

# SCOTCH CIRCLE

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May 2010

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

Chair: Jack Arthur (02) 6254 7879 [jarthur@apex.net.au](mailto:jarthur@apex.net.au)  
Secretary: Alan McCulloch (02) 6288 5670 [alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com](mailto:alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com)  
Treasurer: Mary Gellatly (02) 6281 2029 [marygellatly@hotmail.com](mailto:marygellatly@hotmail.com)

## Message from the Chair

### Greetings

The 2010 Scottish country dancing year is now well and truly underway. So far this year the Branch classes have been quite well attended, including our course for Beginners, the General class, the Occasional class and the Friday afternoon Gentle class for Gentle dancers. A Celebration for Barbara, the first major social event for the year, organised by the Thursday group (SCDCC) and supported by the Branch and the Belconnen and Burns Groups, was a great success. Strathmannan were in fine form. Thanks to the organisers and all who attended.

During the coming three or four months, a number of social events are on offer in Canberra and District. These include: the Nowra Ball (15 May); The Branch Pot Luck Tea Dance (22 May); the Cooma Ball (5 June); Belconnen 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday Social (26 June); Bateman's Bay 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Social (17 July); and the Canberra Ball (21 August). Further details of these events are included inside.

The February edition of Scotch Circle contained an article about dances frequently included in a selection of 500 Scottish country dance programmes collected from around the world. We received a number of comments and queries about the article. For example what are the factors that result in a dance building up and/or maintaining a track record of frequent appearances in dance programmes? Why, in particular, is Pelorus Jack so popular? It can be said at one level, that event organisers will include at least a core of dances that they feel are well known, well liked and which will therefore attract dancers to the event. But this begs the question of why these frequently-included dances become popular in the first place.

I would be interested in receiving your views about why certain dances appear frequently in dance programmes. You will also find inside an update of the dance frequency analysis – Campbell Tyler now has 600 dance programmes in his data base (up from the 500 commented upon in February Scotch Circle).

Happy dancing

Jack Arthur

## BRANCH CLASSES

### GENERAL CLASS

During February, March and April, the general class on Wednesday evenings was taken by Sandra Carroll, who took dancers through an interesting variety of dances, David Ayre will be taking the class until mid-June, followed by Ann Parkinson until about mid-August.

### OCCASIONAL CLASS

The occasional class, for dancers interested in maintaining and improving their dancing skills, has been under the tutelage of Elaine Arthur. The remaining classes for this semester will be held on Monday 3, 17 and 31 May, at St Andrews Church Hall, from 6 to 7 pm. A further block of classes will be held during second semester, possibly during August, September and October. Further details will appear in the Branch Newsletter and next Scotch Circle.

### GENTLE DANCING FOR GENTLE DANCERS

This Friday afternoon class is being led by Jessie Middlemiss. It continues to be of interest not only to those dancers who now like to dance at a more leisurely pace, but also to persons for whom an afternoon class is convenient.

### BEGINNERS COURSES

The **FIRST** eight-week course for beginners will finish on 5 May. It has worked well thanks to the teaching of Elizabeth Low and the valuable assistance given by experienced dancers, particularly Elaine, Glenys, Colin and Hisako. Two optional additional classes will be offered on 12 and 19 May at a cost of \$5 per class.

The Branch is planning to conduct a **SECOND** eight-week course of classes for beginners following the success of the first one. It will be open to new beginners as well as those who have attended the first one. It is planned to hold the weekly classes at St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest on Wednesdays from 6.00 to 7.15 pm between 2 June and 28 July inclusive. There will not be a class on 7 July. A **free class** on Wednesday 26 May 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 Jack Arthur, by telephone 6254 7879, or by email [jarthur@apex.net.au](mailto:jarthur@apex.net.au) Please bring the registration form with you to the free class.

### DISPLAYS

During March and April, display teams organised by Branch teacher, Elaine Arthur, performed at the Albert Hall 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday celebration, the Canberra City Pipes and Drums fund-raising Ceilidh, the National Folk Festival States of Display item, and the Bundanoon Highland Gathering. Thanks to all the dancers who participated, including: Alan, Fiona, Glenys, Peggy, Jenny, Robbie, TJ, Linda, Colin, Bruce, Derek, Kate, Irina, Jessie, Mary, Toni, Margaret, Shirley, Mary Kay, Sheelagh, Geoff and Tony. Thanks also to visiting musicians Gary and Linda Lieberman who played for us at the Albert Hall display.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday 15 May 2010**

### NOWRA SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BALL

**Venue:** School of Arts, Berry Street, Nowra  
**Time:** 7 pm for Grand March 7.30 pm  
**Music:** Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford  
**Cost:** Tickets \$35. Send payments to Nowra Scottish Country Dance Group  
PO Box 422, Nowra, NSW 2541  
**Ticket enquiries:** Judy O'Farrell (02) 4421 6404  
**Other enquiries:** Billets etc. to Janita Morrison (02) 4464 2573

#### **Program:**

The Barmkin; Tribute to the Borders; Strathglass House; Maxwell's Rant; The Machine without Horses; Flowers of Edinburgh; Sands of Morar; The Chequered Court; Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan; The Robertson Rant; Cutty Sark; The Australian Ladies; Sauchie Haugh; The Laird of Milton's Daughter; A Trip to Bavaria; Cherrybank Gardens; The Jubilee Jig; 12 Coates Crescent; EH3 7AF; Mairi's Wedding.

**Saturday 22 May 2010**

### BRANCH POT LUCK TEA DANCE

**Time:** Dancing 3.00 pm - 5.30 pm; Pot Luck Tea 5.30 pm  
**Venue:** St Andrews Church Hall  
**Cost:** \$5, plus a little food to share for a pot luck tea.

Join us on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May to sample once again something a little different to our usual bill of fare. An afternoon of social dancing from 3.00 pm – 5.30 pm followed by an early Pot Luck tea will leave your Saturday evening free to pursue other interests. Newer dancers are particularly welcome and all dances will be recapped (or walked through if required). Bring some food to share with others.

Enquiries to Jack Arthur 02 6254 7879 or email [jarthur@apex.net.au](mailto:jarthur@apex.net.au).

The Program is as follows:

1. The Dhoon	(J4x32) 4C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 40
2. The Flowers of Edinburgh	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 1
3. Monymusk	(S8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 11
4. Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	(J8x32) 2C (4C set)	RSCDS Gr Bk
5. Trip to Gatlinburg	(8x32) 3C (4C set)	S Tang
6. The Glens of Antrim	(S8x32) 3C (4C set)	Belfast Branch 40 <sup>th</sup>
7. Napier's Index	(J8x40) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 45
8. Catch the Wind	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 45
9. The Dunsmuir Strathspey	(S3x32) 3C (3C set)	J Drewry, Bankhead 1
10. The Witch's Stone	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	Craigevar 5
11. The Piper and the Penguin	(R1x88) 4C Sq set	Scotia Suite
12. Sugar Candie	(S8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 26
13. The Royal Deeside Railway	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 40
14. Joie de Vivre	(J8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Bk 39
15. Reel of the Royal Scots	(R8x32) 3C (4C set)	RSCDS Lft

**Saturday 5 June 2010**

**MONARO CALEDONIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL TARTAN BALL**

**Venue:** Cooma Ex-Services Club, Vale St, Cooma  
**Time:** 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm  
**Music:** Strathmannan  
**Cost:** Tickets \$40, from Eileen Pevere, (02) 6452 5154

**Program:**

Clutha; Jubilee Jig; Silver Tassie; Shiftin' Bobbins; Pride of Erin; Pelorus Jack; Minister on the Loch; Mairi's Wedding; Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder; Anna Holden's Strathspey; Polharrow Burn; Reel of the Royal Scots; Robertson Rant; Barn Dance; Royal Deeside Railway; Cutty Sark; Dream Catcher; Maxwell's Rant; Muirland Willie; Butterscotch and Honey; De'il amang the Tailors; Major Ian Stewart; Follow me Home; Strathglass House.

**Saturday 26 June 2010**

**BELCONNEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS  
35<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY SOCIAL**

**Venue:** Assembly Hall, Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie  
**Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Music:** Strathmannan  
**Cost:** \$10  
**Supper:** Served at conclusion of dancing

**Program:**

The Happy Meeting; The Dancing Man; City of Belfast; The Frisky; Polharrow Burn; Barbara's Strathspey; Side by Side; Duke of Perth; Sharing and Caring; The Inimitable Derek; The Machine without Horses; John McAlpin; Flowers of Edinburgh; A Capital Jig; The Minister on the Loch; Mairi's Wedding

**4 – 11 July 2010**

**RSCDS 35<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN WINTER SCHOOL  
ADELAIDE**

Winter School Secretary      Jill Pope  
Winter School Registrar      Neville Pope  
Phone: (08) 8263 1324      Fax: (08) 8264 5609  
Email: [winter\\_school@npope.net](mailto:winter_school@npope.net)      Website: [www.rscds.org.au](http://www.rscds.org.au)

**17 July 2010**

**BATEMAN'S BAY CALEDONIAN SOCIETY  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**Venue:** Batemans Bay Community Centre, Museum Place  
**Time:** 6.30 for 7.00 pm - cost \$25. Soup & nibbles on arrival and also supper.  
**Music:** Bob McInnes.  
**Contacts:** Moira Blades 02 4472 3696 email [moirablades@bigpond.com](mailto:moirablades@bigpond.com)  
Kathy Johnson mob: 0400 437 711 email [johnsonk8@tadaust.org.au](mailto:johnsonk8@tadaust.org.au)

Billets available.

## **BATEMAN'S BAY 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** (continued)

### **Program:**

The Barn Dance, Anniversary Reel, Wild Geese, Short History of the Society, Cherrybank Gardens, Reel of the Royal Scots, Dashing White Sergeant, Scottish Songs/ Poem (Jean Conway), Demo Dance, Pride of Erin, Highland Dance (John Morrison), Recital on the harp (Jenita Morrison), Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Neidpath Castle, Luckenbooth Brooch, Trip to Bavaria, Mairi's Wedding.

**Wednesday 21 July 2010**

### **CANBERRA BRANCH SPECIAL CLASS VISITING OVERSEAS TEACHER**

**Venue:** St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest

**Time:** 8.00 pm (Note: not the usual Wednesday class starting time of 7.30 pm )

**Cost:** RSCDS Members \$4; non-members \$5

Elinor Vandegrift, from Seattle, USA, will be visiting Australia primarily to teach at the RSCDS Adelaide Winter School in early July. The Branch is pleased to announce that she will be making a visit to Canberra after Winter School and will teach the Branch general class on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of July. Elinor is a very experienced and highly regarded teacher, having taken classes and workshops in many parts of the USA and in other countries. Such visits are infrequent; hence this is a good opportunity for you to experience a fresh approach to the teaching of Scottish country dancing. Put this event in your diary if you possibly can.

**Saturday, 21 August 2010**

### **THE CANBERRA BALL in the Great Hall of University House Australian National University, Balmain Crescent, Acton with music by STRATHMANNAN Drinks 7.00 pm, Grand March and Dancing start 7.30 pm Tickets \$40**

#### Programme

The Buchan Eightsome Reel, Ladies' Fancy, Up in the Air, Blooms of Bon Accord, Roaring Jelly, The Silver Tassie, The Button Boy, The Kelloholm Jig, Barbara's Strathspey, The Australian Ladies, Waltz Country Dance, Seton's Ceilidh Band, MacDonald of the Isles, Bratach Bana, The Dream Catcher, Pelorus Jack, The Royal Deeside Railway, The Minister on the Loch, The Wild Geese, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Recaps sheets are available at <http://www.rscds-canberra.org>

Visitors are especially welcome.

For further information contact:

Colin Allum (02) 6258 2009 [colallum@optusnet.com.au](mailto:colallum@optusnet.com.au)

Jack Arthur (02) 6254 7879 [jarthur@apex.net.au](mailto:jarthur@apex.net.au)

Dave Dempster (02) 6297 5608 [daviddempster161@live.com](mailto:daviddempster161@live.com)

## TOP 50 DANCES

In the February 2010 issue we reported on an analysis of 500 dance programmes from around the world by Campbell Tyler of Cape Town. The analysis appeared in an email on the strathspey server in May 2009. Just to hand is his latest list, which incorporates an additional 100 programmes. Here is an edited version of what Campbell reported.

- The database contains 1,190 dances, 559 of which have appeared on one programme only.
- Most programmes are from Scotland (171) and England (169). USA (87) and Australia (69) are next. Europe, Canada, New Zealand and Japan are growing.
- Dances now have to appear on at least 51 of the 600 programmes to make the top fifty.
- Since last I reported, Montgomerie's Rant has swapped places with Pelorus Jack at the top, with Mairi's Wedding sandwiched between them. These three are way ahead of the rest, with Montgomerie's opening a sizable gap. Otherwise the list is stable, with the exception of the Lavendar Ladies, Miss Gibson and Miss Milligan, who have been arguing between themselves heatedly and in the process moving up the list steadily for a long time. They are now in 44 and 45 respectively, swapping continuously. Because of this stability I have been provided with the feature of selecting programmes by date, so I am able to compare 2008 with 2009 for instance. I have also taken to tracking newer dances. So for instance the Homecoming Dance is moving steadily up the table, currently at 186. Capital Jig is 214 and the Valentine at 406. An interesting one is Eightsome Reel, up from 305 to 216, perhaps as a result of more ceilidh dances coming into programmes, to attract newcomers?

Top Scottish and English dances - Mairi's Wedding and Montgomerie's Rant, USA - Silver Tassie, Australia - Minister on the Loch, then Laird of Miltons Daughter, New Zealand - Pelorus Jack (surprise!), Japan - De'il Amang the Tailors.

The top 50 are (previous positions after):

- 1 Montgomerie's Rant 3  
2 Mairi's Wedding 2  
3 Pelorus Jack 1  
4 Minister on the Loch 4  
5 Maxwells Rant 7  
6 Reel of the Royal Scots 6  
7 Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan 5  
8 Deil Amang the Tailors 11  
9 Hoopers Jig 8  
10 Joie de Vivre 9  
11 Bratach Bana 12  
12 Irish Rover 10  
13 Wild Geese 13  
14 Shiftin' Bobbins 15  
15 Reel of the 51st Division 17  
16 Neidpath Castle 14  
17 Dream Catcher 16  
18 Catch the Wind 23  
19 Machine without Horses 24  
20 Sugar Candie 19  
21 Sailor 18  
22 Mrs Stewart's Jig 21  
23 Bees of Maggie Knockater 20  
24 MacDonald of the Isles 25  
25 Seton's Ceilidh Band 26  
26 Napier's Index 29  
27 Silver Tassie 28  
28 Gang The Same Gate 22  
29 Gentleman 30  
30 Luckenbooth Brooch 27  
31 Quarries Jig 38  
32 Tribute to the Borders 33  
33 Laird of Milton's Daughter 37  
34 Robertson Rant 39  
35 EH37AF 31  
36 Ian Powrie's Farewell 35  
37 Polharrow Burn 32  
38 Culla Bay 34  
39 Piper and the Penguin 36  
40 Duke of Perth 42  
41 Clutha 40  
42 Belle of Bon Accord 41  
43 Cherrybank Gardens 43  
44 Miss Milligan's Strathspey 54  
45 Miss Gibson's Strathspey 58  
46 Posties Jig 53  
47 Trip to Bavaria 45  
48 Wind on Loch Fyne 49  
49 White Heather Jig 48  
50 John of Bon Accord 50

The three dances to drop out since last time are General Stuarts Reel,  
Follow me Home and Jubilee Jig.

### **Calendar of Events 2010** (As at 1 May 2010)

<b>MAY</b>	
<b>15 May</b>	Nowra SCD Group 34 <sup>th</sup> Annual Ball Belconnen advanced social class
<b>22 May</b>	Branch Pot Luck Tea Dance
<b>28 May</b>	Belconnen Advanced Social Class
<b>JUNE</b>	
<b>5 June</b>	Monaro Caledonian Society (Cooma) Ball
<b>26 June</b>	Belconnen SCD 35 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Social.
<b>JULY</b>	
<b>4-11 July</b>	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
<b>17 July</b>	Bateman's Bay Caledonian Society Birthday Social, 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
<b>21 July</b>	Special Branch Class by Elinor Vandegrift, visiting overseas teacher
<b>23 July</b>	Belconnen Advanced Social Class
<b>AUGUST</b>	
<b>13 Aug</b>	Belconnen Advanced Social Class
<b>21 Aug</b>	Canberra Ball.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
<b>4 Sept</b>	Southern Highlands SCD Annual Social
<b>15 Sept</b>	Branch AGM
<b>? 18 Sept</b>	Marengo SCD Social.
<b>24 Sept</b>	Belconnen Advanced Social Class
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
<b>8-10 Oct</b>	Far South Coast SCD Group, Bermagui Weekend.
<b>29 Oct</b>	Belconnen advanced social class. Final for year
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
<b>20 Nov</b>	Burns SCD Group St Andrew's Night Celebration
<b>24 Nov</b>	Branch End-of-year Social
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
<b>? Dec</b>	Branch "Gentle Dancing for Gentle Dancers" class Annual Picnic
<b>4 Dec</b>	Combined Belconnen SCD and SCDCC Christmas Social

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*Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Friday, 30 July 2010*

*Contributions and requests for electronic version to June Browne at  
ceilidh@bigpond.com.au*