



Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

Editor: Désirée Patterson editor@dancescottish.org.nz

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President's Report



Dear Members,

The year is going quite fast and there is still lots of work to do.

We have been working through what systems and timetable the Branch needs to put in place for the 'One person, one vote' system. This is underway, with voting trials almost ready to go, and fingers crossed we have very few, if any, glitches.

Congratulations to Iain Boyd and Alison Trotter's family on the success of *The Meeting of the Waters* and *Seton's Ceilidh Band* being included in the Centennial Book 53. Thank you to all the dancers who participated in the videoing of both dances for the Society.

Thank you to Andrew Uren and his helpers, who did a fantastic job on 'Pick-up 52'. It has been great to watch all the dances from both old and new books. Thank you all for participating in this great idea. Who knows what Andrew will think of next to challenge us all.

I attended the North Shore Combined Ball in May; the programme was great, and the numbers attending were good, although a little bit lower than usual. My time in Auckland also included working with Lesley Nicol on updating the New Zealand Branch Scholarship forms and on new guidelines for grants. These will make it clearer and easier for all Regions to know when they can apply for assistance from the Branch.

The Management Committee had their mid-year meeting in Palmerston North this year. It was at the Sunday meeting that the draw for the New Zealand Branch scholarships took place. This year, we received 15 applications – 11 for less than five years' dancing, three for over six years' dancing, and one for the Teacher Preparation class. It was disappointing to receive no applications from our musicians.

The successful scholarship recipients are:

- Mary Clark – Five years or less dancing experience
- Olive Duff – Six or more years dancing experience
- Caroline Williams – Teacher Preparation class

To the applicants who have not been successful this year, this will be disappointing. But I hope that you will all consider applying again next year to attend the Wellington Summer School 2024-2025.

Linda Glavin, RSCDS NZ Branch President

From the Branch

From the NZ Branch Secretary

Delegates to RSCDS AGM 2023 – further update

At its recent meeting, the Management Committee reviewed distribution of New Zealand's entitlement of delegates to the RSCDS AGM in November 2023. The

review occurred in response to feedback from a representative region.

In 2023, New Zealand is once again entitled to fourteen delegates. The recommendation provided by the Society on how to appoint delegates to its AGM is, in the first instance, to seek among the Branch Committee and then among Branch members. As a result of the review, two delegates will come from the NZ Branch Management Committee, with the remaining twelve distributed among the regions in a manner essentially based on the number of RSCDS members in each region,

as has been customary. Regions may also choose to follow the Society’s recommendation when selecting delegates if they wish.

At the time of writing, papers relating to delegate selection have just arrived from the Society. Region secretaries can expect soon to be asked to start the process of delegate selection. NZ Branch secretary would like all required information about region delegates to be returned by 31 August 2023.

One person, one vote – progress report

Earlier this year, the NZ Branch Management Committee set up a subcommittee to work on the implementation of the ‘one person, one vote’ voting system, as passed at the January 2023 AGM. The subcommittee has identified two platforms which are likely to be suitable for NZ Branch requirements. One of these has received preliminary testing by the subcommittee and will shortly go out to trial with RSCDS members selected from across the country. The subcommittee anticipated that the two platforms would be trialled simultaneously, but it is not to be. The trials will have to be staggered. If you happen to be one of those asked to take part in a trial, the subcommittee heartily thanks you for your assistance!

What has become clear during the process of examining implications of the ‘one person, one vote’ system is that RSCDS membership renewals (and additions!) **must be completed by 30 September**. This will likely translate into paying your membership fee to your club secretary by 31 August.

Note: If you are not a fully paid RSCDS member by 30 September, you will not be able to exercise your vote.

Upcoming

The business end of the year is fast approaching! As well as selecting delegates for the Society AGM in November, it is time to prepare Notices of Motion for the NZ Branch AGM in January 2024, as well as nominate members for the Management Committee. All Management Committee members hold their position for one year only, and may be in that position for no more than three consecutive years (or four in exceptional circumstances). There will be vacant positions for 2024, e.g. IT Coordinator, Youth Coordinator.

The date for returning Notices of Motion and Management Committee nominations is 31 August 2023 (it’s a popular date!).

Joy Dick, NZ Branch Secretary

From the Branch Treasurer

The Management Committee of the NZ Branch met in July 2023 and set the following fees:

RSCDS Fees for 2023/2024

Fee Type	NZ Branch Fee	RSCDS Fee	Total Annual Fee
Adult Single (25+)	55.00	53.00	108.00
Adult Single Email (25+)	39.00	53.00	92.00
Adult Joint (both 25+) per person	43.00	43.00	86.00
Adult Joint Email (both 25+) per person	35.00	43.00	78.00
RSCDS Life Member	55.00		55.00
RSCDS Life Member Email	39.00		39.00
Young Adult (18-24)	34.00	43.00	77.00
Young Adult Email (18-24)	18.00	43.00	61.00
Half Year Adult (new members only)	27.00	27.00	54.00

At the AGM in November 2022, the Society increased all fees by GBP 1.00 – we therefore have to pass this increase on to our Branch Members. The exchange rates at present are trending at \$2.04 and higher to the GBP.

This will be a close conversion, and the movement in the exchange rate between July 2023 and when the funds are remitted to the Society (in late September or early October 2023) will be managed through the Subscriptions bank account.

Lesley Nicol, NZ Branch Treasurer

Communications, Publicity and Membership

It’s been a busy year so far and Centenary celebrations seem to be a key theme ... and rightly so. It’s been lovely to be able to share invitations to various events on the NZ Branch Facebook page. And even better to share photos from the event afterwards. Please remember – this Facebook page is part of our Aotearoa New Zealand SCD community and it’s there to make it easier for us all to keep in touch with what’s going on around the country. Feel free to email me details of your upcoming events or milestones and I’ll do my best to upload it all to the Facebook page. Please provide pictures, photos, posters, etc in a JPEG format ... that makes it so much easier to upload.

Email me at: communication@dancescottish.org.nz

I'm starting to work on updating our New Member 'Welcome Pack' to reflect our modern NZ SCD identity. Plans are also underway to update the poster and flyers available to advertise SCD in the community and make these available to download and print out as needed from the website. Stay tuned ...

We've been made aware that some emails sent via the website haven't made it to the intended recipient – if you don't receive a reply of some sort within seven days (even if it's an 'out of office') please send an email directly to our lovely secretary, Joy, and let her know. (secretary@dancescottish.org.nz). She'll make sure your enquiry/notification is forwarded to the correct person. And she'll also let our IT Guy, Andy, know so he can find what's gone wrong with the original.

This is exciting! Regional Grants to be made available ...

At the recent Branch Management meeting it was agreed that grants will be made available to Regions to help with promotion of SCD locally. These grants will be available every year, but to ensure sustainability of these grants, successful Regions will be required to miss one funding round before applying again, i.e. if successful in 2023 (grant received 2024), that region could apply again in 2025 (grant received 2026).

In addition to sustainability from a Branch perspective, it's also hoped this will allow regions to plan and apply when most practical for their purposes.

These grants will be up to \$500 per region per application (\$1,000 for capital items) and can be used for a variety of purposes, e.g .

- hire a band for a region school or dance
- pay for an out-of-region teacher to run a workshop
- pay for hall hire for a school or workshop
- buy promotional banners for the region
- hire a bus to transport local dancers to an out-of-region event
- pay for advertising to recruit new dancers
- assist local teachers to attend out-of-region professional development
- invest in new technology, e.g. head mics, laptops, speakers, etc

Details are being finalised but are expected to be along these lines:

- applications will close annually on 31 December (for funding the following year)
- funds must be spent by 31 August (of the year funds received)
- reporting on the use of the funds must be completed by 31 December (of the year funds received – this report may be shared with the rest of the country via the NZ Scottish Country Dancer magazine)

- if for any reason the funds can't be used in the year they were allocated for or the purpose (e.g. a worldwide pandemic stops all activities) then it is expected the funds may be used for the same or similar purpose at a later date, rather than being refunded
- these grants will only be available via region committees and are expected to promote/support SCD in some way
- there will be an application form available on the NZ website once all details have been confirmed

When all the details are finalised an email will be sent out to all region committees. This is expected to be in time for the first round of applications to be this year (grants received in 2024).

So get your thinking caps on ... how would YOUR region make best use of this opportunity?

Society Membership renewals are due soon

I was intrigued to read in the latest Society magazine that NZ's membership is the 5th highest in the world behind England, Scotland, USA and Canada. I'm so thrilled that Kiwis seem to understand the importance of supporting the RSCDS. It can be easy to ask "what's in it for me?" and expect to receive physical 'things' in return for our membership fee. But our RSCDS fees ensure the necessary infrastructure can be maintained – i.e. teacher training, dance publication, musical accompaniment, global standardisation, so we can take our favourite pastime travelling with us and find 'our people' wherever we go. Even the NZ Branch portion of our fees ensures there is support for training local teachers and examiners, encouraging local musicians, publishing Kiwi News and the NZ Scottish Country Dancer magazine to help keep us all connected along the length of the long white cloud.

So let's keep 'punching above our weight' and this membership cycle, let's encourage all dancers to fully embrace being part of our RSCDS whānau.

RSCDS Membership is due ... and we need your help!

Our annual RSCDS membership fees are due soon and this year it's more important than ever that all the paperwork and payments are received back from regions **by 30 September**. This is because the 'One person, one vote' system will be enacted at our AGM on 1 January, and to ensure all the voting systems can be set up correctly, we need to confirm our current financial members by mid-October *at the latest*.

So, here's what the proposed schedule looks like – **by:**

24 July – NZ Branch sends workbooks to Regions

1 August – Region sends workbooks to Clubs

15 September – Clubs return updated workbooks and fees to Region

30 September – Region returns workbooks and fees to NZ Branch

15 October – Su gets everyone's details updated in the NZ and HQ databases, and Lesley pays NZ's fees to HQ *Whew!*

Of course we can't manage this without everyone doing their part in a super speedy manner – from individuals getting their fees back to Clubs, and Clubs getting their worksheets back to Regions, and Regions getting their worksheets back to Su.

(membership@dancescottish.org.nz)

As a wee incentive – the first three Regions to return their completed worksheets and payments will receive a \$30 voucher to use at the Branch Bookshop ... that'll pay for Book 53!

Kia pai tō rā | Have a great day

Cheers, Su 😊

Su Marshall

Communications, Publicity and Membership Coordinator

Education and Training

Book 53 – New Zealand Branch dances and videos

You may remember that in early 2022, the Branch submitted three dances for consideration for the Centenary book (#53). You also may have helped evaluate other Branches' submissions during 2022. Well, 97 branches submitted 236 dances, and 137 groups of branches and affiliated groups trialed those dances – a huge undertaking to find the 'locally famous' dances that the Society wanted to share with the rest of the world in Book 53. The Book was [launched](#) by the Society on 9 July, and we can now reveal that New Zealand has had two dances accepted into the new Book – *Seton's Ceilidh Band* and *Meeting of the Waters*. Our thanks to Alison Trotter (on her father's behalf) and Iain Boyd for their permission to submit these dances for publication.

Not only do we have the honour of having two New Zealand dances published, but we were also asked to provide the 'official' online videos for the dances (see links above). Twelve dancers were put through their paces by Iain Boyd in June, in great secrecy. Dancers were asked to come and help, but not told why or what dances they were doing until the day. My thanks to all for your willingness, hard work and patience – so many teachers in the room to critique and suggest! You'll see Alison dancing *Seton's Ceilidh Band* as first woman the first time through the dance.

Teachers Workshop – Easter 2024

If you are a teacher, examiner, CTI-qualified, briefer at club nights, interested in teaching, thinking about teaching, play for teaching – book out Easter 2024 (29 March–1 April) and plan to be in Wellington. The Branch Committee is organising a teachers' weekend workshop, so SCD teachers and others can get together to learn, share, discuss (and practise on each other). An overseas tutor will be invited to teach, most likely from the UK.

The proposed timetable includes an all-comers class on Friday night, four sessions for participants spread over Saturday, Sunday and Monday, with a dance on Saturday and a participants' dinner on Sunday. There will be a cost for participants, but subsidised by an estimated 40% by Branch support via the Bernice Kelly bequest.

Watch this space for further details as we firm up the teacher, venues, fees and timetable.

Looking for the Next Teaching Challenge?

If you are a certificated SCD teacher, and interested in the 'how to' of teaching, the Branch needs you!

As Education and Training Coordinator, I've been looking at 'succession planning' for our tutors (the teachers of teachers) and examiners in New Zealand. Our younger/newer teachers are the future for teaching SCD and for teaching the teaching of SCD in New Zealand. So how do we invest in them? I'm giving them opportunities to teach at different levels at Branch Summer Schools, and Regions will to do so too, at weekend schools and Region classes.

I encourage teachers to consider how to teach the same thing in different ways, how to assist someone else in their teaching journey, to attend other teachers' classes and think about how they taught – keep your teaching mind active, and share it with dancers who might be teachers.

The Branch Committee is also planning to run a Tutors and Mentors course at the 2025/26 Summer School. I invite teachers to think about attending – it's NOT a commitment to tutor or become an examiner! It's a 'try it on for size' session – does it fit or not? If you're interested, contact me directly or add your interest to the Teachers Register. Or just let the idea percolate for a while.... (education@dancescottish.org.nz)

Resources via RSCDS – Formations Index

The Society's website has lots of different resources for dancers and teachers, but they can be a little difficult to find. The recently published update to the [Index to Formations](#) is one of those – it's hidden at the bottom of the page on [Formations](#). You can print it out, but it's even more useful downloaded or online, as it has links

from every formation listed (and EVERY formation is listed – even if you’re looking for a dance that has clapping in it!)

The link takes you to a list of dances with that formation in it, with comments if it’s an unusual use of the formation, type of dance and the book it’s from, AND includes links to My Strathspey and Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary instruction pages, so you can check out how the formation fits into the dance.

An invaluable resource for teachers for finding other dances with the formation you want to teach, not the ones you always use.

Reminder – Teachers Register

Are you a certificated teacher, a club briefer or somewhere in-between? Please remember to register on the [Teachers Register](#), and to UPDATE your information when you’ve taught another class, or added a new qualification, or changed location. Just enter your name and Active status, then click through to the section you want to change (you DON’T have to complete everything all over again!)

If you’re not sure what you’ve already entered, email education@dancescottish.org.nz and I’ll send you your information already on the Register. And if you don’t want to use Google forms, email a request for a pdf version, which you can scan and return for entering.

If you haven’t registered yet, please do so – when the Society asks us how many people we have teaching SCD in New Zealand, we’d like to give them an accurate number, not an educated guess!

Jeanette Watson, Education and Training Coordinator

Information Technology

Those of you who submit calendar entries via the contact form on the website (and thanks for that – it is **SO** helpful), will have noticed a new option: ‘SCD Dance Database List Number’. So, what’s this all about?

There are numerous ways in which today’s Scottish country dancers can benefit from the online resources which are now available, while continuing to preserve our traditional values. One of these, of course, is the SCD Dance Database (<https://my.strathspey.org/dd/>) with its wealth of information about dances and music, which continues to be developed by Anselm Lingnau. More recently, Charles Inglis has developed the Mobile SCD Cribs app (<https://mobilescdcribs.ca/>) which links directly to the database.

One of the features of the Dance Database is the ease with which a user can publicise a dance programme, although the facility is only available to registered users

of the Strathspey Server. Simply ‘Create a New List’, give the event a name and enter the dance programme. The list is assigned a unique number which you can include in the event details on the Branch calendar. Now, thanks to Mobile SCD Cribs, a user of the app can simply enter the list number to gain instant access to the program, cribs, diagrams and videos. To see this in practice, enter list number 41431 into the app to view the forthcoming Rotorua programme.

An exciting opportunity

... to participate in the support of Scottish country dancing in New Zealand.

Andy Patterson will be logging off from the Branch Management at the end of the year and is seeking a successor as Information Technology Coordinator.

As you might expect, a reasonable level of computer literacy is required, since the role involves email, website and database management, but previous experience is not necessary as the procedures are fully documented with step-by-step instructions. Furthermore, advice and support will continue to be readily available.

Interested? Just drop a line to andy@pat.gen.nz if you would like more information about what is involved.

Andy Patterson, IT Coordinator

Youth Update

For those with a connection to a JAM group, you may have noticed that the JAM membership fee has increased for 2023, from \$5 per JAM to \$15 per JAM, or \$25 for two or more JAMs in the same family. There are a few reasons for the increase in cost:

- It has been \$5 since JAMs began back in the late 1990s. The new fee reflects the current costs, i.e. the increase in printing and postage costs for a ‘Jigs and More’ newsletter.
- Organising a JAM/Youth event for the RSCDS centenary.
- Addition of a ‘Young Dancer’ (ages 12-17years) RSCDS membership fee

We would have loved to hold an event for the JAMs/Youth in Wellington to celebrate the Centenary of the RSCDS, but unfortunately, we had expressions of interest from only six people, so we were unable to go ahead and continue to plan the event.

Membership: Many regions and clubs are struggling to attract young dancers and a lot of our JAM groups are still in recess. Some are trying different ideas such as going into a school at lunchtime, which may or may not

take off, but it's a good effort for trying to increase our JAM membership!

Year of Birth	Age	Number
2007	16	1
2008	15	2
2009	14	3
2010	13	2
2011	12	2
2012	11	3
2013	10	-
2014	9	3
2015	8	4
2016	7	1
2017	6	2
Unknown		8
Young Adult	18-24	7

Regions: Akld/Nthld = 8, Wai/Bop = 2, Rangitikei = 10, Wgtn = 10, Chch = 1

Young Adults: Akld/Nthld = 3, Wellington = 3, Otago = 1

Due to our low numbers of JAMs, the roles of the JAM committee (membership, medal test coordinator and 'Jigs and More' editor) have now been put into recess, with the Youth Coordinator taking responsibility for these roles until such time as the JAM membership increases and the positions can be re-appointed.

Nicole Trewavas, Youth Coordinator

RSCDS NZ Branch Shop

Heading our way:

- RSCDS Book 53 and 2 CDs
- Glasgow Branch 100th Anniversary book
- Tokai Branch 25th Anniversary book and CD
- Two Score + 2 for 2022 book (tunes by Muriel Johnstone)

Advance orders welcome for the above items.

Recent Additions to Stock:

- "Compilation of Books 39-44" – A5 size RSCDS books
- "Dance Through the Decades" – RSCDS CD of 10 tunes + 6 more tracks
- "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II" – book and CD
- "Sir Walter Scott, Heart of Midlothian" book and CD
- "Newcastle Upon Tyne & District 70th Anniversary" – book and CD
- "The Bovey Collection" book by Duncan Brown
- "Wellington Region 60th Anniversary" book
- "Creative in Lockdown" a 4th book by Gaye Collin.

Also available are:

- CDs for Books 50, 51 and 52
- CD Music for Scottish Dances by Mary Isdal MacNab
- CD Thirty Popular Dances Vol2 Part 1 and 2

- The Musicians' Wedding by Gaye Collin and CD by Marian Anderson.

Book and CD catalogues are available on the Branch website or if you can't see what you need please 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 Centenary Celebrations

Pick-up 52 Project



In July 2023, the *Pick-up 52 Project* has pretty much covered a dance from all 52 RSCDS Books, plus all the NZ-devised or influenced dances in these books. The YouTube channel, Pick-up 52 (<https://www.youtube.com/@Pickup52RSCDSNZ/videos>), has already scored over 20,000 views.

To understand about the project and where it came from, we have to go back one year earlier to July 2022. An email was circulated from the RSCDS NZ Branch, requesting ideas on how to celebrate the Centenary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

The idea came pretty quickly: why not invite all the clubs in NZ to record themselves dancing as a snapshot of what is happening in NZ in Scottish Country Dancing in this Centenary year? We understood that there were about 90 clubs in NZ and that the NZ branch was possibly the largest single branch in the world. What if we could celebrate the publication of all 52 books?

We were also aware that there were many dances from the 52 books which had been devised by New Zealanders. From our early days of learning SCD at Innes Club, we had been dancing *Best Set in the Hall* with its deviser, Helen Greenwood, in our set at our club. We realised this was a world favourite and thought it would be great to celebrate other NZ devisers who have been included in the 52 books too.

A talk and video at the NZ Branch AGM at Summer School in January 2023 kicked off the project. The name came from the 52 RSCDS books linking with the old childhood joke card game, *Pick-up 52*, where a prankster would ask if an unsuspecting victim "would like to play *Pick-up 52*" ... and then, if they got an affirmative response, would scatter all the cards on the ground! I imagined the 52 cards of the deck splattered all

over the ground, much like the huge array of clubs scattered around NZ.

We sent out a brief questionnaire to every club throughout NZ asking if they would like to participate in the project. We added an additional question asking if the club had some affiliation with a deviser in one of the books.

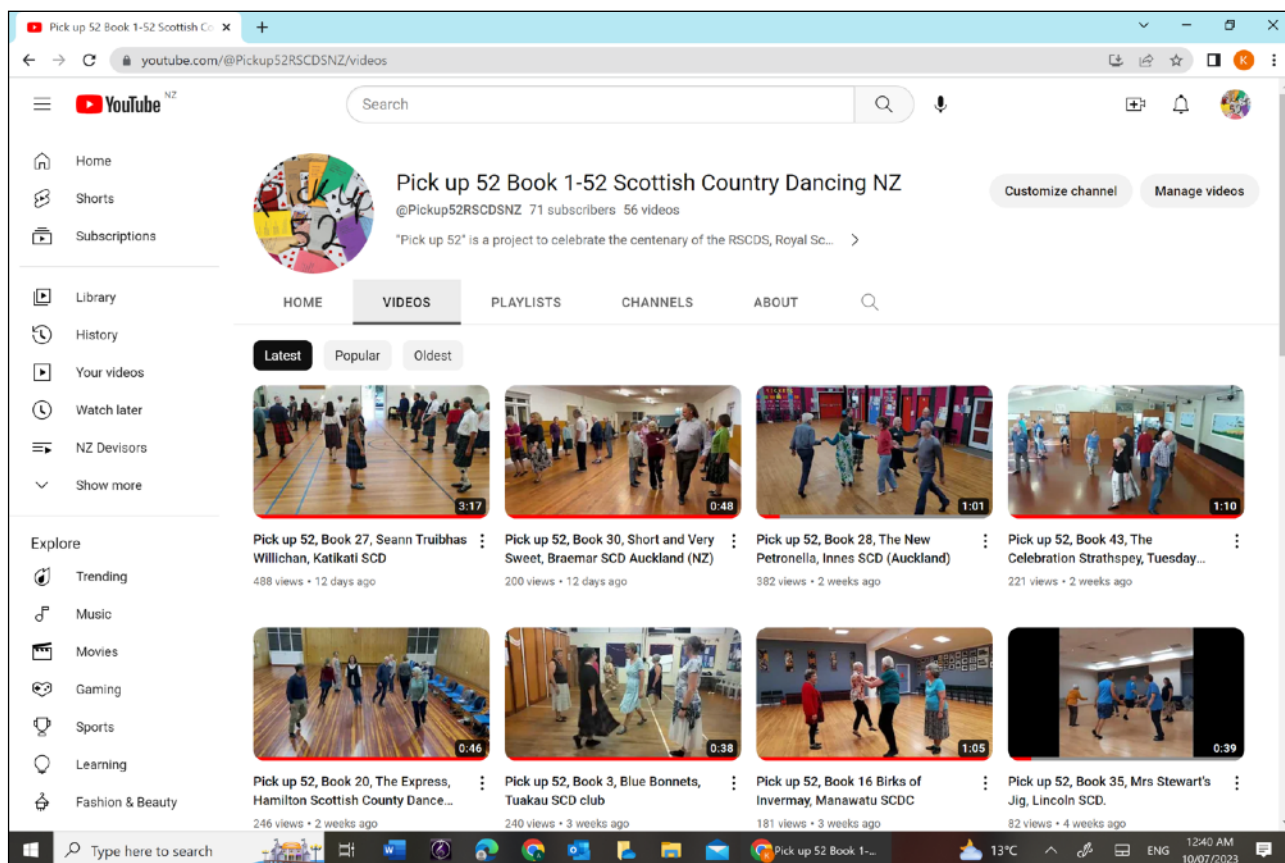
If the club had an affiliation, we assigned that book to that club. During the process, we also discovered that some dances included music composed by New Zealanders, so likewise, we also extended this to the clubs that had composed music to some dances in the books, or had some other historical connection. Sometimes this was a teacher, or a dance dedicated to the club. But otherwise, we randomly assigned each of the 52 books to each club.

We truly appreciate the enthusiastic support for this project through Debbie Roxburgh from the NZ Branch committee. In addition, Andy Patterson, our computer whizz, put all the links onto the NZ Branch website (<https://dancescottish.org.nz/centenary-pick-up-52>), and gave some fantastic guidance on how clubs should record and send their videos through so that we could upload them to YouTube with as little stress as possible. It was a real credit that every club in NZ managed to do this!

The project very quickly became a snapshot of NZ dancing. Clubs told about their struggles and their joys: some clubs ceasing over the Covid period or losing members, some dancers with a range of physical and cognitive challenges who were still able to be part of the project, and, wonderfully, a great number of new dancers. It was truly marvellous to see what these incredible teachers were doing to help get these club members onto the floor. In short, I felt the project gave the NZ SCD community a goal, especially in the aftermath of Covid-19.

One of the wonderful spin-off features of the project was its historical potential. Finding out about the NZ history of the deviser quickly led onto the historical side of each club. For example, when was the club founded? Who were the teachers? What are some of the favourite dances of the club? Where does the club exist? Kristin Downey asked about recording which clubs have the precious wooden floors which we so enjoy for dancing. It is a sad fact that many halls have been 'upgraded' to a less dancing-friendly surface or even demolished!

However, the whole goal was always about participation. It has been an amazing process to see a moment in time of Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand in 2023, and I hope that people all around the world will be able to identify with these moments. With



A screenshot of the Pick-up 52 YouTube page

100 years of celebrating SCD, it is wonderful to imagine what Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart would think if they could see how their efforts have flourished.

Andrew Uren, Project Director, and Secretary of Innes Club



Andrew Uren at the Innes SCD Club

Centenary Celebrations in Wellington

The first NZ Scottish Country Dancer magazine began with an editorial saying that no more auspicious date could have been found for the Wellington-Hawkes Bay Association than the Coronation Year 1953. This association grew to a national one, later to become the NZ Branch of the RSCDS. And here we are, in another Coronation Year, which is also the Centenary of the formation of the RSCDS in 1923.

The Wellington Region decided to hold two events to celebrate the Centenary. One has been held, and one is upcoming.

Lower North Island Centenary Ball

Encouraged by the Branch, the Hawkes Bay, Rangitikei and Wellington Regions have combined to host the upcoming tri-region ball in Palmerston North, on 4 November. Combining regions, we will celebrate the role of the “fertile crescent” from Hawkes Bay to Whanganui through Wellington. The fully catered ball features the international *Balmoral Band*, beginning with a piped Grand March.

This will be a Kiwi celebration as well as a Centenary. The programme has been chosen to include all local devisers who have had dances published by the society, together with others of historical importance for the formation of the Society within New Zealand.

Details of the programme and the reasons for the selected dances, along with the online [registration form](#), can be found [here](#). Tickets should be bought online, especially important for catering purposes. Take advantage of the early-bird registration!

Early Wellington Dances

We invited four longstanding tutors – Romaine Butterfield, Iain Boyd, Edith Campbell and Elaine Laidlaw – to select and teach early Wellington dances from the earliest books published in New Zealand, mainly from *Morison’s Bush* and *The Harbour City*, and promoted this as a very special occasion. Thanks to Iain for coordinating the tutors.

On 29 April, the International Day of Dance, we were treated to the music of *The Cranberry Tarts* (Aileen Logie and Hilary Ferral) who used Peter Elmes’s original music sets for these old dances. Over 60 dancers were at this grand occasion, one even coming down from Auckland for the day. We might have had even more had not one of the main highways near Wellington been closed, causing traffic chaos. We decided to video the dances which were not already online and to record the fascinating historical introductions by the tutors. Many thanks to John Patterson who managed to salvage and organise the videos, despite some nasty equipment failure. The dancers discovered the validity of the comment from the 1958 Dancer Magazine that the “characteristics of dances in this *vigorous young country* ... dances in which there is a *minimum of standing idle and a maximum of participation by all.*” People were definitely ready for Elaine Lethbridge’s afternoon tea after the 48-bar jig, mostly pas de Basque, the *Govendale Reel*.

For a full account of this most excellent day with many photos and videos, please read Lorelee Hyde’s [article](#) on the Wellington Region website.

Rod Downey, President Wellington Region RSCDS.

News from around the Regions

Auckland-Northland Region

Tuakau

From a small little club that was lucky to have a 3-couple set, we have grown considerably and now boast two 3-couple sets on most nights. Our teacher Ruth Budden is amazing at teaching us very complex formations and having us dance them successfully too! Celtic and Schiehallion Reels being some of them!

We’ve loved having a regular visit from Sheryl from Napier/Hastings who has been staying in Pukekohe for a while due to flooding in her home town. Feel free to visit us on a Tuesday night if you’re in the Pukekohe area!



Tuakau SCD Club (photo: Sheryl from Hastings)

Highland Park

A small group of Highland Park dancers had a great time at Waitemata SCD Club's recent Annual Ball, held in June at St Aidan's with plenty of 'favourites' on the dance programme. It was a wonderful night and we can't wait to see you all at future dances and balls!



Highland Park SCD Club had a great time at the Waitemata Club's Annual Ball (photo: Lindsay Sneddon)

Waikato-Bay of Plenty Region King's Birthday Weekend School (3-5 June)

Some dancers from the Auckland-Northland Region enjoyed a weekend full of dancing with our neighbours in the Waikato recently at their King's Birthday weekend school. With classes during the day, taught by Ruth Budden and Jeanette Watson, there were plenty of challenges to be had and some interesting formations were learnt along the way! We loved seeing that there were enough dancers to form a St Andrew's Cross!



Dancing up a storm

It was a great weekend and our hosts were fantastic. They thought of every little detail, including some wonderful handmade bag tags!

Pictured is a group of dancers who were absolutely flying during *six hands round and back*!

Jenny Tschumy

Ngaio SCD Club, Wellington

As March began, we were keen to get back to dance, including our four new members who had joined us after our Fun Night last September. The first commitment was to teach the new dancers, *The De'il Among the Tailors*, which was recorded for 'Pick-up 52'. Next, we had a surprise visit from RSCDS NZ Branch President Linda Glavin, who danced with us one evening in April. She was accompanied by Elaine and Kevin Lethbridge.

The month of May brought our Annual Dance, the first in the Wellington dance season for the year, so a chance to meet with friends from other clubs. We appreciated good music from Aileen Logie's Black Tartan band, a lovely dance programme from our tutor Melva Waite, and an excellent supper to enjoy together.

Forthcoming events are: first on Thursday 10 August, our Annual Dinner Dance for members and invited local clubs as our guests. This will be catered by the Save the Children volunteers, so we enjoy a relaxed evening while supporting a most worthwhile cause. Dinner will be followed by dancing, with a programme of popular dances and live music.

Next, our Fun Night is to be held on Thursday 7 September, as we invite family and friends to come and join us for the evening – see what we do, dance with us, see if they would enjoy the fun, fitness and friendship that we enjoy with Scottish Country Dance! Since our event last September, we have ten new dancers who have joined us, and so enjoy.

Wendy Donald, Committee, Ngaio SCD Club

Waikanae SCD Club

In an effort to attract newcomers, we held three "Have A Go" nights in early March. Seven people came along to see what SCD is all about; it has been pleasing to welcome four new members to the club.

Weekly club night attendances vary, but we average three sets. A Covid outbreak affected several members in early May, and we closed for one week for everyone's safety.

Sadly, our last surviving Life Member, Keown Shirley, passed away on 22 April – his 103rd birthday! Keown is

remembered as a wonderful dancer and friend to many. We often think of him when doing *The Sailor* as it was his favourite dance – he served in the Navy in WW2.

We are planning a mid-winter social for members, family and friends, and also a special birthday night celebrating several members reaching their 80th and 90th birthdays this year.

Shirley Kalogeropoulos, Committee, Waikanae Club

Akaroa and Little River group

In February, four dancers from the Akaroa and Little River group shared Scottish Country dancing with 18 ladies of the Aotearoa Multicultural Women's group in Hornby, Christchurch. A fun morning was had while we shared the history of SCD, showed the 100th Centenary YouTube of *The Flying Scotsman* and then demonstrated the dance. Everyone enjoyed the dance so much we had to open the doors into the connecting room to make more space.

Dancing has no language barriers and it was a wonderful multicultural experience for us all – not one of us born in Scotland but all sharing the joys of SCD.



In April, the dancers at the Akaroa and Little River SCD group were joined by a little girl – Naclys, who loves dancing with her dad Sebastien. We had a lovely dance of *Virginia Reel* with Naclys being danced around on occasions. It was very cute and special. We hope to see them again as they live very near the hall.

Also that week, several dancers from various Canterbury clubs joined together to dance for Heather Haylock. Heather was a founding member of the Banks Peninsula SCD Club, and in her 102nd year still had her knees tapping as we danced *Eclefecchan Feline*, *Maxwell's Rant* and *City of Belfast*. Her parting shot to me was "Keep dancing!" An absolutely gorgeous afternoon.

Special thanks to Lorraine and Ray, Robyn, Joan, Caroline, Joy Haylock (Heather's daughter-in-law), Pam Fisher (Heather's niece) and Virginia Wigram. Pam and Joy decided to start Scottish Country Dancing on seeing

how fit Heather was at her 90th birthday. So a very special week of dancing.

The Akaroa and Little River group is now in hibernation until August – as Alison is away to dance overseas – again! (One of the joys of having northern hemisphere -based family.)

Alison Ruddenklau

Lawrence

A Lawrence SCD and Ceilidh SCD Club group was invited to demonstrate at the finish of the Otago Goldfields Cavalcade at Millers Flat on 4 March. The annual cavalcades have been running since 1991 and, finishing in a different town each year, recreate the journeys made by horse, wagon and on foot to the goldfields in the 1860s. There were a great many people there (from stewards on the gate, through to other entertainers) who had come to SCD classes and events run at Lake Roxburgh Village in previous years. It appears that there is a lot of interest in doing these again. It is just a case of finding the time and energy!

Quentin Currall, Lawrence SCD Club

Other interesting stuff

A brief look at the Scottish country dancing tradition ...

A centenary is a real milestone – it's only right that we should celebrate with gusto when given the opportunity. And the celebrations that have been happening across Aotearoa New Zealand so far this RSCDS Centenary year have seen marvellous events and been varied in nature.

But we mustn't think we're celebrating the centenary of *dancing in Scotland*. We are celebrating the centenary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Dancing in Scotland has been a 'thing' for many, many hundreds of years.

Country dances, of the style we still do now, are believed to have been introduced by the court of Mary Queen of Scots and still show a strong influence of the French Court in the style of dancing, and terms used, e.g. *poussette*, *allemande*, *pas de basque*.

Country dancing in longwise sets was popular in ballrooms across the British Isles, and it was frequently acknowledged that the 'country reels' of Scotland were most invigorating. When country dances fell out of

fashion for the aristocrats (in favour of dances such as the waltz and quadrille), the peasant classes picked them up. Until they finally fell out of fashion altogether.

However in Scotland it all went quite differently due to the clan system – country dances were enjoyed by the Clan Chief and all his family and followers ... it was ‘classless’ – enjoyed and beloved by all members of society. The Scots were happy to include elements of other forms of dance, and so while country dance died in English ballrooms during the 1800s, it continued to thrive in Scotland.

When much of the Highlands’ culture was suppressed following the Jacobite rebellions in the 1700s, including the playing of bagpipes, the fiddle became the instrument of choice and many of the tunes we dance to today were originally composed in this period.

As with many cultures, the traditional dances were handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. Although collections of dances and tunes were printed (the first known surviving collection of Scottish country dances was published in 1789), the majority still survived mainly through the oral traditions.

And this is where the formation of the SCDS (the ‘R’ came in 1951) in 1923 was critical. Many of the dances were being forgotten, and the national characteristics of the dance were in danger of being lost. At the time of the SCDS being formed there were still many people – mostly very old – who had been taught the traditional steps, formations and technique and were able to pass these on to the Society Founders. The aim of the Society to ‘practise and preserve Country Dances as danced in Scotland’ would not have been possible without the personal memories and valuable experience of these traditionally taught dancers.

So the centenary we celebrate this year is not of *dancing in Scotland* – it is the 100th anniversary of the rescue and revival of Scotland’s authentic *joyful* social dance heritage.

“... the Scotch admire the reel for its own merit alone, and may be truly said to dance for the sake of dancing.”
Capt Edward Topham, a visitor to Edinburgh in 1774-75.

*Su Marshall, Comms, Publicity and Membership Coordinator,
RSCDS NZ Branch*

Upcoming Centenary Events

Lower North Island RSCDS Centenary Ball

5.30pm, Saturday 4 November 2023

College Street School Hall, Palmerston North

Music by *Balmoral Band* - Anne-Marie Forsyth, (Auckland)
Sharlene Penman (Christchurch), Iain McKenzie (Queensland)

To celebrate the centenary of the RSCDS, the Wellington, Hawke’s Bay and Rangitikei Regions have combined to host a Tri-Region Ball. Come and join us for this once in a lifetime event, with a fantastic band and catered supper.

RSCDS \$35 (early bird \$30 by 1 Aug)

Adult \$40 (early bird \$35 by 1 Aug)

Juniors/Spectators \$20 (No early bird rate)

Register online now and see more about the history of the dances on the programme at www.wellingtonscd.org.nz



Nelson Marlborough West Coast Centenary Ball

Motueka Scottish Country Dance Club invite you to join us as we host the Nelson Marlborough West Coast Region RSCDS Centenary Ball.

Saturday 25 November 2023

Lower Motueka Memorial Hall

Join us at 7.00pm for drinks and nibbles

followed by a Grand March at 7.20pm

Dancing will start at 7.30pm

Dance the night away to the music of Wild Heather

Some billets are available, please contact Ann Briggs for more information at motueka@dancescottish.co.nz

Other upcoming Events

Auckland-Northland Region Events

St Heliers Club Dance – Saturday 19 August, 7.30pm, St Aidan’s Church Hall, Remuera

Region Class: Down Memory Lane – Saturday 26 August, 9.30am–2.30pm, Stanhope Road School Hall, Mt Wellington

Waipu Dance – Saturday 2 September, 2.00pm

Innes Club Dance – Saturday 9 September, 7pm, St Aidan’s Church Hall, Remuera

RSCDS Centenary Dinner & Ball – Saturday 30 September, 5.30pm, Takapuna Grammar School

Whangarei Club Dance – Saturday 7 October, 2.00pm, Onerahi Community Centre, Whangarei

Howick Club Dance – Sunday 15 October Afternoon, Bucklands Beach War Memorial Hall

Kaiwaka Labour Weekend School – 20–23 October, 6.30pm Friday to 12.30pm Monday, Kaiwaka War Memorial Hall (Northland)

NAPIER SCD CLUB

Invite you to their
70th Anniversary
SAT 26 AUGUST 2023

This is a date for your diary only. More details to follow.

DANCE

Dance to LIVE Music from 'WILD HEATHER'

GLENDARROCH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

is holding a dance and dinner to celebrate the club's



60th Anniversary

on

Saturday 23rd September

At Carlton School Hall, Carlton Avenue, Wanganui

Dancing from 2.00 – 5.00 pm followed by refreshments

All current and past members are cordially invited to help us celebrate our 60th birthday

Costs: Dancers – RSCDS Members \$15.00, non-members \$18.00, non-dancers \$5.00

Dinner at the Cobb Restaurant, Anzac Parade, Wanganui at 7.00 pm

Dinner at own cost, please RSVP by 16th September so we can confirm numbers.

Responses by email to Linda: glendarroch@dancescottish.org.nz



Lower Hutt



Scottish Country Dance Club Annual Dance 2023

**We extend a warm invitation to join us
on Saturday 2nd September at 7.30pm**

Knox Church Hall, High Street,

Lower Hutt.

**Music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and
Jason Morris**

RSCDS Members \$13, Non RSCDS \$15

Non Dancer / Student \$5

RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc.
Wellington Region

NEW DANCERS' CELEBRATION

7.30 pm Saturday 7 October, 2023
Wairarapa College Hall, 83 Pownall Street, Masterton
Music Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris

New Dancers: \$12 (with invitation)
RSCDS: \$15 Dancers: \$18 Non-Dancer/Junior: \$5



RSCDS, New Zealand Branch Inc
Nelson Summer School
2023/24



Preparations for this year's Summer School are well under way and we look forward to seeing many of our dancing friends again in Nelson this year!

We have an exciting range of teachers who will take you through your paces, from Intermediate to Advanced High Impact. We are also pleased to have Aileen Logie's Band providing the music for the School. We will be running a Senior JAM class this year and we'd love to see lots of teenage dancers at the School.

Nelson (Whakatū) is a known for local arts and crafts stores and art galleries. The City's history is showcased at Founders Heritage Park and the Nelson Provincial Museum. A walk down historic South Street takes you to New Zealand's oldest fully preserved street. Nelson regularly features in NZ's most sunshine hours list and has several golden sand beaches

Summer School accommodation will be in twin share units at Saxton Lodge. All rooms are air conditioned and have their own bathrooms.

**Resident - \$1750
Commuter - \$650
Resident JAM - \$1100
Commuter JAM - \$150**

You can register through the website below, or contact me for further information and details.

Doug Mills
Web: www.nelson2023-summer-school.com
Email: ss2023@dancescottish.org.nz

**Day Sporrans, Semi-Dress
and Full Dress Sporrans**



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Ghillie pumps for men & women with Supershock insoles.
Ballet style pumps for women with Supershock insoles.

Warm, Cozy Scarves & Serapes for Winter

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