



# Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

## MAC News

### (Management and Co-ordinator News)

#### Issue 1/March 2017

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### **PRESIDENT**

Welcome to 2017. Our dancing year has already started in the Wairarapa with 16 dancers turning up for the first night of our Introductory course.

The 49<sup>th</sup> AGM of the RSCDS NZ Branch Inc was held in Ilam on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. We welcome Lee Millar to the Management Committee as the Education and Training Co-ordinator. Liz Lusher agreed to stay on as Secretary but has indicated that this will DEFINITELY be her last year. Our thanks to David Williamson and Gail Schofield who retired at the AGM. The position of Vice-President is vacant at this time.

At the AGM the meeting agreed to the proposed changes in Job Descriptions and the forming of the position of IT Co-ordinator. Nominations for the positions of Secretary, Vice-President, IT Co-ordinator and the new combined position of Membership/Communications & Publicity Co-ordinator will close on 31 August 2017. Please give serious thought over the next few months to these positions as it is good to have all positions filled.

Future summer schools are another topic of concern. The Branch has two schools on the Calendar – Wairarapa 2017/2018 and Nelson 2018/2019. Lee Millar, Education & Training Co-ordinator, would welcome any suggestions from interested parties.

Do enjoy your 2017 dancing year. I hope to see many of you on the dance floor this year.

### **TREASURER**

Now the holiday season is behind us I am turning my mind once again to Branch matters.

At the AGM on 1 January 2017 I was asked if it were possible to provide a breakdown of the movements in the RSCDS Subscription funds over the 2016 financial year, this is attached in the table in the next column:

<b>Movement in RSCDS Subs Account</b>	<b>\$</b>
Opening Balance 1 Sep 2015	16,336
Total Subscriptions Received	21,633
Interest	251
Remittanc to HQ	(25,808)
Bank Fees	(52)
<b>Closing Balance 31 August 2016</b>	<b>12,360</b>

I'm currently in the process of getting the accounts up to date after a hiatus while preparing for the AGM.

Following the discussions at the AGM I will make a few amendments to the draft Expenses Policy. Liz Hickey has kindly agreed to review this and provide feedback as to whether it covers the items discussed in the Expense Review that was conducted in 2016. The Expense Policy will then become a guide for the Branch Management Committee.

The remits at the AGM provided some excellent discussion. This highlighted that the reimbursement of meeting expenses (including meetings held at Summer School) may be best handled as statement of policy with these expenses re-affirmed at each AGM for the following year. A change in the process will be implemented at the 2018 AGM.

As Regions around the country gear up for the new dancing year I would appreciate confirmation of the treasurer (either ongoing or new) and copies of the prior year financial statements for those Regions who have not yet forwarded them to the Branch.

### **COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY**

Last year when we ran the June Dance Scottish month, it had mixed success so at a Management Committee meeting at Summer School it was decided to hold another Dance Scottish promotion in February 2018. I will be asking clubs in August if they are wanting to participate in this as it will all need to be organised before Clubs finish their current dancing year.



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I have some pamphlets and fliers available that promote Scottish Country Dancing so please let me know if you would like some. The cost of these are borne by the Branch

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

Having just started as the Education & Training Coordinator I've got a couple of things I'd like you to think about -

### New Teachers required

This is a good year to be thinking about getting formal Scottish dancing teaching qualifications if you are at all interested.

Unit 1 is offered every year through an online course with a written 3 hour exam in October and if you are thinking of sitting this during 2017, please contact me at [education@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:education@dancescottish.org.nz)

The 2017/18 Summer School in Masterton will have Unit 2 and 3 classes which train you for the initial examinations of your dancing and teaching skills.

If this is all a bit soon for you, think about asking your club tutor for opportunities to help with the teaching at your local club. Even just teaching a dance here and there gives you a feel for what is involved and the confidence to go further.

### Succession Planning

A fancy business term which means thinking about who might teach your club if and when your current tutor isn't available. Your club committee may already have ideas about who they could shoulder tap from within the club or elsewhere in the region to get some exposure to teaching before it becomes an urgent problem. But something to think about and act on. Give me a yell if you want some feedback on how this might work for your club.

The NZ Branch too is thinking about succession planning - for the examiners and for the teachers who run the teachers examination classes.

On any of these topics or in fact on anything else to do with Education & Training just get in touch with me, Lee, by email [education@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:education@dancescottish.org.nz) or just grab me between dances for a chat.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Please try to encourage your new dancers (and one that have been dancing for a number years) to consider joining the RSCDS. Introductory Membership are available to new dancers, this gives them the opportunity to be RSCDS members for the half year, rather than having to wait for the next year. I feel that it is a great way to promote the RSCDS.

## **YOUTH**

At Summer School, when I was not in committee meetings, I spent much of my time discussing JAM issues with various people and meeting new people who were interested in knowing more about JAMs, medal tests etc.

15 candidates took medal tests, congratulations to everyone who passed. Thanks to the helpers and stooges who assisted on the day, we couldn't do it without you.

At the JAM Forum I updated those present on the changes that I have made on the 'Youth' pages of the Branch website. There is a great deal of information available on the Youth pages for JAMs, teachers, parents and anyone interested or involved with JAMs. If you haven't visited those pages for some time, please go and have a look. I also requested feedback from the JAMs regarding what they wanted to see on the website pages.

Amongst other things, they suggested adding 'examiners comments' (from a recent Jigs & More) to the Medal Test page, more photos and videos of JAMs, photos of JAM Committee and a link from the 'JAMs at Summer School' page to the 'Scholarship Application Form'.

I'm still working on the photos of the JAM Committee but I have managed to make some of the other changes requested.

I have also added all the comments given to me in the 'homework' to the 'JAMs at Summer School' page. Go and see what our JAMs think of Summer School. I am very happy to receive feedback on the 'Youth' pages, please e-mail me at [youth@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:youth@dancescottish.org.nz)