

Minutes of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) NZ Branch Annual General Meeting 2024

Held on Saturday 1 January 2024 at Stoke Methodist Church Hall, 94 Neale Avenue, Stoke, Nelson, commencing at 1:30pm

PRESENT (59)

Management Committee (7): Linda Glavin (President), Debbie Roxburgh (Vice-President), Lesley Nicol (Treasurer), Joy Dick (Secretary), Coordinators: Su Marshall (Communication, Publicity and Membership), Andrew Patterson (IT), Jeanette Watson (Education and Training)

Delegates (32):

Auckland-Northland: Carolyn Cooper, Alex Duthie, Saskia de Graaf, Elaine Goldthorpe, Steve Goldthorpe, Pat Henley, Trish Henley; Katharine Hoskyn, Mary-Ann Kaye, Lesley Nicol (Management Committee member), Jenn Tschumy

Waikato-Bay of Plenty: Andrew Patterson (Management Committee member at appointment), Jeanette Patterson, Robyn Dowdle, Helen Smythe

Rangitikei: Ian Pearson, Paul Roxburgh, Ronni Cullen

Hawkes Bay-East Coast: Isabel Jackson

Wellington: Ann Oliver, Andrew Oliver, Margaret Cantwell

Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast: Vicky Heslop, Noleen Harper, Sue Lindsay

Canterbury: Ian Marshall, Su Marshall (Management Committee member), Doreen Pearey, Jenny Tubb, Graeme Plank

Otago: Alison Baker, Quentin Currall

Others (20): Dorothy Wilson, Christine Stanton, Elizabeth Loe, Michale Laidlaw, Elaine Laidlaw, Sue Pearson, Doug Mills, Diane Heather, Lynda Aitcheson, Jean Manning, Barbara Laing, Maureen Hakin, Fran Barnes, Margaret Bailey-Allison, Ed Duggan, Hannah Roxburgh, Hazel Fish, Amy Luxton, Duncan Laidlaw, Mary Clark

OPENING: The President welcomed everyone to the 56th Annual General Meeting and declared the meeting open. The President reminded attendees to ensure they signed the attendance register if they had not already done so and delegates to ensure they had their voting cards. 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.” The President reminded attendees that the AGM has a timing and speaking process, followed by voting. There were three items to be included in Other Business; Scholarships, Job Descriptions and Pick-up 52 Report. No other items were submitted from the floor at that time.

APOLOGIES: Elizabeth Collins, Elizabeth MacDonald, Jeanette Lauder, Glenice Saunders, Nicole Trewavas, Ruth Currall, Emily Currall, Sharlene Penman, Brenda Everson, Linda Manvell, Betty Cressy, Antanas Procuta, Lydia Hedge
THAT apologies be accepted.

Moved by Linda Glavin Seconded by Su Marshall CARRIED.

BEREAVEMENTS: The following dancers passed away in 2023;
Mary Ronnie, Wallace Keown Shirley, Karen Harris, Helen Rowe, Elizabeth (Betty) Sharpe, Margaret McMurtry, William (Bill) Jacob, Eveleen Foye, Marjorie (Midge) Lee, Alison Kinraid, Robin Corbett, Yvonne Gray, Doug Drysdale, Helen Arents, Elaine Duffus, Anne Duthie, Roy Everall, John Hawthorn, Anne Tinson, Lilian Gnanasandarum, Bruce Miller, Margaret Ewens, Irvine Kinraid

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

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 32 delegates present, representing 8 of the 9 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:

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

There were no RSCDS/NZ Branch members recorded in the Southland region on 30 September 2023, thus Southland was not eligible for representation by a delegate. There were eleven Auckland-Northland delegates present with one delegate carrying two votes; and three Wellington delegates present sharing the seven votes. As a result, there was a maximum of 37 votes.

LIFE MEMBERS: The President welcomed to the meeting NZ Branch Life Members Debbie Roxburgh, Doug Mills, Elaine Laidlaw, and Dorothy Wilson.

TIMING: The President advised that the allocation for Notices of Motion would be; proposer 4 minutes, seconder 3 minutes, speaker 2 minutes, right of reply 3 minutes. For general matters, speakers would be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes.

TIMEKEEPERS: Ian Marshall and Hannah Roxburgh. Timekeepers were asked to ring a bell 30 seconds before the maximum time allowance and at the end of the maximum time

SCRUTINEERS: Elaine Laidlaw and Duncan Laidlaw

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 January 2023 were sent to Members earlier in the year and are published on the Branch website.

THAT the minutes be taken as read.

Moved by Linda Glavin Seconded by Lesley Nicol CARRIED

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

Moved by Linda Glavin Seconded by Dorothy Wilson CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None

ANNUAL REPORTS**President's Report**

The President added to her report her gratitude to all those who supported her over the last four years, a term of office which was dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The President also thanked all Management Committee members for their contributions. There were no questions from the floor.

THAT the President's report be accepted

Moved by Linda Glavin Seconded by Sue Pearson CARRIED

Dorothy Wilson proposed a vote of thanks to Linda Glavin for her service as the challenges she faced on account of the Covid pandemic were far greater than is usual for any serving President.

AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

Treasurer's Report and approval of the Annual financial Statements

The Treasurer, Lesley Nicol, advised the auditor's report and audited final financial information were available on the NZ Branch website and were also available in the AGM papers given to each region. Otherwise Lesley had nothing to add. There were no questions from the floor.

THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved by Lesley Nicol Seconded by Duncan Laidlaw CARRIED

THAT the financial statements be approved.

Moved by Lesley Nicol Seconded by Quentin Currall CARRIED

Management Committee Reports

Vice-President: – Debbie Roxburgh added to her report acknowledgement of Andrew and Katherine Uren for the highly successful Pick up 52 project and all their efforts in bringing it to such a successful conclusion. Debbie also expressed thanks to Andy Patterson for loading the videos to the NZ Branch website, and to everyone who took part at the club level. There were no questions from the floor.

Communication, Publicity & Membership: Su Marshall advised she had nothing to add to her report. There were no questions from the floor.

Youth: Linda Glavin advised Nicole Trewavas was not able to attend, but had nothing to add to her report. There were no questions from the floor.

Education and Training: Jeanette Watson advised she had nothing to add to her report but took the opportunity to encourage everyone to add their details to the Teachers' Register if they taught dancing in any capacity whatsoever and to attend the Teachers' Workshop in Wellington, Easter 2024. There were no questions from the floor.

Information Technology: Andy Patterson added the comment that he had had an enjoyable 6 years in the role, was pleased to have a successor and remained available to assist. There were no questions from the floor.

THAT the five Management Committee reports be accepted.

Moved by Linda Glavin Seconded by Ann Oliver CARRIED

ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The nominees, nominators and seconders as given in the AGM papers were read out one position at a time.

President: Debbie Roxburgh – nominated by Elaine Laidlaw; seconded by Isabel Jackson. As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Debbie Roxburgh be President of the New Zealand Branch for 2024.
AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

The outgoing President, Linda Glavin, stood down and Debbie Roxburgh took the Chair.

The President presented Linda Glavin with a Past-President's badge and spoke to the challenges of Linda's term, acknowledging Linda's steering the transition from face-to-face to online meetings, encouraging Management Committee to become more efficient and effective, and noting that everything Linda had done was about dancing and for the benefit of all dancers. The President expressed gratitude to Linda on behalf of all dancers.
AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

Vice-President: Lesley Nicol – nominated by Elizabeth Lusher; seconded by Glenis Cameron. As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Lesley Nicol be Vice-President of the New Zealand Branch for 2024.
AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

Treasurer: Ed Duggan – nominated by Veronica Cullen; seconded by Nicole Trewavas. As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Ed

Duggan be Treasurer of the New Zealand Branch for 2024
 AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

Secretary: Joy Dick – nominated by Mary Hawkes; seconded by Anne Hall
 As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Joy Dick be Secretary of the New Zealand Branch for 2024
 AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

Education and Training Coordinator: Jeanette Watson – nominated by Ann Oliver; seconded by Lee Miller
 As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Jeanette Watson be Education and Training Coordinator of the New Zealand Branch for 2024
 AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

IT Coordinator: Fiona McCutcheon – nominated by Alison Trotter; seconded by Duncan Laidlaw
 As there was only one nomination, the President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Fiona McCutcheon be IT Coordinator of the New Zealand Branch for 2024
 AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator: no nomination had been received as at 31 August, but a nomination for Su Marshall was received on 3 September – nominated by Jennifer Tubb; seconded by Lorraine Whaley
 The President called for further nominations from the floor. There were none. The President asked if it was the wish of the meeting that Su Marshall be Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator of the New Zealand Branch for 2024
 AGREED WITH ACCLAMATION

Youth Coordinator: no nominations had been received as at 31 August, but two nominations were received during November;
 Anna Verhaegh – nominated by Janice Henson; seconded by Judith Perrin
 Jeanette Lauder – nominated by Shelley McConnel; seconded by Robyn Howes
 The President called for further nominations for Youth Coordinator from the floor. There were none.

The President explained that since neither nominee was present, copies of their personal statements had been provided for the region delegates. The meeting was paused for five minutes to allow discussion. Delegates were instructed to vote by secret ballot by writing the name of their preferred nominee on the slip of paper provided or writing 'Abstain' if they did not wish to vote for either candidate. Scrutineers were instructed to gather the papers, retire to count, report which nominee had the majority, but not to mention any numbers. The President advised all slips of paper would then be destroyed.

Voting: Scrutineers reported Jeanette Lauder had the majority.

The President declared the Management Committee of the NZ Branch for 2024 will be - Debbie Roxburgh, Lesley Nicol, Ed Duggan, Joy Dick, Jeanette Watson, Fiona McCutcheon, Su Marshall, Jeanette Lauder. The President congratulated all successful nominees.

APPOINTMENT OF BANK SIGNATORIES

THAT the bank signatories be the four Officers of the New Zealand Branch - Debbie Roxburgh, President; Lesley Nicol, Vice President; Joy Dick, Secretary; Ed Duggan, Treasurer and that one of the three current signatories, namely Linda Glavin, shall remain a signatory until the two new signatories are in place. Any two can approve online transactions.
 Moved by Lesley Nicol Seconded by Ronni Cullen. CARRIED

FINANCIAL NOTICES OF MOTION (see AGM 2024 papers for details)**1. Appointment of an auditor or reviewer**

THAT Cross Financial Services be engaged as the auditor or reviewer for the current financial year, i.e., 2023-24

Moved by Lesley Nicol Seconded by Margaret Cantwell CARRIED

Agenda items 2-6 were subject to individual voting before the AGM. The President explained online voting results were held until the AGM to allow time for the postal votes to arrive. Responsibility for counting postal votes had been given to the AGM scrutineers. There were 657 eligible online voters and 22 eligible postal voters, giving a total of 679 voters. Copies of the online voting results were available for collection. The combined results will be published on the NZ Branch website.

The President read out each of the questions from the voting paper and announced the number of votes For, Against, Abstain at each question. A summary statement at each Notice of Motion and amendment is given below.

2. Determination of Membership Fees for 2024/25 (Q1)

THAT the New Zealand Branch Service Fee for 2024/25 for all forms of membership remain the same as agreed at the AGM 1 January 2023. The NZ Branch fee is added to the RSCDS fee to obtain the total fee paid by members

Voting: FOR 213 AGAINST 5 ABSTAIN 2

3. Honoraria for Management Committee position holders (Q2A)

THAT the annual honorarium for 2024/25 for each Management Committee position holder remains the same as accepted at the AGM on 1 January 2023.

Voting: FOR 214 AGAINST 4 ABSTAIN 3

Amendment to Honoraria for non-Management Committee position holders (Q2B)

THAT the annual honorarium for 2024/25 for each of the Communication Publicity & Membership, Youth, and Information Technology Coordinators be increased to \$150.

Voting: FOR 193 AGAINST 20 ABSTAIN 8

The President announced that the amended Notice of Motion took effect.

4. Honoraria for non-Management Committee position holders (Q3A)

THAT the annual honorarium for 2024/25 for each non-Management Committee position holder remains the same as accepted at the AGM on 1 January 2023.

Voting: FOR 213 AGAINST 4 ABSTAIN 4

Amendment to Honoraria for non-Management Committee position holders (Q3B)

THAT the annual honorarium for 2024/25 for the Music Advisor be increased to \$150

Voting: FOR 188 AGAINST 22 ABSTAIN 11

The President announced that the amended Notice of Motion took effect.

5. Management Committee expenses (Q4)

THAT in the financial year 2024/25, reimbursement to Management Committee position holders for attendance at summer meetings and the AGM remains the same as accepted at the AGM on 1 January 2023.

Voting: FOR 203 AGAINST 11 ABSTAIN 7

6. President's Travel Budget 2024 (Q5)

THAT the President's travel budget for the 2024 calendar year remains the same as accepted at the AGM on 1 January 2023.

Voting: FOR 209 AGAINST 7 ABSTAIN 5

The President declared all items passed, which meant motions without an amendment were carried, and where there was an amendment, the amended motion took effect.

OTHER NOTICES OF MOTION

The President explained that the remaining motions involved alteration to the Constitution and were therefore subject to delegate voting. The Constitution states that the quorum is not less than two-thirds of the votes available to be cast at the meeting (section 9.1). At the 2024 AGM, 37 votes were available, therefore the quorum was 25.

The President confirmed that for these motions, the proposer and seconder had the opportunity to speak to their motion, after which others had the opportunity to speak. The President confirmed the maximum time allocations of; proposer 4 minutes, seconder 3 minutes, speakers 2 minutes, right of reply 3 minutes for both proposer and seconder. Seconders could waive their speaking rights, also proposers and seconders could waive their right of reply.

1. Amalgamation of Otago and Southland Regions

Proposed: Ruth Taylor

Seconded: Gregor Macaulay

As neither the proposer nor seconder were present, the President asked if there were anyone representing Otago and Southland regions who would like to speak to the motion. An Otago representative stated the motion was self-explanatory. A representative residing in Southland but who was now a member of Otago explained she was strongly in favour of amalgamation in order to become a legitimate member of a region.

Voting: FOR 37 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN 0 CARRIED

The next Notice of Motion had two amendments. The President advised that in accordance with section 8.7.4 of the Constitution, she had determined the order in which the amendments would be considered. The order would be - the original motion (25% as a quorum), with proposer and seconder having the right to speak followed by discussion; then the meeting would consider the amendment suggesting 18% as a quorum and a vote would be taken on the amendment. If the amendment were successful, it would become the motion. Then the meeting would consider the second amendment (40%). If amendment 2 were unsuccessful, amendment 1 would remain the motion and would be voted on. If amendment 2 were successful, then amendment 2 would become the motion, and would be voted on.

The President informed the meeting that the percentage of eligible members who participated in individual voting (online and postal combined) was 33%. The President gave delegates 5 minutes for discussion before continuing.

2. Electronic/postal voting

That for the outcome of Postal or Electronic vote to be binding, no less than 25% of individual Branch members shall have cast a vote

Proposed: Sue Lindsay

Seconded: Doug Mills

The seconder explained that as the Constitution had no quorum for individual voting, the intention was to avoid the situation where a small number of people (e.g., 10) could determine an outcome. The quorum of 25% represented around 170 people, which meant 86 people were needed to pass a motion. There was no further discussion.

Amendment to Notice of Motion relating to Electronic/postal voting

That the motion be amended to 18% of individual New Zealand Branch members

Proposed: Katharine Hoskyn

Seconded: Antanas Procuta

The proposer agreed that a quorum was needed to avoid the situation where a few people could determine an outcome. A quorum of 40 could be argued as the AGM uses around 40 delegates. The quorum of 18% was calculated from what was known of region quorums, which vary widely (e.g., 10%, 45%). If the quorum were set too high, the

situation could arise where 100-120 people voted, but their contribution would be wasted. The quorum should represent the minimum number that was acceptable, and be seen as protection against participation by too few. Discussion included the following - 40 delegates should not be taken to be equivalent to 40 people; that 62 people was too low for determining an outcome; that calculating a quorum for individual voting based on region quorums was unsound because the two voting systems were different processes and not necessarily related. The right of reply emphasised a quorum should be viewed purely as protection against participation by too few.

The President allowed delegates 2 minutes for discussion before voting on the amendment (18%).

Voting: FOR 22 AGAINST 15 ABSTAIN 0

At this stage the amendment, quorum of 18%, represented the motion

Amendment to Notice of Motion relating to Electronic/postal voting

That the motion be amended to 40% of individual New Zealand Branch members

Proposed: Rob Longley

Seconded: Ian Pearson

The seconder explained the region AGM agreed with the principle of the original motion, but 25% was lower than the region's quorum, hence the region proposed a higher percentage. Discussion included the following points – that 33% participation in 2023 suggested 40% was too high and may paralyse the Branch; that the delegate system already resolved any issue of disenfranchisement and paralysis as it allows for lively discussions at region meetings giving delegates clear understanding of members' opinions. The right of reply was waived.

Voting: FOR 5 AGAINST 32 ABSTAIN 0 NOT CARRIED

The substantive motion thus became –
To add the following Clause 8.3 (3) (v)

In order for the outcome of Postal or Electronic vote to be binding, no less than 18% of individual New Zealand Branch members shall have cast a vote

Voting: FOR 27 AGAINST 9 ABSTAIN 1 CARRIED

FUTURE SUMMER SCHOOLS

Wellington 2024-25 (Ann Oliver, Organiser)

Ann Oliver invited everyone to the first Summer School in Wellington for 17 years. The venue will be Scots College, with twin share accommodation and shared amenities. Two musicians are from the US, Lisa Scott and Elke Baker, and arrangements with local musicians are being finalised. One of the teachers, Kate Gentles, is from the UK. The website for the Wellington School was announced as live, and brochures were distributed.

Christchurch 2025-26 (Graeme Plank, Organiser)

Graeme Plank began by acknowledging the efforts of the organisers of the two previously cancelled Christchurch Summer Schools. Graeme outlined arrangements to date – the venue will be a refurbished College House, with an on-site venue for the music class. Currently, negotiations are underway with three overseas musicians, and investigations underway for class venues etc. It is anticipated most arrangements will be in place mid-2024.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. SCHOLARSHIPS:

The following people were awarded Summer School scholarships in 2023:

5 years & under dancer:	Mary Clark	Canterbury
6 years & over dancer:	Olive Duff	Canterbury
Teacher Certificate:	Caroline Williams	Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast

There were no applications for the musician scholarship.

2. JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Updated Job Descriptions for Management Committee members were tabled with some print copies available. All were already published on the NZ Branch website. The President welcomed feedback in writing after the AGM.

3. PICK UP 52 REPORT

Katharine Hoskyn, on behalf of Andrew Uren, read the report. The project outperformed expectations; covered dances from Book 1 (Meg Merrilies) to Book 52 (Farewell to Balfour Road), featured 16 dances from 12 New Zealand devisors and included dances with a New Zealand affiliation. In the end, the project curated 61 videos from 58 clubs. Additional information was collected as the project progressed e.g., brief club history, current tutors, venue. The project represents a time stamp of what club dancing in New Zealand looked like in 2023 and gives a glimpse of club character. Special thanks were given to Andy Patterson for assistance with sending videos and creating links to the New Zealand Branch website. Thanks was also given to Debbie Roxburgh for her advice and support, to Katherine Uren for general support and to all the clubs, club teachers and club supporters who took part. To date, the YouTube channel has had 31,382 views.

Su Marshall commented it was exciting in a communications role to be able to forward Pick up 52 to Scotland for inclusion in DanceScottish Together and to have a link on the website. Pick up 52 stood out among the RSCDS centenary celebrations.

The President noted that NZ Branch will formally acknowledge Andrew and Katherine Uren.

4. Electronic records of individual voting

THAT electronic records of individual voting be destroyed.

Moved by Katharine Hoskyn Seconded by Vicky Heslop CARRIED

CLOSING: The President thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Doug Mills proposed a vote of thanks to the chair.

AGREED BY ACCLAMATION

The President advised 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 in November 2024, likely to be 1 January 2025, at the Wellington Summer School venue.

The meeting closed at 3.08 p.m.

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

.....President

.....Secretary

.....Dated