



Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

Volume 27 No 2

July 2022

President's Report



Hi everyone

We are now over halfway through the dancing year (time goes so quickly). In the last Kiwi News, I asked for expression of interest for Custodian of the Memorial Book. At our mid-year meeting, the management committee looked at the process for the Memorial Book. The committee discussed the current process, and all agreed the Custodian for the Memorial Book will now be part of the NZ Branch Secretary's role.

The Custodian of the NZ Branch Memorial Book has been in the trusted hands of Maureen Robson for over 40 years, and this year we see the end of an era. On behalf of the management committee and members of the branch, thank you, Maureen, for all the work you have done on our behalf.

Thank you to Braemar, Milford, and Andrew Carnegie Clubs for inviting me to their celebration ball. Braemar and Milford celebrated their 60th anniversary and Andrew Carnegie celebrated their 35th anniversary. Thank you to Leslie and Andrew Nicol for billeting me and being my uber drivers. It was really appreciated.

On 11 June, I attended the Canterbury Region Ball to present a Branch Award to David Williamson. David has given exemplary service to the New Zealand Branch over many years. He has served as President at both National and Regional (Canterbury) level. Through his meticulous planning and leadership acumen, he has helped to make the Branch run more smoothly. David has been deeply involved in organising, teaching, and fostering dancing for at least twenty years. He is a skilled teacher and is very good at bringing out the best in dancers.

I would like to thank the members in the Wellington region who billeted members of the management committee for our recent face-to-face meeting on 1 and 2 July. It was much appreciated.

Congratulations to the following members whose scholarship applications to attend the Auckland Summer School were successful.

Less than 5 years	Valerie Kinley
Over 6 years	Philip Oliver
Musician	Neda Bawden
Teaching Certificate	Emily Currall



The number of scholarship applications received were: Less than 5 years (6), Over 6 years (2), Musician (1) and Teaching Certificate (4). The unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to apply again next year.

Happy dancing.

Linda

Linda Glavin, RSCDS NZ Branch President

From the Branch

Practical IT assistance for Regions and Clubs

One of the suggestions raised by members in a recent survey was that the Branch might offer assistance to regions and clubs on technical issues, such as website development and the latest trends in the use of recorded music.

While the Branch does not plan to provide a formal service, there is no doubt that there is considerable expertise among our 700-plus members and other dancers, and perhaps we could exploit this knowledge for the benefit of the Branch at large. With this in mind, if you have particular computing skills that you are willing to share with others, we invite you to register your interest via itcoord@dancescottish.org.nz.

We are just 'testing the water' at this stage, but we would also like to hear from anyone who is *seeking* advice. This will help us to determine whether or not the initiative is worth pursuing.

Donations and bequests

The New Zealand Branch has a fund, called the Memorial Fund, which was set up for the primary purpose of bringing to New Zealand an examiner from the RSCDS headquarters, at regular intervals. It can also be used for other purposes to maintain the high standard of dancing in New Zealand. Regions, clubs and individuals donate to this fund in the memory of Mildred Clancey and other members of the Scottish Country Dancing movement in New Zealand.

The Branch has also received several substantial bequests, the most recent being from the late dancer and administrator, Bernice Kelly. Bernice was a longstanding member of the Wellington and Island Bay Clubs, and was President of the Wellington Region Committee from 2006 to 2010. She specified that the money should be used for education and training purposes.

Work being undertaken by the Education and Training Coordinator, Jeanette Watson, will form a foundation on which to base planning for activities that will use these financial resources over the coming years, for the benefit of dancers, teachers and musicians.

Branch AGM January 2023

Notices of motion for the upcoming AGM must be received by the Secretary on or before 31 August 2022.

Nominations for Management Committee 2023 are also due by 31 August. Like the RSCDS itself, the New

Zealand Branch runs effectively thanks to a huge number of volunteers who are passionate about Scottish country dancing, and are willing to give their time and skills, at club, region and branch level.

There are eight elected positions on the Management Committee. Most current position-holders have indicated their willingness for re-election, but nominations are welcome for all positions for the coming year.

The **Treasurer**, Quentin Currall, and **Communications, Publicity and Membership Coordinator**, Sue Lindsay, will be stepping down at the AGM. Job descriptions and the nomination form are on the website under the tab 'About Us'.

Gaylia Powell, Branch Secretary

Communication, Publicity and Membership

The RSCDS Membership renewal period is nearly upon us. Your club secretary will receive this at the end of July/beginning of August, so please check carefully that your address, email address and phone details are correct.

The Society is celebrating its centenary in 2023 and on 30 September 2023 will be having "24 hours around the world" with branches dancing "10 Dances through the RSCDS Decades". The list of dances features one dance for each decade, and reflects traditional and modern Scottish country dances, featuring familiar formations, with a programme that brings some old favourites to the fore for the centenary year. The selection also provides a mix for dancers of every standard – children, beginners and advanced dancers – with something for everyone. When more information is available for this event, regions, clubs, and members will be notified.

Do you have any ideas for what the NZ Branch could do during 2023 to celebrate the centenary? If so, please send me an email.

As always, if you need any brochures, A5 and A4 posters, please contact me communication@dancescottish.org.nz.

Sue Lindsay

Communications, Publicity and Membership Coordinator

Education and Training

Unit 2 Examinations held

The RSCDS Teaching Certificate is a multi-year endeavour for those who want to learn and practise teaching skills to a high level, and to challenge themselves in their dancing and teaching. There are five 'units', testing candidates' theoretical knowledge, own

dancing ability, basic teaching, teaching practice and advanced teaching. Six candidates for Unit 2 (Own Dancing) were put through their paces over the Matariki weekend (24-26 June 2022), culminating in taking their exam on a chilly Sunday morning. We wish them all luck with the results, due out soon.

Grateful thanks to Margaret Cantwell, Alison Trotter, Lesley Campbell, Diane Bradshaw and Catherine McCutcheon, who all put themselves up as the 'extras' needed to make up the set (some of them at very short notice!); to examiners Debbie Roxburgh and Doug Mills, tutor Ruth Budden and musician Sharlene Penman for supporting our candidates through the process; and to Capital City club for morning and afternoon tea supplies throughout.

Register of Teachers

For a number of years, there have been various attempts to record the qualifications, experience and activity of teachers in New Zealand. This would be of huge benefit in advising Regions and Summer Schools about teacher experience and availability, planning teacher development, communicating with those interested in SCD teaching, and understanding the 'health' and continuity of our SCD teaching fraternity. I'm going to have another go at this, with an online form to be launched soon – watch this space.

In the meantime, if you want to register your interest, email education@dancescottish.org.nz. Anyone who is (or even has been) teaching or assisting teaching at club or any other level is 'eligible' for the Register.

Teacher Forum at Summer School

The Summer School programme for 2022-23 includes a time for teachers to get together – book out the afternoon of 31 December 2022. Again, anyone who is (or even has been) teaching or assisting teaching at club or any other level is welcome to come. You don't have to be attending Summer School to attend the forum. If you're in Auckland, feel free to come. Even if you're not intending to attend Summer School, I'm very happy to receive suggestions for topics for discussion and questions that you want answered or aired. I'll be reporting back on the topics discussed, suggestions raised, and ideas to be actioned.

Jeanette Watson, Education and Training Coordinator

RSCDS NZ Branch Shop

New Arrivals

“Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II” – a commemorative book produced by RSCDS for the jubilee, which includes

instructions for five dances (*The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Balmoral Strathspey, Holyrood House, The Royal Yacht Britannia, and The Eightsome Reel*). There is a 13-track CD which includes music for the above dances and a few more by various artists.

“Newcastle Upon Tyne & District 70th Anniversary” dances devised by Sheila Trafford. There is also a CD with tracks by Marian Anderson's and Iain MacPhail's dance bands.

Other recently released books:

“Compilation of Books 39-44” is available to complete your set of A5-size RSCDS books.

“Sir Walter Scott, Heart of Midlothian” book and CD 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.

Also available:

“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.

Book and CD catalogues are available on the Branch website, or if you can't see what you need, contact me.

For all enquiries please contact Sue Pearson:

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

RSCDS Auckland Summer School 2022-2023

Come and join us for the biggest New Zealand Branch summer event of the year!

Summer School starts with an evening dance on **28 December**, and finishes after breakfast on **5 January**. Have a look at the evening programmes and crib notes in advance – now available on our website.

Our dress-up night on 29 December has the theme "**Fantasy**", so start planning your costumes now! The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland, Hansel and Gretel, Game of Thrones, Snow White, Beauty and the Beast, Pirates of the Caribbean, King Arthur, The Wizard of Oz, Shrek – anything goes. You might even scoop up a prize for the best solo, duo or group costume!

New dancers and first-timers are especially welcome – please share with your club members, or get some friends together and register for Summer School as a group!

Alternatively, 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.

Cannot make it to all of Summer School? We will have "half school" options available.

Email ss2022@dancescottish.org.nz or keep an eye on our website for further details.

Register now and pay your deposit by **31 August** to get the \$100 Early-Bird Discount!

<http://registration.nzsummerschool2022.com>

Check out our website:

<http://nzsummerschool2022.com>

Follow our Facebook page:

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

Join our mailing list:

<http://nzsummerschool2022.com/newsletters>

We can't wait to see you there!

From the Music Adviser

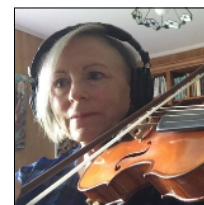
Who are NZ's SCD Bands?

How many SCD bands do we have in New Zealand? Perhaps you can name three or four?

Think again – there are *sixteen*

listed on the Branch website. Hint: look under the Music tab. (You might like to explore some of the other content, too.)

However, check out the names of the musicians. You'll see that a lot of us play in more than one band. Each group has its own identifiable sound: one fiddle or two? or three? drums? a different pianist can change the sound considerably; how about a double bass? and the



Experience the best way to welcome in the New Year with ancient Hogmanay traditions: black bun, pipers and more.



Promenade your way through a week of evening revelries, including the revered President's Ball.



Improve your technique and learn from New Zealand's best during our six tailored morning classes

And do all this in comfort at the heart of Summer School by living in at The Parnell Hotel & Conference Centre, just a hop, skip and a pas-de-basque from Auckland's top sights.



unique sound of the accordion adds a completely different quality to the band as a whole.

In these trying times, it's good to know that NZ's SCD musicians are a co-operative bunch. If there's a gap to be filled, usually someone can be found to willingly help out. Often it's almost seamless, as we've played together previously in other groupings and can adapt and mesh with each other.

But there's a **But**: nobody lives forever. New blood is needed – to learn the ropes from the old hands and gain live experience in a mentored environment, so that the traditions can continue. Perhaps you would like to explore the art of playing for SCD for yourself? Or perhaps you have a non-dancing family member or friend who you'd like to include in your dancing activity?

So – where to begin? Contacting me, or any of the band leaders on the website, is a good start. We're a friendly bunch! I'm running monthly mentoring sessions in Wellington, resulting in playing for a few dances on a club night (thank you, Capital City Club!). At Labour Weekend, the annual Musicians' Weekend at Matangi (near Hamilton) will include a special try-it-and-see session on Sunday morning. And next year, I am hoping to extend my training activities into the South Island. Watch this space!

A major opportunity for potential and active SCD musicians is available at Summer School: the Musicians' Class (run in the afternoons) provides practical experience in playing in a band, technical help with your instrument, and an introduction to the people and fun of our world. The cost is included in your School fee, so you can dance in the mornings and play in the afternoons. Great value!

I'm looking forward to seeing you in a band sometime, somewhere.

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

News from around the Regions

Dancing again!

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region Queen's Birthday Weekend School, held in Whakatane on 4 and 5 June, coincided with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Whakatane Club hosted a most successful and happy two days of dancing and socialising and 'after Ball' parties for this event.

Superbly organised by Wayne and Shelley McConnel, 50 dancers attended classes in the local school's two gyms, receiving lessons from six of the region's tutors, enhanced with live music by musicians from our resident band, *Wild Heather*. The focus for each class was to perfect one formation, which was then incorporated into a dance.

Essential nourishment between classes and at the Ball was ably catered for by our Whakatane host club. NZ balls are renowned for their sumptuous suppers, carried in on groaning trestle tables, which this time, very appropriately, included regal scones with cream and jam – though no marmalade sandwiches!

Taking advantage of the 'once in a lifetime' 70th Royal Anniversary, we upgraded our Ball to Platinum status, with tiaras, pearls and an occasional wobbly crown adding to the enjoyment and sense of occasion.



Heather Johnston and Grace Sa enjoy the ball in style

Comfortable accommodation in cabins at the local holiday park, facilitated late night parties – catch-up opportunities spiced with jokes, singing of loved Scottish songs (we're so far away!) and bothy ballads.

Our final event was a lively ceilidh at the local RSA club, which fed all 50, then gave us use of the dance floor for 'Come ye All' ceilidh dances that young and old could enjoy with hilarity – once again with the live music of *Wild Heather*, augmented with local musicians. Dances were interspersed with poems and songs like *Westering Home* and *For These are My Mountains* (tears in the eyes).

Monday morning, and we drifted back to our homes, some three hours away, brimming with Scottish tunes in our heads and happy memories of the pleasure of Scottish Country Dancing gatherings.

It had been all the more special for being the first big event since Covid hit our shores to lock us up.

Chris Ingram

Blenheim Club's 66th Birthday Social

"You missed a good evening". After receiving similar emails from friends, I felt annoyed at Covid that had kept me (Miriam) away from Blenheim's 66th Birthday Dance on 23 April. We welcomed visitors from Christchurch, Nelson, Richmond, Motueka, Picton, also Sue Lindsay from the Management Committee, which made three sets of eight with a chance to rest for a few.

It was a varied programme and every dance went really well, MC'd capably by Linda Glavin. The local tradition of passing by the right in *Mairi's Wedding* gave rise to merriment. There was a plentiful supper, with thanks to Ange in the kitchen.



The cake, made by Heather, was cut by two Life Members of the Blenheim Club, Jan Graham and Pamela Hayter. During the evening a raffle was held with three draws. Dancers were leaving by 10pm.

Thanks to all for a lovely evening and we look forward to welcoming you again at our 67th Birthday Dance in April 2023.

Miriam and Heather

SCD at Otago University

Close your eyes and imagine... a beginners' class, everyone is fit, able, young(ish), keen, with good hearing. Some music is played (eight bars), a step is shown, everyone tries – pretty good – a teaching point is made, all try again. They have clearly heard and understood the teaching point, the dancing is better. Another teaching point. Further improvement, now a formation. Wow, they got it. One more point, repeat and it is looking very nice indeed, add another formation... Need to keep a close eye on the time as we are very much working to the clock.

This may sound like the strange (and possibly mythical) parallel universe known as Teacher Training Unit 3, but in fact it is the Otago Region Beginners' Class at Otago University Students' Association (OUSA). The Otago Region decided to use the Branch \$1,000 "*Put some Zing in to Dancing*" grant to try to connect again with Otago University, which, in the past, has been a source of SCD in Otago.

The Region had decided to be flexible in offering to meet the costs of classes, schools and club nights for students, depending on what interest there was. A

meeting arranged with the Dean of Performing Arts (SCD once came from Phys Ed, but dance is now firmly an art) led to an opportunity to talk to dance students, and also the suggestion to talk to OUSA about offering a course.

FDR (President Roosevelt) once said that "we have nothing to fear but fear itself". Very true – earlier discussions in the Region about presenting SCD at Orientation week had hit the wall of "only OUSA affiliated groups can take part" – oh no, that is obviously impossible. When contacted, OUSA were delighted to be able to offer SCD classes. Quite a lot of forms to fill in, but we were welcomed service providers, not irritating outsiders. What is more, those who register expect to pay, for the whole course, in advance; and the teachers get paid! Yes! I am now a professional dance teacher! (even get KiwiSaver) – time to update my CV.

So to recap, we have been able to offer beginners' courses (five weeks each, two streams each semester) at no cost to the Region. The Branch funding is used to allow anyone from the OUSA course to continue dancing at Club by covering club night fees, and if interested, at a day class or perhaps a contribution to a school. So far we have run two streams and had eight dancers attending each.



The photo was taken by Xiaowen using the OUSA dance studio mirrors – hence the line down the middle!

The conversion rate to club nights has been two per stream. The impact on club nights of two young dancers on any night has been amazing. It doesn't matter that exams, holidays, other commitments and then leaving Dunedin will take them away. They leave with the joy of SCD, we benefit from their energy and enthusiasm and next semester there will be another group ...

Thank you to the Branch for providing the financial basis to allow us to do this with confidence – we didn't know how cheap it would be when we started!

Quentin Currall and Xiaowen Yu


Other Interesting Stuff

SCD records

I have come into a collection of Scottish Country Dance records. There is a total of 68 records, mostly LPs. Some are RSCDS recordings, while others are from well-known artists. If anyone is interested, a list can be had from nzscot1972@gmail.com

David Williamson, Christchurch

A new resource



Ruary Laidlaw has created the following website:-
www.realtimedancing.com

... for those interested in:-

1. Teaching **Elementary** and **Mainstream** (Intermediate) Dancers.
2. Finding copies of Ruary's **books & CDs**.
3. Downloading copies of Ruary's **dances**
4. **Bruce Fordyce's** "Memorial Collection" of 17 of his dances.
5. A spreadsheet of **240 popular dances** for composers of Saturday evening programmes.

Southern Fling 2022 in Sydney

The Southern Fling weekend for dancers aged 18-40 years is on in Sydney on 7-9 October. Get ready for awesome dancing, fabulous music, stimulating teaching and ... lots of socialising!

On Friday there will be a welcome social for Fling participants and on Saturday evening an open social.

Two graded classes with teaching by Rachel Goerke from Melbourne and Rebekah Johnson from Sydney will be held on Saturday. An afternoon dance challenge team activity will test your mettle! The weekend concludes with a combined class on Sunday morning.

A highlight of the weekend is the musicians! The fabulous music of *The Black Bear* duo of Iain McKenzie and Emma Nixon will get your toes tapping and help you fly around the dance floor.

Accommodation and breakfast will be at the Nightcap at The Ranch Hotel, in North Ryde. Other meals at your own cost. Shops, restaurant, food outlets, and yes, a bottle shop, are nearby.

The cost is \$80 for residents and \$40 for commuters. Sponsorship has been provided by the June & Morton Jay Bequest and the RSCDS Youth Services Committee, Spring Fling 2022 Branch grant.

For more information and registration:

<https://www.rscds.org.au/southern-fling.html#/>

Sign up now for the best value social dance event of the year!

Upcoming events



Nelson Scottish Country Dance Club

Invite you to join us for our 69th Birthday Dance

Saturday 6th August 2022, Haven Hall, 34 Collingwood Street, Nelson, 5pm

Cost \$10 Adult, \$5 Child/Non-dancer



Auckland Region

Dates for Aug – Oct 2022

Visiting Auckland?

Like to know dates for region social events?

Saturday 20 Aug: St Heliers 60th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 30 Aug: Intermediate Technique Class

Saturday 3 Sep: Waipu Dance

Saturday 10 Sep: Hugh Foss Themed Class

Saturday 17 Sep: Region Spring Dance and Class to welcome new dancers

Saturday 14 Sep: Innes Club Dance

Saturday 1 Oct: Whangarei Club Dance


Sunday 16 Oct: Howick Club Dance

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

And how about visiting us on Facebook?

Ashhurst SCD Club 2022
'Celebrating 50 Years of Dancing at Ashhurst'
 Sunday 14 August 2022, 1.30pm-4
 Live music by 'Airs and Graces'
 Grand March with piper, Nicole Trewavas
 Whakarongo Community Hall, cnr Stoney Creek Rd & Napier Hwy, Palmerston North
 RSCDS members \$15.00, non-members \$18.00, others \$5
 Raffles available

Ashhurst club warmly welcomes all dancers to attend and help celebrate the club's 50th anniversary!



Picton Scottish Country Dance Club Celebrates 60 Years

We look forward to you joining us for this special occasion

Date: 20 August 2022
 Time: 5:00pm
 Venue: Picton School, York Street

Music supplied by the Aileen Logie Band
 There will be wine and nibbles on arrival with a catered meal during the evening
 Ticket price \$40 available from Lynda
 Email: dougandynda@gmail.com. RSVP by 15 August



Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club Annual Dance 2022

We extend a warm welcome to all dancers

To join us on **Saturday 3 September**
 Knox Church Hall, High St, Lower Hutt

Music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral, Jadson Morris and Terry Bradshaw

Contact Elizabeth Ferguson
 lowerhutt@dancescottish.org.nz



Tawa SCD Club Annual Dance 2022

We invite you to join us

Saturday 17 September, 7:30 pm

Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Road, Ngaio

Music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris

Celtic, Heathergem Bangles



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