

SNIB



Sydney Branch News and Information Branch Bulletin
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Vol. 23 No 4. December 2016

From Our President

Welcome to the final SNIB of the year. The older I get, the quicker the time passes. Using time wisely is a skill not to be sneezed at.

The Easy Dance social was a success. Seventy dancers, of all levels, attended and appeared to enjoy themselves. Thank you to the experienced dancers who helped the newcomers through some easy dances. Rosemary Gardner did an excellent job in managing the newcomers and filling them with confidence. There were a small number of dances for the more experienced dancers which demonstrated what can be achieved when the basics have been mastered. The musicians, Emma Nixon and Iain McKenzie, were excellent, as usual, and commented that they enjoyed the night because of the happy faces and the fact that they were able to play music they would not normally perform. Hopefully, some of the new attendees will be tempted to continue with Scottish country dancing.

At the end of the year, many of the current committee are retiring and replacements are required. If you feel you can contribute to the branch why not consider nominating for the Sydney branch committee. The final event of the year, the end of year social on 3 December at the Ermington Community Hall, helped us finished the year with a bang.

Finally, let me formally wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy Hogmanay. Hopefully, the first of many such wishes.

Aidan McElduff

Some good news -

The RSCDS Sydney Branch **subscription will remain at \$45**, \$30 for under 25s. Most of this, £20, is forwarded to the RSCDS in Scotland to cover your membership of this world-wide society. We can only maintain the subscription at this level by your continued support of the Branch activities. Subscription reminders will go to members in January.

Some not so good news-

As you know from Aidan's comments several committee members have decided, reluctantly and for various reasons, not to nominate for the committee next year. This means we need you to seriously consider being nominated for a position on the committee. Experience is not necessary but enthusiasm for Scottish country dancing and associated culture is an advantage. Much to our surprise we all painlessly developed skills we didn't know we had and enjoyed doing so.

The **Sydney Branch Annual General Meeting** will take place during the Day of Dance on Saturday 11th February 2017. Nomination and proxy papers will be sent out in early January. There is no charge for financial members of the RSCDS and it is only \$15 for non-members for whole or part of the day which starts at 9:30am. Bring your own lunch and mug, (tea, coffee supplied).

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS 30th ANNIVERSARY SPRING SOCIAL

Many folk gathered with a spring in their step to renew friendships, enjoy the music and dance the night away. Helen Wales had chosen dances which allowed the newer dancers, as well as more experienced dancers, to enjoy the evening. Arnold called the dances and made up the set when needed so that all had the opportunity to join in the dancing. As always the catchy music played by Rhonda and James got peoples feet tapping.

No evening is complete without mentioning the supper – very tasty – and a chance to rebuild the stamina and finish the evening with another round of dancing.

Altogether a most enjoyable evening.

Those visitors who chose to stay in the Highlands for the weekend were able to enjoy the gardens filled with spring blossoms and flowering bulbs.

Come back next year, we look forward to your company.

Will ye no come back again.

Shonagh Moore

Thank you Shonagh. Ed.

BLUE MOUNTAINS SOCIAL

A happy group of dancers gathered to enjoy an evening of dancing, fun and friendship at Springwood for the annual social. The programme was well balanced and the night was greatly enjoyed. Dancers are looking forward to the next Blue Mountains Social.

EPPING SOCIAL

This social is always looked forward to and this year we were again, not disappointed. Musicians Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt were making their 26th consecutive appearance at the social and did not disappoint, delivering lively and interesting music. Dancers came from WA, Canberra, Nowra, Blue Mountains, Gosford, Hunter Valley, Southern Highlands and the UK, as well as local clubs. We all had a great night and thank very much all those at Epping who contributed to making this night great.

SYDNEY BRANCH EASY DANCE SOCIAL

This social almost did not happen. The new keyless entry system let us down. No matter how we presses the buttons the door remained stubbornly locked. Help arrived an hour later in the shape of a man with a key! Saved!

Ermington attracted a good crowd of new, inexperienced and experienced dancers. All arrived with smiles on their faces, ready to do their best. And that is what they did.....it was a friendly night with a good atmosphere. Our musicians Iain McKenzie and Emma Nixon provided wonderful music to inspire us all to do our best. Rosemary Gardner, who hails from Callala Bay, led us through the dances, walking them through as many times as needed with patience and humour. Dances went well and it was delightful to see experienced dancers gently helping the less experienced to have fun. A number of youngsters joined us and had a good time. A good supper disappeared in no time, refuelling us all for the second part of the night.

Thank you all for all your help and support, especially those who helped to set up after our delayed entry, and see you all again next year. Ed.

End of Year Social 3 December 2016

Well we certainly danced our feet off at the end of year social. Steven McAleer, another South Coast dancer, did a wonderful job as MC and Iain McKenzie provided foot tapping and interesting music for us to dance to. A good crowd was ready to dance and socialise and a happy atmosphere prevailed. Supper was declared 'excellent'. It was good to see experienced dancers ensuring that the less experienced had partners. Dancers departed and many Merry Christmas and Happy New Year wishes were bestowed.

PS – The keyless entry worked!!!!

Other Dancing Activities

From Trish Nicholls, travelling SCD teacher and dancer

As part of the RSCDS WA Branch's 40th Celebrations, I travelled to Perth for their residential weekend workshop. It was also an opportunity to catch up with Alison Cameron who had relocated from Sydney earlier in the year. It was a real treat to have John and Ruby Wilkinson from Scotland teach at the workshop. Another delight was to have Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin, also from Scotland, play for the classes and socials over the weekend. The weekend began with a social on the Friday night where we danced several dances devised by John Brenchley (Chairman of WA Branch and teacher) from the "Kangaroo Paw" book with tunes recorded by Marian Anderson and her Band. John Wilkinson taught the first class on Saturday morning and chose dances which he had devised over the years. Ruby taught the afternoon session and then after dinner, we were back in the hall for another social dancing evening. Dancers were asked to wear something "red" as a symbol of their Ruby anniversary celebrations. Once again, we danced several dances from "The Other Kangaroo Paw". The night extended late into the night at the after party. The following day, with tired feet our spirits were once again lifted as John, Ruby, Marion and Max encouraged us with great dances and great music. I was made very welcome by the WA dancers and felt the standard of dancing on the whole, was of a high and energetic standard. It was a pleasure to dance with this group and I'm really glad I made the trip.

Thanks Trish – Ed.

In October, the **Southern Highlands U3A** Scottish Country Dancers provided the entertainment at the monthly Mittagong Singalong Afternoon by dancing a bracket of three dances followed later with The Barmkin, as an encore. The Singalong, convened by Shonagh, is a community service which provides an opportunity for folk who may now have limited access to travel and outings to enjoy some entertainment each month.

The dancers were pleased to give some pleasure to the audience who responded happily to the stimulating music and many feet were tapping and hands clapping.

All then were treated to afternoon tea.

Helen Wales

Thank you Helen. Ed.

Other News.

The Bundanoon Highland Gathering – BRIGADOON

Dance Devisors Competition

Scottish Country Dancers were invited to devise a dance to mark the 40th Anniversary this coming 1st April 2017. Twelve entries were received, with quite a number of high interest.

So, as the mists started to clear on Saturday 19 November dancers gathered at Schiehallion, Bundanoon to try out the new dances. Under the expert leadership of Diana Hastie who had committed all 12 to memory, a happy and enjoyable day was spent dancing them all. In true Brigadoon style the mists returned in the evening as the winner was emerging from the try outs.

Brigadoon is happy to announce that the winning dance is: Bundanoon Strathspey and the devisor is Morton Jay. Congratulations Morton, we look forward to its first public performance on 1 April 2017.

Harbord invite you to join them for a **Burns Night** celebration

Australia Day **26th January 2017.**

7:30pm St Peter's Uniting Church hall, 16 Marmora Street, Freshwater.

Contact Olivia 9977 4131



Ruby, Trish, Alison and John in WA for 40th Anniversary Celebrations



End of Year Fun Ermington 3rd December

More End of Year Fun



Easy Dance Social Ermington 29th October



Pinched the following item from The Rantthank you in advance.

Riverwood Downs 2016 - Bliss! Barratt and I were very fortunate to spend a weekend at Riverwood Downs (in the upper Hunter) participating in a weekend of Scottish Country Dancing. What a great weekend! There were over 50 dancers and teachers. After a BBQ dinner on Friday night we took to the floor and danced the night away. The standard was high as all the teachers called their favourite dances. A light supper break was very welcome after the dancing.

On Saturday we danced all morning with breaks for morning tea and then lunch. The afternoon was free time with Simone running a session on English Country dancing followed by walkthroughs for the evenings social. This was followed by drinks and nibbles and a celebration of the 80th birthday of Marcia Mullins from Colleges class in Newcastle. During the evening social, we had a break for a display of fireworks – well it was Guy Fawkes Night! Unfortunately, because of the total fire ban, the bonfire was cancelled. Sunday saw more dancing and eating and then fond farewells. Three dances which I thought were outstanding were Pelorus Jack, Crossing the Line and Super Sheila 80. Pelorus Jack is the story of a shipwrecked sailor who is rescued by a dolphin. The dancers weave in and out, just like the dolphin trying to locate the lost sailor. This dance is also very popular in New Zealand – in Pelorus there is a pub called the Pelorus Jack. Crossing the Line is a 3 couple dance and it was a lot of fun. The top of the set changes so that 3rd couple become 1st couple., which led to much confusion and lots of laughter. This symbolises the migration of people from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern Hemisphere. Super 80 Sheila was written by Morton Jay for my 80th birthday. The choreography for this 3 couple dance flows easily with plenty of movement. The weekend was a great success and a big thank you must go to the teachers and organisers. The food was excellent and the company was great.

We do not grow too old to dance – we grow old because we do not dance.

Sheila Calvert

Sheila and Barratt will be remembered by some dancers as they used to live and dance in Sydney.

42nd Australian Winter School – Hahndorf – July 2017

Applications are being accepted now for the 42nd Australian Winter School being hosted by Adelaide Branch in Hahndorf 9th - 16th July 2017.

Download the form from the website www.rscdsadelaide.org.au/ws2017or contact ws2017@rscdsadelaide.org.au or ask Pat 9520 9075 next time you see her.

Epping Scottish Country Dance Club, in conjunction with **Macquarie Community College**, will be running an eight week beginners' course in Scottish Country Dancing.

This introductory course will teach the steps and formations that form the building blocks of Scottish Country Dancing. Singles or couples welcome.

The course will be taught by the highly experienced Anne Kennedy

When: Thursdays 7:30pm - 9:00pm, 9th February 2017 - Thursday. 13th April 2017

Where: St Aidan's Church Hall, Downing Street, Epping

Cost: \$175 inc. GST

Wear: casual, comfortable clothes and soft, flat soled, non-slip shoes.

For enrolments: Contact Macquarie Community College

<https://www.macquarie.nsw.edu.au/course/scottish_country_dancing>

or phone 1300 845 888.

For further information contact Anne Ph:9868 3778 or Mobile: 0412 662 327

Advance Notice

The Teachers' Liaison Group is in the process of hosting a **Dancing Achievement Award** course in 2017. Dancers will have the opportunity to develop their personal dancing and to extend their knowledge during this five week course, at the end of which each dancer's proficiency will be assessed.

ASILOMAR WEEKEND

Two Sydneysiders Join in the Dancing Fun at Asilomar. In October the San Francisco Branch of the RSCDS held its annual Scottish Country dance weekend at Asilomar, California, with nearly 250 attendees. Situated by the beach, the venue enables the joy of Scottish Country dancing to be combined with the beauty of this coastal location. The weekend features plenty of dancing with every dance session accompanied by live musicians and of course, there is a grand ball. This year Mike Darby and Robert Davidson travelled all the way to USA to join in the fun. By all reports the Americans were thrilled to have them join in on the weekend. Mike has posted photos from the weekend on the Dancedownunder - RSCDS Sydney Facebook page. The next Dance Weekend at Asilomar is on November 17- 19, 2017.

This item was also 'borrowed' from The Rant.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS OVERSEAS

November 17-19, 2017.

Come and join the International Branch on **Cyprus**, Jewel of the Mediterranean, for the **6th International Branch Weekend and Holiday!**

28th April – 1st May 2017.

All the details can be found on the website:

<http://www.rscds-ib.org/index.php/cyprus-2017>

9 February 2017

Annual Aloha Weekend Hawaii

WEEKEND OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING in HAWAII

You are invited to Honolulu for an event-filled weekend of dance lessons, social dances and a ceilidh.

Live music for all dancing provided by

The Humuhumunukunukuapua'a

and the

Strathspey Society Band.

Information and registration forms available from the website at www.rscdshawaii.org.

RSCDS San Francisco Branch's Valentine's Ball.

Traveling to Northern California in February or need an excuse to do so? You are invited to a truly gala event at the Scottish Rite Center, Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA, on Lake Merritt, not far from San Francisco!

Dress is formal and the occasion festive.

Arrive early for the pre-ball Sherry Social and linger for the light After-Ball Buffet. The Valentine's Ball will be held **Saturday, February 11, 2017, 6:30pm – midnight**. With music by **Reel of Seven**, it's the perfect way to celebrate the return of Spring!

It is recommended that dancers have at least one year of experience of Scottish Country dancing.

The Registration Form can be downloaded from the San Francisco Branch webpage at <http://www.rscds-sf.org/valentine/pdf/ValentinesBallFlyer.17.pdf>

Charlotte Greig Asilomar Weekend Marketing Chairman RSCDS San Francisco Branch cggreig@att.net

Questions? Please contact: Ellen Lovell, Valentine's Ball Chair: ln.lvll@gmail.com

or Sharon Stewart, Registrar sharon.stewart@comcast.com

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Sadly we report the passing of Alastair Aitkenhead, past Chairman of the RSCDS on 27th November. Keith and Morag Napier remember his visit to Australia in 1989. *We remember Alastair Aitkenhead at the Adelaide Winter School ceilidh evening in 1989. He came into the hall on a dining trolley, all dolled up as a baby, nappy, bonnet, and dummy. It brought the house down. Imagine the Chairman of the Society behaving in this manner! At that time the RSCDS was a very revered institution. First and foremost Alastair was an excellent teacher, a very approachable examiner and when he was Chairman of the Society, he really fostered the teaching of SCD in all Scottish schools. It was at this Winter School Teachers' Meeting that, with Alastair's encouragement, the Australian Teachers' Alliance (ATA) came into being. It was Alastair's opinion that all future Society Chairmen should visit Australian and New Zealand Schools to see how successful and well organised they were, and perhaps incorporate some new ideas at St Andrews. He will be missed by all of us in the RSCDS and will be remembered as a dear friend and a great dancer.*

Calendar 2017

26 th Jan	Harbord Burns Night	9977 4131	
6th Feb	Branch Class Resumes	9636 8248	dlstocks@toorale.net
11th Feb	Day of Dance and AGM	95209075	sydney@rscds.org.au
18th Feb	TLG Meeting	9712 2918	moragnap@optusnet.com.au
25 th Feb	Gosford Social	4388 2253	gosfordrscds@gmail.com
3rd – 5th Mar	Katoomba Weekend	9520 9075	charlton.pat@gmail.com
11 th Mar			
18th Mar	TLG Workshop	9712 2918	moragnap@optusnet.com.au
25 th Mar	SoTR Ceilidh	0435 154 433	info@sotr.org.au
25 th Mar	HV Afternoon Welcome Social	4023 1356	hvrscds@gmail.com
1 st Apr	Bundanoon	0414 874 152	triciaandjohn.ashley@gmail.com
8 th Apr	Killara Social	9498 3817	margaret_sekhon@bigpond.com
15 th Apr	<i>Easter Saturday</i>		
22nd Apr	Know Your Dance Social		sydney@rscds.org.au
25 th Apr	<i>ANZAC Day</i>		
29 th Apr	Epping Easy Dance Social	9869 0567	scottishcountrydancing@gmail.com
6 th May	HV Day of Dance	4023 1356	hvrscds@gmail.com
13 th May	Nowra Annual Social	4446 6332	gardag@bigpond.com
20 th May			
27 th May			
3 rd June	Beecroft Social	9868 2075	sheena.caswell@gmail.com
10 th June			
12 th June	<i>Queen's Birthday Weekend</i>		
17 th June	SoTR Ceildh	0435 154 433	info@sotr.org.au
24th June	Branch Ball		sydney@rscds.org.au
1 st July			
8 th July			
9 th -16 th July	42nd Winter School, Hahndorf		www.rscdsadelaide.org.au
15 th July			
22 nd July			
29th July	Branch Winter Social		sydney@rscds.org.au
5 th Aug	Wollongong Afternoon Social	4229 3480	graceianhalliday@hotmail.com
11 th -13 th Aug	Hobart Concert, Ball and Picnic		ord.sally@gmail.com
19th Aug	TLG Workshop	9712 2918	moragnap@optusnet.com.au
26th Aug	Branch Easy Dance Social		sydney@rscds.org.au
2 nd Sept	Southern Highlands Social		eilidhmarg@hotmail.com
9 th Sept	Hunter Valley Ball	4023 1356	hvrscds@gmail.com
16 th Sept			
23 rd Sept			
30 th Sept	SoTR Ceilidh	0435 154 433	info@sotr.org.au
2 nd Oct	Labour Day		
7 th Oct	Canberra Ball		alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au
14th Oct	TLG Workshop	9712 2918	moragnap@optusnet.com.au
21 st Oct			
28 th Oct	Epping Annual Social	9869 0567	scottishcountrydancing@gmail.com
4 th Nov	Riverwood Downs, HV Colleges		marney.wilson@yahoo.com.au
11th Nov	TLG Meeting + ?workshop.	9712 2918	moragnap@optusnet.com.au
18 th Nov			
25 th Nov	Hunter Valley St Andrew's Social	4023 1356	hvrscds@gmail.com
27 th Nov	St Andrew's Day Kirkin' o' the Tartan		
2nd Dec	End of Year Social		sydney@rscds.org.au

Any alterations or additions to Pat Charlton 9520 9075 sydney@rscds.org.au