



Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

Volume 27 No 1

April 2022

President's Report



Hi everyone

As the dancers in southern hemisphere think about the new dancing year, we are again weighing up the risk that the Covid-19 Omicron variant may present. As dancers we are social and friendly, however during trying times, we can become anxious because of being unsure of what lies ahead. No matter how we deal with Covid, please remain respectful to our families, friends, work colleagues, neighbours, and dancers, no matter whether we agree or disagree with their choices. Supporting unconditionally is a gift to all those who receive it.

The New Zealand Branch Summer School will be in Auckland this year. Liz Hickey is the organiser for the school, and I am sure that she and her team would welcome early registrations. If you have any questions or require help registering, please email ss2022@dancescottish.org.nz.

The New Zealand Branch Memorial Book

For as long as I can remember, Maureen Robson has been the custodian of the NZ Branch Memorial book. Like all things in life, there comes a time when we need to pass the reins on to another generation. Maureen has advised that she would like to step down and so we are looking for someone who is willing to take on the role as custodian for the memorial book. Please email president@dancescottish.org.nz.

On behalf of the NZ Branch, thank you Maureen, for all your work over the years, and for helping us to honour the memories the memorial book records.

Your new Management Committee

Linda Glavin	President	Sue Lindsay	Communication, Publicity and Membership
Debbie Roxburgh	Vice President	Jeanette Watson	Education and Training
Gaylia Powell	Secretary	Andrew Patterson	Information Technology
Quentin Currall	Treasurer	Nicole Trewavas	Youth

Wishing you all a great dancing year.

Linda Glavin, RSCDS NZ Branch President

From the Branch

Scholarships to attend Summer School – applications open now

Each year, the New Zealand Branch offers Summer School scholarships for dancers, aspiring teachers and musicians who are current members of the Branch. Six

scholarships will cover 2022-23 fees and accommodation, under the following categories:

- Trainee teacher
- Musician
- Dancer with five years or less continuous experience
- Dancer with six years or more continuous experience
- Junior Associate Members (JAMs) – two scholarships.

The conditions of entry are on the Branch website <https://dancescottish.org.nz/education-scholarship/> and <https://dancescottish.org.nz/jam-summer-school/>

Application may be made from the website, or on a printed application form, received by Gaylia Powell, Branch Secretary secretary@dancescottish.org.nz or posted to 63 Fisher Avenue, Christchurch 8023.

Applications must be received by 30 June 2022. All applicants will be notified of the results in early July.

Note that these scholarships are **in addition to those awarded last year**, but not able to be taken up. Last year's winners have been offered the opportunity to carry over their scholarships.

Gaylia Powell, Branch Secretary

IT News

Branch website

The NZ Branch website underwent a major update in March and, although this was mainly to bring the software up to date, you will have seen a few differences such as the appearance of the map on the home page. I have also added a search button at the far right of the menu to help you locate the information that you are seeking.

Updates to online directories

A reminder about the Region and Junior directories which are displayed on the website. These were generated in January from the information which was available at the time, but one of the benefits of the online directory is that it can be revised at any time to reflect changes that occur during the year. All you have to do is to click the 'send an email' link at the foot of the directory listing and describe the changes in the body of the email. This will be sent to the Branch (Secretary and IT Co-ordinator) and, in the case of an update to the Junior directory, to the Youth Co-ordinator.

Andrew Patterson, IT Coordinator

\$400 Regional Promotion

Last year the Branch offered to fund Regions \$400 each, for some kind of event over the summer to help encourage dancing. With the difficult times and the differing climates around the country, it has been decided that the timeframe can be extended to whenever dancing gets under way, and that the range of activities is wide – not just an evening dance – anything that helps get dancing off strongly for 2022 in the

Region. If you wish to take up this offer, please contact the Branch Secretary with your plan.

Quentin Currall, Branch Treasurer

Communication, Publicity and Membership

I hope that you are all back dancing and that you have some new members. If you would like any posters (A4 and A5) or pamphlets, please email me and I will send them to you.

Last year when the membership cards were printed, the name on the card isn't standing out enough, so this will be rectified for the next printing.

We have two publications that go out every two months – the MAC News which is sent to Region and Club Secretaries, and Kiwi News. A suggestion has been made that these could be combined. The MAC News gives updates on what the Management Committee have done or are doing. The Kiwi News provides information/material from regions, clubs and individual members. I would like to hear from members on whether this is what the membership would like. Please email me on communication@dancescottish.co.nz

Sue Lindsay

Communications, Publicity and Membership Coordinator

RSCDS NZ Branch Shop

New Arrivals

"Compilation of Books 39 – 44" is now available.

"Sir Walter Scott, Heart of Midlothian" book and CD have been produced by the RSCDS to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of this Scottish author. It contains dance instructions for eight dances (including *Madge Wildfire's Strathspey*) as well as some interesting historical information.

"The Floating Song" is a book of six dances and tunes inspired by the poetry of Edwin Morgan, to commemorate the centenary, and it comes with a CD of the music composed and arranged by Luke Brady.

"The Bovey Collection" by Duncan Brown is now available.

"Wellington Region 60th Anniversary", a book to celebrate this milestone.

"Creative in Lockdown" a fourth book by Gaye Collin.

Other recent releases

"Thirty Popular Dances Vol.2", a book of 30 dances and some interesting information, and two CDs to go with it.

“Perth and Perthshire Branch 95th Anniversary” book is now in stock.

“Banffshire 90th Anniversary” book and **“A’ the Best Again Fae Banffshire”** CD with music by Ewan Galloway and Shona MacFadyen.

Also available are

- CDs for Books 50, 51 and 52
- Books *Reel Friends* 2 and 3 by Ann Dix and matching CDs
- *The Carlingwark Book of SCDs* by Bill Little, Castle Douglas. There is also a set of three CDs available to accompany this book.
- *The Musicians’ Wedding* by Gaye Collin and CD by Marian Anderson.
- CD *Short & Sweet* from the Dewhursts has 21 tunes in a variety of lengths (great for nights when you have only 3 or 5 couples).
- CD *Robertson: a Musical Heritage* – Ian Robertson and Muriel Johnstone
- CD *The Sunday Class* – Recorded Highlights Vol 1 with Jim Lindsay and his band.

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 enquiries please contact Sue Pearson:

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

Submissions for Book 53 from NZ Branch

A Branch subcommittee, consisting of Jeanette Watson (Education and Training Coordinator, as convenor), Catherine McCutcheon and Alison Trotter from Wellington, with Linda Glavin (Branch President, ex officio) as observer, was formed to consider dances nominated by NZ Branch members for submission to the RSCDS for consideration for publication in Book 53. The subcommittee considered 31 dances – 9 jigs, 8 reels, 12 strathspeys, 1 medley and 1 hornpipe. The subcommittee only considered dances received before the Branch’s advertised cut-off date. Five further dances were received 3 to 11 days after this date.

The subcommittee’s primary objective was to recommend dances that have the greatest likelihood of being chosen by the RSCDS for Book 53. Also to this end, the subcommittee determined to recommend the maximum number of submissions (3), in different tempi.

As announced in the MAC News in March, the Branch submitted the following three dances to the RSCDS:

- **Meeting of the Waters** – devised in 1965 by Iain Boyd (3-couple 48-bar reel in a 4C longwise set), published in Iain’s *Strathray Album* 1969
- **Seton’s Ceilidh Band** – devised in 1961 by Bruce Fordyce (4-couple 64-bar jig in a 4C longwise set), published in Wellington Region’s *Morisons Bush Collection* 1978
- **Love to Lois** – devised by Genny Hall in 2003 (3-couple 32-bar strathspey in a 3C longwise set), published in Waikato-BOP Region’s *Land of Milk and Honey* Book 1

The starting point for evaluation was to consider the wording of the RSCDS invitation for submissions and their FAQ answers, and the meaning we attributed to the phrasing used. From there, the subcommittee discussed and settled upon six criteria we felt would provide the appropriate ranking to achieve our objective. We considered that the RSCDS was asking for regionally relevant dances, that were popular locally, and were considered to be worthy of being shared globally for this special event – the 100th anniversary. Therefore, the criteria settled upon were Popularity, Local Connection (Branch, NZ or area), Point of Difference, Longstanding, Danceability, Use of RSCDS Terminology.

Each criterion was assigned a maximum score, based on how important to the RSCDS we felt that criterion was. Each dance was then scored against the criteria, separately by each subcommittee member. (Alison did not score or comment on Seton’s Ceilidh Band, as she is the deviser’s daughter.) The rankings of the dances for each tempo were then compared between members.

We needed to base our scores on the information provided with the dance, and the instructions provided. There were a number of really lovely dances submitted, which the subcommittee would have loved to put forward, but unfortunately some suffered in the scoring from being too new to be known, not particularly New Zealand-related, provided without information about its popularity in an area, or needing substantial work to reach a standard suitable for submission (an important consideration given the time constraints). A trial of four dances with similar scores was held on 10 February, using a set of invited Wellington dancers not associated with the devisers or submitters.

The Branch President submitted the recommended dances to the RSCDS, with a brief note on the origin and popularity of each dance and its relevance to the NZ Branch, to give it the best chance of being chosen.

Jeanette Watson

Convenor, Book 53 Subcommittee, NZ Branch

Calling closet musicians!

Have you ever thought that you'd like to try playing for Scottish Country Dancing? Or perhaps you have a musical partner or friend who would like to be part of the scene, but doesn't dance? Here's a chance to dip a toe in the water!

For the last four years, many of NZ's SCD musicians have met at Labour Weekend for musical sharing, upskilling and social time. We bring our problems and our triumphs, and share the knowledge around. And we have a great time, playing for a Tea Dance. So far, so good.

But one can never have enough musicians! So this year, at our Labour Weekend Musicians Gathering, I aim to run **a session for musicians new to SCD**. We'll play some jigs, reels and strathspeys in different styles, and experiment with putting a set of music together. Exploring band musicianship will be an important element. We'll answer your burning questions and aim to have a lot of fun.

Which instruments? Accordion, fiddle and piano (solo or vamping) are common. Flute, recorder, clarinet (preferably in C), guitar and cello are also used. Double bass and bass guitar are very welcome. But not bagpipes (sorry).

The session will run on Sunday morning 23 October, 9.30 – 12.30. Then in the afternoon you are welcome to stay for the Tea Dance, to dance or listen to the different bands and the massed band. The venue is Matangi Hall, between Cambridge and Hamilton. Fee: \$20.

I'm looking forward to meeting you! To register your interest, or fire any questions, just email me: music@dancescottish.org.nz.

*Lynne Scott
Music Adviser, RSCDS NZ Branch*

Summer School 2022-23

We are delighted to introduce the RSCDS Auckland Summer School for 2022-2023.

Join us for a summer of dancing, take part in ancient Scottish New Year Hogmanay traditions, dress up in traditional finery or quirky costumes, explore the City of Sails, and develop your technique with some of New Zealand's top teachers. We offer six morning classes tailored to your level, afternoon amusements, and evening balls and special events galore. Plus, live in comfort at the heart of Summer School with the exquisite facilities of The Parnell Hotel & Conference Centre.

If morning classes are not for you, take up our Excursions and Events programme (offered for the first time this year) to discover the City of Sails, then dance the nights away.

Summer School starts with an evening dance on 28 December, and finishes after breakfast on 5 January.

New dancers and first-timers welcome!

Register now!

<http://registration.nzsummerschool2022.com>

Check out our website:

<http://nzsummerschool2022.com>

Follow our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NZBranchSummerSchool>

We can't wait to see you there!



News from around the Regions

Waipu – Beginners' Class

On 26 March 2022, the Waipu SCD Club was fortunate to be able to proceed with the planned Beginners and Elementary level dancing session. It was a very enjoyable day, with gentle and patient tuition by Diane Reyburn of Auckland.

There were four different clubs represented, including four people from the newest Silver Oaks Club in Warkworth, and 20 dancers plus a couple of floaters from the Waipu Club to fill in. Diane concentrated on basic steps and set formations, and also guided us to be mindful of correct phrasing with the music, and of eye contact with dancing partners.

Waipu Club members provided splendid plentiful morning and afternoon teas, assisted by some 'guardian angels' in the kitchen to ensure all was ready when needed.

It gives us confidence that some sense of normality is returning after a couple of hard years and we are grateful for the enthusiastic support of the other three clubs.

Keith Bishop

Kaiwaka SCD Club

Burns lunch

In January this year Kaiwaka decided to do a Burns lunch, between lockdowns! The club prepared the food which was simple but tasty, with ham and haggis and salads and potatoes. The weather in Northland at midday does not lend itself to “neeps and chappit tatties!” We had a local piper from Mangawhai, Lindsay McCaw, who piped outside and then led us in a Grand March. The theme was ‘the songs and tunes of Rabbie Burns’, music was provided by Sharlene Penman on keyboard and Ruth Budden on fiddle who both travelled some distance to share this fun day with us. We danced, ate and were merry, and a good time was had by the 45 attending.

Pop-up social

Kaiwaka and Ranfurly held their first pop-up social of the year at Matakana Hall on Thursday 31 March. It was a simple formula – \$5 and bring a small plate of refreshments and a smile. To make it more relaxed and give folk time to catch their breath between dances after a long break from dancing, we had the theme of Alice in Wonderland. I kept the dances mainly simple with a smattering of more challenging dances for those who wished to tackle them.



The Cheshire Cat - aka Sally Haigh

We were delighted at the turn out. We had 35 dancers from Waipu down to North Shore. There was a set from North Shore, and one from Hibiscus Coast. We had a set of brand new dancers from Silver Oaks, Kaiwaka and Hibiscus Coast, as well as keen dancers from Kaiwaka and Ranfurly. It was great to see the enthusiasm from

our new dancers and all were asking when the next one was scheduled.

Dancing after release from lockdown

This was particularly challenging for Kaiwaka Club, as our dancers fell into three categories. We had a few unvaccinated folk who were unable to join us, the rest of the group was cut in half by the Northland-Auckland border. We were grateful to Fiona Bullivant for coming down to Ruakaka weekly and teaching our Northland group. The southern section, in Auckland, proved to be a bit trickier, as we could only dance outside and without hands. The important thing was that we were able to be together. We danced on a side deck of Bayside Café in Snells Beach, overlooking the bay and being thoroughly spoiled by the staff of the café.



Dancing outside at Snells Beach

Dancing at a distance is evidently easy if you use your arms as spacers. There was much laughter and fun, and most important of all, spending time with each other. After we finished dancing we ordered our food and ate it outside under our newly acquired gazebo so we had some shade.

Elaine Goldthorpe, teacher of Kaiwaka SCD Club

Motueka

Dancing began last month and the club has regularly had two sets on the floor with some new dancers coming along. During club nights we are practising hard for the club’s ‘item’ at our ceilidh in June. We plan on donning elephant masks and dancing *The Elephant Stampede*, but need to check that we can see and breathe in the masks first. Where and when is the ceilidh? Lower Moutere Hall, 7 pm on 11 June 2021.

Beth Loe

Scottish Society, Christchurch

Because of the ongoing development of Omicron in the community and knowing that dancers were getting

uncomfortable dancing even at club level, the decision was made to cancel their Annual Dance on 3 April.

This will now be held on Sunday 9 October at 1.30pm at the Scottish Society Hall. We wish everyone good health, and hope we can at least dance over the rest of the year without too many stoppages.

Shirley Dabinett

Other Interesting Stuff

Jean Whyte's story – Follow-up

Readers of the October issue of Kiwi News may remember a request for information from Jean Whyte about a dancing event that took place in Wallaceville in the 1950s. Her 101-year-old friend Janet recalled the event but not the details, but she did remember that someone called Hugh had attended, as she had escorted him around the Christchurch area during his visit. Jean's request asked if anyone could shed light on the date, place and participants of this event, and who that Hugh might have been.

I was delighted to receive several responses within a week of Kiwi News being published.

The first came from Michael Laidlaw. He mentioned that there was information about this dance in one of the early NZ Dancer magazines. And the 'Hugh' referred to would have been Hugh Thurston, who was prominent in dancing circles in Canada. Michael also mentioned that *The Earl of Errol* had been danced in NZ, and that in fact, he had taught it at weekends and summer schools in 'the dim past'.

Interestingly, he also recalled that his mother, Margaret Laidlaw, was close friends with a Janet McDonald, who danced in Auckland in the latter half of the 1900s, and was a dental nurse trainer. He wondered if this was the same person. Jean checked with Janet, and indeed, this was the same person that Michael remembered.

The next email I received was from Eric Churton, who is a past president of the RSCDS NZ. He wrote "As I read the article, a thousand memories came flooding back about that time as a teenager. Dr Cunningham and his wife taught the club at Wallaceville. He worked at the government research facility. His wife was the first editor of the NZ Scottish Country Dancer magazine." He went on to reminisce about the formation and early days of the NZ Branch of the RSCDS with Jock Seton as chair of the committee.

Lynne Hudson's email mentioned that the *Spinning Wheel Song* was a ballad composed by John F Waller in

the 1800s. The event that Janet remembered was in 1960, when Dr Hugh Thurston from Vancouver visited. An article written by him appeared in the 1960 magazine. It is also printed in the Branch history book *Sociable, Carefree, Delightful – a History of Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand*, compiled by the three Margarets – Laidlaw, Hutchison (Peg) and Crawford. P 70.

Gregor Macaulay offered a link to the lyrics about a spinning wheel <https://www.liveabout.com/the-spinning-wheel-3552951>.

Margaret Bailey wrote that in honour of Dr Thurston's visit, a dance was written called *Hugh's Welcome*. It's in the Morison's Bush Collection book. "It gives the date as June 1959. A couple of months before I started dancing in Wanganui. I also have a copy of the instructions in my folder of cyclostyled dance instructions from the Wanganui Girls' College Class. It says that the deviser was Kitty Brewster, different from that given in the book. It says it was danced at the Eighth Ceilidh of the Wallaceville Club, so that Club would have started about 1951". Margaret also provided a link to information about Hugh Thurston https://www.sfdh.us/encyclopedia/thurston_h.html.

And Vicky Heslop sent a link to an article published by Vancouver RSCDS which details the life and interests of Hugh Thurston, including his friendship with Hugh Foss, dating from when both worked as cryptographers at Bletchley Park during World War II. <https://rscdsvancouver.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/Hugh-Thurston.pdf>

Of course, I forwarded all the emails to Jean as they came in, and she and Janet were delighted with these responses. Jean said "I'm loving the way this story is unfolding. Good news at every step of the way – so to speak! Thanks everyone for all your help".

Désirée Patterson, Editor

"Creative in Lockdown"

How this fourth book of dances by Gaye Collin came together.

To start at the beginning. The last two years have been hard for New Zealanders who are used to so much freedom, but not as hard as the lockdown for most other places in the world.

During the first amazing, autumn-weather lockdown (March/April 2020), with the morning sun shining into the room I sit and devise in, my thoughts went to the 'ideas sheet' in front of me and two things jumped out straight away. My new formation *Flirt and Cast* (which

Damon had been asking me to use again), and the formation *Weasel Reel*.

So, first things first, I emailed the creator of this unique *Weasel Reel*, Barry Skelton, to ask his permission to use this NZ-devised formation in some dances. During the following couple of days two emails arrived. One from Barry saying

"Yes, you can use it. I devised it 1st July 1990 (see photo from Kiwi Book). Another dance, The White Rabbit, contains the same movement. Cheers, Barry";

and one from a deviser/teacher/examiner, Jim Stott, who lives in Ellon, outside Aberdeen. It was a lengthy email, but Jim's request was

"One of your dances, 'The Flowering Heather', has a lovely eight-bar phrase in the second eight bars. Would it be acceptable to you for me to include these eight bars in a Strathspey for my dance book?"

I emailed Jim back straight away to give him my blessing for using the formation, which had just recently been named (by Désirée) as *Flirt and Cast*. How very excited I felt to have one of my formations picked up and used in a dance in Aberdeen. It spurred me on to put the finishing touches to my two new dances – *Flirt in Isolation* and *The Isolated Weasel*.

Later, when we were out of lockdown but not allowed to travel to Australia, Damon and I decided to take our electric bikes and explore New Plymouth for a week. Leaving this very pretty place at the end of a great week we stopped at a set of traffic lights, and my eyes were drawn to a sign that read: *"Drop Your Pants Here"*. Another dance appeared on paper.



Then came March 2021 and Jacinda opened the borders and let us travel again. As Damon and I were both teaching at the Queen's Birthday Weekend School in Otorohanga, we decided to drive up to the school, then travel on to Auckland and at last fly to Coff's Harbour to see the family that we hadn't visited for 18 months.

Well, the rest is history. While we were in sunny Sawtell, minding our own business and having quality family time, the borders were closed again, and we were STUCK. Delta had arrived big time in Sydney and all New Zealanders in New South Wales were denied flights

home. So, we stayed put and kept in contact with friends and relations via emails and Skype. Glenna James from Te Awamutu was a regular correspondent, and suggested I should be devising, and could she have a dance with a *Bourrel* and an *Espagnole* in it please? What could I say? I had the time!

During the very relaxed lockdown in Coff's, we were allowed to visit the beaches and as the temperatures were between 18 and 25 degrees most days, the lookout at Sawtell was a wonderful place to visit. Fish and chips looking out to sea and walks on the beach and hill tops were wonderful ways to spend our time with the grandkids, not to mention watching the bird life; and when the grandkids were at school and day-care, we spent many more happy hours there too.

My dance for Glenna is based around wave movements, and we chatted about names for the dance and music via emails. So, *Stranded in Sawtell*, (Glenna's dance in the book) and *The Seagulls @ Sawtell* were dances that were hatched during this other lockdown, but in very different circumstances.

When putting a book together, I believe you need variety and a range of levels, and the dances need to be trialled. At this point, I have to say a huge thank you to teachers around NZ and Oz who were happy to try out my dances and get back to me with excellent feedback. Gail in Auckland, Debbie in Whanganui, Isobel in Napier, Graeme in Christchurch, and Anne in Oz have been so very supportive with their comments and willingness to try out my dances. Also, the organisers of Wellington's Tuesday afternoon Advanced Group, gave me the OK to teach some of my dances, mixed in with many other dances, during these classes.

Below are samples of two dances from the book. One was devised in lockdown, the other well beforehand with the formation *Flirt and Cast* in it. If you like them, maybe you will like my book of 12 dances, called simply *"Creative in Lockdown"*.

Seagulls @ Sawtel | <https://youtu.be/jBrBe8qvO8c>

Peter Price's Strathspey | <https://youtu.be/eaTG8435MiU>

P.S. – Jim Stott's book is called *The Argentine Collection*. It has 14 dances in it. It also has a CD recorded by Susan and Shona MacFadyen accompanied by Ewan Galloway. Due out soon.

Gaye Collin

Looking for, in good order

As many clubs are now using laptops, I am hoping to source a pre-loved, but fully functional, **CD Coomber**.

Please contact me, Gaye Collin on collin57@gmail.com

Upcoming events



Auckland Region

Dates for May – July 2022

Visiting Auckland?

Like to know dates for region social events?

- Saturday May 7: Knox Club Ball
- Saturday May 28: North Shore Combined Ball
- Saturday June 18: Waitemata Club Ball
- Saturday July 2: Auckland Region Ball
- Saturday July 23 at 1.30pm: Bay of Islands Dance

For more details – see www.aucklandscd.org.nz or email info@aucklandscd.org.nz.

And how about visiting us on Facebook?

And visit Auckland for Summer School

Nelson Scottish Country Dance Club

Invite you to our **High Tea Dance**
an afternoon of easy dances

Sunday 22 May, 2.30 – 5.30 pm, \$5
Haven Hall, 34 Collingwood Street, Nelson

Blenheim Scottish Country Dance Club

66th Birthday Dance

Saturday, 23 April, 2022, from 5.30 pm. Cost \$10
Whitney Street School Hall, Whitney Street, Blenheim

Motueka SCD Club Ceilidh

Fundraiser to help purchase new heaters for the hall. Come and join us.

Saturday 11 June 7.00 pm

Moutere Memorial Hall

Tickets will be available to purchase on Eventfinda

Please check the club's [facebook page](#) for up-to-date information on the ceilidh, just in case the covid situation results in a cancellation or date change.

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