



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc.

MAC News

(Management and Co-ordinator News)

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President:	Linda Glavin	president@dancescottish.org.nz	
Vice-president:		vicepresident@dancescottish.org.nz	
Secretary:	Michele Miller	secretary@dancescottish.org.nz	021 237 6507
Treasurer:	Quentin Currall	treasurer@dancescottish.org.nz	03 485 9646
Co-ordinators			
Communications, Publicity & Membership:	Sue Lindsay	communication@dancescottish.org.nz	03 347 8234
Education & Training:	Lee Miller	education@dancescottish.org.nz	021 046 2015
IT:	Andrew Patterson	itcoord@dancescottish.org.nz	07 345 6337
Youth:	Debbie Roxburgh	youth@dancescottish.org.nz	06 343 2160

PRESIDENT

I hope you are all well during these uncertain times. I would like to congratulate all the exam candidates that passed unit 5.

Our dancing year started for many Regions and Clubs in February and came to a sudden stop in March when a category 4 was announced and we all went into lockdown. Covid19 certainly has brought about changes in our lives and having to live without some of the things we took for granted may have been a little hard to start with. As we are not able to socialise in our normal way during this time spare a thought for those who live on their own and if you can keep in touch with them be it family, friends or neighbour. It was great to see how we can still arrange happy occasions with the help of technology and this is exactly what happened in the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region. Jean President of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region, via Whatsapp gave a presentation speech while Glenys Howard's wife presented him with his Branch Award. Although this was not the grand occasion that had been planned for Howard the photo of him says it all. I would like to say thank you to all involved for arranging a wonderful day for Howard and thank you Jean for a great speech.

Take care and look after each other

CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY

I am still waiting to get the new Welcome to the NZ Branch publication from the printer. Hopefully it won't be too far away

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

It has been a busy time for the NZ Branch website. Sue has issued the latest catalogues of books and CDs, Lee has updated the information about Summer School scholarships and, sadly, the calendar has been updated whenever I have been informed about cancelled events.

Also, the website has had a bit of a make-over, the most striking changes being the headers on each page and the 'mega' menu for navigating around the site. This was necessary before starting work on the integration of the JAM website which should be completed within a few weeks.

One page which I have, reluctantly, dropped from the website is 'In my opinion'. I originally thought that an individual with forthright views (and there seem to be many in NZ Branch!) would write an article and any responses could also be published. I saw it as being more formal and less short-lived than other discussion forums such as the Strathspey Server and Facebook. Should the idea be revived? Would you be willing to contribute? Let me know what you think.

Finally, sitting in my bubble, I have time to embark on the bane of the software developer's life - documentation - in order that anyone can quickly familiarise themselves with the processes involved. Lee and Michele have implemented a Google Drive storage facility so that MAC members now have a place to file information and I hope to put this to good use over the next few months.

YOUTH

JAM pages on the NZ Branch website

Keep an eye out for our 'new look' sometime in May. Special thanks to Andrew Patterson for undertaking this work for us.

Virtual Festival. If you're looking for something different to offer young dancers when our clubs and classes resume then this might be of interest. The Virtual Festival, organised by the Youth Services Committee, involves under 18s choreographing and videoing a short dance on the theme of **A Scottish Celebration**. Follow this link for more information: <https://www.rscds.org/get-involved/young-dancers/youth-activities/virtual-festival>