



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

MAC News

(Management and Co-ordinator News)

Issue 2/March 2016

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PRESIDENT

Here we are at the end of April, where has the last 4 months gone? As I said in the latest Kiwi News, Frances & I are travelling to the North Island in May and June. We have organised visits to 10 Clubs, attend 3 Club annual dances and we will finish our trip with the Cambridge Queen's birthday weekend school. Not much of a holiday but we should get plenty of dancing. If you see us on the dance floor, do not hesitate to speak to us.

We visited the Rotorua club and helped celebrate their 60th birthday and over the next two weekends we will be attending the Blenheim club's 60th celebration and the Christchurch Caledonian club for their 60th.

Advertising has started for the next Branch Summer School in Christchurch. Information and application forms are available from the NZ Branch website.

SECRETARY

Emails to 'Email Members' are now being sent on a new system Chimp Mail. I am sure they will arrive better presented, plus the process is simpler for myself. So a reminder to the Email Members, and Club Secretaries to advise any changes in your email address.

Copies of the AGM Minutes have now been distributed, either with your NZ Dancer Magazine or by the new Chimp Mail system. Copies of the Management Committee minutes from Summer School are available from your Region Secretary or myself.

The South Canterbury Region has now been disbanded. Clubs now part of the Canterbury Region are Waimate, Timaru and Strathallan. Balmoral (Oamaru) Club is now with Otago Region. I am sure these Clubs will be warmly welcomed to their new Region.

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Letters have gone out this week to the clubs who have taken up the New Zealand Branch initiative of Dance Scottish month. Pamphlets and posters are being printed as we speak and once clubs advise what and how many they want these will be dispatched to them

EDUCATION & TRAINING

By now regions, clubs and those teaching will be working towards Dance Scottish Month in June 2016 and trying to think of innovative ways of enthusing those who don't yet dance to give it a try.

Just as it takes a set to make the dance happen, it takes a group of dedicated folks to start the process and for others to catch on and do what they can – everyone can be involved. So, fix that constant smile firmly on your face while you dance at malls, retirement homes, schools, demonstrations, ceilidhs or wherever and show the non-dancing population what they are missing out on – great exercise connecting with real people and everyone using brainpower

YOUTH Youth was left off the last MAC News for which I apologize. (Sue, C & P)

Following much feedback at the JAM Forum at Summer School in Auckland, my main focus this year is the updating and improvement of the JAM pages on the website. As I am technologically challenged, I have needed to have some training on how to do this and would like to thank Michael Laidlaw for the training and all his on-going help. However, I have now begun so you will notice the following changes. **Jigs & More newsletters** from last year and Issue 1 from this year have been uploaded although the most recent issue is only available to JAM members. Once Issue 2 is distributed, Issue 1 will appear on the website. The **Medal Test Application Form** now has new cost details, see 'Sit Medal Test'. The closing date for the **Summer School Scholarship Application** has been changed to 30th June in line with all other Branch Scholarships.

The **Youth Fund Application Form** has new contact details. Applications are due in by the 1st of June, see the website for further details. The December 2015 grant was awarded to the AWESome Weekend to cover travel costs for the teacher and band. This was the first AWESome to be held in NZ and is for those aged 18-40; see the report in the New Zealand Dancer.

I am pleased to see a couple of requests for events to be advertised on the JAM Facebook page. I am hoping in the future that we can have a JAM Calendar for all such JAM events to be listed but in the meantime the homepage has **Up-Coming Events** listed which are specifically aimed at JAMs or where a JAM Class is offered.

Please feel free to make suggestions for the JAM pages – **good ideas are always welcome** (especially from the young people) but please be patient whilst the work is in progress. The JAM Committee is here to assist you in whatever way we can, please contact us if you feel we can be of any assistance.

Next Mail out: 30 June MAC News and Jigs and More