



# Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

Editor: Désirée Patterson [editor@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:editor@dancescottish.org.nz)

Volume 28 No 3

October 2023

## President's Report



Dear Members,

The Management Committee held a zoom meeting on Sunday 3 September 2023. We have had a busy year – the Branch Secretary Joy Dick, along with Katharine Hoskyn, set up a trial for 'one person, one vote'. The trial went well and the feedback from those involved was helpful. When it comes to going live, we may see some little hiccups that did not come up in the trial, but if this happens, please bear in mind that this is the first time that any of us will have used the 'one person, one vote' system, and constructive feedback is always welcome.

The committee have been working on the changes required by the Incorporated Societies Act, strategic planning, timing for Notices of Motion, amendments to Notices of Motion, membership renewals, and planning for the AGM – to name a few things.

Doug Mills and his team are working hard on the lead-up to the Nelson Summer School. If you are thinking of going, the registration forms can be found on the [Summer School](#) website.

To all the members and dancers throughout New Zealand, thank you for all your support over the last four years.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Linda Glavin, RSCDS NZ Branch President

*Linda*

## From the Branch

### From the NZ Branch Secretary

#### Individual voting (aka 'one person, one vote')

Later in 2023, individual voting for Notices of Motion for the upcoming NZ Branch AGM takes place for the first time. (However, voting by region delegates is still in place for any Notices of Motion which result in changes to the Constitution.)

Below are some points outlining what will happen for individual voting in 2023:

- ElectionBuddy is the voting platform.
- NZ Branch members who have tested the system agree ElectionBuddy is easy to use – even the self-confessed technophobes agree!
- As for any voting system, there will be a couple of scrutineers who administer the voting process.
- Voting by ElectionBuddy is confidential. The scrutineers cannot see how you have voted, but it's possible for them to see if you have voted.

- The scrutineers will pass on only numbers of people voting and voting results.
- All NZ Branch members who have an email address will receive their invitation to vote by email, no matter which membership category they hold.
- ElectionBuddy can handle situations where two members share a single email address. Each of the two members receives an email clearly marked for their use only.
- An explanation of what the invitation email will look like, how ElectionBuddy works, voting period dates, what to do if anything untoward happens etc., will be sent by NZ Branch well before the email with the invitation to vote arrives.
- NZ Branch members who have no email address will receive preliminary information and voting papers by post.
- The invitation email will come directly from the ElectionBuddy system. Filters may send the system-generated invitation email into folders such as spam, updates, promotions. It is wise to check there first, but another link can be sent directly to you by contacting the NZ Branch Secretary.

- The voting period will open shortly after the final AGM papers go out, allowing for the time it now takes for postal deliveries. It is anticipated that voting will open on 1 December 2023 and remain open for nearly a fortnight. The dates will be confirmed during November.

#### Dates relating to NZ Branch AGM 2024

- **30 October 2023** – final date for submitting amendments to Notices of Motion to [secretary@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:secretary@dancescottish.org.nz). Amendments must be signed and dated by both the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be NZ Branch members. Any NZ Branch member may submit an amendment.
- **19 November 2023** – final date for sending to NZ Branch members all papers relating to the NZ Branch AGM. Papers are sent by email or post according to membership category.
- **1 to 12 December 2023 inclusive (TBC)** – individual voting period for qualifying Notices of Motion and amendments.
- Any queries, please email [secretary@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:secretary@dancescottish.org.nz)

#### And finally –

A heartfelt thank you from me (Joy Dick) on behalf of the NZ Branch 'one person, one vote' subcommittee to all those who helped test the system and provide feedback, and also to Katharine Hoskyn for her assistance with ElectionBuddy.

*Joy Dick, NZ Branch Secretary*

#### Branch Awards / Member recognition

As the end of the dancing year approaches, it's an appropriate time to consider the contribution that individuals make to the smooth running of our clubs, regions, and the Branch.

**Clubs and regions** – have you considered how you might acknowledge significant service or achievement within your club or region? This might take the form of a club or region award or life membership, the choice is yours.

**Branch Awards and Life Membership** – these awards acknowledge notable achievements that have benefited Scottish country dancing and/or its music across the New Zealand Branch.

Past recipients of Branch Awards in New Zealand have organised Summer Schools, served as members and office-bearers on Branch committees, developed Scottish country music and musicians across the country,

or been internationally recognised for the dances they devised.

Further information and a nomination form can be found on the NZ Branch website under Membership ([Award Guidelines](#) and [Award Nomination Form](#)). All nominations are considered by the Management Committee at their mid-year or end-of-year meetings.

*Debbie Roxburgh, Vice President*

#### Communications, Publicity and Membership

##### Regional grants

A wee reminder to all regions – application forms for regional grants are now available on the Dance Scottish NZ website <https://dancescottish.org.nz/branch-grant-application/>

These grants are for any purpose your region believes will help promote/support SCD – could be to hire a band for a dance, buy promotional banners, pay for advertising to recruit new dancers, or even invest in some new technology. General use grants are for a maximum of \$500, and for capital items, that maximum goes to \$1,000 – this could help your region upgrade laptops, microphones, speakers, etc.

Applications must be received by 31 December at the latest, for disbursement in 2024.

Although these grants will be available every year, if your region is approved a grant in one funding round, it will have to wait a year before re-applying, i.e. if successful in 2023 (grant received 2024), then that region could apply again in 2025 (grant received 2026), so plan accordingly.

##### Membership renewals

Rangitikei, Northland-Auckland and Canterbury were the first three regions to return their worksheets, and so are the winners of a \$30 voucher each to use at the Branch Shop.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to get their fees back to their club, and their club worksheet back to their Region, and their Region worksheet back to me, in a timely fashion. With over 600 members, it's a big task, and it's made so much easier when we're all supporting each other to make it happen

Cheers, Su 😊

*Su Marshall*

*Communications, Publicity and Membership Coordinator*

## Education and Training

### Teaching Exams

Congratulations to Yvonne James (Waikato-BOP) who passed her Unit 1 (written) exam in March 2023. Good luck to the five Unit 1 candidates getting ready to take their exam in October 2023 and March 2024. Grateful thanks to Yvonne's invigilators (supervisors), and to Margaret's in October 2023. Your time and support are hugely appreciated.

We would also like to congratulate Core Training for Instructors (CTI) passes, but we don't get that information from the RSCDS, so if you've passed your CTI recently – well done! If you're thinking about doing your CTI qualification, remember that **the Branch now pays for your exam fee** – please ask us to do so. Because the CTI is a very individual qualification, unless the Branch is told you are applying, we don't know, and can't pay the fee for you.

The next Unit 2/3 course won't be offered by NZ Branch until 2025 (exams at the South Island 2025/26 Summer School), but there are other options – the TAC Summer School (Teachers Association of Canada) will be running both Unit 2/3 and Unit 5 courses and exams at the Ontario school in July 2024, or the RSCDS Summer School runs both Unit 2/3 and Unit 5 courses and exams each July at St Andrews.

Whatever type of teaching you're interested in, the **Teachers' Preparation** class at Nelson Summer School might be a good starting point.

### Teachers' Workshop – Easter 2024

Whether 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. If you are on the Teachers' register, hopefully you've received and returned your Expression of Interest for this weekend. If you haven't, please get in touch, so we know that this is a worthwhile activity for you.

A subcommittee is hard at work (my thanks to local Wellington teachers for being willing to be volunteered!) – tutor, musicians, and venue are all booked. Graham Donald from the UK will be teaching, with Sharlene Penman offering musical advice on Saturday afternoon. The venue will be in Lower Hutt – Hutt Intermediate School, with accommodation at the Angus Inn, or other local B&Bs, motels or hotels, as you please. Billets may also be available on request. If you are definitely wanting to come from outside Wellington, book your accommodation directly with the motel/hotel of your choice soon.

Four sessions will be offered for teacher participants, spread over Saturday all day, Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. An optional participants' dinner on Sunday night is being arranged.

In addition, an all-comers class (i.e. mixed ability, everyone welcome) will be offered on Friday night, 29 March. The Saturday afternoon music-focused class will also be open to musicians who may be interested in participating. Saturday night will offer a dance for anyone and everyone to attend.

There will be a cost for participants. We are still working on the budget, so can't give you a fee just yet. The cost will be subsidised by Branch support via the Bernice Kelly bequest.

### Resources via RSCDS – Virtual Teacher Conference

The Society's website has lots of different resources for dancers and teachers, but they can be a little difficult to find.

You may already be on the list that receives the new *Teachers Newsletters* by email from the Society, and know about the [Virtual Teacher Conference](#) that is now available to view – a great way to continue your teaching development from the comfort of your own home! Or how about getting together with fellow teachers or dancers in your area, watch it together and discuss the items featured?

If you are not receiving the *Teachers Newsletters* directly from the RSCDS, please contact me and I'll work with the Membership Coordinator to get the right information in the RSCDS database, so you get on the list.

And a little extra from YouTube – thanks to Chris Ingram for spotting [Reel Scottish Dancing](#) which is an RSCDS archival item, a 90-minute beginner tutorial. It's a bit stilted and 'old school' but may be a good resource to point your beginners to.

If you see something online that you think other teachers might find useful, do let me know.

*Jeanette Watson, Education and Training Coordinator*

### RSCDS NZ Branch Shop

#### New availability:

- RSCDS Book 53 and 2 CDs (orders supplied as I receive stock from Scotland)
- Glasgow Branch 100th Anniversary book
- Tokai Branch 25th Anniversary book and CD set
- Two Score + 2 for 2022 book (tunes by Muriel Johnstone)

- CD Auld Friends Meet – music to accompany the book of the same name (collection of Roy Goldring's dances) as produced a few years ago
- CD Beneath the Ben – Muriel Johnstone compositions for listening enjoyment
- A Toast to the Future – by Iain Boyd, available as .pdf or hardcopy

**Other books available:**

- RSCDS A5 Compilations of Books 1–44
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – book and CD
- Sir Walter Scott, Heart of Midlothian – book and CD
- and many, many more (enquire if you are looking for a particular title)

**CDs available are:**

- CDs for Books 50, 51 and 52
- CD Dance Through the Decades – RSCDS
- CD Music for Scottish Dances by Mary Isdal MacNab
- CD Thirty Popular Dances Vol 2 Part 1 and 2
- CD The Grove Collection Vol 2 by Ewan Galloway
- CD The Musicians' Wedding

**Coming soon:**

- a 5th book of dances by Gaye Collin

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](mailto:Shop@dancescottish.org.nz)
- NZ Branch Website
- snailmail C/- 21 Stafford Street, Whanganui 4501

**From the Editor**

**Looking ahead to The NZ Dancer**

The annual Branch magazine, *The NZ Scottish Country Dancer*, is intended to be an historical record of dancing activities during the year. Approximately half of its content is devoted to region reports. The region secretaries are asked to compile these from reports sent to them by the clubs in their region.

Most clubs are winding up their activities by mid- to late November. **Right now** is the time for clubs to start thinking about summing up their dancing year, so that they are able to send their reports to their region secretary by **15 November**.

This seems early, but it will give the region secretaries time to summarise these club reports into a comprehensive region report, which they are asked to send to me by **15 December**, so that I can get to work on this part of the magazine before I head off to Summer School.

While it is tempting for each club to give a full account of what they have been up to during the year, a lot of repetition of similar activities will not make for interesting reading. But we do want to hear about the special, unusual, and momentous things that have happened. And of course, photos are always welcome, and I will try to place as many as I will have room for, but ideally, they will be more than just line-ups of people in group photographs, or views of a full hall of dancers.

The other half of *The NZ Dancer* will cover articles of general interest, Summer School and Hogmanay reports, obituaries, advertising, and advance notice of major events, such as weekend schools. The material for these should reach me by **20 January**.

Details about Branch publication requirements are available on the Branch website, under [Publicity/Contributions/Schedule and Guidelines](#).

I want to thank everyone – clubs, region secretaries, Branch Management, and others – for their contributions during the year, and look forward to receiving material for *The NZ Dancer* by the stated closing dates.

*Désirée Patterson, NZ Branch Editor*

## News from around the Regions

### Auckland-Northland Region Club Spotlight

#### Milford

Recently Milford SCD Club had a Tartan Night with five sets, including a special guest – Rowan from Scotland (the RSCDS Youth Mascot who travels and visits dancing groups). Lois McEwan organises a Monday afternoon dancing group in her retirement village and 14 of this group came to the Tartan Night. Young adults who used to dance with the Milford Youth Group also came along. They all joined the club members (pictured below) and other visiting dancers.





### Waiheke Island

Our club is over 40 years old and is still going strong! We have about eight members who live on Waiheke Island, but we are always joined by a dozen or so Ferry Loupers who come from different clubs all over Auckland. They get to the city by bus and/or train, then the ferry, and then a bus to the Red Cross Hall. It is a great day out for them and they enjoy it tremendously. The class is held at a time to suit the ferries (12 till 2:30 on Mondays).

We are very spoiled to have Pauline Stewart (our previous tutor) play live music on her piano accordion to welcome our dancers each week, and for our warm ups, and she often plays for some of our dances as well.

We are very much looking forward to our Afternoon Tea Dance on 18 November, as it has been twice postponed because of Covid. Hope you can join us!

We were also very proud to be part of the Pick Up 52 Project! (Photo below)



### Waipu

The club meets on Monday evenings in the Coronation Hall near the historic Lion monument in Waipu that acknowledges the arrival of ships of Scottish settlers in the 1800s. Club members have strong links with the local history and the local community, including the Waipu Highland Games (the oldest in New Zealand). So the club offers *Céad míle fáilte gu Waipu* (A hundred thousand welcomes from Waipu) to anyone visiting.



A stellar Tartan Ceilidh Night in July featured the music of *Twisty Willow* – fun, easy dances, items, and a

singalong. The afternoon dance in September also featured *Twisty Willow*.

*Katharine Hoskyn, Jenn Tschumy and Shirley Butler*

### Hot off the Press: Auckland-Northland Region Dinner and Ball

What a wonderful night it was at the Centenary Ball last night (30 September)! It was fantastic to see everyone dressed up in their finery with plenty of dancing to enjoy. Thanks so much to everyone who played a part in the organising of it – you all did an amazing job. And where would we be without the music? Aileen Logie and her SD Band played the well-known tunes that had us dancing the night away.

It was great to see a lot of newer dancers there too. We hope to see you again at the next dance!

*Jenn Tschumy*



### Rowan's Adventure Down Under

At the beginning of August, Rowan, the RSCDS Young Dancer mascot, hitched a lift with Debbie and Paul Roxburgh, so he could visit Scottish dance groups down under during the Society's 100th Anniversary year.

His first stop was in **Whanganui**, where he met up with the Glendaroch Junior dancers. They are an enthusiastic group.



His next visit was to the **Ashhurst Club**, in Manawatu, for their Annual Afternoon Dance. Dancers from



Wellington, Hawke's Bay and Whanganui joined with the local club members for a great afternoon of dancing, with music provided by the Saltire Band (Sharlene, Mary and Glenice) and a wonderful afternoon tea.

Rowan was also able to attend the **Napier Club's**

70th Anniversary dance, where he was introduced to everyone by Isabel Jackson, the club's President. The celebratory cake was cut by the tutor, Lyn Picone, and the longest-standing current member. That was a great celebration, and the music was again provided by the Saltire Band.



At the end of August, **Milford Club**, on Auckland's North Shore, welcomed Rowan to their Tartan night and it was great to see the hall full of dancers from the club who were joined by a group from the Greenwich Retirement Village, as well as other local dancers.

Next, Rowan's travels took him back to Whanganui for a night, before he was whisked off to **Lower Hutt Club** for their annual dance. He spent most of the evening on the



stage with the band (Aileen, Jason and Hilary), enjoying the dancing and the music. Jason even allowed him to join in with the band on one or two items using his accordion.

Then it was back to Whanganui to attend the **Glendarroch** Scottish Country Dance Club's adult class.



Rowan's final event in NZ was to attend the Glendarroch club's 60th Anniversary dance before he left New Zealand with Mary and Duncan McDonald (Saltire Band) on his way to Winter School at Kiama, New South Wales, Australia.

Rowan told me that he had a lot of fun in New Zealand, he saw lots of lovely sheep during his travels and would have liked to take one or two home with him, but sadly there was no room in the travel bag!

*Sue Pearson, Glendarroch SCD Club*

### **Glendarroch SCD Club's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

At the end of September, the club celebrated this milestone with an afternoon dance, followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Debbie Roxburgh was the MC, music was provided by Saltire Scottish Band and an excellent programme of dances was enjoyed by all. We were pleased to welcome the NZ Branch President Linda Glavin and other members of the NZ Branch Management committee to the event, as well as





dancers from Blenheim, Wellington, Hawke's Bay and across the Rangitikei Region.

The celebratory cake was jointly cut by Eric Churton (founding club member) and Debbie Roxburgh (life member).

*Sue Pearson, Acting Secretary, Glendarroch SCD Club*

### **Ngaio SCD Club, Wellington**

In August, Ngaio Club hosted, inviting local clubs, our annual Dinner Dance, catered by women volunteers raising funds for Save the Children. With the cost of living having climbed since last year, and therefore the costs being higher, we were so glad to be able to hold it, with an increase in the number of people attending! Dancing followed with popular dances and live music from *The Cranberry Tarts* (Aileen and Hilary).

Early September, we held a 'fun night' ceilidh to offer others the chance to experience SCD, to see if it was for them. Those who had danced in the past, are dancing with us now, and the four new dancers – who had planned to come but sickness intervened – will join us in the new year, keen to start. The dancers who came to last year's event, and have stayed to dance with us, were glad to celebrate a year of dancing, enjoying the fun and friendship of the club.

Should you be in Wellington Northern Suburbs, near Khandallah, do join us at Khandallah Presbyterian Church hall at 7.30pm on any Thursday during the year (beginning of March until third Thursday in November). Our final night 2023 is on Thursday 16 November and will be a Tartan Night, with live music and supper.

*Wendy Donald, Ngaio SCD Club*

### **Wellington – Lynne and Aileen's Birthday Bash**

It was a birthday I was expecting to shun: after 70 years it's (in my mind) about time to give away the formal partying.

Then I got an email ...

Last year, a large number of SCD musicians and dancers gathered in Tuakau to celebrate Ruth Budden's 70th with a Dance/Ceilidh. Anyone was free to play or dance, and it was a cracker of a night. Aileen Logie had realised that she and I were turning 70 in the same month of 2023, so she suggested we take a leaf out of Ruth's book.

Now, I'm not one to pass up a chance to play for dancing. So we

decided on a date (16 September), and a venue (Khandallah Town Hall) and asked Jeanette Watson and Rod Downey to come up with a programme and take on the MCing on the night.

From there, it was reasonably straightforward. The programme was quickly settled, and Glenna Matcham created a terrific poster. Musician friends from far and wide were alerted to save the date. Aileen and I shared the task of preparing music for the evening, with some of the sets coming from Peter Elmes' collection, and the music was sent out to musicians. The poster was shared widely in the region, and dancers were asked to just bring a plate for supper.

The evening ran very smoothly, thanks to the willingness and expertise of the Johnsonville Club members. The Kitchen Faeries (bless their hearts) took all of that element of organising off our shoulders. Much of the hall decoration was done by Johnsonville, with the front-of-stage tartan and rosettes installed by my daughters. Jeanette and Rod's exemplary MCing took all the on-the-spot management in hand. Lorelee Hyde recorded the event with her camera, and John Patterson recorded all the music.

Seven sets of dancers came and danced to music by the (at times) eleven musicians on the stage, some of whom had come a long way to be there. Even more had planned to come, but illness and family matters diminished their numbers a little. The massed band – three accordions, six fiddles, piano and drums – made a very full sound and created a lot of dancing energy! From the stage, it looked as if everyone dancing was having a wonderful time. And so was I! – playing some of my favourite tunes, with some of the best SCD musicians in the country.

Huge thanks to all who helped, played, and danced – and especially to Aileen who made the original suggestion.



The photo (by Lorelee) shows almost all the musicians on stage, and dancers enjoying an *Eightsome Reel*. A great Birthday Bash indeed!

Lynne Scott

### Nelson SCD Club 70th Anniversary

The 70th anniversary celebration was held on Saturday 5 August at the Trafalgar Street Hall, Nelson. The event was well attended with some 60+ guests from the Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast region, as well as from Wellington, Christchurch and Timaru. The evening was made more memorable by having live music performed by Lynne and Sharlene of “*Ebony and Ivory*”.



Briefed by the MCs Janet Tavener and Fran Barnes, the dancers reeled, jigged and strathspeyed late into the evening with six sets still remaining on the dance floor at 11 pm.

The evening also marked a very special moment for one of the club's members – Fran Barnes. Fran, who has been a member of the club since 1990, was presented with a Life Member Award. Over the past 30 years, she has undertaken various roles, including Treasurer (1995-2002), Region Rep (2005) and Co-tutor (2000-present day).

The ceremonial cutting of the cake was then carried out by the club's Life Members – Fran Barnes, Lanna Remnant and Ian McEwan.



The celebration continued on the Sunday morning, with a number of people attending a brunch at the 19th Café, Nelson Golf Club. This was an opportunity for those attending to relax and look over the photo albums and powerpoint presentation (collated by the club's historians – Ian and Anne McEwan) of the many past memorable events.

Kelly Walker, Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast Region

## Other interesting stuff

### Wellington Region Archive Project: Preserving our memories

#### Celebrating 60

In 2021, the Wellington Region celebrated 60 years since the formation of the Wellington District Branch of the NZ Scottish Country Dance Society.

Ann Oliver, Region president at the time, wrote:

*Not only did we commemorate our beginnings, but we celebrated the vibrant Scottish Country Dance scene in the Wellington Region and remembered the contribution of the many dedicated teachers, musicians, devisers and committee members that over the years have willingly given their time and talents to dancing in the Region.*

Planning for [Celebrating 60](#) began the previous year, with a focus on the region's history. At Ann's request, a small team of volunteers came together to preserve memories of the Wellington Region's dancing history, and in so doing, honour those who were responsible for building the vibrant community we enjoy today.

Region committee member Philippa Pointon worked with Lorelee Hyde and Kristin Downey to gather documents, photos and videos from the region's past.

Lorelee's article on the [60th Anniversary Ball](#) reports:

*... a large screen projected photos of dancers and events in the Region from the past 60 years. In the foyer, videos of dancers in Region demonstrations and other activities drew viewers during breaks between the dances and at supper time.*

#### The work continues

There was an enormous amount of material collected by the Archive Project team in 2021, much more than could be dealt with in one year. (We continue to receive more material as people clear out stored material and collections.)

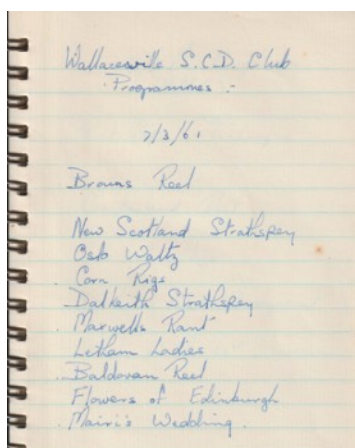


As time allows, Lorelee, Philippa and Kristin continue to develop the region's history resources. On an ongoing basis, material is extracted from past issues of *Harbour City Happenings*, *NZ Scottish Country Dancer* magazines, Wellington Region minutes and other donated source material.

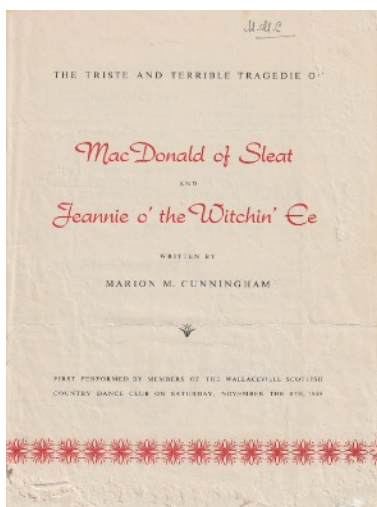
The team aims to make the information they've gathered widely accessible, with an ever-increasing amount of archival material being posted on the region website, including scans of historical material, researched articles and photo histories.

Delving into [event stories](#), [people stories](#), and [region history stories](#) gives us a window into people and events from the Region's past. There is also [video footage](#) of dancing from earlier years through to this year's afternoon of [Early Wellington Dances](#).

Since 2021, we've been privileged to receive dance programmes, photos, cassette tapes, CDs, VHS and videos from multiple donors who want to ensure the region's memories are not lost – most recently dance programmes and brochures from Margaret Allison-Bailey and Malcolm Tippet, photos from Alison Trotter and other members of the Fordyce family, and assorted material from Justine Redfearn – including items from Marion Cunningham and Peg Hutchison.



It was very exciting to receive some of Marion Cunningham's items dating from the 1950s and 60s. Marion launched and edited the *NZ Scottish Country Dancer* magazine, founded the Wallaceville club, and with husband Ira was a foundation member of the Wellington-Hawke's Bay Association. She was also very creative, devising two Scottish country dance ballets.



We must also gratefully acknowledge those who have been generous with their time in digitising and editing source materials. Thanks to John Homes, John Patterson and Peter Warren.

If you have material to contribute to the Region's Archive Project, please [email me](#) at [kristinmacdonalddowney@gmail.com](mailto:kristinmacdonalddowney@gmail.com)

*Kristin Downey (on behalf of the Archives Project team)*

## A day in the life...

... of a Scottish Country Dance musician. Ever wondered how we do what we do? Here's a (somewhat compressed and fictionalised) snapshot.

First thing, check texts/emails for any new dance events. Good – another booking! Only six weeks away, though ... better get onto that real quick!

Email the band to make sure they're all available, then confirm the booking.

Check the programme ... hmm, the first dance after supper is a busy reel – not good for cold fingers, so send an email to see if it can be swapped with the jig that follows it.

Have I got a set of music for each dance? Mostly yes, these days, but check for duplicated tunes between sets – one or two might need replacing ... Dances that are new to me will need research: what is the recommended tune? where can I find it? (much searching in books and online!) How does the dance go? (more online research). Then look for three more tunes that a) suit the dance b) go with the recommended tune's style and key, and c) are interesting to play and listen to. Arrange them into a sensible order and write them out on the computer. Once I have all the music ready for this programme, I'll compile it into a .pdf and send it off to the band.

Time for a coffee, then some personal practice time. Some of the tunes for next week are a bit finger-twisty. Or bow-tangly!

Band practice next. Check our bow-and-curtsey chords. Play through each set for an upcoming dance evening: joins between tunes need to be agreed on and rehearsed, and the melody instruments need to be in rhythmic unison. Bass lines agreed on, too. It's fun, but well worth doing properly.

Pack the car with sound equipment for tonight's event: speakers, stands, mixer, microphone, cables ... plus instruments, music stands, stand lights and music.

After dinner, it's off to the gig. Arrive in time to unload, cart all the gear inside and set it up with all the right connections. Then the sound check: making sure that

each instrument is connected and sounding its best, and then make sure each can be heard appropriately in the mix. This balance can change when the hall fills with people, but you can make a start.

And then it's time to play: all the preparation means it's an enjoyably social evening, and on-the-fly adjustments are easily made. Ten times through? No problem 😊.

After the last dance, it's pack-out time. Sound equipment and instruments into their cases, all the cables carefully coiled, and everything back in the car. Back home, we might unload the car and put everything away, but more likely we'll leave it for the morning. The day has been long enough already!

*Lynne Scott, Branch Music Adviser*

## Musicians' courses

Reading Aileen Logie's experience at the St Andrew's Summer School (*Kiwi News* October 2022) brought back memories for myself and many of the other musicians in New Zealand who have also attended St Andrew's Summer School musician classes that have a component of playing for class.

Many have also attended Summer and Winter School musician courses in other countries, as well as in New Zealand. The overseas musicians who come to New Zealand are always willing to share their knowledge with us, and the people who attend these music classes can always learn another "trick" that will assist the dancers. One can learn from even just observing the overseas musicians working in class.

The two Teacher and Musician courses provided by the New Zealand Branch proved beneficial, especially the course run with the guidance of Ian Muir and Katharine Hoskyn. At both courses, the musicians were able to hone their skills, learnt over many years, and adopt new ones as they played; and the dancing teachers had the experience of using a musician in their teaching. Many of these musicians have also played at schools overseas. There is a good core of very experienced and well-trained class musicians in New Zealand.

*Lynne Hudson*

## The White Rose Festival – Could this be good for New Zealand?

During a mathematics visit to Leeds earlier this year, I also took the opportunity to interact with the [nine thriving local dance groups in the area](#). I taught a day of dances, but also had the great pleasure of attending their [White Rose Festival](#). They have been running this festival since 1953. Here is the [early history](#).

The idea is that the day part of the festival has a collection of dances chosen by a committee, which is sent out (with links to videos and descriptions) to possible participating groups. The dances are grouped into "standard" dances which you would meet on an annual dance programme; junior/beginner dances; and "demonstration", more challenging, dances; plus highland dances such as *The Shepherd's Crook*, or the *Fling*. This year, the music was provided by Susan MacFadyen and her Band.

Groups practice whichever dances they wish to do on the day and get up when a particular dance is announced. The idea is that people can practice the relevant dances beforehand, and this gives them something to be confident about. Groups seem to love the demonstration dances, some of which are quite difficult, so a real challenge (maybe a "reel" challenge). Such dances are too hard for a standard club night or annual dance.

I particularly liked the involvement of the local schools and children, where the teacher would be supervising their groups that have practiced the dances. The festival is totally non-competitive, and people seemed to have a whale of a time. Groups were bussing in from quite far.

I was quite struck with the enthusiasm and feel of the whole festival. It might help explain why Leeds remains so strong. Having the practice with the same people would likely make you confident in the dance and maybe more confident to come along. Having the schools and teachers involved means that lots of young people take part, and there is an ongoing relationship with the schools. Lots of families were there. The organisation ran like a well-oiled machine, but I guess Leeds have had lots of practice. More details on the 2023 festival (and workshop) can be found in a [longer article](#) on the Johnsonville Web site.

I kept wondering if something like this could be looked at for the Regions or the Branch in New Zealand. It would take a lot of preliminary analysis and a lot of effort the first time. Food for thought.

*Rod Downey, President, Wellington Region*

## Tips & Tricks for Dances/Balls:

From a person who hasn't been dancing for very long and struggles to retain a dance from just a briefing ...

*New to Scottish Country Dancing?*

*Want to go to a Dance or Ball but don't think you have the dancing skills?*

*Great news – You can!*

A few ideas that have helped me along the way ...

- Study the Dances from the Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary.com
- Make dance notes to have on hand in your own words – keep them in your pocket if you need to and cheat while waiting for the next dance to start
- Watch YouTube videos to see how the dances are danced (the music also helps!)
- Walk them through at home
- Get to know the dances from different places in the set so that you know where you're going
- Practise, Practise, Practise! to help you retain them
- Learn four or five dances to start with to make it easier, and then enjoy watching the others.
- If you don't know a dance and would just like to watch, don't feel bad about saying no thanks if you're asked to dance. You can always reserve that person for a dance you're more familiar with.

Jenn Tschumy

## Upcoming Events



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

There are still a few Residential places left at this year's Nelson Summer School from 28 December 2023 to 5 January 2024. We have a great line up of teachers from NZ and Australia as well as local musicians. There will be a full range of classes for all abilities.



This year will feature a Fancy Dress dance at Hogwarts School of Wizardry. No doubt there will be lots of wizards, goblins, elves and dementors. There will certainly be lots of inter-house rivalry with prizes befitting such an august establishment. So be the envy of your muggle friends and register for the School!

Nelson is known for local arts and crafts stores and art galleries. It's also a popular base for nearby vineyards and the Abel Tasman National Park. Nelson regularly features in NZ's most sunshine hours list and has several golden sand beaches.

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

Doug Mills

Web: [www.nelson2023-summer-school.com](http://www.nelson2023-summer-school.com)

Email: [ss2023@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:ss2023@dancescottish.org.nz)

### **OTAGO REGION ANNUAL DANCE**

**Sunday 18 November, commencing 7 pm**

Mornington Presbyterian Community Centre

Maryhill Terrace, Dunedin

MC Damon Collin

Live music by

Lynne Scott and Sharlene Penman

\$15 for dancers, \$8 for children/spectators

### **Nelson Marlborough West Coast Region RSCDS NZ**

#### **CENTENARY BALL**

**Hosted by Motueka SCD Club**

**Lower Moutere Memorial Hall**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Welcome: 6.30pm Grand March: 7.00pm**

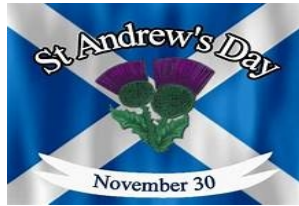
**Dance to the music of Wild Heather**  
as they take us through the 10 decades  
of the RSCDS

**Formal ball attire**

**RSCDS members: \$30 non-members: \$35  
non-dancers: \$25**

For tickets please contact  
[motueka@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:motueka@dancescottish.org.nz)





Burnside Scottish Country Dance Club

Warmly invite you to our  
St Andrew's Day celebration

on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 8pm – 10pm  
at St Paul's Church Hall, 1 Harewood Road,  
Papanui, Christchurch  
Cost \$5

Haggis



Pipes



Dancing



### Auckland-Northland Region Events

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

**Howick Club Dance** – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October,  
1.30pm-4.30pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Howick

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

**Kaiwaka Dance** – Saturday 21 October, 4pm, All  
Welcome! Wellsford Community Hall

**Royal Oak Club Dance** – Saturday 11 November

**Waiheke Club Social** – Saturday 18 November,  
1.15pm, Surfdale Hall, Waiheke Island

**Ranfurly Club Dance** – Sunday 26 November

Sgian Dubh & Matching kilt  
pins made in Loch Lomond



# McPHEE'S

Order online: [www.mcphees.co.nz](http://www.mcphees.co.nz)  
Ph 04 476 0139 Ph/Txt 021 587 315  
Email: [enquiries@mcphees.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@mcphees.co.nz)

SCD Footwear & Accessories held in stock.

Free overnight courier throughout NZ on all orders over \$50.

Ghillie pumps for men & women with Supershock insoles.

Ballet style pumps for women with Supershock insoles.



Gift Sets



Thistles Galore!



Carried in Stock; SCD Pumps for Men and Women.  
5 Colours of Duchess; Black, Purple, Blue, Pewter, Champagne

