

**Minutes of the 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
for the Wellington Region of the RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC.**

At St David's Church Hall, Britannia St, Petone on Tuesday 7th November 2023.

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

Present: Rod Downey (President), Debbie Stephens (Treasurer), Michele Miller (Secretary), Elaine Lethbridge, Aileen Logie, Janice Henson, Desiree Patterson, Melva Waite, Lee Miller, James Scott, Lynne Scott, Margaret Cantwell, Ann Oliver, Andrew Oliver, Isobel Harris, Robert Vale, Brenda Vale, Chris Totton, Anna Verhaegh, Diane Bradshaw, Jeanette Watson, Peter Beaumont.

The President thanked everyone for attending. Although there is not a quorum, all items on this agenda may be voted on according to our Constitution.

Apologies: Damon Collin, Michael and Elaine Laidlaw, Philippa Pointon, Angelica and Alastair McCarthy, Edith Campbell, Kristin Downey, Elizabeth Ferguson.

Bereavements: Mary Ronnie, (Wallace) Keown Shirley, Helen Rowe, Karen Harris, Margaret McMurtry, Marjorie (Midge) Lee, Eveleen Foye. A moment's silence was observed.

Minutes of the previous meeting were previously advised to members and published on the Region website. Accepted as a true and correct record. (R. Downey, J. Scott)

Matters arising:

- Delegates expressed concern about lack of comms to JAMs at 2023 AGM.
Response: too few JAMs.
- Region Committee Actions
 1. digitising music on CDs and records (Committee responded no, may revisit)
 2. CPR & first Aid, emergency contacts (actioned at Region classes).

Notification of items of general business:

- Agreed AGM minutes should be posted promptly. Could advise people through HCH.
- Hogmanay.
- NZ Branch grants.

President's report: (Appendix 1) There have been many highlights

- Branch award to Michael Laidlaw
- Region appreciation certificate to Edith Campbell
- Lower North Island Region Ball
- Archival project (Kristin, Philippa, Lorelee)
- Early Wellington Dances day
- New Dancers' Celebration
- Well attended Region classes (many thanks to Aileen)

Thank you to the Region Committee.

(R. Downey, D. Bradshaw)

Treasurer's report: (Appendix 2)

A small deficit for this financial year (\$145).

Income was \$3000 less than previous year but expenses were similar.

(D. Stephens, L. Miller)

New Dancers' Celebration

Rod: It was a successful, well-attended event. Carterton Club were great hosts. The band was good to dance to. A report will be requested from the organisers for the December committee meeting. **ACTION:** Rod or Brenda

JAMS reports

Numbers are small in both Newtown and Lower Hutt.

Fees have increased from \$5 to \$15 per JAM or \$25 per family, but there are no benefits for the fee. NZ Branch has advised Elaine that JAMs are in recess. **ACTION:** Region Committee to query this decision with the NZ Branch. (E. Lethbridge, R. Downey)

Newsletter report (Appendix 3)

The newsletter is sent to more than 200 people by email. 11 people receive copies by post. Good content is provided by clubs. (D. Patterson, D. Bradshaw)

Website report

Lee Miller and Lorelee Hyde have updated the website on request. Lee is happy to continue in this role.

James Scott reported the hosting is working well. James and Margaret Cantwell to confer on notifications.

Election of officers

As the *officers'* positions received one nomination each, no election was required.

President: Rod Downey (D. Stephens, J. Watson)

Secretary: Brenda Vale (R. Downey, K. Downey)

Treasurer: Debbie Stephens (E. Lethbridge, E. Campbell)

Committee

Aileen Logie (K. Downey, R. Downey)

Edith Campbell (J. Henson, L. Scott)

Elaine Lethbridge (L. Scott, J. Watson)

Lynne Scott (J. Watson, R. Downey)

Janice Hanson (E. Lethbridge, M. Waite) (All committee members were applauded).

Region appointments

Reviewer: Pat Waite

Newsletter Editor: Desiree Patterson

Youth Coordinator: Elaine Lethbridge (R. Downey, M. Miller)

Officers' expenses

Moved that the officers' expenses remain as last year: \$200 each officer, \$100 editor, \$75 reviewer. (R. Downey, J. Henson)

NZ Branch AGM: 1st January 2024

1. Appointment of delegates: Wellington has 7 votes, to be split between Ann Oliver, Andrew Oliver, and Margaret Cantwell (R. Downey, M. Miller)
2. Guidance to delegates:

Agree to change to Otago-Southland.

Depending on the actual participation in electronic or postal votes for 2024 AGM, we advise delegates to vote for a feasible percentage of the membership or the lower figure. The motion should clarify if the percentage is 'of those who vote' or 'of all members'.

RSCDS (Headquarters) AGM was held on 4th November 2023.

Delegates from the Wellington Region were Michele Miller and Lee Miller.

NZ Branch delegates met via Zoom to discuss the voting. We agreed to vote via the Chair as proxy: yes to increase in membership fee, yes to changes to wording of RSCDS Articles of Association and RSCDS Rules & Procedures (e.g. chairman to chair).
Individuals voted online for Management and Youth committee members.

Appointment of delegates for 2024. The NZ Branch recommends delegates are on the Region Committee. **ACTION:** Region Committee.

General business

1. Hogmanay 31 December 2023: Chris reported Crofton Downs hall has been booked and he will visit in December. The band is booked and the programme has been advertised. Recommendations for a bagpiper were given.
E. Lethbridge will provide the Hogmanay box. Are costumes for the ceremony included? Advice to the neighbourhood will be given via a letterbox drop.
Rod thanked Chris and Anna for running this event on behalf of the Region.

2. Ideas to apply for Branch grant for Region Committee to consider:
 - a. Monthly Ceilidh e.g. venue hire, band subsidy. Repeated events are effective. Do they translate to SCD clubs?
 - b. Mid-city dancing. 5.30 pm after work? Attract young workers with young teacher and young musician. (WHO?) Could apply for venue hire e.g. gym.
 - c. Otago provided scholarships for RSCDS membership, shoes and transport to Otago University students. Removal of barriers for students to participate.

3. Romaine Butterfield has advised she is retiring from tutoring at Waikanae Club. Desiree advised an experienced tutor who is interested (she has recently moved to the Kapiti Coast).

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm with thanks to all who attended.