

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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February 2014

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

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Canberra Winter School 2014



RSCDS CANBERRA & DISTRICT BRANCH



INVITES YOU TO THE 39TH
AUSTRALIAN SCD "WINTER" SCHOOL

TO BE HELD IN

AUSTRALIA'S "BUSH CAPITAL"
DURING ITS RENOWNED SPRING
FLOWER FESTIVAL, FLORIADA
28 SEPT-4 OCT 2014

We are fast approaching the cut-off date for Early Bird discounts (21 February 2014).

- If you are seriously contemplating registering as a resident or commuter, we strongly encourage you to do so before 21 February.
- Even if you are not in a position to pay the full amount and gain the benefit of the Early Bird discount, your registration accompanied by at least a deposit before 21 February would assist greatly in the planning for the school.

For further information about the programme, registration procedures and fees (including Early Bird discounts) see: www.rscds-canberra.org/home/canberra-winter-school

EVENTS FEBRUARY 2014

- 4 Feb **Black Mountain Reelers Class.** The Black Mountain Reelers have had to vacate the Molly Huxley Room at University House after more than 20 years lunchtime dancing there. Starting 4th February the group will meet in an elegant new venue, the North Oval Pavilion at the Australian National University (corner of Barry Drive and McCaughey Street), at the usual time of 12.30pm on Tuesdays. For details click [HERE](#)
Contact: Jenny Wanless jennifer.wanless@gmail.com or 6281 3892
- Belconnen Class resumes**, Tuesdays 8:00 – 10:00 pm,
Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie.
Contact: Colin Allum colallum@optusnet.com.au
- 5 Feb **Branch General Class resumes**, Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest.
Contact Alan McCulloch alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au
- Feb/Mar **Branch Class for newer dancers.** St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest. Wednesdays, 6-7pm. Free
Class 5 February. [Download Flyer.](#)
Contact Elaine or Jack elaine.arthur@apex.net.au jarthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879
- 6 Feb **SCD Club of Canberra resumes**, Thursdays 7.30 - 8:00 pm Intermediate, 8:00 pm General. At
Church of Christ, Cnr Limestone Ave and Grimes St, Ainslie.
Contact: Bruce Clark bruce.clark@inet.net.au
- 10 Feb **Burns SCD Group resumes**, Monday evenings, St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest. Contact:
Beverley Sproule Beverley.sproule@bigpond.com
- 21 Feb **Branch Gentle Class for Gentle Dancers resumes**, Fridays 2:00 pm, St Andrews Church Hall,
Forrest. Contact: Jessie Middlemiss tmi04138@bigpond.net.au
- 7-9 Feb **National Multicultural Festival** www.multiculturalfestival.com.au SCD display on Sunday 9
February (see below)
- Feb **Dance Tassie Tour**
Sightsee during the day. Dance in the evening.
Contact: Tony Northey 0412554713 or tonynorthey@gmail.com [Flyer](#)

FORTHCOMING SCD DISPLAYS

NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Branch will be performing as part of a Scottish concert on Sunday, 9 February. The concert will be held on Stage 7, London Circuit, opposite the southern end of Petrie Plaza, starting at 10:00 am. The SCD performance is due to start at 11:50 am. Contact Alan McCulloch alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au

BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING

Bundanoon will be holding its 36th Annual Highland Gathering on Saturday 5 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 Canberra. For further information contact Elaine Arthur elaine.arthur@apex.net.au or telephone (02) 6254 7879.

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

The Branch will again be presenting displays at the NFF during the Easter weekend which this year falls on 18-21 April. For further information contact Alan McCulloch alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au .

Saturday, 1 March 2014



**RSCDS CANBERRA & DISTRICT BRANCH
PICNIC AND DANCE
CANBERRA BAPTIST CHURCH, CURRIE CRESCENT, KINGSTON
SATURDAY 1 MARCH 2014
MUSIC BY STRATHMANNAN
PICNIC FROM 6:00 PM
DANCING STARTS 7:30 PM
COST \$15
BYO Food and Beverages (No BBQ this year)**

Program

1. The White Cockade	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 5
2. Linton Ploughman	(J8x32R) 2C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 5
3. The Silver Tassie	(S8x32) 3C (4C set)	J Drewry, RSCDS Leaflet
4. The Barmkin	(R1x88) square set	R Goldring, RSCDS 2nd Gr Bk
5. Dancing Girls	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	J Brenchley, Kangaroo Paw Coll
6. Society Piper	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	R Goldring, 10 Social Dances
7. The Swan and the Tay	(S3x32) 3C set	A Saunders, RSCDS SCDs for Perth 800
8. Postie's Jig	(J4x32) 4C (4C set)	R Clowes, Ormskirk Bk 5
9. The Royal Deeside Railway	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	R Arrowsmith, RSCDS Bk 40
10. Jean Martin of Aberdeen	(S3x32) 3C set	M Johnstone, RSCDS 3/2006
11. The Duke of Atholl's Reel	(J8x32) 2C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 16
12. Mariri's Wedding	(R8x40R) 3C (4C set)	J Cosh, 22 SCDs

ROBERT BURNS: THE WHITE COCKADE AND LINTON PLOUGHMAN

It is claimed by some Burns enthusiasts that most Scots, when asked “What is Scotland’s national day?” will say 25 January, the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. The correct answer, St Andrews’ Day, 30 November, will hardly rate a mention. I am not sure that this is the case but it is true that every year on or about 25 January thousands of Burns Suppers are held around the world. They honour his memory and the legacy of poetic works he left to future generations.

Here is a little background to the lead tunes of two Scottish country dances (on the program for the 1 March Branch Picnic and Social) the names of which are associated with Robert Burns.

Dance: The White Cockade; Tune and Lyrics: same name

Burns transformed this song into a specifically Jacobite ballad. The Jacobite cause (from *Jacobus*, the Latin form for James, the Stuart king of England and Scotland who was 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.

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]

Dance: Linton Ploughman; Tune and Lyrics: The Muckin’ O’ Geordie’s Byre

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 “cleaning Geordie’s stables”, Geordie being the British King George, whose army delivered the final blow to the Jacobites in 1746.

The composition 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.

The Muckin O' Geordie's Byre

[Muckin'= cleansing]; Byre= cowshed, stables]

At a relic aul' croft upon the hill,
Roon the neuk frae Sprottie's mill,
Tryin' a' his life tae jine the kill
Lived Geordie MacIntyre

[neuk=corner; frae=from]
[jyne=join; kill= overcome with weariness]

He had a wife a swir's himsel'
An' a daughter as black's Auld Nick himsel',
There wis some fun - haud awa' the smell
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre.

[swir=unwilling to work]
[Auld Nick= the Devil]
[haud=hold]

Chorus:

For the graim was tint, the besom was deen,
The barra widna row its leen,
An' siccan a soss it never was seen
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre

[graim=?; tint=lost; besom=broom; deen=done]
[barrow would not hold its load]
[siccan=such; soss=dirty wet mess]

For the daughter had to strae and neep
The auld wife started to swipe the greep
When Geordie fell sklite on a rotten neep
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre,

[strae=straw; neep=feed cattle with turnips]
[swipe=sweep; greep=gutter in the byre]
[sklite=fall heavily; neep=turnip]

Ben the greep cam' Geordie's soo
She stood up ahint the coo
The coo kickit oot an' o whit a stew
At the muckin' o' Geordies byre.

[ben=through; soo=female pig]

For the aul' wife she was booin' doon
The soo was kickit on the croon
It shoved her heid in the wifie's goon
Then ben through Geordie's byre.

[booin' doon=bending down]
[croon=head]
[goon= gown, dress]

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
An' ower the riggs wi' Geordie's tyke.
They baith ran intill a bumbee's byke
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre,

[lap=leaped; midden dyke=refuse-heap wall]
[riggs=strips of ploughed land; tyke=dog]
[bumbee's byke= beehive]

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-
In case his memory we should tyne,
Whistle this tune tae keep ye in min'
At the muckin' o' Geordie's byre.

[lang syne=long since]
[tyne=lose]

CALENDAR MARCH – DECEMBER

March 2014	
1 Mar	Branch Picnic and Social Dance, Canberra Baptist Church, Currie Crescent, Kingston, from 6:00pm. Dancing commences 7.30 pm. Contact: Jack Arthur jarthur@apex.net.au program recaps
14 Mar	Belconnen advanced social class, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, 8:00 pm. Contact Elaine elaine.arthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879
29 Mar	Burns SCD Group, Easter Social. St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest.

April 2014	
5 April	Bundanoon Highland Gathering. Massed SCD display. Contact Elaine Arthur elaine.arthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879
April 18-21	Easter weekend. National Folk Festival. SCD displays. Contact Alan McCulloch alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au

May 2014	
2 May	Belconnen advanced social class, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, 8:00 pm. Contact Elaine elaine.arthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879
10 May	Branch Tea Dance, St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest, from 3 pm. Contact Jack Arthur jarthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879
31 May	Belconnen advanced social class, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, 8:00 pm. Contact Elaine elaine.arthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879

June 2014	
June	Monaro Caledonian Society Annual Ball. Date TBC

July 2014	
25 July	Belconnen advanced social class, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, 8:00 pm. Contact Elaine elaine.arthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879

August 2014	
22 Aug	Belconnen advanced social class, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, 8:00 pm. Contact Elaine elaine.arthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879
Aug	Far South Coast (Bermagui) weekend. To be confirmed.

September 2014	
19 Sept	Belconnen advanced social class, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, 8:00 pm. Contact Elaine elaine.arthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879
28 Sept	39 th Australian Winter School (Canberra) commences

October 2014	
4 Oct	39 th Australian Winter School (Canberra) ends
15 Oct	Branch AGM
31 Oct	Belconnen advanced social class, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, 8:00 pm. Contact Elaine elaine.arthur@apex.net.au phone 6254 7879

November 2014	
26 Nov	Branch General Class, final for Year: Social Dancing
Nov	Branch, Gentle Dancers: Annual Picnic. Date TBC

December 2014	
13 Dec	Combined Belconnen SCD and SCD Club of Canberra, Christmas Social
28 Dec	New Zealand Branch Summer School, Knox College, Dunedin, 28 Dec 2014 to 5 Jan 2015 Organiser: Janet Favel janet.favel@rscdsnz.org.nz phone 64 3 477 9837 Flyer

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

Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Friday, 25 April 2014

Contributions to Jack Arthur jarthur@apex.net.au