Wellington Region Committee Meeting 7.30 pm 19 September 2025, Petone Community House, 6 Britannia St, Petone

Present: Rod Downey, Joy Tracey, Elaine Lethbridge, Lynne Scott, Denise Pitts, Sarah Epps, Andrew Oliver, Lesley Campbell, Debbie Stephens, Brenda Vale. In attendance: Chris Totton.

1. Apologies: Elaine Laidlaw.

The committee asked Brenda Vale to write to Carterton to see if someone on their committee could attend region meetings via zoom.

1. Bereavements: Janice Henson

Janice’s substantial contribution to the region was noted and a minute’s silence was held in her memory.

An article on Janice Henson is being prepared by Elizabeth Fergusson for Harbour City Happenings and also for the Branch.

1. Minutes of 3rd June committee meeting

Two minor corrections had been made to the minutes (“Chris Totton” “Australian Winter School”). With these noted, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising:

* An article on Gary Morris has been written by Elaine Laidlaw and she is also writing something to be sent to Branch.
* Lynne Scott confirmed the website backup organised by James Scott is all in hand.
* Andrew Oliver confirmed that all points regarding New Dancers’ Celebration were in hand (see item 4 in addition). There is one additional invitation for a Ngaio member which Sarah Epps will deliver.
* There was acknowledgment from the Branch of the comments sent from the Wellington Region on the future of Summer Schools but nothing further has been received.
* The Region applied for a Branch grant towards putting on the Book 54 event but this was initially declined. Debbie Stephens thought that the Branch had subsequently awarded some funds for the Book 54 Day via the Bernice Kelly Fund and will check this.
* Hogmanay (see item 4).

1. Reports:
2. Treasurer:

Sarah Epps spoke to the report which had been circulated. All clubs have now paid their RSCDS membership monies which can be passed on to the Branch.

The Region running costs are presently neutral.

The bank initially said they would not send statements by email but have since relented.

The report was accepted (Sarah Epps/Rod Downey).

1. Hogmanay:

Chris Totton spoke about Hogmanay. He tabled the draft programme and only minor changes were anticipated. It was suggested this should be sent to Desiree Patterson by 20th September to go in September Harbour City Happenings.

The venue is again at Crofton Downs Primary School and is still charged at $30/hour. Hogmanay to run from 8.00pm – 1.00pm approx. Admission prices were discussed and agreed at $20, with $18 for RSCDS members and $5 for spectators.

The band is still to be booked and Lynne Scott has some suggestions she will pass on to Chris Totton.

Some people will be needed to help set up.

1. Correspondence:

The previously circulated report was noted.

1. New Dancers’ Celebration:

Andrew Oliver noted all invitations (see Matters Arising) had been handed out and Linden were currently planning the decorations. The hall booking had been confirmed. The committee noted the invitations looked very good and had been appreciated by recipients.

Teapots need to be borrowed.

Those attending other than New Dancers need to be told not to bring any food that needs heating before serving. Andrew Oliver will notify clubs about this.

An advertisement for NDC will be put in the September issue of HCH.

The preparation classes have all been booked and the band will practice both nights for no charge.

The committee thanked Andrew Oliver for the report.

1. Early Dances Day:

Two corrections for the records were noted, to acknowledge that Elaine and Kevin Lethbridge provided a delicious afternoon tea, and that Samual Berkhan on keyboard stepped in to begin the afternoon as Thomas Nikora was delayed. The report has been amended accordingly.

There was discussion about whether the same theme should be followed in 2026 or an alternative theme sought. The decision will be left to the post AGM new committee’s December 2 meeting.

1. Basics Classes:

The committee received the report and noted this class had been a success. The only problem seemed to be in finding the hall, even though a map had been provided.

The committee noted it was sad the Intermediate Classes had been cancelled. It seems not everyone is clear about the need to register for a class. It was suggested that in future there would be registration for everything, as this helped with numbers for catering. It was also suggested the new committee might want to reconsider the Intermediate Class name.

Because of the idea of registering for every class Sarah Epps will make a registration form for the upcoming Fugues afternoon, and send this to Lee Miller for posting on the region website.

1. Archives:

Phillippa Pointon has produced a spreadsheet of Region Committee office holders and tutor from 1967-1997. This was tabled by Rod Downey.

1. Nomination forms for the AGM were completed.

Sarah Epps needs to bring to the AGM the forms for transference of banking.

1. Region website:

Rod Downey has checked and Lee Miller is still prepared to load material to the region website, but not generate material. It was decided that prior to each committee meeting members should check the website to see what needs updating and agree at the meeting as to who will do this.

Debbie Stephens noted that having the Branch as the region domain registrant was set up but the region has heard nothing about it. Debbie Stephens will pass on this to the next Branch committee meeting.

The new committee following the AGM are to examine who should have posting rights to the region website.

There was discussion of the Region Facebook page but it seems this is not monitored.

1. Branch Grant:

See Matters arising re grant towards Book 54 event.

The December meeting will need to decide whether to make another application. It may be too late to organise bringing over a musician from the Australian Winter School.

1. Region contacts:

Joy Tracey expressed a preference for using the generic email addresses and the committee did not demur.

1. AOB:

Joy Tracey and Lee Miller are the delegates for the upcoming HQ meeting.

There was discussion of how to get people to attend the AGM. Sarah Epps and Joy Tracey will organise a round robin by 13/14 September to put together up to four questions to be addressed by those attending the AGM. With these on the agenda, clubs will be encouraged to send at least two members to the Region AGM on 4November. Clubs should be told there are no remits and no-one will be voted on to the committee.

Elaine Lethbridge has booked halls for potential region events in 2026.

Brenda Vale was asked to check who should be hosting NDC in 2026 and write to confirm with them that they are happy to do this.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm.