

# SCOTCH CIRCLE

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February 2010

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

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## Message from the Chair

Greetings everyone.

I trust that you enjoyed the festive season and hope you all enjoyed the summer break, whether at home or away. Perhaps you were involved in activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, trekking or bird watching. Maybe armchair sport (tennis or cricket) held your attention for some of the time. Or did you spend time on hobbies, reading, gardening or going to exhibitions or movies? Anything except Scottish country dancing? Not quite; some of you had a great time at the New Zealand Summer School. Whatever you have been doing, I trust you are refreshed and ready for the dancing year ahead.

Scottish country dance classes in the District will be underway during February and March - one or two already started in January. Details of Branch classes are inside.

A Celebration for Barbara, our first social event for the year, will take place on Saturday 13 March - see inside for details.

We take this opportunity to congratulate well known local Scottish country dance enthusiast Jenny Wanless. As announced on Australia Day, Jenny was awarded an Order of Australia Medal; the OAM is for her service to science through voluntary roles with Questacon, and to the Nature and Society Forum. Well done, Jenny!

At this time of year we recall the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns (25 January 1759). You may find something of interest in the enclosed short article which links a selection of lesser known Scottish country dances with writings of the great bard – some great verse, and okay dances too!

Also inside, “Top Fifty Dances” is a report of another analysis of dances frequently included in a selection of, in this case 500, Scottish country dance programmes from around the world. For me, this survey reinforces what many of us already believe, but which is worth repeating nonetheless, that a SC dancer attending a SC dance social anywhere in the SC dancing world, could expect to be familiar with the names of many of the dances included in the program; and further that the dancer could be confident that the dances would be danced anywhere else in pretty well the same way as they are danced at home – surely one of the undoubted benefits of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Jack Arthur

## BRANCH CLASSES 2010

### GENERAL CLASS

The regular Wednesday general class will commence on 3 February. This year, several teachers will take the class for about two months each. Sandra Carroll will be in charge during February and March, followed by David Ayre in April and May. Class times will be 7.30-9.30pm.

### GENTLE DANCERS CLASS

Jessie Middlemiss will be taking the Friday afternoon class (2-4pm) when it resumes on 19 February at St Andrews Church Hall.

### BEGINNERS COURSE

The Branch is planning to conduct an eight-week course of classes for beginners in 2010. It is planned to hold the weekly classes at St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest on Wednesdays from 6.00 to 7.15 pm between 10 March and 28 April inclusive. Elizabeth Low will be teaching this class.

A **free class** on Wednesday **3 March** will precede the course and this will also be the registration session for the course. The fee for the eight weeks will be \$50 payable in advance at the registration session.

Anyone interested in attending this course is invited to seek further information and obtain a registration form by contacting Glenys Bishop, by telephone 6258 0009, or by email [g.r.bishop@optusnet.com.au](mailto:g.r.bishop@optusnet.com.au). Please bring the registration form with you to the free class.

The Branch reserves the right to cancel the course if there is insufficient interest shown at the free class. If this case arises, any fees already collected will be refunded in full.

Download a poster from: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Beginners-poster.pdf>

### BRANCH OCCASIONAL CLASS

This class, which operated successfully during the first and second semesters of 2009, will be offered again in first semester 2010, under the direction of Elaine Arthur.

The primary aim of the class is to assist dancers maintain and enhance their dancing skills. The emphasis will not be on learning new or difficult dances; rather, the class will work 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.

The class will again be held on Monday evenings, 6pm to 7pm, at St Andrew's Church Hall on the following dates: 1, 22 and 29 March; 12 April; and 3, 17 and 31 May.

For further information contact Elaine by telephone (6254 7879), or email: [Elaine.Arthur@apex.net.au](mailto:Elaine.Arthur@apex.net.au)

### SCD DISPLAY AT BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING

Bundanoon will be holding its 33rd Annual Highland Gathering on Saturday 17 April. As in previous years there is to be a massed display of Scottish country dancing, with dancers expected from Sydney, Nowra, The Southern Highlands of NSW and, hopefully, Canberra. The dances chosen for this year's display are: Bundanoon Jig 32J 3C, twice through; Anna Holden's Strathspey 32S 2C, three times through; The Wild Geese 32J 3C, twice through; The Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division 32R 3C, three times through; The Dashing White Sergeant (audience participation).

Any persons interested in participating should contact Elaine by telephone (02 6254 7879) or by email: [Elaine.Arthur@apex.net.au](mailto:Elaine.Arthur@apex.net.au) A practice will be arranged closer to the date.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 13 March 2010:

**"A Celebration for Barbara"**

To remember Barbara Monahan and her love of Scottish Country Dancing  
St John's Church Hall, Reid, 7.30pm

Music by Strathmannan

All welcome. Admission free

The Programme includes many of her favourite dances

Poster available at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Barbara.jpg>

Recaps available at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Barbara-Recaps.doc>

Contact: Peggy Spratt (02) 6247 5805; email [pegspratt@grapevine.com.au](mailto:pegspratt@grapevine.com.au)

30 April-4 May 2010:

**Far North Queensland Scottish Country Dancers  
8<sup>th</sup> Workshop and Ball Weekend  
Cairns**

Programme	Friday	7.30pm Bush Dance/Ceilidh
	Saturday	Classes at 10am & 1.45pm. Evening – free
	Sunday	Ball walk through 7.30pm 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Ball
	Monday	Brunch at 10am
Teachers	Methchild Timmins (Adelaide) and Kylie Akers (Atherton)	
Application form & Enquiries	Anne at (07) 4055 9329 or <a href="mailto:anne.archdeacon@westnet.com.au">anne.archdeacon@westnet.com.au</a>	

13-21 February 2010:

**Dance Tassie in 2010**

It may not be too late. Please email if interested: [bbuckland@tassie.net.au](mailto:bbuckland@tassie.net.au) or phone  
Tony Northey (03 63318892)

Rosemary Kew (03 64357515) or

Fiona Chalk (03 64421349)

**SOME LESSER KNOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES  
ASSOCIATED WITH WORKS OF ROBERT BURNS (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796)**

**1. The Deuk's dang ow're my Daddie 40J 2C RSCDS Book 19**

The dance's title and its tune bear the same name as the Burns song whose opening verse follows.

The bairns gat out wi an unco shout:-	mighty
'The deuk's dang o'er my daddie,O!'	duck, beaten
'The flen-ma-care', quo the feirrie auld wife	devil-may-care, lusty
'He was but a paidlin body, O!'	pottering
He paidles out, and he paidles in,	
An he paidles late and early, O!'	
This seven lang years I hae lien by his side,	
An he is but a fusionless carlie, O!'	useless old fellow

**2. Tillietudlem**

**32J 3C**

**Foss, Waverley Fugues**

The association here is the lead tune the deviser suggested for his dance:

**THE DEIL'S AWA WI TH'EXCISEMAN**

The Deil's awa, the Deil's awa,  
The Deil's awa wi th' Exciseman,  
He's danc'd awa, he's danc'd awa,  
He's danc'd awa wi th' Exciseman

**3. Tibbie's Jig**

**32J 3C**

**Drewry, Rondel Book**

Here again, the association is the lead tune the deviser suggested for his dance:

**WHISTLE AN I'LL COME TO YOU, MY LAD**

O, whistle an I'll come to ye, my lad!  
O, whistle an I'll come tae ye, my lad!  
Tho father and mother an a' should gae mad,  
O, whistle and I'll come to ye, my lad!

But warily tent when ye come to court me                      take care  
And come nae unless the back-yett be a-jee;                      -gate, ajar  
Syne up the back-style, and let naebody see,                      then, -stile  
And come as ye were na comin to me!

**4. The Lad o' Kyle**

**32R 4C**

**Cosh, 22 SCD + 2 Others**

This dance is set to the Burns song, said to have been possibly written in light-hearted celebration of his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday

**RANTIN, ROVIN, ROBIN**

There was a lad was born in Kyle,                      at Alloway  
But whatna day and whatna style,  
I doubt it's hardly worth the while  
To be sae nice wi Robin

Robin was a rovin boy,  
Rantin, rovin, rantin, rovin,  
Robin was a rovin boy,  
Rantin, rovin Robin.

**5. Highland Laddie**

**32R 3C**

**RSCDS Book 4**

Both the first and second tunes for this dance are Burns' song tunes:

**AS I CAM O'ER THE CAIRNY MOUNT**

O my bonie Highland lad,  
My winsome, weelfar'd Highland laddie;                      handsome  
Wha wad mind the wind and rain,  
Sae weel row'd in his tartan plaidie                      well wrapped

**HIGHLAND LADDIE**

The bonniest lad that e'er I saw,  
Bonie laddie, highland laddie,  
Wore a plaid and was fu braw,                      handsome  
Bonie highland laddie.

**6. Linkumdoddie****48R 5C****Drewry, Rondel Book**

The title of this dance is the name of the cottage, home to the Burns character:

**WILLIE WASTLE**

Willie Wastle dwalt on Tweed,	
The spot they ca'd it Linkumdoddie	
Willie was a wabster guid	weaver
Could stown a clue wi onie body	have stolen
He had a wife was dour and din	stubborn, saturnine
O, Tinkler Maidgie was her mither!	
Sic a wife as Willie had.	
I wad na gie a button for her.	

**7. The Stoorie Miller****32S 3C****RSCDS Book 21****THE DUSTY MILLER**

Hey, the dusty miller,	
And his dusty coat!	
He will win a shilling,	
Or he spend a groat	before
Dusty was the coat	
Dusty was the colour,	
Dusty was the kiss	
That I gat frae the miller!	

**8. Fiddle Faddle****32S 3C****RSCDS Book 12**

The tune for this dance is Stumpie, which is the air for the Burns song:

**THE REEL O STUMPIE**

My daddie was a Fiddler fine,	
My Minnie she made mantie O;	mother, gown
And I myself a thumpin quine,	strapping wench
And danc'd the reel o Stumpie O.	

**9. The Magic Airt o' Gow****32S 2C****Drewry, Rondel Book**

This dance takes its title from one of the lines of verse penned by Burns for Niel Gow on the occasion of a visit the great fiddler made to Dumfries.

Nae fabled wizard's wand, I trow,	believe
Had e'er the magic airt o' Gow,	
When wi' a wave he draws his bow	
Across his wondrous fiddle!	

**TOP FIFTY DANCES**

The following is taken from a May 2009 email on the Strathspey mailing list, with acknowledgment to the author, Campbell Tyler of Cape Town. At the time of posting his analysis, Campbell had examined some 500 dance programmes from various parts of the SCD world, including Scotland, England, USA and Australia. The posting updates previous analyses. Excerpts:

"Well, 500 programmes captured so time for an update...

"The top 3 (Pelorus Jack, Mairis Wedding and Montgomeries Rant) are still way ahead of the rest, although very close to each other (105, 105 and 103). Number 4, Minister on the Loch has 91 appearances and is way ahead of all the other strathspeys. The fifth dance, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan has fallen back into the following "pelaton", with 78 appearances, the others right behind.

"There are no major movers this time, except perhaps for Follow Me Home, which has jumped into the top 50 from 65th last time. MacDonald of the Isles and Sugar Candie have also continued their progress. Piper and the Penguin on the other hand seems on the way out. The demise of Monymusk is now absolute, from 7th position when I first reported, to out of the top 100. I wonder why? De'il Amang The Tailors has finally dropped out of the top 10, having been top at one stage for some time.

"Top Scottish dance - Catch the Wind (replaced Mairi's Wedding), English - Montgomeries Rant, USA - Pelorus Jack, Australia - still Minister on the Loch, by a country mile.

"The top 50 are (previous positions after)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Pelorus Jack (1)                            | 26 Seton's Ceilidh Band (23)                     |
| 2 Mairis Wedding (2)                          | 27 Luckenbooth Brooch (26)                       |
| 3 Montgomeries Rant (3)                       | 28 Silver Tassie (35)                            |
| 4 Minister on the Loch (4)                    | 29 Napier's Index (29)                           |
| 5 Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan (5)             | 30 Gentleman (33)                                |
| 6 Reel of the Royal Scots (6)                 | 31 EH37AF (37)                                   |
| 7 Maxwell's Rant (16)                         | 32 Polharrow Burn (20)                           |
| 8 Hoopers Jig (9)                             | 33 Tribute to the Borders (32)                   |
| 9 Joie de Vivre (11)                          | 34 Culla Bay (39 and 43 before that)             |
| 10 Irish Rover (7)                            | 35 Ian Powrie's Farewell (41)                    |
| 11 Deil Amang the Tailors (8)                 | 36 Piper and the Penguin (28 and 22 before that) |
| 12 Bratach Bana (10)                          | 37 Laird of Milton's Daughter (44)               |
| 13 Wild Geese (17)                            | 38 Quarries Jig (30)                             |
| 14 Neidpath Castle (12)                       | 39 Robertson Rant (38)                           |
| 15 Shiftn' Bobbins (13)                       | 40 Clutha (34)                                   |
| 16 Dream Catcher (14)                         | 41 Belle of Bon Accord (31)                      |
| 17 Reel of the 51st Division (15)             | 42 Duke of Perth (40)                            |
| 18 Sailor (18)                                | 43 Cherrybank Gardens (42)                       |
| 19 Sugar Candie (22 and 27 before that)       | 44 Jubilee Jig (47)                              |
| 20 Bees of Maggielknockater (25)              | 45 Trip to Bavaria (53)                          |
| 21 Mrs Stewart's Jig (19)                     | 46 General Stuart's Reel (50)                    |
| 22 Gang The Same Gate (21)                    | 47 Follow Me Home (65)                           |
| 23 Catch the Wind (24)                        | 48 White Heather Jig (56)                        |
| 24 Machine without Horses (27)                | 49 Wind on Loch Fyne (43)                        |
| 25 MacDonald of the Isles 36 (39 before that) | 50 John of Bon Accord (46)                       |

**Calendar of Events 2010**  
(Some dates are tentative and may change)

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>2 Feb</b>	Belconnen SCD: first Tuesday class for 2010, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cres, Macquarie. Contact: Colin Allum 62580009 or email colallum@optusnet.com.au
<b>3 Feb</b>	Branch General class commences 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Alan McCulloch 6288 5670 (ah) or by email alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au
<b>4 Feb</b>	SCDCC first Thursday classes for 2010 (general and beginners) at The Church of Christ, corner of Limestone Ave and Grimes St. Ainslie. Contact Jan Clark 6288 2487 or by email: jan.clark@inet.net.au
<b>8 Feb</b>	Burns Group first class for 2009: at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Clare Hughes 6248 9090 or by email: friendly@homemail.com.au
<b>19 Feb</b>	Branch "Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers" first class for 2009, 2pm Fridays, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Jessie by email: tmi04138@bigpond.net.au
<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>1 March</b>	Branch. First Occasional class for 2010. Contact Elaine Arthur 6254 7879 or Elaine.Arthur@apex.net.au
<b>3 March</b>	Branch course for beginners. Registration and free class. Contact Glenys Bishop by phone 6258 0009 or email g.r.bishop@optusnet.com.au
<b>13 March</b>	A Celebration for Barbara, 7.30pm, St John's Church Hall, Reid. Contact Peggy Spratt 6247 5805 or pegspratt@grapevine.com.au
<b>19 March</b>	Belconnen SCD advanced social class, 8pm, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie. Contact Elaine Arthur 6254 7879 or email: Elaine.Arthur@apex.net.au
<b>APRIL</b>	
<b>2-5 April</b>	(Easter) National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra
<b>17 April</b>	Bundanoon Highland Gathering
<b>30 April</b>	Belconnen advanced social class
<b>MAY</b>	
<b>15 May</b>	Nowra SCD Group 34 <sup>th</sup> Annual Ball Belconnen advanced social class
<b>22 May</b>	Branch "Tea Dance"
<b>28 May</b>	Belconnen Advanced Social Class
<b>JUNE</b>	
<b>5 June</b>	Monaro Caledonian Society (Cooma) Ball. NOTE: change of date
<b>26 June</b>	Belconnen SCD 35 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Social.
<b>JULY</b>	
<b>4-11 July</b>	35th RSCDS Australian Winter School, Adelaide WS Secretary, Jill Pope; WS Registrar, Neville Pope. Phone 08 8263 1324 Website: www.rscds.org.au Email: winter_school@npope.net
<b>23 July</b>	Belconnen Advanced Social Class
<b>AUGUST</b>	
<b>7 Aug</b>	Burns SCD Group Spring Hop.
<b>13 Aug</b>	Belconnen Advanced Social Class
<b>? 28 Aug</b>	Canberra Ball.

	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
<b>15 Sept</b>	Branch AGM
<b>? 18 Sept</b>	Marengo SCD Social.
<b>24 Sept</b>	Belconnen Advanced Social Class
	<b>OCTOBER</b>
<b>? October</b>	Far South Coast SCD Group, Bermagui Weekend.
<b>29 Oct</b>	Belconnen advanced social class. Final for year
	<b>NOVEMBER</b>
<b>20 Nov</b>	Burns SCD Group St Andrew's Night Celebration
<b>24 Nov</b>	Branch End-of-year Social
	<b>DECEMBER</b>
<b>? Dec</b>	Branch "Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers" class Annual Picnic
<b>4 Dec</b>	Combined Belconnen SCD and SCDCC Christmas Social

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

*Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Friday, 30 April 2010*

*Contributions and requests for electronic version to June Browne at [ceilidh@bigpond.com.au](mailto:ceilidh@bigpond.com.au)*