

# WAIBOP NEWS



Issue April 23rd 2025

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC  
WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY REGION

Scottish Dancing - FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP!

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## 1. President's Pen

April 2025



Thanks so much to Jeanette for accepting the challenge of picking up the President's role at short notice in early 2023. She did a sterling job and I really appreciated being able to drop the reins for a bit. Our health issues are now resolved and I am able to pick them up again. We had a fabulous trip to the UK and to the Greek Islands and are still travelling, be it closer to home, in our caravan. I am hoping to get to most of the dances this year and I'm very much looking forward to meeting you all at this year's Kings Birthday Weekend School in Cambridge.

I'm pleased to let you know that Rosemary Nicholson has taken on the position of Region Secretary which was unfilled at the AGM. Thanks so much Rosemary. There have been a few teething problems with the communication getting to Rosemary but it is all working well now.

## **The other Region Officers have stayed on and are:**

Treasurer/ Membership Coordinator, Robyn Howes

Education & Training Coordinator, Heather Johnston

Youth Coordinator, Jeanette Lauder

Communication & Publicity, and Editor of the WaiBoP News, Agnes Algra

Shelley McConnel, WaiBoP Region Facebook page

Andrew Paterson does a heap of work on the Website behind the scenes.

What a great team!

I am sure that you are all well into the dancing year. I hope that you have managed to entice some new people to give SCD a try. If so, do encourage them to attend the King's Birthday School so they can understand the bigger picture and social side of dancing. Is your club financial? Perhaps a good use of this money is sponsorship. If you have JAMs please encourage them to attend too and request sponsorship from the Region. If Jams write a letter to the secretary we will consider sponsorship requests at the Region Meeting, 17 May.

What a treat it was to have a dance in Whakatane this year. Well done Whakatane Club for good fun dancing and a fabulous afternoon tea. You put on some fabulous weather too. We do hope there will be a repeat in 2026.

You will have noticed that we have combined the Teachers and All-comers Workshop and Region Meeting on the same day, in Cambridge because we found it difficult to find suitable separate dates. The upside is that it will halve the travel for those attending both. We will evaluate whether this was a good move after the meeting. The meeting will not start until 1.00pm but we would like to encourage you to arrive a bit earlier for a cuppa and chat if you are not already attending the workshop. Members, please attend. It would be really helpful if you could let Rosemary know if you are attending the meeting so we don't have to stress about having a quorum.

The Region Dance, 5<sup>th</sup> July, is coming up fast now. It will be at the Matangi Hall just out of Cambridge and we have booked the Saltire Band to play for us. Make sure that it is on your calendars. The programme will be out soon but in the meantime we have decided to include most, if not all, of the core dances so you can start practicing!

Yours in Dancing

Jill Littlewood.

## **2. Editorial**

My grateful thanks to all the people who have contributed to this newsletter including those dancers who have sent a Letter to the Editor. It exceeded my expectations - in a short space of time it went from about 10 pages to 24!

A theme that seems to be emerging in these letters is that of how to attract new people into the SCD Community and then, much more difficult, retaining them. Ceilidh's seem to be a great way to attract all sorts of people, especially young people and families, but how do we get Ceilidh Dancers to keep coming back?

Ruary Laidlaw

### 3. Region Matters - New Secretary

Hi Everyone

For those who do not know me, my name is Rosemary Nicholson. I am a member of Hamilton Scottish, and have been dancing there for about 17 years. I was secretary of that club for 11 years and treasurer for three years before that. I was not a spring chicken when I started dancing, but had spring in my step back in those days. Alas, it's a little different now. But, and this is the important thing, I still enjoy dancing immensely and the great time we have at club nights and the afternoon and evening dances put on by each club throughout the year. I think it keeps us all young at heart.



Rosemary Nicholson  
Secretary WaiBop Region

### 4. Teachers' Talk

#### 1. Teaching steps - Ruth Budden

In a club this can sometimes be an issue - but it's not insurmountable.

A club predominantly composed of longstanding members resistant to step practice requires thoughtful handling. But it is important - the newer members have a right to be taught how to dance to the best of their ability.

My suggestion? Take no more than 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  minutes each week to teach or improve a step. And the one who rolls their eye the most - hand them the stop watch!

**Advertisement -  
Andy Patterson's Jacket**  
Good home wanted for Prince Charlie  
Jacket and Vest.  
Size is probably 38 Regular.  
Purchased from Duncan Chisholm  
(Inverness).  
Reasonable condition.  
Available for inspection at King's Birthday  
Weekend.



## **2. RSCDS Teaching Certificate**

I am delighted to be able to report that we have 3 Region candidates who will be embarking on, or have already started out on their RSCDS Teaching Certificate journey this year.

*Lisa Janek (Lochiel) sat and passed her Part I - Unit 1 written exam last year.*

*Robyn Howes (Lochiel) will be sitting Unit 1 on October 11 this year and*

*Alison Sellars (Te Awamutu) also plans to do so.*

Our 3 girls intend to sit Units 2 and 3 this year.

**Part 1** is divided into 3 parts

- **Unit 1** is a written paper, which is based solely on the RSCDS Manual (read "Bible"). It is a two hour exam which is now "open book" and can be done on-line.
- **Unit 2** is a practical dancing exam, based on 12 prescribed dances, all of which the candidates have to know inside out and upside down!
- **Unit 3** is the first of the teaching exams. Candidates are required to teach basic steps and formations at the beginner's level.

For Unit 1 there is a 12 week correspondence course run by the NZ Branch, and the exam is conducted in New Zealand either in a hall or in a private home with two Invigilators over-seeing. For obvious reasons it is held on exactly the same date for candidates throughout the world.

Our girls will need to travel to Christchurch for the preparation and examination of Unit 2 at Labour Weekend 2025, and to Summer School 2025/2026 again in Christchurch for preparation and examination of Unit 3. RSCDS Examiners (2 for each exam) can come from anywhere in the world, including New Zealand.

There is a lot of work involved and our girls are under no illusion about this, but having been down that track myself, I know they will learn much about the RSCD Society which was founded in 1923, and much about Scottish Country dancing - its origins, the social aspect, steps and formations, music, technique, essential teaching skills such as the value of demonstration, use of voice etc. I'm quite sure they will not regret the time spent on this journey which will take them at least 4 years in total to become fully qualified.



Lisa, Robyn, and Alison we salute you! Please know that you have the thoughts of every WaiBOP Region member behind you in your endeavours. Best wishes! Go well!

Heather Johnston

WaiBOP Region Training and Education Coordinator

*Addendum: The cut-off date for the inclusion in the Part 1 examination programme is 30 June 2025. Robyn and Alison will know then whether they have been accepted as it is a "numbers game". Lisa is already registered having completed Unit 1.*

# LOOKING FOR STOOGES!

As you will read elsewhere in this Newsletter, we have 3 WaiBOP Region candidates intending to sit Units 2 and 3 of their RSCDS Teaching Certificate later this year.

## They need your help!

For their Unit 2 exam they will be given 3 of the prescribed dances (1 of each genre - see below) to brief without notes and dance from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places. This will require them to know the 12 prescribed dances extremely well.

They will not know until immediately before which dances they will be given.

I am looking to run a Unit 2 practice session for them over the next month or two. For this to work we will need stooges! Stooges will need to know the prescribed dances reasonably well, and be able to dance them competently from just a briefing.

If you think you fit the bill and would like to help out, please contact me by email asap: [heather.lil@xtra.co.nz](mailto:heather.lil@xtra.co.nz)

The session will be on either a Saturday or Sunday depending on the commitments of our 3 candidates and will most likely be held in Cambridge.

### Reels

1. Duke of Perth	8x32 3c in 4c	Book 1
2. Summer Wooing	8x32 3c in 4c	Book 38
3. General Stuart's Reel	8x32 3c in 4c	Book 10
4. Westminster Reel	8x32 2c in 4c	Book 45

### Jigs

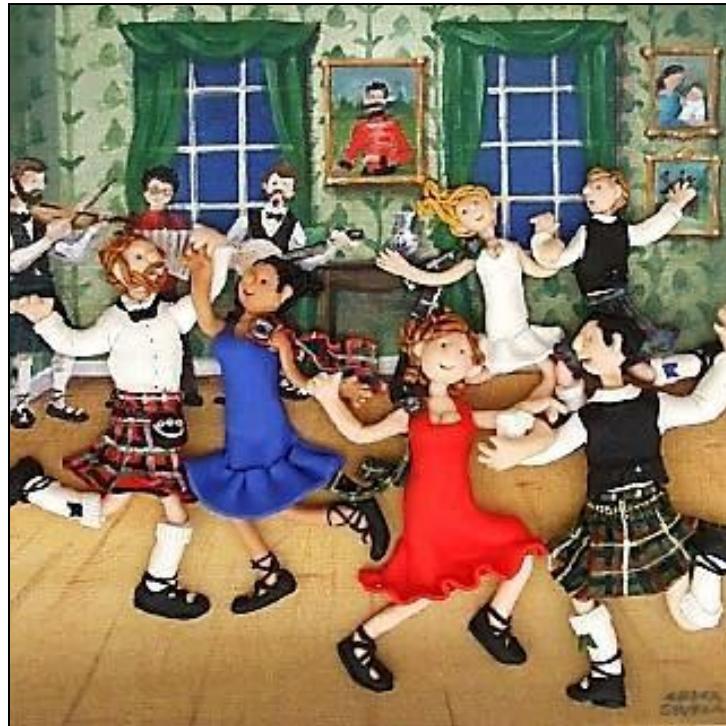
5. Rodney's Rant	8x32 3c in 4c	QE Diamond Jubilee
6. The Starry Eyed Lassie	8x32 3c in 4c	Book 23
7. Miss Hadden's Reel	8x32 3c in 4c	Book 23
8. Mrs Stewart's Jig	8x32 3c in 4c	Book 35

### Strathspeys

9. Alltshellach	8x32 3c in 4c	Book 23
10. Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8x32 3c in 4c	Leaflet Dances
11. Mrs Hamilton of Wishaw	8x32 3c in 4c	Book 23
12. The Village Reel	8x32 2c in 4c	Book 20



# A Teachers' and All-comers' Workshop



WaiBOP SCD Region

Saturday 17 May 2025

St Peter's Catholic School Hall, 22 Anzac Street, Cambridge

*9.15 for a 9.45 start*

We will be exploring TECHNIQUE!

What is technique in Scottish Country Dancing?

How do we “teach” it?

How do we apply it to our own dancing?

FORMATIONS!!

So many new ones! Which ones (new or old) do we find most difficult?

We will explore some of these too.

## 5. Membership Musings - Robyn Howes

### Membership Musings

Attracting and retaining new dancers is a problem most clubs face. I'm sharing what seems to work for the Lochiel club. We had a significant uptake of our introductory course in 2019, and 5 of those dancers are now valuable members of our club. Talking to them, it is a sense of belonging that kept them coming in the early days. They had only been dancing for a couple of months when they attended their first (Lochiel) ball. They were given nametags with special stickers so that others knew they were novices, they were invited to dance appropriate dances. And they were hooked!



Fast forward, we have a significant number attending our 2025 introductory course.

How did we attract them? Two Hamilton ceilidhs in October 2024 and February 2025 gave us a physical and digital presence. Facebook was our advertising of choice. Our media guru created events and set an advertising budget. Our total advertising spend was \$50 for 2 ceilidhs and \$35 for the Introductory course. Events were boosted and shared by members to local community groups.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ceilidh was timed purely to create a presence for SCD at the beginning of the dancing year. Both Hamilton clubs have new members who attended one of the ceilidhs, but several others came because they saw Facebook adverts. Lochiel now has 7 new dancers who completed the 6 week introductory course (see photo) on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

We firmly believe that continued exposure, physical and digital events, that eventually persuades new dancers to come along. They may not take up the opportunity the first few times they see an advert or event, but continued exposure makes an event more desirable.

And how do we plan to keep these new dancers? Inclusivity, encouragement, a sense of belonging, promoting other learning events, and yes, we are going to try the special name tag trick again at our ball this year. And another clever trick, come along on May 10th and find out!

**Robyn Howes**

*Membership co-ordinator & President of Lochiel Club*

## **6. Youth - Jeanette Lauder**

### **Our younger dancers**

I am hearing of more young dancers around the region which is great. Thank you to dancers in their clubs who are encouraging them.

It would be good if we could organise an afternoon or evening get together for our young people at some time - perhaps a Saturday afternoon. Because of the wide area we cover this will require travel for most of them. I'd love to hear any suggestions as to what type of event we might arrange. I'm not sure that we can cater for all from age 5 to late teens in one event.

As a start, there are a couple of events coming up that younger dancers may like to attend.

- The first is a Kids' Ceilidh in Hamilton on Sunday 4 May. With that date the theme has to be Star Wars related. Costumes are encouraged so this could be a great family afternoon. See the flyer elsewhere in the newsletter for more details.
- The second is a Tea Dance in Tokoroa on Sunday 8th June. Running from 2 to 5pm in the Amisfield School Hall the afternoon is aimed at JAMs and newer dancers of any age. Adults \$10, children and spectators \$3, with a maximum of \$10 per family. Watch for the programme coming out soon.

Please encourage your young dancers and their families to attend these events.

Perhaps we can organise an event for teenagers and young adults a bit later in the year. Suggestions welcome on this. Thanks.

Jeanette Lauder  
Youth Coordinator

## **Cambridge King's Birthday Weekend School**

Just click on the link to get the forms:-

<https://forms.gle/8eYvcLcS1i4zegk66>

## 7 Communication & Publicity - Andy Patterson

### Sash Problem

I was browsing through a copy of "The Reel" (magazine of London Branch) from 1953 and came across this puzzle set by Hugh Foss (who else would have dreamed this up!).

"Hello, Drummond," I said, "What on earth were you doing in Duke of Perth? Was it a game?"

"Yes," he replied. "We were five couples and the 1st couple danced three times, ending in 4th place and stepping to the bottom as a new top couple started. The men were all wearing their own tartans and commenced in the order:

Abercrombie, Buchanan, Cameron, Drummond and Erskine.

The women were our fiancees and were also named:

Abercrombie, Buchanan, Cameron, Drummond and Erskine.

Each woman had borrowed one of the others' sashes.

None of us is engaged to a woman of the same surname as himself.

None of us danced with our fiancée.

No woman danced with the fiancée of the woman whose sash she borrowed.

My fiancée borrowed Joan Erskine's sash."

"But what was the game?"

"The game was to get the sashes back to the owners, which could only be done via the man wearing the tartan corresponding to the sash.

The borrower gave the sash to the man the first time she set to him and he gave it to the owner the next time he set to her.

All the owners had their sashes back by the time we had danced through the figure seven times."

What is the name of Miss Cameron's fiancée?

Whose sash did Miss Drummond borrow?

Solution in the next issue (or email [andy@pat.gen.nz](mailto:andy@pat.gen.nz) for a full explanation)

Andy Patterson

## **8. Events Coming Up**

### **1. Katikati Scottish Country Dance Club**

Pahoia  
School/Community Hall  
29 Esdaile Road  
Whakamarama



**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

Refreshments = 1.00 pm

Dancing commences 1.30 pm

**MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU.....**

**KID'S CELTIC BARN DANCE aka a CEILIDH ("Kay'lee")**

**2.30 – 4.00pm SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**For school-age kids  
with Live Music & Fun Dances**



**JOIN BABY YODA, CHEWBACCA AND THE  
STORMTROOPERS FOR A STAR WARS CEILIDH TO  
CELEBRATE May 4<sup>th</sup> 2025...**

**PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME (BOY & GIRL)** (remember  
you have to be able to dance in your costume!)

**WHERE: St Aidan's Church Hall 27 Thames St  
Claudelands HAMILTON**

**Free Entry**

**All children must be accompanied by an adult**

**BYO water bottle**

**Enquiries: 022 340 7865 [dancefolkus@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:dancefolkus@slingshot.co.nz)**

**SPONSORED BY CELTIC ARTS AND HERITAGE WAIKATO**

## 9. Recent Events

### 1. Cambridge Can Dance

#### A Celebration of Movement and Community

As part of the **Cambridge Autumn Festival**, the **Cambridge Can Dance** evening held on **Friday, 4th April 2025**, attracted a wide and varied group of dancers from across the Waikato region. The programme included Highland Dancing, Rock 'n' Roll, Modern Ballet, Kapa Haka, and many other styles—but it simply wouldn't have been the same without the vibrant presence of the **Scottish Country Dancers**.

This year, we were thrilled to have **three full sets of four couples** dancing on the floor of the **Cambridge Town Hall**. These sets were made up of dancers from **Hamilton Scottish, Cambridge, Lochiel, Rotorua, and Whakatane**, which made for a wonderful regional showcase. The Scottish Country Dancers performed three well-loved dances—**Scott Meikle, Orchards of County Armagh, and The Piper and the Penguin**—to a very appreciative audience.

It was especially pleasing to see a **diverse mix of dancers** of varying ages, including **four men** who demonstrated that Scottish Country Dancing is truly an activity for everyone. To conclude the performance, each dancer invited an audience member to join them in a **participation dance—Milford Welcome**—set to the lively music of **Rothesay Rant**. The hall was full of smiles, laughter, and movement as newcomers were welcomed onto the floor.

A video of the event, uploaded to Facebook later that evening, quickly gained momentum—at last count it had reached **well over 1.5K views**. Of course, we hope that some of those views will translate into **new dancers** joining our regional clubs. But as with all good outreach, it's the **repetition and presence at events like Cambridge Can Dance** that builds awareness and enthusiasm—and in time, brings new people into our community.

Lesley Gousmott

#### Advertisement Children's Pumps

The Tokoroa SCD Club requires more children's pumps as we don't have all the correct sizes for our young ones.

We are willing to pay for them if anybody has them to sell.

Joy Morgan

## **2. Tauranga Day School - 12th April**

18 dancers from around the Region attended the Day School in Tauranga which focused on Core Dances: Taupo 3, Thames 2, Lochiel 2, Rotorua 1 and 10 from Tauranga, which included 3 children/youths, the youngest being 10 years old.



Jeanette Lauder from Tokoroa was the teacher.

Jeanette welcomed all and very quickly got underway with some warm-up exercises, and then into the dances starting with *The Sailor*. While the attendees managed this very well, they learned how quickly we must move at times, and how our steps must be adjusted in length to get us to the formation finishing positions.

Other dances that were covered during the two sessions were: *Violynne*, "Thistle" Be Fun, *Miss Ogilvie's Fancy*, *Bonnie Gallowa'* and *Rachel in Maryland*. Jeanette had hoped to cover more/all of the 9 cores, but some of the formations took a little longer to teach and (almost) master, the All-round Poussette being one (although this was done pretty well) and the Rondel which gave the most problems generally. However, by the time the dancers were ready to dance the whole of *Bonnie Gallowa'* the Rondel was going quite well. It is to be hoped that Club teachers can now build on this.

Attendees provided their own lunch, but a substantial morning and afternoon tea was provided by Tauranga Club members.

A very successful day, but I don't think our 10 year old was the only tired "bunny" by the end of the School.

Heather Johnston

## **3. Day School Dance**

This followed on from the Day School classes after a refresher cup of tea/coffee, which was most welcome (or was it the sit-down time that was most welcome) and some eats. A few extra dancers from around the Region joined attendees for this, giving a total of 24 dancers. One attendee did not stay for the dance.

All 9 cores were danced plus *Granville Market* and the dance ended around 6.00 pm.

Jeanette's thoughts for the day, "*I loved their eagerness. They were a good group to work with.*"

Heather Johnston  
WaiBOP Training and Education Coordinator



"Good morning, and welcome."  
From Teacher, Jeanette Lauder.



The Rondel



Leading down/up

## **10. New Dancers**

### **1. Core Dances**

Is it time to change from nine **Core dances** that get reviewed and change yearly to a Core Repertoire of say thirty dances that are POPULAR and currently danced, as RSCDS groups do in Scotland? These could include dances with well known formations, as well as dances which can be enjoyed by all levels. Having a larger number of dances to choose from helps teachers to plan their lessons with a wider variety of formations to help each dancer. It would also mean we would need to review the list only every 3 - 5 years, not yearly.

RSCDS Headquarters released such a list in 2008. Lists like "Dances Through the Decades" and "Dances Around the World" could help us formulate our list for WaiBoP. We might like to include such dances as "Pelorus Jack", "Mairi's Wedding", "Scott Meikle" that have been, almost always on programmes. We would envisage the list would include easier dances for Year 1 & 2 dancers, as well as popular dances enjoyed by all regularly on WaiBoP programmes.

A starting point could be to review all WaiBoP programmes from the past 2 - 3 years, excluding mandatory **Core** dances and advanced dances to find the most popular. This taps into every dance teacher's knowledge and experience of what their dancers like to dance. Alongside this a small panel could ensure the repertoire includes all of the basic elementary and intermediate formations that are vital to improve the standards of dancing for all.

What do you dancers think?

Signed,

Helen Smythe, Sue Wrigley and Jean Smithson

### **2. Whakatane Beginners' Class**

Whakatane Club has recently decided to start a beginners' class. To advertise it we made posters, leaflets and cards which we distributed around the area. We also contacted the local radio and press suggesting that they might want to do a 'piece' on us. To our great surprise, The Beacon, our local newspaper, got back to us and said they could be round on Wednesday morning to interview us and take photos! A lovely lady called Kathy Forsyth came to chat to us, whilst Troy Baker wandered around taking photos. We waited with baited breath until the article came out and we were so pleasantly surprised because, instead of the tiny corner piece we were expecting, we got most of the page! Although, having said all that about advertising, our new people so far have come through word-of-mouth!

The class starts at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings where we focus on the needs of the beginners that have joined us, introducing them to new steps and figures. At 10am the

class then morphs into the 'normal' session where more difficult dances are intermingled. The beginners are encouraged to stay and join in the easier dances whilst sitting and watching the more taxing ones which, sometimes, can be just as instructive and entertaining. We've had 3 people come to us, 1 of which decided that it wasn't really her thing. The other 2, Ivor and Jean, have taken the dancing to heart and really enjoy themselves; they even join us when we go to lunch afterwards and are really 'one-of-us' now. Ivor was able to join us for our recent social dance and took some great photos for us. He was so impressed by all the men in their kilts that he would like one of his own, so if anyone reading this knows of one that's available, please get in touch, we would be very grateful.

Kim Hammond  
Whakatane Club

## 11. Club News

### 1. Rotorua SCD Club - Moving venue

... have moved halls on Monday nights. They are now at Owhata Primary School Hall, Brent Road, Owhata.

Directions if you are coming from the airport side of Rotorua:- Go straight through the round-about, by the Caltex station. Turn left at the next side street ( which is Brent Road, head towards the top, school on the right )

If you are coming from the city centre etc side of Rotorua:- Head out on Te Ngae Road past Te Ngae shopping centre and the Caltex station. Go all the way around the round-about and head back towards the city. Turn left at the next side street. ( which is Brent Road)

Thanks  
Jeanette Patterson  
Rotorua SCD

### 2. Te Awamutu Annual Dance

Our annual dance was held on Saturday, April 5 - it came around so quickly as club night only started on March 6. However, the club pulled together, as they usually do, and we had a great afternoon, four sets on the floor with some extras sitting around the hall and everyone was having fun. Lots of laughter and enjoyment, so much chatter between dances it felt wrong sometimes interrupting to announce the next dance!

Thanks so much to those who joined us to make the afternoon a good one. Thanks also to our club members



for the wonderful afternoon tea we all enjoyed and also to Graeme, Andy and Paula who worked away in the kitchen making sure afternoon tea was well organised.

Agnes Algra

### 3. Farewell to Alison McKenzie



Thursday, April 10 was a sad night for Te Awamutu as we farewelled Alison Mackenzie who has been a loyal member of our club, first of all back in the 90s when Alison and her husband Malcolm joined club for several years, then pulled out as life became too busy.

They both came back about nine years ago, Malcolm for a while until he had an injury which meant he eventually pulled out but Alison carried on dancing. They have now moved to Hastings to be closer to family and we wish them all the best for the future.

*Alison and Malcolm in the back row on the right*

On Thursday we danced some of Alison's favourite dances and a nice 3 couple Strathspey - Alison's Strathspey. This was a new dance I found quite by accident, and everyone enjoyed dancing it. We ended the evening off with Mairi's Wedding with everyone joining in the circle of friendship at the end of the dance.

Alison will be greatly missed in our club.

Agnes Algra

### 4. Taupo Club

The Taupo SCD group has had a great start to the year. We have welcomed three new members to add to the two members who joined last year. Word of mouth is our best way to get new members. We sometimes get two full sets on a Thursday afternoon. Planning a program can sometimes be tricky to cater for everyone's enjoyment. Often a set will do a 'demonstration' dance so that everyone can be challenged, and it's a great way for new dancers to see where they are headed. Our new dancers are keen to attend local dances, and two are in Tauranga this weekend for the Core Dances workshop. We would love to see anyone on a Thursday afternoon for a dance if you are passing through.

Margaret Green

Taupo SDC group.

### 5. Whakatane Social Dance

Many thanks to everyone who joined us recently for our 1st social dance in March; we had a great time and hope you did too - from the laughter and comments we received, we think that you did. It was the first one of the season, not giving anyone much time to practice, so Jan



deliberately wanted to put together a programme that was familiar but still interesting - and a very good job she did too. It was heartening to see the enthusiasm that everyone put into the dances and how they greeted each other after the summer break - sometimes it was all we could do to stop the chatter to hear the briefing! Many thanks all round, especially to the ladies in the kitchen, to our organisers and 'clearer-upperers', to Jan and to all of our guests who contributed to making the day a success. We, at Whakatane, all enjoyed it and are raring to go again next year - we hope you will join us.

Kim Hammond  
Whakatane Club

## 6. Tauranga Scottish Country Dance Club

2025 has kicked off with a hiss and roar for Tauranga Club. It started with a four week Beginners Class in February that was attended by 10 Club members relatively new to dancing , and 3 brand newbies. Something discouraged the newbies and they didn't complete the class or carry on dancing. The beginners class was then



Lions Club Fun Day

followed by a request from the Lions Club in Welcome Bay seeking a demonstration of SCD at their Family Fun Day in Tye Park on 15 March. This event was well attended by around 500 members of the public. The Club provided a full set that danced two demonstrations and then with some spare dancers encouraged the public to join in for four dances to give it a go. There was a lot of laughter and noise with everyone dancing on the uneven grass surface. To cap off this busy time Tauranga hosted a Day School and Dance on 18 April which focussed on the Region's 9 core dances. This was attended by 23 dancers from neighbouring clubs of Taupo, Thames, Lochiel, Rotorua and Tauranga. The teacher for the day was Jeanette Lauder. Things are now reverting to the usual pace with Club dancing as temperatures cool in the evening.

Bruce Wallens  
President Tauranga Club

## **12. Letters to the Editor**

### **1. Dear Editor**

#### **Encouraging New Dancers**

You may remember back in August last year there was a letter to the editor regarding when newer dancers should be encouraged to attend social functions.

I came to New Zealand in 1984 for a three-month holiday and for the first month I attended Te Awamutu Club and learnt a heap about SCD. Being Scottish the basics had been taught at Primary School, and we had done some Ceilidh dancing and that all came flooding back.

The second month was spent travelling around New Zealand and enjoying this wonderful country. My last month was July and clubs' annual ball on the third Saturday. I was very nervous attending the ball but had been encouraged by the rest of the club that they would look after me, also our tutors Fiona and Alan had advised which dances I should not attempt.

I had a great night. Last dance on the programme was White Heather Jig which I was not dancing but loved watching it. The dance was repeated and the first lady in the top set sat down and told me to dance. My partner said, "don't expect me to keep you right in this dance, I have enough problems looking after myself!" That really filled me with confidence, but Fiona stood beside our set and kept me right all the way through - what a boost to my confidence that was.

Te Awamutu Club has always encouraged newer dancers to attend social functions, we look after them and help them through dances and still advising if there are dances on programmes they should watch rather than dance. We are all there to have fun and enjoy ourselves

Agnes Algra

### **2. Dear Editor,**

#### **New Dancers**

I am hearing concerns that less experienced dancers are not always being asked to partner more experienced dancers - both at club nights and at other dancing events - at times resulting in a less able set trying to complete a dance, not always with the best outcome.

Yes, it's nice to dance with people we know well or others with more experience but are we losing some of these dancers because they don't feel success in their dancing or included as part of our dancing family?

How about each experienced dancer vows to partner a newer dancer once (or dare I say it, even more) during each club night or annual dance? Distributing ourselves throughout sets on the floor may add to everyone's enjoyment.

Just a thought,  
Jeanette Lauder

### **3. Dear Editor,**

#### **New Dancers**

##### **Listen to the Briefefer**

There are two things that can make dancing more enjoyable for each and every dancer and I know I can improve on them myself.

The first is the importance of letting the briefer, brief the dancer, even if we believe we could explain it better, and part of our set seems not to have 'got' it. It's less helpful if we try to be helpful. For the dancer[s] two voices coming at them can be confusing and often that set gets out of sync with what the briefer is saying to all the sets. For the briefer, if they don't get the feedback that what they have said has not been understood or misunderstood they don't get the feedback as to what they need to make clearer. It is much better for dancers to let the briefer know they are having a problem.

The second is that we all come to dancing for a variety of reasons and to find Fun, Fitness and Friendship. So we will have a wide variety of ages, ability, dancing knowledge and competency in our clubs. Amongst those that come there will be those starting out in dancing, slower learners and those following a 'green prescription'. They may be slower than others to learn the dances but can gain a lot of enjoyment from their club dancing. For this to happen, it is very important that regular club members invite them to dance and use the skills they have to help their partner both complete and enjoy the dance without criticism. This has the double benefit of the more experienced dancer having their brain challenged by thinking for two and their partner enjoying more dancing.

Yours in dancing,

Kate Corfield

### **4. Dear Editor**

#### **Thanks to Whakatane & Te Awamutu Clubs**

After two very successful tea dances to start our year, I wish to sincerely thank Whakatane and Te Awamutu Scottish Country Dance clubs, especially Jan Pyke, and Agnes and Jane and their teams.

We have made some wonderful friendships during our dances and certainly look after one another.

Nice to have some adult conversation too.

Keep up the dancing folk and push through the mistakes. Having fun is the main thing.

Linda Carter

Katikati

## 13. Music

### 1. Peter Elmes & His SCD Band Music

At the last AGM of the Lochiel Club it was moved and seconded to change the Lochiel Copyright on the Peter Elmes music, as recorded by Bill Jacob, of the following tracks to a Creative Commons Copyright. This means that they can be posted in the Public Domain and downloaded for free on the provision that they are not onsold.

All these tracks and dance instructions are available for listening to, or downloading on:-

[www.reeltimedancing.com](http://www.reeltimedancing.com)

Just look for "Peter Elmes Music" for the relevant book on the Menu on the left of the Home Page:-



#### 1. Dancing Feet - 6 tracks:

- a. Win Thompson's Chase
- b. Dianne Murdoch's Promenade
- c. May Johnstone's Reel
- d. Mrs. Nona Craig
- e. Fairfield Bridge
- f. Nina Foulkes' Reel

#### 2. One Step At A Time - 4 tracks

- a. Oliver's Fifth
- b. Christine Miller's Reel
- c. The Lochiel Strathspey
- d. Howard McNally's Favourite

#### 3. The Lochiel Collection - 13 tracks

- a. Bill Jacob's Jig
- b. The Wedding Ring
- c. Glenys Pearce's Strathspey
- d. Lochiel's Farewell to Tony Szeto
- e. Miss Mary Gray's Fancy
- f. Simon Barbour's Rant
- g. Candy Floss
- h. Artillery Port
- i. The Dance of the Red moon
- j. The New Plymouth Strathspey
- k. Cuddy Alang
- l. The Odd Couple

Ruary Laidlaw

# **2. Bourach Mor**

## **Scottish Ceilidh Dance Band**

**Available for all occasions**

**Birthdays, weddings, balls, fund raising events**



Bourach Mor is a Waikato based co-operative band. They have their own Ceilidh callers and operate with any number of musicians from two to nine.

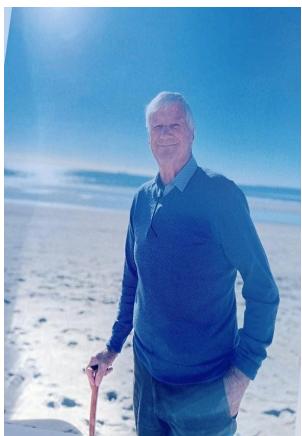
**The contact numbers are;**

**Ruth [scotfiddla@gmail.com](mailto:scotfiddla@gmail.com) or**

**Lynne [lynnewynne45@gmail.com](mailto:lynnewynne45@gmail.com)**

## 14. Remembering Frank

BEGLEY, Francis Peter McGinty (Frank)



Passed away in Tauranga surrounded by family on 15 March 2025, aged 88.

Dearly loved husband to Mary and the late Margaret (Rita).

Cherished father, father-in-law, Granda and Great Granda to Margaret, Frank, Patricia, Paul and their families.

Frank had been in the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) and had served in Cyprus. He will be remembered dancing proudly in his Black Watch tartan kilt.

Frank will also be remembered for his many skits over the years with Hector Meinz and Jake Clisky (both now deceased), and also for his singing ability. He entertained many groups of elderly people in retirement



villages (always with a twinkle in his eye) whenever sets of dancers had been invited to dance. His rendition of "Address to a Haggis" was delivered on many occasions at Scottish events with great passion and clarity!



In his quiet and methodical way he went about offering his "handyman" skills to people in need, most often without being asked.

Sadly Frank had been suffering from dementia during his final couple of years and had been in care over the last twelve months or so.

## 15. What's on

Event	Date	Details
Lochiel	Saturday 10th May	Matangi Hall, 480 Tauwhare Road, Tamahere Doors open 5 pm, mulled beverages & cheese rolls at 5.30 pm Dancing at 6pm.
Teachers' Workshop Region General Meeting	Saturday May 17th	St Peter's Catholic Hall, Cambridge <b>Teachers' Workshop:</b> 9.15 for 9.45 am <b>Region Meeting:</b> 1.00 pm
Cambridge 70th Anniv. Ball	Saturday May 31st	7.00pm at the Cambridge Town Hall, Victoria Street, Cambridge. Music by Glenfiddle
KBWS Cambridge	Saturday May 31st	<a href="#">PDF KBWS Information Sheet</a>
Tokoroa Tea Dance	Sunday June 8th	
Katikati	Saturday June 21st	Pahoia School/Community Hall 29 Esdale Road Whakamarama Refreshments, 1.00 pm. Dancing commences 1.30 pm

## 16. 343 Social Dances for MCs

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZB7rQip7B5ov-pA1rB5NqZOhMa\\_tb-wuxR74YmQk0/edit?ts=5be3e6d3#gid=122006433](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZB7rQip7B5ov-pA1rB5NqZOhMa_tb-wuxR74YmQk0/edit?ts=5be3e6d3#gid=122006433)

Any articles or letters for future publication should be sent to the editor:- Agnes Algra - see email below

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