

SCOTCH CIRCLE

Vol 32 No 1

February 2012

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

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Message from the Chair

Happy New Year

I trust that you enjoyed the festive season, whether at home or away, and are refreshed after the summer break. The new dancing season is getting underway, several classes resuming in the first week of February in the wake of one particularly enthusiastic group which started up in mid-January. Other classes will commence later this month and in March.

The first major social event of the dancing year will again be a Branch BBQ and Dance at the village of Hall (showgrounds pavilion) on Saturday, 3 March - see inside for further details. Come along with family or friends to enjoy a convivial get together Aussie BBQ style. Catch up on all the news. Then put on your dancing shoes and dance to the accompaniment of great music from Strathmannan. All dances will be recapped and walked through as required.

Inside you will find details of Branch classes on offer during the first part of calendar year 2012.

We also recall the the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns (25 January 1759) in the context of links between his works and Scottish country dancing. In particular we look at two dances, their lead tunes and the lyrics that accompany them.

Happy dancing in 2012.

Jack Arthur

BRANCH CLASSES 2012

GENERAL CLASS

The regular Wednesday general class will commence on 1 February, 7.30 – 9.30 pm, at St Andrews Church Hall. During February and March the class will be taken by Ann Parkinson, followed by David Ayre in April and May, and then by Sandra Carroll in June and July.

GENTLE DANCERS CLASS

Jessie Middlemiss will be taking the Friday afternoon class at St Andrews Church Hall from 2-4pm when it resumes on 17 February, with assistance from time to time by Sandra.

BEGINNERS COURSE

The Branch is planning to conduct another eight-week course of classes for beginners, on Wednesday evenings from 6.00 – to 7.15 pm. A **free class** on Wednesday **7 March** will precede the course proper 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. The eight-week course will commence on Wednesday 9 March.

Anyone interested in attending this course is invited to seek further information and obtain a registration form by contacting Glenys Bishop on 0419 273 046 email 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.

BRANCH OCCASIONAL CLASS

This class, which operated successfully during the first and second semesters of 2011 will be offered again in first semester 2012, and will be taken by Ann Parkinson.

The primary aim of the class is to encourage dancers to 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. These Monday, 6 - 7 pm, classes will be held on 16 and 30 April, 14 and 28 May, and 11 and 25 June. For further information Ann can be contacted on 6247 0964 or email ann.parkinson@apex.net.au

SCD DISPLAYS AT THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

The Branch will again be presenting displays at the NFF during the Easter weekend which this year falls on 6-9 April. Further information will be provided when it becomes available.

SCD DISPLAY AT BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING

Bundanoon will be holding its 34rd Annual Highland Gathering on Saturday 21 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. Further information will be made available when it comes to hand



RSCDS CANBERRA & DISTRICT BRANCH BBQ AND DANCE
 SHOWGROUNDS HALL, HALL VILLAGE
 SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2012
 MUSIC BY STRATHMANNAN
 FROM 6.00PM
 DANCING STARTS 7.30PM
 COST \$10
 BYO Food and Drink - BBQs provided

Program

1. Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	(8x32J) 2C (4C set)	RSCDS Gr Bk
2. Summer Wooing	(8x32R) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 38
3. The Braes of Tulliemet	(8x32S) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 7
4. Clutha	(4x48R) square set	RSCDS Bk 31
5. Best Set in the Hall	(8x32J) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 46
6. Society Piper	(8x32R) 3C (4C set)	R Goldring, 10 Social Dances
7. The Gentleman	(8x32S) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 35
8. Postie's Jig	(4x32J) 4C (4C set)	R Clowes, Ormskirk Bk 5
9. Ayrshire Craig	(8x32R) 3C (4C set)	M Johnstone, Dancing on Air
10. Seann Truibhas Williechan	(8x32S) 2C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 27
11. The Duke of Atholl's Reel	(8x32J) 2C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 16
12. The Reel of the 51 st Division	(8x32R) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 13

ROBERT BURNS: THE WHITE COCKADE AND THE LINTON PLOUGHMAN

The White Cockade (32R 3C RSCDS Bk 5). Tune: The White Cockade

Best Recording: Reel of the Puffins, Jim Lindsay and his Scottish Dance Band, Track 10, in which many of the tunes are associated with Burns –The White Cockade; Bonnie Mally Lee; Willie’s Gaen Tae Melville Castle; Duncan Gray; There was a Lad; Maggie Lauder; Hey, Johnnie Cope; Kate Dalrymple.

Burns transformed The White Cockade into a specifically Jacobite ballad. The Jacobite cause (from *Jacobus*, the Latin form for James, the Stuart king of England and Scotland deposed in 1688), which aimed to restore the Stuart dynasty to the Scottish and English thrones, was finally lost at Culloden in 1746 where the Jacobite army, wearing the white cockade as their badge, was defeated. The losing side was led by Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie), grandson of the deposed King James.

THE WHITE COCKADE

My love was born in Aberdeen,
The boniest lad that e’re was seen.
But now he makes our hearts fu sad,
He takes the field wi his White Cockade

Chorus

O he’s a ranting, roving lad.
He is a brisk and a bonny lad.
Betide what may, I will be wed,
And follow the boy wi the White Cockade

I’ll sell my rock, my reel, my tow,
My gude gray mare and hawkit cow;
To buy myself a tartan plaid,
To follow the boy wi the White Cockade.

[rock=jewel; reel=distaff; tow=flax fibre]

[hawkit=spotted]

The Linton Ploughman (32J 2C RSCDS Bk 5). Tune: **The Muckin’ O’ Geordie’s Byre**

Best recording: Robert Burns Dances, Marian Anderson’s Scottish Dance Band, Track 2, which has excellent rhythm and tempo, although the lead tune is second of a set of four. All, however, are Burns’ songs: Ye Banks and Braes; The Muckin’ O’ Geordie’s Byre; Tam Glen; and Scots Wha Hae.

Burns did write some lines of poetry for the tune but was not satisfied with his effort, saying of it: “The Muckin’ O’ Geordie’s Byre. When sung slow with expression, I would that it had better poetry than I have endeavoured to supply.” It has been said also that the title and the tune “were a gift to Jacobite parodists in the 18th century”; you can imagine the sentiment they expressed, namely, that the Jacobites were good for nothing but mucking out Geordie’s byre, Geordie for this purpose being the Hanoverian British king, George, whose army delivered the final blow to the Jacobites in 1746.

The version which follows is one of several 20th century variations popularised by artists such as Andy Stewart and Jimmy MacBeath, and lauded as an excellent comic song. Judge for yourselves.

THE MUCKIN' O' GEORDIE'S BYRE [muckin'=cleaning; byre=cowshed]

At a relic aul' croft upon the hill,
Roon the neuk frae Sprottie's mill, [neuk=corner; frae=from]
Tryin' a' his life tae jine the kill [jyne=join; kill= overcome with weariness]
Lived Geordie MacIntyre

He had a wife a swir's himsel' [swir=unwilling to work]
An' a daughter as black's Auld Nick himsel', [Auld Nick= the Devil]
There wis some fun - haud awa' the smell [haud=hold]
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre.

Chorus:
For the graim was tint, the besom was deen, [graim=?; tint=lost; besom=broom; deen=done]
The barra widna row its leen, [barrow would not hold its load]
An' siccan a soss it never was seen [siccan=such; soss=dirty wet mess]
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre

For the daughter had to strae and neep [strae=straw; neep=feed cattle with turnips]
The auld wife started to swipe the greep [swipe=sweep; greep=gutter in the byre]
When Geordie fell sklite on a rotten neep [sklite=fall heavily; neep=turnip]
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre,

Ben the greep cam' Geordie's soo [ben=through; soo=female pig]
She stood up ahint the coo
The coo kickit oot an' o whit a stew
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre.

For the aul' wife she was booin' doon [booin' doon=bending down]
The soo was kickit on the croon [croon=head]
It shoved her heid in the wifie's goon [goon= gown, dress]
Then ben through Geordie's byre.

The daughter cam thro the barn door
An' seein' her mother let oot a roar,
To the midden she ran an' fell ower the boar
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre,

For the boar he lap the midden dyke [lap=leaped; midden dyke=refuse-heap wall]
An' ower the riggs wi' Geordie's tyke. [riggs=strips of ploughed land; tyke=dog]
They baith ran intill a bumbee's byke [bumbee's byke= beehive]
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre,

O a hunder' years are passed an' mair
Whaur Sprottie's wis, the hill is bare;
The croft's awa' sae ye'll see nae mair
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre.

His folks a' deid an' awa' lang syne- [lang syne=long since]
In case his memory we should tyne, [tyne=lose]
Whistle this tune tae keep ye in min'

At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre.

Calendar of Events 2012 (as at 12/1/12)
(Some dates are tentative and may change)

1 Feb	Branch General class commences 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church Hall. Contact Alan McCulloch 6288 5670 (ah) or by email alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au
2 Feb?	SCDCC first Thursday classes at The Church of Christ, corner of Limestone Ave and Grimes St. Ainslie. Contact Jan Clark 6288 2487 or by email: jan.clark@iinet.net.au
7 Feb	Belconnen SCD First Tuesday class. Contact Colin Allum 6258 0009 or email colallum@optusnet.com.au
13 Feb	Burns Group first class at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Beverley Sproule beverley.sproule@bigpond.com
17 Feb	Branch "Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers" first class, 2pm Fridays, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Jessie by email: tmi04138@bigpond.net.au
3 March	Branch BBQ: Showgrounds Pavilion, Hall
7 March	Branch course for beginners. Registration and free class
16 March	Belconnen SCD advanced social class, 8 pm. Contact Elaine Arthur 6254 7879 or email: elaine.arthur@apex.net.au
24 March	Burns SCD Group Social
6-9 April	(Easter) National Folk Festival
21 April	Bundanoon Highland Gathering
27 April	Belconnen advanced social class
12 May	Nowra SCD Group 34 th Annual Ball
19 May	Branch "Tea Dance"
25 May	Belconnen advanced social class
June?	Monaro Caledonian Society Annual Ball, Cooma
23 June	Belconnen SCD 37 th Birthday Social.
27 July	Belconnen advanced social class
11 Aug	Bateman's Bay Caledonian Society Winter Social. Contact: Moira Blades phone 02 4472 3696; email mblades@dodo.com.au
18 Aug	Canberra Ball
24 Aug	Belconnen advanced social class
12 Sept	Branch AGM
Sept?	Marengo SCD Social.
21 Sept	Belconnen advanced social class
30/9-6/10	37 th Australian Winter School, Dookie, Vic. WS Secretary: Jo Reed familyreed@optusnet.com.au or www.rscdsmelbourne.org.au
Oct?	Far South Coast SCD Group, Bermagui Weekend.
26 Oct	Belconnen advanced social class. Final for year
Nov	Burns SCD Group St Andrew's Night Celebration
25 Nov	Branch End-of-year Social
Nov	Branch "Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers" class annual picnic
1 Dec	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, 27 April 2012

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