

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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

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Co-Chairs' Message

Happy New Year to you all. We hope that you are all well rested and ready to resume Scottish Country Dancing again. May we just suggest, especially if you have not been dancing since before Christmas, that you temper your enthusiasm with a little care to avoid injury.

Branch and club classes are getting underway as this issue of Scotch Circle goes to press. We would like to draw attention to the Beginners Class, starting on 7 February, under Elizabeth's guidance at St Andrew's Church hall, Forrest; and the Junior Class, which will have its first session with Sandra on Wednesday 21 February at Yarralumla Uniting Church. Note that the Junior Class is to be held on Wednesday rather than Tuesday.

As you are all aware, it is the turn of the Canberra & District Branch to host the annual Australian Winter School. The School will run from 30 September to 7 October (so actually it will take place during spring). This is the major event on the Branch calendar for 2007 and an update on preparations for the big event can be found inside this issue.

We wish you an enjoyable year of Scottish Country Dancing.!

Elaine (and Brian who is on his way to Antarctica)

Branch News

Branch classes in 2007

The Beginners class commenced on Wednesday 7 February from 6.45 to 8.00 pm. Elizabeth Low is the teacher of this class for the first half of the year. The General class will continue from 8 pm to 10 pm. Ann Welburn will be the teacher for the first six weeks, followed by Elaine Arthur for the second six weeks. There will be no Wednesday class on 21 March.

Elaine Arthur

32nd Australian Winter School update

This is to bring Scotch Circle readers up to date on Winter School matters.

Enrolments have been coming in very encouragingly over the last few months but we still need more! Therefore, if you wish to attend, the organisers would appreciate receipt of your application as soon as possible to assist in our forward planning. Local support would be especially welcome.

Application forms, and much general information on the School, can be accessed by clicking on the link on the home page of the Branch web site www.rscds-canberra.org.

One of our overseas teachers, Elaine Brunken, has had to withdraw for family reasons. She was very sorry about this, as indeed we were, but we are most fortunate in obtaining the services of Marjorie McLaughlin in her place. Marjorie teaches in the San Diego Branch and is highly experienced, not just in SCD itself, but also in the historical aspects of SCD: she has kindly offered to lead an afternoon session on this subject. Brief biographical details are on the web site.

Elaine Arthur, WS Convenor

Archivist needed

Our secretary needs some help to store the records of the Branch. As a result of changes to arrangements at one of our venues we can no longer store our papers there. Are you a responsible adult who has space in your garage for a 2 drawer cabinet and are willing to allow us to store our records at your place? That is all the duties required of the archivist. Please contact Bruce Clark if you can help.

Possible changes to arrangements for the AGM

Some years ago we took the necessary steps to become an incorporated body. This enables the branch to undertake its activities without exposing members individually to the threat of litigation. Our incorporated status also imposes obligations in terms of reporting to members and reporting to the Registrar-General annually.

These obligations require us to hold an annual general meeting. You will recall that last year that meeting had to be adjourned for want of a quorum. The present requirement is for the lesser

of 25 members, or 25% of members, be present for a meeting to proceed. In practical terms, it is the latter which applies because our membership is less than 100 people.

At the resumed meeting last year the committee indicated that the general meeting for 2007 would be held on Wednesday evening before the regular dance class in an endeavour to avert a recurrence of the problem of lack of a quorum. This change recognised that attending an AGM on a night that was not a regular dance evening required people to come out on another night. It did not address other issues that contribute to the difficulty of obtaining a quorum –

- Attending the AGM is a particular imposition for our members who live outside Canberra (and an increasing proportion of members are in this category)
- for those older life members who are no longer active in the affairs of the branch there is little purpose in attending an AGM
- the present constitution does not distinguish between financial and unfinancial members and the quorum required for a meeting is thus higher than it would be if unfinancial members were excluded for this purpose.

At its last meeting the committee discussed possible approaches to address these issues and modify the quorum requirements to recognise the changing nature of our membership. The committee was concerned not to exclude people from attending the meeting but rather to adjust the requirements so that the meeting can be held without resort to press gangs to ensure a quorum.

The committee is considering proposing an amendment to the constitution so that a quorum would be formed if the lesser of 25 members, or 25% of the ordinary, financial members, were present. This quorum provision would not prevent life members from participating in the deliberations of the meeting.

We would greatly appreciate your thoughts on these matters. Please contact Bruce Clark or another member of the committee.

Tuggeranong Celtic Moon Festival – Saturday 17 March 2007

Sandra Carroll is teaching about 50 kids from Sacred Heart Primary School a few simple dances for a performance as part of the Tuggeranong Celtic Moon Festival

The performance will be at 5 pm on Saturday 17 March at Tuggeranong Community Hall

Sandra has been asked to teach a workshop to all interested prior to the performance and also after the performance. It would really help Sandra if there were some experienced Scottish country dancers at the workshop. A few familiar faces who know what they are doing will make a big difference to the success of the workshop

If you can help please let Sandra know or contact Bruce Clark or Elaine Arthur.

National Folk Festival 6-9 April 2007

The Scottish Country Dancers of Canberra have been invited to participate in the National Folk Festival on the Easter weekend, 6-9 April. We don't have the dates and times for the displays but if you would like to be involved please let Jan Clark know as soon as possible on (02) 6288 2487. We are planning to start practices shortly; time and place to be arranged.

Bruce Clark

Bundanoon Highland Gathering – 28 April 2007

Saturday 28 April 2007 is the day of the Highland Gathering at Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands known as 'Bundanoon is Brigadoon'. One of the events is a massed display of Scottish Country Dancing. This year Helen Wales from the Southern Highlands Scottish Country Dancers has chosen the dances and they are all easy and well known. The dances are: The Highland Fair, S-Locomotion, Joie de Vivre, and The Piper and the Penguin. Chris Duncan, Catherine Strutt and Bob McInnes will play for the dancing. Jill Vardy will be organising a couple of practices for Canberra dancers closer to the date. If you would like to be part of the display you could contact Jill at home on 6249 6962. Free entry will be provided to all participating dancers.

Elaine Arthur

Overseas News

Dance Schools overseas

The International Branch, in cooperation with the Tallinn SCD Group and the University of Tallinn is holding a workshop 28-30 September 2007.

Jitka Bonusova and Jan Pumpr are continuing in their biennial tradition of a week of dancing in Prague, followed by a visit to Highland Games and a sightseeing tour of the Czech countryside - 18th – 29th August 2007

Further information and application forms are available from Bruce Clark.

A brand new web TV channel at www.scotlandontv.tv

A new web TV channel has been launched. According to their press release it is "targeting people around the world who feel a connection with Scotland. Anyone with Scottish roots, or who wants to know more about the country, will find a wealth of programming about Scotland on this brand new channel."

Forthcoming Events

Cairns SCD Weekend

Far North Queensland Scottish Country Dancers will be holding their next Weekend School and Annual Ball over the weekend 4-7 May 2007. At this time of the year the weather in Cairns is just about perfect - normally warm, high 20s, dry and low humidity. The perfect place to be, with so many attractions ranging from the Great Barrier Reef to the Australian Outback via tropical rainforests, Tableland waterfalls, and a multitude of great holiday attractions.

Details have yet to be finalised but the provisional programme goes a bit like this:

Friday night: self hosting meet & greet

Saturday: Classes in the morning, lunch, classes in the afternoon. (We are considering two classes, Class A for less experienced dancers and Class B for more experienced dancers. This has yet to be set in concrete.)

Saturday evening: some sort of related social event or concert, to be decided.

Sunday: late morning walk through of ball dances for those who wish. Time off for those who do not want to do the walk throughs.

Sunday evening: Cairns Annual SCD Ball

Monday morning: brunch and disperse.

Contact John Bell 40578770 or bellsat60@optusnet.com.au

Batemans Bay Caledonian Society Tartan Night Social

Date: 30 June 2007

Place: Batemans Bay Community Centre, Museum Place, Batemans Bay

Time: 6:30pm – soup warmer with crusty bread on arrival

Music by: Hugh McKenna

Cost: \$10

Program: Bagpipes and Drum – selection of tunes by Warren and Greg, Waltz Country Dance, The Highland Fair, Napier's Index, The Dundee Whaler, The Irish Rover, Poem by Jean McKendrick, Pride of Erin, Sean Triubhas Willichan, Dancing Display, SUPPER, Barn Dance, Songs by Molly Cox, The Piper and the Penguin, 12 Coates Crescent, Skit by Erowal Bay Dancers, The Dashing White Sergeant, Hooper's Jig, The Friendly Waltz, Auld Lang Syne

The annual St Andrews Supper Dance will be held on 24 November 2007. Program forthcoming.

For further information contact Joan Kelly 44723959

Joy Hooton

Events until the Next Issue of Scotch Circle

16 March Belconnen SCD Advanced Social, 8.00pm, Assembly Hall Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cres. Macquarie, led by Peggy and TJ

17 March – All day Workshop at Mittagong, coordinated by the Sydney Branch Teachers Liaison Group..2 classes to cater for new dancers and for more experienced dancers. Cost \$15. For details and enrolment, contact Helen Wales, 02/4861 6471; email: eilidhmarg@hotmail.com

24 March, Clarrie's Birthday Social, St John Church Hall Reid – 6pm BYO barbecue, 8pm dancing Programme available at <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Clarrie%20prog.pdf>
Recap sheet <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Clarrie%20recaps.doc>

6-9 April, National Folk Festival – Scottish Ball Programme and Recaps available at:-
<http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/nffBall07.doc>

20 April, Belconnen SCD Advanced Social, 8.00pm, Assembly Hall Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cres. Macquarie, led by Jill and David

28 April, Bundanoon Highland Gathering

18 May, Belconnen SCD Advanced Social, 8.00pm, Assembly Hall Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cres. Macquarie, led by Glenys and Peggy

26 May, Nowra Scottish Country Dance Group 32nd Annual Ball, 8.00pm, School of Arts, Berry Street, Nowra. Enquiries and Tickets from Judy Sleath (02) 4441 8552, or Heather Bardsley (02) 441 5496.

Scotch Circle is published by RSCDS (Canberra & District) and the Committee reserves rights of editorial control

Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Tuesday 1 May 2007

Contributions and requests for electronic version to June Browne at ceilidh@bigpond.com.au

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