



# Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

Volume 23 No 3

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## President's Report

I recently enjoyed a visit north to celebrate the Whangarei Club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While mingling with the other dancers attending the Ball, I realised how many dancers I knew. Not necessarily their names, in fact the Carterton Club members will tell you that it is the last thing I remember, but definitely their faces. When I say to new dancers that they are part of a world-wide family I think they find that difficult to imagine, but in my travels around New Zealand it has been brought home to me how true this is.

I also had the pleasure of joining members of the Tawa Club to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was wonderful to see so many dancers on the floor enjoying the music of Peter Elmes and his band.

The Ball at Government House in August to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of New Zealand becoming a Branch of the RSCDS was a splendid occasion. The Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy, began the evening with a welcoming speech. Ian and Judith Muir provided the music and the enjoyment of all attending was very obvious. My thanks to the organising committee, Katharine Hoskyn, Michele Miller, Lee Miller and Diane Bradshaw for their planning of not only the ball, but also the brief tour of NZ by Ian and Judith.

This is the last Kiwi News for 2018 and Regions will be holding their AGMs. There are over 700 members of the RSCDS NZ Branch and at least as many dancers throughout the country who are not financial members but enjoy their dancing. Do you attend your Region AGM? This is your opportunity to learn about the NZ Branch and the RSCDS and to express your views and concerns.

There are eight positions on the Branch Management Committee. Each member holds that position for three years. NOT a lifetime commitment but it is always a challenge to find members willing to serve the Branch and the NZ dancing community. This year our very able treasurer, Margaret Cantwell, is standing down after serving three years as the Branch Treasurer. NO nominations were received for this vacancy by 31 August so nominations will be sought at the AGM on 1 January 2019. Please contact the Secretary for further information.

Happy dancing

## Message from the Chairman of the RSDCS

To the RSCDS New Zealand Branch committee and all the New Zealand Branch members.

On behalf of the RSCDS Management Board and all the staff at 12 Coates Crescent I am delighted to send you warmest congratulations on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Branch. Such a significant anniversary bears witness to the commitment and effort of so many people over the decades. Teachers, committee members and volunteers have enabled the branch to provide so much enjoyment for many dancers. I know that the celebration in Government House on the 20<sup>th</sup> August will be a very special event with excellent music. I wish you a most happy evening. Please do send photos of the venue and the dancing. Here's to the next 50 years!

Helen Russell, Chairman of RSCDS

## From the Branch

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

*From Katharine Hoskyn*

Thank you all round for the spectacular Tour of the Regions by Ian and Judith Muir during the Branch 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

A big thank you to

- the dancers who attended events and showed so much appreciation for the music
- the groups hosting Ian and Judith – they commented how welcoming everyone was
- the organisers in each club and region for communicating so efficiently with Judith and the tour co-ordinators
- the staff at Government House for their help in organising the anniversary ball
- Elaine Laidlaw for preparing and being MC for the anniversary ball
- the New Zealand Branch Organising Committee who spent many hours working through the management of the details of this unique range of events
- the New Zealand Branch Management Committee for funding the international air travel

But most of all a huge thank you to Ian and Judith Muir for coming to New Zealand from the United Kingdom and giving of their time and music so generously.

The Tour of the Regions covered Auckland, Waikato-Bay of Plenty, Rangitikei and Canterbury. This was in addition to the special anniversary ball hosted by the Governor-General at Government House in Wellington.

The range of region events was diverse: club dances at Tokoroa and Ashhurst, a club night at Glendarroch in Wanganui and special events held in Auckland (an afternoon with social dancing, taught dances and musical items) and an anniversary ball in Christchurch.

In total, at least 30 people across New Zealand were involved in the organisation of events within their regions. Over 280 dancers (as a conservative estimate) across New Zealand enjoyed the music of Ian and Judith in the regions. Some of these people were also among the 100 who attended the

anniversary event at Government House in Wellington.

In conversation, Michele Miller, Branch Secretary, and Katharine Hoskyn were heard to comment about the impressive way branch members pulled together to make this happen.

More about each of the events will be in the NZ Dancer magazine.



The Organising Committee: Katharine Hoskyn, Diane Bradshaw, Michele Miller and Lee Miller  
(Photo: Lorelee Hyde)

### Thank you from the Muirs

Ian and I would like to say a HUGE Thank You to everyone in New Zealand who made our recent trip such a wonderful experience and success. We thoroughly enjoyed our travels, playing for groups both big and small, young and young at heart, and, of course, the “Big One” at Government House to celebrate your Branch’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved, both organisers and dancers, and all the best for the next 50 years!

Best wishes, Judith and Ian Muir



Judith and Ian Muir at the gates of Government House in Wellington (Photo: Katharine Hoskyn)

## NZ Branch has spoken – your votes for the most popular dances

The Publications Committee in Scotland asked each branch for suggestions of up to 10 dances, a mixture of Jigs, Reels and Strathspeys that are popular in the branch, for consideration to be included in the proposed book of 30 Popular Dances to be published in 2019.

The NZ Branch chose to send out a SurveyMonkey questionnaire to all our 700-plus members backed up with hardcopy options for those members not yet entirely comfortable with the digital age.

We received 201 responses online and another 23 votes by post or email.

The dances most often nominated were (drumroll):

	Total vote
Pelorus Jack	163
City Of Belfast	141
Scott Meikle	134
Mairi's Wedding	129
Shifftin' Bobbins	126
Seton's Ceilidh Band	125
Best Set in the Hall	124
Cranberry Tart	117
Minister on the Loch	114
Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan	106
Culla Bay	105
Beach Dancer	101
Catch the Wind	98

It was interesting that every dance on the given list received at least 20 votes.

119 respondents also nominated one or more dances not on the list provided. Honourable mentions from these include *The Fireworks Reel*, *Orpington Caledonians* and *Trip to Bavaria*.

*Lee Miller, Education and Training Co-ordinator*

## Consult 2020

*From Katharine Hoskyn*

A working group called Consult 2020 has been established by the New Zealand Branch Management Committee to facilitate discussion about voting at the Branch AGM. The working

party (in alphabetical order) is Quentin Currall, Linda Glavin, Katharine Hoskyn, Antanas Procuta.

At the last New Zealand Branch AGM, a remit passed to investigate the possibility of one-person, one-vote, rather than the current process of delegate voting.

### Objective for Consult 2020

To facilitate a consultative process that feeds into the presentation of a remit/notice of motion at the 2020 AGM relating to one-person, one-vote (with interim report at 2019 AGM). In the consultative process the following needs to be included (but not restricted to):

- Comparison of principles involved in delegate voting and one-person, one-vote
- Identification of options for managing the vote
- Identify other changes needed – e.g. presentation of remits/notices of motion, handling amendments, etc.

### What is happening at present?

1. This article in the Kiwi News starts the consultation
2. A specific email is being set up for dancers to send ideas, comments and thoughts
3. Discussion of implications of a move to one-person, one-vote
4. Investigation of options for managing the vote
5. Interim report to AGM 2019
6. Discussion forum at Summer School in Nelson.

### How can you contribute?

1. Send us examples of what other not-for-profit organisations do.

If you belong to other organisations, please send us examples of how they manage their voting. Please send to [consult2020@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:consult2020@dancescottish.org.nz).

These could be good practice examples or examples about which you have concern.

2. If you have any thoughts or comments about a move to one-person, one vote, please write to us at this email at any time.

***As much as possible Consult 2020 aims to investigate the issues relating to voting from all perspectives. So the input of members is important.***

**Email: [consult2020@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:consult2020@dancescottish.org.nz)**

## Branch Emails

*From Andrew Patterson, IT Co-ordinator*

Here are a couple of points about the use of the emails which have been set up by NZ Branch. That is, those formatted as *xxxxx@rscdsnz.org.nz* or *xxxxx@dancescottish.org.nz*.

Firstly, it was several years ago that Branch emails were set up for a few individuals with the format *[first-name].[last-name]@rscdsnz.org.nz* (for example, *elaine.laidlaw@rscdsnz.org.nz*). This is likely to have been because they had particular responsibilities such as organising a Summer School. The majority of these email addresses are now obsolete, but it appears that they are still used occasionally by those of you who list the email in your address book. Any emails sent to an obsolete address will remain unread. In future, if an email is sent to such an address, the original sender will receive a message indicating that the email could not be delivered. Note that this only affects email addresses which include the name of an individual, as opposed to those which include a role such as 'president'.

Secondly, I am aware that emails forwarded from a Branch email address are not always arriving at the intended destination. For example, an email sent to *[region]@dancescottish.org.nz* should be forwarded to the personal email address of the Region Secretary. This does not always happen as it should. Duncan Laidlaw (who provides the email hosting service for the Branch) has investigated this and resolved one issue but, if the problem persists, it would appear that the message is being rejected by the destination email server (e.g. xtra, gmail or hotmail) who may be able to provide you with an explanation.

## From the Recordshop

**Music for Book 52** has been very well received by members. Jim Lindsay has certainly come up with a winner, 17 tracks: 12 tracks to match the dances themselves, plus an additional five. At \$30-00 this is very good value!

**RE-PRESSED:** In response to many requests, Highlander Music have arranged a re-issue of Marian Anderson's "**The Fisherman's Reel**" and Jim Lindsay's "**Christmas Dance Party**". Both these CDs are such "fun" recordings and, as can be gathered, were hugely popular. I am selling them for \$25-00 each.

**IN THE PIPELINE:** Whilst Jim announced that he would not be recording for himself in future, it is good to learn that he has agreed to record a CD for a deviser and has been given more or less *carte blanche* as to the choice of tunes etc.

The Chris Dewhurst Band from Lichfield (Chris, Julie and their son, Nick) are planning to release their third CD later in the year. Their previous CD "**Beyond the Borders**" was well received around New Zealand.

**LISTENING CDs:** Available from stock are: Muriel Johnstone's "**Live from Birnam**" and, on request, I am happy to bring in more of "**Niel Gow's Fiddle**" and Muriel's recent release "**Masters of the Tradition Vol. 2**".

Please remember:

- Recordshop Gift Vouchers, minimum value \$30-00, are available on request.
- The latest Recordshop Newsletter and an up-to-date Recordshop Catalogue can be viewed by visiting the NZ Branch Website.
- If you would like to be mailed independently your own personal copy of the Branch Recordshop Newsletter, let me have your name and email address and I will send you one direct.

*Dorothy Wilson, recordshop@dancescottish.org.nz*

## Bookshop Bitz



### Recent Arrivals

- *Book 52*
- The compilation of Books 31-38
- *From North Cape to the Bluff* – NZ Branch 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary collection
- *Memories are Made of This* by Amy Luxton-Esler
- *May I Have the Pleasure* by Iain Boyd
- *Vive La Danse* by Iain Boyd

I have been advised that there is a new book by G Collin due for release at/before Summer School.

The Bookshop will be at the 2018/2019 Summer School in Nelson and I look forward to meeting you there.

For all book enquiries please contact

Sue Pearson:

- email [Bookshop@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:Bookshop@dancescottish.org.nz)
- NZ Branch Website
- snailmail C/- 21 Stafford Street, Wanganui 4501

## Branch Archives

The missing bound copies of the New Zealand Scottish Country Dancer have been replaced by a similar collection donated to the Branch. They covered the issues up to 1985. We have managed to gather most of the issues since 1985 except 1986, 1992 and 1999. Can you help? Have you copies that you would be willing to donate to complete the collection to date?

Please contact Elaine Laidlaw, Branch President.



Medal recipients with the organiser, Elaine Lethbridge, and the 'stooges' (Photo: John Patterson)

## JAMs (Junior Associate Members)

### JAM Medal Tests

*From Debbie Roxburgh, Youth Co-ordinator*

In August, Elaine Lethbridge (Wellington Region) co-ordinated an afternoon of medal tests in Waikanae. The tests involved dancers from the Wellington, Rangitikei and Canterbury Regions, and were an excellent opportunity for our young dancers to work together. All dancers passed their tests, so congratulations go to:

#### Bronze

Ruby-Jean Willis	Lower Hutt
Li-Yin Lin	Lower Hutt
Sophie Hurnard	Manawatu
Amelia Lambert	Glendarroch
Caitlin Lambert	Glendarroch
Annalise Strachan	Glendarroch
Josie Herrick	Glendarroch

#### Bronze Bar

Thomas van der Gulik	Lower Hutt
Catherine van der Gulik	Lower Hutt
Katie Warner	Waikanae

#### Silver Bar

Emily Warner	Waikanae
Caitlin Tipping	Little Thistles (Chch)
Jonny Bourne	Lower Hutt

#### Gold Bar

Emma Loader	Newtown
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The young dancers were presented with their medals and certificates at the recent New Dancers' Celebration in Wellington.

### JAM Landing in Auckland 12 – 14 July 2019

*St Cuthbert's College, Epsom, Auckland*

#### THE MOONWALK WAS REAL

*Or should that be reel?*

The JAM Camp is one week before  
the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first moon walk

And so it is

One small step for a dancer,  
one giant leap for Scottish country dancing

*That means – great fun & lots to learn*



Medal tests on the Friday prior to the Camp.

More information coming soon to regions, SCD groups and clubs.

If you would like to be added to the email list to receive information directly on a regular basis, please contact

[jam@aucklandscd.org.nz](mailto:jam@aucklandscd.org.nz)

**Historical Note: *The Moonwalkers' Reel* or *The Moonwalk is Real*.**

Very longstanding dancers may remember a dance of the above alternative names. Published in the New Zealand Dancer, it was written by Win

Clancey, the husband of the then-Branch Secretary, as he watched the moonwalk (on TV presumably). First couple is Neil Armstrong landing on the moon, aided and abetted by the second couple, Buzz Aldrin. The 3<sup>rd</sup> couple is Collins who simply orbits the set but did not land on the moon. The 4<sup>th</sup> couple are the Russians, who also orbit the set and watch the action.

If you want to dance it, start practising now – dancing it once is achievable. When the dancers progress and positions change, it becomes interesting! For its day it was an extremely innovative dance.

*Katharine Hoskyn*

## JAM Scholarships to Summer School

*From Debbie Roxburgh, Youth Co-ordinator*

We are delighted to announce the recipients of this year's summer school scholarships, and look forward to seeing them in class and on the dance floor in Nelson. Congratulations to:

Isobel Harris (Levin)

Edward Fish (Waimate)

## News from around the Regions

### Whangarei SCD Club's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*From Fiona Bullivant*

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, the Whangarei Scottish Country Dance Club celebrated 60 years of dancing and friendship.

We held a Ball with Glenfiddle playing and dancers from all around the Auckland Region attended. We welcomed Elaine Laidlaw, the Branch President, and Michael, and Duncan Laidlaw, the Region President, and Miriam. Dorothy Wilson from Blenheim and Bev Kirby from Masterton were warmly greeted and caught up with many old friends.

We opened with drinks and nibbles and this gave everyone a chance to catch up before the dancing at 6.30pm. Deciding against doing all the work ourselves, we arranged a fully catered supper and this was beautifully presented. The Anniversary

cake was made, decorated and donated to the Club by Elaine Goldthorpe who somehow managed to recreate our logo on the top.



Whangarei Club's 60th Anniversary cake

A wonderful evening's dancing followed with lots of laughter and we look forward to many more years of happy dancing.

### Katikati SCD Club

*From Linda Carter*

The Katikati Scottish Country Dance Club has just celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We also held our first Tea Dance at the Pahoia Community Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Six sets enjoyed a fun night, with Lynne Hudson as the MC.

Because we started early, the dancing finished about 9.15pm, which made a huge difference to those travelling long distances home again afterwards. A very special thanks to all the experienced dancers, who so willingly danced with those less experienced, making it a really wonderful experience for them.

We have made an application to Creative Bay of Plenty, for financial support for Queen's Birthday Weekend 2019, and Linda Carter is to make a presentation to the selection panel in support of this application. Preparation for Queen's Birthday Weekend 2019, at Katikati, is well under way with tutors, musicians, accommodation, and venues, all organised.

Registration forms will be distributed once the 2019 Core Dances for the Region have been selected, and the ball programme finalised.

## Tokoroa SCD Club

*From Genny Hall*

Tokoroa SCD Club had another busy year. We took advantage of the offer from the Muirs to play at a function in the Waikato Region while they were in the country. Dancers from around the region were rewarded with a most enjoyable evening of music and dancing.

At the AGM we had a change on the committee, with Graeme Hall stepping down as President after 41 years and Ian Stewart taking up the position. At the same meeting Jeanette Lauder was made a Life Member of the Club. A thoroughly deserved honour.

This year we have had some new JAMs joining the club and by July, Jeanette had them ready to enjoy our annual JAM and Beginners' Tea Dance, and also the ball in August. Hopefully there will be some medal candidates for the next JAM camp.

With several members away overseas, a local Spring promotion in town and Jeanette on R & R leave we are still managing to get a set for club nights. Can't keep a good club down!

### Levin SCD Club – Tutor required

Regrettably our tutor Kathryn Deroles is leaving our sunny shores for pastures new in the far north and we are seeking a new tutor. Kathryn's last dance with us will be our last club dance on 10 November 2018, at the same time as the Rangitikei Region AGM which we have agreed to host.

The Levin Scottish Country Dance Club is a thriving club with on average 3-4 sets a night, some 40+ members and 16 members who are RSCDS members.

For further details, or if you are interested, please contact:

President, Gary Benton on (06) 368-7350, txt 027-450-2618 or email [gdbenton@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gdbenton@xtra.co.nz); or Secretary, Rachel Phillips on (06) 368-7080, txt 021-506-990 or email [ardo@farmside.co.nz](mailto:ardo@farmside.co.nz)

## Tawa Club's 60th Anniversary

*From Désirée Patterson*

Tawa SCD Club recently celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dance, preceded by a drinks-and-nibbles function for invited guests – former members and teachers – and current members.

The evening was a resounding success, and the club is incredibly proud of its teacher, Maureen Robson, who has been an inspiration for all its members for 35 years.

Former members and teachers, long-standing members and current newer members mingled happily at the pre-dance function, and for many it was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and share reminiscences. Maureen had brought along her club photo albums showing all the fun of past annual dances and theme nights.

Before long Maureen announced that dancing would start in five minutes, so all trooped down to the hall – some to put on their dancing shoes, others to find a good seat to enjoy watching the dancers and listening to the music provided by Peter Elmes, Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Don McKay.

We had a great turn-out, with ten-plus sets on the floor. It says a lot for the quality of the programme that by the end of the night we had seven or eight sets still going strong. Maureen had chosen the most popular two or three dances from each of the six decades that we were celebrating. All the dances were well known and relatively easy, and obviously much enjoyed by everyone.

The fifth dance on the programme was "*Diamond Jig*", which Maureen had devised specially for this anniversary. It was well received, and we danced it twice. The dance had obviously been well practised in clubs beforehand, and making our video available would have helped too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ee7DNIOQHLS>



*Diamond Jig* (Photo: John Patterson)

Dancing was interrupted, shortly before supper, for former presidents and tutors to be acknowledged. Maureen read out a list of past Tawa Club presidents – only the current president Jan Bruce and the previous president Duncan McDonald were present. Then Jan called out a list of former teachers and teachers who had stood in for Maureen while she made her yearly visit to the UK, and invited them to come forward – Maureen, of course, and Romaine Butterfield, Barbara Kent, Elizabeth Ferguson, Andrea Wells, Philippa Pointon, and Diane Bradshaw.



The teachers, from left: Diane, Andrea, Philippa, Elizabeth, Romaine, Maureen, Barbara

It was a wonderful evening, one that we will fondly remember for a long time to come. Maureen did a fantastic job and everyone had a fabulous time! Thank you from all of us.

## Island Bay – Johnsonville joint Annual Dance 2018

*From Kristin Downey,  
Chair, joint annual dance sub-committee*

Doing something the same way you've always done it doesn't really require a lot of thought. There are not many questions to ask that haven't been asked before, and very few answers that will come as a surprise. Deciding to try something new is not always the obvious choice, and it brings lots of questions and answers you might never have anticipated. It is a bit of a voyage of discovery, and can be both challenging and rewarding.

Johnsonville and Island Bay embarked on such a voyage at the end of last year, when we decided to join forces to run an annual dance together in 2018. And we are so glad we did. Club members got to work alongside each other in the organising sub-committee, at hall set-up, in supper preparation and serving, and of course we all got together on the dance floor. Our tutors Jeanette

Watson (Island Bay) and Rod Downey (Johnsonville) devised a joint programme reflecting the favourite dances of both clubs, and shared the MC'ing on the night.

Why did we do it? Wellington's annual dance calendar is quite full in the winter. Additionally many dancers (and tutors) travel at that time, and then there are rugby matches, and orchestra and choral performances, the ballet and many other winter wonders. Rather than have two clubs competing with each other for dancers at such a busy time, we decided to try a different approach.

Our reward was a relaxed night for all with many hands making light work, getting to know people we might not have known so well before, and a bounteous supper! We also had a beautifully decorated hall strung with tartan bunting from Johnsonville, saltires and shields on the walls, and the Island Bay banner taking pride of place on the stage. Members from both clubs turned out in force, together with dancers from around the Wellington Region. Eight-plus sets on the floor made for a festive atmosphere, and everyone was buzzing.

Did it require more organisation than usual? Absolutely. We all had to look closely at what we did and why, and could/should we do it differently. We had to work collaboratively, take the character of each club into account and decide things like: What's our financial bottom line? How much should we charge at the door? spend on a band? Which band? Which venue? How will we organise who does what job? How will we split the MC'ing on the night? It was a really interesting process and it brought fresh perspectives.

Would we do it again? I can't speak for everyone else, but for me, the answer is Yes. It was a great night, and having put in the work getting it up and running the first time, it would be worth capitalising on that investment of effort to do it again. And our reasons for doing it this time remain unchanged going into the future. Keeping the dance calendar uncluttered, with fewer competing dance events seems to make sense. Additionally with two clubs committed to making the night a success, we had the support of two clubs' membership – a good basis for a good turnout. Plus we all had a good time, so why not?

A lot of people contributed to the success of the night, but a special thank you must go to the organising sub-committee. They worked hard to make sure our joint annual dance ran smoothly, and each club's identity was honoured. Thanks to sub-committee members Allison Kay, Elizabeth Ngan, Jeanette Watson, Jo Worthington, John Jowett and Rod Downey, together with Loralee Hyde on communications.

See photos from the joint Island Bay-Johnsonville annual dance at <http://www.johnsonvillescđ.org.nz/about-us/2018-events/#annualdance2018>

## Stop Press - Rod Downey

On 17 October, it was announced that Johnsonville tutor Rod Downey - Professor Rod Downey - had been awarded the 2018 Rutherford Medal by the Royal Society of New Zealand. The Branch wishes to record its warmest congratulations to Rod.

<https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/medals-and-awards/medals-and-awards-news/2018-rutherford-medal-solving-cant-compute-and-is-that-random-sequence-really-random/>

## Motueka SCD Club

*From Alison McRae*

Motueka SCD club has just celebrated a successful and highly enjoyable birthday dance in September with up to five sets for most of the dances. The hall decorations were universally admired and the food and drink happily consumed. The birthday cake was cut by Sue and Jim Fraser in recognition of their many years of contribution to the club and SCD as a whole.

We are now working hard to prepare for hosting the Nelson and Marlborough Region St Andrew's dance, which will be held on 24 November at Lower Moutere Hall, Moutere Highway, Motueka, starting at 7.00pm.

## Burnside SCD Club

*From Annette Maister*

On Saturday 6 October, Burnside SCD Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Dance and to make the evening even more significant, we also celebrated Audrey Mattinson's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Audrey tutors not only Burnside, but Rangiora and Oxford Clubs as well. Her work with these clubs is tireless, so it is no surprise that so many people, from far and wide, were there to ensure that she enjoyed this special evening.

She was particularly thrilled to have her two sons there, who danced all night and did their mother proud!

The programme was entertaining and the committee did a good job preparing the delicious food and suitable decorations. Doreen prepared an anniversary cake, as well as a birthday cake; both were beautifully decorated and enjoyed by us all. Margaret, our chairman, did a wonderful job keeping the evening flowing.

A great night of celebration was had by all who attended and those who couldn't be there sent messages of congratulations.

## Other Interesting Stuff

### Attending TAC Summer School 2018

*By Mary McDonald*

Nova Scotia has been in our sights as a destination for some time, because of its Celtic connections and history of fiddling. So when Ann and Andrew Oliver mentioned that they were planning a visit to Nova Scotia before attending the TAC (Teachers' Association of Canada) Summer School in Minneapolis in July, we eagerly agreed to combine forces for a trip.

The rendezvous point was Halifax from whence we set off in our rental "truck" – a 4-wheel-drive, 7-seater Yukon. They make 'em BIG in the States! There was plenty of room for all the bags required for kilts, sporrans and other Scottish attire.



Andrew & Ann Oliver, and Duncan & Mary McDonald with their BIG truck

After a couple of days spent hunting fossils at Joggins Cliffs and exploring Anne of Green Gables territory (Prince Edward Island) we headed to Cape Breton in search of fiddle music and perhaps a dance or two.

The interesting thing about being on the Cape was that music and dance were definitely part of the experience but not always where we expected. We tried to attend a local dance which was cancelled due to illness, but when we turned up at our Motor Camp, basically in the middle of nowhere, there was a fiddler and guitarist playing at the restaurant. Then one night, some teenagers were

playing fiddle on the beach opposite our hotel. It was very noticeable that the Cape Breton fiddlers have a distinct style of playing with a lot of arm and wrist movement, strong accents and more “up-bow” action than is typical elsewhere.

Also of note was the lack of Scottish Country Dancing. However there were two other styles of dancing: Cape Breton step dancing performed by individuals, and social square dancing. Each town seemed to have a set sequence of square dance steps which they repeat all night. As an older gentleman commented to us “We can’t be bothered learning all those different dances.”

The “truck” was duly returned to Halifax, and we flew together to Minneapolis.

We delivered an eagerly awaited supply of Iain Boyd’s new dance books to TAC Books who have traditionally been staunch supporters of New Zealand devisers’ publications.

Accommodation for Summer School was in the University of Minnesota’s Mark G Yudof Hall, in apartments which included washing machines; with dining in the next building, and dancing in studios at the Recreation and Wellness Centre some 2km away. Luckily the weather was (unusually) hot so we were well warmed up by the time we walked there, and it was amusing flashing our ID cards at the young staff on the way through the turnstiles, to mingle with even younger and fitter students pacing and pedalling on various exercise machines.

The four of us were in the Advanced Challenge class, where we were reunited with many dancing friends from the northern hemisphere, and soon made new ones. Our class was based in the large airy studio which was also used for evening events, and we were thrilled to see the New Zealand flag hanging in prime position on the wall, in our honour.



Four Kiwis under the NZ flag

Our dance tutors were Antoine Rousseau from France, Jody Kulas from Canada and Ellie Briscoe from USA, each teaching on alternate days. This was interesting, as each had a different style and theme: Antoine focused on elegance, Jody on enjoyment, and Ellie on posture.

The musicians for the school were Laird Brown (Bobby Brown’s son); well-known Barbara McOwen and husband Robert; Ann Hooper; Terry Traub; Campbell Webster, and Don Wood, so class and evening events were accompanied by a selection of fiddles, keyboard, guitar, double bass, drums, small-pipes, bagpipes and accordion. Yes, we even had a dance class where Campbell played the small-pipes. This was a bit challenging both for the dancers and the teacher. It is fairly difficult to time the “Ready-and” with the starting drone of the pipes.

At short notice, while we were already travelling in Cape Breton, a music course was announced, in conjunction with the dance school. After several emails, and with a huge dollop of luck, I was able to arrange to borrow a violin, and spent my afternoons with several others under the tutelage of Barbara McOwen, learning new tunes and preparing to play on the final night.

The evening dances were fantastic with great music and lots of energy. All the dances were walked, which meant everyone was able to relax and just enjoy themselves. It was a great thrill that the first dance of the first evening was Maureen Robson’s *New Year Jig*, closely followed by Romaine Butterfield’s *The Kissing Bridge*. We made sure we got those right!

Initially we thought the dance programmes looked short but everyone was so enthusiastic that many dances were repeated – even one 8x32-bar strathspey! – because the music was so good.

Ceilidh night was one of the best I have witnessed, with a high standard of performances (but less audience participation), and a great range of singing, poetry and skits along with dancing of various genres: Scandinavian; clog; Highland; even Scottish Country Dancing to music from The Beatles and The Rolling Stones.

We had a wonderful time and commend next year’s TAC Summer School in Calgary to those who have thoughts of sightseeing in Canada, and wish to improve their dancing skills at the same time.

## How to grow an SCD musician

*By Lynne Scott, NZ Branch Music Adviser*

With the impending retirement of Peter Elmes, New Zealand's most senior SCD musician, it is timely to look at how we find, encourage and nurture our SCD musicians.

Where do SCD musicians come from? About 75% are already dancers, either active or in the past. They may have chosen to play rather than dance due to physical limitations, or they may still be active dancers, but they bring to the music a background of knowledge and experience. They are Gold.

Musicians from outside the SCD family are harder to categorise. They may be experienced in another genre and looking for variety, or they may belong to a similar interest group (e.g. the Auckland Ceilidh Club), or there may be a social connection with a local dancer or musician. These have more to learn, but if they love the music, it's not all hard work.

So, having found a musician – or preferably two who can work together – how can they be encouraged to begin playing? A comfortable path can be found when a more experienced musician mentors beginners at club nights, playing beside them to create a safe environment to learn. This strategy has been successful in Wellington and Auckland, with beginners finding their musical feet with a minimum of stress. It's important that the dancers are supportive, but don't feel they are being "used"; so start with your musicians just playing the warm-up music, until they are ready to add a dance set. Dancing or watching the rest of the evening will keep them involved – Tutors, throw in an easy dance for those who are not already dancers.

As experience and confidence increase, your musicians can be given feedback – it's important to know if one is "doing it right". Encourage them to grab training opportunities, such as weekend and summer schools with musicians' courses.

So here is my challenge for SCD clubs: early in the new year, take a look at your community and see if you can find a fiddler, pianist or accordion (or other) player who would enjoy playing our wonderful Scottish music. As your Music Adviser, I am happy to help with finding a mentor, and may be able to visit to provide mentoring and encouragement. Do ask!

Experienced SCD musicians have their part to play too. With the approval of our clubs, we can draw in new musicians and mentor them as they learn the craft. As they grow in confidence, we can partner them in playing for classes at region level. And as our bands become more solid and experienced, we can allow new musicians to "sit in" – to play, unamplified, behind the band at a dance. It's not always comfortable, but it's a great way to provide for the next generation of SCD musicians.

Which brings us back to where we started: with Peter Elmes, whose generosity and encouragement of beginners in SCD music has formed the foundations of the current generation of musicians. Let's keep the ball rolling.

*Lynne Scott, music@dancescottish.org.nz*

**Editor's note:** The announcement of a dance in honour of Peter Elmes is on page 13.

## The "Elephant in the Room" of SCD!

*By Peter Armstrong*

I began Scottish Country Dancing about four years ago. I started comparatively late in life, although I have done Ceilidh dancing off and on for over 40 years. As with many late starters in SCD, I now regret that I did not get involved years before I eventually did. I regularly attend two clubs in the Auckland region with my wife, and thoroughly enjoy being part of SCD.

It wasn't long into this marvellous leisure activity that I discovered there was an "elephant in the room", as it were. My dictionary defines this idiom as follows: "*When you say there is an elephant in the room, you mean that there is an obvious problem or difficult situation that people do not want to talk about*". I suggest to you that the main "elephant" in SCD is the huge under-representation of males, in what is meant to be dancing involving both genders. It is not unusual for men to make up just 20 to 30% at a club or ball. Occasionally at one of my clubs, I have been the only male with over 20 females!

Strangely, I only rarely hear anyone in SCD expressing that this is not a good thing. It seems most ladies don't mind the imbalance, and so it goes on, and probably gets worse. I suggest that the time has come to be more proactive in our encouraging more participation by men.

I have my own ideas as to some reasons why the imbalance exists, some of which will sound “heretical” to many of our female members and teachers. An obvious one to me, is the ongoing emphasis on precise footwork. From my conversations with other male dancers, I have found that they commonly believe that there are more important things than having their feet always in the correct position. I suggest that what we males value most highly is achieving the dances – getting through a demanding dance successfully with the other three or four couples, without the set breaking down. Correct footwork has its place, but I believe as a male, it is overemphasised.

Since doing SCD, I have been told on many occasions that it is primarily “social dancing”, and its main purpose is to have fun! These helpful comments should serve to keep things in a proper perspective. It is not primarily about demonstration sets with everything being done according to the RSCDS prescriptions.

My motivation in writing these comments is not to be a “stirrer” or to be a mouthpiece for “masculinist” ideology. Put simply, I would love to see more blokes joining in and enjoying this marvellous activity.

If there is an “elephant in the room” of SCD, then it may be time – to borrow the title of one of our infrequently danced dances – to have an “*Elephant’s Stampede*”!

*Peter Armstrong, Ranfurly and Hibiscus SCD Clubs.*

## 50th Anniversary Ball: A photographer’s view

*By Lorelee Hyde*

Wild and wet Wellington weather did nothing to dim the excitement of 100 dancers from across the country who attended the RSCDS New Zealand Branch 50th Anniversary Ball at Government House on 20 August.

I had offered to take photos of the evening for the Branch. Once inside the grand ballroom, I was delighted to see the golden glow from the huge chandeliers accentuating the fabulous colours of the ballgowns and the tartans of the kilts—this would help make eye-catching photos.

The evening started with drinks in the Blundell Room with Elaine Laidlaw, the President of the New Zealand Branch. The adjoining Bledisloe Conservatory proved an ideal location for the Auckland and Wellington Region dancers to pose for group photos. It’s relatively easy to photograph Scottish Country dancers—they quickly get in ‘formation’ and all that is needed is to get them to move slightly so they’re all in the frame. And smiles abounded in anticipation of the evening ahead!

We were soon back into the buzz of conversation with other dancers, meeting up with old friends and making new ones. I took photos of other regions and clubs during the evening and these will contribute to historical records of Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand.

The Governor General, The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, welcomed us to Government House, saying it was wonderful to see the ballroom being used by enthusiastic and committed dancers from around



The Ballroom at Government House - a magnificent setting for dancing (Photo: Lorelee Hyde)

New Zealand. Wearing a MacNeil tartan sash, Dame Patsy also shared her Scottish heritage with us. We were advised in the pre-Ball material not to ask for 'selfies' with the Governor General but private photos were welcome. Dame Patsy graciously posed with Elaine for another fine record of the occasion.

With Elaine as MC, dancers then took to the floor to the toe-tapping music of Ian and Judith Muir from the UK. I loved photographing the dancing—the dancers formed perfectly straight lines as they took to the floor, they smiled at their partners and others in the set and were clearly enjoying themselves. At dances I often stand on a chair or stepladder to photograph the view of all the sets on the floor. This time, I decided it wasn't a good strategy to step on the ornate ballroom chairs

Many dances on the programme were devised by New Zealanders. I was fortunate to find myself in a perfect position to photograph Iain Boyd and Noeline O'Connor dancing *Catch the Wind*—a dance devised for them by Romaine Butterfield.



Iain Boyd and Noeline O'Connor dancing *Catch the Wind*

This special evening of dancing proved a grand celebration of the Branch's 50th Anniversary. Thank you to the organising committee of Diane Bradshaw, Michele Miller, Lee Miller (all from Wellington) and Katharine Hoskyn from Auckland for their hard work that made this night such a wonderful occasion. The smiles of the dancers, their laughter and the fun had by all made photographing the event an enjoyable assignment. The photos have had over 475 views—see them all and download if you wish at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskGKh9uY>

## Events coming up ...

### Peter Elmes is retiring

Peter is well known around New Zealand, having played for many events and in many regions over the years. The Wellington Region is putting on a dance to acknowledge Peter on his retirement from playing for Scottish Country Dancing.

### Come and Dance to Thank Peter Elmes

After 50 years of playing his beloved Button Accordion all over New Zealand Peter has decided to retire.

The Wellington Region wants to pay tribute and say "Thank You Peter" at a dance where he will make a guest appearance with the band during the evening.

**Saturday 24 November starting at 7.30 pm**

**Venue: Ngaio Town Hall**

**Entrance Fee:**

\$13 for dancers plus a small plate  
\$5 non-dancers plus a small plate



### Scottish Society SCD Club

The 70th anniversary of our club takes place at the Annual dance on April 6th, 2019 at the Scottish Society Hall, cnr Edgeware Road and Caledonian Road, St Albans, Christchurch.

Past and present members are welcome to join us on this special occasion.

Contact person: Margaret Birse, Secretary,  
bealey47@hotmail.com.



RSCDS, New Zealand Branch Inc  
**Nelson Summer School**  
2018/19



This year's Summer School is coming around fast and preparations are well underway. This year it is being held in sunny Nelson from 28 Dec until 5 Jan.

Accommodation is filling up fast so if you are still thinking about coming along, act now and be part of something special.

We have a full range of classes being taught by local and overseas teachers:

- Advanced High Impact – Duncan Brown (UK)
- Advanced Low Impact – Caristiona Tait (Melbourne)
- Advanced – Ruth Budden (Tuakau)
- Intermediate – Rachel East (Dunedin)
- Social – Janet Favel (Dunedin)
- Teachers' Training – Debbie Roxburgh (Wanganui)
- Senior JAM – Diana Hastie (Sydney)
- Junior JAM – Hazel Fish (Waimate)

Afternoon classes include:

- Highland Steps – Duncan Brown
- Morris Dancing – Nelson Morris
- Ladies' Step – Diana Hastie
- Musicians' classes – Lynne Scott

If you don't want to exert yourself at the afternoon classes you could consider going on one of the trips we have arranged. They include a trip to WoW (World of Wearable Arts), well worth a visit, showcasing winning designs alongside a collection of classic cars. We have arranged a special rate for entry which is at your own cost. We will also be visiting the lovely village of Mapua and the world-renowned Hoglund Glass.

If you need to be tempted even more, here's a bit of information about Nelson:

Nelson is well known for its thriving local arts and crafts scene. It has a temperate climate with warm summers, in fact it has one of the sunniest climates of all major New Zealand centres. The geographical "centre of New Zealand" allegedly lies in Nelson on a hilltop near the centre of the city. Further afield (but not too far) are some stunning beaches and scenery. Be sure to bring your camera.

If you are still thinking of coming to Nelson for some dancing in the sun, then please contact Doug Mills, email [ss2018@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:ss2018@dancescottish.org.nz) or visit the NZ Branch website and fill in an application online.

## Waikato Bay of Plenty Queen's Birthday Weekend School, 2019

Next year's Queen's Birthday Weekend School will be in Katikati, situated in the Bay of Plenty, on SH2 between Tauranga and Waihi.

Katikati enjoys an agreeable climate and is a major kiwifruit and avocado growing area.

Classes will include: Elementary, Intermediate/Mainstream, Advanced Low Impact, Advanced Technique, as well as Musicians.

Make a note in your diary to join us 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2019, in the Mural Town of New Zealand.

### Waikato-Bay of Plenty Region Queen's Birthday Weekend School 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

To be hosted by  
Katikati Scottish Country Dance Club  
at Katikati, Bay of Plenty

Music by Bourach Mor and others  
Ceilidh Theme: Nibble Nibble  
(the meaning of Katikati)



Contact for more details:  
Linda Carter – Ph: +64 21 259 8770  
[linda@loganlodge.co.nz](mailto:linda@loganlodge.co.nz)

**Closing date for the next issue of  
Kiwi News**

**12.00 Noon, on Saturday 6 April 2019**

**Email: [kiwinews@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:kiwinews@dancescottish.org.nz)**

## Otago Region Easter School 2019

Join us in the beautiful Catlins for the Otago Region Easter School.

The School will be held at Owaka, South Otago, from 19 to 22 April 2019.

Nicole Trewavas (Palmerston North), Debbie Roxburgh (Wanganui), and Fiona Bullivant (Whangarei) will be the tutors for the Beginners/Elementary, General, and Advanced Technique classes respectively.

There will be the usual mix of classes and evening dances, and a dinner, as well as time to explore the scenic local area.

The deadline for registrations is 17 March 2019.

For detailed information, go to <https://lawrencescd.files.wordpress.com/2018/08/easter-school-2019-registration-final.pdf>, or contact the organiser, Quentin Currall, at [quentin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:quentin@xtra.co.nz).

Otago Region  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Zealand Branch  
**Easter School 19-22 April 2019**

**Casting to the Catlins**



**Contact: Quentin Currall**  
41 Whitehaven Street, Lawrence 9532  
Phone 03 485 9646 Mobile 021 148 7909  
Email [quentin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:quentin@xtra.co.nz)

**Programme**

<b>Friday 19 April</b> 6.00 p.m. 7.30-9.00 p.m.	Registration – Owaka Community Centre Social dance
<b>Saturday 20 April</b> 9.00 a.m.-12 noon 7.30-10.30 p.m.	Classes Formal dance
<b>Sunday 21 April</b> 1.00-4.00 p.m. 5.30-7.00 p.m. 7.30-9.30 p.m.	Classes Dinner – Catlins Area School Social dance
<b>Monday 22 April</b> 10.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Combined class



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**RSCDS, New Zealand Branch Inc**  
**Nelson Summer School**

**2018/19**



We look forward to seeing you at Nelson Summer School from 28 December 2018 till 5 January 2019 where we have a great line-up of teachers from NZ, Australia and the UK as well as local and overseas musicians. There will be a full range of classes for all abilities, including a Teachers' Training Class for those who may be thinking of taking their teacher examination or those who currently teach at a club and want to improve but not necessarily take the exam.

Accommodation will be at Saxton Lodge in twin-share rooms with classes in nearby Stoke. For those who wish to commute, there are motels in the Stoke/Richmond area, all within an easy drive of the School.

Nelson is known for local arts and crafts stores, and art galleries. It's also a popular base for nearby vineyards and Abel Tasman National Park. Established by English settlers in 1841, the city's history is showcased at Founders Heritage Park, a living museum with a vintage railway.

Further information and details, contact the Organiser:

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