

RSCDS WELLINGTON REGION NEWSLETTER



Volume 22 No. 2

June 2019



President's Column

From Melva Waite, President

We are now three months into our dancing year and what a wonderful hobby our dancing is to have, now that the colder weather has arrived.

The *Basics* and *Beyond Basics* classes are halfway through,

with only three weeks left. The opportunity to revise, repeat and learn new things is certainly giving our newer dancers much more confidence and enjoyment in their dancing. These classes are so beneficial and have been well supported.

Upper Intermediate and *Advanced* classes will be a full day class each. We are very fortunate to have Graeme Plank from Christchurch for the Upper Intermediate Class and Debbie Roxburgh for the Advanced Class. Check the notice in this newsletter and watch for the flyer on your club's notice board closer to the dates of 10 August and 21 September.

The afternoon of dancing "*Down Memory Lane*" with Elaine Laidlaw was a chance to reminisce for some of our dancers, and an opportunity to get a better understanding of music and dances from the earlier years for the rest of us. This was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Many thanks Elaine.

The Region wants to congratulate Maureen Robson on receiving the NZ Branch Award presented by NZ Branch President, Elaine Laidlaw, at Ngaio Club's Annual Dance in May. Maureen has been a dancer, tutor and a strong supporter of the Region and NZ

Branch for many years. Our sincere congratulations Maureen and a huge thank you from the Region for all your support.

Congratulations to Kelburn and Linden Clubs who are celebrating their very special 60th birthdays. Kelburn's dance is on 22 June, and with Linden on 13 July – both at the Ngaio Town Hall. This is a great achievement for all present and past members to be proud of. Have a fun-filled night with much reminiscing and I encourage dancers of the Region to help them celebrate these occasions.

Ngaio and Waikanae Clubs have held their annual dances with very enthusiastic members attending. This is so encouraging, as many more new dancers come to join in the friendship and fun that is created at these dance nights.

We have ten JAMs from the Region going to the Camp in Auckland in July and we wish them a very enjoyable time of dancing, learning and making new friends. A huge thank you to all adult supporters.

At the Region meeting this month, looking forward, we have the New Dancers' Celebration in October, which Tawa Club is organising, then of course, Hogmanay on New Year's Eve. We are looking for a volunteer to organise this popular end-of-year function. So if you or your friends would like to undertake this, please let the Region Committee know. We do have guidelines available.

Meanwhile keep fit and healthy to avoid the winter colds by dancing at as many clubs and dances as possible.

Enjoy and have fun!

Congratulations, Maureen!

From Désirée Patterson

On 4 May 2019, at the Ngaio Club Annual Dance, NZ Branch President Elaine Laidlaw presented long-standing Tawa tutor Maureen Robson with a special RSCDS NZ Branch Award for her outstanding service to the Scottish Country Dancing community. This is a great honour, bestowed only on the best!

Maureen's contribution to Scottish Country Dancing has been huge, including:

- She has been Tawa tutor for 35 years, and is one of the Region's longest serving teachers
- She has served on the Wellington Region Committee for a number of years
- She has organised Region Weekend Schools
- She has taught Teacher Training classes on behalf of the NZ Branch, and has mentored numerous candidates studying for their teaching certificates
- She is always willing to provide advice, support and encouragement to others, especially newer teachers
- She has taught at a number of Branch Summer Schools, numerous Region classes, and Weekend Schools throughout NZ
- She has devised many dances, some of which have been published in RSCDS Books
- She maintains the Branch Memorial Book



The framed NZ Branch Award, presented to Maureen Robson

As a member of the Tawa Club, I would like to say that on top of all that, I think she is just the most brilliant teacher – her patience is legendary, she is always meticulously prepared, and has a lovely

sense of humour. Members of the Tawa Club have been very fortunate to have had her teaching them for so long. It was very pleasing, therefore, that 18 Tawa members were at the Ngaio Dance to witness the presentation of this award.

Photos by John Patterson



NZ Branch President Elaine Laidlaw presents Maureen with the RSCDS Branch Award

Aim for the stars!

From the Spurtle-wielder

Admittedly it is unlikely that the sparkle which inspired the dance *The Starry-eyed Lassie* was caused by her looking at the heavenly bodies, but it is possible that at one time in the year, her gaze might have lighted on the Seven Sisters – the Pleiades. Just as this cluster of stars appears in the southern hemisphere – called Matariki by Māori – and is taken as the time to celebrate a new year, so their becoming visible in the northern hemisphere also is significant. It is about the season called Samhain – about Hallowe'en, when the harvest season has finally ended and winter is getting underway. It must be remembered that the old northern new year used to start about 25th March – the advent of spring with its signs of new growth. Unfortunately the seasonal celebrations at the end of October became confused with the introduction of the more 'local' Guy Fawkes bonfires, usually to burn an effigy of the gentleman on November 5th! Children would go round the streets with the effigy on a trailer requesting "A penny for the Guy".

As we know from ancient times, marking seasons has been very important to keep in tune with the regular rhythm of daily life, and watching the stars tied in with that. Astronomical studies began at Edinburgh University in 1583. In the mid 1800s a

beautiful observatory was built on the city's Calton Hill at the end of Princes Street, designed by Playfair (now a World Heritage Site). He was the President of the Edinburgh Astronomical Institution founded in 1811 – the first in the UK. Nearby is the inverted telescope-shaped building celebrating Nelson's exploits; on top is the timeball mechanism which has the ball taking five minutes to reach the top and then dropping down on the stroke of one o'clock; the mechanism was triggered from observations of the transit of stars through the meridian and kept accurate by the Observatory (sadly no longer worked in this way). At the same time a gun is fired from the Castle. Of course, mariners are famous the world over for their skill in using the stars for navigation, but these features gave them two methods, when in the Firth of Forth, to check their chronometers – visible in good weather, heard in a haar (a cold sea fog). Calton Hill is now the location of the revival of some old practices: at Beltane and Samhain great fires are lit on it. In 1896, the modern Royal Observatory was built on Blackford Hill on the outskirts of the city – a unique UK scientific institution.

We are navigators when dancing. Thankfully we do not have to keep track of the changing locations of the stars as the earth turns – our patterns are constantly based on terra firma. There are various ways to be informed about the figures – the spoken word, the printed word and printed diagrams; different styles appeal to different people's learning techniques. Also sometimes abbreviated instructions are available: I confess to finding the use of "1s" to describe the first couple as 'ones' rather than "1c" can be a bit confusing – we seem to finish up with a lot 's's.

Another variety of aid for dancers is the many video clips now easily accessible. Certainly it is good to catch the social atmosphere of the occasions where they have been recorded, but it is a bit disconcerting when clearly some of the dancers have lost their way in the figures. Not exactly helpful if one is trying to learn the formations of the dance. So 'beginners' should be warned! Of course it can also give them confidence to see that not everyone is perfect, as may appear in some demo videos.

People who participate in our Scottish country dancing love it and are eager for all others to enjoy it as much as we do. This friendly enthusiasm can at times get a bit out of control. When dancing, too many people may try to offer help to keep on track those less familiar with the figures, so that the

recipient of all this 'help' quickly becomes bemused. A quiet word or hand offered here and there works well, otherwise it is best to leave the tutor or person organising things to give instructions; from their vantage point they can see where everyone is and whether it is better – to keep the dance going smoothly – for a dancer to maybe cut out a figure (or part of one) that is causing confusion, so that all can 'catch up'. There's a lot more to teaching than 'calling' instructions!

Many years ago, Jean Milligan, co-founder of the RSCDS, inspired those attending one of the Summer Schools at St Andrews with the motto "*Ad astra*" (to the stars). How much higher can we aim!?!

Dance Around the World at Johnsonville

From Kristin Downey

Each year as we approach winter, Johnsonville holds a themed social night with dinner and dancing for members and their families. This year we celebrated the international nature of the Scottish country dancing community, and the international diversity of our club membership. As always, it was a lot of fun, with our biggest attendance yet of 36 members and their eight guests enjoying good food, good company and a fun programme of dances.

Johnsonville club has many home-grown Kiwis of course, but they are joined by dancers with links to Australia, Austria, Canada, China, England, Fiji, Holland, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, and (a surprise on the night) Zambia. Marking up a map of the world helped us know a bit more about each other, and it was interesting to find that some dancers started their Scottish country dancing lives in places like Canada, Malaysia and Singapore.

Our standard venue of St John's Church hall was full of good cheer, helped along by Allison K's famous mulled wine! It was also full of colour, decorated with tartan tablecloths and rugs, a multitude of international flags and banners, and tea-towels from round the world. Club members dug deep to bring along their international memorabilia, whether they could attend on the night or not. Thanks everyone – especially Wendy for her huge collection of flags.

International dress added to the atmosphere. Some outfits were easily identifiable, others gave the most subtle of hints – tiny wooden clogs or shamrock socks. There were outfits from Austria, Bangladesh,

China, France, Holland, India, and Japan, and others with tones of Africa and South East Asia, colours of Australia, or shades of the "Old Country". And of course there was plenty of tartan, proudly worn.



Our tutor Rod searched out themed dances, reflecting our countries of origin. Starting with *Scotland*, we moved on to *There are no Kangaroos in Austria*, *Tokyo Flyer*, *A Trip to Holland*, *The British Grenadiers*, *Kiwi Black Magic*, and *The Coleraine Rant*. With no dances to be found for Singapore or Malaysia, he devised *The Durian Rant* for our South East Asian members. Thanks Rod for giving us a night of dancing fun we could all enjoy.

Final thanks to Allison K for all the work she put in as co-organiser and kitchen supervisor, to Lorelee for her work setting up the online registration form, to photographer John P and to all those who helped on the night.

Johnsonville's next dancing event is our Tartan Night on Monday 22 July, followed by our shared annual dance with Capital City Club on 24 August. Come along and enjoy great dancing to live music at both events.

More info at <http://www.johnsonvillescld.org.nz/>

Teaching NZ Dances in Gosford NSW

From Damon Collin

Last year we received an invitation from Ros McKie, asking Gaye and me to teach at a "Day of Dance", which is run annually by The Hunter Valley Branch. Ros teaches a group in Newcastle and was a member of the committee running the day school. This day class is generally taught by two teachers and the theme for this year was NZ dances!

We were delighted to be asked and Gaye set to work emailing NZ devisers, collecting around 30

dances to sift through and gaining permission from the deviser of any dance that wasn't published to add their dance to the list for this event.

The class level was intermediate upwards, which meant, of course, that we needed good variety for this group. As we always do, when teaching a class, we put all the dances on a spreadsheet (so we could see all the formations at a glance) and added a difficulty column to make sure we had a good mix to select from for the day. As the dancers only registered on the day, Ros was unable to give us a heads-up about how advanced the group would be, or in fact how many would be attending – although Ros mentioned that most years they got between four and six sets.

Sadly, it was wet and foggy on the day we arrived and Jan, our hostess, had to delay the scenic tour until the following day when the sun was again shining brightly. We were taken out to dinner by Ros that evening to a fabulous restaurant called Sea Salt, which looked out over the waterfront, a delicious dining experience and a good time to chat with Ros about the upcoming "Day of Dance".

The next day started with a hiss and a roar. When we walked into the hall, we recognised heaps of dancers, many of whom come to our Summer Schools. Among them there were a lot of teachers: Anne Kennedy, Trish Nicolls, Diana Hastie, Ros, Jan McCudden, Marney Wilson and others whom we met on the day. Brian Charlton was also there from the RSCDS Sydney Branch bookshop. There was one immediately recognisable New Zealand face – Jenny Kuttel (one of our past Branch Presidents).

Ros had told us that for the last session of the day they always repeated the most popular dances from the earlier sessions, so we had a large white board on hand to write the dances on, and the class ticked the dances if they liked them, after we taught each one. We had also decided that we would not name the devisers when teaching each dance, but did give out any interesting bits about how or when the dance was devised. We were asked to repeat several of the dances after they had been danced, and the applause after each dance was loud and enthusiastic, the very best sound to hear as a teacher.

As the class was run over the whole day, we had several dancers coming and going. At one stage there were seven four-couple sets on the floor, but mainly there were six sets, dropping down to five sets for two dances that were flagged as 'a little more challenging'.

As the dancers asked to repeat several of the dances on the day, we didn't get through as many dances as we had hoped, but the upside of that was that we felt the class were enjoying the experience, and therefore you go with the flow and energy on the day.

The dance list was narrowed down to 16 dances on the day, which gave us a few in reserve, and the dance devisers were:

Nicky Hawkins and Ian Gray, a dance recommended to us by Helen Greenwood that was devised for a club in Auckland (which did not have a NZ deviser), Janet Favel, Janet Tavener, John Gregory, Iain Matcham, Iain Boyd, Andrew Mills, Rod Downey, Carol Smith, and Gaye Collin.

The dances that were chosen by the dancers on the day for the final session were:

My Golden Bear (J4x32) Deviser: Rod Downey
Susie From Penilee (S8x32) Deviser: Gaye Collin
The Innes Dancers' Reel (R4x32) which was devised by Roy Goldring for the Innes dancers in Auckland, so a NZ-themed dance if not a NZ deviser.

We were using a hall that the Gosford class uses regularly. It had an excellent floor and provided plenty of space for the number of dancers we had. Gaye and I were impressed by the way the more advanced dancers shared the responsibility for helping those with less experience and with how well everyone sustained their effort through the day. It was not a Technique Class, so we weren't striving for excellent footwork but there was one dancer who deserves special mention. She only started Scottish country dancing in February but she was soaking up everything like a sponge and her footwork was superb – that's what comes from a background as a professional ballet dancer!

The demonstration of John Gregory's "*After Supper Sweeper*" (for which we co-opted four competent, but unsuspecting, dancers and two kitchen brooms!) was very well received, and Gaye's dance "*Joyce McLeod*" (which most of the dancers had already had a crack at) was demonstrated by ten dancers/teachers who had handled it well the first time around, and this effort received warm applause.

We have to thank the Hunter Valley Branch for its generosity and care towards us, which included a night's accommodation in a motel in Gosford and dinner on both Friday and Saturday night. In addition, after Air New Zealand cancelled our flight on Sunday evening and transferred us to the 8:30

am flight, Jan drove us to Sydney airport en route to her daughter's house in Sydney on Saturday evening.

The Day of Dance was one of our most enjoyable teaching experiences. Gaye and I enjoyed working together as a tag team! If you ever get the chance to teach at this event, grab it with both hands.

Linden Club Nautical Night

From Ann Oliver

If the wind blew you into port at Linden Club on Monday 27 May, you will know that the club had a nautical theme for the night. Everyone was attired in true nautical style with many striped shirts being put to good use, with colourful neckties and hats finishing off the look.

The club members all contributed to decorating the hall, with Colin even hanging the rigging and Bob threatening to splice the main brace.

The games and activities for the night were strung together around Penny Truman's recitation of the *Yarn of the Nancy Bell*. This story tells of the crew being shipwrecked and having to draw lots to decide who is put in the pot next, to feed the remaining crew. The recitation ended with Penny and Philippa acting out the last scene with Philippa ending up in the boiling broth.

It was a great night, finished off, luckily, with an excellent supper which meant we did not really need to resort to cannibalism.

Thanks everyone who visited us for the night and the club members for turning out and scrubbing the decks.



Nautical goings-on at Linden

Queen's Birthday Weekend School in Katikati – and a tribute to weekend schools

From Gaylia Powell and Pat Reesby

Having been recently to two weekend schools in lovely places, the Catlins (Otago) and Katikati (Bay of Plenty), here's an account of the latter. Both shared a number of features – warm hospitality, good organisation, dancers from around the country (even a couple from Australia at each), and heaps of dancing. For dancers who want just a taste of a 'summer school', this would be a great way to go. Share accommodation and maybe a rental car with a friend or two, for an economical short holiday. Next year's Queen's Birthday Weekend School will be held in Otorohanga, south of Hamilton.

Pat Reesby and I set off for Katikati early Thursday morning before Queen's Birthday, and were a little nonplussed when we realised it didn't start until Saturday. Nevertheless, we were pleased to beat the storm that delayed planes later that day and the next, and what a lovely holiday we had. That afternoon, there was time to check out the little town centre with its fabulous murals, and we finished the day with the best fish and chips I've had in years.

With Friday up our sleeves, we spent a couple of hours in the sparkling Sapphire hot pools at a motor camp just south of Katikati. It's not often you find hot pools for \$6.50, including hot tubs, in a manicured park with not another soul in sight. Pat spent the rest of the long weekend hoping for another chance to wallow in the warm water.

Our accommodation was at The Purple Hen, an avocado orchard on the edge of town. June is kiwifruit picking season, but our hostess managed to find some early avocados for us to take home. A number of other dancers stayed along the road, in the Katikati Naturist Park (ahem) which happens to be for sale.

There were five Wellington dancers amongst nearly 80 in the classes – myself, Pat, Elaine Lethbridge, James Scott and daughter Natalie, plus musician Lynne Scott. Lee and Michele Miller came up for the ball and ceilidh and stayed in a 'tiny house' close to the hall. Kevin Lethbridge came too, as Elaine's driver and general helper to all.

The school started early the next day with registration – including a gift of Katikati honey – and morning tea, setting the pattern of food, dancing, food, dancing that ended with Monday lunch.



The Wellington contingent. From Left: Natalie, Gaylia, Pat, Elaine, James, Lynne, Michele, Lee

The team of caterers from the newly formed Katikati SCD club must have been working for weeks ahead. A feature of the lunches was the recyclable wrappings, and we could each take home a reusable wax cloth used for wrapping bread rolls. Boxes of local kiwifruit and mandarins were available throughout – so much fruit we were encouraged to take bagsful home.

There were four levels of classes on Saturday and on Sunday afternoon: Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced Low Impact (with David Williamson from Christchurch) and Advanced Technique (with Gail Schofield from the Hibiscus Coast). Pat and I enrolled in the latter two and they were excellent. The last class, on Monday morning, was taken by all four tutors in turn for all classes combined, in the Katikati Memorial Hall. We found the dancing neither too hard nor too easy. There was less footwork practice than usual in our classes, but lots of interesting dances. One of my favourites was *Staircase in Styria* which was inspired by the double spiral staircase typical of the Styrian region of Austria. Here the Tay dancers show us how: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzS8pTX6h9g>

It was a treat to have musicians playing at every class too. Our Lynne made a great contribution. She played fiddle in classes, with pianist Margie O'Connor, from Auckland; took a class for musicians on the Sunday morning; and gave a talk for everyone after lunch on Sunday on what to listen for in the music. It made us aware of the many hours of preparation when choosing the best tunes for a dance, and how our local musicians try to match the phrasing of a tune to the formations of a particular dance. At the ceilidh, Lynne and Sharlene Penman from Auckland showed how versatile they are by playing '*Puttin' on the Ritz*'. The rhythmic pattern of this 1920s Irving Berlin number is apparently extremely complex.

The ceilidh was a highlight of the school, with Scottish country dances and ceilidh dances to suit a wide range of experience, interspersed with items – for example, the Sunday morning Musicians' Class played a beautiful rendition of *Lament for Lockerbie*.

The theme of the ceilidh was 'food'. Did you know the word 'katikati' means 'nibbling'? Apparently, when Tamatekapua, commander of the Arawa canoe, stopped there for a meal, his men ate their food quickly, but Tama nibbled his slowly, hence the place was named Katikati-o-Tamatekapua (Tamatekapua's nibbling). We were invited to dress to represent the food theme, and many did so, including James who presented himself as a hot (literally?) red chilli pepper!



Hot chilli pepper
James Scott

There's a slideshow of the school here: http://waibopscd.org.nz/?page_id=318 and Pat took this video of a demonstration by local dancers of a very cool dance, *The Elephants' Stampede*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNPO_2I6w2E

This was altogether a lovely weekend. Well done Katikati SCD Club!

Easter Weekend School in the Catlins

From Debbie Stephens

Weekend Schools are a great opportunity to see some beautiful scenery, meet other SCD enthusiasts, learn some new skills and have an awesome Easter.

This was my first 'Scottish Country Dancing School' and I found the logistics to get to Owaka really easy. Flights booked from Wellington to Dunedin via Grab-a-seat, accommodation booked at Thomas's Catlins Lodge (thanks Quentin for block booking in October), Intercity bus from Dunedin to Balclutha, a ride from Balclutha to Owaka (thanks again Quentin for picking us up) and a return ride to Dunedin Airport to get the flight

home on Monday afternoon.

Seven Wellingtonians travelled to Owaka for the school: Gaylia Powell, Dora Koleff, Janet McFadden, Carole Dryburgh, John and Désirée Patterson, and myself. Gaylia and Dora attended the Advanced Technique Class, taught by Fiona Bullivant (Whangarei), and the rest of us were in the Social Class, taught by Debbie Roxburgh (Wanganui). There was also a Beginners/Elementary Class, taught by Nicole Trewavas (Manawatu).

I had received a complete programme for the weekend of activities including timetable, class details and locations, programmes for the three evening dances (Fri/Sat/Sun) so felt totally prepared.



Debbie Stephens and David Williams (Christchurch) dance
Cranberry Tart

The three daytime classes were on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, and the Monday morning class was a combined one with each of the teachers teaching two dances. There were three sets in our class, and our tutor, Debbie Roxburgh, had some interesting – quite challenging – dances for us. A few people got rather confused at times, but Debbie sorted them out with patience and kindness.



The Social Class, with tutor Debbie Roxburgh (3rd from right)

On Sunday night was the special dinner, cooked and served by the local high school students, as a fund raiser. People were assigned tables, so that dancers, teachers, organisers and couples were all mixed up, and there were some interesting conversations at the tables. There were a lot of tables to deliver food to (each table in turn), and dinner went way over time, but that was OK. Considering these kids were just 11 or 12 years old, they did very well.

My highlights of the weekend were the daily classes with our tutor Debbie and then the dances each night. And as a bonus, there was down time to catch up with my Aunty and Uncle who just happen to live down the road.

Finding Jimmy Shand

From Lorealee Hyde

A chance remark can lead you off your chosen path ... and set you up for an unexpected encounter.

While on a tour of Europe in May, my sister Karen (who is also a Scottish country dancer) and I managed to sneak in a three-day visit to Edinburgh and its surrounds, including a side trip to Fife. We'd both explored these special places on previous trips but there are always new delights to discover.

I am very fond of bird watching and photography. Hearing of my hankering to see puffins (such captivating birds), the friends we stayed with in Edinburgh arranged a boat trip for us from the fishing village of Anstruther in Fife to the Isle of May, a Scottish National Nature Reserve. With it being nesting season, we had a great chance of seeing puffins up close.

As we drove through Fife, we came upon the town of Auchtermuchty. John, our friend who was driving, casually mentioned this town was once the home of Jimmy Shand. I am sure John did not expect such an excited reaction from this Kiwi backseat passenger. "Jimmy Shand," I cried out. "I love his music!"

From the time I started dancing in the mid-1970s, the tempo, clarity and energy of Jimmy Shand and his band's music has always appealed. Many a time I've danced to Jimmy's set of tunes for the *Eightsome Reel*. *The De'il Amang The Tailors* is a particular favourite—no matter how tired the legs are, this tune gives more spring to my step. Another favourite is his arrangement of the traditional

strathspey *Braes O'Tullymet*. Nowadays, I still dance to Jimmy Shand's music as our Johnsonville Club tutor Rod Downey regularly uses his recordings.

Having heard my excitement at seeing the town where Jimmy once lived, John added fuel to the fire by mentioning there's a statue of Jimmy in Auchtermuchty. Of course, we had to deviate off the A91 into the small town, driving up and down the narrow streets in search of Jimmy Shand. And there he was, playing his button accordion under a stand of trees.



Lorealee with Jimmy Shand

Scottish Country Dancing adds flavour to our lives wherever we go. If you are ever in Fife and see the signpost to Auchtermuchty, I suggest taking a few minutes to veer from your path and meet up with Jimmy Shand.

We made it to Anstruther in time to catch the *May Princess* over to the Isle of May. On the boat we

found out there were an estimated 92,000 puffins on the island along with hordes of other seabirds including razorbills, guillemots, Arctic terns and shags. We had two and a half hours of bliss in this puffin paradise—and I got the close-up shot I wanted of a puffin with a beak full of sand eels to feed to its puffling.



Puffin with a catch of sand eels

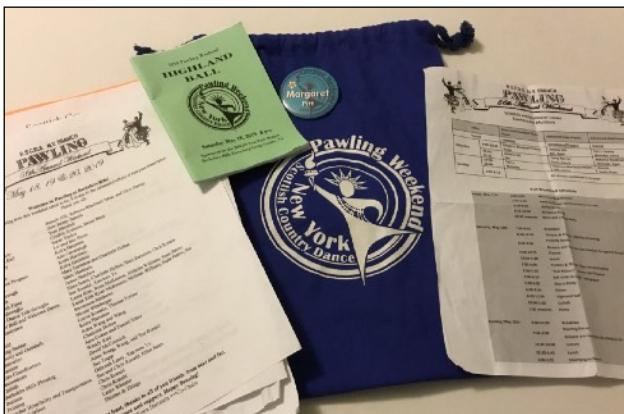
**Closing date for the next issue
14 September 2019**

RSCDS New York Branch Pawling 56th Annual Weekend

From Margaret Pitt

When my son got married in May 2019 in Milford, Pennsylvania, I looked on the New York SCD website to see if there would be any dances around the time that I would be in USA, and saw that they were having a weekend school on 18-20 May at Berkshire Hills, Copake, NY. On the map it looked to be close to Milford but actually took 1 ½ hours of motorway driving to get there. On the way there we passed the township of Pawling where the weekend used to be held.

The weekend started with registration on Friday afternoon. On arrival I was given my welcome bag – a blue shoe bag with the weekend school logo printed on it and a button name badge – and was allocated a shared room in one of the accommodation buildings.



The welcome bag and its content

There was a buffet dinner in the summer camp dining room. It was a Jewish camp, so there were rules that you could not bring your own food into the dining room, but it was OK to have your own food in your room or outside.

The Welcome Dance was held in a hall with a wooden floor. The hall had been specially decorated for the weekend with a series of posters of SCD dance names. The Welcome Dance walk-throughs were briefed by Sue Ronald and Xiaowen Yu (formerly of Wellington). The teachers for the weekend were introduced – Jimmie Hill (Scotland), Rebecca Blackhall-Peters (Canada) and Terry Harvey (USA). The music for the weekend was played by Laura Risk, Ryan McKasson, Nicholas Williams and Susie Petrov, who all reside in various places in Canada and USA and play regularly for SCD.

After the dance finished there was a Wine and Cheese Party from 10.30 pm, with food and drink provided by the New Jersey Branch.

Saturday morning started with three classes – advanced high-impact, advanced low-impact and basic-intermediate technique from 9 to 12.15. I was in the advanced low-impact class, held in the synagogue/theatre with Jimmie Hill taking it from 9-10.30. Then there was a 15 minute break where the teachers changed but the class participants stayed in the same venue, although it seemed to be optional whether you attended a class or not. The second session teacher was Terry Harvey. The afternoon programme was a talk on SCD history, followed by a ball walk-through. Before dinner, there was a Sherry party hosted by Tom Marshall on the sloping lawn area in front of the dining room. After dinner, the Highland Ball started off with a Grand March which was conducted slightly differently from others I have been involved with. When we were all lined up in rows across the hall, the national anthems of UK, Canada and USA were sung – the words had been included in the Highland Ball/Welcome Dance booklet.

After the ball concluded there was a Ceilidh with various items being performed by weekend school participants, and this was followed by a party with food and drink provided by Cynthia Arenson and James Betts.

Sunday breakfast was later due to the late night, followed by classes from 10.30 to 12.00 with the 3rd teacher – Rebecca Backhall Peters for my group. The weekend concluded with a Champagne Dance from 2.00 to 3.15 pm, with people actually dancing with a flute of champagne in one hand.

During the weekend there was a Bazaar, with people bringing items for sale, and a portion of the proceeds being kept by the organising committee to help with expenses. There was also a *Thistles & Things* gift shop on site on Saturday.

The organisers for the weekend were Deborah Leary and Keira Hartstein, with help from an organising committee, including a rides co-ordinator. I was given a ride back to New York City by Theresa Forbes along with two other people, as there is no public transport in the Berkshire Hills area, and people with cars were asked if they were able to take passengers to bus depots and train stations.

It was an enjoyable weekend dancing and meeting people who you have something in common with – Scottish Country Dancing.

SCD Music Workshop

From Désirée Patterson

Last weekend, I attended a music workshop with Lynne Scott – versatile musician, music teacher, and NZ Branch Music Adviser. The workshop was aimed at both dancers and musicians, or talented people who are both. It was held in Lynne's beautiful music room at her home in Lower Hutt.

With only four participants, it was disappointing that not more people had taken the opportunity to come and learn more about the music we dance to. There is definitely more to SCD music than "putting on a CD and dancing to it".

One of the participants was a very new dancer, but a talented musician; one other (me), a reasonably competent dancer, but with very sketchy music knowledge (I love music, but my technical understanding was stunted by hated piano lessons in childhood). We both had plenty of "aha!" moments during the day.

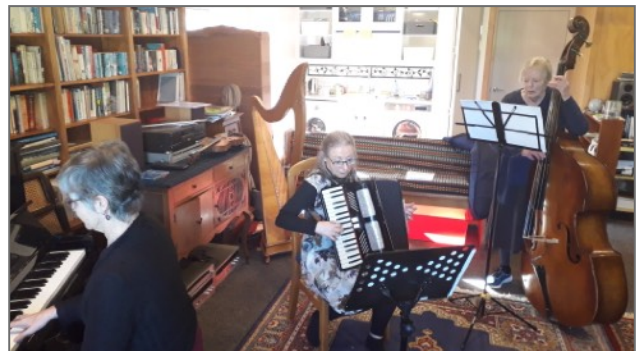
Lynne talked about such things as tempo (reel, jig, strathspey), 'lead' tunes, the arrangement and structures of tunes. I learnt the difference between 'grace notes' (the twiddly, decorative bits) and the 'Scotch snap' – the short (semi-quaver) note before a longer note, on the stressed note of the bar, which is characteristic of strathspey, and which makes Scottish music distinctly Scottish.

To illustrate, Lynne played various examples on the fiddle or accordion, and the two other musicians in the group played several tunes with her on the piano and double bass, to show how tunes were repeated in particular patterns.

When preparing to play for a dance there are many things for a band to consider: e.g. the kind of gathering, the state of the floor, the age of the dancers, the speed at which to play, the mood in the hall, even the ambient temperature.

In the choice of tunes, musicians have to select tunes that are similar in style within a dance, decide how to join them up, whether to have a change of key, have a 'break', or an extra long 'lead note' between 32-bar sequences, and how to phrase them to match the dance.

I came away from the workshop a little more knowledgeable about the music, but a lot more aware of all the time-consuming preparations that go into planning and arranging music for a dance programme. The Wellington Region is very lucky to have so many skilled musicians available for our dances and classes, thanks to Lynne's encouragement of likely prospects.



Helen, Lynne and Liz try out some tunes

From the Branch Recordshop

From Dorothy Wilson

Trading, though on the quiet side, has been notable for requests for earlier recordings. The Society had a good clean-out of many earlier CD Titles in the "Music for xxxx" range and quite a number are no longer available as CDs, so I was unable to meet these requests. Others, however, even going back over twenty years and no longer in the Recordshop's stock, are still around, and I have had an interesting time tracking down a few of these!

As for new releases – none for at least a while. The Society is talking of producing a CD for 30 Popular Dances in November. The Dewhurst Trio, in response to many requests, are hoping to produce a CD, also towards the end of the year or early 2020! Then there is the set of three CDs, to match dances that are popular but not as yet recorded, and the first of these is expected to be recorded by Jim Lindsay. Again, looking towards the end of the year.

It is all a case of Wait and See.

Email: recordshop@dancescottish.org.nz

Region Classes

Upper Intermediate Day Class

Teacher: Graeme Plank, from Christchurch
Saturday 10 August, 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Registration forms will be available from your club secretary, and on the Region website, <http://www.wellingtonscd.org.nz>

Advanced Day Class

Teacher: Debbie Roxburgh, from Wanganui
Saturday 21 September, 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Registration forms will be available closer to the time.

Venue: Both day classes will take place in the Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Road, Ngaio.

VUW Scottish Interest Group

meets on the 28th day of the month Feb-Oct, 7.15 for 7.30pm start (unless stated otherwise). VUW Law Faculty, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay
Visitors welcome; no charge, no university connections needed. www.wellyscots.wordpress.com



Carterton SCD Club Annual Dance

Saturday 2 November 2019, 7:30 pm

Carterton Events Centre- Holloway St Carterton

Music by Marian Anderson and Mark Ketchin

This is Scarecrow time in Carterton
Come for the weekend, tour the vineyards and check out the scarecrows.

Please note: Venue shown in NZ Dancer is incorrect.



Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club



65th Annual Dance 2019

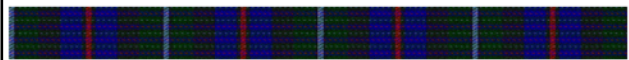
Knox St Columba Church Hall, 574 High Street Lower Hutt

Saturday 7th September – 7.30pm

Music provided by Black Bear Duo (Iain McKenzie and Emma Nixon)

RSCDS Members \$17 Non RSCDS \$20 Non Dancer / Student \$5

The Findlays' Jig	J	Goldring 14 Social Dances
Crom Allt	R	Graded 3
Fair Donald	S	Book 29
Pelorus Jack	J	Book 41
The Kissing Bridge	R	Book 47
Gang the Same Gate	S	Book 36
The Sailor	H	Book 24
Mairi's Wedding	R	Cosh
Triple Happiness	S	Book 52
Hoopers Jig	J	MMM
De'il Amang the Tailors	R	Book 14
Maxina and Supper		
Orpington Caledonian	R	Book 49
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J	Book 22
Miss Eleanor	S	Book 49
Scott Meikle	R	Book 46
Joie De Vivre	J	Book 39
Culla Bay	S	Book 41
The Irish Rover	R	Cosh 22 SCD Dances



NGAIO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB MID-WINTER DINNER AND DANCE

The Pines, Houghton Bay

Thursday 27 June 2019

7.00pm for dinner 7.30pm

Followed by dancing with live music by Aileen & Hilary



Celebrate the Winter Solstice with us in grand style!

\$38 per person

Payment **must** be made prior to the night as there are no facilities to process payments at the venue. There will be a cash bar if you wish to purchase drinks.

Payment can be made by either internet banking (ANZ Manners Street 11-7200 0095069-11 with your LAST NAME and THE PINES in the reference columns) OR by cheque (made out to Ngaio Scottish Country Dance Club) mailed to:
Ngaio SCD Club Treasurer, Gaylia Powell, 2/33 Box Hill, Khandallah, Wellington 6035 Email pgaylia@gmail.com

Enquiries to: Debbie Stephens 528 8892 (evenings) or Margaret Pitt 479 2026 (evenings)

60 Years of Dancing at Kelburn

Ngaio Town Hall

Saturday 22 June 2019 at 7:30pm

Admission: Adults \$15, RSCDS Members \$12, Non-Dancers & JAMs \$5

Music provided by Aileen Logie & Band.

See You Again	R (RR)
Come What May	J
There and Back	R
Minister on the Loch	S
Trip to Bavaria	R
The Compleat Gardener	J
Gang the Same Gate	S
Cranberry Tart	J
Mairi's Wedding	R
Robertson Rant	S
Shiftin' Bobbins	R

MAXINA WALTZ & SUPPER

A Trip to Glasgow	J
Lady Peak's Strathspey	S
The Whistling Wind	R
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R
Triple Happiness	S
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J
Reel of the 51st Division	R

Johnsonville Tartan Night

Johnsonville School, Morgan Street
7.30pm, Monday 22 July 2019


Music by Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman, Heather Elder

Will Starr	(J)	R Downey – Tuatara Coll
Dumbarton Drums	(R)	5/2
Fair Donald	(S)	29/4
Fugal Fergus**	(J)	H Foss – Waverley Fugues
City of Belfast	(S)	48/6
Fight About the Fireside	(R)	1/10

Supper

The Hollin Buss	(J)	24/8
Mrs MacLeod	(R)	6/11
Slytherin House	(S)	52/3
The White Heather Jig*	(J)	J Cosh – 22 SCD
The Reel of the 51st	(R)	13/10

- Adult \$4.00 Student \$0.50
- Members please bring a small plate
- * This dance is a wee bit tricky and quite quick, choose partners carefully. Newer dancers watch unless you know it.
- ** Please only dance this if you know it. Newer dancers should definitely watch.
- Most dances walked



60 YEARS

Linden Scottish Country Dance Club

Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Rd, Ngaio
7.30pm, Sat 13th July 2019

Admission \$15 RSCDS Members \$12
Spectators and Juniors \$5

J	New Year Jig	Bk 51
R	The Royal Deeside Railway	Bk 40
S	The Robertson Rant	Bk 39
R	The Kissing Bridge	Bk 47
J	Mrs Stewart's Jig	Bk 35
S	The Minister on the Loch	Goldring 24 G&S
J	The Hunting Horn	SCD Archives
R	The Wind on the Heath	Viva La Danse!
S	Delvine Side	Bk 2
J	A Capital Jig	5 for 2009

SUPPER

S	Linden's Diamond	I Simmonds
J	Joie de Vivre	Bk 39
R	The Five Row Reel	Linden Collection
S	Triple Happiness	Bk 52
J	Seton's Ceilidh Band	Morison's Bush
	The Duke and Duchess of	Bk 39
R	Edinburgh	
S	City of Belfast	Bk 48
R	The Reel of the 51 st Division	Bk 13

Music by
Mary and Duncan McDonald, Jean Malcolm and
Heather Elder

UPPER HUTT SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB ANNUAL DANCE 2019

When: 6pm, Saturday 27 July

Where: Wesley Centre, Benzie Ave, Upper Hutt

Cost: \$15 Dancers
\$13 RSCDS members
\$5 Juniors/Non-dancers

Music by Iain Matcham, Rebecca Warnes & Terry Bradshaw

— Light refreshments at 6pm, dancing starting at 6:30pm —

Highland Fair	J	Graded Book
Montgomery's Rant	R	Book 10/1
The Silver Grey	S	Goldring
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J	Morison's Bush
Triple Happiness	S	Book 52/10
Violynne	R	Rod Downey/Touch of Gold
Pelorus Jack *	J	Book 41/1
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S	RSCDS Leaflets
Best Set in the Hall *	J	Book 46/10
Seann Truibhas Willichan	S	Book 27/9
Bohemian Reflections	R	Book 51/12
St Bernard's Waltz	W	

— SUPPER —

Granville Market	J	Second Graded Book 18
Scott Meikle	R	Book 46/3
City of Belfast	S	Book 48/6
Farewell to Balfour Road *	J	Book 52/7
Cadgers in the Canongate **	R	Book 9/10
Culla Bay	S	Book 41/2
Jubilee Jig	J	RSCDS Leaflets
The Australian Ladies **	R	Campbell/Glasgow Assembly

* Please choose a good partner unless you know this dance well
** Only for those who know the dance please

Johnsonville & Capital City Joint Annual Dance

Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Road, Ngaio
7.30pm Saturday 24 August 2019

Music by Aileen Logie, Don McKay,
Hilary Ferral & associates

Collie Law	(J)	R Goldring – 24 Social & Graded
The Lass of Richmond Hill	(R)	Graded 2
Monymusk	(S)	11/2
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	(J)	16/3
The Montgomery's Rant	(R)	10/1
Barbara's Strathspey*	(S)	46/4
Good Hearted Glasgow	(J)	P Knapman - Collins
The Flowers of Edinburgh	(R)	1/6
Macdonald of the Isles*	(S)	D Haynes – Carnforth 2
Scott Meikle	(R)	46/3

Supper

The Hollin Buss	(J)	24/8
Kingussie Flower	(R)	21/6
Midsummer Common	(S)	49/3
My Golden Bear**	(R)	R Downey – From North Cape To The Bluff
Sleepy Maggie	(J)	11/5
City of Belfast*	(S)	48/6
The Luckenbooth Brooch	(J)	J Dickson - Glendarroch Sheets
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	(R)	39/7



- Adult \$15.00, RSCDS/First Year Dancers \$13.00, Juniors/Spectators \$5.00
- Dances marked * are more challenging, find a clever partner. **Please only dance this if you are familiar with it.

