

SCOTCH CIRCLE

Vol 30 No 4 December 2010

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

Chair: Jack Arthur 02 6254 7879 jarthur@apex.net.au
Secretary: Alan McCulloch 02 6288 5670 alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au
Treasurer: Mary Gellatly 02.6281 2029 marygellatly@hotmail.com

Message from the Chair

Greetings! This edition comes out as yet another dancing year draws to a close. Included herein is information presented to the Branch AGM about our activities during the financial year ended 30 June 2010, and financial position at 30 June 2010. At the AGM the existing secretary, Alan McCulloch and Treasurer, Mary Gellatly, made themselves available for re-election, as did other extant committee members Glenys Bishop, Hisako Ewing, David Ayre and Elizabeth Low. There being no other nominations, all were duly re-elected. Your new committee is committed to organising and conducting classes and functions, and generally to undertaking the other tasks required to keep the Branch running smoothly.

You will also find brief highlights of the RSCDS AGM and Conference weekend held in Perth, Scotland during the weekend of 6-7 November. For more information about the weekend see the RSCDS website, which some of you will be aware has been substantially redesigned (see inside for details).

By the time you receive this issue the festive season will be upon us but the dancing year will not quite be finished. Bearing this in mind, you will find inside some advice about etiquette on the dance floor. Taken from a couple of sources including "Don'ts for Dancers (1925)", these tips are of historical interest only. Enjoy your final dance events this year.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all Seasons Greetings, and look forward to seeing you in the New Year at some of the early 2011 dance events listed inside.

Jack Arthur

RSCDS Canberra & District Branch Inc

Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2010

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

- Two eight-week courses for beginners were conducted during March/April and June/July 2010. Elizabeth Low taught the class with support from Elaine, Hisako, Alan, Glenys and Colin. Some of the 'students' from these classes are still dancing and have joined the Branch.
- Dancers at the Wednesday general class have continued to enjoy the variety of styles and dances presented by several teachers (Sandra, David, Elaine, Ann and Elizabeth).
- The Friday afternoon class continues to operate successfully under the supervision of Jessie, with Sandra providing considerable assistance.
- The Monday evening occasional class taken by Elaine was started on a trial basis in March 2009. The class, with its two-month blocks of fortnightly, one-hour sessions and its emphasis on enhancing dancing skills rather than learning dances *per se*, continues to attract a number of dancers.

Branch dancers, under the supervision of Elaine, performed displays at a number of community events, including: the Bundanoon Highland Gathering; the National Folk Festival; the Canberra City Pipes and Drums Ceilidh; the celebration of the Albert Hall's 82nd birthday; the Yarralumla Primary School Fete.

Of the social events organised by the Branch during the year, the Pot Luck Tea Dance was particularly enjoyed and seems set to become a regular event on the SCD calendar. The Canberra Ball, a joint venture of the Branch and other SCD clubs in Canberra, was also a great success. And the annual picnic for the Gentle Dancers class was, as usual, a nice way to end the dancing year.

Thanks go to the committee and the teachers for their efforts. We also thank Brian Gunning for producing the monthly e-mail newsletter and maintaining the Branch website, and June Browne for her assistance in sending out *Scotch Circle*.

RSCDS Canberra & District Branch Inc Treasurer's Report for the year ending 30 June 2010

The Branch's finances remained almost the same at the end of the 2009-10 financial year as they were at the beginning. The Auditor's Report, the Profit and Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet Reports [were distributed at the Annual General Meeting and adopted at that meeting].

The profit for the year was \$398.13, compared to a profit of \$6,570.37 for 2008-2009; the latter included exceptional items including profit from the 2007 Winter School, and the sale of the Mipro Pro sound system. This year's profit includes prepayments of 2010/11 Membership Subscriptions of \$560, (\$658 prior year). Bank interest this year was \$424

compared to \$810 last year, this was due to a 180 day investment maturing on 14 July, if this interest is taken into account bank interest would be \$800 for the year.

At the end of 2009 the Branch paid teachers a small honorarium based on the number of class hours taught. This resulted in payments of \$720.

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 number of financial members for 2009-10 was 37, made up of 10 Annual Joint Members, and 27 Annual Members. There were 50 financial members in 2008-09. At 12 September there are currently 41 financial members. All classes are well attended and attendance at socials is encouraging. Given the accumulated reserves [cash at bank \$23,377.38 at 30 June 2010] the Branch remains financially strong.

Society AGM and Conference Weekend 2010

(Selected points from official summary. See RSCDS website for more information)

Annual General Meeting

- 232 delegates (holding 325 votes) were present. The Canberra & District Branch was represented by Dick Daniel, Glasgow Branch.
- Society President, Dr Alastair MacFadyen, was in the chair for his third AGM.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is pleased to continue as Society Patron.
- Ruth Beattie was confirmed as Chairman, and Alex Gray handed over the chain of office to Ruth.
- John Wilkinson was elected as Chairman Elect. He will become Chairman in two years at the expiry of Ruth Beattie's two-year term.
- The membership subscription is now a standing AGM agenda item. The basic full annual subscription remains at the current level, £15 per adult single.

Other highlights of the weekend

- 524 dancers enjoyed the Ball on the Friday, with music from Neil Copland's Band to the dance programme chosen by the Belfast Branch.
- 570 dancers on Saturday enjoyed the music of Colin Dewar's Band as they danced the programme chosen by Duns and District Branch.

Re-vamped RSCDS Website

A substantial re-design of the RSCDS website www.rscds.org/, which had been in progress for some time, was completed during the year. This writer has found that, compared to the old site, the new one is much simpler to navigate. Anyone (not just RSCDS members) who can connect to the internet can access the site's Home Page by simply going to the address shown above. Once there, one can access separate pages on the site under headings titled About Us, News, Events, Shop, Learn and Network, by clicking on the relevant heading title. It appears that a great deal of the total information on the site is contained under these headings.

There is, however, an additional Membership section which is available only to RSCDS members; it contains information in separate sub-sections titled My Branch Details, Marketing Materials, Branch Mailings and Branch Management (this last sub-section being available only to certain Branch office bearers). To access the Membership section, members need to SignIn, and to do this need to obtain a unique UserName and password. The Branch has received a list of each member's UserName but each member can only obtain a password by sending an email to the Society. Also, the Society does not hold your email address unless you have been in direct contact. (The Branch has your email address but prefers not to pass it on without your express approval.)

We think the simplest, quickest way for you to obtain your UserName and password (and for the Society to obtain your email address) is for you to send an email to the Society's head office at info@rscds.org, stating that you are a member of the Canberra & District Branch, requesting that your current email address be added to your membership details on the Society's data base, and requesting your UserName and a password.

Once you have received your UserName and password, go to the website and click on the SignIn button (top right of the home page). A dialogue box will appear asking for your UserName and password. Enter the details exactly as provided to you to complete to access the Membership section of the website.

Note: every email address must be unique – ie if any members share an email address, only one member will be able to enter it.

Please contact me (6254 7879) if you would like more information or if you encounter any problem.

Jack Arthur

News from the District

Floriade Display

The Branch provided a team to dance at Floriade in September. Many thanks go to the members of the team; they did a fantastic job bearing in mind that several members were dancing in their first display and there was a large repertoire of dances to remember: Festival Interceltique; The Australian Ladies; MacDonald of the Isles; Domino Five; The Piper and the Penguin; The Minister on the Loch; Pelorus Jack; The Dream Catcher and The Reel of the 51st Division. The audience enjoyed the show.

Bermagui Weekend

The 11th weekend of Socials on the Far South Coast of NSW was held 8-10 October at Bermagui. Organised and presented by Sheelagh Brunton and members of her local SCD group, the event was again an outstanding success. On the Friday evening Sheelagh guided the assembly through the Thirtytwosome Reel, a kind of Eightsome Reel danced by a set of thirty-two rather than eight dancers. The weekend continued on Saturday morning with a workshop of the more challenging dances from the Social Program. The Social itself was held on Saturday evening, and all in attendance enjoyed the excellent

program, the great music from Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford, and the super supper. Many stayed on for the Sunday Breakfast-in-the-Park before heading off home, weary but happy. Congratulations to Sheelagh and her helpers.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Hisako Ewing for completing her RSCDS teacher's certificate. During August, Hisako travelled to Waterloo in Ontario, Canada where she undertook the teacher training course run by the Teachers' Association (Canada) and successfully undertook the RSCDS final examination.

Remaining Events 2010

Saturday 4 December: Combined Belconnen SCD and SCDCC Christmas Social

7.30pm at Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, with music by Strathmannan; Admission \$10. Program:

The Laird of Milton's Daughter J 3C; Scotia Sea R 3C; The Bonnie Tree S 3C; The Piper and the Penguin R sq set; Major Ian Stewart J 3C; The Banks of Clyde S 3C; Christine M Phillips J 3C; Polharrow Burn R 5C; The Flower of Glasgow S 3C set; Miss Allie Anderson J 3C; Society Piper R 3C; The Belle of Bon Accord S 4C; The Royal Deeside Railway R 3C; Cape Town Wedding S 3C; Follow Me Home J 3C; The Dancing Man R 3C

For the Festive Season, Advice from "Don'ts for Dancers (1925)"

Don't wear gloves. These were discarded during the War, and though attempts are being made in certain quarters to restore them to favour, the fashion has not caught on again up to the present.

Don't attempt strenuous conversation. Your partner won't appreciate an exposition of the Einstein theory.

Don't make yourself and your partner conspicuous either by your method of dressing or of dancing. Attracting attention and attracting admiration are not always the same thing, you know.

A Lady's Guide to Dancing

If a gentleman offers to dance with a lady, she should not refuse, unless for some valid reason.

When an unpractised dancer makes a mistake, it would be very impolite to have the air of giving her a lesson.

Early Events 2011

18-20 February 2011: Aloha from the Hawaii Branch of RSCDS:

Branch Secretary Alan McCulloch has received information detailing an SCD instructional and social dance weekend in Honolulu, February 18-20, 2011. Several dancers from Canberra have already registered, so why not consider joining them? For more information please contact Alan. Alternatively you could contact one of the organisers in Honolulu, Melissa Lindsay, phone 808-256-3347, or email MLindsay@hawaii.rr.com

Saturday, 5 March 2011: Branch BBQ and Social Dance

This event will be held again at the Showground, Hall Village from 6 pm. Bring your own food and beverages (BBQs will be available). Dancing, to music by Strathmannan, will start from 7.30 pm. Further details including the dance program will be available early in the New Year.

March 2011: Beginners Course in Scottish Country Dancing

The Branch is planning to conduct an eight-week course of classes for beginners in 2011. It is planned to hold the weekly classes at St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest on Wednesdays from 6.00 to 7.15 pm between 9 March and 27 April inclusive.

A **free class** on Wednesday 2 March 2011 will precede the course and this will also be the registration session for the course. The fee for the eight-week course 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 Jack Arthur, by telephone 6254 7879, or by email jarthur@apex.net.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.

Calendar of Events 2011

(Some dates are tentative and may change)

11 Jan	The Black Mountain Reelers first class, 12.30 to 1.30 pm, Molly Huxley Room at ANU
1 Feb	Belconnen SCD: first Tuesday class for 2011, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cres, Macquarie. Contact: Colin Allum 62580009 or email colallum@optusnet.com.au
2 Feb	Branch General class commences 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Hall. Contact Alan McCulloch 6288 5670 (ah) or by email alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au
3 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
7 Feb	Burns Group first class for 2009: at St Andrew's Church Hall, Forrest. Contact Beverley Sproule beverley.sproule@bigpond.com

18 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
2 March	Branch course for beginners. Registration and free class
5 March	Branch BBQ Showgrounds Pavilion, Hall Village
2 March	Branch course for beginners. Registration and free class.
18 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
26 March	Burns SCD Group Social
2 April	Bundanoon Highland Gathering
22-25 April	(Easter) National Folk Festival
29 April	Belconnen advanced social class
14 May	Nowra SCD Group 34 th Annual Ball
21 May	Branch “Tea Dance”
27 May	Belconnen advanced social class
4 June	Monaro Caledonian Society Annual (Cooma) Ball
25 June	Belconnen SCD 36 th Birthday Social.
9-16 July	36th RSCDS Australian Winter School, Nelson Bay. WS Secretary Helene Taylor Tel: 02 4967 4219 Email: ivene@idl.com.au Registrar Michelle Cobb Tel: 0413 061 210 Email: shelle_82@yahoo.com Convenor: Marney Wilson Tel: 02 4961 0678 Email: marney_w@yahoo.com.au
29 July	Belconnen advanced social class
Aug?	Burns SCD Group Spring Hop.
19 Aug	Belconnen advanced social class
Aug	Canberra Ball.
14 Sept	Branch AGM
17 Sept	Marengo SCD Social.
23 Sept	Belconnen advanced social class
October	Far South Coast SCD Group, Bermagui Weekend.
28 Oct	Belconnen advanced social class. Final class for year
Nov	Burns SCD Group St Andrew’s Night Celebration
30 Nov	Branch End-of-year Social
Dec	Branch “Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers” class annual picnic
3 Dec	Combined Belconnen SCD and SCDCC Christmas Social

Scotch Circle is published by RSCDS (Canberra & District) and the Committee reserves rights of editorial control
Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Friday, 28 January 2011
Contributions and requests for electronic version to June Browne at
ceilidh@bigpond.com.au