

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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May 2008

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

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Chair's Message

The year is slipping by so very quickly and it's time for another Scotch Circle to update all our dancers on coming events and to let you know how our enjoyable our dancing events have been in the first few months of this year.

In February and March we had two very successful evenings. In February we held our annual welcome BBQ with Strathmannan playing and where Bruce Clark received his Branch Award, much to his surprise and with an enormous grin on his face, and in March at the Burns social, at which Elaine Arthur was presented with her Branch Award certificate upon her return from a trip to Hawaii. Kevin Connolly, who resides at the South Coast, phoned in at the appropriate time to offer his congratulations. Actually the phone call was all pre planned and Kevin did have to sit by his phone for quite some time until he got the nod to say 'ring now'. Again Strathmannan were playing to a hall full of dancers on both occasions. Branch Awards were introduced by the RSCDS headquarters last year and recognize dancers who have contributed a lot of their time and promoted the advancement of Scottish Country Dancing. Both Elaine and Bruce were very deserving recipients.

We have participated in two very successful displays. The first was at the Multicultural Festival, and the second at the Folk Festival, where we danced on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Even newer dancers put their hands up to be involved.

The hosted dinner was brought forward to the beginning of May. We had four homes available for hosting I would like to say thank you to those people who prepared dinner as I heard nothing but praise for the delicious meals. Again.....we filled our hall!

For the first six months of this year we are very lucky to have with us two overseas dancers. Heidi Hurd from the US and David Scott from just outside Vancouver. This is Heidi's second visit to Australia and on this occasion her daughter Gillian is partaking in the children's class on a Wednesday afternoon as well as the occasional evening of dancing. David is enjoying both the Wednesday and Thursday evenings, he came along to the hosted dinner and I'm sure is widening his circle of friends. He may even want to come back again next year!

Now ~ to a very special event!! It would be wonderful if you all mark your diaries for the 30th August. On the evening before the first day of Spring we will be holding our Canberra Ball in the Albert Hall. It is 50 years since the first ball was held in Canberra - at the Albert Hall - and so the ball committee thought it appropriate to return to that venue. We are hoping that we will be inundated with dancers wanting tickets. The wooden floor is perfect for the feet, the weather

will still be on the cooler side which is right for dancing and billeting will be available. We will be sending out flyers to all clubs with details of phone numbers and email addresses for the purchase of tickets. We look forward to greeting you on the evening where you will be dancing to the music of Strathmannan and a great programme of dances.

As the weather is starting to get colder it is the perfect time to keep the winter chills away by going along to the evening classes where I'm sure many of the dances on the Ball programme for the 30th August will be practiced. To watch from the balcony of the Albert Hall is a perfect sight just seeing every one of you moving together to the great music.

Happy dancing

Barbara

Club News

Batemans Bay Caledonian Society

The Batemans Bay Caledonian Society held its AGM on 18 February. The new committee is:

President: Moira Blades
Vice President: Kay Livingstone
Secretary: Joy Hooton
Treasurer: Aileen Hughes
Members: Ted Watson, Helma Schutte, Kath Johnson.

To contact Joy, phone 02 4471 2315 or email jhooton@westnet.com.au.

Visiting dancer and musician from Geneva

At a recent Branch Wednesday class we had a dancer and musician from Geneva, Switzerland join us. Philippe Kocian is a PhD student who had been invited to spend just three weeks on a study visit at the ANU. He found out about Scottish Country Dance classes at the ANU, taken by Jenny Wanless, from the Branch web site and came along to the class one Tuesday where he met Ann and David Parkinson and Brian Gunning. Philippe explained to Ann that he played piano for SCD and was missing playing for dancing. Ann suggested that he come along to the Wednesday class at St Andrew's where he would be able to play piano for a class. Philippe duly arrived, on his bike, and sat down and played for the class for the evening without any music! His playing was enjoyed by all dancers and we encouraged Philippe to join us for one dance. It was a great thrill for everyone to have such a talented young man provide music for the class.

Philippe was also able to come along to one Belconnen class where he played for the evening. This time we were able to provide music for him as we were expecting him. Philippe also came along to the Folk Festival where he met some of his fellow countrymen and also came along to watch the Branch display.

Since returning home Philippe has been in touch by email and has indicated that there may be a possibility of him returning to the ANU sometime in the future. We hope possibility might become a reality.

To finish off this story, our Branch Secretary Alan McCulloch, recently had a trip to Geneva and Lausanne where he met up with Philippe and also danced in both cities. The teacher of the group in Lausanne is Avril Quarrie (of Quarries' Jig fame, Book 36) and on chatting with Avril, Alan discovered they had both attended the same secondary school in Edinburgh! Scottish Country Dancing is a small world.

Elaine Arthur

In Memory



The Scottish Country Dancing community in Canberra lost two of its longest serving members in recent weeks. We remember both with great affection and gratitude. They will be sadly missed.

Jeanie Clark passed away on 9 April 2008. In 1954 she was co-founder with her late husband Bob of the Scottish Country Dance Club of Canberra. Those who attended the Canberra Ball in the Albert Hall in 2004, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Club's foundation, will recall that Jeanie graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The photograph (above) was taken on that memorable evening.

John Michael Sandford passed away on 6 May 2008. Mike's love of dancing and his great sense of humour have been wonderful contributions to our lives during his several decade membership of the Scottish Country Dance Club of Canberra. Scottish dancing was one of his many recreations, and it was very appropriate and touching that his well-worn dancing shoes were among the tokens that were presented at his funeral to symbolise his life interests.

Aloha SCD Weekend 2008

Or

A Trip to Hawaii

Recently, Jack and I visited Hawaii, spending a most enjoyable fortnight there. There were many highlights. Two that stand out are, firstly, the close-up sighting of dozens of humpback whales off the coast of Maui. Secondly was the Aloha Weekend of Scottish country dancing, which is the subject of this short article.

The weekend was a fairly small, but very well organised event, attended by about 40 persons, including the teachers/musicians. The committee of the Hawaii Branch of the RSCDS, had obviously worked very hard to put it all together and they, along with the dancers, musicians, and teachers were enthusiastic and friendly. The majority of dancers were local; others came from the west coast of mainland USA, a couple from Vancouver, BC, and two or three persons from Japan, one of whom we remembered from a Teachers' Association of Canada Summer School back in 1996. Jack and I were the sole Australians.

The musicians' collective name is the "Humuhumunukunukuapua'a and Strathspey Society Band". The first word in the name is Hawaiian for the triggerfish, which is Hawaii's State fish. The musicians chose the name because some of them had enjoyed their initial visit to Hawaii several years ago so much that they decided on that name, and they have been back several times since that initial visit. They are San Francisco-based: two fiddlers, a concertina player, a keyboard player and a percussionist. Three of the five are also RSCDS- certificated dance teachers. Bruce Herbold is teacher/ percussionist, David Newitt is teacher /concertina player, and Patti Cobb is teacher/keyboard player. The two fiddle players were Heather McKay and Susan Worland. Bruce and Patti are husband and wife, as are David and Heather. They are a happy, enthusiastic and talented group of people who are very involved in Scottish country dancing and its music.

The theme of the weekend was **Treasure the Dance** and the program of events invited us to partake in a **Treasure Hunt** which would lead us to the following:

Friday, 15 February - **Treasure Island** - Social dance at the dance studio, Moili'ili Community Centre, not far from Waikiki. This started at 7pm and concluded at about 9.30pm. It involved: arrival, meet and greet, registration, light refreshments (pupus); this was followed by dancing: Happy Meeting; Maxwell's Rant; Glasgow Lassies; Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Dancing Man, Machine without Horses, De'il Amang the Tailors, Bridge of Nairn, Glen Mhor, and Reel of the Royal Scots.

Saturday, February 16 - Scottish country dance class - **Treasure the Learning** - at the Ala Wai Golf Clubhouse, 404 Kapahulu, Honolulu, on the edge of Waikiki.

8.30-9.00 am: light continental breakfast

9.00-12.00: instructional class

12.00-1.00pm: lunch

1.00-2.00pm: instructional class

There was just one class (all in together) and the dancers displayed a variety of experience and abilities. The teachers therefore had to work hard to keep things flowing; in this they were pretty successful, putting on a polished teaching effort, assisted by the enthusiasm of the dancers and the excellent music.

Saturday evening:

Dinner Dance - **Royal Treasure**

Honey's Restaurant, Ko'olau Golf Club, Kaneohe; this club is surrounded by beautiful volcanic-shaped mountains, is owned by the Free Presbyterian Church, and is located about 20km from Waikiki.

6.00pm: cocktails. There was an apology that "Her Majesty" would not be able to provide them (meaning we would have to pay for our own cocktails). The apology was followed by an expression of hope that we would understand. Well, we understood that the Hawaii Branch of the RSCDS was operating on a tight budget – no problem there but the reference to "Her Majesty" was intriguing. Finally, it was explained to us that a past Hawaiian Queen Lili'uokalani had an association with the land on which the golf club now stands. Her Hawaiian Majesty is no longer alive, which explains why she was unable to buy the cocktails.

6.30-7.30pm: dinner

7.30pm: dancing commenced. About four sets of dancers on the floor - sometimes reduced to three sets as the evening wore on.

Bracket 1: Gay Gordons; Cutty Sark; Catch the Wind; Gypsy Glen; Flowers of Edinburgh.

Bracket 2: Ladies' Fancy; Teachers' Choice; Teachers' Choice; Pelorus Jack; Shiftin' Bobbins.

Bracket 3: Joie de Vivre; John of Bon Accord; Rakes of Glasgow; Summer Woon'; Mairi's Wedding, and a last Waltz.

The teachers' choices were dances that had been taught during the Saturday morning class. One was "Asilomar Romantic" (32S 3C 3C set) from the San Francisco Collection Vol 2. The other was "The General Meets the Lady" (32R 3C in a 4C longwise set). This is described by the deviser, Bruce Herbold, as "a marriage of my two favorite reels, General Stuart's and Lady Susan Stewart's".

During the dancing of Shiftin' Bobbins, for one 32 bar turn, the band switched from reel to jig time. Jack recognised the 6/8 tune as the John Philip Sousa march "The Liberty Bell", which he knew was also the theme tune for the British TV show of the 1970s "Monty Python's Flying Circus". So, after the dance he spoke to the musicians and, sure enough, they are Monty Python fans.

The evening concluded at around 10.30pm

Sunday, February 17: Scottish Country Dance Class, **Treasure the Learning**, Ala Wai Golf Clubhouse

9.00-9.30am: light continental breakfast

9.30-11.30: Instructional class. This was another successful session, combining good teaching with excellent music and enthusiastic dancers.

Sunday evening

Ceilidh - **Treasure the Folks and the Notes**

St Timothy's Episcopal Church, Moanalua Road, Aiea (not far from Honolulu International Airport)

Unfortunately we were unable to attend this final event as we had to be out of bed at 3am the following day to fly to the Big Island for a day of sightseeing.

All in all, it was a great weekend of SCD.

We would be pleased to provide to anyone interested, information about the classes, including the dances taught and the teaching styles.

Elaine and Jack Arthur

Found

A ladies vest, size 16, was left at St Andrew's Hall some time ago. It is sandy coloured with a black collar. If anyone has lost this vest please contact Elaine Arthur, 6254 7879.

Calendar of Events to September 2008

- 21 June** **Belconnen SCD Advanced Social** - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie. led by Barbara and Brian. Dances to be selected from: The Glenalmond Gamekeeper R3C 8x40 Drewry, Bankhead Bk 6, The Dundee City Police Jig J5C 5x32 (96 bars) J Mitchell, Whetherly Bk 2, The Mentor S96 4C Sq set B Charlton, 8x32 web site 2008, The Swinmark Sixsome R6P 3x32 or 6x32 A Lingnau, Dancing at the Mill, De'il Amang the Gaylors R4C 8x32 (6 or 8C set) M Briggs, <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/ldfs/8x32/2007/11/097301print.html>, Barbara's Strathspey S3C 8x32 S McKinnell, <http://suedan.com/dances/index.php>, Bothwell Brig R3C 8x40 J Drewry, Summer Collection 2, Miss Grainger's Strathspey S3C 8x32 A Lingnau, Mainhattan Book.
- 14 June** **Sydney Branch Ball**, Ryde Civic Centre, contact Pat Charlton 95209075 patcharlton@primus.com.au
- 21 June** **Batemans Bay Caledonian Society Annual Tartan Night Social** at the Batemans Bay Community Centre, Museum Place, Batemans Bay. Music by Bob McInnes. It will commence at 6.30 pm with soup and crusty bread and the dance will start at 7.00 pm. Supper will be served half-way through. Programme: The Summer Assembly, Tomalena, The Australian Ladies, Summer Wooing, Kendall's Hornpipe, Pelorus Jack, Festival Interceltique, St Andrew's Fair, Postie's Jig, James Senior of St Andrews, Neidpath Castle, the Barn Dance and The Pride of Erin. Cost \$12. Billets can be arranged. Contact Moira Blades on 44723696 or Kay Livingstone on 44726789.
- 6-13 July** **Winter School** in Queensland <http://www.rscds.org.au/winterschool/index.html>
- 25 July** **Belconnen SCD Advanced Social** - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie. led by Jenny and Ann
- 2 Aug** **Belconnen SCD 31st Birthday Social** at Macquarie Primary School, also Annual Wollongong White Heather SCD Social
- 16 Aug** **Sydney Branch Workshop** at Mittagong, enquiries to Helen Wales at 4861 6471 or eilidhmarg@hotmail.com
- 30 Aug** **The Canberra Ball, Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the first SCD Ball in Canberra**, with music by Strathmannan. Albert Hall, Commonwealth Avenue. See poster in this issue of Scotch Circle.
- 5 Sept** **Belconnen SCD Advanced Social** - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie, led by Peggy and Glenys
- 17 Sept** **RSCDS Canberra and District Branch AGM**
- 20 Sept** **Marengo Annual Social**, 7.30pm, The Hall, Murringo. Contacts: Maurice Harcombe 63846222; Jean Williams 63827918 \$10, Programme: Happy Returns, Napier's Index, The Minister on the Loch, The Sailor, Hooper's Jig, Drumelzier, The Irish Rover, Cauld Kail, Marengo Blue, The Black Swans of Narrabeen, Catch the Wind, Adieu Mon Ami, Muirland Willie, Red House, The Duchess tree, Shifin' Bobbins, The Byron Strathspey.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB OF CANBERRA

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THE CANBERRA BALL

A special occasion to commemorate the
50th Anniversary of the First Scottish
Country Dancing Ball in Canberra

Saturday 30 August 2008

in the

Albert Hall

Commonwealth Avenue

with music by

Strathmannan

Drinks 6.30 pm, Grand March and Dancing start 7.00pm

Programme:

Grand March, The Montgomeries' Rant, Ladies' Fancy,
Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Festival Fling,
Gay Gordons, The Dream Catcher, Duke of Perth,
Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Maxwell's Rant, Fifty Years On
Supper
Scottish Waltz, Circassian Circle, The Nurseryman,
Neidpath Castle, Polharrow Burn, Jennifer's Jig,
Kilkenny Castle, Major Ian Stewart,
Anna Holden's Strathspey, The Reel of the Royal Scots

Tickets \$40

Visitors are especially welcome and billets can be arranged.

For further information contact:

Barbara Monahan (02) 6287 2023 remyb@dodo.com.au

Elizabeth Low (02) 6288 8177 cnorton@pcug.org.au

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ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

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Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Friday 1 August 2008

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

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