

LOWER HUTT SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB NEWSLETTER

June 2026

In case you haven't caught up with this year's Honours List, RSCDS New Zealand Branch proudly congratulated our President Debbie Roxburgh for being honoured as a **Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit** in the King's Birthday Honours 2026.

This is an outstanding and richly deserved recognition of her exceptional 50 years of dedication, leadership and service to Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand and internationally.

Congratulations Debbie!

Read more here:

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/whanganui-chronicle/news/kings-birthday-honours-2026-scottish-country-dance-teacher-debbie-roxburgh-made-a-member-of-the-new-zealand-order-of-merit/MVZVLOETBRFJXFUW522KQ5EQXA/>

Important Dates

June

- Saturday **13 June**. Tawa SCDC Annual Dance. 7.30pm at Ngaio Town Hall. Music by Jason Morris, Hilary Ferral and Shane Rempala. For details see the May Newsletter and/or the Club's website.
- Saturday **20 June**. Glendarroch SCD Club's Day School. 10am. Teachers: Gaye and Damon Collin. Invitation and registration form are attached to this email.
- Saturday **20 June**. Ceilidh Fundraising Event for Summer School. 6.30–10pm at the Khandallah Town Hall. For details see the May Newsletter and/or the Club's website.
- Monday **22 June**. Lower Hutt's A Mid-Winter Christmas at 7.30pm. Music by Lynne Scott and Friends. This will be followed by supper and small contributions are welcome. See flyer attached to this email.
- Saturday **27 June**. Linden SCDC Annual Dance 2026. 7.30pm at Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Rd., Ngaio. Music by Jason Morris, Hilary Ferral and Shane Rempala. For details see the May Newsletter and/or the Club's website.

July

- Monday **6 July**. Friends and Family Night at Lower Hutt. 7.30pm. This will be followed by supper and as always small contributions are welcome.
- Saturday **18 July**. Levin's 70th Anniversary Annual Dance. 2pm–5pm at Speldhurst Village Hall, Kimberley Road, Levin. Music by The Saltire Scottish Country Dance Band. Dinner will follow the dance at The George (on site) at your own cost. For details see the May Newsletter and/or the Club's website.

September

- **Saturday 5 September.** Lower Hutt's Annual Dance. 7.30pm at Knox Church Hall. Music by Jason Morris, Hilary Ferral, Shane Rempala. See the flyer and the two new dances attached to this email.

A Word From Our President

Commonwealth Games Dance

On May the 5th, all the Scottish country dance clubs in Wellington were alerted to an interesting request from the Glasgow Branch in Scotland. They were inviting Scottish Country Dance groups from across the Commonwealth to share short video greetings that will be featured on their social media and as part of their Commonwealth-themed celebration at the Commonwealth Games Dance on Friday 10 July 2026.

The timing was tight, because the video clips had to be back in the hands of the Glasgow Branch by May the 31st. However, it quickly became obvious that the club committee felt this was something we should do.

The committee felt that the dance clip should feature a clear view of the dance, once through, and then open out to show a thriving group of dancers enjoying themselves – we were restricted, after all, to only sixty seconds for the video of the dance.

Given that there were two New Zealand-devised dances featured on the programme for the Commonwealth Games Dance coming up on July the 10th, and the organiser of the King's Birthday Weekend School had undertaken to video one of those over the weekend, it was felt that here was an opportunity to film another New Zealand-devised dance. Liam Thomas, devised by Gaye Collin, was chosen as a very danceable, but interesting, dance that all club members could do a tidy performance of for the video.

The first take was completed on the 10th of May, on a night when THREE new men arrived at the club. Everyone managed the dance, as expected, but there was a hope that another try might produce a tidier performance. The second take, along with a recording of our club's "Welcome" to dancers around the Commonwealth, was done on the 17th. After focusing on one set for the first time through the dance, our cameraman (Chris Totton, who was deputising for Bruce Chapman who was unwell) panned out to a view of the whole club from the stage.

Bruce subsequently took on the responsibility of stitching all the component parts together and following the Glasgow Branch's instructions for getting the package to them before the deadline.

We now need to keep a lookout for the social media feeds from the Glasgow Branch to see snippets of dances and "Welcomes" from our fellow Scottish country dancers around the world. What a great initiative to showcase Scottish country dancing in this fashion when Glasgow is hosting the Commonwealth Games.

Children's Class Report from Chris Totton

We trialled a new start time and location for the children's class this year, with the hope that this may generate interest and bring along some new children and families. Unfortunately, this has not occurred as much as we had hoped and anticipated.

After a rocky first term with few dancers on any given week, we have made the decision to cancel the children's classes for the remainder of the year. We are, however, looking forward to trying again next year and hoping for more success.

Look out for the advertising leading up to next year and remember to share it round to anyone you think might be interested or looking for something new!