and training.

The postponed Summer School was cancelled, the financial consequences being:

- Recognising unused and unrecoverable travel and advertising costs
- Refunding registration fees
- Carrying forward fees to the next School for those who wished
- Not paying any scholarships but making them available for subsequent Schools
- Where registration fees were requested to be treated as a donation reflecting the change
- Alternative arrangements for the AGM
- Alternative arrangements for exams
- No cost of accommodation for Management Committee at Summer School.

These affect the general Branch accounting and not just the School and I would like to thank Ian Marshall and Alice Shankie for their unrewarded hard work on the School and their help to me. The net overall cost of the aborted School was \$2,237.

Covid affected dancing throughout the country, with the cancellation of many dances, and so the President's Travel budget was significantly underspent.

Without a Summer School the decision was taken to split the Unit 2 and 3 exams and to hold Unit 2 mid-year; naturally that meant some additional costs for both the Branch (\$1,352) and candidates.

The increase in Branch Service Fee income reflects the waiving of a significant portion of the fee in the previous year. The adult single fee (not email) was \$55 in 19/20, \$30 in 2020/21 and \$45 in 2021/22.

Financial Members	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Adult Joint	58	54	47	42	33
Adult Joint Email	153	152	154	163	172
Adult Single	166	146	127	106	97
Adult Single Email	324	357	375	376	406
NZ Branch Life	7	7	8	8	8
RSCDS Life	5	5	5	6	5
RSCDS Life Email	6	6	6	5	5
RSCDS Life Family	3	3	2	1	
Young Adult (18-24)	2	1	2	2	1
Young Adult Email (18-24)	5	5	6	7	5
Total	729	720	732	716	732

The 2022/23 renewals are nearing completion and at this point are a total of about 651, a noticeable drop but given the Covid impact on dancing, not surprising.

Members will be aware that interest rates have been rising, that is reflected in a higher level of interest income. Since most of our interest is earned on Term Deposits there is an element of lag between market increases and decreases and the effect on Branch income. Term deposits have been placed generally for periods of one year to balance maximising the available rate and being able to take advantage of higher rates as they rise. The funds available to place on deposit has been higher because of the bequest and because payments have not been made for scholarships and other Branch contributions to Summer School.

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.

Five grants were made to regional events and one Region returned the grant made the previous year as their event had been so successful it did not in the end need any financial support from the Branch. One (probably final) grant was made to a Region under the “put some zing back into dancing” proposals. These all appear under “Advertising and Promotion” – I think it important not to create new account codes for every new idea, it leads to complexity and obsolete unused codes.

At the July meeting the Management Committee had a workshop focussed on the structure and cost of our meetings and operation. This was part of a response to a Motion passed at the 2022 AGM regarding cost and fair treatment and was facilitated by an experienced management consultant. The consultant’s work started with a “desktop review” of key information, leading to a wide ranging survey of the Committee and the facilitated workshop. All the Committee felt that it was worthwhile (including those who had confessed to scepticism!) both in terms of how we do things and how we approach, and at times change, the approach to the doing.

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. The movements in the Subs account reflecting the 2021 renewals and new Members to June 2022 are shown below:

Movement in RSCDS Subs Account	\$
Opening Balance 1 Sep 2021	6,225
Total Subscriptions Received	24,007
Interest Earned	20
Subscriptions remitted to HQ	(23,376)
Bank Fees	(113)
Closing Balance 31 August 2022	6,763

At this point the exchange rate used in July for setting the NZ\$ amount for the 2022 renewals is very close to the market rate, but as Members will have observed, rates have been very volatile, I will provide an update later, when the renewals are finalised and payment made.

Quentin Currall

Education and Training Coordinator's Report

Teachers' Register

A new interactive Teachers' Register has been launched, allowing anyone who is teaching SCD in New Zealand to record the experience they have.

This will allow the Branch to get a better view of who is teaching SCD in New Zealand, provide more accurate information to the RSCDS, consider and implement teacher development initiatives, offer teacher workshops and development opportunities to teachers, and provide recommendations for teachers to organisers of schools, classes and clubs.

Examinations

6 candidates met up in May to practise for their Unit 2 & 3 exams, and then sat their Unit 2 (own dancing) exam in June - a big thank you to all those who helped out as extra bodies in the set, or were on standby in case of illness or injury (and just as well you were!) Well done to the candidates for persevering in the face of the cancellation of their Christchurch exams.

Good luck to all candidates in taking or resitting Units 2, 3 and 5 at Auckland.

Core Training for Instructors

This new initiative from the RSCDS was launched last year in the October 2021 edition of the Scottish Country Dancing magazine. This scheme offers 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. Further information is available on the RSCDS website.

Only one teacher in New Zealand has become a Trainer for this new scheme, yet. I encourage other eligible teachers to look at doing this qualification, so that NZ Branch can offer those dancers interested in taking this qualification a Trainer without any "time-difference" issues!

Music

Lynne Scott, the Branch Music Advisor, continues her great work to encourage musicians to play for Scottish Country Dancing, and personal mentoring activities at Capital City SCD Club, with two fiddlers, a pianist and double bass player coming along nicely. A number of newer musicians are coming through, and the music scene is growing back healthy and vibrant, despite lockdowns.

The Scottish Country Dancing musicians' weekend scheduled for 2021 Labour Weekend in Hamilton was re-set for this year as a two-day mini-convention, discussing and sharing topics such as Working with Tutors, Mentoring, Structure of dance sets. This year's event also included an introductory session for musicians new to SCD (four attended). The weekend concluded with a well attended Tea Dance at which all the attending musicians played, in their own bands and as a massed Band.

Lynne has written articles for the NZ Dancer, Kiwi News and the Wellington Region Newsletter. She has also advised clubs on selection of bands for events, and supported SCD musicians by providing music for problem sets.

The E&T Coordinator and Music Advisor have consulted on the appointment of a second exam musician and on the Nelson Summer School musicians' teacher.

Jeanette Watson

Youth Coordinator's Report

Unfortunately, due to covid it has been very quiet with JAMs and youth this year. The committee has remained the same with me as the Youth Coordinator, Chris Totton as organiser for medal tests, Anna Verhaegh as the JAM membership coordinator and Emily Currall as the editor of the JAM newsletter - *Jigs and More*.

Our JAM membership has decreased to 22 this year with about half of our JAM groups going into recess, due to Covid. This has meant that we have been unable to hold medal tests or any other JAM/Youth events.

Just a reminder that you can register all junior dancers, whether they dance in a dedicated youth class or are integrated into adult classes. This enables us to keep in touch with all juniors and make sure they are informed of youth activities.

JAM Camp – Unfortunately until our JAM membership increases, it is unlikely there will be another JAM camp. It is just not viable to hold a JAM camp with the current membership.

Priorities for 2023 – Rebuilding and increasing the number of JAMs is the biggest priority for the JAM committee. 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! Junior clubs who have gone into recess, I encourage you to reconnect with your juniors and encourage them to come back to dancing!

Next year, being the RSCDS Centenary year, we would like to run an event for our 'Youth' so keep an eye out for details!

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 behind the scenes this year.

Nicole Trewavas

Information Technology Coordinator's Report

The year began with a refresh of the Branch website in order to bring all the software up to date and to introduce further security measures. There were a few cosmetic changes but this has also been an opportunity to gradually extend the scope of the site to serve as a repository for administrative documents such as the Branch Guidelines. Communication with Members has also been improved through the use of the website to display the highlights from all Management meetings. Other innovations which increase the usability of the site include a search mechanism and a 'New this month' feature on the home page.

I have continued to liaise with Sue Lindsay in order to facilitate the annual renewal of memberships. It is clear that Members like to take this opportunity to update their contact details and procedures have been developed to help ensure the accuracy of the data held on the NZ and HQ databases. However, we still rely on up to date information from Members who are encouraged to submit changes as they occur during the year via the form on the website (under 'Membership' on the menu).

The responses to the recent survey of Members suggested that the Branch might assist Regions and Clubs on technical issues. My hope is that I can delegate the task by calling on the expertise of locally-based Region Members with the necessary skills. It seems that website development and digital music facilities are the areas where advice is most likely to be sought, but we are open to anything (within reason) which challenges our range of expertise.

Plans for next year include revisions which are required to accommodate changes to legislation related to Incorporated Societies. This affects the data that we need to retain for individual Members which will mean some redesign of the database and associated processes. This will rely on the skills of our IT Advisor, Duncan Laidlaw, but I may find that I am on yet another learning curve.

Andy Patterson

Shopkeeper's Report

Like most aspects of life the shop has been impacted by Covid-19 over the past two years. Although there has been a steady flow of requests for books and CDs during that time, there was a significant impact on the overall volume of sales. However, this was offset by a reduction in the expenses due to the shop not attending summer schools.

The shop did manage to attend Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region Queen's Birthday Weekend Schools in Otorohanga and Whakatane in the last two years and also a Nelson/Marlborough Weekend in Hanmer Springs, which all resulted in good sales.

The shop is looking forward to Summer School in Auckland where I hope to have a range of recently published books and CDs available for purchase, as well as the standard range of RSCDS materials.

Sue Pearson