

NZ Branch Life Membership for Debbie Roxburgh



At the 2021 AGM of the New Zealand Branch, Life Membership of the NZ Branch was awarded to Debbie Roxburgh. Because of the cancellation of the 2020-21 Summer School, this award could not be presented in person until the end of 2021.

Debbie has been an active member of the New Zealand Branch since she started dancing. She has been a consistent teacher and committee member of the Glendarroch Club (Whanganui) for over 35 years and has also served on the Rangitikei Region Committee. She has supported the Branch through her dancing, teaching, sharing of knowledge and willingness to take on roles on the Management Committee.

Debbie's teaching experience is wide-ranging: having taught adults and children at all levels, her skillset is extensive. As a direct result of Debbie's hard work running regular beginners' courses, her local club continues to thrive with enthusiastic and well-supported new dancers. Debbie often teaches several times a week and seeks opportunities to support less experienced teachers and local musicians with their progression. She is a regular teacher at day, weekend, and summer schools in New Zealand. Not only is Debbie one of two New Zealand Branch teachers to teach at St Andrews Summer School, she was the first New Zealand Branch teacher to be broadcast around the world in the *Dance Scottish at Home* series of online classes.

Debbie has held a wide range of Branch offices, including Rules Committee Convenor, JAM Committee Convenor, Communications and Publicity Coordinator, Youth Coordinator and is currently the Vice President. She has also been on the organising committee for five Summer Schools.

At a national level, Debbie was instrumental in the establishment of the Junior Associate Membership (JAM) and subsequent development of the JAM medal tests – all achieved prior to the RSCDS developing their medal test programme or youth membership.

Debbie used the Summer School platform to share her teaching skills and knowledge of processes as the tutor of the examination class (for five years). She is now continuing to develop her expertise as New Zealand's most recently appointed RSCDS Examiner.

Debbie's flexibility and willingness to share her knowledge of dancing, teaching, and region/Branch

process continue to be invaluable to the New Zealand Branch. She truly is an excellent role model and ambassador for Scottish Country Dancing and the New Zealand Branch.

Linda Glavin, NZ Branch President, presented Debbie with her Life Membership badge at the Wellington Region Hogmanay 2021 dance.

NZ Branch Life Membership for Elaine Laidlaw



Life Membership of the NZ Branch was awarded to Elaine Laidlaw at the 2022 NZ Branch AGM. This is the citation that was read at the meeting:

Elaine has been an active member of the New Zealand Branch since she began dancing. She has supported the work of the Branch through her

dancing, teaching and her willingness to take on roles on the Management Committee. As well as her service at a national level, Elaine has served on the Wellington Region Committee.

Elaine has given an impressive range of service to the NZ Branch, fulfilling the roles of Editor (a role she held for 10 years), Education and Training Coordinator, Vice President, and President. Elaine also took on the role of Summer School Organiser, and was responsible for three highly successful Summer Schools, one in Wellington and two in the Wairarapa (Masterton). In each of these roles, Elaine's work was underpinned by her passion for the ongoing growth and development of the NZ Branch, whilst at the same time maintaining traditions and not losing sight of the Branch's unique characteristics.

At a local level, Elaine was instrumental in establishing a club in Carterton in 2000. This club continues to thrive and regularly welcomes new dancers through its beginners' courses. She regularly provides support to teachers in training and actively encourages local musicians.

Elaine's knowledge and expertise as a dancer, teacher and administrator in Branch and Society matters have been invaluable to the NZ Branch. She continues to be a wonderful ambassador for both the NZ Branch and for Scottish Country Dancing.