

SCOTCH CIRCLE

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RSCDS Canberra and District Branch Incorporated
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Branch Award for Jack Arthur



At the conclusion of the 2015 AGM on 14 October, Jack Arthur was presented with a Branch Award certificate in recognition of his outstanding service to the Canberra and District Branch and exceptional commitment to the objectives of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Jack has been actively involved in the activities of the Branch for more than twenty years, and was chairman for a significant proportion of that time, most recently from 2008 to 2015. During the time he has been associated with the Branch, Jack made a huge contribution to its many successes, as a strongly motivated teacher, administrator and organiser. He contributed in a variety of ways to the promotion of SCD and to Branch activities, including winter schools. As convenor of the 2014 Canberra winter school Jack appeared to make things happen effortlessly, through his organisational skills and network of connections with teachers and musicians. Branch members will remember his reliable and capable contributions to classes over recent years. Committee members who have worked with Jack over the last few years greatly appreciated his effective and always good-natured leadership.

Alan McCulloch

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 28 November 2015: Scottish Country Dance Club of Canberra, New Dancers Social

North Canberra Baptist Church, Condamine St, Turner

2:00 - 4:30 pm; Admission \$10 A flyer and recap sheet may be downloaded from the Branch website at www.rscds-canberra.org

Monday, 30 November 2015: Batemans Bay St Andrews Day Social

Batemans Bay Community Centre, 12:30 pm

Haggis Lunch and Social Dancing. Music by Bob McInnes and Jane Ellis

Contact Carolyn 4471 2164 or xerrol40@hotmail.com RSVP by 16 November (for catering purposes)

A flyer may be obtained from the Branch website www.rscds-canberra.org

Saturday, 12 December 2015: Combined Christmas Social

Belconnen SCD and Scottish Country Dance Club of Canberra

Maquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie, 7:30 pm

Music by Stringfiddle: Bob McInnes and Jane Ellis

Admission \$15

A program and recap sheet may be obtained from the Branch website www.rscds-canberra.org

Valé Walter Brunton

Walter passed away on 2 November 2015, aged 73 years, following several years of illness. He was the loving husband of Sheelagh, father of Lyn and Adam, and grandfather of Georgina, Colin, Will and Angus.

Walter was, among other things, a Scottish country dancer, dairy farmer, traditional jazz enthusiast, and member and sometime President of the Bermagui Lion's Club.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

DANCE FREQUENCY LISTS

CAMPBELL'S LISTS

Here is an update on the frequency in which dances appear on programs of Scottish country dance Socials and Balls around the world. Since January 2008, Campbell Tyler of Cape Town, South Africa, has been compiling a data base of dances from such programs. From this he has created and maintains 15 Frequent Dance Lists, which are posted on the website of the RSCDS International Branch website (Google Campbell Tyler Cape Town, then Campbell's Lists).

As at 1 July, 2015 these lists were compiled from 1,750 programs: 360 from Scotland, 470 from the rest of the UK, 252 from the USA, 181 from Europe, 177 from Australia, 121 from Canada, 113 from New Zealand, 61 from South Africa and 15 from Japan. His next update is due out on 31 December. I hope to boost this number by sending him more than 50 recent programs from Canberra & District (thereby boosting the Australian influence).

Here, I comment briefly on two of the 15 lists:

- List 1: the 500 most frequent dances in all the programs; and
- List 15: a 'weighted' List 1. Campbell says that this was "compiled to counter the 'deadweight' nature of the sheer bulk of programmes from early on which tends to work against more recent dances that have appeared in the last few years."
- So List 15 is compiled taking into account the date of the programme and the number of dancers attending. Dances appearing on a recent programme with many dancers attending score higher than those which appear on an old programme with fewer dancers. In this list programmes from 2008 and 2009 are excluded and those from 2010 have only 10% of the weighting of those from 2015.

Below is a table listing the top 50 of the 500 dances from Lists 1 and 15. The choice of 50 is somewhat arbitrary but seems a manageable number for a first look. See what you make of it.

To interpret the numbers, consider the first row below the headings. Montgomerie's Rant is the #1 dance in the **unweighted** list and #3 in the weighted list. Pelorus Jack is #1 in the weighted list and #2 in the **unweighted** list. And so on.

The ten bolded dances in the unweighted list, beginning with # 28 **Napier's Index**, drop out of the top 50 in the weighted list. The ten bolded dances in the weighted list, beginning with #9 **Best Set in the Hall**, do not appear in the top 50 of the unweighted list.

Comparing the weighted list with the unweighted one, the big downwards movers are Napier's Index and Polharrow Burn, and the big upwards movers are Best Set in the Hall, City of Belfast, Blooms of Bon Accord and A Capital Jig.

	List 1 (Unweighted)	List 15 (A 'Weighted' List 1)
1	Montgomerie's Rant (3)	Pelorus Jack (2)
2	Pelorus Jack (1)	De'il Amang the Tailors (6)
3	Mairi's Wedding (8)	Montgomerie's Rant (1)
4	Minister on the Loch (5)	Scott Meikle (19)
5	Reel of the Royal Scots (6)	Minister on the Loch (4)
6	De'il Amang the Tailors (2)	Reel of the Royal Scots (5)
7	Maxwell's Rant (7)	Maxwell's Rant (7)
8	Catch the Wind (10)	Mairi's Wedding (3)
9	Hooper's Jig (20)	Best Set in the Hall (59)
10	Reel of the 51st Division (11)	Catch the Wind (8)
11	Joie de Vivre (22)	Reel of the 51st Division (10)

12	Irish Rover (19)	Culla Bay (26)
13	Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan (26)	Mrs Stewart's Jig (17)
14	Shiftin' Bobbins (23)	Gentleman (18)
15	Wild Geese (25)	Dream Catcher (16)
16	Dream Catcher (15)	Sugar Candie (20)
17	Mrs Stewart's Jig (13)	City of Belfast (89)
18	Gentleman (14)	Neidpath Castle (22)
19	Scott Meikle (4)	Irish Rover (12)
20	Sugar Candie (16)	Hooper's Jig (9)
21	Bees of Maggieknockater (34)	Bratach Bana (23)
22	Neidpath Castle (18)	Joie de Vivre (11)
23	Bratach Bana (21)	Shiftin' Bobbins (14)
24	MacDonald of the Isles (42)	Jubilee Jig (29)
25	Machine Without Horses (36)	Wild Geese (15)
26	Culla Bay (12)	Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan (13)
27	Sailor (29)	Blooms of Bon Accord (58)
28	Napier's Index (56)	JB Milne (38)
29	Jubilee Jig (24)	Sailor (27)
30	Tribute to the Borders (38)	Flowers of Edinburgh (37)
31	Quarries' Jig (32)	Silver Tassie (32)
32	Silver Tassie (31)	Quarries' Jig (31)
33	Seton's Ceilidh Band (46)	Capital Jig (72)
34	Follow Me Home (44)	Bees of Maggieknockater (21)
35	Miss Gibson's Strathspey (37)	Duke of Perth (40)
36	Polharrow Burn (58)	Machine Without Horses (25)
37	Flowers of Edinburgh (30)	Miss Gibson's Strathspey (35)
38	JB Milne (28)	Tribute to the Borders (30)
39	Robertson Rant (53)	EH3 7AF (41)
40	Duke of Perth (35)	Autumn in Appin (79)
41	EH3 7AF (39)	Chequered Court (61)
42	Gang the Same Gate (59)	MacDonald of the Isles (24)
43	Laird of Milton's Daughter (55)	General Stuart's Reel (51)
44	Piper and the Penguin (49)	Follow Me Home (34)
45	White Heather Jig (67)	Miss Milligan's Strathspey (54)
46	I P Farewell to Auchterarder (75)	Seton's Ceilidh Band (33)
47	Trip to Bavaria (62)	Falls of Rogie (78)
48	Belle of Bon Accord (48)	Belle of Bon Accord (48)
49	Posties Jig (74)	Piper and the Penguin (44)
50	Wind on Loch Fyne (79)	Byron Strathspey (65)

I gratefully acknowledge Campbell Tyler and the RSCDS International Branch website as the sources of the information in this article.

J.A.



Jenny Wanless and The Black Mountain Reelers

Jenny Wanless: photo by Bobby Clark, co-founder of the SCDCC, at a Scottish dance in Canberra in the late 1950s.

Jenny Wanless has retired from teaching the Black Mountain Reelers after more than a quarter of a century of service to the group. She probably led more than a thousand Tuesday lunchtime classes, all conducted with knowledge and humour and patience and an infectious love of Scottish Dancing that inspired everyone.

She was not the first teacher of the group, but is by far the longest serving. It was founded in the early 1980s by Les Cumming, to many the “Father of Scottish Country Dancing in Canberra”, in response to a request from ANU for “wellness programmes” for staff. Jenny was one of the earliest members and took over as teacher in 1989 after Les retired from dancing and his short-term successor Margaret Mackisack left Canberra.

At first the group met in the Arts Centre and the Forestry building and various foyers in ANU, sometimes not knowing from week to week where the next class would be held. Some loyal members from those early days still dance every Tuesday lunchtime with the Reelers. In 1990 Charles Hocart, then resident in University House, obtained permission to use the Molly Huxley Room above the archway at the rear of the quadrangle. This became the regular meeting place for the next 23 years, sustained throughout by Jenny, until it was requisitioned by ANU. BMR moved to the North Oval Pavilion for a year and at the start of 2015 severed the long connection with the university by transferring to the North Canberra Baptist Church along with the Scottish Country Dance Club of Canberra (SCDCC), with whom it gratefully accepted affiliation under a joint membership arrangement in 2008. Some past and present ANU staff still attend, and nowadays the Reelers class is a happy mixture: some dance on Tuesday lunchtimes only, some dance with the SCDCC on Thursday evenings as well, and some also dance with other groups such as the RSCDS Canberra and District Branch. BMR has always been open to all and remains so.

Jenny is by a long way the longest standing member of the SCDCC, having joined in about 1958 (she and John recruited the writer to the Club in 1974). She retired from active dancing a few years ago and has now decided to retire from teaching. She will receive formal thanks for her long dedication at a function on 28th November, when she is to be awarded Life Membership of the SCDCC, joining the honour roll of those who have made outstanding contributions to it since its foundation in 1952.

She has been the heart and soul of the BMR for 26 years, giving enormous pleasure to successive memberships. All owe her a great debt of gratitude. It goes without saying that she will be missed. Nevertheless BMR will continue. Ann Parkinson has danced with the group for many years and has succeeded Jenny as teacher, aided by David Parkinson and Brian Gunning. The group continues to enjoy Scottish dancing every Tuesday in the North Canberra Baptist Church Hall in Condamine Street, from just after noon to just before 2.00pm, usually fitting in 6-8 dances in each session, tailoring programmes of old favourites and newer dances to suit the numbers present. We maintain Jenny’s tradition of maximising enjoyment by covering formations and phrasing in thorough walk-throughs. We have a lot of fun!

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along and enjoy dancing at lunchtime, whether or not they also attend classes in the evening. BMR’s details are under the SCDCC tab on the Canberra SCD website, at <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/home/canberra-clubs/scd-club-of-canberra/black-mountain-reelers>

Brian Gunning

Scotch Circle is published by RSCDS (Canberra & District) and the Committee reserves rights of editorial control. The closing date for next Scotch Circle is Friday, 22 January 2016.

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