

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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May 2012

RSCDS Canberra and District Branch Incorporated
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Message from the Chair

The 2012 dancing season being now well underway, it seems appropriate to report briefly on how Branch classes have been going and about other Branch activities held to date. The Wednesday evening general class has been well attended and warmly received, under the capable supervision, firstly, of Ann Parkinson during February and March, followed by David Ayre in April and May. This class can confidently look forward to receiving continued expert guidance from Sandra Carroll during June and July. The Friday afternoon class, too, is enjoying enthusiastic support under the tutelage of Jessie Middlemiss. The Monday evening occasional class has assisted dancers wishing to maintain and enhance their dancing skills with tutoring from Sandra during April, and this is being continued by Ann during May and June. Our two-month course for beginners, taught by Jan Clark with ancillary, voluntary assistance from Bruce Clark, Glenys Bishop and Colin Allum, has also been a successful venture. The feedback I have received about our classes has all been positive; thanks to all concerned.

Our social calendar began in March with a BBQ and dance at the Hall Showgrounds Pavilion where, despite, or perhaps because of, the wet weather, dancers had a fun-filled evening. This was assisted in no small measure by great music from Strathmannan.

At the National Folk Festival held over the Easter weekend, two teams of dancers received enthusiastic applause for several well constructed and proficiently performed displays. In addition, our first-time workshop, aimed at dancers with no previous experience of SCD attracted praise from both participants and festival organisers. Congratulations go to: Ann Parkinson for preparing and delivering the displays and the workshop; Alan McCulloch for assisting with organisational aspects; and not least of all the dancers who helped to make the Easter weekend a great one for SCD in our local region.

Included in the programme of events at the annual Bundanoon (Brigadoon) Highland Gathering on 21 April, was a massed display of SCD, at which Canberra contributed two sets of dancers under the guidance of Alan. Congratulations to all involved. Sadly missed was longstanding MC, Jean Conway, who had passed away earlier that month. We mourn her loss and, in her memory, pay tribute (see inside).

On 19 May, we held our annual Tea Dance, an afternoon of happy dancing followed by tea which also allowed time for convivial conversation. The enjoyment of the user-friendly programme, put together by David, incorporating suggestions from Ann and Jan, was enhanced by fine music from Strathmannan. Uncle Bill's Jig, one of the lesser known dances on the programme, honours Bill Little - RSCDS teacher and examiner, and one-time protégé of Miss Milligan - and recognises the many years he has encouraged children to dance. He is still alive but Hope, his wife of many years, passed away recently. She was highly regarded for her great knowledge and long-time promotion of Ladies Step Dancing.

Jack Arthur

Jean Hamilton Conway

We pay tribute to Jean Conway, who passed away on 1st April 2012. As a recipient of the RSCDS' highest award, the Society's Scroll of Honour, granted to a select few for outstanding service and loyalty to the Society and to Scottish Country Dancing in general, she was a very senior and respected member of our dancing community.

Jean danced in London and Scotland before coming to Australia in 1961. She taught SCD in Newcastle and was a founder member of the Hunter Valley Branch when it was formed at a meeting held in 1974 in the presence of Miss Jean Milligan. One year later she moved to Canberra, where her arrival swelled the number of fully accredited teachers of SCD to nine and added to the enthusiasm for founding our own Branch of the RSCDS. She was its foundation Secretary in 1978 and in due course became a Life Member. She also founded the "Hospital Group" in Canberra, which held famous annual balls, and after her move to the coast in 1987 she was the foundation teacher of the Batemans Bay Caledonian Society SCD class. Subsequently she was a leading light of the Nowra SCD group, teaching and MCing its annual balls.

Her many teaching contributions have left a significant legacy. She helped to inaugurate the Australian Winter Schools and in 1976 taught at the first one, in the Hunter Valley, and in 1979 was Director of the first one to be hosted by the then new Branch in Canberra. Over the years she happily passed on her knowledge to a considerable number of dancers in Canberra and District, helping them to prepare for their RSCDS teaching examinations. Some are still teaching today. She fulfilled teaching engagements in Canada, USA, New Zealand and many locations within Australia, at Winter Schools and elsewhere. She was a great supporter of the annual Highland Gathering in Bundanoon, acting as MC for its Scottish dancing over many years.

It was most fitting that her nomination from the Canberra and District Branch for the prestigious RSCDS Scroll of Honour was accepted with enthusiasm by headquarters in Edinburgh. A photograph and account of the presentation ceremony in Nowra in November 2009 appeared in the issue of Scotch Circle for that month (available [here](#) or visit www.rscds-canberra.org/)

Although Jean may not have been known personally to some of our current dancers, we all knew her indirectly from our enjoyment of the reel "The Australian Ladies". It was written by the Canadian dance devisor Bob Campbell in 1967, inspired by a photograph of a winning competition team at a New Year's Day Highland Games in Sydney. Jean was one of the four inspirational "Australian Ladies" in the team. The dance has been on Canberra Ball programmes more often than any other over the years, testifying to its immense popularity, and in her honour it has been specially included yet again in the programme for the 2012 Canberra Ball, to be held on 18th August.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN CANBERRA AND DISTRICT

Saturday, 2 June: Monaro Caledonian Society Cooma Tartan Ball 2012,

6 pm for 6.30 pm at St Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Commissioner St, Cooma, with Music by Strathmannan – BYOG, Tickets \$40. Contact: Eileen Pevere, 6452 5154, email eileen.pevere@bigpond.com

Programme:

Best Set in the Hall (J8x32) 3C (4C Set) H Greenwood RSCDS Bk 46
Catch the Wind (R8x32) 3C (4C set) R Butterfield RSCDS Bk 45
The Bonnie Tree (S8x32) 3C (4C set) R Butterfield RSCDS Bk 46
EH3 7AF (J8x32) 3C (4C set) R Goldring RSCDS Bk 40
Reel of the Royal Scots (R8x32) 3C (4C set) R Goldring RSCDS Leaflet 7
Cherrybank Gardens (S3x32) 3C set J Drewry Bankhead Bk 1
Gay Gordons
The Royal Deeside Railway (R8x32) 3C (4C set) R Arrowsmith RSCDS Bk 40
Polharrow Burn (R5x32) 5C set H Foss Glendarroch SD Sheets
The Garry Strathspey (S4x32) 4C set J Cosh 22 SCDs
Muirland Willie (J8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Bk 21
Mairi's Wedding (R8x40) 3C (4C set) Cosh 22 SCDs
Flower of Glasgow (S3x32) 3C set R Taylor RSCDS Bk 46
Shifftin' Bobbins (R8x32) 3C (4C set) R Clowes Ormskirk 6
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder (J128) Sq.Set B Hamilton
Barn Dance
The Robertson Rant (S80) Sq.Set D Winchester RSCDS Bk 39
Scott Meikle (R4x32) 4C set A McLean Laurieston Coll
Jubilee Jig (J8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Leaflet 19
Sugar Candie (S8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Bk 26
Trip to Bavaria (R4x32) (4C set) J MacGregor-Brown Collins Pocket Ref
Napier's Index (J8x40) 3C (4C Set) B Charlton RSCDS Bk 45
Bratach Bana (R8x32) 3C (4C set) J Drewry Bon Accord Bk
Waltz Country Dance.

Saturday, 23 June: Belconnen SCD 37th Birthday Social

7.30pm at Macquarie Primary School Assembly Hall, with music by Stringfiddle (Bob McInnes and Jane Ellis), \$10, Enquiries to David Ayre 02 6251 6721 or email djayre@tpg.com.au [Flyer](#) [Recap Sheet](#)

Programme:

Good hearted Glasgow J8x32 3C 4C set Collins Pocket Reference
Dancing Forth R8x32 3C 4C set Edinburgh Branch Five Anniversary Dances
Susanne's Strathspey S8x32 2C 4C set Goldring 14 Social Dances
Bees of Maggieknockater J4x32 4C set Drewry Canadian Book
Lady Dumfries R8x32 3C 4C set Miss Milligan's Miscellany
The Robertson Rant S80 sq set Book 39
Mrs Stewart's Jig J8x32 3C 4C set Book 35
The Flowers of Edinburgh R8x32 3C 4C set Book 1
The Jordanhill Strathspey S8x32 3C 4C set Goldring, 12 More Social Dances
Ayrshire Craig R8x32 3C 4C set Zobel/Johnstone, Dancing on Air
Hooper's Jig R8x32 3C 4C set Miss Milligan's Miscellany
The Flower of Glasgow S 3x32 3C set Book 46
Pelorus Jack J8x32 3C 4C set Book 41
The Morrison Measure R5x32 5C set Goldring, A Reel for Alice
Miss Florence Adams S8x32 3C 4C set Book 38
Follow Me Home J8x32 3C 4C set Book 38
The Reel of the Royal Scots R8x32 3C 4C set Leaflets

Saturday, 11 August 2012 – Batemans Bay Caledonian Society Winter Social

will be held at the Community Centre, Museum Place, Batemans Bay at 6.30 for 7.00 pm. Music by Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford. Cost \$25.

Programme: The Soldier's Joy (R), The Diamond Jubilee (J), Blackadder House (S), Peat Fire Flame (R), Spiffin' (J), Cape Town Wedding (S), Round Reel of Eight (R), Blue Bonnets (J), Bedrule (S), Jock Caskie's Reel (R), The Bees of Maggie Knockater (J), Balquidder Strathspey (S), The Provost Wynd (R), The Nurseryman (J), Jean Martin of Aberdeen (S), The Highland Rambler (R).

Contacts: Moira Blades 0244723696 or 0414241399 and Joan Kelly - 02 44723959

Recaps on Branch website at calendar of events page www.rscds-canberra.org/

The Canberra Ball

Saturday 18 August 2012

Assembly Hall of St Edmund's College, Canberra Avenue, Griffith

Music by Strathmannan

Drinks 7.00 pm, Grand March and Dancing start 7.30 pm

Programme:

1. Clutha (R4x48) Sq. Set RSCDS Bk 31 (T Murphy's *Aide Memoire*)
2. The Kelloholm Jig (J8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Leaflet 32 (P Hyssett)
3. John McAlpin (S8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Three Dances by Hugh Foss
4. Davy Nick Nack (R8x32) 3C (4C set) Glasgow Assembly Bk (R M Campbell)
5. The Bees of Maggie Knockater (J4x32) 4C set Canadian Bk (J Drewry)
6. Anna Holden's Strathspey (S8x32) 2C (4C set) RSCDS Bk 42 (J Drewry)
7. Best Set in the Hall (J8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Bk 46 (H Greenwood)
8. The Australian Ladies (R8x32) 3C (4C set) Glasgow Assembly Bk (R M Campbell)
9. High Society (R4x40) 4C set RSCDS Bk 46 (J Brenchley)
10. The Spirit of the Dance (S8x32) 3C (4C set) TAC 50th Anniversary Bk (I Paterson)
11. It's Just for Fun (J8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Bk 33 (R Fidler)
12. Maxwell's Rant (R8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Bk 18 (Rutherford)
13. City of Belfast (S3x32) 3C set Belfast Diamond Jubilee Bk (L Mullholland)
14. Roaring Jelly (J8x32) 3C (4C set) Glendarroch SD Sheets (H Foss)
15. Kilkenny Castle (S8x32) 3C (4C set) Craigievar Bk 2 (B Forbes)
16. Polharrow Burn (R5x32) 5C set RSCDS, Three Dances by Hugh Foss
17. Neidpath Castle (S3x32) 3C set RSCDS Bk 22 (D Haynes)
18. Follow Me Home (J8x32) 3C (4C set) RSCDS Bk 38 (E Briscoe)
19. The Meeting of the Waters (R8x48) 3C (4C set) Strathtay Album (I Boyd)

Visitors are especially welcome

For further information contact:-

Colin Allum (02) 6258 0009 colallum@optusnet.com.au

Jack Arthur (02) 6254 7879 jarthur@apex.net.au

David Dempster (02) 6297 5608 daviddempster161@live.com

Patricia Rudkin (02) 6299 3186 patrudkin1@optusnet.com

Tickets \$40, including catered supper, now available

Poster and recaps available at www.rscds-canberra.org/

Saturday, 1 September - Southern Highlands SCD Annual Social

Venue: Bowral Uniting Church Hall. Programme/crib will be available on the Sydney Branch web site. For information contact: Margaret, 4869 3898; Helen, 4861 6471; eilidhmarg@hotmail.com

OTHER EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

37th Australian Winter School at Dookie, Victoria, hosted by the Melbourne and District Branch, 30th September to 6th October 2012. Teachers are from Scotland, England, New Zealand, Western Australia and Victoria. There will be a children's class if there are sufficient numbers. Applications are open; more information at www.rscdsmelbourne.org.au

New Zealand Branch Summer School at Ilam, Christchurch, from 28 December 2012 to 5 January 2013. Applications are open; for more information go to www.rscdsnz.org.nz/ and follow the link: "RSCDS NZ Branch, What's so special about Christchurch and Canterbury..."

Calendar of Events: Remainder of 2012

2 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
1 Sept	Southern Highlands SCD Annual Social
12 Sept	Branch AGM
15 Sept	Marengo SCD Social.
21 Sept	Belconnen advanced social class
30 Sept to 6 Oct	37 th Australian Winter School, Dookie, Vic. WS Secretary: Jo Reed familyreed@optusnet.com.au or www.rscdsmelbourne.org.au
12-14 Oct	Far South Coast SCD Group, Bermagui Weekend.
26 Oct	Belconnen advanced social class. Final for year
17 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
28 Dec to 5 Jan 2013	New Zealand Branch Summer School, Ilam, Christchurch Organiser: Doug Mills www.rscdsnz.org.nz/

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

Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Friday, 27 July 2012

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