

# SCOTCH CIRCLE

Vol 26 No 4

November 2006

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

Co-Chair	Elaine Arthur	(02) 6254 7879
	Brian Gunning	
Secretary	Bruce Clark	(02) 6288 2487
Treasurer	David Parkinson	(02) 6247 0964

## Co-Chairs' Message

At our recent Annual General Meeting yours truly were elected Co-Chairs for another year while Bruce Clark and David Parkinson were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Also re-elected to the Committee were Elizabeth Low, Olive Macleod and Barbara Monahan, and we welcome new Committee member Geoff Lau. We would like to thank particularly Bruce and David for the untiring service they continue to give the Branch and we also acknowledge the valued work of the other Committee members, including that of Fiona Ainley, who may rejoin the Committee when she returns from the UK. The new Committee will hold office until just after the 2007 Winter School.

The Winter School sub-Committee, comprising Elaine (Convenor), Ann Welburn (Secretary), Jan Clark (Treasurer) and Brian (member) are continuing their work preparing for the 2007 School and we take this opportunity to thank Ann and Jan for their sterling efforts. Applications are already rolling in but we still have a long way to go to reach our break-even target. It would be most helpful if local dancers would register early, whether as residents or as commuters.

During the year, the Branch again provided a comprehensive range of dancing classes and social events. Our beginner, regular, junior and gentle dancers' classes were all well attended and our thanks go to the various teachers. The social events – beginning-of-year BBQ, hosted dinner, Canberra Ball (organised in conjunction with local dance groups) and end-of-year social – were all successful and enjoyable. It was especially good to see so many members of Sandra's junior class enjoying the dancing a few weeks ago (see photo in this issue).

Details of the 2007 calendar of classes, socials and other functions in the Canberra region are given in this Scotch Circle. The Branch will not be holding its usual Barbecue and Dance at Hall in February, but a major birthday celebration is on the programme instead. In view of the Winter School we will not be running the usual Day School in 2007, and all Canberra SCD groups have agreed that the Winter School Ball will take the place of the Canberra Ball – it will, of course, be open to everyone, and not just Winter School participants.

We hope that you enjoy the remaining dancing activities for the year; we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year; and we trust that, after the summer break you will be refreshed and ready to resume and enjoy your Scottish country dancing in 2007.

*Elaine and Brian*

## Branch News

### Surplus equipment

We have one Coomber tape deck (with variable speed control) that is surplus to requirements. The speed controller is a little touchy and needs attention. If you have any suggestions for disposal of this equipment please talk to Bruce Clark. 02 6288 2487 or [jbclark@webone.com.au](mailto:jbclark@webone.com.au)

### Junior dance class

The end of the year has been particularly busy for our junior class.

At the beginning of the month we had a very cheerful group at the sausage sizzle and social. We had a good response from the adult dancers and all the juniors were able to show what they had been learning during the year. They generally managed to keep the adults on the straight and narrow. Everybody had a great deal of fun.

Later in the month the junior class put on a display at the St Andrews Village fete. It was a lovely display of dancing and the audience was very appreciative.

Our thanks to Sandra Carroll for teaching the class and to Barbara Monahan for being the regular assistant at the Tuesday junior class.



This photograph was taken at the Sausage Sizzle before the juniors mshed up their neat tidy appearance playing a good natured game of tag.

Back row left to right – Cara, Anna, Naomi

Front row left to right – Madeline, Angela, Campbell, Emma, Kira

### Outfits for dancing displays

For about 12 months a small subcommittee comprising Jan Clark, Trish MacDonald and Barbara Monahan have been consulting members who are or have been involved in our dancing displays over the years to develop a new look for the teams who perform at public events like Floriade and the Multicultural Festival.

This year at Floriade we were able to turn out a new look team. The women's outfits are a light blue blouse and skirt with a Canberra tartan sash with the men in kilts and white jacobite-style shirts. A grant from the ACT Government enabled the branch to purchase the shirts as well as the sashes and material for the women's outfit. If you were not involved in this year's Floriade display, don't be concerned, we have sufficient material to make more outfits for all the women out there who are keen to join our future displays and there are spare shirts for the men too!

Our thanks to the sub committee for persisting in bringing this somewhat challenging project to a successful conclusion. Thanks also to Barbara, Elizabeth, Glenys, Jan, Libby and Peggy who turned their hand to the sewing.

This photo is of the team at Floriade this year.



## **Annual General Meeting**

We successfully completed the business of our meeting on 18 October and a new committee was elected -

Co-chairs	Elaine Arthur and Brian Gunning
Secretary	Bruce Clark
Treasurer	David Parkinson
Committee members	Olive Macleod, Geoff Lau, Elizabeth Low, Barbara Monahan

In the normal run of events the next AGM would be held in September 2007 and a new committee would be elected. This would be shortly before Winter School and could be very disruptive so it was proposed that the next AGM be deferred until early October 2007 to allow the existing committee and its Winter School subcommittee to see that project to its conclusion.

The committee has also been asked to review the quorum requirements of the constitution to see if there is any reasonable way to avoid a repetition of the situation that occurred this year with the AGM having to be adjourned for want of a quorum.

The Secretary introduced the annual report indicating that in the last few years the proportion of members who live outside ACT has increased considerably and we have reprinted it in this issue for the information of those who were not able to get to the meeting

## ***Annual Report for year ending 30 June 2006***

### **Membership**

During the year the membership of the Branch has remained at about the same level: a small number of resignations of people who had ceased to be active dancers being offset by new members derived from the Wednesday classes.

### **Our broad approach to managing the branch**

Generally we try to conduct our activities so that those people who attend an event meet the cost of staging it. Some items of expenditure relate to more than one activity eg our public liability insurance covers classes, day schools, social events and demonstrations. We don't allocate a proportion of these costs to each event but consider them as part of the overheads of running the branch.

This year, the classes have been particularly well attended and made a profit which fully met the overhead costs that might be assigned to them.

The branch provides other services to members eg through Scotch Circle, maintenance of the website, bringing overseas teachers to Canberra, which, together with administrative costs such as postage, are met from the annual subscription. The financial statements show that the subscriptions have been fully absorbed by the provision of these services.

### **Regular classes**

We have continued to run our classes

- On Wednesday evenings we maintained a beginners class throughout the year followed by a general class catering for a wide range of dancers including newer dancers and more experienced and long standing members of the dance community.
- The gentle dancers class on Friday afternoons has been a continuing success particularly as an avenue to allow those who find an afternoon class more convenient than an evening one.
- The children's classes continued to operate satisfactorily. The class has moved from the Burns Club in Kambah to the Yarralumla United Church to reduce the travel demands on the teacher.

Experience over the last few years of conducting a beginner class and a more broadly based class on Wednesday evening suggests that this arrangement has overcome the difficulty we have experienced in the past in getting people to move into the broader dance community. These classes have been extremely successful with a great atmosphere combining enjoyment and learning: they have attracted new dancers, most of them very keen regular attendees, with many having gained enough confidence and ability to let them go to social functions.

## **Day school**

We conducted a day school in Canberra in March. [Trish Nicholls from Sydney](#) and Elspeth Lacey from Canberra conducted separate sessions in the morning and afternoon for intermediate and more advanced dancers. We were able to have live music for the both classes thanks to Bob McInnes and Polly Garland and Kate Scott and Jane Ellis. For the evening social Kate and Jane were joined by the other members of Strathmannan to gives us music that put a spring back in our step at the end of a long day.

The school was very successful in attracting many of our members from outside Canberra and reactions on the day suggest that the day gave an insight into some of the more subtle points which cannot always be highlighted sufficiently in regular classes.

## **Demonstrations**

There were good audiences for our demonstrations at the Multicultural Festival and Floriade. The display used a number of well known dances performed only once or twice with dancers swapping in and out of the set to provide an item of about 20 minutes duration. This was a more interesting and dynamic presentation which attracted favourable comment from the audience and the participants.

Material, sashes and shirts have been purchased for the uniforms and it is anticipated that they will be used for the first time at Floriade in October 2006.

## **Winter School 2007**

The small sub committee organising Winter School has made arrangements covering all the major logistical aspect of the school. Teachers and musicians have been engaged, venues for classes and socials functions have been hired and accommodation booked. The advertising brochure and website provide more detailed information

The sub committee is meeting regularly and making good progress on other aspects which need to be resolved to make the school a reality.

As we get closer to the school in September 2007, there will be a myriad of tasks associated with the School on which the sub committee will be seeking assistance from dancers in Canberra.

## **Classes in 2007**

The beginners class will be commencing again on Wednesday 7 February 2007. The class will start at 6.45pm each evening. As happened this year the beginners will encouraged to join in the early part of the evening at the following regular class. The teachers of the two classes will be coordinating their activities so that formations featuring in the first dance of the regular class program are taught in some detail as part of the beginner class.

The regular Branch Class will commence at 8pm and is intended to continue this year's successful formula which attracted dancers with a wide range of abilities. We are aiming to cater for a diverse audience improving the skills of newer dancers while providing an enjoyable and stimulating evening for those who have been dancing for longer.

Gentle dancing for gentle dancers will continue on Fridays at 2pm at St Andrews. The first class will be held on 2 February 2007.

## END-OF-YEAR QUIZ

### NAME THE 'TOP 20' DANCES (CLUES GIVEN) APPEARING ON SOCIAL DANCE AND BALL PROGRAMS AROUND CANBERRA & DISTRICT 2000-2006

Jack Arthur

Aspects of a survey I recently conducted may be of some interest to readers. I looked at 100 social dance and ball programs held in our area during the seven years 2000-2006. Details of the functions included in the survey are shown as a footnote. Selected summary results follow:

- Had you attended all 100 functions you could have danced 1,686 times (about 17 times per program);
- The 1,686 dance spots were occupied by just 349 individual dances, so that each dance appeared on the 100 programs about 5 times on average. However, as might be expected, there is quite a large variation in the number of times each dance appeared. For example:
  - 151 (nearly half) of the 349 dances appeared on only one program;
  - The 'top 20' dances appeared 486 times in total. That is, together they accounted for 29% (close to one-third) of all the dances on the 100 programs;
- Here are the clues to the names of the 'top 20'; the number of times each dance appeared on the 100 programs is shown in brackets after its clue:
  1. Bicycle built for two (35);
  2. The ice skater (34);
  3. A reel devil (33);
  4. Get me to the Church on Time (30);
  5. Fifty one (29);
  6. Aussies all (27);
  7. Get in behind (26);
  8. A--- H----- (25);
  9. Have a drink (out of) (25);
  10. A rant (not The Robertson) (24);
  11. Scenic area of Benbecula (see Book 41 for ½ mark) (23);
  12. Ode to life... comprenez vous? (22);
  13. Cofounder's significant other (22);
  14. Five couple Foss (20);
  15. Brand of wellington boot (Clyde River steam boat for ½ mark) (19);
  16. NZ confluence (19);
  17. Yarn spinner (19);
  18. Oh sweet strathspey (19);
  19. Sounds like Cooper (18);
  20. Travelling gael (18).

Comments or requests for further information to [arthur@effect.net.au](mailto:arthur@effect.net.au)

(Program sources: (i) Branch: BBQ, Hosted Dinner, AGM, Year-end Social. (ii) Burns Group: Burns Night, White Heather Ball, Spring Hop, St Andrews Night. (iii) Belconnen B'day & Xmas Socials. (iv) SCDCC B'day or New Dancer & Xmas Socials. (v) Canberra Ball (in 2000 WS Formal). (vi) "& District" – Cooma Ball, Nowra Ball, Murringo Social, Bemboka/Bermagui Social. (vii) All up, a theoretical total of 113 events of which 13 are not included because author unable to locate their programs.)

(Answers to the quiz are to be found elsewhere in this issue.)

# Club News

## Celebrating Burns

As usual the Burns Group will be holding the first social event of the year on Saturday 8 February 2007 at St Andrews Church hall Forrest. Bob McInnes and Polly Garland will be playing.

The dance programme is Cutty Sark, Montgomeries Rant, Silver Tassie, Kelloholm Jig, Mason's Apron, The Lea Rig, Machine Without Horses, The Peat Fire Flame, The Banks o' Doon, Joie De Vivre, Catch The Wind, The Minister On The Loch, The Rakish Highlandman, Shiftin' Bobbins, Capetown Wedding, De'il Amang The Tailors

For those who would like to get started dancing early in the year there will be practice nights on Thursday 18 and 25 January at St Andrews Church hall.

## Nowra Scottish Country Dance Group

Our Annual General Meeting was held recently and the following Committee was elected.

President: Mrs Heather Bardsley                      Ph. 02 44415496  
Secretary: Mrs Judy Sleath                              Ph. 02 44418552  
Vice President: Mr Richard Skinner  
Treasurer: Mrs Moira Yates  
Asst Treasurer Mr Terry Yates  
Members: Mrs Elaine Skinner, Mrs Dottie Schunman and Mrs Elizabeth Carter

## Nowra Christmas Social

Our 2006 Christmas Social is being held on Wednesday 13 December at 7:30pm in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Kinghorne Street, Nowra. Cost is \$4 per person.

We would be very pleased to welcome any of your members who are able to attend. If you would like us to billet anyone, please let us know and I'm sure we can arrange this.

Again this year Santa Claus will appear during the evening. It is suggested that each person bring a gift costing \$2-3 and marked whether it is for a man, a lady, or either one.

Supper will be served during the evening. Please let us know if you're able to attend by phoning Heather on 44415496 or Judy on 44418552. Program: Joie de Vivre, Maxwell's Rant, MacDonald of the Isles, Napier's Index, The Australian Ladies, Fisher Blue, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Seann Triubhas Willichan, Muirland Willie, A Christmas Dance, The Dream Catcher, Pelorus Jack, Mairi's Wedding.

## Classes Next Year

Classes next year will be held on a TUESDAY evening from 7.30 pm in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Kinghorne Street, Nowra commencing on Tuesday 7 February.

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ball

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ball will be held on 26 May 2007 at the School of Arts, Berry Street, Nowra.

Time: 6:30pm for non-alcoholic punch and savouries, Grand March at 7:30pm.

Musicians: Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford, MC: Jean Conway

Tickets are \$35 each (includes 2 course buffet dinner – byo drinks)

Tables of 8 will be available. If you have a group of 8 people, let us know and we will reserve a table.

Billets are available on request. Enquiries & Tickets: Judy Sleath (02) 4441 8552, or Heather Bardsley (02) 4441 5496

Program: Joie de Vivre, Anderson's Rant, Waltz Country Dance, Campbell's Frolic. (Buffet dinner followed by tea/coffee). A Welcome to Nowra; The Sauchie Haugh; Hooper's Jig, Petronella, Anna Holden's Strathspey, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Hunting Horn, The Highland Lass, The Dream Catcher, The Montgomeries' Rant, Jimmy's Fancy, The Frisky, Shiftin' Bobbins, Napier's Index, Seann Triubhas Willichan, Mairi's Wedding.

***Answers to quiz:***

1. Pelorus Jack;
2. The Minister on the Loch;
3. The De'il Amang the Tailors;
4. Mairi's Wedding;
5. The Reel of the 51st Division;
6. The Australian Ladies;
7. Follow Me Home;
8. Anna Holden's Strathspey;
9. The Silver Tassie; 10. Maxwell's Rant;
11. Culla Bay; 12. Joie de Vivre; 13. Major Ian Stewart;
14. Polharrow Burn;
15. Clutha;
16. The Meeting of the Waters;
17. Shiftin' Bobbins;
18. Sugar Candie;
19. Hooper's Jig;
20. The Irish Rover.

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

***Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Tuesday 1 February 2007***

***Contributions and requests for electronic version to June Browne at [ceilidh@bigpond.com.au](mailto:ceilidh@bigpond.com.au)***

Canberra and District Branch  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
PO Box 1795, CANBERRA ACT 2601

[www.rscds-canberra.org](http://www.rscds-canberra.org)

SCD in and around Canberra 2007. Further details will appear at [www.rscds-canberra.org](http://www.rscds-canberra.org) closer to the events

<p>January</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 (18) 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 (25) 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>18 and 25 Practices for Burns Night</p>	<p>February</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>(5) (6) (7) (8) (9) 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28</p>	<p>1 SCDCC classes resume</p> <p>3 Burns Night</p> <p>5-9 Burns, Belconnen, Branch, Gentle classes resume this week</p>	<p>March</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 (16) 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 (24) 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>16 Belconnen SCD Advanced Social</p> <p>24 Clarrie's Birthday Social</p>	<p>April</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 (6) (7) (8)</p> <p>(9) 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 (20) 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 (28) 29</p> <p>30</p>	<p>6-9 National Folk Festival (Easter)</p> <p>20 Belconnen SCD Advanced Social</p> <p>28 Bundanoon Highland Gathering</p>	<p>May</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 (18) 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 (26) 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p>18 Belconnen SCD Advanced Social</p> <p>26 Nowra Ball</p>	<p>June</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 (2) 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 (15) 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 (23) 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>2 Monaro Caledonian Society Cooma Ball</p> <p>15 Belconnen SCD Advanced Social</p> <p>23 Burns SCD Group Midwinter Social</p>	<p>July</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 (14) 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 (27) 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p>14 RSCDS Branch Hosted Dinner</p> <p>27 Belconnen SCD Advanced Social</p>	<p>August</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 2 3 (4) 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>4 Belconnen SCD Birthday Social</p>	<p>September</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 (7) 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 (15) 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 (30)</p>	<p>7 Belconnen SCD Advanced Social</p> <p>15 Murringo Social</p> <p>30 Sept - 7 Oct 32nd Australian Winter School, Canberra</p>	<p>October</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>(1) 2 3 4 5 (6) (7)</p> <p>8 9 10 11 (12) 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 (19) 20 21</p> <p>22 23 (24) 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>6 Winter School Ball (open to everyone, and replacing the Canberra Ball this year)</p> <p>12-14 Bernagui weekend</p> <p>19 Belconnen SCD Advanced Social</p> <p>24 RSCDS Branch AGM</p>	<p>November</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 2 (3) 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 (17) 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 (24) 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>3 Branch end-of-year Social</p> <p>17 Burns Group St Andrews Night</p> <p>24 Batemans Bay SCD Group St Andrews Dinner Dance</p>	<p>December</p> <p>M T W T F S S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 (6) 7 8 (9) 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>	<p>1 Belconnen + SCDCC Christmas Social</p> <p>6 Cooma Christmas Social</p>
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