



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

MAC News

(Management and Co-ordinator News)

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PRESIDENT

My travels have continued during May and June with a visit to Invercargill to join members of the St Andrews' Club in celebrating their 60th Anniversary and to Christchurch to join the 30th Anniversary celebrations of the Hoon Hay Club. It is pleasing to see so many dancers of all ages obviously enjoying their dancing. A great deal of time and effort is given 'behind the scenes' by our club committees and teachers to keep Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand growing.

The New Zealand Branch is also there to support that growth but without people to give just a few years to the Branch Management Committee this support may end. Our parent body, the RSCDS, is there to support the branch but the NZ Branch offers our members local support and encouragement. We have a strong youth movement, teacher training and teacher support.

Nominations for Branch positions close on 31 August 2017. All positions are open for nomination annually and this year holders of the following will be standing down after completing their three-year term: Secretary, Communications & Publicity, Membership and Youth. The position of Vice-president is still vacant. With a change in the Branch constitution last year the positions of IT co-ordinator and Membership, Communications & Publicity Co-ordinator were created. If you are interested in any of the positions please contact the Branch Secretary for a Job Description.

SECRETARY

REMINDER that Remits and Management Committee Nominations are due by 31 August. Management Committee has a role for all interests. (Other of course Scottish Country Dancing) Coming up for election at AGM 1 January 2018 are the positions of:
Secretary, Vice President, Youth Co-ordinator
Plus the 2 new positions of:
Information Technology Co-ordinator, and Membership, Communications & Publicity Co-ordinator

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

I have been working on the next Dance Scottish month to be held in February 2018. All clubs will receive letters in August asking if they want to participate so get your thinking caps on as to how you are going to entice new dancers to enjoy what we all do. I am hoping that more clubs will take up this initiative this time, as the reason several gave was that it was the wrong time of the year.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership has been in the quiet time of the year. I will say it has been great to see members emailing to let us know of

new address, email addresses and contact numbers. This helps to ensure our members receive all of the information sent not only from the New Zealand Branch also the Society.

The busy time of the year is approaching and with this in mind it would be a good time to encourage all dancers to join the RSCDS.

My belief is Scottish Country dancing is no different to any other sport. The survival of all Societies depends on membership fees.

I am aware that the annual fee can be hard for some dancers to find in one lump sum. Maybe this is something the clubs could help with by allowing the dancers to pay extra on the nights they dance to reduce the amount they have to pay at the time the membership fee is due.

This is my last year as Membership Co-ordinator and I would like to thank all the Region Secretaries, Treasurers and the Club Secretaries and Treasurers for all you support and patience. I would also like to thank the members for their support over the last 3 years I have learnt heaps.

YOUTH

Elaine Lethbridge and the Wellington Region hosted a most successful JAM Camp in Masterton in the April School Holidays. Two of the members of MC (President and Membership Co-ordinator) taught at the JAM Camp and the Secretary, Youth and Publicity & Communications Co-ordinators were also present. It's great to see our young dancers having a fabulous weekend with dancers of their own age from all over the country; these young dancers are our future for Scottish Country Dancing.

Thirty medal tests were taken on the Friday afternoon prior to the start of the camp. Congratulations to all the successful candidates. Thanks to Hazel (medal test organizer) and to our examiners and stooges for the parts you played – we couldn't do it without you.

I have also spent time compiling feedback from many people for the 'Working with Young People' Policy. The final policy wording will be decided at the Mid-Year meeting of the MC in July and I will report on this in the next MAC News. The final policy will also appear on the website for all clubs to access. Philip Oliver the Youth Representative for the past 2 years, said that he would like to step down but was happy to stay in post until a replacement could be found. I spoke to a number of possible candidates, and Philip is happy to share his experience and will assist as required through the first year. The position of Youth Representative is now being shared by two Auckland JAMs, Saskia de Graaf and Amberly Middlemiss. Philip will help them with the facebook page. If you are interested in JAMs or know any JAMs please share the facebook page link with them. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/RSCDSJAM/> or access it from the JAM homepage.