



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

MAC News

(Management and Co-ordinator News)

Issue 1/March 2016

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PRESIDENT

A busy start to 2016 for myself and the Management Committee as there is always lots of correspondence to catch up with after an AGM.

This year my own club, Hoon Hay, has managed to attract seven new dancers. I would like to tell you how that happened, but I have no idea! Other clubs in Christchurch are also getting more members. Perhaps 2016 is the year of the new dancer!

With this in mind, clubs and regions will have received a letter from the NZ branch about our Dance Scottish month in June. I hope that all clubs will take advantage of the offer and find innovative ideas to encourage more people into Scottish Country Dancing.

Auckland ran a very successful Summer School and with the musicians, "Reel of Seven", who can complain? Christchurch is this year's venue for the NZ Summer School, so get onto the branch website, follow the Summer School links, and fill in your application forms now.

Enjoy your dancing, and remember to give the branch your good news and success stories as items for the Kiwi News

Contact: president@dancescottish.org.nz

VICE PRESIDENT

RSCDS NZ BRANCH 50th ANNIVERSARY:

In 1993 a collection of five dances called "Silver Threads" was published to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the NZ Branch. The 50th Anniversary of the NZ Branch will be celebrated in 2018 and the Branch Management Committee proposes publishing a collection of dances to celebrate the occasion.

All current members of the NZ Branch are invited to submit a dance for consideration. The dances will be trialled before a final selection is made.

Guidelines:

- The dance should not have been published elsewhere
- The deviser must be a current member of the NZ Branch
- Suitable music should be recommended
- Submissions should be received by the NZ Branch Secretary no later than 30 September 2016

FUTURE SUMMER SCHOOLS:

Unfortunately, owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Nelson/Marlborough Region is unable to host the 2018/2019 summer school. The NZ Branch Management Committee would like to hear from any Region, in either island, interested in hosting future summer schools especially in 2018/2019.

At present the 60th Summer School will be held in Ilam, Christchurch, this year (2016/2017). The following year (2017/2018) the summer school will be held in Masterton, Wairarapa.

Interested – contact: NZ Branch Secretary, Liz Lusher

Contact: vicepresident@dancescottish.org.nz

SECRETARY

Thanks to our new Editor Isabel, in producing her first NZ Dancer Magazine.

A note about our email system. If you have in your address book a position for eg Michael - secretary@dancescottish.org.nz, this will come to the current Secretary, as the email addresses are changed in the back ground. You don't want to be sending personal mail to the incorrect person.

I went to a seminar last week run by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment. It was to discuss the



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review of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. Yes that is correct this Act has not been changed since 1908. Anything that may impact on our Society will, as I understand it, be minor and be able to be incorporated in our constitution.

Once again I am looking for a replacement as Branch Secretary. I undertook the position again at the AGM as there was no one coming forward. Please look at your Region or Club members who may, or may not be interested, but need encouragement to consider this role. I am always happy to respond to any inquires.

Contact: secretary@dancescottish.org.nz

CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

The New Zealand Branch is going to hold a Dance Scottish month in June 2016. Indications of participation are due by the 31 March 2016 so if you haven't indicated whether you are going to participate please let me know by then. After sending a reminder, the replies are coming in thick and fast. I am organizing a re-print of pamphlets and posters as I don't have enough of these for this initiative

Contact: communication@dancescottish.org.nz

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Prospective Teachers required

2016/17 SS in Ilam will see Unit 5 candidates working on completing their Teaching Certificate and ready to take on the Scottish country dancing world with their knowledge and ability. They are working steadily through Unit 4 with their Mentors, and we wish them all the best for the on-going work through this year and for their exam at Ilam Summer School.

Unit 1 is offered every year (online course and written exam 3 hours in October) and if you are thinking of sitting this during 2016, please contact me at education@dancescottish.org.nz

2017/18 Summer School in Masterton will offer Unit 2 and 3 candidates classes to put the finishing touches to their dancing and teaching skills. While it might be a year or so away, it's never too early to become familiar with the syllabus dances and to keep working on your superb technique, so you stay fit and injury free. Your step and formation teaching practise can be a real asset to your local club or clubs close to you – it allows our dancers to see how practise makes perfect and you in turn, could be inspiring others to follow into teaching.

While teaching practise can be realised at club (with the support of your club teacher), for your own dancing in Unit

2, you need a set of advanced technique dancers who can practise the syllabus dances with you on a reasonably regular

basis – so your time at Summer School is for finalising your dancing within the exam class set.

This is where the New Zealand Branch Education and Training can help, if required. I would love to hear from you if you are thinking of sitting Unit 1 in 2016/17 or Units 2 and 3 in 2017/18 - we can work together to put a schedule in place to ensure you are well prepared, physically fit and ready when exam time comes around.

All this requires effort, commitment and physical strength (I'm not telling you anything you don't know already) and the lead up years of steady work towards your exam, will achieve your aim.

Contact: education@dancescottish.org.nz

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome back to a new year of dancing. As I sit in my little office wondering what to write my thoughts turned to a question that I have been asking myself for a while –

- What do we need to do to bring Scottish Country Dancing into today's market

We are competing with a host of different sports out there, so how do we make ourselves stand out

- Does the New Zealand Branch need to be more involved in promoting Scottish Country Dancing throughout New Zealand i.e.; like the gyms do
- Do we need to advertise more on the fitness and social aspect of dancing
- What is working for the successful clubs

The above are my thoughts and I would really appreciate your thoughts and ideas

Contact: membership@dancescottish.org.nz

Next mail out due:

30 April - Kiwi News and MAC News