

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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RSCDS Canberra and District Branch Incorporated
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Vale Mary Rayner

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Mary Rayner, a dancer from the Far South Coast and member of Canberra & District, following lengthy periods of illness. She will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with her family.

CHANGE TO PRICE OF SCOTCH CIRCLE EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2014

BUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT ITS CONTENT? TO JAZZ IT UP OR TO RETIRE IT? THAT IS THE QUESTION

**GIVEN THE EXISTENCE OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INFORMATION
ABOUT SCD EVENTS (EMAIL NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE)
HAS THIS OUR ORIGINAL NEWS PUBLICATION OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS?**

OR

**IS THERE ANY INTERESTED CREATIVE TALENT
OUT THERE WHICH MIGHT KEEP SCOTCH CIRCLE ALIVE
BY OFFERING READERS SOMETHING MORE THAN A LIST OF SCD EVENTS**

At the recent Branch AGM, members agreed that the price of Scotch Circle would be put on the same footing as the Email Newsletter, i.e. electronic copies (the way by which nearly all members receive it) will be free of charge. At present, all members pay \$10 a year for Scotch Circle and this is built into the annual subscription. From 1 July 2014 the annual subscription will be reduced accordingly.

This measure will eliminate the pricing anomaly between Scotch Circle and the Email newsletter. But another problem remains, namely that members perceive both publications as saying much the same thing. Eliminating the duplication could be achieved by adopting one of three options: (i) "jazz up" Scotch Circle, (ii) retire it from active service, or (iii) incorporate it into the Email newsletter.

We could sprinkle the Scotch Circle news with a few attempted witticisms aimed at ourselves. For example, if, as the schoolboy howler goes, **a tantrum is a two-seated bicycle**, then **a tantrum reel of three** is when a dancer or the teacher chucks a wobbly when another dancer mucks up **a tandem reel of three**. I am only kidding – this is NOT a solution! Over to you, once more, for any creative ideas you may have.

I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Jack Arthur

REFLECTING ON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING IN CANBERRA DURING 2013 - THE ACT CENTENARY YEAR

Branch classes have been very well attended this year, the best I think for some years. This is particularly so in the case of the Wednesday general class and the Wednesday class for newer dancers. The Friday afternoon and Monday occasional (technique) classes have also been well supported. This successful year has been due in part to the ongoing work of your committee and enthusiastic teachers. Above all, I find it gratifying to have witnessed the solid support of our classes this year from you, the membership.

The Australian Ladies Ball, in August, was one of the SCD highlights of the year. It was an important event in the “Kick up your Heels” program of dances of many genres, which was in turn a significant component of the celebration of the ACT Centenary. KUYH was the brainchild of the SoCanDance consortium comprising Colin Towns, John Carroll and Luke Wensing. Congratulations go to them for the concept.

To our Ball itself: on 10 August the iconic Albert Hall was filled to capacity with more than 150 dancers who thoroughly enjoyed dancing *The Australian Ladies* and other favourite Scottish country dances. Among the crowd were local Scottish country dancers and a good number of Canberra dancers for whom dancing Scottish was a novel experience. Additionally, many dancers came from a’ the airts. The enjoyment was enhanced by great music from a quintet of musicians, Strathmannan and Friends, led by Kate Scott.

I should like to pay tribute to the committee, representing all the Canberra SCD clubs, who put so much work into planning and delivering the Ball. Along the way, they negotiated numerous obstacles and cleared many hurdles. The teachers who coached the dancers new to Scottish, at the free practices, also contributed in no small way. Thanks are also due to all who showed faith in the event by attending it.

This year also marked another significant event – the changing of the guard at the Branch website and newsletter, marking the retirement of Brian Gunning as website manager and editor of the newsletter. In July, changes were made to the website with the assistance of David Hunter. Our first appearance on the internet was in 2001. In 2003 that early site was expanded into its present form under Brian’s guidance and stewardship. Brian’s retirement, ten years later, has enabled us to present a new and, hopefully, more user-friendly interface. But both his website and his work as website manager will be hard acts to follow.

The July newsletter was Brian’s 135th, and final, as editor. He worked assiduously and tirelessly over a period of nine years to bring you information on SCD events and related matters.

We wish him many more happy years of Scottish country dancing and the enjoyment of his other hobbies and activities. You may be interested to know that Brian used the gift voucher presented to him at the Branch AGM to purchase a Japanese maple, cultivar “Senkaki”, which he has placed near the back deck of his house where it can be seen from the dining room. He refers to it as his “Newsletter Tree”.

Finally, on 25 September, dancers were treated to a very special class from Antoine Rousseau, a superb dancer and teacher, who also possesses a great sense of humour. From the outset he made the point that we dance Scottish for enjoyment. The lesson commenced with a thorough warm up – “to get oxygen to the muscles”. Then using a simple dance as an example (*Uncle Bill’s Jig*, a 32 bar jig for 2 couples – R Goldring, Gr. and Soc. Dances 3), he demonstrated how concentrating on achieving continuity of movement - by phrasing the steps to obtain a smooth transition from one formation to the next - enhances the performance and hence the enjoyment. Covering with other dancers in the set is, likewise, beneficial. Good use of arms and attention to posture, too, are important, he said. How many times did we hear “Heads up”? In *Lady Auckland’s Reel* (a 32 bar strathspey for 2 couples – Book 18), he asked us to really listen to the music, instil rhythm and reach into our steps, and maintain good feet positions. Working on these aspects of performance turns this apparently easy dance into a much more interesting one and increases our enjoyment of it, he said; and it did.

Antoine continued the class in this vein, taking us through two great jigs from (new) Book 47 - *Bill Clement MBE* and *Welcome to Ayr*, and a charming strathspey *The Falkirk Lass* (E Brunken, The Merse Collection). Supper and a chat ended a most enjoyable and rewarding evening.

Canberra Winter School 2014



RSCDS CANBERRA & DISTRICT BRANCH



INVITES YOU TO THE 39TH
AUSTRALIAN SCD "WINTER" SCHOOL

TO BE HELD IN

AUSTRALIA'S "BUSH CAPITAL"
DURING ITS RENOWNED SPRING
FLOWER FESTIVAL, FLORIADE
28 SEPT-4 OCT 2014

Registration is now open:

- Enjoy a week of Scottish dancing and other social activities in an atmosphere of conviviality and friendship;
- Meet up with friends and make new acquaintances;
- Brush up your dancing skills and expand your repertoire under the guidance, and to the music, of experienced international and local teachers and musicians;
- Participate either as a resident at the very comfortable accommodation on offer, or as a commuter;
- By helping yourselves to Early Bird discounts (available until 21 February 2014) - whether as resident or commuter - you would also be assisting the organisers to plan and conduct the best possible outcome;

For further information about the programme, registration procedures and fees (including Early Bird discounts) see: www.rscds-canberra.org/home/canberra-winter-school

Members will have heard WS committee members urging you to take advantage of the Early Bird discounts which are available until 21 February 2014. There is a particular reason for these urgings, which is this: that the financial arrangements we have made with our accommodation providers make it imperative that we have a reasonably clear idea by then that the school will be financially viable. In this regard, the key piece of information we need to know is the number of dancers who have actually registered and paid preferably the full fee (or at least a deposit) as at 21 February. This number is the sum of dancers registered as residents AND those registered as commuters. **Most Canberra registrants will be commuters and lest they think that it is not important for commuters to decide and pay early, let me stress that it IS important for our assessment of the viability of the school. Thus, if at all possible, potential commuters, as well as residents, should make an early decision whether to attend and, if you do decide to attend, then act to register and pay by 21 February.**

There are good reasons for supporting these annual week-long schools. For the individual, the gain from the morning classes is the experience of being taught by expert practitioners in the field, leading to improved individual dance skills and increased enthusiasm for Scottish dancing. Morning classes have been designed to cater for all levels of experience from intermediate and upwards, as well as for dancers of higher and lower energy. The afternoon and evening events increase the bonds of friendship made by the shared social dancing activity, further enhancing enthusiasm. Collectively, dancers take back their improved skills and increased enthusiasm to their home Branch or club, and as a result Scottish dancing as an activity is made all the stronger. These benefits were clearly evident at the recent 38th Winter School in Albany, WA. Congratulations to the WA Branch.



RSCDS CANBERRA AND DISTRICT BRANCH

WEDNESDAY SOCIAL CLASS 27 NOVEMBER 2013

(Final Class for 2013)

7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest

Join the regular Wednesday class dancers and some newer dancers from the Branch Springtime Course, for an evening of social dancing. All dances will be walked through.

Admission: branch members \$5; non-members \$6.

Dances will be selected from the following:

EASY: suitable for newer dancers

Catch the Wind	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 45
Blue Bonnets	(J8x32) 2C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 3
New Abbey	(S8x32) 2C (4C set)	R Goldring, Graded and Social Dances 2
The Barmkin	(R88) Sq set	RSCDS Second Graded Bk
Deil Amang the Tailors	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 14

DIFFICULT: newer dancers are invited to watch, or join in partnered with an experienced dancer.

The Stanford Swing	(J8x40) 3C (4C set)	B McMurtry, Devil's Quandry
The Baldovan Square	(S96) Sq set	J Drewry, Brodie Bk
Welcome to Ayr	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 47
The Hazel Tree	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	J Drewry, Brodie Bk
The Inimitable Derek	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS leaflet, 3/2006
Greenmantle	(S3x32) 3C set	J Wilkinson, leaflet

For a recap sheet visit www.rscds-canberra.org



Combined Christmas Social



**SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2013
MACQUARIE PRIMARY SCHOOL
BENNELONG CRESCENT, MACQUARIE
COMMENCING 7.30pm**

Music by: Bob McInnes (Fiddle) and Jane Ellis (Keyboard)

ADMISSION \$15

SUPPER TO BE SERVED AT CONCLUSION OF DANCING (SMALL PLATE APPRECIATED)

Program

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1. EH3 7AF | (J8X32) 3C (4C set) | R Goldring, RSCDS Book 40 |
| 2. Catch the Wind | (H8x32) 3C (4C set) | R Butterfield, RSCDS Book 45 |
| 3. Naishcombe Hill | (S8x32) 3C (4C set) | M Short, 12 Scottish Country Dances |
| 4. A Capital Jig | (J8x32J) 3C (4C set) | T Mackay, RSCDS 5/2009 |
| 5. The Inimitable Derek | (R8X32) 3C (4C set) | R Goldring, RSCDS 3/2006 |
| 6. The Swan and the Tay | (S3x32) 3C set | A Saunders, SCDs for Perth 800 |
| 7. Bill Clement MBE | (J8x32) 3C (4C set) | J Wilkinson, RSCDS Book 47 |
| 8. The Innes Dancers Reel | (R4x32) 4C set | R Goldring, A Reel for Alice and Other Social Dances |
| 9. Anna Holden's Strathspey | (S8x32) 2C (4C set) | J Drewry, RSCDS Book 42 |
| 10. Welcome to Ayr | (J8x32) 3C (4C set) | J Henricksen & K Stewart, RSCDS Book 47 |
| 11. The Granny Knot | (R8x32) 3C (4C set) | M Boehmer, Cameo Collection Book |
| 12. City of Belfast | (S3x32) 3C set | L Mulholland, RSCDS Belfast, Diamond Jubilee |
| 13. Napier's Index | (J8x40) 3C (4C set) | B Charlton, RSCDS Book 45 |
| 14. The Morrison Measure | (R5x32) 5C set | R Goldring, A Reel for Alice and Other Social Dances |
| 15. Jean Martin of Aberdeen | (S3x32) 3C set | M Johnstone, RSCDS 3/2006 |
| 16. The Deil Amang the Tailors | (R8x32) 3C (4C set) | RSCDS Book 14 |

AULD LANG SYNE

SUPPER

For a recap sheet visit www.rscds-canberra.org

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

Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Friday, 24 January 2014

Contributions and requests for electronic version to Jack Arthur jarthur@apex.net.au