



# Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

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## BRANCH CONTACTS

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## President's Report

It is March – most clubs around New Zealand will just be starting their dancing year. Since the end of the 2018 dancing year your Region Committees have been busy planning classes, evening functions and social events to encourage your participation in this very social pastime. Do take the opportunity to attend these activities outside your club calendar. It is a great opportunity to increase your dancing knowledge and experience, and make new friends.

Andy Patterson, the RSCDS NZ Branch IT co-ordinator, has been working on a new Branch website. This was launched early in March and Andy invites input from people using the site. This is a great source of information on Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand, including details of evening functions and the programme or links to weekend schools and summer schools.

The website also includes links to the NZ Branch shops. Dorothy sends out newsletters regularly throughout the year on new releases and updates on new stock for the Recordshop. She welcomes any enquiries and orders.

Sue looks after the Branch Bookshop. She is happy to search for dances and books in response to enquiries. At club the other night, one of our new dancers asked about books on dancing so they could learn the terminology and this reminded me of a book I had purchased at summer school from Sue. I will pass on the details and encourage these new members to use the website and the contacts.

My travels begin in April with a visit to Christchurch to join members of the Scottish Society SCD Club in celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Hopefully I will see you on a dance floor somewhere this year.

*Elaine*

## Summer School

Cambridge, NZ  
2019 - 2020



<http://dancescottish.org.nz/summerschools.php>

## From the Branch

### Notes from IT

The new Branch website ([dancescottish.org.nz](http://dancescottish.org.nz)) was launched on 8th March and the feedback that I have received would indicate that you approve of the new look. Progress was difficult at times and it is gratifying to feel that the effort was worthwhile.

We just beat the new HQ website ([rscds.org](http://rscds.org)) which was launched on 12th March. First impressions are that it is a very professional-looking and much improved website. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the new HQ membership database which accompanies the website since many of the entries were migrated incorrectly (or not at all). As the largest Branch, we felt the effect more than most and I have been working with Cecile at HQ who has been working tirelessly to sort things out. I have also sought an assurance that these problems will not affect the delivery of the April issue of Scottish Country Dancer.

Finally, emails again (fine when they work, a pain when they don't). This time it concerns the emails (such as e-newsletters) which HQ sends out via the Mailchimp server. The procedure used by HQ means that, if you change your email address, it is not sufficient just to inform NZ Branch. You must also ensure that Mailchimp is aware of the change. HQ recommends that you do so via the 'update your preferences' link at the foot of an earlier Mailchimp email. This could be a bit difficult if the change of email address means that you no longer have access to an 'update your preferences' link in which case you should ask HQ ([info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org)) to make the change for you. As my school mathematics master was fond of saying 'There is always a better way'.

*Andrew Patterson  
Information Technology Co-ordinator*

### Consult 2020

*From Katharine Hoskyn*

A forum was held at Summer School to discuss issues of voting, in particular a comparison between delegate voting and '*one person, one vote*' for a national organisation. The following issues arose and are being considered by a Working Party:

#### The process currently

Members discuss issues at a region AGM and region delegates vote at branch AGM. Regions are represented

in proportion to the number of RSCDS New Zealand Branch members in the region (one vote for every 20 members or part thereof – so if a region has 21 members it has two votes).

Regions take a number of approaches such as:

- Delegates vote in the same proportion as votes cast at the region AGM
- The majority view at the region AGM prevails and delegates vote in the same way, based on majority view
- Delegates are given discretion on how to vote (the least common option)

Some regions allow delegates the option to alter their vote based on discussion at the branch AGM.

#### *'one person, one vote' at national level*

Examples of other organisations were given at the forum. The majority of other examples used '*one person, one vote*' at national level with a wide range of voting processes (in person at AGM, postal, online, or a combination of options). It is important to ensure that people without internet can vote.

The format for individual voting can vary. It is most commonly undertaken before an AGM and the AGM receives the vote.

#### Issues arising from the current process

- Considerable discussion occurs prior to the vote – discussion at region level (some regions discuss motions very thoroughly). Discussion at Branch AGM.
- A comparison of the two voting processes was described as "group vs individual think" with pros and cons of both options.
- The "all or none" concept of voting (all region delegates voting in the same way) was discussed. For regions with one or two votes it is inevitable. The difficulty of splitting votes with two votes was raised (e.g. if region AGM votes 75% in one direction, how is this best reflected in a vote?) (This comment raised the possibility of investigating the number of votes carried by each region and whether the unit of 1 vote per 20 people needs alteration).
- Thus for an individual member, their vote may not be reflected at the branch AGM – depending on the way in which their region casts, or is able to cast, its votes. An individual may have little influence over this decision.
- The current proportional voting system ensures no region alone can dominate a vote. If each member individually casts a vote, some regions may encourage (lobby) voting more effectively than others.

- Are region AGMs '*one person, one vote*'? Technically yes. However access to the AGM may be difficult for some members (it was likened to a General Election with only one polling booth in each city).
- Access to region AGMs was discussed. One region last year had 100% member attendance at its AGM. However in most regions, a group of members do not have ready access to the region AGM due to the distance required to travel to the AGM. If the AGM is held in a similar location each year, the same people may not be present each year.
- The role and possibility of proxy voting was raised.

#### **Presentation and handling notices of motion was discussed**

- At present the mover and seconder write a rationale for a motion. This is circulated with the agenda. The matter is discussed, as mentioned above, and amendments can be made.
- For the RSCDS AGM in Scotland, a draft agenda is circulated. Amendments must be pre-notified and the agenda is re-circulated. No amendments from the floor.
- The pros and cons of accepting amendments from the floor at an AGM were flexibility to reflect the mood of the meeting vs the possibility of poorly thought-through wording.
- A range of issues arises from the distribution of rationale for a motion, such as how to correct inaccurate information in the rationale and how to present an alternative point of view.

#### **Other issues raised in discussion**

- An underlying assumption seemed to prevail that discussion may not take place with '*one person, one vote*'. Or an individual member may not engage in the discussion.
- The impact of uninformed people casting a vote was raised (concern about this vs people's right to engage, or not, in discussion and still vote).
- Discussion about the difference between member feedback vs member decisions. Also raised was the difference between decisions that need to be made by members, compared with those which are better made by elected delegates.

#### **Reminder about the Background**

A working group called Consult 2020 was 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 2018 New Zealand Branch AGM a remit passed to investigate the possibility of '*one person, one vote*' at Branch AGM, 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 an interim report at the 2019 AGM). In the consultative process the following need 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.

#### **Does this spark an idea?**

If you have any thoughts or comments about voting at branch AGM, please write to us at this email at any time.



*As much as possible Consult2020 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)*

#### **From the Recordshop**

**WEBSITE:** Have you visited the NZ Branch Website recently? If not, it is well worth doing so. And, if you click on **Recordshop** you will find there not only the most recent (March) Recordshop Newsletter to members, but also an up-to-date catalogue of every CD in stock, giving details of the Band and contents of the CD. If a particular CD is not listed there, and if it is still available, I am always prepared to follow this up for you.

**IN THE PIPELINE:** At the time of writing this column (March 2019) there is not a great deal in the pipeline. One supplier is endeavouring to produce a series of three CDs for dances already published but for which there is not, as yet, any specific recording. **Jim Lindsay** has agreed to record such a CD, and **Nicol McLaren** (Glencraig Band) has intimated he will also record one of the CDs. But when? It is hoped these two will be available later this year. I will keep you posted!

I gather that one of the problems is the actual manufacture of the CDs – having recorded the CD, it then has to be reproduced – and I understand that

nowadays there is no one in Scotland doing this – they have all closed down. I noted that one recent release was “manufactured in the EU” (I am given to understand it was Czechoslovakia!).

Despite this problem, it has been possible for two earlier CDs to be re-issued – Marian Anderson’s **“Fisherman’s Reel”** and Jim Lindsay’s **“Christmas Dance Party”** ( full details in catalogue ).

**RSCDS:** There will be no new release by the Society in their “Music for Book xx” series in 2019. I have their most recent release **“Music for Book 52”** – which has proved a real best-seller – in stock and also **“Music for Book 50 Spring Fling”**. I can, and do, bring in other titles in this series on request, provided the Society still has them in stock. You may remember they had a big sale a few years ago and quit many of their earlier recordings.

**OPPORTUNITY TO BROWSE:** A selection of CD titles from the Branch Recordshop stock will be available at the Queen’s Birthday Weekend School in Katikati for dancers to have a browse, see, handle and buy! The Recordshop is mainly a Mail Order service, with just the one annual personal appearance at Summer School, so this Weekend School is a golden opportunity to have a look and see what is on offer before purchasing!

*Dorothy Wilson  
recordshop@dancescottish.org.nz*

## Bookshop Bitz



### Recent Arrivals

- *The Musicians’ Wedding* by Gaye Collin
- *The Dunfermline Branch 90th Anniversary*
- *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

The Bookshop will be attending the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Queen’s Birthday Weekend School in Katikati, so I hope to see 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

## RSCDS Teaching Certificate

Are you interested in beginning the process of training to be a teacher? Or perhaps you would simply like to increase your knowledge about dancing? Then consider taking the New Zealand Branch course for Unit 1. This is a nine-week online course, based solely on the Manual of Scottish Country Dancing. The course begins in early August and finishes just prior to the Unit 1 written examination on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Apply for the course by completing the Teacher Training Registration form found on this page <http://dancescottish.org.nz/certificate-nz/>. Applications are due by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Still not sure, or would like further information? Send your questions to: [unit1@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:unit1@dancescottish.org.nz)

*Debbie Roxburgh  
Examinations Co-ordinator*

## Workshops for Musicians and Dancers

This year there will be a series of workshops at different places around New Zealand. Designed for dancers who are also musicians (of any persuasion), they will aim to explain how the music for Scottish Country dancing is organised, and how this knowledge can help you be a better dancer. There will be plenty of opportunity to play some of the music and experience the fun of playing for SCD. Non-musicians are of course welcome! Bring your dancing shoes ...

The first Workshop is in the Wellington region, on Sunday 16 June, 10am – 4pm, in Lower Hutt. Others will be advertised through your clubs. So, keep an eye on your noticeboards and newsletters, and come over to the other side of SCD (I didn’t say the dark side, did I?).

*Lynne Scott, NZ Branch Music Adviser  
music@dancescottish.org.nz*

## JAMs (Junior Associate Members)

### Youth

The JAM Committee is currently updating the list of medal test examiners. All examiners have been contacted to confirm their contact details and their continued availability to examine. If you have not been contacted, or have yet to reply, please contact Nicole Trewavas: [nicoletrewavas@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:nicoletrewavas@yahoo.co.nz).

We would also like to hear from experienced, qualified teachers who are interested in examining medal tests in the future. Please email [youth@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:youth@dancescottish.org.nz) to express interest.

*Debbie Roxburgh  
Youth Co-ordinator*

**JAM Landing in Auckland  
The Moonwalk was real/reel  
12 – 14 July 2019**

*St Cuthbert's College, Epsom, Auckland*

The JAM Camp is one week before the 50th



anniversary of the first moon walk  
One small step for a dancer, one giant leap for  
Scottish country dancing  
Information for the Camp  
Now available of Auckland Region website  
[www.aucklandscd.org.nz](http://www.aucklandscd.org.nz)

Earlybird registration by 30 May  
To register, use one of these links:  
JAM Registrations:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/oREpHMQmnimfmw0k2>  
Adult Helpers:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/k7M9i0jKGTWvKdyx2>  
For Medal Tests prior the Camp  
Register by 20 May  
<https://goo.gl/forms/gHMmRUbZHxct7GN03>

Details on Auckland Region website or contact  
[jam@aucklandscd.org.nz](mailto:jam@aucklandscd.org.nz)

A Young Adults Weekend for 20–40-year-olds will  
be held alongside the JAM camp is sufficient  
interest.  
Expressions of Interest needed by 30 May  
<https://goo.gl/forms/tddadvNJ6mFOVlCa1>

## News from around the Regions

### Auckland Region

#### The Perspective of a New Dancer

*Denise Watt has recently joined the Auckland Region's Communication Sub-Committee. She has written about her perspective as a new dancer.*

"As we welcome a new group of dancers to our club it is time for me to reflect on what has helped me over the last 3 years as a new dancer.

Initially I was the only new dancer at my club. People were very friendly and encouraging, reassuring me that it would get easier with practice. I soon learnt to watch for the cues – the outstretched hand or the direction being pointed out – and that being 4th couple is almost always the best position to be.

As I progressed and was able to attend the weekend socials and balls, it was helpful to be able to practice many of the dances beforehand at club night. Plus, if you are in Auckland, I can highly recommend the preparation classes before the Spring Ball (formerly known as the Beginners Ball) for new dancers.

Before the balls I also go over the dances on the Scottish Dancing website and whilst there is no way I can remember them all, at least I can identify which dances I should or shouldn't try. To this end some ball programmes indicate which dances are suitable for all dancers. Clubs with large numbers of new dancers may also have an experienced couple walk through the dances once.

I am grateful to all the people who have danced with me and helped me through the early days. Thanks to you, I have not given up, and continue to learn. My goal now is to become more confident dancing on both sides of the set and encouraging more people to give Scottish Country Dancing a go."

*Footnote from the Sub-Committee:*

- Other regions may also have classes for new dancers
- Interesting how Denise found it helpful for an experienced dancer to walk the dance first. So often the new ones get guided/pushed to the top of the set for the first walk-through.
- Also interesting that Denise found helpful the outstretched hand or the direction being pointed (No chorus of shouted directions).

*Auckland Region Communication Sub-Committee*

## Hastings SCD Club

The Hastings Scottish Country Dance Club has been very fortunate to have experienced the skills of Colin Barker over many years. He has retired from teaching, however we are so fortunate to now have him as our President.

Hastings Club held a special night for Colin and presented him with a dance entitled "*Thank you Colin*" and we also had a celebratory dinner at which Colin and his wife Ann were our special guests. Colin has kindly agreed to write his "history" for us which we would like to share with all Kiwi News readers. Colin is a Life Member of the Hastings Scottish Country Dance Club.



### **Colin Barker – in his own words**

Richmond Scottish Country Dance Club commenced in 1963 with a lot of beginners and several volunteers from the Nelson Club to "help out". The tutor was Molly MacArthur from Nelson. Being all beginners, including my wife and me, progress in dancing was slow. We were lucky to get one dance done in an evening, having to learn steps and movements.

At that time there were also clubs in Stoke, Lower Moutere and Motueka. Some of our members attended other clubs each week as well as Richmond and so their dancing progressed more rapidly.

As a SCD Club, Richmond flourished and by 1965 we ran a Weekend School during Labour Weekend. The first chance I had to meet some of the well-known tutors from around the country.

Our tutor, Molly, was not certificated but once Mrs Florence Leslie arrived in New Zealand (she was a qualified examiner), certificate classes were soon established and many more tutors became qualified. Mrs Leslie had gained permission from Edinburgh to examine on her own and not need a second examiner.

Towards the end of the 1960s and into the 1970s, I became the "de facto" tutor of the Club until I left Richmond.

My first (and best) Summer School was at Wellington – we were billeted at Weir House, Victoria University, with classes and balls being held in the Student Union Building.

Edith Campbell was the Summer School organiser and I can still hear her tinkly bell each morning as she walked all the corridors to wake people up. This was in 1970-71, my tutor being Romaine Butterfield.

1971-72 Summer School was in Dunedin where I participated in the Tutor Class (this was required before sitting the Prelim exam for possibly the final certificate). My tutor for this class was Mirth Smallwood. The Dunedin School was special, as the Hogmanay Ball was held at Larnach Castle, however the ballroom was very crowded as so many people attended that dancing was well-nigh impossible – sets were so tightly packed together.

I was a commuter at the 1972-73 Summer School in Nelson and my main memory was as a "stooge" in the exam classes as candidates put us through our paces.

I sat for my Preliminary Certificate at the 1973-74 Summer School held at Rathkeale High School in Masterton, Phyllis Gale being my tutor. Being in an exam class means spending many more hours of teaching than the ordinary classes (extra afternoon classes and even evening classes) so there are not too many memories of "free-time" activities.

In the end Mrs Leslie could not attend the examination so there was a bit of a let-down feeling. We did have a mock exam but that did not give us any credits.

Halfway through 1974 I changed jobs and moved to Feilding in June 1974.

### **Feilding – Bluebell SCD Club in Palmerston North**

For the rest of 1974, I lived in the Boarders' Hostel at Feilding Agricultural High School. With no transport and no chance of dancing I became rather "rusty" in my steps. Out of the blue, a letter arrived saying Miss Milligan would be in New Zealand and the "missing" exam classes would be held in Wellington during the August school holidays. Panic stations! With no Scottish Country Dance gear and no instructions I had to get ready for this exam. Fortunately I found the means to travel up for the exam. My exam "piece" was *The Machine Without Horses*. Mrs Leslie helped Miss Milligan with the examining.

I was able to dance at the Bluebell Club in Palmerston North from September until the end of 1974 through the courtesy of Michael Laidlaw who travelled through Feilding each week to tutor at Bluebell.

Then I was asked to tutor at Bluebell from 1975 onwards as Michael had shifted. One memory from my Bluebell days was helping run socials for the Correspondence School pupils towards the end of each year. Those teenagers from lighthouses or remote farms came together for some socialising with their own age group and lived at Massey University. Club members would give a dance demonstration, then we would get them to do simple dances. They were lovely kids and we saw some of them year after year.

Summer School 1975-76 was held at Nga Tawa, Marton – Mirth Smallwood was again my tutor and she really put us through our paces morning, noon, afternoon and night. What a relief to pass!

### Hastings 1980-1998

I started a new job at Hastings High School at the beginning of 1980 and boarded (along with other Government servants on transfer) at the Hastings Hospital Nurses Home (about eight of us altogether). My family joined me later in the year after selling our house in Feilding and finding a place to rent. Meanwhile I'd joined the Hastings SCD Club with Margaret Mildenhall as tutor.

In time, I became tutor of Hastings and participated in various Day Classes and Weekend Schools. Although Madge Laing was a member of the Hastings Club she never wanted to be a regular tutor week after week and was happy to "fill in" once in a while.

Trips to Summer Schools came and went (Hamilton and Whanganui) and also a Winter School in Whangarei. This was memorable for me as it was the first time I came into contact with a piper on the Irish pipes – he could play two different notes simultaneously. We had some wonderful evenings sitting in the lounge talking, singing and socialising. Another memory from those days was travelling to Sydney, Australia in 1995 to attend a Winter School at Richmond just outside Sydney. We were billeted in a University Agricultural College set of buildings. Three other members of the Hastings Club came with me. Hastings suddenly seemed to me to have a number of people needing tutoring experience, so I shifted to the Napier Club at the beginning of 1995.

### Napier – 1995-2012

Napier was a very early established SCD Club in New Zealand in 1953, and many members have passed through the Club in subsequent years. My tutoring lasted until the end of 2011 and I returned to the Hastings Club in 2013. In my time at Napier, I attended the Taradale Summer School in 2001-02 which was based at Taradale Eastern Institute of Technology. A great time was had despite some quite hot, hot weather.

Not being needed any longer at Napier, I switched membership to the Hastings Club at the start of 2013.

### Hastings (again) 2013-18

I tutored a Friday morning group for all this time, usually with four couples attending, but occasionally three couples or five couples. The number of couples attending could not be predicted, so I had some fun

with my planned list of dances with last-minute alterations or adjustments. The emphasis at the morning classes was enjoyment, but as all who attended were highly experienced dancers, we were able to try some of the more difficult dances from the recent Society dance books.

With increasing physical difficulty in my dancing I had to announce my retirement from Tutoring at the end of 2018.

## Johnsonville SCD Club

### St Patrick's Day celebrations at Johnsonville

*From Kristin Downey*

Johnsonville dancers were treated to a night of Irish-themed dances and grand tunes on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – only a day late for St Patrick's day. New and not-so-new dancers took up the challenge to "wear green for St Patrick's day", and filled the hall with many shades of green and a lot of enthusiasm.

Tutor Rod Downey searched out a programme of interesting and fun dances with Irish names or Irish connections, and paired them with thumping good Irish music. The *Goat Fell Gallop* got us all laughing as we galloped, then it was on to *Rory O'More, Lady Glasgow, The Wild Geese, City of Belfast, St Patrick's Day* (of course), *The Orchards of County Armagh*, and *The Irish Rover* to finish.



Johnsonville dancers wear green for St Patrick's Day  
(Photo: Loralee Hyde)

We also danced the "world premiere" of Rod's newest dance *The Coleraine Rant*.

It was written for the occasion, as a beginner-friendly dance featuring poussette, and it got the thumbs up. The title gives a nod to Coleraine in Ireland, and New Zealand's famous Te Mata Coleraine wine. For instructions see <http://www.johnsonvillescd.org.nz/2019/03/19/the-coleraine-rant/>

This year more than 20 new dancers have become members of Johnsonville club. This was a great opportunity to share another aspect of SCD with them,

through the fun atmosphere of a theme night. For our longer-standing dancers there was the excitement of some novel dances and new and different music. Thank you Rod for delivering a programme which had something for everyone.

See more of Loralee Hyde's photos of our beginners and St Patrick's night celebrations at  
<http://www.johnsonvillescd.org.nz/2019/03/19/start-2019/>

## Levin SCD Club

### *Tutor Required!*

The Levin Scottish Country Dance Club is a thriving club with an average of three to four sets a night, some 40+ members, 16 of whom are RSCDS members.

Regrettably our tutor Kathryn Deroles has left our sunny shores for pastures new in the far north and we are seeking a new tutor. We have asked a couple of suitable people in our area if they would be interested in becoming our tutor, but unfortunately they have declined.

- We are a very friendly group and enjoy our dancing.
- We are a club of the Rangitikei Region.
- We have a summer picnic dance at Thompson House, Levin and a Mid-Winter pot-luck lunch also at Thompson House, Levin.
- This year we branched out and did four demonstration dances for the Masonic Rest Home and the Alzheimer's Support Group.
- The club has its own supply of dance books and music. A clip-on microphone is available if required.
- There is an honorarium attached for the tutor.
- We meet on Monday evenings at 7:15pm at the Levin Uniting Church Hall, 87 Oxford Street, Levin.
- Our formal/annual dance is the last Saturday in April (postponed this year)
- A homestay arrangement on the Monday evening could be arranged, if you are from out-of-town.
- We would appreciate any interested people qualified or unqualified to apply.

Come along and get to know us on any club night and perhaps take us through some dances.

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, Jaki Williams txt 021 493589 or email: [jakiw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jakiw@xtra.co.nz)

## Daytime dancing in Wellington

*From Désirée Patterson*

What is going on in St John's Church Hall in Johnsonville on Tuesday afternoons? The hall rings with lively, toe-tapping music and happy laughter and chat. Great Scott! It's an afternoon session for super keen Scottish country dancers!

Last October, after discussions with other enthusiastic dancers who wanted a regular daytime session to "just dance", Ngaio Club member Gaylia Powell got to work and organised a hall and a teacher.

Catherine McCutcheon agreed to take these sessions – they are not "classes", she said. They are opportunities for dancing in the afternoon, with people from other clubs as well as their own, and for independent dancers to enjoy some challenging dances. With mostly experienced dancers in the group, Catherine designed the sessions to "*extend those who have mastered the ordinary and who desire the different, clever, weird and brain bending*". She is not concerned with perfect footwork – "*I don't care what happens below the waist*" – the important thing is to get to where you need to be at the right time, and to pay attention to phrasing and covering.

Every fortnightly session is built around a theme, based on interesting variations of standard formations. Some of the themes enjoyed so far have been reels, tandem reels, Allemande, poussette, hello-goodbye setting, half reels and spurtles. Some of the variations have been very challenging indeed, and we have a lot of laughs – even the best dancers "muck up" sometimes.

Initially the group met on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month during October to December. And since starting up again in the new dancing year, there is now also a daytime group on the third Tuesday, for intermediate dancers who know the common formations. The focus is on popular dances, including some from upcoming dance programmes.

Both groups have been very successful, with up to three sets attending. Long may they continue!

For more information, check the Dance Scottish Wellington website, <http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz/index.php/clubs/daytime-group/>

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

**12.00 Noon, on Sunday 30 June 2019**

## Other Interesting Stuff

### Winter School at St Andrews

*From Sue Lindsay*

Linda Glavin and I left New Zealand for Scotland on the 10th February 2019 to attend Winter School in Pitlochry from the 18th to 23rd February. We arrived in Glasgow where the temperature was very different from the 30 degrees that we had left behind in Christchurch, but at least it wasn't raining!

We took the train to Pitlochry (which is a very picturesque town) and arrived there in time to get a bit of lunch before walking the 15-20 minutes to the Atholl Palace Hotel. Check-in time was anytime after 3.00 pm, so while waiting to go to our rooms, we were able to collect our registration packs which gave us all the information that we needed to find each of our class halls.

The Atholl Palace Hotel was amazing – we had a twin room but it was like two separate rooms as we had a wall separating the two beds. We were very surprised to find that every evening meal consisted of a three-course dinner. And then you had to dance, so we very quickly learnt to order just two courses.

Winter School had four teachers (William Williamson, Sue Porter, Graham Houston-Donald and Pat Houghton) and four musicians (Muriel Johnstone, Ian Robertson, Marian Anderson and Jim Lindsay), and you got a different teacher and musician each day. I really enjoyed all the teaching and music but if I had to choose one of each, it would be William Williamson and Ian Robertson (his fiddle playing was exceptional but during class he played the accordion).

In the afternoons, you had the choice of at least four different activities each day if you wanted to do them. Among these activities you could tour the Pitlochry Theatre, do ceilidh dancing, take a trip to Scone Palace, visit the Blair Atholl Distillery and the list goes on ...

On the Wednesday night the musicians put on a concert – they played together and played in different combinations, as well as playing solo – it was amazing. So much talent and they also had some of the dancers sing with them.

The highlight of the school for me was dancing at Blair Castle on the final night – all four musicians played and all four teachers briefed the dances. Seeing all the stag heads in the hall was a bit overwhelming but as long as you didn't look at them, you were OK.

It was great to catch up with Lesley and Andy Nicol who were also attending for the first time. My recommendation is if you are in Scotland in February, Winter School is a must.

After Winter School, we visited Edinburgh, Stirling, Oban and our highlight, the Isle of Skye. The weather we had for the tour was the best that our guide had seen at that time of the year for a very long time. We got to visit the Fairy Pools, Neish Point (which had a lot of steps down and up to an automated lighthouse) and the Old Man of Storr.

### A wonderful resource

*From Désirée Patterson*

Regular readers of Kiwi News may remember that the April 2018 issue included an article by Damon Collin about the Beginners' Teaching videos that have been created and made available online by the Lower Hutt Club. I had stumbled across these videos during a casual peruse of Lower Hutt's website and was astounded that they had not been widely publicised.

Since then, I have been very keen to make dancers and teachers aware of these videos as they have the potential to contribute so much to the learning experience of both new and not so new dancers. As a result of my interest in the project, I was invited to come and observe one of their video sessions, along with my husband John to take photos.

We felt very privileged to have been invited, and so, on a Saturday morning in late October, we attended their final video session. On this day, Gaye Collin, who has been the brains and the driving force behind these video sessions, had gathered up a large crew of 17 people – 14 dancers, two people to film, and one person to work the Coomber (CD player). Among the 14 dancers, only four were men, and though everyone took turns to dance, the men had to dance in almost every video, for clarity. And no fewer than twelve of the people in the hall were teachers! A very illustrious gathering.

Two people who have been important for the project were not able to dance on the day: because of an arm injury, Jeanette Watson could not dance, so she worked the Coomber, which was a great help to Gaye; and Chris Totton, the IT whizz who tidied up the videos and put them on YouTube, was unavailable because of work commitments.

The first two video sessions had covered basic steps and basic formations. During this final session, some more advanced formations were danced: a variety of reels (cross-over, Inveran, Dolphin, Schiehallion, "Best Set in the Hall", Weasel); chain progressions (2C, 3C, in reel and strathspey time); Petronella in tandem; Set and rotate (2C, 3C, in reel and strathspey time); 3C Rights and Lefts; and finally, the Tournée.

After a warm-up, Gaye's instructions to the first set, dancing cross-over reels, were: "Keep the shapes as tight as possible, couples keep parallel, make eye contact and smile". Each formation had four bars of

music as a lead-in, and each was danced two or three times, to get it absolutely right.



As Gaye explains in her article (below), the dancers were chosen for their excellent footwork, phrasing, covering and thorough knowledge of the formations.

And of course, they were a joy to watch. But as an observer, what impressed me most, was the spirit of co-operation in the room. Everyone wanted the videos to be perfect. Both the dancers and the people sitting out – most of them teachers, you will remember – offered constructive comments or suggestions.



So much precision, such perfection – I learnt so much from watching them. As will many, many dancers, new and experienced, in New Zealand and beyond, when they discover these videos.

As I was watching the session, I marvelled at the huge amount of work that had gone into this project – not just preparation, but also post-production. After the sessions, Gaye and Damon spent a lot of time sifting through the videos, discarding some of the non-starts, and labelling the ones that were kept, so that Chris could work his magic.

I had a lot of questions, which Gaye answered in the form of the article below.

As New Zealand dancers, we can be justly proud of our friends in the Lower Hutt Club – Gaye, Damon, Diane and Chris – for having initiated and created such a wonderful resource.

*Note: the links to the videos are given at the end of Gaye's article.*

*Photos by John Patterson*

## Making Lower Hutt's Teaching Videos

*From Gaye Collin*

At the end of 2016, the Lower Hutt Committee appointed me as the teacher to take a 10-week beginners' course starting in February 2017. During the course, I started to look for supportive YouTube clips of the basic formations to help these brand-new, enthusiastic beginners and found very little available. The problem was, I would find a dance with the formation I wanted, but it was danced either poorly, wrongly, or the videoing kept panning from one set to another, which caused confusion. Some had incorrect steps, and the videos themselves were sometimes either poorly focused, or too far away.

I approached Diane Bradshaw (the President of the Lower Hutt Club) and expressed my frustration with finding suitable YouTube footage for the beginners' group and asked, "If I was prepared to organise and run a basic formation video programme to support the LH beginners' group, would Lower Hutt Club be prepared to pay for the hall, and support me with club equipment?". Diane immediately said a big "Yes, of course we will".

So Damon and I sat down and looked at what the best approach to this task was. We prepared a long list. Firstly we wanted:

- Dancers with a good standard of footwork
- Dancers with good phrasing and covering, and with an excellent knowledge of standard formations
- Dancers who could see the value of the programme, and might contribute to it, as well as dance in it
- Dancers who we knew from past experience were easy and helpful to work with, and who could last a two-hour session
- A willing, steady hand to do the videoing (Bridget Totton).

So we sent out an email to dancers that fitted these criteria in the Wellington area. We were hoping for a good range of ages so that the beginners would see that SCD was for everyone.

Beginners need good footwork models to follow, so high on the task list was to approach dancers who were definitely going to be there on the day, to earmark some of them for the steps section of the videoing. I didn't want to put anyone on the spot on the day when it

came to footwork. Again we looked for a range of ages. Fortunately everyone we asked said "yes".

Next was putting together a Formation and Steps list for the day, and working out how to show off each formation and step to best advantage. Finally, we had to book the hall (our local one) and get started.

During the first session, we quickly decided that starting with a chord was not working so well. Dancers' bows and curtsies were all over the place (some women curtsied to the left and some to the right!). As a result, most of the videos have a four-bar introduction. Another thing we hadn't thought of was sunstrike coming through the windows in the hall, so we changed the time for the second session.

Finding lively music to get the feet tapping was essential. A lot of time went into that and trying to match as well as possible the music with the formation. Strong strathspey music is very important for new dancers because while some beginners might just watch the videos, some (we were hoping) would try out the geography of the formations alone in their homes or use the music for step practice. Chris Totton took on the task of tidying up the formation videos to put them on YouTube. A very time-consuming part of the process. He has done a wonderful job.

After the formations from the first session were posted on our Lower Hutt Club website, I decided to send out an email to teachers around NZ who I knew had an interest in, or were running, beginners' groups, in order to get some feedback on what we had done so far.

Also, I decided to approach Reuben Freemantle from the UK *SCD Dictionary Website* as he has been my "go to" man for the last three years when arranging for my own dances to be put up on the YouTube part of the website. I thought he would have some helpful hints to assist on the videoing side of things for our next session. Reuben, after sighting our first efforts, however, had other things on his mind. Part of his reply to my email was:

*"There are lots of Beginners around the world who would get special value from bespoke Step & Figure videos like yours rather than just from what can be clipped from dances. Indeed, what you are doing should have been done or initiated by the RSCDS long since. I do hope that you can persuade your Committee to allow the wider promulgation via YouTube."*

We were thrilled by Reuben's reply. Since our first two sessions, which finished our beginners' programme, we have been persuaded by Reuben to carry on and put some more advanced formations on to his website and ours. Our last session was on 27 October 2018. If you are interested in sighting these formations go to:

<https://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com/dance-terms-videos.html>,

or the Lower Hutt Club Website site on <http://www.lowerhuttscd.org.nz/index.php/teaching-tools/>

## Events coming up ...



### Auckland Region

#### Dates for 2019

Visiting Auckland?  
You might like to know about  
Auckland Region social events

Region Ball: 29 June  
Spring Dance: 21 September

#### Anniversary Dances for Clubs:

Hibiscus Coast 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary: 3 August  
Howick 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary: 5 October

#### Classes

May 11: Theme Day: Dances devised by Iain Boyd  
Teacher: Neil Horne

May 18: Beginners Classes

July 12 – 14: JAM Camp

August 10: Beginners

August 31: Intermediate and Above

September 21: Spring Dance (with class prior)

November 2 & 3: AGM Weekend( with classes and social events)

Details on [aucklandscd.org.nz](http://aucklandscd.org.nz) or [northlandscd.org.nz](http://northlandscd.org.nz) or contact us on [info@aucklandscd.org.nz](mailto:info@aucklandscd.org.nz)

## 60 Years Dancing

The Blenheim and Picton clubs  
are holding an evening of dancing to  
celebrate Dorothy's (of Recordshop fame)  
60 years of dancing at club.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 7.30 - 9.30 pm

Whitney St. School Hall,  
Whitney Street, Blenheim.

Supper to follow.

For enquires please ring  
Jean — 02 102 74 74 65  
Miriam — 03 928 4479

**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)



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**TAM O'SHANTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB  
Christchurch**

Planning is underway to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019

All dancers and former members are warmly invited to our

**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DANCE**

With music provided by WEE DOCH AND DORIS

To be held on the evening of

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

At Heaton Intermediate School Hall, Heaton Street, Christchurch

Further details will be provided later in the year

Contact Graeme Plank [graeme.plank@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:graeme.plank@canterbury.ac.nz)  
or Susan Gruscow [grahamandsusan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:grahamandsusan@xtra.co.nz)

The Little Thistles of Christchurch  
cordially invite you to the inaugural

**Ingleside Ball**

With the musical talents of **Thissldhu**

Saturday 27th April 2019, from 7.30pm  
to be held at the Cashmere Club, Colombo Street.

\$35 per person including catered supper

Dress: Highland, Formal

For tickets please RSVP to Su Marshall by April 20th -  
Email: [ian.su\\_marshall@gmail.com](mailto:ian.su_marshall@gmail.com) or Text: 021 288 3011



**Keep this date free**

**Saturday 29th June 2019**



You are invited to attend a day school for dancers of  
Intermediate level and above,  
which will be held in Wanganui  
by Glendarroch Scottish Country Dance Club

We have arranged for an Auckland teacher to help you polish up your  
steps and guide you through some interesting dances.

We are just finalising the details,  
but we expect that the class will run from  
9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Further details will be sent to clubs soon.

**Howick Scottish Country Dance Club**

We are looking forward to celebrating our 60th  
Jubilee year with a Ball on the evening of

**Saturday 5 October 2019**

Venue: Edgewater College, 32 Edgewater  
Drive, Pakuranga, Auckland.

Dancing to the Balmoral Band.

Updates will follow as details are finalised.

Hope to see you there.

*Valerie Lofthouse*  
*Secretary, Howick Scottish Country Dance Club*