



Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

Volume 25 No 3

October 2020



President's Report

Dear Members,

This has been a very different dancing year. Due to Covid-19, I have been very limited in how much travel I could do.

My first trip since the latest lockdown was to the Glendarroch Formal Dance on 26 September 2020. It was great to meet up with dancers that I have not seen for some time, meet new dancers, and the bonus of live music. I am sure all who attended had a great afternoon dancing.

I will be heading south to Dunedin for the Otago Region dance on 14 November 2020 and I'm looking forward to catching up with old friends and family.

It was good to hear that Auckland is now back on Level 1, and hopefully the clubs will be able to get a few dances in before the summer break.

Happy dancing and stay safe.

Linda Glavin, RSCDS NZ Branch President

From the Branch

Branch AGM

The RSCDS NZ Branch Annual General Meeting 2021 will be held by Zoom at 1.30 pm on Saturday 2 January. Members will receive the agenda and annual report during November, and instructions on how the meeting will run. There will be an opportunity for members to practice using Zoom if they have not previously done so. Nominations for all positions on the Management Committee have been received.

The profiles of the nominees are on the next page.

Youth Coordinator

See what's happening internationally to encourage young dancers.

Global Youth Week 2020 proudly presents: **The RSCDS Virtual Festival – a Scottish Celebration!**

Branches from around the world gathered (online and live) and came up with some lovely surprises.



Watch their fantastic contributions, and enjoy an imaginative, beautiful, and fun collection of Scottish Country Dance, 2020 style. <https://bit.ly/33M4Itb>

Dance Scottish at Home for kids with Newcastle RSCDS Newcastle and District Branch have just launched their first children's video

class on YouTube. Thirty minutes of pre-recorded fun for everyone. <https://bit.ly/3jPc7h1>

Although many New Zealand groups are now back dancing, you might like to share these links with juniors in your area.

Profiles of Branch nominees 2020-2021

Linda Glavin – Nominated for President



I have been dancing for several years, beginning at Southern Cross and Ceilidh Clubs in Dunedin. I danced at Hoon Hay and Caledonian Clubs in Christchurch until May this year, when Anton and I moved to Blenheim. I am now dancing at both the Blenheim and Picton Clubs. I

am pleased to accept the nomination for a second year.

Debbie Roxburgh – Nominated for Vice-President



I began dancing in Canterbury in the 1970s and went on to complete my Teaching Certificate in 1989. Since then, I have been regularly teaching both adults' and children's classes. I have taught widely at Region and Branch level, and internationally, and have recently been appointed as an RSCDS examiner.

My aim is to make dancing accessible for people of all ages and in all parts of the country, and I am particularly interested in supporting the ongoing training and development of dance teachers.

I am a strong and effective communicator and work well as part of a team. I have previously served on the Management Committee as the Communications and Publicity Coordinator and as the Youth Coordinator.

Michele Miller – Nominated for Secretary



I have danced with Manawatu and Capital City Clubs and served as Secretary or Treasurer at both clubs. My role as Branch Secretary has been considerably simplified by Andrew's online forms for members and clubs to notify the Branch.

I have accepted nomination for a fourth year, but constitutionally, I must stand down at the end of 2021.

Quentin Currall – Nominated for Treasurer



I am a Chartered Accountant. I danced at Hibiscus Coast Club 2011-15 and currently teach at Lawrence Club and dance at Ceilidh SCD Club in Dunedin. I am pleased to accept the nomination for a third year.

Nicole Trewavas – Nominated for Youth Coordinator



I began dancing in Waikanae, in 1998. A few years later we moved to Palmerston North where I continued dancing at the Manawatu club. As a junior member, I was lucky enough to be able to sit and achieve all the JAM medal tests. This then led to me working towards my RSCDS

Teaching Certificate, which I achieved at the Cambridge summer school 2013/2014. I am currently the tutor for the Manawatu Scottish Country Dance Club in Palmerston North and teach classes for both children and adults. I have attended many Summer Schools, day schools and weekend schools around the country as a dancer and I have also had the privilege of teaching at some of them as well.

I am currently on the JAM committee as the Medal Test Coordinator and I am keen to continue my involvement as well as future developments with our junior dancers throughout New Zealand.

Sue Lindsay – Nominated for Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator

I began Scottish Country Dancing in Blenheim in the 1970s, before stopping to raise a family. I returned to dancing in 1998 at the Lincoln Club, in Canterbury. Since then, I have been Secretary for the Lincoln Club, and served on the Canterbury Region Committee as a Committee Member, Secretary and



Treasurer. I look forward to further developing the

Communication, Publicity and Membership Coordinator role.

Lee Miller – Nominated for Education and Training Coordinator



I would be happy to continue in the role of Education and Training Coordinator in order to further the development of new and existing teachers for Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand.

Andrew Patterson – Nominated for Information and Technology Coordinator



If re-elected as Information Technology Coordinator, my enthusiasm for the role is undiminished and I welcome comments on recent changes and suggestions on how the service to Regions, Clubs and members might be improved.

MAC News
There will be no MAC (Management and Coordinator) News sent for October 2020.

Information Technology

Thanks to all the members, clubs and regions for dealing with membership renewals so promptly during a period when most clubs have been unable to meet regularly. The Gold award goes to West Coast who led the way, but Special Mention to Auckland who were close behind despite being by far the largest region in terms of membership.

Membership renewal also serves as a timely reminder to members that they should update their contact details. I would just like to point out that these must include the full postal address, including the town/city which is sometimes omitted. It may be obvious to you that ‘Whitby’ is a suburb of ‘Porirua’ - but not to me! Hopefully, the redesign of the forms on the website will make this clearer. Another change to the online forms has been the addition of the widely-used ‘I am not a robot’ check-box to try and eliminate spam submissions. This has been set to the least

intrusive level, but do let me know if you experience any problems with it.

Andy Patterson, IT Coordinator

RSCDS NZ Branch Shop

At present, the shop has a new CD from the Dewhursts called **“Short & Sweet”** which has 21 tunes for Reels, Jigs, Strathspeys, a Medley and a Waltz in a variety of lengths (great for nights when you have only three or five couples).

Also available is **“Robertson: a Musical Heritage”**, a new CD from Ian Robertson and Muriel Johnstone – a great sound.

“Thirty Popular Dances Vol.2” – Book and 2 CDs. Released in November 2019, this is a book of 30 dances and also includes some interesting information. There are two CDs to go with it – Part 1 is a new recording and Part 2 is a re-release of RSCDS archive recordings.

Also available are CDs for **Books 50, 51 and 52, “The Belfast Platinum Anniversary”, “The Musicians’ Wedding”** – Marian Anderson, and **“Opus Dance”** – James Gray.

The full range of CDs in stock, and the tracks on each, is listed in the [catalogue](#) on the Branch website.

The [Book catalogue](#) is also available on the Branch website.

For all Branch Shop enquiries please contact Sue Pearson:

- Email: shop@dancescottish.org.nz
- NZ Branch Website
- Snailmail: C/- 21 Stafford Street, Wanganui 4501

News from around the Regions

Cambridge

On 10 October, we had our first ball in several months, at the wonderful venue of the Cambridge Town Hall.

With ten sets on the floor, it was a great time to celebrate. We were delighted that so many Auckland dancers were able to join us.

For more photos, visit <http://waibopscd.org.nz/slideshows/cambridge-ball/>



Cambridge Club Ball in the Cambridge Town Hall

Wellington Region New Dancers' Celebration



Every year, the Wellington Region celebrates its new dancers – i.e. those who have started dancing in the last two years – with a special dance. Everyone is encouraged to attend, with the more seasoned dancers there to support the new dancers. Clubs take turns in hosting this, the biggest event on the Region's dancing calendar.

This year, it was Waikanae Club's turn. It must be said that the club has had a horrendous year, what with the lockdown and further Covid restrictions, then multiple problems finding a suitable hall for their club nights as their regular venue was unavailable. Having had so few club nights this year, they debated whether they could hold the New Dancers' Celebration at all, but they decided to boldly push ahead. The final straw was



Romaine and the band - Jason, Aileen and Hilary
(Photo: Lorelee Hyde)

a last-minute change of venue because of a plumbing failure at the originally-booked hall.

Despite all these difficulties, it turned out to be a wonderful event. As dancers arrived at the Paraparaumu Memorial Hall, they were welcomed by piper Nicole Trewavas, in full kilted splendour.

Seventeen sets of dancers took to the floor to enjoy the excellent programme of easy dances MC'd by Waikanae's teacher Romaine Butterfield, and thrilled to the wonderful music provided by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris.

To see more photos of the evening (and download if you wish) visit Lorelee Hyde's Flickr post: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmRjVQS>

Désirée Patterson



Seventeen sets

Lower Hutt Club – Before, During and After Lockdown

Lower Hutt Club was having a great start to the year until that dreaded Covid-19 appeared. We, like most clubs, had to suspend club nights. We kept in touch with members via newsletters and emails. Zoom became a friend to many. Some members, of course, were working from home, while others were finding many tasks to complete around the home. Members shared what they had been doing. They included painting the fence, gardening, decluttering, craft work such as knitting and patchwork. Other members have enjoyed linking in to the online RSCDS classes with teachers from all around the world. Some of our dancers linked up with their neighbours each night at an allocated time. I heard that they applauded our community and emergency workers. New Zealand was certainly a great place to be.

How fortunate we were to be able to reconnect in June and begin dancing again. Some members were keen to restart dancing and others have been more hesitant, and that is fine, as we are all dealing with these unusual times. We have to appreciate how good it is to be able to meet together again and dance. We have a large group of men coming to club and some have had to dance on the ladies' side on occasions. A good problem to have. Our theme night was to have taken place during the lockdown. It was to have been a *Star Wars and Sci-Fi* themed evening. Since "May the 4th" does not fall on a Monday night for a while, this planned night is now on hold.

The Monday Knights Band played for our first Tartan Night in July. Iain Matcham, Jean Malcolm and Terry Bradshaw were in fine form and dancers were given that extra boost of energy while enjoying their playing.



The Monday Knights - Iain, Jean and Terry
(Photo: Malcolm Ferguson)

Being in Level 2 meant our Annual Dance did not eventuate. Where possible, we like to invite the band that is booked to play for our dance to also play for club on the Monday night prior. This year we had Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral, Terry Bradshaw and Jason Morris to play at club. What a superb evening it was, and it did help us get over the disappointment of having to cancel our Formal. The Junior Class had resumed on that night and were intrigued with the band. They are looking to incorporate dancing to live music in their programme in 2021.

Our Junior Class chose to continue dancing during Level 2, but to dance without using hands. They covered figure eights, double figure eights, reels of three and four, advance and retire, back to back, pas de Basque, nice shaped circles without relying on hands, petronella, and even a Highland setting step. Club members were able to delight one of

our JAMS when we danced Petronella, and in some sets Double Petronella, on a recent club night. What a thrill it is to see the young dancers with their boundless energy. We look forward to many nights dancing in 2021.

Elizabeth Ferguson, Lower Hutt Club Secretary and Tutor

Tawa Club Annual Dance

With the lockdown and Covid-related suspensions of club nights and cancellations of events, 2020 has been a most unusual dancing year. Tawa SCD Club was delighted that Level 2 restrictions were lifted in time for our Annual Dance to be able to go ahead.



"Shifftin' Bobbins" at Tawa's Annual Dance
(Photo: John Patterson)

Six sets filled the Ngaio Town Hall nicely without being too crowded and all enjoyed the exhilarating music from the band – Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris. The programme, MC'd by Catherine McCutcheon, consisted of a good selection of dances to satisfy all, including some easy favourites and a few more challenging dances for the more experienced dancers.

Désirée Patterson, Tawa Club Secretary

Nelson/Marlborough Region

Motueka Club

Not only did the pandemic disrupt our dancing this year, but when we started back post-lockdown, the hall floor was damaged in one spot. After one of our dancers slipped on the damaged spot and broke an arm, the club had to move to a different hall – luckily only across the car park from the usual venue and where we hold our birthday socials and other special events. Thankfully our member with the broken arm is now back dancing.

The club moves back to the usual hall in a fortnight, when the floor has been repaired. Our May Ceilidh in 2020 had to be cancelled because of the pandemic, but the club has booked the hall and set the date to hold one next year, on 1 May 2021, at the Lower Moutere Memorial Hall.

Nelson Club

Unfortunately after only a couple of nights of the 2020 dancing season, we moved into Covid-19 lockdown. Janet and Kelly, along with sundry contributors, kept us amused with a weekly "Chronicle" newsletter, a feature of which were "Pat's Party Pieces" – delightful poems about SCD experiences in the UK, written by a friend of Janet's family, Pat Batt. (See p. 11 of this issue.)

The RSCDS online programme was checked out by some club members, however, time differences did make it a little inconvenient.

Once restrictions were eased to Level 3, the club began gathering at Tahunanui Beach for chats,

walking and – best of all – ice-creams or picnic style drinks, all whilst keeping to social distancing, of course. A Zoom Committee Meeting seemed to work quite well.



Teachers Janet and Fran cut the 67th birthday cake

Our High Tea Birthday Social was attended by five sets, and judging by the chatter, was enjoyed by all as a first opportunity since last year for a get-together and catch up on news.

Life Membership at Hokitika SCD Club

Hokitika Scottish Country Dance Club recently celebrated its 55th anniversary by making Dorothy Dowell a Life Member.

Scottish country dancing was launched in Hokitika in June 1965. Dorothy attended the second gathering and remained involved until the present day. She became the president and tutor of the club in 1980 and remained in those roles until 2010.

Dorothy says that dancing was "good fun" and kept her fit, and she has made some great friendships along the way. Over the years, the club often

joined with Greymouth SCD Club and travelled to New Year's Hogmanay Balls in Christchurch and St Andrew's Day events around the South Island.



Dorothy Dowell in the centre holding a pounamu award; with Greymouth and Hokitika members from left, Marj Riley, Mary Thomas, Catherine van Paassen, Avis Harper and Margaret Wetherall

The surprise Life Membership was an honour and a privilege. Catherine van Paassen, the current president and tutor, said that Dorothy's record of 55 years' involvement, including 30 years in leadership, was outstanding for a voluntary club. It is even more impressive when we know that Dorothy has been a representative bowls player and president of the Lawn Bowls Club for many of those same years.

Judith Heberd

Rangiora SCD Club

It was with great pleasure that Pat Glassey, President of the Rangiora SCD Club, presented a Life Membership Award to Joyce Gray on 27 September 2020, at the Rangiora Club Afternoon Tea Dance. Joyce has been a tireless worker promoting Scottish Country Dancing and this award acknowledges her contribution to Rangiora, Christchurch, Canterbury and New Zealand.



Pat Glassey presents Joyce Gray with her Life Membership Award

Southland happenings

The annual Southland Spring Fling dance was held at the end of August at a new venue, the Winton Senior Citizens' Hall. This had an area with a wooden floor big enough for two sets and a connecting lounge where people could sit to chat and watch and where one of our members, Sarah Campbell, could sell her beautiful hand-made face masks. The room was decorated by members of the Winton Club, and two non-dancing members looked after the door and the raffles table. Mindful of that virus, attendees signed in before paying their entry fee and taking raffle tickets.

The dance was MC'd by Margaret Bailey Allison and included favourite dances from the three clubs and a couple of ceilidh dances. These were listed on programme sheets suitably decorated with floral fabric by Dulcie Evans. And, as a novelty, the dancers donned face masks to dance the Canadian Barn Dance where we changed partners. Having more than two sets of dancers present meant that those who wanted to have a break could do so.

After the dancing, another new feature was a catered supper bought from an Invercargill business. This meant that no one had to spend time making food for the supper. This was much appreciated. Instead, clubs were asked to contribute raffles for the raffle table. The proceeds from these have supplied sufficient funds for the Region's expenses for the year ahead.

Winton held their annual social night in July, postponed from June, in the same venue. This was a very relaxed evening of dancing and chatting, MC'd by long-term tutor Alison Warden. It was good to see our dancing community together again, with visitors from St Andrews and Isla Bank. There was an amazing supper.

St Andrews held their social night on their final night in early October at their new venue, the Waverley Scout Hall. Again, the venue is big enough for two sets, so it was good to see visitors from both Winton and Isla Bank. After a programme of requests MC'd by Amanda Paterson, a delicious home-cooked supper was provided.

Dancing has now finished for this year. The last remaining event is our Region AGM to be held early in November.

Margaret Bailey Allison

Other Interesting Stuff

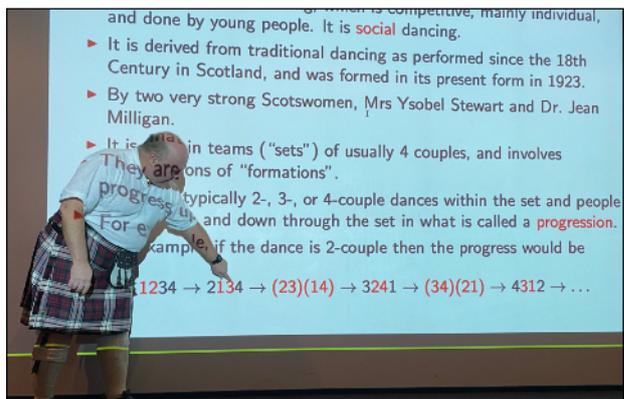
Mathematics and Scottish Country Dancing – what is the link?

Johnsonville club tutor Rod Downey gives lots of talks as part of his job as a mathematician. Every now and again he'll find the opportunity to mention Scottish country dancing, but this is the first time he's been specifically asked to give a talk on the relationship between two passions in his life – Mathematics and Scottish country dancing.

Rod was invited to speak to the Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society Te Apārangi. The requested topic was [Mathematics and Scottish Country Dancing](#), inspired by [an interview on Radio New Zealand](#) following his [2018 Rutherford Award](#), and perhaps the photos of him wearing his Dress Macdonald kilt and Prince Charlie to the awards ceremony.

At his talk on 27 August this year, Rod spoke about how mathematics models 'the world' and, in particular, about some of his work, which models [online algorithms](#). These are algorithms which have to react to a changing 'hostile' environment (think of a triage nurse who needs to schedule patients in an ever-changing environment).

Analysis and design of such algorithms involve visualising how information flows through time and space. How do things need to be rearranged to adapt as situations change with time? The cognitive processes needed are similar to those we use in SCD. When we do reels, how do we phrase them so that the overall phrasing of the set is enabled? If we are devising, how do we slow down or speed up dancers to make formations flow?



Rod explains 'progression' in a dance

Rod illustrated these ideas using some examples from his own mathematics, and some videos and diagrams from SCD. In mathematics he used examples from online scheduling. In SCD he began with the *De'il Among the Tailors* to introduce the audience to traditional SCD. He also talked about how 'the music is king', playing some reels, jigs, and Strathspeys to demonstrate.

He then used a video of Hugh Foss's [Celtic Brooch](#) to show phrasing and teamwork, as well as his own dance [My Golden Bear](#) as a way of explaining 'covering' and introducing aesthetics.

Rod finished the lecture by talking about the inner beauty he finds in both mathematics and SCD. For mathematics, Rod illustrated this with something called [Euler's Formula](#) on planar graphs and the proof of the irrationality of the square root of 2, and for SCD he used the [Rose Progression](#) and the lovely video of the [Library of Birmingham](#).

The lecture was held in the Hawke's Bay Holt Planetarium, especially chosen for its scientific atmosphere – Rod was surrounded by space paraphernalia. A good turnout from enthusiastic local dancers also added to the occasion, giving him a packed house. In turn, Rod took the Clive Friday dance group the following morning, teaching some of his own dances.

Technology problems meant that the planned Zoom recording of his original lecture did not happen, and he accepted an invitation to reprise his talk in a Zoom session organised by Katharine Hoskyn during lockdown.

You can view more photos and read a longer article about the lecture on the [Johnsonville SCD Club Website](#), and for more information (especially on the maths) you can [view the full set of lecture slides](#) on Rod's website. There is also an earlier article on mathematics and SCD on his [homepage](#).

Thanks to editor Désirée Patterson for inviting us to write this article.

Kristin and Rod Downey

Dressing for the part!

Browsing through my photo albums brings back many happy memories of my 46 years of Scottish Country Dancing. What stands out are the fun times with lots of smiles and much laughter; fun dancing to fine music, fun with friends from

around the world and fun 'dress-up' nights – from the more formal annual dances or balls to themed evenings and ceilidhs.

My sister Karen started dancing in Hamilton at much the same time as I did. We've had many shared experiences at weekend and summer schools and then dancing with her two children as they grew up – kids love to dress up!

My first dress-up nights at weekend school ceilidhs in the Waikato in the 1970-1980s had themes of *Down on the Farm*, very appropriate to the region.

When I started dancing in 1974, most women wore long dresses to formal dances, usually in white. I quickly made myself a white dress but didn't have a sash until I bought one in Scotland in 1979 when I lived in Pitlochry for a time.

After I moved to Wellington in 1983, there were lots more dancing adventures, often with Philippa Pointon, and Rod and Kristin Downey and their boys.

I continue to wear my white dress and sash, especially for Hogmanay, and enjoy dressing up for balls, including the President's Ball at Summer School, the [2012 RSCDS Wellington Region Diamond Jubilee Ball](#) and [2018 NZ Branch 50th Anniversary Ball](#) held at Government House in Wellington. These were special occasions with the men dressed up in their kilts and jackets and the colours of the women's dresses glittering under the chandeliers.

Other Wellington Region events where we've dressed up for the occasion include the 1992 Easter Weekend School 18th Century Ball, the 1993 Top Hat event and the 1920s Ball in 2014.

At NZ Branch Summer Schools, we've dug deep into our imaginations to dress up for a wide spectrum of fanciful subjects including *Going to the Races*, the *Roman Occupation* and *Movie Stars* or colourful evenings such as gold or black and yellow.

To add to the fun, the band often joins in. The first photo I have of a band dressing the part is of Charlie Jemmett and the Gumboots Band at the 1977 Hamilton Summer School – yet another *Down on the Farm* evening!

At a nautical-themed evening at the 2004-2005 Summer School in Nelson, an incursion of pirate dancers took over the floor brandishing their cutlasses and iron hooks. Members of the band *Dalriada* met the bill, dressed in full piratical mode



Wellington teachers at the 1993 Top Hat event

and with skull and crossbones banners on their music stands making the point clear.

In 1991, I started dancing at Johnsonville Club where Marjorie Crawford was tutor. The first record I have of a dress-up night there is of a *Bad Taste* evening that year. From 2000 to 2002, Johnsonville had themes for annual dances: *Black and White*; *Jewel*; and *Pink*, with the band (Peter Elmes, John Smith and Lynne Scott along with various young musicians) joining in.

Black and White is a recurring theme, as photos of Peter, John and Lynne at the 1999 Perth Winter School and the 2001-2002 Napier Summer School show. *Witches and Wizards* ceilidhs or *Halloween* celebrations (with a supernatural theme inspired by the Gaelic festival Samhain) also fit into this category.

Photos I've got from the 1970s to the present give a wonderful record of dancers dressing for the part and having fun while doing so. They also bring back memories of those who are no longer with us including Marjorie, Mirth Smallwood and Betty Redfearn. Reminiscing about the happy times we've had is almost as much fun as dressing up and dancing at special evenings!

To view this archive of photos (and download if you wish), visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmRk9uBV> Photos by Lorelee except those marked JP (John Patterson).

Lorelee Hyde

Find your musicians and book now for 2021!

How many SCD musicians do you think we have in New Zealand? Twelve? Eighteen? I can count 30, and the numbers are gradually growing as we find

more musicians keen to give it a go. Some musicians come from within the dancing community. These can find the music structures and style easy to pick up – they already know a dance is often 8x32 bars, and what strathspeys sound like. But they also want to dance! Musicians from outside the SCD community have a lot more to learn, but they can bring a fresh look at the music and extra skills. You can help by directing anyone interested to a local musician, or to me.

To find musicians for your club nights and events, have you looked at the Branch website? The Music tab leads you to a [Register of SCD Musicians](#), with band description and contact email addresses.

Many clubs and regions will be keen to make 2021 a better year than 2020. Enhance your club nights and events with live music! If air travel is involved, you can save on expenses by booking your band early.

See you on the dance floor next year!

Lynne Scott, NZ RSCDS Music Adviser

Promote your dance events nation-wide – a hint from Johnsonville Club

I recently discovered that it's easy to post your dance event on the [NZ Branch Calendar](#). Even better, you can also post one or two files (e.g. your dance programme, plus a crib sheet, map to your event or registration form).

Just complete the Calendar Entry Form at <http://dancescottish.org.nz/calendar-entry/> to send through details of your event, and add any files. You can also use the form for subsequent additions and updates.

At Johnsonville Club we're keen to let our members know about dance events around the country. However, since converting to Mailchimp for our club newsletter we no longer have the option of adding attachments, instead we need to include links. If your dance programme is on the Branch Calendar, it's easy for us to add that link to our newsletter.

Kristin Downey, Johnsonville President

Just for fun ...

Links with St Petersburg Leningrad?

After dancing "Links with St Petersburg" at club one night in September, Tawa member Robert Vale's imagination ran away with him and he dreamed up this intriguing alternative history.

The little-known history of the role of Scottish Country Dancing in world affairs ...

On a cold winter's night in old St Petersburg, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin was walking back to his apartment with Nadya Krupskaya after one of their regular nights at the St Petersburg Scottish Country Dance Club. Both found that the hours spent coming to terms with Mirror Reels on the Side, the All-round Diamond Poussette and perfecting their Pas de Basque (which Lenin found strangely difficult) were a perfect distraction from the daily problems of organising the Revolution.

As they walked, warm from their exertions on the dance floor, their breath condensing in clouds around them in the cold night air, Lenin once again went over in his mind the fundamental problem of Party organisation. He turned to Nadya with a sigh, "I still can't decide the best way to organise the Party for world-wide revolution. It troubles me, Nadya."

Nadya, with the music from *Best Set in the Hall* still playing in her head, replied "Thank goodness the RSCDS knows how to organise, or we'd never get to enjoy these nights of dancing, Vladimir Ilyich."

This remark set Lenin's mind racing, and as they hurried home through the snowy streets, he knew that they would have a solution before the night was over.

Back home, he poured two glasses of tea from the samovar, adding generous shots of vodka and a little honey. The couple sat at the kitchen table. "I think I've got it at last, thanks to you, Nadya, and your mention of the RSCDS. Yes, they know exactly how to organise."

Lenin took a mouthful of tea and as the warmth spread through him, helped no doubt by the vodka, he continued, "RSCDS Headquarters in Edinburgh approves and spreads the techniques of dancing and the dances. It trains the teachers who go out into the world to teach the approved dances. It sends out regular communications to keep everyone connected and up to date. It sets up Branches in other countries where local clubs each have an RSCDS-trained teacher who makes sure that the correct techniques are followed, whether you are in Glasgow, Tokyo or St Petersburg."

"What we need is a Headquarters organised just like the RSCDS, to devise, approve and promulgate Party doctrine and to train comrades to go out and spread the Party doctrine all round the world. We could call it the Politburo."

"In each place we could have a club – we could call it a Party Cell – where comrades can gather each week to learn the approved doctrine from their Party-trained teacher. In places where they don't have a teacher, the comrades might even learn from each other, with a teacher checking on them from time to time. I've heard they do this in Levin, far away in New Zealand."

"In addition we will need a regular journal like *Scottish Country Dancer* to keep the comrades in touch with the Politburo. I think we should call it *Pravda*."

"I think this might be the way to organise the Party."

"That's an excellent idea, Vladimir Ilyich", said Nadya, "with this approach we will spread Communism across the world, just like Scottish country dancing."

The couple finished their tea, went off to bed and dreamed of the future under the warm bearskin rug.

The rest, as they say, is history ...

Robert Vale, Tawa SCD Club

From the Nelson Club's "Chronicle"

Here is Janet's favourite "Pat's Party Piece", a poem by Pat Batt.

Tempus Fugit

My mirror says I'm growing old
My inside says it's wrong.
My outside voice is quavering,
But inside there's a song.

The wrinkles multiply, I know,
And yet inside my mind
A nice young thing of seventeen
Is there for me to find.

The teeth – well, we won't mention them,
The glasses we'll forget.
The hair is grey – so what, I say,
For I'm not beaten yet.

I don't feel old, except perhaps
When twinges are annoying
There's lovely things to see and do,
And life is for enjoying.

I hope to keep my memories,
They're much too good to lose.
They'll dance inside my head when I
Hang up my dancing shoes.

Events coming up

Hogmanay Dance in Wellington

Since Covid-19 has forced the cancellation of Summer School, we would love to see dancers from around the country come and celebrate Hogmanay with us.

As you will see on the flyer, we are requesting pre-registration and payment for Covid reasons. Register online [here](#).

For further information, please contact Ann and Andrew Oliver at aoliver@xtra.co.nz.

Note also that a class will be held to go through some of the less familiar dances on Tuesday 29th December, 7.30pm, at St David's Multicultural Church Hall, Elizabeth St, Petone.



31st December 2020, 8pm

Knox Church Hall, High Street, Lower Hutt

RSCDS \$18 / Non RSCDS \$20 / Juniors & Spectators \$10 / Family \$50
Plus a small disposable plate of cold finger food (no heating available)

Music by the Saltire Scottish Dance Band

Due to Covid-19 and to avoid queues on the night, pre-registration and payment is requested. Register online – [click here](#). Details of how to pay are on the registration form.

PROGRAMME

A Highland Welcome R	SUPPER
New Year's Jig J	Pelorus Jack J
Neidpath Castle S	The Triumph R
The Dancing Bees R	The Glasgow Highlanders S R
The Wild Geese J	*A Capital Jig J
*Culla Bay S	Mairi's Wedding R
Dashing White Sergeant R	St Bernard's Waltz W
*Best Set in the Hall J	CEREMONY
Seann Triubhas Willichan S	*Eightsome/Thirtytwosome Reel R
The Flying Scotsman J	*City of Belfast S
De'il Amang the Tailors R	The Reel of the 51 st Division R
Minister on the Loch S	
The Gay Gordons R	

Most dances will be walked. *Dances are more challenging



Blenheim SCD Club

St Andrews Ball

Saturday 28 November 2020
7 pm drinks/nibbles, 7:30 dancing

Enquiries:
heatherrlamb@hotmail.com

Save the date!

The Nelson/Marlborough Region are planning a weekend of Social dancing, with morning classes, afternoons in the hot pools and dancing and entertainment in the evening in Hanmer in the second half of July 2021.

More information to follow.

A Auckland Region

Dates for 2021

Visiting Auckland next year?

Like to know dates for region social events?

Autumn Afternoon Social: April 10
 Region Ball: July 3
 Spring Dance: September 18
 (to welcome new dancers, preceded by a class)

The Waipu Club is celebrating an Anniversary Dance on 4 September 2021. Waipu is an early-settler Scottish settlement in New Zealand – steeped in history and surrounded by beautiful countryside, with a lovely beach.

Visiting Auckland or Northland over Summer?

Summer dancing in some areas of the region.

Details on aucklandscd.org.nz or northlandscd.org.nz or contact us on info@aucklandscd.org.nz

Visit us on Facebook to find out:

- why you might want to visit Auckland & Northland
- what happened in the recent RSCDS class

See some of the great sights in our region on our Facebook page, which includes interesting landmarks around the region as well as dancing events.

The Hillpark Club regularly posts a summary and link the recent RSCDS weekly class – so if you want to know what’s in the class before taking part – have a look at the posts from Hillpark Club.



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