

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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

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Treasurer	Geoff Lau	

Chair's Message

In November 1994 when I was invited to come along to a Scottish Country Dance class I remember saying 'what is that'?? That evening I was pushed, coaxed, called and at the end of the evening said to my friend 'can't do that' and didn't dare to come back for the last few classes of the year. In 1995 I then embarked on 12 months of lessons under the guidance of Jessie Middlemiss and Sandra Carroll. Those classes were interspersed with the Wednesday general class at St. Andrews with the hall full of sets. The encouragement was overwhelming.

Over the years as I became more confident and started going to winter schools in Australia, summer schools in New Zealand and summer dancing in the park in Vancouver I realised that not only do you enjoy the dance and the music but you make wonderful friends as well. That has been the case for me.

Over the past few years our numbers have sadly been declining. Admittedly many of our dancers are sporting injuries, travelling overseas during the cold months, are getting older, have heavy work commitments ~ there are a myriad of reasons.

Recently many of us attended the Canberra Winter School. It was a wonderful and very successful school under a very hard working committee who all put in 100% effort to make it a success and every ounce of their hard work paid off. The congratulatory letters, emails and phone calls could fill an album. They should be justifiably proud. Dancers who are no longer dancing participated and helped in every way possible. The evening socials were so enjoyable it would be a shame if they were to slowly peter out because of declining numbers within our dancing circles. At the end of one evening social one of our Canberra dancers came up to me with her eyes full of tears and said 'this is the way it used to be!'

Our group is not the only group of dancers left wondering where people are going or what they do to fill their evenings. What are we to do?

On our new committee for 2008 we have dedicated dancers who all want to see our halls full again. I'm sure every one of us knows of someone we could encourage to 'come along and try'. All of us in the workplace must have access to a notice board or staff intranet where we could put a notice. The new committee is willing to give it a go to start rebuilding our numbers. Ready for the 2008 calendar year we will have flyers available or words to put onto a staff intranet within work places. The winter school committee showed all of us how dedicated they

were, and they are an inspiration to all of us to raise the profile of Scottish Country Dancing in Canberra in 2008.

So if you are debating whether or not to come along to a class or social, remember the times where you just walked out the door with no hesitation and brought yourself to the dance. We all want the dancing to be there when we feel like dancing and listening to the wonderful music, and we want more people to come along. The only way to do that is to have enough experienced dancers at a social or evening class to encourage newer dancers to realise that they will learn and enjoy it as much as I do and you too.

To everyone who receives our Canberra newsletter I wish you all a wonderful Christmas, New Year and summer break.

Barbara

Branch News

RSCDS Canberra and District Branch Annual General Meeting, 24 October 2007

The Annual General Meeting was very well attended, with 26 members present and 14 apologies received. The Annual Report, Treasurer's Report (showing a small gain over the financial year) and the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, also a report on the very successful Winter School (see elsewhere in this Scotch Circle). Votes of thanks to the Winter School Sub-Committee and the outgoing Branch Committee were passed, with special tributes passed by acclamation to Bruce Clark for his 12 years of dedicated service as Branch Secretary and to David Parkinson for his work as Treasurer. The teachers who have contributed to the Wednesday Beginners Class, the General Class and the Friday Gentle Dancing Class, all of which worked well during the year, were also thanked.

After constructive discussion, the quorum provision of the constitution was amended to read "A quorum shall be constituted by the number of members equal to one quarter of the annual fee paying members who are financial or twenty five whichever shall be the lesser".

The rule determining the rate of subscription was also amended to bring the Branch into line with Headquarters by allowing half-year subscriptions. This section of the subscription rule now reads "For a member who joins the Branch for the first time between 1 January and 30 June inclusive the subscription for the year of joining shall be half the subscription otherwise payable".

Barbara Monahan was elected as the new Chair, Geoff Lau as Treasurer, and Fiona Ainley, Brian Gunning, Elizabeth Low, Olive Macleod, Alan McCulloch and Trish McDonald as Committee Members. No Secretary was elected, but at a subsequent meeting of the new Committee Alan McCulloch was appointed to this office. Elizabeth Low remains as the Public Officer and June Browne as Scotch Circle Editor and John Sutton as Auditor.

SCD Demonstrations in 2008

Slots have been reserved for Canberra in the dance programmes in the Multi-Cultural Festival (8-17 Feb) and the National Folk Festival (Easter, 21-24 March). The objective on these occasions is to convey that SCD is fun, sociable and healthy, so that we can try to attract newcomers to our activities. Naturally we should also aspire to as good a standard as possible! This is a request for anyone, from any Group, who is interested in participating to let any Branch Committee member know. There are two requirements, namely availability of kilts for the men, and for everyone to be willing and able to come to some practices during January and early February. It is not necessary to have years of experience. The plan is to work on a core repertoire of quite simple dances that can be polished sufficiently to look good on both occasions. We need your help, and we need more than eight people!!!!

32nd Australian Winter School

The 32nd Australian Winter School was held in Canberra from 30 September to 7 October. It was a well attended school with approximately 180 participants. Our teachers were from far and wide: Marjorie McLaughlin, San Diego, Eric Finley, Scotland, Doug Mills, Christchurch, Susie Pugh and Trish Nicholls, Sydney, Sandra Carroll, Canberra, and Denice Walter from Tasmania. We had a great line-up of musicians, all from Australia, including the well known duo Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt from Newcastle, Kate Scott, Niall Howe and Tony Hill, Bob McInnes and Polly Garland.

Message from Winter School Teacher Marjorie McLaughlin

With vivid memories of January 2003, Canberrans feel especially sympathetic to those who are suffering from bush fires in California. Many have enquired about the well-being of Marjorie McLaughlin, who taught at our Winter School and returned home to San Diego just before the fires struck that city. She has asked us to pass on the following message:

Hello Elaine,

Thanks so much for your message. We are fine and our house came through it intact. But, it has been a dreadful few days of anxiety and sadly, the situation is just as bad as it appears on the news. The extent of the damage and the number of people who have suffered losses is overwhelming. It will take us a very long time to recover from this.

I have heard from several people from Winter School and I am so grateful for their concern. Please share the news that Richard and I are fine.

Fondly, Marjorie

Three first-time Winter School participants offer their impressions:

Tessa Piagno

My intention was to come and try out a once in a lifetime experience, i.e. a winter school that will not be back in Canberra for at least 7 years. Not having gone to any Scottish dancing winter or summer school before, I thought I would just come to all the classes in the mornings and have the afternoons off to do other things at home. However the afternoon events on the programme looked so interesting that I came to most of them also. It was great to experience other forms of dance i.e. Irish, Latin and a couple of Scottish classes with different teachers. I particularly liked

our morning teacher Marjorie from USA. Marjorie was fun and helped me a lot with technique and style. Also I loved the idea of keeping alive the old dance the "Triumph" with the very strange Triumph pousette in which in the end we all "triumphed"! Sandra (our local teacher) also helped me tremendously.

I felt very privileged to have the wonderful pianist Catherine Strutt at our dance classes. Not only was it great to have live music but Catherine brought something very special to the classes. Marjorie even commented on the lovely selection of melodies that Catherine chose to accompany us. Going to the dinner reinforced my opinion of Catherine's playing - she would have to be one of the best pianists I have ever seen playing - the items that she and violinist Chris played that night were out of this world.

The organisation of the whole event seemed to go off so seamlessly and with so much attention to detail (thank you organisers). I loved the fact that our groups were named after the wild flowers to be found on Black Mountain at that time of year. This tied in beautifully with the bush walk we had one afternoon identifying all the flowers.

The icing on the cake of course was the ball - it was just so grand. The music played by Catherine, Chris and Bob sounded absolutely spectacular starting with the grand march for which they played "The arrival of the Queen of Sheba" by Handel. It just became better and better as the night progressed. It was great to have a chance to see the faces and dance with the people we had become familiar with in our classes during the week one last time before we went our separate ways.

Most of all I just had so much fun at the winter school and will have lots of lovely lingering memories - those of sore tired feet have long since faded into the background!

Hua-Jun Ni

My impression is that the Winter School in Canberra was a great success and I had so much fun. The teachers introduced us to new figures, better techniques and certainly more dances during the morning classes. The variety of optional activities in the afternoons explored a range of different social dances, music and formations. I was amazed about how formal the Winter School dinner was and certainly enjoyed very much about the music those musicians played. I think the final ball party went reasonably smoothly for me with a lot of help from our experienced dancers, as I was a bit anxious before it started. Overall, it was very exciting to see so many people from different countries and states dancing together and to appreciate the wealth of Scotland's traditional music. Big thanks to the organizers and helpers who made my (our) first Winter School experience so memorable.

Alan McCulloch

I really enjoyed the atmosphere of the classes and the evening social occasions, everyone so full of enthusiasm and interest. And after the experience of dancing every day for a week, (which was something totally new for me!) I felt amazingly alive and energised. I also have great memories of our teachers, and really appreciated the different teaching styles and personalities we were able to experience.

The Winter School was an opportunity to appreciate a little more the extent of the community of Scottish Country Dancers in the 'global village', and to get an impression of the variety of people who keep this wonderful social art alive. The range of the Ceilidh acts showed off the skill and talent of Scottish country dancers in many other fields. Apart from the dancing, I very much enjoyed Marjorie McLaughlin's talk on the history of SCD, the live music, and the opportunity to hear a Scottish accent every now and again!

Report from Denice Walter, teacher for the junior class at the Winter School

“LEOPARDS” AND “TIGERS” IN CANBERRA!

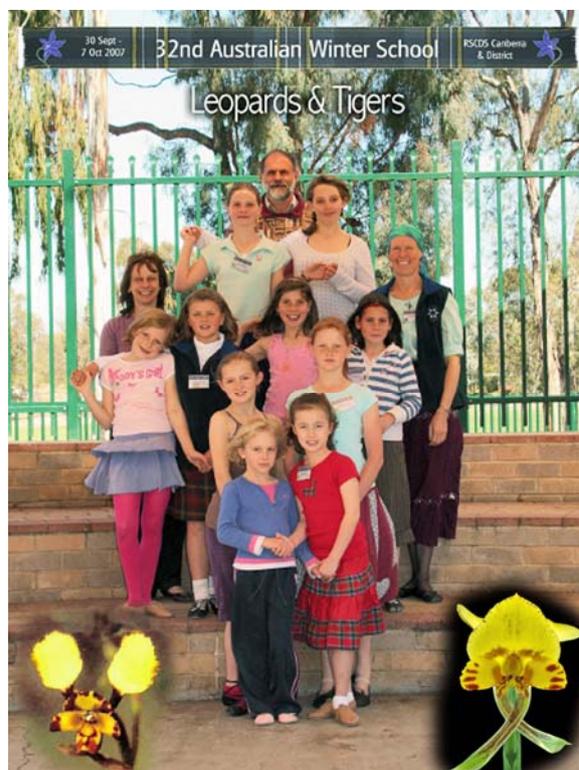
I had no idea that Australia, let alone Canberra, had leopards and tigers, but on Monday 1 October 2007 at 9.00am there was a room with ten very eager but perhaps unsure leopards and tigers. I'm not sure, but they may have thought the leader could have been a lion!

Of course what I am really talking about is the 32nd Australian Winter School where each dance class was named after native orchids of Black Mountain in Canberra. The junior's class had ten young girls and was named after the Leopard and Tiger native orchids.

The dances I taught during the week were – *The Merry Reapers, Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel, The Deil amang the Tailors, Maxwell's Rant, Johnny Groat's House Reel, Skamb Linnet, EH3 7AF, Mrs. MacLeod, Noughts and Crosses, The Heathridge Hop, Fisherman's Reel, Herself, The Royal Deeside Railway, What a Beau My Granny Was* and *Joie de Vivre*.

At the Ceilidh the children performed an original item named *SCD Teacher's Lament*. The whole idea was to let the children enjoy themselves while showing what could be done with literal translations of some of our formations. On the following nights the children excelled in their dancing to show what they really had been learning. Wednesday night was fancy dress and had the theme of Aussie Icons, Myths and Legends. As the school was being held in Canberra the girls danced *Ian Powrie's Welcome to Canberra* which had been devised 30 years ago when Ian Powrie visited Canberra. The second dance they did was an Australian Bush Dance, but it fitted in so well with the theme of the night that it had to be shown. The dance was called *Ned Kelly*. Thursday night the girls danced a circle dance *Dianne Murdoch's Promenade* and then to show something different again the girls did a five person dance *Noughts & Crosses* (thanks to Leeds Branch Anniversary book of Scottish Country Dances devised by children). Something I enjoy doing is allowing children to devise a dance, but while doing this they must work as a team and work out what formations will work together. It is a great learning experience and the girls did a wonderful job preparing for the Ball on the last night of the Winter School. The one rule I gave the girls was that it had to be a five couple dance as that was how many children had been in the class for the week and that they needed to work out the dance to be danced only once and finish at the foot. This was challenging, but they came up with a wonderful dance with some great formations and great thinking of how to have five couples dancing most of the time. The dance was titled *The Tigard Orchid Reel* (see below for details) and if you think about it, you can see how the title came about.

During the week I spent some time on technique and chose a few formations I wished to work on. The main formations worked on were Reels of Three, Poussette and Allemande for two couples. Of course there was no getting away with basic technique of skip change, pas de basque, covering, arms and hand placement, timing, phrasing, pointing toes, looking at your partner, posture ... (and so the list goes on!). Even the youngest girl (aged 7) mastered the two



couple allemande almost to perfection by the end of the week. To see all the girls really concentrating to show the best they could during class and in displays at night was wonderful. All the girls worked as a team and were a credit. I also had two wonderful helpers for the week, Elizabeth and Derek, who pressed the button on the CD player on my call of “ready and”, stopped the CD player when requested, prepared morning tea, washed up, assisted with craft preparation and cleaning up and a heap of other things which I just can’t remember.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to be asked to teach at the Canberra Winter School and I thank the committee for their confidence in me. I am not sure who gained more from the Leopards and Tigers class – me or the children!

Denice Walter – SCD teacher (Hobart, Tasmania)

THE TIGARD ORCHID REEL

5 x 32 bar reel for five couples, danced once and to the foot
Music – any bright 5 x 32 reel

Bars

- 1 – 4 All advance and retire (holding hands on the side)
- 5 – 6 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th couples all set and then
7 – 8 1st couple cast down to 2nd place while 2nd couple dance up to 1st place and
5th couple cast up to 4th place while 4th couple dance down to 5th place
(finish order is 2, 1, 3, 5 and 4)
- 9 – 16 Reels of three on the side for the middle three couples (1s, 3s and 5s),
1’s and 3’s facing each other to start.
At the same time the 2nd & 4th couples turn by the right and then turn by the left
- 17 – 20 1st and 3rd couples half rights and lefts while
5th and 4th couples dance right hands across half way
(finish 2nd couple on own sides, 3rd, 1st, 4th and 5th couples all on wrong sides)
- 21 – 24 3rd couple cross back to own sides giving right hand
1st couple cast off one place and turn by the right finishing ready for allemande
4th couple cross diagonally up to 3rd place giving right hand
5th couple cross giving right hand and turn into place ready for allemande
[Note all couples need to be very careful with their timing to make full use of
the four bars of music (finish order is 2, 3, 4, 1 and 5)]
- 25 – 32 1st and 5th couples allemande to change places

Repeat dance with new top couple

Dance devised 5th October 2007 by the children of the Leopards and Tigers juniors class at the 32nd Australian Winter School held in Canberra:

Jacinta & Natasha Alcock,
Kira & Angela Dowling,
Georgina Kingston,
Mairi and Eibhlis Norton,
Caitlin Stephan,
Laura & Julia Walter

Another teacher reports on her experience of the Winter School:

Due To Technical Difficulties

Have you ever driven a car that you were not familiar with? Then maybe you will sympathise with the following.

Yours truly had a hire car for the week of the Winter School. I picked it up Saturday afternoon, expecting a nice little compact four cylinder job but they kindly upgraded me to a brand new Mitsubishi. Now don't get me wrong, it was a great car, but my old one was an '82 Subaru which died of something terminal. A bit like going from flying paper planes to handling the Concord.

A very nice young lady just handed me the keys and said "one click opens the driver's door, two clicks opens all four doors, enjoy yourself". Five minutes later she was informed that the car wouldn't start. Having already adjusted the driver's seat to my satisfaction, she had to re adjust it to get in. Of course it started straight away didn't it, how was I to know you had to depress the brake pedal while turning the key in the ignition !. Technology one, me, nil.

The drive home was uneventful although a little nerve wracking. Two hours later I had to get all the decorations down to the hall.-.how do I open the boot? After searching for levers to pull inside and for somewhere to insert the key outside,.all decorations were piled on both back and front seats as well as on the floor. Well, it was dark, I just didn't see the wee thing on the keyring. Another one to technology.

Driving home with the interior lights on sure drew some strange looks from other drivers. It took me two days to figure out that I just had to press the cover on the light. Just as well they go off by themselves after a while. That was the first two days taken care of.

Monday I pulled down the sun shade and had about two inches between it and the dashboard. What's that song about short people? .

Tuesday I worked out how to turn on the air conditioner, Wednesday the radio, Thursday I was beginning to think I was getting the idea. Friday I turned the ignition and the wind screen wipers were going like the clappers. Several steamy minutes passed till I realized I must have brushed against the lever when alighting the night before. Five hundred yards down the road I also realized I had left my teeth in the bathroom !, they take some getting used to you know.

Saturday was my day. Driving was a dream, radio and air conditioner on, no rain so no need for wipers, I had finally caught up. Sunday the car had to be returned. Earlier in the week I had a nightmare about it being scraped and dented. All in all it was quite an experience and allowed me several moments of hilarity as well as angst.

I really did enjoy the week, whether teaching, conversing or watching and listening to the wonderful music every evening at the socials. I am reliably informed my torn calf muscle will *eventually* heal.

Congratulations to our hard working committee for an excellent job under what were at times very trying conditions, they deserve a well earned relaxing holiday.

Congratulations also to my two junior dancers Angela and Kira Dowling who had a great time in the childrens class, I'm sure they have gained much from the experience. I hope to see them dancing many years into the future.

Last but not least my gratitude to dancers and musicians who participated in the social and intermediate classes which I had the opportunity to teach. What a pleasure it was to listen and dance to such wonderful music and see so many smiling faces. If you learned anything at all, that's great, if you enjoyed it, **that's even better**. I certainly did.

Sandra Carroll

Club News

Nowra Scottish Country Dance Group

At the recent Annual General Meeting the following committee was elected:

President: Mrs Heather Bardsley Ph: 02 4441 5496
Secretary: Ms Glennis Brooking Ph: 0402 913 478
Vice President: Mr Richard Skinner
Treasurer: Mrs Moira Yates
Assistant Treasurer: Mr Terry Yates
Members: Mrs Judy Sleath, Mrs Elaine Skinner, Ms Susan O'Brien

Details concerning our 33rd Annual Ball are as follows:

Date: 31 May 2008, Venue: School of Arts, Berry Street, Nowra, Musicians: Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford, Tickets: \$35.00 each

As from 2007 the Arwon dancing group has merged with Nowra so it would be appreciated if you would amend your records of our weekly meetings to read "The Nowra Scottish Country Dance Group meets each Tuesday evening in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Kinghorne Street, Nowra (at the bottom of the Woolworths car park) from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Further information can be obtained by phoning Heather Bardsley on 02 4441 5496."

Heather Bardsley

Obituaries

Charles Caulfield

We are sorry to record the death of Mr Charles Caulfield on 10 October 2007. In 1954 he was one of the founder members of the Scottish Country Dance Club of Canberra, and his name is listed as such in the 2004 history of the Club ("50 Years and Still Dancing", available at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/SCDCC%20history.pdf>)

Roy Goldring

Many of you may already have heard the sad news, but I am writing to let you know that Roy Goldring, deviser of so many of our favourite dances, died yesterday, 4 September 2007. Please pass this on to your members and anyone else you feel would wish to know. Messages of condolence should be sent to Roy's wife, Doreen, whose address is: Doreen Goldring, 3 Nesfield View, ILKLEY, W Yorkshire, LS29 9DD. *Elspeth Gray, Secretary RSCDS*

Stan Hamilton

No doubt many of you will have heard already, but we have received more bad news, sadly Stan Hamilton died on 4 September 2007. The following email has been received from the Chairman of TAC:

It is with great sadness that I report to you the passing of Stan Hamilton on September 4th 2007. Stan headed up the band Stan Hamilton and the Clansmen and later became Stan Hamilton and the Flying Scotsmen in the sixties and seventies. Stan was very well known in Scottish Country Dance circles in Southern Ontario, United States and around the world. Stan's band regularly played for dances and Balls in the Hamilton, Niagara, Toronto, and London areas for many years. Although Stan has not played for many years his wonderful music lives on in the recordings that he made. Stan received the Scroll of Honour from the RSCDS in 2005. Stan was presented with his scroll at the Hamilton Weekend. Stan is survived by his lovely wife Anne. Stan will be missed by all of his Scottish Country Dance friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Anne.

Regards,

Ian Souter, Chairman TAC

If anyone wishes to send condolences to Stan's wife Anne, please let me know and I can pass on the address.

Elspeth Gray, Secretary RSCDS

Calendar for 2008

There may be a few alterations due to issues of availability of halls (etc), but we believe that this list is reasonably accurate and complete. It will be updated as and when necessary.

- 1 Feb** RSCDS Branch "Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers" -first class for 2008 at 2pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest. Details from Jessie on tmi04138@bigpond.net.au
- 4 Feb** Burns SCD Group: first Monday dance for 2008, 8.00pm, St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest. Details from Clare on 62489090, email friendly@homemail.com.au)
- 5 Feb** Belconnen SCD: first Tuesday dance for 2008, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr., Macquarie. Details from Colin Allum 62580009 or e-mail colallum@optusnet.com.au.
- 6 Feb** RSCDS Branch: first Wednesday class for 2008, St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest. Beginner Class 6.45pm; Regular Class (everyone above Beginner level) from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Contact Barbara Monahan BMonahan@engineersaustralia.org.au or remyb@dodo.com.au or phone 6270 6509(w) or 6287 2023(h).
- 7 Feb** SCDCC: first Thursday dance for 2008, 8.00pm, St Johns Church, Reid. Details from Barbara Monahan BMonahan@engineersaustralia.org.au or remyb@dodo.com.au or phone 6270 6509(w) or 6287 2023(h) or Jan Clark jan.clark@iinet.net.au or 6288 2487.
- 16 Feb** Welcome Social to start the new year of dancing, designed to suit all levels and ages, from starters to experienced, juniors to veterans, with food, drink and live music, in picturesque surroundings.
- 8 March** Burns SCD Group Burns Celebration, St Andrews Hall, Forrest
- 14 March** Belconnen SCD Advanced Social - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie.
- 21-24 March** (Easter) National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra; <http://www.folkfestival.asn.au>
- 29 March** Monaro Caledonian Society Tartan (Cooma) Ball
- 5 April** Bundanoon Highland Gathering.
- 18 April** Belconnen SCD Advanced Social - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie
- 3 May** Day School
- 16 May** Belconnen SCD Advanced Social - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie.
- 31 May** Nowra Scottish Country Dance Group Annual Ball
- 13 June** Belconnen SCD Advanced Social - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie.
- 21 June** Batemans Bay Caledonian Society Tartan Night Social
- 28 June** Branch Hosted Dinner-Dance

- 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.
- 2 Aug** Belconnen SCD 31st Birthday Social, also Annual Wollongong White Heather SCD Social
- 16 Aug** Burns SCD Group Spring Hop
- 30 Aug** Canberra Ball
- 5 Sept** Belconnen SCD Advanced Social - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie.
- 6 Sept.** Southern Highlands SCD Annual Social
- 17 Sept** Branch AGM
- 20 Sept** Marengo SCD Social, Contacts: Maurice Harcombe 63846222; Jean Williams 63827918
- 10-12 Oct** Far South Coast SCD Group Bermagui weekend
- 17 Oct** Belconnen SCD Advanced Social - 8pm Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie.
- 1 Nov** Branch end-of-year Social
- 22 Nov** Burns SCD Group, St Andrews Night Celebration
- 29 Nov** Batemans Bay St Andrews Social
- 6 Dec** Belconnen SCD and SCDCC joint Christmas Social
- ? Dec** Monaro Caledonian Society Christmas Social

For Sale

Two ladies kilts (one Anderson tartan the other Ferguson tartan), size 16,
Contact Margit Hemmingsen 6258 2479

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