

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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RSCDS Canberra and District Branch Incorporated
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Message from the Chair

Hello everyone. This edition comes out as the dancing year draws to a close. Included is information presented to the Branch AGM about our activities during the financial year ended 30 June 2009, and financial position at 30 June 2009. You will see that although we are sound financially, our membership continues to decline. To partially address this problem, we are planning to hold a course for beginners starting March next year, details of which are inside. I ask readers to pass on the information about this class to anyone they think may be interested.

We have included a few details of the RSCDS AGM and Conference weekend held in Perth, Scotland on the weekend of 7-8 November. For more information about that see the RSCDS website. Also inside are reports of recent local SCD events, such as the Scroll of Honour celebration for Jean Conway and the Bermagui weekend of concert and dance. Then there is a section listing the final local SCD events for 2009, all of which are well worth attending. When they are behind us, we take our summer break

At the Branch AGM, all existing office bearers and committee embers were re-elected and two new members were added, Glenys Bishop and Pete Martensz. Together, we shall organise classes and functions, and generally do what we can to keep the Branch running smoothly. On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all Seasons Greetings, and hope to see you in the New Year, your batteries re-charged and ready to sample the early 2010 dance events listed inside.

Jack Arthur

RSCDS Canberra & District Branch Inc
Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2009

During the financial year ended 30 June 2009, 50 members paid their annual fee, compared with 57 the previous year.

During the year, the Branch continued to offer a range of classes and social events:

- The class for beginners resumed in calendar year 2009, under the tutelage of Elizabeth Low, with valuable support from Hisako Ewing. However, as the end of the financial year approached, beginner numbers had declined.
- The general class, although relatively small in numbers, remains enthusiastic, having benefited from the different styles of several teachers during the year (Sandra Carroll, David Ayre, Elaine Arthur, Ann Parkinson and Elizabeth).
- The Friday afternoon class of gentle dancing continues to operate successfully under the supervision of Jessie Middlemiss, with Sandra stepping in from time to time. Again, class numbers are relatively small but the dancers do enjoy themselves.
- Since February 2009, the Branch has been conducting an occasional class, taught by Elaine, aimed at dancers wishing to devote some of their dancing time to maintaining or enhancing their dancing skills. This class has been well attended, which seems to indicate that its design (two-month blocks of fortnightly classes; one-hour duration; emphasis on dancing rather than dances) appeals to a significant number of dancers.
- The Canberra Ball of 30 August 2008 was again a great success and is a marker of the cooperative spirit that exists between the four SCD groups in Canberra.
- The Branch social to mark the end of the 2008 dancing year, held on the last night of the Wednesday general class, was a success and will be repeated.
- The BBQ and Dance held in February this year to mark the start of the 2009 dancing year was supported by a good number of dancers.
- The special class, which was to have been conducted in June by Margo Priestley from Scotland, unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last minute because of her sudden, but thankfully short, illness. The many dancers who came to the class were disappointed that Margo was unable to take it, but still enjoyed a good night of social dancing.

It is with great pleasure that we report that the RSCDS has appointed Elaine Arthur an examiner for the Society's teacher's certificate. Elaine undertook her first assignment in June this year, examining alongside Margo Priestley several candidate teachers in Newcastle, NSW, all of whom were successful. Congratulations go to Elaine on her achievement, of which she can feel justifiably proud.

Thanks go to the committee and the teachers for their efforts. Thanks are due also to Brian Gunning for the monthly e-mail newsletter and maintenance of the Branch website, and to June Browne for her work on *Scotch Circle*.

You will hear from the Treasurer that the Branch is in a sound financial position. However, we are experiencing a significant reduction in numbers. On the one hand, dancers who have been Branch members for many years are steadily retiring or moving away from the district; on the other, we face the on-going difficulty of attracting and retaining new dancers. This is a matter the incoming committee will again be addressing and any suggestions from members would be welcome.

RSCDS Canberra & District Branch
\Treasurer's Report 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

The Branch has improved its financial position during the 2008/2009 Financial Year. The Profit for the Year was \$6,570.37. This was made up of \$2,396.34 profit from the 2007 Winter School, and the return of a \$500 loan to the Winter School. In addition, the sale of the Mipro Pro sound system realised \$699.19. We also had prepayments of 2009/10 Membership Subscriptions of \$658 (in 2007/08 there were no Membership Prepayments). Profit and Loss for the year after these adjustments was \$2,286.84, which included Bank Interest of \$810.50.

As the accounts are kept on a cash basis, all expenses are not always brought to account in the financial year they occur, Hall Hire is one example of this.

The Income Receipts were also significantly higher as income for the Combined Ball is included. The small profit from the Combined Ball was equally distributed between the Scottish Country Dance Club of Canberra, the Burns SCD Group, the Belconnen SCD and RSCDS Canberra and District Branch.

The branch conducted four classes during this financial year. The income from each of the Branch activities is shown separately in the accounts. While class expenses are not directly attributed to each class in the Profit and Loss Statement, a detailed analysis demonstrated that each class covered its costs.

The number of financial members is steadily declining. There were 50 financial members in 2008-09 and there are only 33 at 7 September 2009 (39 at 15 September 2008). The branch remains financially strong.

Society AGM and Conference Weekend 2009
(Selected points from official summary. See RSCDS website for more information)

Annual General Meeting

- 253 delegates were present.
- Society President, Dr Alastair MacFadyen, in the chair for his second AGM.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to continue as Society Patron.
- Jean Conway's name read out as one of this year's recipients of a Scroll of Honour.
- In future, annual membership fee to be a standing AGM agenda item. Fee remains at current level, £15 per adult single.

Other highlights of the weekend

- 562 dancers enjoyed the Ball on the Friday, to the music of David Cunningham and his Band and the dance programme chosen by Pretoria Branch.
- 570 dancers on Saturday enjoyed the music of Jim Lindsay and his Band as they danced the programme chosen by Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch.

News from the District

Scroll of Honour for Jean Conway

More than 70 friends gathered with Jean Conway and members of her family in Nowra on 7 November 2009 at the invitation of the Nowra SCD Group. The occasion was a celebration of the announcement at the AGM of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society that Jean had been granted a Scroll of Honour. Jean was accompanied by her husband Gordon, eldest daughter Jean Fearon (“young Jean”), daughter Anne Stewart and husband Carl, and one of her grandsons James Alexander. Jean and family were piped into the room by Nowra Group President John Morrison.

The guests, many of whom had not seen each other for some considerable time, took the opportunity to renew acquaintanceships, catch up with the news, and watch or participate in some Scottish country dancing. The dances, imaginatively selected by Rosemary Gardiner, were: **J**(oie de Vivre)**E**(H3 7AF)**A**(ustralian Ladies)**N**(eidpath Castle),

and they were enthusiastically danced to the lively music of Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford.

As Branch Chair, I had been asked to present the Scroll, Jean being a life member of the Canberra Branch and the Society. I commenced my remarks by citing the criteria used by the Society when considering the nominations it receives for a Scroll.

The Society’s Scroll is only awarded to a limited number of people, and is given for:

Outstanding services and loyalty to the Society;

Maintenance of the aims of preserving the standards and traditions of Scottish Country Dancing; and

Encouragement in others of the knowledge and enjoyment of Scotland’s heritage of dance and music

In deciding to award Jean a Scroll, the Society clearly felt that her record of service (too extensive to recite in this article) met the criteria in full.

I then had to announce that, due to a disruption to mail services in Great Britain, the Scroll had not arrived from Scotland. After the initial expressions of consternation had died down, Jean having been made aware of the news in advance, I noted that one or two lines of Robert Burns seemed apt:

The best-laid plans o’ Mice and Men
Gang aft a-gley (go often wrong)

I said that it did not really matter that the Scroll was not physically here. The most important thing was that we could all congratulate Jean on her wonderful achievement in being granted the award, and thank her for all she has done for Scottish country dancing. Jean was then presented with flowers to great applause.

Jean responded by saying how honoured she was to have been awarded a Society Scroll, graciously accepting the fact that it had not arrived in time to be presented on the day. She thanked those members of the Nowra SCD group who had helped to compile the information to support her nomination. She thanked Gordon and other family members for their support over the years, and thanked everyone for attending the celebration.

Others to speak were “young Jean”, Henry Hall and Heather Bardsley. Dorothy Fry read a short poem. Afternoon tea was then served, during which conversations about past and current events, which had been interrupted by the formalities of the “presentation”, were renewed.

Thanks go to the Nowra SCD Group for organising the celebration, particularly Heather Bardsley, Jill Meakin, Rosemary Gardner, and John Morrison. Post Script: The Scroll arrived a few days later and is now, at last, with Jean.



Bermagui Weekend

The 10th weekend of Socials on the Far South Coast of NSW was held 9-11 October at Bermagui. Organised and presented by Sheelagh Brunton and members of her local SCD group, the event was an outstanding success. On Friday evening Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt played brilliantly in concert to a rapt audience of more than two hundred people. The weekend continued on Saturday morning with a walkthrough of the more challenging dances from the Social. Chris and Catherine played again on Saturday evening at the Social itself, the 80-plus dancers in attendance dancing enthusiastically, appreciative of the excellent music and the super supper. Many stayed for the Sunday Breakfast in the Park before heading off home, weary but happy. Congratulations to Sheelagh and helpers.

SCD Display at Yarralumla Primary School

Members of the Branch put on a display of SCD at the Yarralumla Primary School Fete held on 14 November. This came about because one of our members, Derek Synnott, is a school teacher there and some of the pupils and staff wanted to see him wearing a kilt. The display team comprising Glenys Bishop and Derek; Fiona Ainley and Alan McCulloch; Ann and David Parkinson; and Jenny Gallagher and Robbie Cathcart, and coached by Elaine Arthur, demonstrated some well known dances, finishing with *Festival Interceltique* in which members of the audience joined in and performed very well.

Remaining Events 2009

Saturday, 21 November: Burns SCD Group St Andrew's Night Celebration

Dance to *StringFiddle* 8p.m. St. Andrews Church Hall, \$10 per person (small plate appreciated). Programme:

It's Nae Bother; St. Andrew's Platinum Reel; Anna Holden's Strathspey; EH3 7AF;
Shiftin Bobbins: Eileen Watt's Strathspey; St. Andrews Fair; The Homecoming Dance;
Miss Milligan's Strathspey; Pelorus Jack; Flowers of Edinburgh; Belle of Bon Accord;
Napier's Index; Domino Five; Neidpath Castle; A Wee Doc an Doris.

Recap sheet available at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/StAndrews-recaps.doc>

Wednesday, 25 November 2009: Branch End-of-year Social Dancing

At the regular Branch Class venue, St Andrew's Church Hall, from 7.30pm - 10pm, followed by a light supper. This is the final Branch session for 2009. Programme:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A Capital Jig | (J8x32) 3C (4C set) | RSCDS 5/2009 |
| 2. Sueno's Stone | (R8x32) 3C (4C set) | RSCDS 4/2008 |
| 3. The Belle of Bon Accord | (S4x32) 4C (4C set) | Drewry, Deeside 2 |
| 4. The Clachan | (J8x32) 3C (4C set) | Foss, Kendoon Dances |
| 5. The Reel of the 51 st Division | (R8x32) 3C (4C set) | RSCDS Book 13 |
| 6. Miss Gibson's Strathspey | (S8x32) 3C (4C set) | RSCDS Leaflet |
| 7. Macleod's Fancy | (J4x32) 4C (4C set) | RSCDS Book 33 |
| 8. Bruce's Men | (S3x32) 3C (3C set) | Goldring, Scotia Suite |
| 9. The Piper and the Penguin | (R88) 4C (Sq set) | Goldring, Scotia Suite |
| 10. The De'il Amang the Tailors | (R8x32) 3C (4C set) | RSCDS Book 14 |

Friday, 27 November: Gentle Dancers picnic at 12 noon at Lennox Gardens. BYO everything. For further details please phone Jessie 62733482 or email tmi04138@bigpond.net.au

Saturday 28 November: Bateman's Bay Caledonian Society Annual Supper Dance
Bateman's Bay Community Centre, Museum Place, 6.30 pm drinks and nibbles for 7.00 pm, music by Strathmannan, \$25, billets available on request, **Enquiries:** Moira Blades 02 4472 3696 or Kay Livingstone 02 4472 6789. Programme:

The Homecoming Dance (R); Hooper's Jig (J); The Montgomeries' Rant (R); Culla Bay (S); The Luckenbooth Brooch (J); The Duchess Tree (S); The Irish Rover (R); The Lea Rig (S); EH3 7AF (J); Miss Catherine Allen (S); Corn Rigs (R); Pelorus Jack (J); Sandy O'er the Lea (S); Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder (J); From the Broomielaw (S); A Trip to the Netherlands (R); Postie's Jig (J); Extras (time permitting): The Clachan (J); Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan (R).

Saturday 5 December: Combined Belconnen SCD and SCDCC Christmas Social
7.30pm at Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, with music by Strathmannan; Admission \$10. Programme:

Festival Interceltique	(R4x{32+8}) circle RTR	RSCDS 4/2008
The Machine Without Horses	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 12
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	(S3x32) 3C (3C set)	RSCDS 3/2006
The Homecoming Dance	(R4x32) 4C (4C set)	RSCDS 5/2009
Newton Park	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	London Branch Jubilee 1979
Kilkenny Castle	(S8x32) 3C (4C set)	Forbes, Craigievar 2
Blooms of Bon Accord	(R4x32) 4C (4C set)	Drewry, Deeside 2
Joie de Vivre	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 39
John McAlpin	(S8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS 3 Dances by H Foss
City of Stirling Reel	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	Goldring 2006
Jennifer's Jig	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	Drewry, Silver City Bk
The Flower O' the Quern	(S4x32) 4C (4C set)	Drewry, Canadian Bk
John of Bon Accord	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 33
EH3 7AF	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 40
MacDonald of the Isles	(S3x32) 3C (3C set)	Haynes, Carnforth 2
The Montgomeries' Rant	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 10

Thursday 10 December: SCDCC

Last Thursday evening class for 2009

Thursday 10 December: Monaro Caledonian Society Christmas Social

St Andrews Church Hall, Soho St, Cooma

Early Events 2010

12-14 February 2010: Aloha from the Hawaii Branch of RSCDS:

Branch Secretary Alan McCulloch has been sent a brochure about an SCD instructional and social dance weekend in Honolulu, February 12-14, 2010. If you are interested, please contact Alan or Melissa Lindsay, Weekend Chair, 808-256-3347, MLindsay@hawaii.rr.com

13-21 February 2010: Dance Tassie in 2010

Tony Northey has issued an invitation as set out below.

“Following suggestions from friends who have asked for something like a Winter school in Tassie we propose that you:- Come and catch up with friends as you tour the wonders of Tassie and dance in the evenings.

A suggested itinerary follows:

Sat 13 Launceston, Festivale – Fun, Food, Frolic at Festivale followed by a dance night
Sunday: Morning - Walk the Launceston Gorge –peacocks, poteroos and pot luck, then drive to Moriaty visiting the following: Ashgrove Cheese factory, the Christmas Hills Raspberry farm and café before a dance at Moriaty.

Monday: Visit Anvers Chocolate factory with restaurant then drive to Devonport for the Don River Historical Railway and, check out the Devonport Maritime Museum before an evening dance at Devonport.

Tuesday: Visit caves, a wildlife farm, or Sheffield the town of murals before driving through Ulverston and then the coast road to Burnie admiring the gardens and the coast. Evening dance at Burnie.

Wednesday: Travel through picturesque farm country to the awesome devastation of the hills of Queenstown. Take a side trip to Strahan.(dance or free night).

Thursday: Travel to Hobart via Mt Field National Park, then New Norfolk, followed by a dance.

Friday: Visit historic parts of Hobart, the Shot Tower or Mt Wellington or visit the penal settlement of Port Arthur. (Evening - Danceaholics Unanimous in Hobart??)

Saturday: Early morning visit to Salamanca Markets, followed by lunch at historic Richmond or Ross on the way to Launceston. Alternatively a 2 hour drive will get you to Evandale for the Pennyfarthing races at the Evandale Fair which is only eighteen kilometers from Launceston where you can finish with a Dance.

Sunday: Evandale Markets and Clarendon Homestead. Hope this whets your appetite, We are planning for socials evenings with hopefully some musicians. Anticipated cost of evening socials is \$10.00. Please email if interested: bbuckland@tassie.net.au or phone Tony Northey (03 63318892), Rosemary Kew (03 64357515) or Fiona Chalk (03 64421349)

NOTE: Details of venues etc to be supplied at a later date. Travel may be by the Spirit see www.spiritoftasmania.com.au or various fly/drive options. Suggested accommodation options will be provided.”

Saturday, 13 March 2010:

"A Celebration for Barbara"

To remember Barbara Monahan and her love of Scottish Country Dancing

St John's Church Hall, Reid

Music by Strathmannan

All welcome. Admission free

The Programme includes many of her favourite dances

A Poster is included in this edition

March 2010: Beginners Course in Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish country dancing offers demonstrated health benefits by providing not only physical exercise but also mental stimulation and social interaction.

The Branch is planning to conduct an eight-week course of classes for beginners in 2010. It is planned to hold the weekly classes at St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest on Wednesdays from 6.00 to 7.15 pm between 10 March and 28 April inclusive.

A **free class** on Wednesday 3 March 2010 will precede the course 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.

Anyone interested in attending this course is invited to seek further information and obtain a registration form by contacting Glenys Bishop, by telephone 6258 0009, or by 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.

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

Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Friday, 29 January 2010

Contributions and requests for electronic version to June Browne at

ceilidh@bigpond.com.au

Calendar of Events 2010
(Some dates are tentative and may change)

FEBRUARY	
2 Feb	Belconnen SCD: first Tuesday class for 2010, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cres, Macquarie. Contact: Colin Allum 62580009 or email colallum@optusnet.com.au
3 Feb	Branch General class commences 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Alan McCulloch 6288 5670 (ah) or by email alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au
4 Feb	SCDCC first Thursday classes for 2010 (general and beginners) 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
8 Feb	Burns Group first class for 2009: at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Clare Hughes 6248 9090 or by email: friendly@homemail.com.au
19 Feb	Branch "Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers" first class for 2009, 2pm Fridays, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Jessie by email: tmi04138@bigpond.net.au
MARCH	
1 March	Branch. First Occasional class for 2010
3 March	Branch course for beginners. Registration and free class. Contact Glenys Bishop by phone 6258 0009 or email g.r.bishop@optusnet.com.au
13 March	A Celebration for Barbara, 7.30pm, St John's Church Hall, Reid. Contact Peggy Spratt 6247 5805 or pegspratt@grapevine.com.au
19 March	Belconnen SCD advanced social class, 8pm, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie. Contact Elaine Arthur 6254 7879 or email: elaine.arthur@apex.net.au
APRIL	
2-5 April	(Easter) National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra
17 April	Bundanoon Highland Gathering
30 April	Belconnen advanced social class
MAY	
15 May	Nowra SCD Group 34 th Annual Ball
28 May	Belconnen advanced social class
JUNE	
5 June	Monaro Caledonian Society (Cooma) Ball. NOTE: change of date
June ?	Belconnen SCD Birthday Social. Held 20 June 2009
26 June?	Branch "Tea Dance". Held 4 July 2009. Could change to a date in May 2010 if necessary
JULY	
4-11 July	35th RSCDS Australian Winter School, Adelaide WS Secretary, Jill Pope; WS Registrar, Neville Pope. Phone 08 8263 1324 Website: www.rscds.org.au Email: winter_school@npope.net
23 July	Belconnen advanced social class.
AUGUST	
13/20 August	Belconnen advanced social class.
7 August	Burns SCD Group Spring Hop.
August?	Canberra Ball. Held 29 August 2009
SEPTEMBER	
24 Sept	Belconnen advanced social class
15 Sept	Branch AGM
Sept?	Marengo SCD Social. Held 19 September 2009
OCTOBER	
October?	Far South Coast SCD Group, Bermagui Weekend. Held 9-11 October 2009
9 Oct	Belconnen advanced social class. Final for year
NOVEMBER	
20 Nov	Burns SCD Group St Andrew's Night Celebration
24 Nov	Branch End-of-year Social
DECEMBER	
Dec	Branch "Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers" class Annual Picnic
4 Dec	Combined Belconnen SCD and SCDCC Christmas Social

**A CELEBRATION
FOR BARBARA**



**To remember Barbara Monahan
and her love of
Scottish Country Dancing**

Saturday 13 March 2010

7.30pm in St John's Church Hall, Reid

with music by

Strathmannan

The programme includes many of her favourite dances:

Maxwell's Rant, Major Ian Stewart, Culla Bay,
A Celebration For Barbara*, Pelorus Jack, The Age of Aquarius*,
Anna Holden's Strathspey, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder,
Mrs Macpherson of Inveran, Barbara's Littlebeck Scramble*,
Shiftin' Bobbins, The Waggle o' the Kilt, Roaring Jelly,
Barbara's Strathspey*, Follow Me Home,
[extras: The Irish Rover, The Australian Ladies]
and finishing with The De'il Amang the Tailors

* full instructions are in the recap sheet at
<http://www.rscds-canberra.org>

All welcome. Admission Free.

A small contribution for supper would be appreciated

Contact: Peggy Spratt (02) 6247 5805, pegspratt@grapevine.com.au