Welcome to the New Year and I trust you all had a restful festive season.

Our Burns Supper was a great success with 100 people having an enjoyable evening. My special thanks to the Highland Dancers and their parents who catered so well for us all.

The AGM will be held at the hall at 2pm on Sunday 7th May 2017. I look forward to having members putting their names forward to be on the Council. Notice of the meeting and nomination form are attached to this newsletter.

Geoff Tyson has stepped down from the role of Secretary to the Council having given over 10 years in the role. My thanks go to Geoff Tyson who remains on the council. Margaret Birse has taken on the role of secretary. Thanks also to Nancy Gibb for stepping in and editing the last newsletter. Dave and Nancy are returning to Australia to continue their peripatetic lifestyle.

I encourage you to introduce more members to the society to foster our Scottish heritage and enjoy the various activities of the society. A membership application form appears in the newsletter.

Some members have not paid their subs for the 2017 year; you must be financial to vote at the AGM and continue to receive the Scottish News – a membership form appears on the last page of the newsletter.

Yours Aye
Graeme Matheson

Upcoming Events

March 10th - 11th Pipe Band Nationals, Nelson

April 1st Country Dancing Club Open Night, Scottish Society Hall

7th May Scottish Society of New Zealand AGM, Scottish Society Hall

May 20th Pipes + Drams including concert, Cardboard Cathedral
The Burns Supper

The scene was set with tables for the 100 plus guests alive with beautiful flowers and the traditional rowan berries. The haggis was piped in the traditional way by Piper Bruce Keddie. What a scene setter followed with a superb Address to the Haggis from Jim Hudson. He had the event alight and one could feel Robbie Burns in our midst.

MC Geoff Tyson led us into the light entertainment which began with rousing singing of The Star of Robbie Burns chorus to accompany soloist Greg Colquhoun. Then the first of vocal solos and duets from Elisabeth Alberts and Ginny Comery accompanied by Liz Comery followed.

Lester Clarke treated us to an outstanding Immortal Memory it was delivered with passion and the content was superb and thought provoking. It can never be said you know everything about Burns as Lester proved otherwise.

Piper Bruce gave us a selection from the 2015 Edinburgh Tattoo which he had attended and performed over many days to mark the 75th Anniversary of the event. We enjoyed the commentary that set the scene before the piping much of which brought back memories of Edinburgh Castle and earlier tattoos attended by a high number of the guests.

We had poems from Burns, a witty toast to the Lassies from Gordon Shields and an inspired response from Chris Seaton.

This year the Scottish Highland Dancers and parents served the traditional supper and they were put to the test as we stretched their resources to the limit with expanding numbers attending. Their contribution was outstanding making the event flow with panache.

The grand circle filling the perimeter of the hall to sing Auld Lang Syne reflected a terrific evening and we look forward to 2018.

Country Dancing Club

Scottish Country Dancing is held at the Scottish Society of New Zealand Hall every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm from February, through to November. It is a great time for friendship, fun and fitness.

We would love to see newcomers join us. You do not need to bring a partner, or know how to do the dances. We have talented tutors who guide us and teach us what to do. We welcome anyone who would like to pop in on a Tuesday evening to see what we are all about.

We are holding our open night on April 1st at 7.30pm. This is a time when other SCD clubs in the region join with us for an evening of dance.
The Scottish Society of New Zealand Pipe Band

The band continues to use the hall for practise sessions on Monday and Wednesday nights. Having a hall to rehearse in is a critical component to the success of the band.

In addition to preparation for the band, we have used the hall for several successful events over the past few months.

The band hosted a Ceilidh in the hall on the 6th August, which was a huge success with over 100 people attending. The event brought together a traditional Scottish Ceilidh and showcased several items from the band including a drumming solo and a quartet comprising a guitar, two pipers and a side drummer.

The band hosted an airline themed quiz night on the 24th September. Again, the evening was a huge success with just on 100 people attending. The band took the opportunity at the quiz evening to auction off several items to raise money for travel – again a huge success.

The band also hosted a Ceilidh for the Merrin School Christmas function on the 26th November. This fundraiser was another success and was made easier by the work put into the previous Ceilidh.

The band competed at the Hororata Highland Games at the start of November with many of the drummers competing in solo drumming competitions during the morning. All our drummers did extremely well with Emma Malins winning a gold medal in the tenor drumming, an excellent result for one of the youngest members of the band. Although the band is only ranked in grade three, we took the opportunity to play up a grade and compete in grade two. The band was awarded the Grade Three Champions Trophy and placed third in grade two.

The band competed at the Christchurch Casino Day contest on Saturday the 3rd December. This was our first real test against other grade three bands including City of Nelson and Invercargill. The band performed well and won the grade.
The following weekend the band competed at the Palmerston North Square Day. This was our first test against the North Island’s grade three bands. Once again, the band held its composure despite the inclement weather and won the event. Georgia Eagle competed in the drumming solos in the morning at Palmerston North and got second placings in C and D grade events.

We closed the year with our annual performance at the Hanmer Springs Santa Parade on the 16th December. This was our final parade for the year with the band taking January off. The band has now started preparations for our regional competitions in February and the Nationals in early March. **UPDATE: The band successfully competed at Nationals winning grade three!**

The band has grown significantly in the new year with several new members joining the band for the upcoming regional and national competitions. The band has also taken on some members from the Canterbury Caledonian Grade Two Pipe Band, as their band had decided not to play at Nationals this year.

**Save the date:** The Band will be holding their bi-annual Pipes + Drams Whisky Tasting and Auction including a mini concert at the Cardboard Cathedral on the 20th May. This is one of the key fundraisers that will assist the band in traveling to the World Championships in Scotland next year. For more information visit [http://pipeband.scottishsocietyofnz.com](http://pipeband.scottishsocietyofnz.com)

Huge thanks go to the following organisations who have awarded the band grants for instruments and travel funding. We wouldn’t be able to continue to operate without the strong support from community grants.

- **$16,000 Southern Trust** – new drums
- **$6,500 Rata Foundation** – new pipe chanter and reeds
- **$3,840 Air Rescue** – accommodation for Palmerston North
- **$2,000 Mainland Foundation** – airfares to Palmerston North
- **$2,320 Pub Charity** – airfares to Palmerston North

The Band in action at the Palmerston North Square Day. Photo Credit; Kathie Gordon

Hanmer Springs Christmas Parade. Photo Credit; Kim Eagle
The Scottish Society of New Zealand Highland Dancing

In January, the Balmoral Club celebrated another great week of Highland Dancing. It was especially enjoyable for Technical Committee member of the NZ Academy of Highland & National Dancing, Cushla Piesse, who together with daughters Jeanie and Katie had pleasure in watching her three granddaughters Sophie, Eliza and Rosa taking part.

On Sunday evening 12th February at the Chateau on the Park, Jordan, Sammi, Kate and Athena pupils of Cushla Piesse danced for Malcolm Harry at his 90th birthday celebrations.

Malcolm himself used to dance and was very appreciative of the girls dancing for him. The girls choreographed a special Sword Dance item for Malcolm as this was one of his favourite dances. Despite limited space it was well received.

Three generations enjoying the Balmoral Summer Fling. Photo Credit; Cushla Piesse

Dancing for Malcolm Harry at his 90th Birthday. Photo Credit; Cushla Piesse

Chief; Graeme Matheson
P: 03 355 4391, 021 262 2300
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Senior Chieftain; Dawn Satherly
P: 03 355 8650

Chieftain; Margaret Birse
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Treasurer; Christine Seaton
P: 03 354 6967

Councilors;

Rosalind Reece P: 03 342 4277 E: reeceline@xtra.co.nz

Stu Gordon P: 03 981 1356 E: stu@maidengroup.co.nz

Kathie Gordon P: 03 981 1356 E: bydand.clan@clear.net.nz

Kim Eagle: E: kkmeagle@icloud.com

Cushla Piesse P: 03 352 7251 E: c-p.piesse@orcon.net.nz

JB Anderson: E: jb@zumbafitness.net.nz

Geoff Tyson P: 03 359 6279 E: gf.tyson@xtra.co.nz
The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Society of New Zealand Inc. to be held on Sunday 7th May at 2:00pm this will be followed by the installation of the Chief

Nominations for Office Bearers are to be in the hands of the Secretary, seven (7) days prior to the 7th May, that is the 30th April.

A nomination form follows herewith, please post to P.O Box 21 092 Edgeware, Christchurch 8143.

Note that any nominee and their nominators must be financial members of the Society, and the permission of the nominee is paramount. Present Office Bearers may stand for re-election.

The Chief, Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually, Councillors are for two year terms. Ideally half are elected each year. Chieftains are chosen by the new Council at its first meeting.

Annual and Financial Reports from sub groups must be in the hands of the Secretary by the 31st March 2017 for printing and distribution.

Secretary; Margaret Birse P: 021 253 5845 E: bealey47@hotmail.com

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The Scottish Society of New Zealand (Inc.)
Society Hall Cnr, Edgeware and Caledonian Roads
PO Box 21 092 Edgeware, Christchurch 8142

Nomination Form for Council 2017/2018
Nominations close seven (7) days prior to AGM on the 7th May i.e 30th April
Positions for nomination are Chief, Secretary, Treasurer, Councillors (two-year term)

Person nominated ...........................................................................................................................................
Position ...................................................................................................................................................................
I .............................................................................................................................................................................. accept nomination
Signature ................................................................................................................................................................
Name of Proposer ..................................................................................................................................................
Signature ................................................................................................................................................................
Name of Seconder ................................................................................................................................................
Signature ................................................................................................................................................................

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The Scottish Society of New Zealand Membership Application

Established 1902 – supporting our Scottish Heritage

PO Box 21 092 Edgeware, Christchurch

136 Caledonian Road (Cnr Edgeware Road) Edgeware, Christchurch

Membership runs from 1 January to 31 December annually and subs are $20 per annum per individual or $35 per couple which includes children to 16 years of age at the same address

Name (s)

Email

Address

Paid by Cheque (enclosed) / Direct Banking (please circle)

Bank Details:  Account Number 03 0830 0247109 00

Please enter the following details. **Particulars;** Last name and initials. **Reference:** Memb

Signed

Date

Office Use:  Passed by Council .................................................. Date..........................

Post to P.O Box 21 092 Edgeware, Christchurch 8143

Or

Scan to membership@scottishsocietyofnz.com

Information provided will be used for the purposes of the Scottish Society of NZ only