



KIWI NEWS

RSCDS NZ Branch

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July 2024

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President's Report

Hi everyone



Well, we've passed the shortest day and are now speeding towards summer and Summer School. Admittedly though, summer still seems distant as I look out my window and the ground is white from a heavy frost.

Remember, Summer School registrations close on 31 August, and you then have an extra month to apply for a scholarship to attend the school – applications close on 30 September.

Last weekend, the Management Committee had its mid-year meeting – this year we set ourselves the target of completing our agenda in a day, and, thanks to everyone's hard work and focus, we achieved this. Keep your eyes peeled for updates from the Coordinators in this issue of Kiwi News.

The Management Committee needs you! As 31 August draws closer, it's time to consider whether you, or someone in your club or region, would accept nomination for one of the Management Committee positions. All positions are elected annually and we are particularly

seeking a Treasurer as this position is currently vacant.

During May and June, I attended Knox Club's 70th Anniversary, the North Shore Combined Ball, an afternoon-tea dance in Whanganui, and a Matariki Tea Dance (held as part of a SCD musicians' weekend). These were all super occasions where I was able to connect with lots of new and long-standing dancers. Each of these occasions was a celebration of our shared enjoyment of dance and music, and the commitment of club members to building and maintaining strong local groups. The number of newer dancers at these events was really encouraging.

Each of the events I attended was supported by a different group of musicians, some of whom I was enjoying for the first time. This caused me to reflect on how fortunate we are to have so many musicians who are willing to commit time and resources to playing for Scottish Country Dancing. Much of this work happens behind the scenes (think hours of practice and organising appropriate sets of tunes for each dance), so please remember to show your appreciation for the musicians who support the dances you attend, or, if you are fortunate, play for your local club night.

Musicians, remember that there is also a scholarship available for a musician to attend our annual Summer School. Chat to the NZ Branch Music Advisor, Lynne Scott, if you are considering applying and would like more information.

I hope to see some of you on the dance floor over the next few months.

Happy dancing.

Debbie

Debbie Roxburgh, RSCDS NZ Branch President

FROM THE BRANCH

From the NZ Branch Secretary

Re-registering as an incorporated society under the 2022 Act

NZ Branch, like all existing incorporated societies, needs to re-register under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 before April 2026 to remain on the Incorporated Societies Register. Part of the process is to actively seek agreement from members to reregister. You will therefore see a

Notice of Motion for the 2025 AGM asking you to vote as an individual on the topic of re-registration.

More on the NZ Branch Constitution

You may remember the note in the April 2024 Kiwi News that the Companies Office rejected the 2024 version of the NZ Branch Constitution because inverted commas were in the wrong place (and had been for a long time!). The error is now corrected; however the 2024 Constitution remains rejected because it refers to the 2022 Act when NZ Branch had not yet re-registered as an incorporated society under the new Act. The 2023 Constitution makes *exactly* the same references to the 2022 Act, yet was

accepted in early 2023. The Companies Office advised that the 2023 Constitution was accepted in error, but has retained the 2023 version on its website rather than requiring us to produce a 2024 version consistent with the 1908 Act (a process which would require calling a special general meeting at the very least). To be consistent with the version published on the Companies Office website, the NZ Branch website also displays the 2023 version.

AGM preparation

The business end of the year is fast approaching! It is time to prepare Notices of Motion for the NZ Branch AGM on 1 January 2025 at Scots College, Wellington, as well as nominate members for 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 two vacant positions: Education & Training Coordinator, and Treasurer.

The date for returning Notices of Motion and Management Committee nominations is **31 August 2024**. Remember, any RSCDS/NZ Branch member may propose a Notice of Motion.

Other dates relating to preparation for the 2025 AGM are:

- 14 September (at the latest) – Notices of Motion and Management Committee nominations are emailed to regions and clubs
- 31 October – closing date for amendments to Notices of Motion to be received by the NZ Branch Secretary
- 19 November (at the latest) – all 2025 AGM papers are sent to RSCDS/NZ Branch members
- 30 November – individual voting period opens
- 13 December – individual voting period closes

Summer School scholarships – an update

Management Committee has approved two new categories of Summer School scholarship. The first is a **Family Scholarship** with a maximum value of the residential fee for two adult RSCDS/NZ Branch members and two Junior Associate Members (JAMs). The Family Scholarship is open to family groups where at least one JAM and at least one adult (maximum two) are attending Summer School. The family group may choose to register as commuters. There is flexibility within the scholarship ‘rules’ for the make-up of the family group, but the maximum value of the scholarship is set by the residential fee for two adults and two JAMs.

The second is a **Young Adult Member (YAM) Scholarship** open to RSCDS/NZ Branch members in the 18-24 age group, and is otherwise the same as the Dancer Scholarship.

Both new categories will be available for the 2024/25 Wellington Summer School. Details will be available on the NZ Branch website by the end of July. The closing date of all applications for Summer School Scholarships is **30 September 2024**.

Joy Dick, NZ Branch Secretary

From the Branch Treasurer

RSCDS Fees for 2024/2025

The Management Committee of the NZ Branch met on 6 July 2024 and set the following fees.

At the AGM in November 2023, the Society increased all fees by GBP 2.00. We therefore have to pass this increase on to our Branch Members. The exchange rates at present are trending at \$2.07 and higher to the GBP.

This will be a close conversion, and the movement in the exchange rate between July 2024 and when the funds are remitted to the Society (in late September or early October 2024) will be managed through the Subscriptions bank account.

Fee Type	NZ Branch Fee	RSCDS Fee	Total Annual Fee
Adult Single (25+)	55.00	58.00	113.00
Adult Single Email (25+)	39.00	58.00	97.00
Adult Joint (both 25+) per person	43.00	47.00	90.00
Adult Joint Email (both 25+) per person	35.00	47.00	82.00
RSCDS Life Member	55.00		55.00
RSCDS Life Member Email	39.00		39.00
Young Adult (18-24)	34.00	46.00	80.00
Young Adult Email (18-24)	18.00	46.00	64.00
Half Year Adult (new members only)	27.00	29.00	56.00

Seeking: Branch Treasurer

The Branch Management committee is seeking expressions of interest in taking on the Role of Branch Treasurer

(nominations due by 31 August 2024, with appointment made at the AGM 1 Jan 2025). Regions or Clubs, please ask anyone who you think may be interested to please consider this role. If someone is interested and would like further information they can contact Lesley Nicol, Acting Treasurer, by email lesleynicol45@gmail.com or phone 021 2784522.

Future Summer Schools

Wellington is hosting the Summer School 2024/25, the following year it will be held in Christchurch 2025/26. The Management committee has spoken to a couple of people about possibly hosting the Summer School in 2026/27 but no-one has yet made a commitment. If you would like to consider running the Summer School, please discuss with your region, then contact either the President or Vice President to register your interest.

Management Committee is open to rethinking the Summer School format to make it more exciting and accessible. Please forward suggestions to the President or Vice President. This could be a topic for further conversation at Wellington Summer School.

Lesley Nicol, Acting NZ Branch Treasurer

From the Membership and Comms desk

Hard to believe we're over half way through the year already! And the best thing about that? We're THAT much closer to Summer School! 😊

If you've been wanting to go to SS Wellington but weren't sure about meeting the cost, have you applied for one of the scholarships? There are several available, and all the details can be found [HERE](#) on the Branch website.

The form is easy to fill out and each scholarship covers the full residential cost ... why wouldn't you try? Remember – the close-off date for applications is **30 September**, and you MUST be a fully paid-up RSCDS Member at that date.

The Branch has several funds (including the Mirth Smallwood Bequest, the Musician Fund and the Youth Fund) set aside for various purposes – and one of them is for the SS scholarships.

Another recent fund, the Bernice Kelly Bequest Fund, was set up specifically to encourage those who are training to teach SCD. Since its inception in 2022, this fund has been used to pay the Unit exam fees for those sitting. In addition, it was used to underwrite the recent Teachers' Workshop, and will be used to support ongoing Continuous Professional Development for teachers. And the Management Committee have just resolved to use it, on



RSCDS NZ Branch Inc
Summer School 2024/25

WELLINGTON



RSCDS NZ Branch Wellington Summer School 28 December 2024 to 5 January 2025

We invite you to join us for a week of dancing at Summer School in Wellington. The venue is Scots College, a co-educational boarding school set on extensive grounds just minutes from the airport.

Meet the amazing line up of talented international and NZ based teachers joining us for Summer School. Read more about them: <https://nzsummerschool2024.nz/teachers/>

Scholarships from the NZ Branch are available for attending Summer School. Closing date for applications is 30 September 2024. Full details on the Branch website: <https://dancescottish.org.nz/education-scholarship/>

Early bird registration closes on 31 August 2024. Register now to avoid the late registration surcharge!

Experience Wellington's cafes, galleries and museums or explore our stunning harbour and nature reserves.

Optional afternoon activities include a Weta Workshop tour and a visit to Zealandia wildlife ecosanctuary.

Come join us - you'll be blown away by a Wellington welcome!



Organiser: Ann Oliver
Email: nzsummerschool2024@gmail.com

Register: nzsummerschool2024.nz
Follow: facebook.com/NZBranchSummerSchool

an ongoing basis, to make a contribution to SS costs for those sitting Units. We understand how important it is to encourage those who are prepared to put their own time, energy and money into qualifying as a SCD teacher, and this fund is set up precisely for this reason. Remember, this support is for RSCDS members only ... yet another reason to be a member 😊

Digital marketing – Help needed

Also discussed at the recent MAC meeting – we've had a request to assist Regions/Clubs with marketing, specifically digital marketing. We know this is not where our strengths lie, so we're putting out a call to all members: is there someone with a marketing background who would be willing to volunteer to write a Club Digital Marketing Strategy that could be shared around the motu? Possibly even run a Zoom presentation to introduce people to the strategy and explain how to implement it? Many of us are very au fait with popping index cards on supermarket community boards, but would really like some guidance on how to approach marketing in a new age. If you think you could help, please contact me:

communications@dancescottish.org.nz

That's all for now, Cheers, Su 😊

Su Marshall, Branch Membership and Communications Coordinator

Education and Training

Exam News

Congratulations to the two candidates who passed their Unit 1 exam in March – Claire Brocklehurst and John Sheard, both of Christchurch. This is the written exam which tests candidates' knowledge of the history and music of Scottish country dancing, and details of steps and formations.

At the other 'end' of the teacher training journey, this coming Summer School will offer Unit 5 exams – the candidates are tested on their teaching of an entire dance to a class of dancers. Those planning to attend Summer School, and local Wellington dancers, please start thinking about how you can support our up-and-coming teachers by providing them with someone to teach, either for practice, or in the exams. In New Zealand, we tend to call these people 'stooges', but I like the North American term of 'angels'!

RSCDS resources

At the Teachers' Weekend, there was lots of discussion about different resources available. In particular, Graham Donald has pointed out:

- the Technique Advisory Panel (or TAP), where dancers or teachers can see previous questions raised about

steps or dances. This can be accessed by logging into the MY RSCDS pages by using your email address and password and then scroll down to Member Only Content;

- under Education and Training, there is a section titled Resources for Dancers. Within that section there is a lot of material which is useful. At the menu on the left hand side of the page there is also the link to The Manual and Publication updates;
- Dancing from Home podcasts (made available during Covid lockdowns) are still up and available.

E&T and Membership have also been working on getting the right 'attributes' against teachers' membership entries in the database, so everyone interested in teaching will get the RSCDS Teachers emails, from now on.

Resources from elsewhere

The Australian Teachers' Alliance (ATA) membership is open to **any** current member of the RSCDS who holds the Teacher's Certificate, who has passed the Preliminary Test, or who has passed the Teaching Certificate Part 1 (Units 1, 2 and 3). Associate Membership is available to any current member of the RSCDS (without a teaching qualification) who is teaching Scottish Country Dancing and who wishes to further his/her teaching skills. Keep up to date with Australian teachers and courses as an ATA member. More information is available online at <https://www.rscds.org.au/ata.html#/>

Do you have trouble with vertigo? Or do you have dancers at your club who can't do tight turns without getting dizzy? Something to think about and perhaps add into your club teaching – the Stonnington Group in Melbourne have produced a video called "Dizzy Dancing". It's 17 minutes of suggestions for dancers who have "dizzy" issues when dancing. Find it at <https://youtu.be/z2EypJvV2dA>

Jeanette Watson, Education and Training Coordinator

Youth

It is good to see the number of JAM registrations slowly rising. While these numbers are currently only slightly above 2023 registrations, it seems there are quite a number of young dancers around the country. It is good to hear about what they are doing in their dance groups. Check out some of their activities in this month's issue of *Jigs And More*. If your club is not yet registered as a JAM club, please do that now, so you receive the newsletter.

Thanks to those groups and individuals who replied to emails about options for JAMs at Summer School. These responses are currently being considered.

As usual, two scholarships for our NZ Branch Summer School are available to registered JAMs. You will find information about these, along with the updated [application form](#), on the Youth page of the Branch website. The closing date for applications is 30 September to now align with all other Summer School scholarships. We suggest that the form be downloaded, scanned and emailed to the Branch Secretary in order to arrive on time. Please promote these scholarships to any young dancers who you think may be interested and support them if they don't have the capability to scan their completed form.

If you know of dancers in the 18 to 24 age bracket who may be interested in attending Summer School, please encourage them to apply for the new scholarship category, **Young Adults**, now offered by the Branch.

Jeanette Lauder, Youth Coordinator

RSCDS NZ Branch Shop

New availability:

- RSCDS Book 53 and 2 CDs
- Glasgow Branch 100th Anniversary book - available as .pdf or hardcopy
- Dance Book 5 by Gaye Collin
- Memories Are Made of This Vol4 and Vol5 by Amy Luxton
- Formation Foundations set including CD (teaching aid)

Coming Soon:

- The Second Hunter Valley Book of Dances

Other books available:

- RSCDS A5 Compilations of Books 13 – 44
- Memories Are Made of This Vols 1, 2 and 3 by Amy Luxton
- Two Score + 2 for 2022 book (tunes by Muriel Johnstone)
- A Toast to the Future by Iain Boyd – available as .pdf or hardcopy
- The Bainfield Collection by Margaret Bailey Allison – available as .pdf or hardcopy
- and many, many more (enquire if you are looking for a particular title)

CDs available are:

- CDs for Books 50, 51, 52 and 53
- CD Dance Through the Decades – RSCDS
- CD The Hour of Pearl - by Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt
- CD Auld Friends Meet – music to accompany the book of the same name (collection of Roy Goldring's dances) as produced a few year ago.
- CD Beneath the Ben – Muriel Johnstone compositions for listening enjoyment

- CD *The Musicians' Wedding*

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, Whanganui 4501

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Knox 70th Anniversary Tribute

Knox Club was delighted that so many dancers, friends, members (past and present), kith and kin came to their 70th anniversary celebration.

On 4 May 2024, St Aidan's 'big hall' was filled to capacity with more than a hundred dancers at their Platinum Afternoon Dance. The stage was decorated

with Knox bunting. Elaine Goldthorpe's birthday cakes and Judy Peace's embroidered banner on the lectern showed closer details of our crest: the RSCDS crown of dancing shoes, St Andrews Castle, a galley ship, and a bible, acknowledging Rev John Knox as chief founder of the Protestant Church of Scotland 1560.



Our two current teachers, Glenys Gray and Judy Peace, designed and briefed an attractive programme of popular dances. The music was provided by our favourite *Rose and Thistle Country Dance Band* – Trish Henley, Lynne Hudson, and Sofia Cradwick.

Knox President Bronwen Arlington gave a brief history of the club. Veteran dancers Bev Young, Jocelyn Whyte and Pat Henley later shared their experiences of earlier venues: Knox Church Hall, Parnell RSA, the wooden stage of the Girls High School... Sadly, St Aidan's old hall with its sprung wooden floor was demolished to "put up a parking lot". After St Oswald's, we are now at Epsom Baptist Church.

Bronwen listed many achievements of the first two teachers, but two highlights stand out. In February 1959, club founder Mrs Margaret Laidlaw produced a display for NZ television, and in January 1990, Betty

Sharpe trained four sets of dancers for the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony.

Special guests Wailin Elliott, who was in the first class, and life members Edna Shaw and Elisabeth Wilson ceremonially cut the cakes.



We were also honoured with the presence of two presidents – Debbie Roxburgh (NZ Branch) and Gae Beckingsale (Auckland Region).

There was a sumptuous afternoon tea, and both cakes in the shapes of a '7' and a '0' were delicious! We finished the festivities with "Auld Lang Syne".

Here's wishing "a cup of kindness" to everyone who contributed, supported, and shared this special occasion with Knox.

Bronwen Arlington, Knox SCD Club President

Lower Hutt SCD Club celebrates 70 Years 1954-2024

The Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club was formed in 1954 and met with 70 members at the newly built Epuni Community Hall on Monday nights – we still meet at this same venue 70 years later!

The music used was from 78 rpm records which had one dance on each side. The gramophone was provided by Mr and Mrs Douglas and brought to club with unfailing regularity every Monday evening. There were certainly not the many dance choices we have today.

Several new dances were devised by Lower Hutt members: *Govandale Reel*, by Jim Lean; *The Lower Hutt 30th Anniversary Jig*, by Valarie Scoble (Jeness), and *Epuni Station*, by Geoff Machin.

In the early days, club nights started at 7.30 and went through to 10.30. The evening format comprised all club

members meeting together, beginners having a class in the supper room, cuppa and chat, dancing for all, and ending with advanced dancing from 10 until 10.30pm. Advanced classes were also held on another night of the week in different hall venues.

Over the years, the club has been taught by some 22 teachers, eight of whom are still with the club. Junior classes have been taught by a succession of 17 teachers and volunteers.

We are very privileged in that we currently have eight fully qualified tutors, with one sitting his final exams soon. We have three living Life Members, Damon Collin, Janice Henson and Tony Wright, as well as a significant number of club members who have danced at Lower Hutt for over 40 years.

We have continued to be able to provide Junior classes and beginner and 2nd year dance classes in the supper room on our Monday club nights. Family nights held in the school holidays have been extremely well attended – one of the ways we encourage new dancers to the club. Theme nights also add some fun and the opportunity to dance to live music.

This year we are celebrating our 70th Anniversary and we would love dancers to join us in our celebrations. Our dance will be held on **Saturday 7 September, 2024**, at **Knox Church Hall**, High Street, Lower Hutt.

We would love to hear from past members. Contact Elizabeth Ferguson 021 934428 or 04 9344281 for more information.

Capital City Club 50th celebrations

Capital City Club (formerly the Island Bay Club) celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dance and a dinner on Sunday 26 May 2024.

The club has traditionally celebrated with a birthday night in late May, a nod to Alf Edwards, the club's founder and leading light for its first five years. The afternoon dance at Newtown School Hall was well attended by current and past members as well as dancers from around the Wellington region. The hall had been decorated for the occasion with blue and yellow bunting, tartan blankets and blue and gold balloons, as well as yellow flowers on the stage. A photographic display of club activities over the years, the Island Bay banner, and the Club's shields added to the festive ambience.

Club tutor Jeanette Watson MC'd the dancing, with live music provided by Lynne Scott, Richard Hardie, Mary McDonald and Hannah Smith. The programme included two dances from *The Island Bay Collection* (published in 1984 to celebrate the club's first decade). Spot prizes

with a golden theme were awarded throughout the afternoon to lucky dancers. At afternoon tea, the 50th birthday cake was cut by our two life members, Elaine Lethbridge and Iain Boyd.



Life Members Elaine Lethbridge and Iain Boyd cut the birthday cake

The second part of the celebration was a sit-down dinner attended by almost fifty current and former club members, including some from Hawke's Bay and Dunedin. The meal was catered by a community group from St Hilda's Church in Island Bay, who are fundraising for their SPACE programme, supporting young mothers in the area.

Between courses, Iain Boyd recalled the club's 50 years from its beginnings in Island Bay, starting a children's group in the late 70s, and its migration via Berhampore, Newtown, St Mark's at the Basin, Kilbirnie and back to Newtown. Considering that the club had not been based in Island Bay for several decades, a change of name to **Capital City** was proposed to better reflect the club's location. The new name was formally adopted at the 2018 AGM.

On 15 September the club will hold another 50th anniversary event. The Devisers' Day will include (mostly) new dances from Island Bay/Capital City club members. The afternoon event will be at the Newtown School Hall and will be suitable for intermediate and more experienced dancers.

Peter Beaumont

Silver Oaks Scottish Dancing Group

Keeping Active whilst Challenging Our Brains

Friday 14 June was a Birthday Bash with a difference. **The Silver Oaks Scottish Dancing Club** (Warkworth) celebrated two years of dancing together. To celebrate,

we invited the Greenwich Gardens (Albany) SCD group, who were also celebrating two years of dance, and friends from Kaiwaka, Hibiscus Coast, Ranfurly and North Shore Clubs. Our good friend Sharlene Penman came up to join in the fun, and more importantly, provide live music for us to dance to.

We were also celebrating a recent 70th, two 80th and a 90th birthday – quite some achievement we thought, until we asked those over 80 to stand together.



Twelve over-80 members and one 90th birthday

The party participants were two under 70, 25 dancers aged 70 to 79, 12 who were in their 80s and the star of the show, Ann Edwards, who celebrated her 90th birthday in early June and cut the birthday cake for us.

We danced a variety of jigs, reels and strathspeys and then enjoyed a shared lunch together. This was truly a memorable occasion.

Matariki at Warkworth – Matariki Whānau Day brought a group of nearly 40 family members and friends together in Warkworth. We danced a variety of dances, both ceilidh style and Scottish country dances. It was a delight to watch grandparents nurturing their mokopuna and supporting them as they enjoyed dancing. The day also brought in several folk new to dancing who are seriously considering joining a local group. This was a relaxed and happy occasion, enjoyed by all. Thank you Silver Oaks group.

Silver Oaks dance together on Friday mornings 10 – 12 at the Shoemith Hall. All young or young at heart are welcome to join us.

Elaine Goldthorpe

King's Birthday Weekend School

Challenges and solutions

The challenge: How do you run a weekend school in your region when no club has opted to take up the baton?

The solution: A merry band of dancers steps up and runs with the idea.

That is what happened in the Waikato Bay of Plenty this year, when King's Birthday Weekend was only a few months away. Dancers had been suggesting locations for quite a while and things weren't quite aligning. Either there weren't enough suitable halls, or sufficient eateries, or suitable accommodation – until the Raglan area was checked out.

The outcome: A great weekend of fun, music, dancing, friendship, food, and some time to relax. The support from dancers all around the North Island made the planning for the weekend extremely worthwhile. Classes were held on Saturday morning at Intermediate, Low Impact and Advanced levels, with a shorter High Energy class in the afternoon, followed by a walk-through of some of the dances for the evening ball.

And what a wonderful evening it was. With music, played by a slightly modified *Bourach Mor*, a great programme, provided and briefed by teachers Diane Bradshaw and Catherine McCutcheon, and the enthusiasm of everyone there, you couldn't help but enjoy yourself.

Sunday morning brought some time for relaxation and an opportunity to check out the delights of Raglan. A combined class in the afternoon provided opportunities to work on aspects of dancing. Then there was time to try other eateries not already checked out, before heading out to a "Ceilidh in the Country". This had obviously been well promoted in the district as the hall was packed with well over a hundred people. With Ruth Budden calling, supported by some stirring music, locals and dancers alike were on the floor having a wonderful time. A group of children were corralled into one corner of the hall and supported by Helen Smythe. After the dancing, the haggis was piped in and addressed by Alec Calderwood. What a wonderful opportunity this was to introduce dancing Scottish to this community.



Alec Calderwood addresses the haggis

Weary, but happy dancers dispersed from Raglan on Monday morning. Numerous positive comments have been received from dancers in every class.

If you haven't already seen it, check the article about the school on Johnsonville Club's website at <https://www.johnsonvillescld.org.nz/2024/06/07/raglan-2024/>. Thanks to Loralee Hyde for her work here and for the photos accompanying this article.

We look forward to next year's school being hosted by the Cambridge Club.

Jeanette Lauder

Musicians' weekend

Musicians from around New Zealand gathered at a small seaside settlement on the west coast of the North Island, Koitiata, during the weekend of Matariki, the Māori New Year. The bands represented were (in alphabetical order) *Balmoral Band*, *Bourach Mor*, *Ebony & Ivory*, *Glenfiddle*, *Kiwi Kilties*, *Rose & Thistle*, *the Saltire Band*, *Schiehallion*, *Strings Attached*, and *Wild Heather*.



Assembled musicians and the MCs, Isobel, Joy and Annie, at the Matariki afternoon dance

The NZ Branch Music Adviser, Lynne Scott, had set a full programme of subjects for brain storming. Some of the subjects were: practical mentoring; how do we pass on our skills; how are musicians perceived; raising our profile in the SCD community. All the musicians attending have travelled extensively, taking part in musician courses and playing for dancing classes worldwide, so there was a wealth of knowledge and experiences to be shared. This sharing is important for the future growth of 'live' music in Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand. The time and effort Lynne put into organising these weekends is much appreciated.

The weekend finale was an afternoon dance in Levin, where each band took a turn playing for several dances in the first half of the programme and the massed band for the second half. Always a worthwhile and important weekend.

Lynne Hudson

Waikanae Scottish Country Dance Club

Waikanae has started 2024 in good heart with some new dancers and other dancers returning after a break. We are enjoying working with our three tutors – Joy Tracey, Annie Christie and Isobel Harris-Clark. Our tutors take turns at teaching us on club nights and also combine to share an evening once a month. The club members enjoy experiencing the variety this arrangement offers.

A group of dancers attended Paraparaumu College's Cultural Day in February. They danced for an appreciative audience and took the opportunity to promote our club and Scottish Country Dancing. One young man was very complimentary and stated "You should come and teach people how to dance, at our dances everyone just stands around the room!"

Four of our new dancers have been attending the region classes and are reaping the benefits. Jenny and Robin wrote this:

"Currently, we are attending the Basics Region Classes being held in Petone. The classes are being held fortnightly which is very convenient. We are finding the classes very enjoyable with a mixed age and ability group of keen learners. The members of the local group that help out our instructor Diane are cheerful and knowledgeable. Diane is very clear with her simplified instructions. We are finding all the advice about basic steps and aims and objectives, such as ending up in parallel lines as a set, very useful. We recommend these classes to any beginners of Scottish Country Dancing."

Waikanae Club warmly invites you all to come to our **Annual Dance on 10 August** at Paraparaumu Memorial Hall. The music will be played by Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris. The dance will begin at the earlier time of 7.00pm. We would love to see you all there.

Ngaio SCD Club, Wellington

Our Annual Dance was held on Saturday 11 May in the lovely Ngaio Town Hall, which we had decorated with vases of flowers and tartan. The hall was soon full with eight sets and live music from *Black Tartan Band*. Two dances were so enjoyed, that they were danced twice, and we enjoyed a sumptuous supper together, with time to talk.

We are glad that nine of our new dancers who started with us in March this year, are dancing with us still. Five of them attended the five Basics classes offered by the Region, during May and June, and reported that this was most helpful to consolidate their learning. Several dancers with more experience were glad to have attended the Intermediate classes.

On the eve of Matariki, Thursday (our club night) 27 June, we held our annual Dinner Dance, inviting local clubs to join us. The theme was Midwinter Christmas, with tables decorated in red and green, and forty diners, dressed for Christmas, enjoyed a lovely catered Christmas dinner and the chance to talk together.



All dressed in Christmassy red

Then our tutor Melva Waite had a programme of ten dances, cryptically named for Christmas – such as *City of Bells* (Belfast), *Cracker Jack* (Pelorus), and *Trip to North Pole* (Bavaria) – for us to dance! Altogether a wonderful evening with friends.

Looking ahead: On Sunday 28 July we are planning a new venture for us: an Afternoon Tea Dance. Rather than going out on a winter night, it is perhaps more pleasant to go out in the afternoon. There will be a programme of popular dances with live music, and afternoon tea included.

We are having a Tartan Night on Thursday (our club night) 26 September, at the end of the coolest months, just before we move to daylight saving.

Wendy Donald

Nelson Club High Tea dance

The Nelson Club High Tea Dance was held on Sunday 21 April. We followed our usual format of mostly easy dances (the one exception being *Black Leather Jig!*), all the dances walked through, and a traditional afternoon tea spread, with sandwiches, scones, pikelets and cake. A good time was had by all who attended.

Kelly Walker

Blenheim Club

Marlborough put on its best autumn weather for the Blenheim Club's 68th anniversary dance on 11 May.

The Blenheim committee had made this year's celebration an afternoon dance, partly prompted by some members'

preference to stay home on cold autumn nights, and partly because SH6 over the Whangamoa Saddle can be a daunting drive late at night for guests returning to Nelson, Richmond and Motueka.

The new time didn't suit everybody, but enough turned up to form four sets. The programme, compiled by club tutor Linda Glavin, included simpler jigs, reels and strathspeys that newer members could tackle. The camaraderie created in Scottish country dancing meant that experienced dancers were quick to guide anyone faltering through their moves in dances with more advanced routines.

Angela Crompton

A Tribute to Audrey Mattinson

Audrey moved to Ashley Village in the mid-1970s, and joined the Rangiora SCD Club with her youngest son David in 1988. By 1994, she was standing in for tutor Jean Saunders when needed.

As Audrey continued to improve her teaching skills, then club president Pat Glassey thanked Audrey in several yearly AGM reports: "Thank you for your dedication and assistance in club dancing. You are a wonderful asset for our club." In 2002, she officially became the club's tutor.

The club's records helped work out when Audrey started tutoring over thirty years ago. In that time, she has been a tutor for the Rangiora Club, the Oxford Club and the Burnside Club, and has stepped up to help at the Tam O'Shanter club when required. Her contribution has been considerable, not just as a tutor, but also as a committee member of the clubs, fundraiser and a promoter of Scottish Country Dancing.

The Rangiora Club celebrated and honoured Audrey at the Annual Dance in May 2024, presenting her with a three-seater swing seat for her garden, along with a Certificate of Appreciation and the Banner Ceremony Certificate.

The Rangiora Club challenges those who attended the deviser's day class to devise a dance to acknowledge Audrey's commitment and dedication. Suggestions for a dance title include: "Audrey's Thirty-some Years", "A Tribute to Audrey" or simply "Audrey Mattinson of Ashley Village". Just imagine Graeme Plank at Tam O'Shanter Club announcing the next dance "AM of AV" (He has been known to announce "Miss J of A").

The combined clubs of the Canterbury Region wish to salute you and honour you for your outstanding contribution to Scottish Country Dancing.

Bob Devlin, Secretary, Rangiora SCD Club

Gaye Collin's Deviser's Day

Favourites amongst Scottish Country Dancers, devisers Roy Goldring and John Drewry, brought us an avalanche of dances; Roy Goldring best remembered for his flowing dances, and John Drewry for his choreography of novel formations now included in many modern dances: the *rondel, set and rotate, corners pass and turn, petronella in tandem*.

Here in New Zealand we have an antipodean equivalent of these two famous devisers developing in our midst: Wellington's Gaye Collin.

Gaye's repertoire of new dances is steadily growing: dances of deceptive simplicity with beguiling names, but which require precise timing and careful covering from all dancers in the set to master the dance.

Her choreography is now introducing us to new formations which, in time, will find their way into the general repertoire: *flirt and cast, Ds in tandem, twisted rights and lefts*, together with other new formations yet to be blessed with a name.

In April, the Canterbury Region had the benefit of a Deviser's Day Class taught by Gaye. A challenging day, made enjoyable by her good humour, skill and enthusiasm.



Gaye Collin (in the black top) teaches one of her dances

Regions elsewhere should seize any opportunity to learn from a deviser who is developing a worldwide reputation in Scottish Country Dance.

Mike Ross

Otago-Southland Region

From the North to the South

The Balmoral Club in Oamaru have acquired some new dancers this year and some nights we are excited to have a four-couple set. They were brave enough to attend our Open Dance on Sunday 16 June. We welcomed dancers from Christchurch through to Dunedin, who were all very helpful and supporting to our less confident dancers. This, with a programme of some easy dances, as well as some favourite ones, made for a most enjoyable afternoon.

Dancing in Winton is in good heart. Quentin and Ruth Currall took a recent opportunity of being in Southland to attend the Winton Club on a Tuesday night and joined two sets of keen dancers enjoying a great evening taught by Alison Warden.

Region Class double booking brings benefits

A double booking of a hall (or at least the perception by both parties that they had booked!) usually ends awkwardly, but sometimes it creates an opportunity...

The Otago-Southland Region holds a monthly class on the first Friday of the month at the Henley Community Centre in rural Taieri. The dates create an irregular four and five week pattern and a clash with a youth group that meets in the hall two-weekly. Normally the youth group amend their activity and meet elsewhere when there is a clash. But once, in the autumn, they were not expecting us to be there. Much apologising and embarrassment, but a suggestion was made that later in the winter we run a dance night for them. An offer accepted.

In early June, we had a packed hall of some 35 young people (aged seven to mid-teens) and parents, plus

seven of our dancers. Non-stop energy and laughter for an hour and a half (technique took a back seat for once), plus a commitment to do it again.

On the topic of youth, many SCD clubs and regions have been marking 50th, 60th and beyond anniversaries in recent years, whereas Otago-Southland is just a year old. So come and join us youngsters, as we mark one year as a newly combined Region at our annual dance in November.

It is 315 km from the Balmoral dancers of Oamaru in the north to the Winton Club in the south; and 240 km from Central Otago to the coastal dance clubs. So to help make travel practical, we have booked the amazing new event centre in Balclutha, *Te Pou Ō Mata-Au*, and are having a 4 pm start on Saturday 16 November. The acoustics are fantastic, the floor is to Royal New Zealand Ballet specification and music will be by Marian and Max.

We look forward to welcoming dancers from throughout the Region and the Branch.

Quentin Currall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lords and Ladies

The RSCDS Canterbury Region Committee

Cordially invite you to

A Right Royal Celebration

Saturday 27th July

At 7.30 in the evening

Scottish Society Hall

136 Caledonian Road, St Albans

\$15 and a small plate for supper

Live Music by
The Reel Fiddlers

Ceilidh Scottish Country Dance Club Annual Dance 2024

All dancers are warmly invited to the Ceilidh SCD Club's 2024 Annual Dance

Saturday 31 August 2024
starting at 7:00pm

Opoho Presbyterian Church Hall,
Farquharson Street Dunedin (off Signal Hill Road)

Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 children & spectators

RSVP to Ruth Taylor
(rumartay@gmail.com) by 21 August for catering purposes.

70th Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club invites you to their 70th Anniversary Dance on **Saturday 7th September 2024**

Music by Lynne Scott, Anne-Marie Forsyth, Sharlene Penman and Mary McDonald.

Venue Knox Church Hall, High St, Lower Hutt.

Enquiries Contact Elizabeth Ferguson 021 934428



Nelson Scottish Country Dance Club

Invite you to join us for our 71st Birthday Dance

Saturday 3rd August 2024, Haven Hall, 34 Collingwood Street, Nelson, 5pm

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

Otago-Southland Region

First Annual Dance

at

Te Pou ō Mata-Au

Balclutha

Saturday 16th November 4:00PM

Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin

Check out Te Pou ō Mata-Au on Facebook or their website <https://tpoma.nz/>

Wellington Region

NEW DANCERS' CELEBRATION

Hosted by Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt Clubs



Saturday 12 October, 2024, 7:30 pm

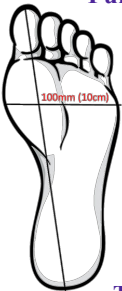
Knox Church Hall, High Street, Lower Hutt

New Dancers: \$10 with invitation

RSCDS: \$12 Non RSCDS: \$15 Non-dancer/Junior: \$5

Music by Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman, and Richard Hardie

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