



Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

Volume 24 No 2

July 2019



President's Report

In early April I flew to Christchurch to join the members of the Christchurch Scottish Society celebrating their 70th Anniversary. Among the photographs on display that evening was one of a weekend school in the 1960s organised by Doug Jenkinson. The teacher was Alec Hay and there in the photograph were Iain Boyd, my father and myself.

During the evening at the Scottish Society I had the pleasure of presenting the RSCDS Branch Award to Alan Burn for services to the New Zealand Branch.

While in Christchurch I also had the opportunity to join both the Banks Peninsula dancers for their morning class in beautiful Akaroa and the Caledonian dancers for their Monday evening class.

In May I attended the Ngaio Club formal and had the pleasure of presenting the RSCDS Branch Award to Maureen Robson for services to the New Zealand Branch.



Elaine presents the NZ Branch Award to Maureen Robson at the Ngaio SCD Club's Annual Dance in May

I have been involved with the preparation of many of the citations for awards over recent years and it is interesting to note the activities within the NZ Branch the recipients have been part of. It has been pleasing to see this service acknowledged.

Recently I had the opportunity to teach an afternoon class in Wellington themed "Down Memory Lane" – dances that were popular when I started dancing but are not often danced today. It was interesting doing the research and I chose to use recorded music such as Jimmy Shand, Stan Hamilton and the Park Film Studio Players.

Happy dancing

Elaine

Summer School

Cambridge, NZ
2019 - 2020



Waikato
taniwha rau
He piko, he taniwha
He piko, he taniwha



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

From the Branch

Notes from IT

I hope that you have now taken a look at the new HQ website at rscds.org. You may even have logged on to see your membership profile, which is an easy way of checking that both HQ and NZ Branch hold your correct details (email and postal addresses, in particular). However, HQ has pointed out a snag which affects a few of you. Under the old website, each member could log on with their unique membership number, but under the new website, your username is your email address.

This is a problem if two members (typically, those with joint membership) share the same email address since it seems likely that only one of them will be able to log on to the website. You probably will not want to obtain a new email address just to get around this, but if you do, be sure and let us know.

Which leads me on to my next point. It is good to see that increasing use is being made of the online forms on the NZ Branch website to inform us about changes to contact details, additions to the calendar, etc. Branch administration is made considerably easier when the requests are submitted in this way, since the emails themselves include a checklist of the actions that we need to take. I would also encourage anyone planning to join the RSCDS in September to submit a 'new member form' during July so that we can set up the renewal details in advance. You can see the full list of online forms here: <http://dancescottish.org.nz/forms>.

Still on the subject of emails (which seems to be a perennial topic), although most scam emails are easy to spot, we can sometimes be fooled by those which purport to come from someone we know well. Elaine Laidlaw has asked me to point out that some Branch members have been receiving emails which appear to come from her but, in fact, are nothing of the sort. So, if Elaine sends you a request to purchase a quantity of iTunes vouchers and send 'her' the details so that 'she' can redeem the vouchers, it's a scam – be warned!

Andrew Patterson
Information Technology Co-ordinator

Youth

RSCDS NZ Branch Summer School, Cambridge 2019-2020

If you haven't already registered for Summer School, and you are young and/or enjoy a high energy style of

dancing, then consider registering for the Advanced – High Energy Class. Senior JAMs, this class would be ideal for you. There's still time to register so please encourage friends and club members to attend.

Southern Fling

Are you aged between 18 and 40? Would you enjoy a weekend of dancing with other young people? Then gather up some fellow dancers and plan a trip to Canberra for the Southern Fling (31 January – 2 February 2020).

Contact Registrar Kira Dowling for further information kira@rscdscbr@iinet.net.au or register [here](#)

Debbie Roxburgh
Youth Co-ordinator

Letter to young dancers

Senior JAMs are undoubtedly the most energetic group of dancers at a summer school in New Zealand. This Summer School, their class has been renamed to be more inclusive.

Dancers aged 13 years and upwards (including those older than the Senior JAM cut-off of 20 years old) who can keep up with Senior JAMs are encouraged to enrol in the Advanced – High Energy class.

Jamie Berg will teach this class. She brings a love of dance and the skill of bringing out the best technique in the dancer. Jamie will be travelling to NZ from Norway and was recommended after teaching at the Edinburgh Spring Fling in 2016. Jamie's husband, James Gray, will be playing for this class, and the two of them together provide a dynamic dancing experience.

Teens who are very new to dancing are welcome to enrol in the Development Class, while still enjoying dance with high energy at evening dances.

Under 13 years (Junior JAMs): we have plans in place to run a Junior JAMs class if there are enough registrations. If you are interested in this class, please let the School Organiser know.

We love having young dancers at Summer School! Here is the website for the school: ss2019.waibopscd.org.nz and the email for the School organiser is : ss2019@dancescottish.org.nz

Shelley McConnel
Summer School committee member
Waikato Bay of Plenty Region Youth Co-ordinator

Summer School – Cambridge 2019-2020

The organisation for Summer School 2019 in Cambridge, Waikato is humming along extremely well! Firstly, a quick reminder that it is now less than two months until the end of the 'early-bird' registration – closing on 31 August – so I urge you to look at enrolling for the school before then. A deposit of \$200 secures you the discount of \$50, unless you're a JAM, in which case a deposit of just \$100 is required. And as mentioned previously, the school will run a course for Junior JAMs if we have a set of dancers (aged 8-14) interested. It would be helpful to have any interest in this class notified to us sooner rather than later.

All class teachers and musicians are now 'locked in' with airfares booked, and co-ordination commencing for the Teachers Refresher course. Afternoon excursions are in the process of being organised to provide visitors and dancers with a taste of the best of the Waikato. And the evening dance programmes – prepared by guest MCs – are in the process of being reviewed and curated for musical and programmatic coherence and delight by Wayne McConnel.

We're very fortunate to have Oslo wife-and-husband team of Jamie Berg and James Gray teaching and playing for the Advanced – High Energy Class. Jamie and James are well known around the Scottish dancing world for their joint classes, as noted here :

"The workshop in Curia was just fantastic. Jamie Berg was accompanied by her husband, James Gray, on the piano, who – among the Scottish country dancers – is well known for his solo and ensemble piano playing. James started piano lessons at the age of five and was initially taught by his grandmother. Jamie Berg is an innovative and inspiring teacher. Together they are an unmatched team". Sylvia, Switzerland

Remember, the best way to keep in touch with school details and news is to register for Ruary Laidlaw's monthly newsletter on the Summer School website: ss2019.dancescottish.org.nz. I suggest you register for it right now!

Antanas Procuta

Organiser, Summer School 2019-2020

**Closing date for the next issue of
Kiwi News
12.00 Noon, on Sunday 29 September**

Bookshop Bitz



Recent Arrivals

Celebrating the Melbourne Branch's 50th Anniversary 2019

- A Melbourne Miscellany

The shop has in stock the following new publications from Iain Boyd:

- May I Have the Pleasure
- Vive La Danse
- The Crowded Hall

Also available are three publications by Gaye Collin:

- From Paper to Pearl
- Scottish Country Dancing Is All Around The World
- The Musicians' Wedding

RSCDS publications include (but not limited to):

- Book 50
- Book 51
- Book 52
- The Dunfermline Branch 90th Anniversary
- The Collins Little Book of SCD
- Scottish Country Dancing in Diagrams 9th Edition (Pillings)

For all book enquiries please contact Sue Pearson:

- email Bookshop@dancescottish.org.nz
- NZ Branch Website
- snailmail C/- 21 Stafford Street, Wanganui 4501

From the Recordshop

Queen's Birthday Weekend School at Katikati was quite superb. The weather was good to us too! I am sure all who attended had an enjoyable time with enjoyable classes, two great evenings to socialise (good music), and the catering ... I would run out of superlatives.

Congratulations to the organiser, committee and all involved with the weekend programme. A hard act to follow!

Apart from good sales at the Katikati Weekend School, the Recordshop has been pretty quiet. There are new CDs 'in the pipeline', but at the time of writing this column, no definite dates for any one of them! Jim Lindsay's "**Recorded Highlights Vol. 1**" is likely to be the next new release. This is the first of a set of three, with Volumes 2 and 3 to be recorded by Nicol McLaren and Marian Anderson respectively; however, these two are

still some time away – perhaps even as late as the end of the year. These three CDs are for dances that have already been devised, but for which there is currently no CD recording. All I can tell you at present is that Volume 1 (Jim Lindsay) includes: *Raising the Anchor* by Iain Boyd; *Miss Nidra Aitken* by Francis Walduck; *Land of the Heather Hills* by Barry Priddey; *Stanford Swing* by Bob McMurtry; and *Deer Friends* by Bob Anderson.

NOTE: I am happy to accept orders in advance for **“Recorded Highlights Vol. 1”** only. If doing so, please confirm your full address, including post code. Many thanks.

The Society is planning to release a CD for **“30 Popular Dances”** towards the end of the year, but at present I have no other details whatsoever. Likewise, the Dewhurst Trio advise that it will now be 2020 before their new CD is released. In the meantime, I have available in stock three of their most recent releases in the “Book” series, i.e. **“Music for Book 50”**, for **“Book 51”** and for **“Book 52”**. Also, **“Dunfermline Branch 90th Anniversary Dances”** recorded by Frank Thomson and his SCD Band, along with **“Reel On”** (Jim Lindsay/Muriel Johnstone), Jim Lindsay’s **“Christmas Dance Party”**, Glencaig SCD Band’s **“Stirling at 90”**, along with other earlier CD recordings.

James Gray, pianist, who will be playing for dancing at Cambridge Summer School, recorded **“Host of the Air”** and **“Piano Dance”** many years ago. I have suggested to James that if he (or Alex, his Dad) still have spare copies, he might like to bring some with him to NZ. Whether this is practicable or not remains to be seen.

Dorothy Wilson
recordshop@dancescottish.org.nz

News from around the Regions

Katikati Scottish Country Dance Club – Queen’s Birthday Weekend 2019

Queen’s Birthday Weekend School 2019 at Katikati, has come and gone. Planning for this event took two years and involved our very new Katikati Scottish Country Dance Club. It was hard work, a challenge and lots of fun. I was amazed at the incredible assistance and co-operation from the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region clubs.

With guidance from our wonderful tutor, Lynne Hudson, we were able to put together a programme to cater for

all levels of dancers. We had 11 sets at our Ball and the Ceilidh was certainly well attended.

During our final preparations we learnt of the death of our dear friend John Webb, and it is still hard to accept that he will not be dancing with us any more. Our deepest sympathy to his lovely wife Mary Thomas.

Special thanks to our wonderful tutors, Gail Schofield, David Williamson, Olina Carter, music tutor Lynne Scott, and Lynne Hudson, who stepped in at the last minute to replace Mary Thomas.

Grateful acknowledgement must be made of the contribution to the success of the weekend of Heather Johnston (our Ball MC), and Jane McIlroy (our Ceilidh MC) for both presenting wonderful programmes.

Special mention must be made to our capable musicians, Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman, Margie O’Connor and Bourach Mor. We were so privileged to have live music for our classes.

We have received many compliments on the weekend, and I am a little behind in thanking everybody as I’ve just had a pacemaker fitted, which should bring me back up to speed.

Linda Carter
QBWE 2019 Convener

More from Katikati SCD Club

Our club recently seized the opportunity to represent Scotland and to promote Scottish country dancing in the Inaugural Multicultural Festival in Katikati on Saturday 29 June.

The day dawned sunny, calm and cool, and was consequently very well attended by the many cultures. The festivities started with a parade down the main road through Katikati, bearing flags and singing songs. Our Dance Scottish flag was amongst those we carried.

Following the parade, a programme of events included our 20-minute slot to dance four dances. These were enthusiastically received by the large, diverse audience and thoroughly enjoyed by those of us who participated. A member of the club handed out promotional material, so raising awareness of us as a club and of Scottish country dancing in general. We look forward to being involved in what looks set to become an annual event and in other opportunities to promote Dance Scottish.

Fiona McCartney

Pauanui SCD Club

Our new member, Heather Campbell comments:

I am Heather Campbell. Earlier this year I moved to Pauanui from Australia and was so pleased to discover the Pauanui Club. Our leaders are Irene and John Shaw, but we all help out taking dances. Sometimes we can't dance due to lack of numbers, so if anyone wants to visit us, Friday 9.30 am is our dancing day. We will show you a great time. Our venue is second to none – picture windows overlooking a golf course!

Come and stay overnight. We'll look after you.



Pauanui SCD Club

Tokoroa's Tea Dance

On a cool, but sunny afternoon in June, dancers descended on Tokoroa from as far afield as Auckland, Cambridge, Hamilton, Katikati, Mount Maunganui, Tauranga, Te Awamutu, Te Kuiti and Thames. The range of ages, of dancing experience and of dancing ability showed how wide the appeal of Scottish Country Dancing can be.



A wide range of ages attended Tokoroa's Tea Dance

The programme was devised particularly for JAMs and newer dancers, but it was great to see the support more experienced dancers had provided in encouraging these dancers to come, and in accompanying them to the afternoon. Because of the target group, each dance was walked through as it was briefed.

The Club was pleased to host the region's recently formed Youth Demonstration Team who showed the liveliness and enjoyment that they bring to dancing with their display of *The Aviator* and *Johnnie's Welcome Home*. This was an inspiration for the younger JAMs and newer dancers who were watching.

This is the 19th year that this event has been held since being initiated in 2001 by the club under the teaching of Genny Hall. The event has become known for its inclusiveness and friendly atmosphere and we hope has encouraged many newer dancers to believe that Scottish Country Dancing is for them. We look forward to our 20th Tea Dance in 2020.

Jeanette Lauder

Johnsonville

Kiwis in Kilts – how two Austrians became Scottish country dancers in NZ

When new members Katharina and Thomas moved from Austria to New Zealand and settled in Johnsonville, they had no idea they were about to become part of the local Scottish country dancing community. Here is their story in their own words:

“When we came to Aotearoa / Wellington to stay, there were a lot of things we had expected – nice people, wonderful nature, the sea, silver ferns, green hills, even wind and earthquakes. And then there was the unexpected. One of them is that every Monday, around 7 pm, we get ready for Scottish country dancing. As Austrians who had been living in Vienna for a couple of years, you would expect us to be doing the waltz or maybe some exotic Austrian folk dance like “*Schuhplattln*”. But no, we are now Scottish country dancers.

Why Scottish Country Dance? We wanted to do something locally, something fun for ourselves, as well as getting to connect to people. In early 2018 we heard radio ads at a local radio station and read an article in the newspaper, that new dancers are welcome at the SCD club in Johnsonville. Heading for the first night, we were wondering, would this be something for us? Neither of us have any ties to Scotland, nor are we passionate dancers.

So we went. And we stayed. What do we like about it? First of all the people – it is a really tight-knit but at the same time open community, with people from different backgrounds, different descent, different ages, and all really nice, helpful, and having fun. Then there is dedication. Dedication from our tutor Rod who knows

all the nitty-gritty about the dances and the music and the history. Dedication from the whole club team who organise the practice nights and open dance nights. Dedication from all the experienced dancers who help the less experienced.

Then, the dancing. It is a holistic experience – your body and your brain are challenged equally. That creates a good feeling. Even when you start the evening tired from a long and busy day, you leave at the end with a feeling of happiness and lightness.

Kiwis in kilts – we like it, we do it.”

Katharina and Thomas are now half way through their second year, and well settled into Johnsonville’s SCD club community. They are taking their turn to help support this year’s new dancers at club nights, Tartan nights, and club social events.

In May, the Johnsonville club held a pre-winter *Dance Around the World* themed event to celebrate the international nature of SCD and the diversity of our club membership. It was another opportunity to strengthen the club community, as we found out more about each other’s backgrounds. It was also the perfect opportunity for Katharina to wear her Austrian *Dirndl*.



Thomas (left) and Katharina, wearing her *Dirndl*, at Johnsonville’s *Dance Around the World* event

More photos of our *Dance Around the World* event at <http://www.johnsonvillescd.org.nz/2019/06/21/pre-winter-2019/>

Kristin Downey

Scottish Society Country Dance Club

Our 70th Anniversary dance, held at the Scottish Hall on Saturday 6 April 2019, was a great success. We welcomed Branch President Elaine Laidlaw, Region

President Frances Williamson, and Chief of the Scottish Society Gordon McIvor, visitors, and past and present members. Our two tutors, Shirley and Margaret, had put together a great programme, which everyone enjoyed. We included the dance *Mrs McLeod (of Raasay)* to remember our long-standing member, Laura McLeod, who was unable to join us because of ill health. The anniversary cake, made and iced by two members, was cut by George Lambert and Bob Clyne.



Margaret and I had perused our records from years past, which made interesting reading, and some of these great findings were shared with everyone that night.

On Sunday 16 June, members gathered at Double Tree Restaurant (Chateau on the Park) to celebrate this milestone of our club. A lovely meal and a great way to continue our celebration. We are now looking forward to the next 10 years – some of us may not be dancing by then, because of health, but definitely something to continue dancing towards.

Maree Comfort, President

Otago Region Easter Weekend School

Otago organised the annual South Island Easter School this year at Owaka (“Gateway to the Catlins”). About 80 attendees made it a very successful event with dancers coming from Northland to Southland and a couple even from Queensland. It is good to see people prepared to dance outside their usual “dance bubble” – much easier if a group go together – and hopefully there will be similar nationwide support for the Canterbury Region in 2020. The three teachers were all from the North Island, with the aim of giving local dancers some different voices to listen to. Nicole Trewavas, Debbie Roxburgh and Fiona Bullivant worked their groups hard but no one was complaining.

There was an early evening dinner on Sunday catered by the Catlins Area School Year 7 and 8 Food Technology students who did an excellent job – and raised funds for new equipment for the Food Tech Department.

During the Combined Class on Monday morning we were visited by a reporter from the Otago Daily Times and ended up with a nice story in the paper and a good bit of video as well on the ODT website.



The final night's social dance at the Easter Weekend School in Owaka, Catlins

Lawrence

Lawrence again had a dance weekend in May, comprising a Community Ceilidh on Friday night, and a day class and evening dance on Saturday.

The ceilidh was not as well attended as last year, possibly because the netball season was starting the following morning. It also possibly suggests that selling tickets would be better than just door sales as it provides a motivation to turn up. That said, it was much enjoyed and has resulted in a family of five starting to come to the Lawrence group club nights.

Music for the weekend was provided by Clare Simpson and Natalie Scott, and Ruth Budden called the ceilidh and taught the class. The class focussed on some "less common" formations and these were included in the evening dance programme.

We are now getting between 16 and 22 dancers each week and have changed the structure of the evening, so that the newer dancers and those who struggle to progress can be accommodated more easily. It is early days, but it seems to be working so far.

Three of us have been travelling to Lake Roxburgh Village (the former hydro village by the Roxburgh power station) every Tuesday night to teach some simple Scottish country dances and ceilidh dances to a group there. The Hall Committee is organising a fund-raising ball at the Lake Roxburgh Hall in July and people wanted to know how to dance beforehand. There are about 14 dancers each Tuesday aged from late teens up, and boy, are they quick learners! – grasping the reels in *Dashing White Sergeant*, the way to turn in *Waltz Country Dance* and the six-bar cast in *Cumberland Reel* without any

trouble. It is fun watching a young mother swap her 15-month-old from hip to hip for turning with right hand and then left hand!

Quentin Currall

Other Interesting Stuff

Scottish Country Dancing is All Around the World

By Gaye and Damon Collin

Leaving NZ shores and dancing in other countries is always interesting, and sometimes a bit of a challenge. May and June saw us dancing in New York, Italy, France and England. Each brings a completely unique experience, but very social and entertaining.

Our first stop was New York. Why there? Well, we wanted to meet up with Xiaowen Yu (from Wellington), whom many readers will know. She has been living and working in New York for a while. We email each other from time to time and her passion for dancing still thrives in this very busiest of cities. We met up with Xiaowen twice over the week we were in New York, and on the second occasion, we had dinner with her and three other young dancers before going to St Bart's Hall for the night of dancing.

Entering the hall was interesting – there was a security guard behind the reddish door in E 51st St who let us into the stairwell that led up to the hall. He was not armed as far as I could see!

There were 14 intermediate/advanced dancers (including the teacher and us), so we had to 'beg and borrow' for every dance – in a city of how many millions! To be fair, a few of the regulars weren't there because the Pawling Weekend (in upstate Massachusetts) was coming up and they were conserving their energy. In addition, there were four beginners who were being catered for in a hall immediately adjoining.

This group had some relatively young, energetic dancers, including Xiaowen, and some other more mature dancers, including an Englishman (proudly wearing his kilt), and a Russian couple. The dances for the evening were mainly ones they wanted to cover again before attending Pawling – so they were not the easiest, and were just briefed or walked quickly once.

One of the easier dances we did, when the new dancers joined us half way through the evening, was *The Rambling Pitchfork* – one of Iain Boyd's!

They dance from 7.30 to 10.00, but not everyone stayed that late because of work commitments (and the new dancers' brains were full by about 9.15), but several gathered with us for a drink at a local pub after the dancing, and we got to chat with them about dancing in New York. Their hall costs them US\$150 a night, so the fee for entry is US\$10. We came away thinking how lucky we are with our halls around NZ – and there should be no more complaints about our entry fees.



Post-dancing drinks in New York.
Xiaowen and Damon are 2nd and 3rd from left

We were excited to hear from the beginners' teacher (Sue Ronald, whose husband Chris devised *Broadway* and *Slytherin House*) that she was using our Beginners' Formation Videos with her group. One of those beginners recognised Damon from the videos and said as a beginner it was great that we had men that he could watch and follow through the formation/dance – a good point, coming from a beginner for whom the programme was designed. I was especially keen to meet Peter Price, one of the teachers in New York, but alas he had a health scare and was in hospital. We often use his website, as he does a great job of assessing and reporting on dances he's taught. <https://kiltsandghillies.blogspot.com/p/up-coming-vents.html>

On to Italy, and a very different dancing group and experience!

This time we were in a dance studio and most of the dancers got changed into their 'dance gear' (T-shirts and tartan skirts) before coming in to the main hall. They were not a club as we know it. More like a demonstration team of young dancers, with ages ranging from early twenties to perhaps 40. Damon was the only male dancer out of a group of ten (including Valeria, the teacher). Fortunately, Valeria is fluent in English (her Italian's good too!), so she translated the

instructions throughout. Most of the RSCDS-qualified teachers work in English – so their trainee teacher also instructed in a language we could understand.

Once again we were in the gun! After a brief warm-up, followed by checking foot positions, etc, we were into *Cadgers in the Canongate* (48 bars)! Not your average warm-up dance is it? We made it through, but we were blowing pretty hard afterwards. The next dance was one that Helen Russell (ex-RSCDS Chair) had devised for them, *Welcome to Northern Italy*. A 4x40-bar (I think) – good, but pretty frantic too! Then followed a strathspey (*Wind on Loch Fyne*) – thank goodness – and then we were back to the races. The dances they were doing were (once again) the difficult ones from the up-coming 2nd Grand Highland Ball in Milano. The only other one that sticks in my mind was danced in a square set and incorporated *Strip the Willow*! I eventually sat one out and was interested to watch Gaye and the rest of them walking through *Shiehallion* – which was also on the Ball programme (128-bar Medley).

They were a very friendly group and there were lots of laughs, especially doing the *Cadgers* reels, it caught a few of the newer ones out. There was lots of debriefing from Valeria to her group afterwards (in Italian), to redo the reels and set them on the right track for their up-coming dance.

Before they finished, they ran through an item they were doing the following night. It was a choreographed collection of Scottish country dance formations, stitched neatly together for a team of just four dancers. I didn't count the bars but there were plenty, and it was well done.

We left shattered, but also probably, on reflection, driving home in the car, appreciative of the dancing conditions in NZ. Most of our clubs have two-plus sets with all ages and therefore, although we do demos, we mainly meet to socialise and enjoy dancing as recreation. We thanked Valeria for allowing us to join their session for the night, wished them well for their dance on Saturday and left for our one-hour trip back to our dwelling in Cavasagra, a hot shower, pain killers for Gaye and bed.

France and the Paris Club – a place we have been to before. It is centred around the university, so again the group were mainly young, but at least a set of more mature dancers were added to the mix too. The floor there is rather unforgiving, so sadly I (Gaye) only managed four dances before I had to sit and watch. Again, the more advanced dancers are in a separate space from the new dancers to start with, so there is no holding back at the start of the night. After the warm-

up, we were into the dance they had selected as their Dance of the Month, which is done each week to really get it polished. This month it was a NZ-devised dance by Amy Luxton from Book 50, *Dancing Spirit*, a very energetic first dance and enjoyed by all. Its interesting formation is the *Spoke*, so lots of setting to start the night off with. Three more Advanced/Upper Intermediate-level dances followed, and then the new dancers joined us and we did the dance they had been working on. Danielle, the teacher, whom we have met before, was very kind and taught in English (and French) for the night and we had a long chat with her again at a pub when the night finished (for which we were joined by about a dozen of the dancers).

Danielle is working hard on this young group of dancers for the future of their Branch and recognises the need to have the tempo lively for their flexible young bodies and spongy brains. They have several qualified teachers to call on, which I'm sure provides balance and we had a very enjoyable night there.

Damon, when studying in Wellington, started a club at Victoria University, and the dynamics of this group reminded us very much of those days when we were in our twenties. We danced on a concrete floor covered with carpet tiles, which in those days didn't bother us at all! The turnover of dancers is probably very similar to Paris, with new students starting each year and graduates leaving to start work or travel. So another dancing experience – different again from the NZ club scene.

England was our last dancing event. Amanda Peart met us at the Railway Station in Moreton-in-Marsh. I was so looking forward to meeting Amanda in person at last, as she has organised all the production and marketing for my latest book and its accompanying CD in the northern hemisphere. Amanda took us to our B&B and returned an hour later to pick us up for the dance at Bourton-on-the-Water. We had particularly wanted to go to this dance because we knew that Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin would be playing – and the programme looked very interesting, with dances on it that we hadn't heard of, as well as many popular dances such as *Scott Meikle*.

Alas, we had not printed the crib notes for the programme as we were relying on the MC's briefing on the night to get us through. We were given crib notes when we walked in, which we thought was a little strange, and then they announced the first dance and that was it – the race was on. No briefing at all! Another new experience.

What a wonderful night. Apart from the initial shock of no briefing, we sooooo enjoyed this night. There were

about ten sets in the hall, but only eight really fitted well on the floor and the atmosphere was fizzing. Marian and Max were in their element and they were a very welcoming group of dancers to spend an evening with. Damon and I both circled dances we liked – so out of 18 dances we have at least six new delights to try out back home in NZ. This evening had it all. Great music, interesting dances, a delicious supper (lots of sweet delights for Damon) and a very friendly group of dancers who were happy to take on visitors.



From left: Gaye, Max, Damon, Marian, Amanda at Bourton-on-the-Water

Damon met a dancer there (Ann Wood) who had travelled and danced extensively in New Zealand in the late 1980s. She remembered two dancers from here that we know – Maureen Robson and Jeanette Watson. She recalled staying with Maureen and Alan when their two boys were still living at home, and that they had rigged up a device that allowed them to announce to the boys upstairs that dinner was ready – even interrupting telephone calls that were going on at the time! Her recall of Jeanette related more to their time in London together. There were a couple of others who had danced in New Zealand, but their recall was much less accurate (it was quite a while ago).

Finding Jimmy Shand

By Lorealee Hyde

A chance remark can lead you off your chosen path ... and set you up for an unexpected encounter.

While on a tour of Europe in May, my sister Karen (who is also a Scottish Country Dancer) and I managed to sneak in a three-day visit to Edinburgh and its surrounds, including a side trip to Fife. We'd both

explored these special places on previous trips but there are always new delights to discover.

I am very fond of bird watching and photography. Hearing of my hankering to see puffins (such captivating birds), the friends we stayed with in Edinburgh arranged a boat trip for us from the fishing village of Anstruther in Fife to the Isle of May, a Scottish National Nature Reserve. With it being nesting season, we had a great chance of seeing puffins up close.

As we drove through Fife, we came upon the town of Auchtermuchty. John, our friend who was driving, casually mentioned this town was once the home of Jimmy Shand. I am sure John did not expect such an excited reaction from this Kiwi backseat passenger. "Jimmy Shand," I cried out. "I love his music!"

From the time I started dancing in the mid-1970s, the tempo, clarity and energy of Jimmy Shand and his Band's music has always appealed. Many a time I've danced to Jimmy's set of tunes for the *Eightsome Reel*. The *De'il Amang The Tailors* is a particular favourite—no matter how tired the legs are, this tune gives more spring to my step. Another favourite is his arrangement of the traditional strathspey *The Braes of Tulliemet*. Nowadays, I still dance to Jimmy Shand's music as our Johnsonville Club tutor Rod Downey regularly uses his recordings.

Having heard my excitement at seeing the town where Jimmy once lived, John added fuel to the fire by mentioning there's a statue of Jimmy in Auchtermuchty. Of course, we had to deviate off the A91 into the small town, driving up and down the narrow streets in search of Jimmy Shand. And there he was, playing his button accordion under a stand of trees.



Lorelee and Jimmy Shand



Puffin with a catch of sand eels

Scottish Country Dancing adds flavour to our lives wherever we go. If you are ever in Fife and see the signpost to Auchtermuchty, I suggest taking a few minutes to veer from your path and meet up with Jimmy Shand.

We made it to Anstruther in

time to catch the May Princess over to the Isle of May. On the boat we found out there was an estimated 92,000 puffins on the island along with hordes of other seabirds including razorbills, guillemots, Arctic terns and shags. We had two and a half hours of bliss in this puffin paradise—and I got the close-up shot I wanted of a puffin with a beak full of sand eels to feed to its puffling.

Events coming up ...

Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin

Return to play in New Zealand
November – December 2019

Saturday 2 November, 7:30 pm

Carterton Scarecrow Caper

Carterton Events Centre
Holloway Street, Carterton

Saturday 9 November, 4:30 pm

Mount Maunganui SCD Club Annual Dance

Te Puke Memorial Hall
Jellicoe Street, Te Puke
4.30pm for nibbles, Dancing from 5.00pm

Saturday 16 November, 7:30 pm

Royal Oak SCD Club Annual Dance

Maungawhau Primary School Hall
43 Ellerton Rd, Mt Eden

Saturday 23 November, 7:30 pm

Canterbury Region St Andrews Celebration

Canterbury Caledonian Society Hall
5 Michelle Road, Wigram

Saturday 30 November, 7:00 pm

St Andrews Night Ball,

Masonic Hall
107 Nile Street, Nelson
7pm Drinks & nibbles, Dancing from 7.30pm

Saturday 7 December, 7:30 pm

North Shore Combined Xmas Social

Browns Bay Primary School
Masterton Road, Browns Bay



Auckland Region

Dates for 2019

Visiting Auckland?

Want to know what's going on?

See our new region website
aucklandscd.org.nz or northlandscd.org.nz
or contact us on info@aucklandscd.org.nz

Anniversary Dances for Clubs:

Hibiscus Coast 40th anniversary: 3 August
Howick 60th anniversary: 5 October

Region Classes & Social Events

August 11: Upper Intermediate. Yvonne Gray presents a selection of Francis Walduck dances

August 31: Beginners taken by Gail Schofield

September 21: Spring Dance - with class taken by Fiona Bullivant

September 28/29: Classes for Advanced, Very Advanced and Teachers – with Wendy Jaeger

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

Plus many other club events - see our website or our Facebook page.

Encourage your friends to come along to the Auckland Highland Games on November 23 – and have a go at SCD

*By the time you read this – the JAM Camp will have landed – celebrating the first moon landing
One small step for A JAM, one giant step for SCD*

PARKVALE SCD GROUP **5th Annual Day of Dance**

23 November 2019 11am – 2.30pm

Community Public Hall, 162 Main Road, Clive

\$10 per dancer (\$2 non-dancer)

BYO lunch/cup etc

Afternoon Tea & Refreshments provided

WAIKATO-BAY OF PLENTY REGION

DAY SCHOOL

hosted by

Hauraki-Thames S.C.D Club

Saturday 3rd August 2019

Registration 9.30 am
Sessions 10.00am – 12.30 and 1.30 – 3.30pm
\$25 per adult JAMS \$10

at St James Church Hall,
202-204 Pahau St, Thames

Intermediate + Above (Low Impact) Class

TUTOR - KATHRYN DE ROLES

Tea - Coffee - Cordial - all available
Bring your own Lunch - (cafes close by)

Contact - W.Sheehan itz4win@slingshot.co.nz 07 868 9526



Lincoln SCD Club

50th Anniversary Dance

Lincoln SCD Club extends a warm invitation to all dancers, and especially former members and tutors, to join them in the celebrations that will take place on

**Saturday 7 September 2019 at 7.00 pm at the
Lincoln Events Centre, Meijer Drive, Lincoln**

Music will be provided by
Clare Simpson and Lynne Scott

All welcome

For further information contact
Sue Lindsay – wee_davy@xtra.co.nz

Burnside SCD Club Annual Dance

Saturday 24 August , 7:30 pm

Scottish Society Hall

136 Caledonian Road, St Albans, Christchurch

**COME DANCE
TO OUR
STAR DUO**



MARIAN ANDERSON
& MAX KETCHIN

9 NOVEMBER 2019
TE PUKE MEMORIAL HALL
130 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke
4.30 pm nibbles, 5 pm dancing



Nelson/Marlborough Region

**St Andrew's Dance
2019**

Saturday 30 November 2019

To be hosted by the Nelson Club

Featuring Marian Anderson & Max Ketchin

Marian will also play for Nelson Club's closing night on Thursday 28 November.

Why not come to the sunny Top of the South for the weekend?



Contact for more details
Kelly Walker 021 173 9642
nelson@dancescottish.org





McPHEE'S

Order online at www.mcphees.co.nz
phone 04 476 0139

SCD Footwear & Accessories held in stock.
Free overnight courier throughout NZ on all orders over \$50.
Top Brand Ghillie pumps for men & women. Now with Supershock insoles.
Ballet style pumps for women. Now with Supershock insoles.

Casual & Traditional Kilts



Sashes



Mini Rosette Sashes



New Range of Footcare Products




PO Box 17395, Karori, Wellington
New Zealand Phone 04 476 0139