

RSCDS NZ Branch Wellington Region Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at Petone Community House, 6 Britannia St, Petone

Present: Rod Downey (President), Debbie Stephens (Treasurer), Michele Miller (Secretary), Lynne Scott, Elaine Lethbridge, Bruce Chapman, Jeanette Watson, Aileen Logie, Edith Campbell, Zoe Attwood and Elaine Laidlaw (apologies for lateness).

Note to secretary: Please add a phone number to the agenda so lateness can be advised.

Bereavements: Mary Ronnie, (Wallace) Keown Shirley, Helen Rowe

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. (A. Logie, R. Downey)

Matters arising

- Bank access for Rod. Debbie and Rod resolved this at the end of the meeting.
- The region's material stored with Elena has been disposed of.
- Investigate a Zoom link for those unable to attend in person.
- Other actions are complete or addressed in the agenda.

Finance Report

The Treasurer apologised for the lateness of the financial report. A report will be circulated to the committee next week. Debbie

Bank balances are healthy but payments for Region's classes are yet to be made.

The interim report was accepted (R. Downey, M. Miller).

Correspondence

In the period from 28 February to 7 June, the Region Secretary received 280 emails and sent 120 emails on the following topics:

- Centenary events
- Region and club dances and day/weekend schools
- Region classes
- Region funding for Ngaio club's event
- Dancing opportunities for overseas visitors

Thank you cards were posted to those involved in the Early Wellington Dances celebration.

(M. Miller, E. Campbell)

Website backup

- Backup was recommended by James at a previous meeting, which provides protection if the host goes into receivership or the website is hacked. It also gives a snapshot for the archives.
- Michele to email James to check if backup to a portable hard drive is acceptable, ask Lee and Lorelee if they would be willing to add 'backup' to their tasks for the region, and purchase necessary equipment if it is less than \$200.

Reports

1. Early Wellington Dances event was discussed.
An article has been submitted for Kiwi News. It has also been recorded on the HQ and blog.
Michele to thank John Paterson for his contribution to the event.
2. Region Classes (Aileen).
 - Basics: There have been three sets enjoying the classes. Only five paid cash.
 - Intermediate: 12 enthusiastic people have attended the classes. Everyone paid online in advance.
 - Banner: The Region banner has not been successful; it is dark and wet in the evenings.
 - Advanced: Only 5 people have registered for 24 June and 8 July. A minimum of 10 is required for the class. Michele to email club secretaries and tutors **tonight**. Registrations for 24 June are to be received by Tuesday 19 June. A decision on the viability of the class will be made on Wednesday 20 June and communicated by email to registrants and website.
 - Registrations for 8 July are still open. Dancers do not need to commit to both sessions.

3. Archival committee. No report received for this meeting. Michele to enquire for September.
4. Hogmanay
 - Venue is booked: Crofton Downs School Hall at \$30/hour, which works out to \$240 (6pm - 2am). The school recommended sending out a notice to the nearby neighbours just to advise what is happening.
 - The band is Iain and Jean at a total of \$420 for both.
 - There will likely be some sort of cost for a bagpiper - no more than \$50.
 - We would like to use the RSCDS whisky for the Hogmanay celebrations - it would be a great advertising point as well. The cost is £65.
 - Current committee is Chris Totton, Anna van der Haigh, Janice Hansen.

Discussion:

Thanks to the committee for volunteering. We recommend asking more people to help. Secretary to remind them a final report is due to the region committee for the February meeting.

We do not support using RSCDS whisky because of the expense. Lynne offered to donate a bottle of suitable quality. They will need sherry and juice as well.

We recommend arrangements for traffic management as access is difficult. Rod to follow up.

5. Tri-Region Centenary Ball

As at 11 June, 25 registrations have been received. The NZ Branch President will attend.

Lorelee has prepared all the communications. A reminder will be sent to bring a water bottle and a name-tag. (September agenda)

Special diets need to be tracked for catering.

An MC is to be invited to introduce several briefers. Dances will only be walked if they are less familiar.

The programme has been sent to all regions. Capital City Club will video any dances not on YouTube and make these available to registrants.

Early Bird registration closes on 1 August. This date will be in newsletters and emails.

A \$1200 grant from NZ Branch has been received; any liability will be shared between regions.

Calendar / planning

1. Class musicians have been well received (Lynne). The list of class musicians has been added to the February minutes.
2. New Dancers Celebration 7 October (Elaine Laidlaw). Refer to Appendix 2. The invoice for a 10% deposit has been received from the Bookings Clerk. Remind people to book accommodation. The committee approved a raffle with the proceeds to go to Carterton Club.
3. New Dancers Extra Classes on 26 Sept, 3 Oct. Michele will find a tutor and ask whether s/he would like musicians. If musicians are requested, Aileen volunteers to play for no charge. Venue is booked: St David's, Petone. \$2 door charge.
4. Possible repeat of Wellington Early Dances by popular request (Elaine Lethbridge). After discussion, the committee recommended an 'Early RSCDS dances' event in April 2024.
5. AGM reports: who, when (defer to the next meeting)
AGM venue: St David's in Petone will be investigated by Elaine Lethbridge because it is more central for Wairarapa people than St John's in Johnsonville.

Other

- Ngaio club's request for funding is approved (Appendix 4). (R. Downey, A. Logie). Michele will remind them to submit receipts to the Treasurer.
- Appreciation awards 2023: no eligible nominations have been received.

- Actions on the passing of significant people eg Mary Ronnie. After discussion, Michele will write to the NZ Branch Secretary requesting the reinstatement of emails about bereavements via MailChimp to all Branch members.
- Change of date for December meeting: now 12 December 2023. Debbie to investigate a venue booking.

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm. Next meeting: 12 September 2023.

Appendix 1: Early Wellington Dances

A lively crowd of close to 60 dancers gathered at St John's Anglican Church Hall in Johnsonville on Saturday 29 April for an afternoon of trying out dances from our past. As part of the RSCDS Centenary Events, this special occasion celebrated the role of the extended RSCDS Wellington Region as the well-spring of Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand.

Over the afternoon, four long-time tutors from the Region—Iain Boyd, Romaine Butterfield, Edith Campbell and Elaine Laidlaw—taught dances from the early days of Scottish Country Dancing in the lower North Island. To add to this unique experience, *The Cranberry Tarts*—Aileen Logie and Hilary Ferral—provided music for the afternoon from the original tunes and arrangements used by well-known Wellington musician Peter Elmes.

This special occasion was one to remember. Thanks to everyone involved in organising this superb afternoon of dancing, listening to Peter Elmes' arrangements of tunes and socialising. For more about the dances, Lorelee Hyde's photos and videos by John Patterson and Pat Reesby, visit <https://wellingtonscd.org.nz/early-wellington-dances-2023-review/>

Appendix 2: New Dancers' Celebration Budget Saturday 7 October 2023

Expenses

Wairarapa College Hall Deposit to be paid \$35	\$350
Security to lock venue after hours @ \$45 per hour	
Aileen Logie Band	<u>\$600</u>
Provisional total expenses	\$950

Estimate of Income

50 RSCDS dancers @ \$15	\$750
20 new dancers @ \$12	\$360
20 non RSCDS adults @ \$18	<u>\$360</u>
Estimated total income	\$1350

Supper expenses

Teabags \$6, Coffee \$8, 50 cold cups \$4.60, 50 hot cups \$4.10

The programme for tutors has been sent to Clubs in the Wellington, Rangitikei, and Hawkes Bay regions. An advert for the event was sent to Desiree for inclusion in the next issues of the HCH and Kiwi News.

Elaine Laidlaw