



Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

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FIRST POSITION

My first contribution to the Kiwi News since being elected your president at this year's AGM. Your dancing year should be well underway and I wonder how many clubs have managed to get some new or returning members. If you have had success in this and you think that your methods of recruitment may work with other clubs, please let us know.

My work took me recently to the Nelson/Marlborough Region for a week and I joined in their region dance on the Sunday. Throughout the week I danced with Blenheim, Schiehallion, Motueka and Nelson Clubs. It was good to meet up with old friends and meet new dancers. Thanks to all these clubs who made me welcome. Have shoes will travel!

A number of the Branch Committee will be attending the club and region socials and balls in their areas, so take the time to talk to them and if you have any questions about the Branch or dancing in general, please ask them. As a committee, we are there to represent you, the dancer and we are all very approachable!

I wish you all a great 2014 year of dancing and look forward to meeting you throughout the year on the dance floor.



Important Dates 2014:

Kiwi News closes 30 June
30 Sept

**New Zealand
Scottish Country Dancer** 30 Nov

**Directory & Calendar
Update** 30 Nov

Important Dates 2013 / 2014:

**Summer School
Dunedin** 28 Dec to 5 Jan

A.G.M. 01 Jan

Have you heard about the Commonwealth Ceilidh, an event that will dance around the world on the 21st June? Some regions are well into the planning. More information can be had from www.getscotlanddancing.org

Get Scotland Dancing and the RSCDS have got together as part of the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow in 2014.



REGION NEWS

CANTERBURY REGION

Rangiora Club

2013 was an important year for the Rangiora Club being its 40th anniversary. This was celebrated in style at the Open Night, when Pat Glassey was made a life member for her 25 years of service to the Club. The cake was cut by our president, Isobel Lloyd, and Maree Jackson, our longest dancing life member.



A further celebration was held when the club and partners went out for lunch later in the year.



Our annual picnic was a return trip on the Weka Pass Railway which was great fun and highly recommended to other clubs.

At our afternoon Tea Dance in September a presentation was made to Ely Wezenberg for her sterling work for the club and hope she will be back with us

when health permits. The proceeds from the dance were given to Kerridwen Russ, our Gold Bar JAM, to help towards costs to Summer School in Cambridge.



Our JAMs continued throughout the year under the guidance of Helen Russ and four of them attended the JAM Camp in Christchurch. They had a blast! Three sat and passed medal tests: Kerridwen Russ - Gold Bar, Caitlin Tipping - Bronze, Jennifer Russ - Bronze. Dancing out in and around Rangiora

keeps the club busy and the JAMs have also given a few demonstrations.

Burnside SCD Club

Reflections on last year....

From the commencement of our dancing on the first Thursday in March until the last night of dancing November, 2013 was a special year for members of the Burnside Club as we celebrated our 45th anniversary.



We began our anniversary year with punting on the Avon River, followed by lunch in the Christchurch Botanical Gardens. It was a beautiful day to sip bubbly (non-alcoholic of course), enjoy friendly banter between each punt and members of the public strolling along the riverbank, and then indulge in a picnic lunch where there was no dancing just lots of natter and catching up. In June, club members and partners headed to Harringtons for a celebratory lunch, where once again there was no dancing but merely a chance to enjoy each other's company and the food and drink on offer. The Open Night 45th celebration was held in the Scottish Society Hall where there was good attendance by dancers from the Canterbury Region.

Aside from the dancing and the enjoyable supper, Life Membership was presented to three of our Club Members - Fiona Begg (President), Heather Trumper (Secretary) and Audrey Mattinson (Tutor). Our Anniversary



Cake was cut by Margaret (Jamieson) (nee Lambert - daughter of our late Tutor, Rita Lambert), Fiona and myself.

This occasion also enabled us to reflect on Rita and the contribution she made to our club for 30 years, a beautiful lady who we miss every Thursday night as we continue to uphold the dream she started when the club began on the 28th day of January 1968.

Our final night of dancing for 2013 has been and gone, celebrating Christmas.

We took a well-earned break spending time with family and friends over the festive season before coming back together in 2014.

Our club's doors are always open where a warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to dance with us on a Thursday evening.



SOUTH CANTERBURY REGION

Waimate SCD Club

The new dancing year got off to a great start for a group interested in learning something about teaching a class or taking a dance session. Thirteen attended the weekend course in Waimate, tutored by Janet Favel. Most were local or from Christchurch, but we were also delighted to welcome one from Hokitika and another all the way from Opotiki in the North Island.

The Basic Teaching Skills course gave everyone the opportunity to try teaching and correcting steps and different formations, and showed them how to use their voice and use demonstration to get better results. From that, it was one step further to teach the different elements a class would need to put a whole dance together. The course also gave advice for running and MCing an Open Dance and suitable warm-ups to use in a class. The relaxed atmosphere and support from Janet meant that even the most nervous there were soon prepared to get up and have a go. There was also valuable sharing between those with more experience than the others.

Accommodation was provided next to the dance venue in a building that had previously been a convent. Everyone enjoyed a shared meal on the Saturday evening and then gave willingly of their time and expertise to



help two of the attendees work through a couple of the dances they need for their Unit 2 exam later this year. It was a really informative weekend but also one with lots of humour and fellowship, and Janet sent everyone off full of great ideas and renewed hope for their teaching this year.

Hazel Fish

WAIKATO / BAY OF PLENTY REGION

The Region clubs have all begun dancing again after a big involvement in the Summer School held in Cambridge and organised by Wayne McConnel and his very hardworking team.

Early on in our calendar was a congratulatory dance for Antanas Procuta and Helen Smythe who both past the unit 5 exam at the Summer School. There has also been a Summer Retreat Weekend Camp at Waihi – an informal gathering of dancers and their partners/families to enjoy a relaxed time and some “other” activities than dancing.

Club annual dances are just beginning with a “Beginners Ball” - to give new dancers an idea of Scottish country dancing in its context of a larger gathering of dancers than club night, Rotorua Club Dance is fast approaching followed by the Whitianga Club’s 30th Anniversary Dance. This will be followed by Lochiel’s Club Ball.

In the first half of the year there will also be an abridged Queen’s Birthday Weekend School. Classes on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, a tea dance on Saturday evening, and a Ceilidh on Sunday evening. Te Awamutu club is organising this and we hope to have a large energetic gathering – no sore feet and legs from classes in both the morning and afternoon before the dance. Come and join us.

One of the highlights for our region this year is the September Ball – a combined Region and Cambridge Society event being held in the Cambridge Town Hall where we will dance to the music of Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin. A wonderful evening with kilts and tartan abounding. Do come and join us if you can.

Rotorua Scottish Country Dancing Club

We have started back for 2014 and are enjoying our dancing. We are currently practicing all our Tea Dance dances. Our Tea Dance is on Saturday 5th April and we look forward to a great night and seeing everyone.

Recently Nona Craig, a Life Member of our club, Turned 90 years. The club organised a celebration for her and many who have known Nona through dancing, attended – a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all who attended. Our Tutor Barbara has written a few words in honour of this occasion.

Nona Craig turns 90

Congratulations to Nona Craig who turned 90 in January.

Nona joined Rotorua Scottish Country Dance Club in May 1961 and was elected to the committee in 1965. One year later she was elected President.

In August 1966 Nona took over as tutor when the elected tutor resigned and took both Children’s and Adult’s classes. By 1971 Nona was taking 3 classes on a Wednesday evening. In later years other dancers helped out by taking the juniors and some years dancers briefed the dances once a month so Nona had a night dancing.

Nona gained her Teacher’s Certificate in 1972, and took the Elementary Class at Summer School 1980. After that she took many classes at various Day and Weekend Schools.

She was frequently elected as “Club Delegate” to Regional and National Meetings and she became North Island President in 1989.

Nona gave notice at the Rotorua 1980 AGM that she would only be tutor for “another 4 years” (It didn’t happen!)

Nona’s long term service to Scottish Country Dancing in Rotorua was recognized on 4 December 1998 at a Mayoral function, when she received a Rotorua District Community Award.

Nona indicated near the start of the 2000 dancing year that 14 August 2000 would be her last night as tutor. A special tea dance was held in her honour.

Nona did not retire from the club though! She supported our new tutors by continuing to come to class and when we got stuck (or when she couldn’t stand watching us struggling any longer she said “excuse me, may I!!!!”). Nona was what everyone calls “a good club member” – always ready to help out, did more than her fair share of the jobs, attended club regularly and attended meetings!

Nona was awarded Life Membership of the Rotorua Club in 1994.

Barbara Gately Dancing Tutor and Past-President

HAWKES BAY & EAST COAST REGION

Hastings Scottish Country Dance Club

We received an invitation to dance from the local Scots Society at their Christmas function. Having enjoyed Marion Anderson’s music so much it was decided to perform The Woodland Assembly. The music that accompanies this dance is The Teddy’s Bear Picnic. We decided “dress up” was called for.

Talented seamstresses crafted our costumes, recycled from a previous dance, and, as there didn’t appear to be Teddy Bears readily available, we decided on Panda Bears, after all they were still bears. We practiced and had a dress rehearsal; however we didn’t worry about the make up



as that appeared to be a minor detail. There was a great deal of hilarity during our practices and we felt we were ready for the big moment. Once the makeup was applied we weren’t too sure who was who, shrieks of



laughter in the changing room and when it came to dancing no “familiar” face was to be seen. The audience loved the performance and asked for an encore. We had a great time and sent pictures to Marion who thought we had done “brilliantly”. A word of caution, if you are going to dance in full makeup, make sure you include it in the dress rehearsal.

Nelson S.C. D. Club Day School

24th May 2014

YMCA Hall, 156 Toi Toi Street, Nelson
Tutor: Coreen Wallis

Beginners Class 10.00 am – 12 noon, \$10.00

Intermediate/Advanced class 1.30pm – 3.30pm, \$10.00

Social Dance 7.00pm – 9.30pm, \$5.00 incl. supper

Whole Day (Both classes & the dance), \$20.00

Enquiries to Gowan (03) 541-8639 or gowansimpson@xtra.co.nz

WELLINGTON REGION

Johnsonville SCD Club

Johnsonville SCD Club celebrated the start of the 2014 dancing year with a potluck meal and ceilidh on February 1 at the Newlands home of club tutor Rod Downey and his wife Kristin who is also club president.

Club members contributed musical items for our enjoyment, ranging from Brahms' and Dvorak's Hungarian dances (piano duet) to Monti's Czardas (accordion), Francois Couperin pieces (flute), English Tudor dances (12-string guitar) and a humorous oral reading of 'The Lion and Albert'. Scottish songs weren't forgotten and we were encouraged to sing to piano accompaniment.

Many thanks to Malcolm, Sally, Sono, Jennifer, Peter and John for a great afternoon of entertainment.



Photo caption: Dancing on Rod and Kristin's deck on February 1. From left: Lorelee Hyde, Allison Kay, Sally Taylor (obscured) and Malcolm Leitch

In true ceilidh fashion, we alternated items with dancing. We were blessed with a day of perfect Wellington weather, allowing one set to dance in the lounge and another out on the deck. Many of 2013's new dancers were there, and we enjoyed the chance to get to know each other a bit better over good food and a glass of wine.

The club held four beginners' classes during February, with 29 new people turning up on the first night – maybe a record! Since then, a few have dropped out but others have come along, a very healthy start to the club year. So far we've had four to six sets most evenings, and 41 paid-up club members by mid-March.

Former member and previous club president Lorelee Hyde has put us on the digital map by setting up a Facebook page for the Johnsonville SCD Club: <https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonvilleDanceScottish>

During March, two overseas dancers joined us on club nights. Dan Grundtner is a dancing tutor from Minnesota in the United States, visiting New Zealand for the first time. Tracey Morgan teaches dancing in the Republic of Timor-Leste. She brought three friends along to Johnsonville for the evening.

On a very sad note, we have to announce the death from cancer on March 23 of Barbara Thompson of Newlands. Barbara was our club treasurer until early this year. She contributed much to the club and was a cheerful and courageous friend. We shall miss her.

Waikanae SCD Club

For the past four years the club has enjoyed the teaching of Wullie Grant who has now stepped down from this position. The club will miss Wullie's teaching and we extend our sincere thanks to him for his enthusiasm over that period. However, we are delighted to welcome back Catherine Edwards as our tutor after a break of 4 years.

On the club's last evening for 2013 we celebrated Kath Rigarfjord's 90th birthday. Kath is a regular dancer along with another of Waikanae's nonagenarians, Rita Brennan. These two active ladies are certainly an inspiration to us all and proof of the benefits of Scottish Country Dancing. The club started off 2014 with a lovely evening dancing to the music of Iain Matcham, Aileen Logie and Catherine Ireland.

The club had beginner lessons for adults in February. Catherine has also



started a children's club which is held immediately before the adult club so the children and adults can enjoy a dance together before the children go home. Waikanae is in good heart and regularly has 4 or 5 sets of dancers

Catherine and Ross Edwards enjoying the children's class



Kath Rigarfjord – 90 years old

THE NEW PLYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

is celebrating **60 years** of dancing

on August 2nd 2014 at Anglican Church Hall
Henui St Fitzroy
New Plymouth.

The format yet to be organised is a late afternoon dance followed by dinner.

Any past members who wish to be contacted
can email secretary
Flora Rookes at florian.rookes@gmail.com

A WEE SNIPPET

Liz Douglas is currently in New York on a 3 month work secondment. She pops along to the Manhattan SCDC. After the first dance a fellow comes up to her and says "did you dance in a you tube video called "Those Russians", dancing with your brother?"

When she says yep, he gets really excited and calls over to his wife and says "she is one of Those Russians" He tells her he loved the video, watched it several times and then taught it to his Demo team!!

So ... Liz Douglas world famous in New York!! If you want to see the video, go on you tube and search Those Russians Dunedin Summer School. It was the Glendarroch ceilidh item.

MEMBERSHIP

New dancers: since the start of 2014 I have been talking to a number of members who have reported one, two and even three sets of new dancers at their clubs. Well done, what a great effort! Now our job is to look after these new dancers and encourage them to dance regularly and become RSCDS members.

Membership cards: just an update to say all members should have received their new membership card for the 2013/14 year. If you have not received your card yet please get in touch with your club secretary as your first port of call, then me, if the club secretary did not receive it and it will be sorted out.

Updated RSCDS website: over the last week most of you will have received an email from the RSCDS advising of changes to their website and your membership number. Unfortunately this change means the number on your current membership card differs from the one allocated by Headquarters. When membership renewal occurs in August and new membership cards are issued they will have your new RSCDS membership number. This number will then be yours for life.

Please follow the instructions in the email to update your login and password for the RSCDS website and visit "my account" to check that all your details are correct.

Hannah Roxburgh

Membership Coordinator

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICITY

Have you heard about the **Commonwealth Ceilidh**?

Get Scotland Dancing and the RSCDS are working together with dancers from around the world to create a 24-hour ceilidh as part of the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme.

Get Scotland Dancing aims to encourage more people to be active and participate in dance, and the 2014 Commonwealth Games provides an ideal opportunity to raise the profile of dance as a creative, participative and physical art-form. For more information and details of the ceilidh programme, dance instructions and video clips visit: www.getscotlanddancing.org

The Commonwealth Ceilidh has the potential to be the biggest celebration of Scottish country dancing the world has ever seen. It will be a fantastic way to celebrate, showcase and share Scottish culture and it includes provision to invite people from other cultures in your community to share their national dance style as part of the event.

The focus of the ceilidh is everyone holding their event at the same time on the same day. Dancers in New Zealand will be the ones to kick-start the Commonwealth Ceilidh at 7.30 pm on Saturday 21 June 2014. Events will then follow the time zones around the globe, reaching Scotland 11 hours later, until the final event in Hawaii 24 hours after it all began.

Why not find out what is happening in your region and encourage all your fellow dancers and friends to join in?

Debbie Roxburgh

Communication and Publicity Co-ordinator

JAMS

Branch Youth Fund

Do you need:

Dance shoes for lending out to your junior dancers?

Travel costs to get you to a youth event?

Rent for a hall for running a youth dance workshop?

Travel costs for a great teacher to come to JAM Camp?

Accommodation costs so you can have a musician for a youth class?



The Branch Youth Fund is now up and running – the documents setting up the fund are now available on the Branch website, and first applications are invited by **1 June 2014**.

The Branch Youth Fund is for use for events, activities or resources that encourage or facilitate youth Scottish country dancing in New Zealand – which includes encouraging JAMs to continue dancing as they transition to university and work. The age criterion therefore stretches out to 30, rather than the JAMs' maximum age of 19.

The Fund will only pay grants from interest on the funds held – so the Management Committee are also happy to receive donations 'tagged' for youth dancing, which will be added to the Branch Youth Fund capital.

Youth dancers, teachers or organisers of events can apply for funds for any future project which is intended to encourage youth dancing or dancers in New Zealand. Preference will be given to RSCDS members (including JAMs).

Send your application to the Branch Youth Coordinator by 1 June or 1 December in any year. The full Application Form and the Statement of Purpose and Terms are available on the Branch website www.dancescottish.org.nz.

Please read these documents carefully, so you know what you can apply for, and what you can't; and what we will expect of you if you are awarded a grant.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ADVISER

Encouraging your local musician

You have someone in your SCD community who would like to try playing for Scottish Country Dancing. You don't want to ask more than they can manage, and you don't want to burden your dancers with unsuitable music. Where to from here?

A gentle path into playing is through warm-ups. Marches and waltzes are usually easy to play, and can be a good way to learn the skills of playing at a suitable (and steady) speed. Afterwards, offer constructive feedback on speed, style, volume.....whatever needs attention for next time.

Once you, your musician and the dancers are comfortable together (think in terms of a number of weeks), try following the warm-up with a short (3 or 4 x32) reel or jig. Do emphasise the importance of playing easy tunes well, rather than the often more challenging "correct" tunes less confidently. Involve your musician as you teach the dance to accustom him/her to "ready-and" starts and playing in short bursts. (If a full 8x32 is too much, you can just use your musician for teaching the dance, and then dance to a recording.) Again, offering constructive feedback is a critical element in developing his/her skills.

As confidence and ability develops, you can expand the number of dances played for and introduce strathspeys. A word of warning here: the "slow air" style strathspeys are usually technically easy to play, but quite difficult to maintain the correct pace and drive. Stick to traditional tunes to start with.

New musicians need to be told what they are getting right and what to improve on. Everyone is on the same side – wanting to provide a great experience for dancers – so please do help your new musicians along with helpful comments.

And then, when the great day comes that you have live music for a social night, do include the musician(s) on your advertising poster. This acknowledgement of the effort they have made to get to this stage provides a surprising boost to confidence and morale.

LYNNE SCOTT

A Message from the Secretary:

The Branch needs a new Secretary for 2015. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact the current Branch Secretary, Michael Laidlaw.

A job description and other information about the role can be provided by the Secretary. The role requires someone prepared to commit time and who has, or is willing to acquire, moderate computer skills in word processing, spread sheets, and email. An understanding of databases would be useful but can easily be acquired if necessary. Formal nominations must be submitted to the Secretary by 31 August 2014. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary or downloaded from the Branch website (Information and Forms). Nominees must be current NZ Branch members, and require a nominator and seconder who must also be current Branch members. If no nominations are received by the due date, nominations can be taken from the floor at the AGM on 1 January 2015.

Nominations are also needed for the positions of Communication and Publicity Coordinator and Youth Coordinator as both incumbents will not be seeking re-nomination.

All Branch officers are elected for one year, so nominations can be accepted for any position even if the incumbent is willing to seek nomination for a further year.

Motion for RSCDS AGM 2014

Voting forms were sent to all members with the February mail out, asking if the New Zealand Branch should submit a motion to the RSCDS seeking provision of new RSCDS Dance Books to Certificated Teachers free of charge.

211 Members voted (over 30% of membership) with 192 in favour and 19 against. The Branch will therefore be submitting a motion to the RSCDS AGM to be held in November 2014.



WILD HEATHER
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Scottish Country Dance school
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SHOP KEEPERS

Record Shop

Dorothy W Wilson,

P O Box 612, Blenheim 7240

Ph 03 578 3766

Email: recordshop@rscdsnz.org.nz



New in Stock – the latest from Luke Brady's S.D. Band.

“Take Your Partners For... Vol 4” 16 Tracks of popular dances with a good mix of traditional and modern sets of tunes.

For contents refer to Recordshop Newsletter March 2014 or the Recordshop Catalogue, both of which are posted on the Branch Website. Luke's earlier releases, Vol.1, Vol. 2 and Vol. 3 are also back in stock.

Dewhurst Trio **“Beyond the Borders”** 14 tracks – 4 popular dances, 4 dances devised by Gillian Jennings (who devised “Floosie in the Jacuzzi” in the Birmingham Branch Diamond Jubilee Book) – instructions available – and 6 tracks for when “any good tune” is required, and several shorter tracks in response to frequent requests from dancing teachers.

In the Pipeline: Early birds remember to place your order before the end of April for one, two or all three of the new CDs scheduled for release by the RSCDS late July, i.e. Music for Book 48, Music for 3rd Graded and Hugh Foss Song Tunes.

In addition to being posted on the website, the Branch Recordshop Newsletter is also distributed to all Region and Club Secretaries. If you wish to receive the newsletter direct, all you have to do is send me your email address with request and you will automatically receive your personal copy direct each time a newsletter is issued.

The Recordshop Catalogue is also to be found on the Branch Website, but my newsletter is the quickest way of keeping members up to date with what's in stock!

Recordshop Gift Vouchers (min. value \$30-00) are available from me.

A Reminder that the **Recordshop** will be **closed** for the months of **June and July**.

Please let me have your orders in good time to allow for all accounts to be paid by 31 May 2014.

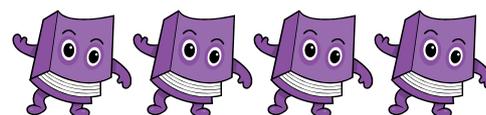
Bookshop Bitz

Book 47 – is now available and so is the new ‘Manual of Scottish Country Dancing’.



Coming soon – Book 48 and Third Graded Book will be released by Headquarters later this year. I expect to receive a supply in September and am happy to take orders for these.

Remember that the Bookshop is where you can get your Dancing Books.



Contact

Sue Pearson: By email Bookshop@rscdsnz.org.nz

Via NZ Branch Website

or by snailmail C/- 21 Stafford Street, Wanganui 4501

NZ Branch Custodian /Archivist

Branch DVDs and Videos are available for hire.

Details on the website link to “Forms”

Email: custodian@dancescottish.org.nz,

Wellington Region Ball

Spot prizes  Spot prizes

Come and join us for this special occasion to be held in the Jubilee Centre, Chilton St James School, Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt on 5 July 2014 commencing at 7.30pm.

Music by Peter Elmes, John Smith and Aileen Logie.

*Tickets @ \$30 each are available from:
Eileen South, phone 04 296 1370
Email: eileenroy@xtra.co.nz or
Philippa Pointon, phone 472 9510
philippapointon@gmail.com*



Commonwealth Ceilidh Saturday 21 June 2014 7.30 – 10.30pm

AMI Netball Centre
7 Allison Ferguson Drive,
Mt Wellington
Auckland



RSCDS is encouraging Scottish country dancers around the world to join in the Commonwealth Ceilidh – same day, same time, same programme of Scottish country and ceilidh dances.

New Zealand, of course, kicks off the event.

A community ceilidh organised by the Auckland Region and the Hillsborough Ceilidh Club, with the Ellerslie Youth Group.

**The ceilidh will be opened by
Dick Quax,**

New Zealand medal winner at the Edinburgh
Commonwealth Games.

Non dancers welcome – so please encourage your friends to come along.

Pre-purchased tickets:

Prior to 10pm Wednesday June 18th:
\$10 per adult; students over 13 years \$5; thirteen years &
under no charge.

(Sales on the night \$15)

Booking details available soon.

In the meantime contact:

ceilidh@aucklandscd.org.nz
Katharine Hoskyn (09-294-7551)
or Jan Batten (09-838-9047)
or Anne-Marie (09-473-1171)

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Queen's Birthday Weekend School 2014

Hosts: Te Awamutu SCD Club

31 May to 1 June 2014

Join us in Te Awamutu for a "Back To Basics" School!

A different format with Saturday & Sunday classes, combined with a Tea Dance and Ceilidh.

A more "gentle" weekend so that you have plenty of energy left after classes to enjoy the evening functions!

- **Advanced** (low impact with emphasis on upper body) **Pam Perkins**
- **Upper Intermediate** (high energy) **Esther Mackay**
- **Elementary/Intermediate** (a combined class) **Nicole Trewavan**

Application forms are with the secretaries of your club, the RSCDS NZ Branch website, the WaiBOP Region website, or contact:

Glenna James Organiser QBW School 2014
3/697 Teasdale Street Te Awamutu 3800
gdansa@xtra.co.nz

RSCDS New Zealand Branch Summer School 2013/14

I am pleased to report that the Waikato 13/14 Summer School was a success by all measures. The number of dancers living in was lower than we had hoped for but those who did live in were rewarded with accommodation of a high standard, excellent food and very easy access to classes and evening functions.

The feedback from participants was that it was a very friendly and relaxed school. A lot of this can be attributed to the friendly and helpful attitude of dancers in the Waikato Bay of Plenty region. We were flattered by the number of volunteers and help offered by every club in the region. Congratulations to everyone in the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region for being part of and hosting an enjoyable Summer School.

Our committee came together from four different clubs and every member made a fantastic contribution towards the school running smoothly. We had a social committee who were fun to work with but when the unexpected happened everyone made the extra effort required to fix the issue and not make it bigger. Thank you Shelley, Ruary, Mary-Ann, Grietje, Jill, Glenna and Virginia. I recommend all of these people to the next Waikato Bay of Plenty Summer School organiser.

For me it was interesting how a school develops a character and life of its own when people are able to contribute in areas they have a passion for. Two people outside the committee that exemplify this were Cheryl Graham (Tauranga) in doing an absolutely amazing job of the hall decorations and James Scott (Lower Hutt) for producing the Bannock Banner newsletter that had its readership anticipating its delivery each morning. Another two examples of committee members organising things they have a passion for were Mary-Anne Laidlaw having some fun with the evening suppers and Glenna James arranging a Mock Court to remember.

By being open to ideas we were able to add two relatively late but interesting additions to the Summer School programme. These were Jenny Greene's unisex step class and Scottish fiddler Iain Fraser's pre-dinner concert.

We were fortunate that many of our early decisions proved to be good ones. St Peter's School has fantastic facilities and were very helpful to us. Classique Caterers were a dream to work with and Musicare provided a great sound system and the expertise needed to set it up well. Nicol McLaren and Isobelle Hodgson from Scotland were great musicians and ran an excellent musicians class. Using New Zealand bands The Rose & Thistle Band and Wild Heather, took some stress off Nicol and Isobelle and helped reinforce the New Zealandness of the school. The teaching staff of Antoine Rousseau (France), Noriel Tarca (Australia), Katharine Hoskyn, Neil Horne, Gaye Collin and Jeanette Lauder all provided first class tuition to dancers at the school and were a pleasure to work with.

A thank you is also due to the NZ Branch Management Committee for their support when our plans were looking like they could be undone by low registrations.

Finally, thank you to all of the dancers who came to the school as full time attendees or evening dancers. I hope your support was rewarded by an enjoyable experience.

Wayne McConnel
Organiser, Waikato 13/14 Summer School



My First Summer School

My husband and I live on a farm in the Aria district, south of Te Kuiti. My previous experience of Scottish Country Dancing has been dancing Strip The Willow, Dashing White Sergeant, Eightsome Reel and once when I was in a show, Mairi's wedding. My husband and I have enjoyed sequence dancing for many years.

In June 2013 I started going to Te Awamutu Scottish Country Dance club in Otorohanga. It didn't take long before the joy of dancing and the music took their hold! I was encouraged to attend Summer School - it was with great apprehension I decided to go.

The organiser's good directions saw me driving through St. Peter's beautiful grounds of lawns and trees. So many tidy buildings. The organising committee were welcoming and efficient. Someone accompanied us to our accommodation - be they on a motorized 'cart' or on a bicycle! Wrigley C was where I was accommodated. The residents soon learnt, as we came and went, who we were and where we were from. We were a good mix from all over New Zealand and one from Australia.

The first evening all the 'First Timers' had a gathering before dinner. We were informed of the rules and routines of the Summer School - this was a great help to us. The first visit to the beautiful old dining room was an eye opener. Built in 1936, with steep pitched ceiling with exposed beams, with long dining tables with bench seats.

The Opening Social took me unawares. The size of the gymnasium and the number of able, confident dancers and the music The pleasure of being there was great. Not knowing the dances, not being confident in listening and remembering the briefings, I spent more time as an appreciative spectator than a dancer. Supper time and so many people willing to mix and mingle. I really enjoyed the evening. I was more than ready to go to bed, to be ready for the first dance lesson in the morning.

Our combined Elementary and Intermediate class was taught by Gaye Collin. Our musicians, Lynne Scott on keyboard and Margie on fiddle were there for the first three days, lucky us. There were about 17 of us. We all introduced ourselves. Over the time at the school, Gaye taught us - warm-ups and cool-downs. Posture - back straight, shoulders down, head held high. Use your eyes to see what is happening and to communicate with your partner and other dancers. Foot work and hand work. Formations included - Rondel, Knot, Poussettes, etc. It was an enjoyable time in class, and it was good to have the intermediate dancers with us. They helped give guidance and confidence, and their level of dancing gave us something to aspire to.

The afternoons were our own to do as we pleased. There were tours if you wanted to see things of interest in the immediate area. Cambridge wasn't far away. The school grounds were peaceful and pleasant to walk in. It was good to have New Year's Day off. Time to recover from the unaccustomed exercise and activity, ready for the remaining days.

The evening dances were enjoyable, in particular the President's Ball, where we were in formal dress. The Grand March is a great tradition and spectacle.

Some Wrigley C residents had 'wine and laughter time' before dinner. Over wine, a few late costumes were created for the Ceilidh which had the theme 'Bannockburn'. Some costume parts were tied together with the proverbial 'baling twine' - much laughter ensued! The Ceilidh was an enjoyable evening with items, comedy and of course dancing.

Thank you to Gaye Collin for teaching our class so well. Thank you and compliments to The Organising Committee - you certainly did a thoroughly good job of organising the 2013/2014 Summer School. Well done.

The end of the Summer School came all too soon. It was a wonderful experience and I learnt a lot. I met so many pleasant people. For us all it was back to 'auld claes and purridge' (old clothes and porridge), but what an enjoyable time we had and wonderful memories to remember.

As I write, I'm listening to some CDs bought at St Peter's.

Summer Schools or any Royal Scottish Country Dancing schools could become addictive . . . !

Jean McKenzie