

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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August 2011

RSCDS Canberra and District Branch Incorporated
GPO Box 1795, CANBERRA ACT 2601

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Chair's Message

Firstly, I wish once again to thank everyone who attended the recent Branch Tea Dance for their magnificent support of our appeal for funds to help the Scottish country dancers in Sendai, Japan, whose homes were destroyed partially or totally in the March earthquake and tsunami. It was a great effort; details of the amounts raised are included inside.

Next, this issue contains important information about the Branch Annual General Meeting which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14 September 2011, at St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest, commencing at 7.30 pm. Please note particularly that all positions on the committee become vacant. We are always looking for new people who can share the load of running the affairs of the Branch; so if you think you may be able to devote some time to committee work, please consider the possibility of nominating for a position, in whatever capacity you may wish. Talk to a current committee member if you are interested.

Canberra Winter School 2014

We are also using this issue and the forthcoming AGM to draw your attention to the fact that it will be Canberra's turn in 2014, just three years from now, to host the annual Australian Winter School.

- Experience gained in planning previous Canberra winter schools suggests that a core planning group (Winter School Committee) needs to commence work at least two years ahead of the event. Experience also tells us that WSCs do not just materialise; which is unsurprising given the degree of commitment required and the workload involved. Therefore, if a 2014 winter school in Canberra is in contemplation, work on establishing a WSC should commence soon.
- We also know that past Canberra winter schools could not have succeeded without the supportive efforts of many members and other local dancers; they performed a myriad of supporting tasks in the preparations for and the conduct of those schools. This would have to happen again in 2014.
- The committee feels that members attending the AGM should be **formally** asked to agree in principle that the Branch will conduct a winter school in 2014. The first step would be for the committee to establish a WSC, which would commence planning work as soon as practicable.
- Members will also be asked to acknowledge that the success of a winter school in 2014 will depend on substantial practical support from them, and to agree that they will endeavour to assist in any way they feel able. If agreed, your committee would report progress to the next AGM.
- Other difficulties may well emerge, such as availability of suitable venues and cost. But, if a WSC can be established during the next few months whose members feel they have the backing of the membership at large, a good start will have been made.

Annual General Meeting

The Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 September 2011 at St Andrew's Church Hall starting at 7.30 pm. The AGM provides an opportunity for you as members to ask questions about the Branch's general and financial health and to raise any matters that may be of concern. At the conclusion of the meeting there will be a class of social dancing followed by supper. You are all urged to attend the AGM and are cordially invited to stay on afterwards.

The following papers: agenda, nomination form for election of office bearers and committee members, and form of appointment of proxy are at the back of this issue of Scotch Circle.

The Treasurer, Mary Gellatly, will be pleased to accept membership fees for the 2011/12 financial year from any members who have not already renewed.

Australian Winter School, Canberra, 2014

Notice is hereby given that it is intended to move on behalf of the committee the following:

That the meeting:

- Gives its in-principle support for the Canberra and District Branch Inc to conduct the 39th Australian Winter School in 2014;
- Agrees that as a first step, the Branch committee will seek to form a Winter School Committee (WSC), being a sub-committee of the Branch committee. The WSC would commence planning work as soon as practicable;
- Requests the Branch committee to report progress to the AGM in 2012;
- Acknowledges that the successful conduct of a winter school in 2014 will depend among other things on the collective assistance of the membership and other local dancers in performing the myriad of support tasks, under the guidance of the WSC, in the lead up to and at the school itself; and in this regard,
- Agrees that members will endeavour to provide any assistance they are able to the WSC.

In support of the motion:

- The next Canberra WS is scheduled for 2014, i.e. three years from now. Our turn comes around every seven years (the previous three Canberra schools were in 1993, 2000, 2007).
- The committee considers that planning a WS for 2014 requires the prior agreement and active support of the membership.
- Planning needs to commence at least two years prior to the event. Advertising brochures need to be available 12 months before, i.e. at WS 2013, to maximise publicity. The content and preparation of the brochure takes at least another 12 months.
- Planning requires establishment of a WSC, which could take up several additional months.
- A first alternative, to decide not to proceed because of a perceived lack of resources, would make Canberra the first Australian Branch to default (not stage the event after having made past in-principle, but non-binding, agreements with other branches to stage it).
- A second alternative, to defer now, is to increase the risk of eventual default.
- Passing this motion would be a helpful step in the right direction.

BRANCH NEWS

TEA DANCE 21 MAY

The final amount raised by our to appeal to assist the Sendai Scottish country dancers was \$1,875. This is made up of:

Admission fees and donations taken at the door:	\$975
Wollongong White Heather Club	\$200
Caringbah Scottish Country Dance Group	\$100
NSW Far South Coast Scottish Country Dance Group	\$100
Belconnen Scottish Country Dancers	\$200
Strathmannan	\$300
Total	\$1,875

The Branch has remitted the Yen equivalent of this amount in full to the bank account of the Sendai SCD tsunami victim relief funds Chairman Yutaka Shimizu, in Japan.

During a break in the dancing, a **Branch Award** was made to **Brian Gunning** in recognition of the outstanding service he has given to Scottish country dancing in the locality of the Canberra & District Branch. Prominent in this is the service he has given over a number of years to produce the Branch newsletter and maintain the Branch website.

SCD at the Antarctica Music Festival: The Piper and the Penguin

The Australian National University School of Music recently held a five-day International Festival of Antarctica Music, Film, Sounds, Photography and Opera and, as this story tells, Dance, to celebrate the centenary of the first Australasian Antarctic expedition. In the course of the programme of lectures and performances one of the speakers, Bernadette Hinch, phoned out of the blue to say that she would be giving a talk in two day's time on the subject of the famous photograph "The Piper and the Penguin", taken in 1904 during the Scottish National Antarctic "Scotia" Expedition. The piper was Gilbert Kerr, whose duties included playing traditional Scottish airs around the ship's deck every evening. He had dressed in full regalia for the photograph, standing on pack ice in the Weddell Sea and playing to an emperor penguin – a captive audience in every sense in that it was tethered by a rope tied to its leg. Its response was described as *sleepy indifference*.

Bernadette is a researcher in the Australian National Library, which receives and shelves every issue of Scotch Circle. Thus when a Google search disclosed that an item about "The Piper and the Penguin" had appeared in the May 2007 issue, she became aware that there exists a Scottish dance of the same name, that there is music by Muriel Johnstone to go with it, and that there are local Scottish dancers who enjoy dancing it. She very kindly went to the trouble of finding how to get in touch, to ask if we would be interested in what she was going to say. Events then moved fast. One day later Ann, Brian, Bruce, David, Jan, Jean, Madeleine and Peggy found themselves not just attending, but performing at the Festival, dancing "The Piper and the Penguin" by way of an introduction to her talk.

It was all very much in keeping with the theatrical and Antarctic themes of the Festival. We were piped in from the rear of the theatre, led by piper Richard Harris, who, like Gilbert Kerr in the photograph, was in full regalia, then the speaker, legs fittingly resplendent in penguin-patterned hose, propelling (and almost dwarfed by) an enormous inflatable emperor penguin, then our four couples. We danced to the usual music under the eye of the parked penguin (sleepily indifferent throughout, true to form) and stayed to listen while Bernadette recounted the history of the photograph, including the publication of Roy Goldring's suite of SCDs to mark the centenary of the Scotia expedition. She also took the opportunity to display Madeleine's Antarctic tartan sash and highlight its ice and penguin colours.

It goes to show that in the era of Google almost anything that is published – even articles in Scotch Circle – can be retrieved, with unforeseeable consequences. In this particular case it might be said that the penguins came home to roost.

BRANCH OCCASIONAL CLASS 2nd SEMESTER

This class is being offered again in second semester 2011, taken by Ann Parkinson. The primary aim of the class is to encourage dancers to maintain and enhance their dancing skills. The emphasis will be less on learning new or difficult dances than on polishing formations and improving aspects of technique such as phrasing, covering, handing, deportment and teamwork. Step practice will be to the point and not excessive. These Monday, 6 - 7 pm, classes will be held at St Andrew's Church Hall: 22 August; 5 and 19 September; and 10 and 24 October. For further information contact Ann at ann.parkinson@apex.net.au

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 20 August: The Canberra Ball

Assembly Hall of St Edmund's College, Canberra Avenue, Griffith

Music by Strathmannan

Drinks 7.00 pm, Grand March and Dancing start 7.30 pm

Recap sheet available at <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Ball2011Recaps.pdf>

Tickets \$40. Contact Colin Alum colallum@optusnet.com.au

Friday, 26 August: Belconnen SCD Advanced Social Class, 8pm, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie, led by Glenys and Peggy. Contact Elaine Arthur 6254 7879 or email: elaine.arthur@apex.net.au. Program:-

Winter Park, J3C, 8x32, Drewry, Brodie; Asilomar Romantic, S3C, 8x32, Cuthbertson, San Francisco Collection vol 2; The Muckle Fiddle Plucker, J3C, 8x32, Drewry, 1979; The Golden Apple Jig, J3C, 8x40, Ronald, 12 SCDs New York Branch; Southern Stars, S6C, 1x96, Jeff Green; Get Yoursel' a Toyboy, J3C, 8x32, Drewry, Stoneywood; Y2K, J4C, 4x32, Drewry, Greenburn; The Hard Drive, R3C, 8x32, Ronald, 12 SCDs, New York Branch; Nottingham Lace, R4C, 1x96, J.Bradley; The Janeil Strathspey, S3C, 3x32, Bowie Dickson, Dunedin Dances Book 5;

Saturday, 3rd September: Southern Highlands SCD, 25th Anniversary Social

Venue: Bowral Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Bendooley & Boolwey Streets, Bowral.

Time: 7.30 pm

Cost: \$10.00, Supper provided.

Music: "Stringfiddle" ... Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford.

Contact: Margaret O'Farrell, (02)4869 3898;

Helen Wales, (02)4861 6471; email: eilidhmarg@hotmail.com

The programme and crib sheet are available on the Sydney Branch web site.

Saturday, 17 September: Marengo Social, 2011

At the Murringo Hall, from 7.30 pm. Cost: \$10

Contacts: Jean Williams 6382 7918; Maurice Harcombe 6384 6222

Program: Catch the Wind R 8x32 Book 45; Napier's Index J 8x40 Book 45; Monymusk S 8x32 Book 11; The Wild Geese J 8x32 Book 24; Hooper's Jig J 8x32 MMM 2; The Minister on the Loch S 3x32 Goldring 24 G&S; A Trip to Bavaria R 4x32 MacGregor-Brown; Shiftin' Bobbins R 8x32 Clowes Ormskirk 6; Drumelzier S 4x32 Blair 2 SCDs; Pelorus Jack J 8x32 Book 41; The Last of the Lairds J 8x32 Book 22; Sugar Candie S 8x32 Book 26; The Irish Rover R 8x32 Cosh 22 SCDs; Polharrow Burn R 5x32 Foss Glendarroch; The Byron Strathspey S 3x32 Drewry Deeside 2; Muirland Willie J 8x32 Book 21; The Sailor R 8x32 Book 24; Mairi's Wedding R 8x40 Cosh 22 SCDs.

Friday 9 to Sunday 10 October: Bermagui

Far South Coast Group of Scottish Country Dancers 12th Annual Social Weekend

Their brochure invites you to join them for another fun weekend of music and dance, this year to a Halloween theme. All events are at the Community Hall, Bermagui, except breakfast on Sunday morning. On Friday evening, witching hour commences at 8 pm, for which you are asked "to practice your magic, be it poem, dance, music or song or whatever for Halloween to earn your supper". On Saturday morning at 10 am you can walk through several of the lesser known dances on the evening social program. 7.30 pm is the start time of the social with music by Bob McInnes and Jane Ellis. Finally, on Sunday morning you will be able to enjoy breakfast in the park overlooking the harbour. The cost of the weekend is \$40 (Friday - \$10, Saturday - \$20, Sunday - \$10). Please let Sheelagh or Trish know if you will be present or if you have any queries. Sheelagh Brunton: 02 6493 6538 or wasbrunton@bigpond.com

Trish McDonald: 02 6493 6350 or macsauto2@bigpond.com

A brochure, dance program and recap sheet can all be downloaded from the Branch website (courtesy of webmaster Brian Gunning) www.rscds-canberra.org/

Friday 26 November: Burns Group St Andrews Night Social

St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest, from 8 pm. Music: Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford

Cost: \$10 (small plate appreciated)

Program: The Loch Ness Monster; St Andrews Fair; MacDonald of the Isles; Catch the Wind; Laggan Bay; The Royal Wedding; The Piper and the Penguin; The Kelloholm Jig; Wisp of Thistle; The Saltire Society Reel; Culla Bay; The Sailor; Pelorus Jack; Will ye no' Come back Again; Meeting of the Waters

13-17 September 2012: China Luoyang International Culture Tourism Festival

Colin Allum writes:

I received an invitation for a Scottish Country Dance performance group to participate in this Festival in September 2011. Since we could not arrange a group to go to China at such short notice, they have invited us to perform at the Festival in September, 2012, instead.

The Luoyang Heluo Culture and Tourism Festival is an official festival in China and Mr Yajing Xue, my contact, is the representative of the Official Authorised Organiser. In the past two years they have had performance groups from countries from all over the world and the festival has been running since 2003.

To perform we would need at least five dancing couples and a teacher. I have already had two teachers and some dancers express interest in attending this festival.

What is Provided

- (1) LCTF will undertake our hotel, meals, bus in the city of Luoyang.
- (2) LCTF will undertake our train transportation from Shanghai or Beijing to Luoyang and return.
- (3) LCTF will undertake our Free sightseeing to Shaolin Temple, the Longmen Grottoes, White House Temple, Peony, Garden , Luoyang Museums, Luoyang Sui & Tang Dynasties Relics Botanic Garden, Longtan Grand Canyon, Guan Lin Temple, six-horse carriage for the emperor, House of the Chancellor in Huangcheng, etc.
- (4) They will issue an Official Invitation Letter of Organizing Committee of LCTF to us once our team confirms it will participate.

Other Conditions

- (1) Airfares to and from China and visas are our responsibility.
- (2) The LCTF includes rehearsal, standing performance and marching parade in the Opening Ceremony. The public performances will be at 2-3 times during the following days.

What Next

If enough dancers are interested, Glenys and I will investigate air fares and possible package tours either before or after the festival.

Please contact me, Colin Allum, preferably by email, if you are interested.
colallum@optusnet.com.au or my phone number is 6258 0009.

**THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
CANBERRA AND DISTRICT BRANCH INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2011, 7.30 PM
ST ANDREWS CHURCH HALL FORREST**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2010
3. Business arising
4. Annual Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of office bearers and committee
7. Appointment of auditor
8. Appointment of editor of Scotch Circle
9. E-mail newsletter/website manager
10. Australian Winter School, Canberra, 2014
11. Any other business

Canberra and District Branch Inc
Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members
NOMINATION

We, being persons qualified to vote at an election of the above Branch, NOMINATE:

.....
(Name in BLOCK LETTERS)

Who is a member of the above Branch, for election to office as (circle one below):

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

TREASURER

COMMITTEE MEMBER

.....
(Name in BLOCK LETTERS of person making the nomination)

.....
(Signature of person making the nomination and date of nomination)

0-0-0

I,CONSENT to this nomination
(Name of person nominated BLOCK LETTERS)

.....
(Signature of person nominated and date)

**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Canberra and District Branch Inc
FORM OF APPOINTMENT AS PROXY**

I,.....
(Name)

Of.....
(Address)

Being a member of the above Branch, hereby APPOINT

.....
(Name of proxy)

.....
(Address of proxy)

Being a member of the above Branch, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General meeting of the above Branch to be held on Wednesday 14 September 2011, and at any adjournment of these meetings.

.....
(Signature of member appointing proxy and date)

Scotch Circle is published by RSCDS (Canberra & District) and the Committee reserves rights of editorial control
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Contributions and requests for electronic version to June Browne at ceilidh@bigpond.com.au