

Sydney Branch News and Information Bulletin

Vol. 17 No 2

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

June 2010



SNIB

Sydney Branch AGM

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Treasurer:
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Teachers' Liaison Group

Chairperson:
Bill Unger 9874 0040

Vice Chairperson:
Margaret Sim 9876 4993

Secretary:
Morag Napier 9712 2918

Treasurer:
Ruth Pike 9546 1032

At 2pm on the 20th March, prior to the AGM, a couple of sets were keen to dance in spite of the warm weather. Brian Charlton provided the music.

The following committee members were elected unopposed. President Anthony Simon, Vice-president Brian Charlton, Secretary Pat Charlton, Treasurer John Ashley and Committee Members Debbie Baker, Alice Cuneo and Robyn King (see left hand side each SNIB).

Arthur Leslie and Lindsay Benaud had elected not to stand for office this time. Lindsay has been a tireless worker on behalf of Sydney Branch members since being elected to the committee in 2004. When not baking and decorating halls for balls and socials she has made and sourced items for the Branch shop. Her initiatives have led to the opening of the Branch class at Wentworthville, the production of car stickers, a list of dancers willing to participate in demonstrations and the Sydney Directory just to mention a few things. Lindsay has also served as Chairman and Vice-chairman and continues to be a terrific ambassador for Scottish Country Dancing (SCD).

Arthur came onto the committee as Treasurer in 2007 and applied himself diligently to the financial affairs of the Branch, setting up MYOB software on a laptop, which he has donated, to the Branch. He subsequently recruited John as Treasurer. Arthur was an enthusiastic supporter of the 2009 Winter School and would like to see more young people take up

SCD. The Branch Committee greatly appreciated his support and encouragement, guidance and expert advice. Pat Charlton

RSCDS Website

The RSCDS in Scotland has updated its website, www.rscds.org and all members are invited to visit the new site.

Items include News updates, articles about Scottish Dancing, the St Andrews Summer School (including application forms), the Society Shop (Books, CDs, Videos and accessories), Branch and Dance Group finder, etc.

There are also 'member only' pages, but you will need an email address to be able to view them. Contact the Branch Secretary (sydney@rscds.org.au) if you have not already received information about this or if you have a new email address.

You can buy from the online shop using PayPal, you can obtain a members discount by entering RSCDS10 in the space for the 'coupon code'. Unless you have an urgent order, please use Sydney Branch Bookshop for any orders – we receive a higher discount and can share postage costs across orders. We may also have your item in stock, so contact Brian Charlton on briangcharlton@gmail.com before ordering.

The RSCDS Site is new and additional information will appear progressively as staff and members become more familiar with its capabilities. The Society and the Branch welcome suggestions and feedback on these developments.

Congratulations to Barry and Wendy, recipients of the RSCDS Sydney Youth Scholarship which will enable them both to attend Winter School in Adelaide this year. Scots on the Rocks, May Newsletter

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Dancing in Hawaii

Hawaii had never been on my "places to see" list until I saw the email from Pat for the Hawaii Annual RSCDS weekend, and thought why-not?

I am glad I went. It was another one of my most memorable weekends of fun and dancing. I was a bit apprehensive going on my own but need not have been as the Hawaiian RSCDS dancers were most welcoming and engaging. They were very obliging, giving us lifts to and from venues that were difficult to get to and even throwing in some sight seeing.

There must have been about 70 dancers. As the event did not have a residential setting, we had to organise our own accommodation and events were held at different venues. Many people came from mainland U.S.A, and Japan. I was most surprised and delighted to see James from Gosford.

Hunuhunumakamakaapuahah is the name of the live band that played beautifully, and even sang while we danced!

Cecilia Lobo

Know your Dance Social

Due to popular demand, two Know Your Dance Socials will be held in 2010 with the first social being held on 10th April at Concord. Despite the warm evening, four energetic sets of dancers were taken through the program under the expert guidance of Trish Nicholls who did a great job as MC. There were about 35 dancers at the social which was more than attended the Know Your Dance social last year, so we are hoping for even more numbers at the second Know Your Dance social to be held in September later in the year. All the dances were managed very well the first

time through (by special request Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch was not on the program) and everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and friendly dancing. Supper was superb with the Branch committee and their helpers making sure no one went away hungry, even if a little heavier for the after supper dances.

A big thank you to Lindsay, Debbie, Alice, Pat, Robyn, Jeanette and Tricia for providing the supper, to Brian for providing the music and to John and Tricia for co-ordinating such a successful evening.

Please note - the next KYD Social is on the 11th September.

John Ashley

Photos: Trish Nicholls



Katoomba Weekend

The 7th Katoomba Weekend was fully booked with some applicants missing out. The participants, from Newcastle, New Zealand, Batemans Bay and all parts of Sydney and the Blue Mountains, soon adapted to 'ish' time.

The Friday evening "getting to know you" session with Pat and Brian, had its intense moments as the teams tackled the quiz and the capital city anagrams. There was a lot more noise for the chip box lid popping relay and the skating on disposable plates. We enjoyed some dances

interspersed with the team activities and, best of all, a birthday cake for supper (for Janice, Jan, Rita and Warren) provided by Tricia. The Green team were the overall winners.



The wet misty Friday turned into a beautiful day on the Saturday, in spite of the forecast. The morning saw 4+ sets at St Hilda's Church hall under the guidance of John Ashley and then Ros McKie, then 2 sets in the afternoon for Brian Charlton's quadrille session. The Paragon Cafe, Angus and Robertson bookshop and Rivers Clearance Store probably noticed an influx of customers later that afternoon. Catherine Bonner was our MC extraordinaire for the evening social and made welcome some local dancers as well as Geoff and Chantal on their way home from a camping trip. Warren played before and after the social and it was a special moment leaving the hall with the sound of the pipes drifting through the night air.

The damp weather might have been a factor but there were no volunteers to go walking on the Sunday morning. Instead we had a very full ballroom in the hostel for the sessions with Jeanette Stephan and Ruth Pike. There was a minor problem when we had to vacate the conference



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area at short notice - a case of overlapping bookings.

Nevertheless we had a pretty good lunch, inviting the few backpackers present to join us. Heard later they were most impressed watching our dance classes and enjoyed the food we left for them.

All the dance sessions were very interesting both mentally and physically and, as usual, the



committee and some members excelled themselves with the homemade cakes, slices, salads etc. Morag sent along her muesli, jam and marmalade even though she was unable to attend as she was sailing down the Mekong instead!



A booking has been pencilled in for 4th - 6th March 2011. Put it in your diary now!

Pat Charlton
Photos: Pat Charlton



Campbelltown Scottish Country Dancers

Linda Brown is the enthusiastic teacher of the Campbelltown Group. At Bundanoon Highland

Games this year the local newspaper asked Linda to write about the group at Campbelltown and also about her involvement in Scottish Country Dancing.

It is very interesting recollection of one committed teacher. Well done Linda - we hope that you will continue to be bitten by the bug for many years to come.

Morag Napier

"I started Scottish Country Dancing in Primary School in the south of England at the age of 7 (over 60 years ago). I was immediately bitten by the bug and it was lovely to share it with my mother also a keen Scottish Country Dancer. I used to join her and her 'adult' group in the school holidays and sometimes in term time if my homework was finished. I also studied Highland dancing and Classical Ballet. I continued all these activities through High School and Tertiary years- studying to be a Mechanical Engineer. I had a short break from SCD in the 60's being busy pursuing my career, meeting and marrying my husband, Geoff then migrating to Australia in 1968.

I resumed SCD in 1972, after the birth of our first son joining the North Epping Dancers under the tutelage of Joy and Gordon Stott. I continued to dance with them until we moved to our present home in 1976. I joined the Campbelltown SC Dancers.

Then I had another break after the birth of our second son in 1977. When I tried to resume dancing at Campbelltown I found out that they had lost their teacher and I was asked to take over the 'job'. Gordon and Joy came to the rescue giving me a crash course over the 1980 summer holidays and I started teaching in February 1981.

We had happy contact with the Wollongong White Heather club

and Arnold and Joan Thurling soon encouraged us to dance at Bundanoon Brigadoon. We joined them for the first time in 1984 and have had a set or part of a set most years since then.

Our sons attended Cobbity Public School and when their teachers heard that I taught SCD I was asked to teach Bush Dancing on a voluntary basis. I started with one class and ended up teaching the whole school.

Then the school offered me part time employment teaching a more formal and varied programme of dancing along the guidelines set down by the Dept of Education- I still managed to include a bracket of Scottish Country Dances. I also formed a Dance Ensemble, which performed at Regional, and State Dance Festivals, the Opera House and The Schools' Spectacular. I retired from Cobbity School in 2003.

About ten years ago, Sarah Dwyer and I were asked by Wollondilly Health to start a daytime SCD Class for 'oldies' at Picton - the group is still going strong with the teaching being shared between Charles Warner, Arnold Thurling and myself.

I am now in my 30th year of teaching SCD and am still bitten by the bug! What better way is there to exercise the mind and body whilst enjoying the company of like- minded people.

Linda Brown

Shave for a Cure

Don Richmond joined in "Shave for a Cure", the annual fund raising campaign for the Leukaemia Foundation. He has been bearded for nearly 28 years and claims that no one in Sydney, including his wife and family, has seen him clean-shaven. In that time he has been nicknamed Dumbledore, Gandalf, Merlin and likened to

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William Booth (founder of the Salvos), Santa Claus (particularly in a red shirt in December) and ZZ Top (a rock 'n roll band).

With his distinctive appearance, Don has been easily recognisable amongst the Currawong Bush Band, Bush Music Club, in the Scottish Country, Irish and Australian dance groups that he supports.

To date, Don had raised \$23,148 by the end of April. Thanks to the generosity of my sponsors, I am, at the moment, the highest individual fund-raiser in NSW and in the top 10 in Australia. The information above was published in Inner West Courier.

Don Richmond
Photos: Don Richmond



SNIBBIT 2

Congratulations to Keith and Morag Napier who have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with as many folk as they could muster from the original wedding celebration.

Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

Some Sydney Dancers will remember Pat and Jim Peters who lived at Concord before moving to Forster to help their son in his business. Dancers will remember Pat as a very capable secretary of the Hermitage Club and staunch supporter of the Branch. It was in their huge backyard that many dance practices took place before the January Hyde Park displays and Government House Demonstrations. The Hermitage Ball at Concord Masonic Hall with 180 dancers taking to the

floor- it was a little too crowded so the following year there was limited tickets available. We have read that Pat passed away on the 26th April, 2010 and that Jim had predeceased her. As the paper stated Pat was a beautiful lady very much loved by her three sons and their families.

Morag Napier

Bundanoon 2010

Visit www.macarthuradvertiser.com.au
Cheltenham Girls High School Scottish Country Dancers.

Photo: Margaret Sim



Sydney Branch Ball

Will be held on the 19th of June at the North Ryde Community Centre, Coxs Road, Ryde.

Tickets \$50 and \$40 for students under 18.

Includes nibbles, drinks, dinner, drinks, supper and tea/coffee as well as the superb music of Chris Duncan and Catherine & Jennifer Strutt. Warren Hughes will pipe for us.

Plenty of parking in Coxs Road. Numbers needed by the 11th June for catering purposes.

Please encourage all to join.

Day of Dance Elinor Vandegrift.

Sydney Branch is fortunate to have Elinor Vandegrift visit after the Adelaide Winter School. Put the date, Saturday, 31st July, in your diary now so that you can benefit from the teaching of this experienced teacher and Society Examiner from Seattle, USA.

Venue. Concord Presbyterian Church.
Corner of Correys Avenue and Concord Road, North Strathfield.

Sessions: 9:30am - 12:30pm
Advanced Dancers.

1:30pm - 4:00pm
Elementary, Intermediate.

Cost: Per Session \$10.00
RSCDS members \$15.00 non members. Whole Day \$15.00 RSCDS members \$20.00 non members Students \$5.00

Morning / Afternoon Tea provided, but please bring your own mug and lunch.

Please register by Tuesday, 27th July; payment may be made on the day. It is beneficial for the teacher's planning, if she knows the number in each class.

Look out for Registration forms at your class or contact:

Morag Napier 9712 2918
moragnap@bigpond.com
Pat Charlton 9520 9075

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Anzac Eve Social.

As ANZAC Day fell on a Sunday this year, it was an opportunity to have a social on the Saturday. So a mixture of New Zealand and Australian composers and their dances was put in the programme. Those dancers who came enjoyed a few dances not often seen on programmes. To make the ANZAC social more memorable we had a special visitor, Fiona Bullivant, a Scottish Country Dance teacher who taught in Sydney for many years and then returned to New Zealand and who is now teaching there. It was good to see her and catch up with her news. Supper was provided by Sydney Branch and was much appreciated after a warm night of dancing.

Catherine Bonner

26 dancers gathered on Anzac Eve for a great night at Concord Presbyterian Hall. Catherine Bonner did an excellent job compiling the interesting assortment of dances all chosen because they were either devised by or for Australian & New Zealand dancers. Catherine's MC duties were carried out with military precision. Brian Charlton cleverly put the music together. Everyone wore a sprig of rosemary in honour of the occasion – the perfume of which permeated the hall.

Debbie Baker

Dance the Night Away

Fiona Bullivant was interviewed for "Savvy" Women's magazine in October 2008 on the eve of the Whangarei Club's 50th anniversary ball. Below are some of her quotes from that article as she enlightened the interviewer on the world of Scottish Country Dancing.

"You don't have to be Scottish to do it – it's all about the dancing

and anyone is welcome to join."

"It becomes addictive."

"There's music you can't sit still to with the social vibe and the high when it all comes together in the sheer joy of dancing."

"Scottish Country Dancing is the ballroom dancing of Scotland."

"You don't have to have a partner, you can front up by yourself without worries, everyone is constantly moving around and changing partners."

"It's a very supportive, non threatening environment to socialise in and its great value."

"Scottish Country Dancing is an excellent way for people of all ages to keep fit"

Original Article provided by Morag Napier

SNIBBIT 3

Scots on The Rocks members at the National Folk Festival in Canberra were treated to an amazing new variation on Petronella by a Tasmanian ballet dancer who could do a double petronella turn (that's right, full turn on the right foot, full turn on the left foot)

Scots on the Rocks, May Newsletter
Photo: Peter Lawrie



Hunter Valley Day of Dance

Where: East Gosford Community Hall (where Gosford RSCDS Class holds their Social.)

When: Saturday, 12th June.

Time: 10am to 4pm.

Cost: \$10.

What: Dances from New Zealand

Food: Morning and afternoon tea provided. Bring or buy your lunch.

Teachers: Jeanette Stephan, Brian Charlton and Peter Adams

Batemans Bay Caledonian Society dancers are celebrating their 20th Anniversary on Saturday 17th July. You will be welcomed with hot soup and nibbles at the Batemans Bay Community Centre in Museum Place, 7:00 for 7:30pm.

Pay only \$25 for a night of dancing to the music of Bob McInnes. Enquiries: Moira 4472 3696 or Jean 4472 2440. Some billets available.

Beecroft Social

A great evening of dancing at Beecroft was held on Saturday May 1st. The earlier starting time and the new venue did not put off the many dancers who came from far and wide – Gosford, Campbelltown and Canberra (as well as Epping, Killara, Caringbah). We all admired the "cross stitched" name tags which have been a Beecroft speciality for many years (I have 10 of them going back to 1999). For each dance as Sheena recapped she said the first couple could walk through the dance. It made for a very relaxed atmosphere and less use of crib sheets by dancers in the breaks. It was great to see Clare and young Owen who seemed to enjoy the music and all the attention. Beecroft turned on their usual great supper and we all tucked in as if we hadn't seen food for days. Great evening!

Catherine Bonner

Scots on The Rocks

9 August: Beginners course

Canberra Ball

Is coming up on 21st August. It is being held in the Great Hall of University House, Australian National University, music by Strathmannan. Tickets \$40. More

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information from the Canberra link on the web site or contact Jack: jarthur@apex.net.

awarded the Society Scroll in 2007.

SNIBBIT 5

Best wishes to Anne Kennedy as she heads over to Scotland in August to teach at the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews.

TEENS AND TWENTIES SOCIAL

PARTY NIGHT

EVERYONE WELCOME

Live Music!

Saturday 26th June
Dancing 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Cost \$10 and
RSVP 12th June.
Margaret Sim
Ph: 9876 4993

Epping Uniting Church Hall
Oxford Street, Epping
(Opposite Domino's Pizza)

Bring something for supper

Attention all Adelaide Winter School attendees...

The Chairman (Alex Gray) and Chairman Elect (Ruth Beattie) from RSCDS Headquarters will be at Winter School in Adelaide. There will be two sessions of Headquarters forums on the Wednesday and Friday of the school. All are welcome to attend.

SNIBBIT 4

Elinor Vandegrift is Scottish but has lived in the USA for many years. In her professional life she was a Physical Education specialist for children and young adults with a disability and became a consultant for an area of Seattle. Elinor has trained many groups of candidates for SCD Certificates on the west coast and was appointed an examiner in the 90's. Her husband Dave, who is accompanying her on this visit, is also a SCD teacher. Elinor was

White Heather Scottish Country Dance Club

On 7 August 2010, Wollongong White Heather Scottish Country Dance Club will be holding its 45th Annual Social. Arnold Thurling will be the M C. Arnold has been the teacher and inspiration for the Club since it started. We will dance to live music played by Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford.

The programme, of some old favourites and some newer dances, is on the website, so have a look at that. The crib notes are there also.

Wollongong is worth a visit for its beautiful beaches and rain forest escarpment, so why not make a weekend of it.

News from Sydney Branch Bookshop

Listening Music:
Those who enjoyed Chris Duncan's recent appearance on ABC FM will have heard Muriel Johnstone's tune for him 'Chris Duncan's Visit to Scotland'. Hear Muriel playing it as well as 'The Weasel and the Wombat' (and find out why she wrote it) on a new CD called 'Facets'. You can order it from Sydney bookshop. There is also a recent CD of Keith Smith and Muriel called 'Highland Shortbread', the music of Neil Gow, Robert Macintosh and others played by Pete Clark, and much else.

The Society is reviewing the dance books and publishing them in collected editions. Currently, they have covered the Miscellanies (now all in one book), Books 1-6 and Books 7-12. They have also produced a compilation of 31 Leaflet dances. A few copies are available now.

Anything else you want? Please ask Brian Charlton briangcharlton@gmail.com or 9520 9075.

Sydney Dates

Saturday 19 June Sydney Branch Ball Saturday 26

June 26: Scots on The Rocks Chaotic Ceilidh

Sunday 4 July: Australian Winter School commences

Saturday 24 July Christmas in July Social

Saturday 31st July Day of Dance E Vandergrift

Saturday 7 August Wollongong Annual Social

Saturday 14 August Easy Dance Social/ Ball

Saturday 21 August TLG Workshop Southern Highlands

Saturday 4 September Southern Highlands Annual Social

Saturday 4 September Hunter Valley Ball

Saturday 11 September Know Your Dance Social

Saturday 18 September Murringo Annual Social

7 October Bermagui Weekend

Saturday 16 October Blue Mountains Annual Social

Saturday 23 October Wollondilly Annual Social

Saturday 30 October Epping Hallowe'en Social

Friday 5 - Sunday 7 November Riverwood Downs Weekend

Saturday 13 November TLG Easy Dance Social

Saturday 11 December Sydney Branch Closing Social