

SCOTCH CIRCLE

Vol 27 No 3

August 2007

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

It is hard to think of anything other than the Winter School at the moment. It is only a month away, and although the main framework is well and truly established, a myriad of detailed organisational matters are still being settled. We are very grateful to all of the local volunteers who have offered to come along and assist in making everything run as smoothly as possible. As the numbers stand at present, 144 inter-state visitors will join 25 ACT dancers at the School. This good response is very gratifying, and in fact the Intermediate Class has grown to such an extent that we have decided it had to be subdivided to give more manageable numbers. Our sincere thanks go to Trish Nicholls and Susie Pugh, both from Sydney, for agreeing at short notice to share the teaching duties for the newly-created class.

Meanwhile on the local scene we were saddened by the news of Stewart McKenzie's death and send our condolences to Margaret. Stewart taught the SCD Club of Canberra for many years, also the Burns SCD Group, and was a great contributor to Scottish Dancing in the ACT. An obituary appears later in this issue of Scotch Circle.

In other local news, David Ayre will be taking over as teacher of the Branch general class on Wednesdays after the Winter School, and we thank Sandra Carroll for her spell at the helm.

Last, but definitely not least, this is the last Scotch Circle before our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 24th October. We will not be standing for re-election as Co-Chairs, and so our last duty, in this our last "Message", is to ask everyone to come along to the meeting, to make sure we exceed our quorum, and to contribute to the future of SCD in the District by electing the new Committee and helping to guide its policy for 2008 and subsequent years. AGM papers are a prominent part of this Scotch Circle. Please pay special heed to the "advertisement"!

We thank you very much for your support during our two years as Co-Chairs.

Brian and Elaine

Branch News

POSITIONS VACANT

Executive positions in local dance organisation

Applications are being sought to fill the executive offices of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (Canberra and District Branch) commencing in late October 2007.

The positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will become vacant at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch. The present incumbents are not offering themselves for re-election.

The Branch needs the support of a few enthusiastic members to ensure that it can continue to offer dance classes and social events for the benefit of the local community.

Remuneration package – These positions carry no monetary rewards but they do bring with them warm thanks from all in the district who enjoy Scottish Country dancing.

No experience required – training will be provided in the operation of the simple administrative procedures used by the Branch.

**DON'T WAIT TO BE NOMINATED!
CONTACT ONE OF THE CO-CHAIRS Brian or Elaine
TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP SO
THAT A NOMINATION CAN BE ARRANGED.**

**THE BOTTOM LINE:- IF NO NOMINATIONS ARE
FORTHCOMING THERE CAN BE NO BRANCH**

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 October 2007 at St Andrews Church Hall starting at 8.00pm. We will delay the start of the usual class so that we can transact the formal business. It is not expected that the meeting will take a lot of time and everybody is welcome to stay for the class.

Following advice included in previous issues of Scotch Circle the committee unanimously agreed that the following matters should be put to the AGM.

Change in the manner of determining the quorum for general meetings

It is desirable to amend the quorum requirement to recognise the changing nature of our membership and to avoid imposing unnecessary burdens on members.

Notice is given that it is intended on behalf of the committee to move the following

That sub-clause VII(4) of the constitution be amended by omitting “One quarter of the membership” and substituting “One quarter of the annual fee paying members who are financial”.

The amended clause would then read –

One quarter of the annual fee paying members who are financial or twenty five members of the local association which ever shall be the lesser shall constitute a Quorum.

Membership fee for members who join after 1 January

The constitution provides that the rates of subscription for members shall be such as may be determined from time to time at a general meeting.

For several years we have had a general rule to determine the annual fee and it has generally been working satisfactorily. It automatically updates the amount to take into account exchange rate changes and the amount we are required to remit to headquarters. It provides for the same rate to apply throughout the financial year.

By contrast the amount we are required to remit to headquarters is reduced by half for new members joining after 1 January. It is considered we should adopt the same practice

Notice is given that it will be moved that, at the end of the rule determining the rate of subscription, the following provision be added

“For a member who joins the branch for the first time between 1 January and 30 June inclusive the subscription for the year of joining shall be half the subscription otherwise payable.”

The agenda for the meeting and forms to nominate committee members and proxies are included at the end of this issue.

Note from the Editor

There has been some discussion at recent committee meetings about whether Scotch Circle should continue. The success of the magazine depends on the contributions of members and readers. If you, the reader, think it is not quite to your liking, lacks substance or would be better if the articles had a bit more punch, then it is up to you, dear reader, to provide me with the wherewith all to make the magazine interesting.

The editor and committee would welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions..

June Browne

Club News

Batemans Bay Caledonian Society Tartan Night Social – 30 June 2007

The Caledonian Society's Tartan Night Social went off very well with over 60 people attending. Guests were greeted with Pipes and drum on arrival and Hugh McKenna's music was perfect for dancing. MC Warren Hughes kept the proceedings rolling along interspersed with topical comments about the blue moon and superannuation tips. Breaks were taken for a delicious home cooked supper, a poetry recitation and a real treat two sets of three Scottish songs from Rhona McLeod. Also the Bermagui group's demonstration of the dance Auld Lang Syne was loudly applauded. A hearty breakfast was arranged on Sunday morning for those still in the area. Special thanks went to Mrs. Jean Conway for her assistance and the dancers who travelled from outside the Bay area for helping make the evening such a success.

Planning is now underway for our next social event the St. Andrews Supper Dance to be held at the community centre on November the 24th. In the meantime several members will be attending the Winter School in Canberra which in fact will coincide with the Floriade Festival in spring. Hopefully the weather will have improved by then!

Ted Watson

Obituary – David Campbell

Dear SCDers,

Just to let you know that David Campbell passed away suddenly 30th July. You will remember David from the Winter Schools. He always took his flags to the 'camp' and planted them firmly in a prominent spot. His funeral service was well attended by SCDers.

Pat Charlton
Secretary
RSCDS Sydney Branch Inc.



Vale Stewart McKenzie

4 April 1941 – 31 July 2007

On 6 August 2007 a number of dancers gathered at the Church of St Andrew with his wife, Margaret, members of Stewart's family and non-dancing friends to say farewell to Stewart who passed away unexpectedly on 31 July 2007.

Stewart was a long established part of the Scottish Country Dance community and his love of dance was well known. He was part of the Burns Club SCD competition and demonstration team for many years. As well, Stewart also taught the Thursday night group for a number of years and through his gentle and encouraging nature and his love of dance the Thursday night class flourished and grew.

It was through dancing that Stewart gained another love for this was how he and Margaret met. Margaret attended the Thursday night class when she moved to Canberra from Melbourne and herself experienced in these classes Stewart's gentle and encouraging nature.

Stewart's contribution to Scottish Country Dancing in Canberra was significant and all undertaken in an understated and quiet way. His kindness, his strength of character and his love of dancing will remain with us always.

Dance then wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said He
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be
And I'll lead you all in the Dance said He.

Elizabeth Lowe

Forthcoming Events

Southern Highlands Scottish Country Dancers Annual Social



COME DANCING WITH US

We are some of the lucky ones – the rains have returned, bringing all the good things again.

The Far South Coast Group of Scottish Country Dancers again invite you to our Annual Social Weekend in beautiful BERMAGUI from Friday, October 12 to Sunday, October 14 2007.

On the Friday evening in our Community Hall we have planned a pleasant evening with an opportunity for all dancers and non dancers to renew friendships and relax. Bob McInnes and Polly Garland will provide a background of beautiful music but we also have three of our local cheese makers bringing along their cheeses for us to taste and some of our award winning wine makers will be offering some of their products for sampling. Of course, the floor will be open to anyone who has an item of entertainment to share with us. The doors will be open from 7.30.

On Saturday morning, from 10.00am we will have a short workshop to take you through some of the dances from the Saturday night programme. The dances we will concentrate on are Happy Returns, Peggy's Strathspey, Summer Wooing and John of Bon Accord but will cover any other dance on request.

However there will still be plenty of time on Saturday for you to explore our special spot. There is a beautiful golf course, wonderful beaches, bush to walk, shops to check out or perhaps find your way to the cheese and wine outlets! The Visitors' Centre in town will only be too pleased to point you in the right direction.

Saturday night is our Social night starting at 7.30pm with Bob and Polly playing as the String Fiddlers. During the evening we take pride in providing you with a typical country style supper. Our hall is a great size with a very forgiving wooden floor, perfect for dancing and if we get too hot then we just open the doors to allow the sea breeze to cool us down.

Breakfast in The Park will again be our chance to see you off safely homewards. This, of course, will be on Sunday 14th in the park on the foreshore from 9.30am

The cost for the weekend is \$30 which includes the Friday evening (\$5) Saturday night Social (\$15) and Sunday breakfast (\$10)

This weekend is the weekend following Winter School in Canberra so if you are attending there why not keep the energy flowing and come down to the coast. Bermagui is about 3 1/2 hour drive south east from Canberra. Perhaps you have not managed to get to Canberra so don't miss out on some great dancing with us.

All types of accommodation is available. Check us out on www.bermagui.net

To let us know you are coming contact Sheelagh Brunton (02) 6493 6538 wasbrunton@bigpond.com or Trish MacDonald (02) 6493 6350

New Zealand Summer School – Wellington – 28 Dec 2007-6 Jan 2008

Deposits are requested by 31 August 2007, so time is getting short if you wish to attend.

If you can't do the day sessions, you can do the fabulous evening events with Peter Elmes and his Band. All dancing tuition is in the mornings, the musicians' course is in the afternoon, you can do both! The big day out has two excellent options: Kapiti Coast or Wairapapa, each with its own joys! And there is the jam option too. Bowling, adventure, golf, more... Wellington is Central – no major travel costs.

For further information please contact Elaine Laidlaw, phone 06 377 0322 or email mlaidlaw@xtra.co.nz.

Exhibition - The Scots in New Zealand - Opening 18 August 2007 - Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa



Highland Fling, Waipu Highland Games, 2005.
Courtesy of *The Northern Advocate*.

Think 'Scots in New Zealand', and your thoughts will probably turn to tartan, bagpipes, and 'Auld Lang Syne'. But look beyond these and you'll find a Scottish presence everywhere in

New Zealand life.

This exhibition tells the stories of the Scots in New Zealand through a selection of intriguing objects, images, and short films. The stories range from farmers, architects, and engineers, to charismatic church leaders, a Scottish lad who became prime minister, and feisty women who fought for the vote. Contemporary stories feature curlers, artists, musicians, bricklayers, and teachers.

The Scots in New Zealand celebrates one of this country's most widespread migrant groups. For more information visit the Te Papa website <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz>

SCD Calendar for the remainder of 2007 in Canberra and nearby locations

7 September - Belconnen SCD Advanced Social, 8.00pm at Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie, Dances will be led by Sheelagh Brunton, Fiona Ainley and Elaine Arthur, and will be selected from the following: Ciamar a Tha R3C 8x32 Goldring, 3 Anniversary Dances; Glayva S2C 6x32 Drewry, Canadian Book; The Clay Cutters J3C 8x40 A. Brown; The Lanes of Au R3C 3C set Book 32; Chocolate Raspberry Swirl S3C 8x40 T. Glasspool; Eileen Watt's Reel R3C 3C set Wilkinson, Scottish Dancer No. 1; Eileen Watt's Strathspey S3C 3C set Derrick, Scottish Dancer No. 1; The Faculty of Actuaries 4C 4x32 Ian Farr & Jeremy Hill, Leaflet; Angus MacLeod R4C 4x32 Alex Queen leaflet; The White Stag of Mormond R3C 8x32 Drewry, Bankhead 5; Best Set in the Hall J3C 8x32 H. Greenwood, NZ; The Floosie in the Jacuzzi R4C 4x48 Birmingham Diamond Jubilee.

15 September: – This year the RSCDS (Edinburgh) has very opportunely timed its annual “Dance Week” to coincide with the **Annual Marengo Social**, 7.30pm at The Hall, Murringo, \$10, music by Hugh McKenna, contacts Maurice Harcombe 63 846222 or Jean Williams 63 827918. Programme: Napier's Index (J8x40), The Falls of Rogie (R8x32), Monymusk (S8x32), Glayva (J8x32), The Irish Rover (R8x32), Drumelzier (S4x32), The Last of the Lairds (J8x32), A Trip to BavariaA (R4x32), Cauld Kail (M8xS16+R16), Polharrow Burn (R5x32), Catch the Wind (R8x32), Marengo Blue (S2x48), The Luckenbooth Brooch (J8x32), Postie's Jig (J4x32), The Byron Strathspey (S3x32), Shiftin' Bobbins (R8x32), Neidpath Castle (S3x32), Mairi's Wedding (R8x40). Recaps at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Murringo2007.doc>

30 September – 6 October: - 32nd Australian Winter School. All of the evening Socials, and the Ball on Saturday 6 Oct, are open to all dancers.

Sunday 30 Sept: Welcome Social, St Edmunds College Assembly Hall, 7.30pm

Monday 1 Oct: Social, St Edmunds College Assembly Hall, 7.30pm

Tuesday 2 Oct: Ceilidh, St Edmunds College Assembly Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 3 Oct: Social, with the Floriade theme “Aussie Icons”, St Edmunds College Assembly Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 4 Oct: Social – Musician's evening, featuring music and dances chosen by all of the Winter School's musicians, St Edmunds College Assembly Hall, 7.30pm

Dance Programmes for all of the above are available here:-

<http://www.rscds-canberra.org/WS/WS-evening-programs.doc>

Saturday 6 Oct: Winter School Ball, at 7.30pm in St Edmunds College Assembly Hall on Saturday 6th October will be a very special evening of music and dancing, with Chris Duncan, Catherine Strutt and Bob McInnes playing. Even if you have not

registered for the School you can still come along for a mere \$15. A poster giving details can be downloaded here:-

<http://www.rscds-canberra.org/WS/Ball-Poster-web.pdf>

A Recap sheet is available at:

<http://www.rscds-canberra.org/WS/WS-Ball-recaps.doc>

Tickets are available from Jan Clark Ph (02) 6288 2487 or jan.clark@inet.net.au.

13 October: – The Far South Coast Group of Scottish Country Dancers invite you to their **8th Annual Bemboka Social**, To be held in the BERMAGUI COMMUNITY HALL (as part of their Social weekend, 12 th –14 th October 2007); 7.30pm; \$15 including supper. MUSIC BY THE STRING FIDDLERS (Bob McInnes and Polly Garland). The Programme is available at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Bermagui07.doc>

19 October: – **Belconnen SCD Final Advanced Social for 2007**, 8.00pm at Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr, Macquarie,

24 October: – **RSCDS Branch Annual General Meeting**, 8.00pm at St Andrews Church Hall, followed by the usual Wednesday general class.

3 November Branch end-of-year Social

17 November Burns SCD Group St Andrews Night

24 November Batemans Bay SCD Group St Andrews Dinner Dance

1 December Belconnen + SCDCC Combined Christmas Social

6 December Monaro Caledonian Society Cooma Christmas Social

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

Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Thursday 1 November 2007

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

**THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
CANBERRA AND DISTRICT BRANCH INCORPORATED**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 PM WEDNESDAY 24 October 2007

ST ANDREWS CHURCH HALL, FORREST

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2006
3. Business arising
4. Annual Report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Amendment of constitution
7. Amendment of rule determining rate of subscriptions
8. Election of office bearers and committee
9. Appointment of auditor
10. Appointment of editor

**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Canberra and District Branch Inc**

**Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members
NOMINATION**

We, being persons qualified to vote at an election of the above Branch, nominate:

.....
(Full name in BLOCK LETTERS)

who is a member of the above Branch, for election to office as :

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

TREASURER

COMMITTEE MEMBER

.....
(Signature) (Date)

.....
(Name in block letter)

.....
(Signature) (Date)

.....
(Name in block letter)

o-O-o

Ithe person nominated,
consent to this nomination.

.....
(Signature) (Date)

.....
(Name in block letter)

**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Canberra and District Branch Inc**

FORM OF APPOINTMENT AS PROXY

I.....
(Full name)

of.....
(Address)

being a member of the above Branch, hereby appoint

.....
(Full name of proxy)

of.....
(Address of proxy)

being a member of the above Branch, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the above Branch to be held on 24 October 2007, and at any adjournment of these meetings.

.....
(Signature of member appointing proxy) (Date)