

THE RANT



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Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Hunter Valley Branch (Inc.)

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Gosford Club Website: <https://www.rscds.org.au/gosford.html#/>

Arthur's Scottish Country Dance Website <http://users.tpg.com.au/juliasm/Scottish-Country.html>

Please send reports, articles, photographs, flyers etc. for inclusion in the March 2022 Rant to hvrant@gmail.com no later than 20th February 2022.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See also our websites for updated information; the links are on page 1. In these “COVID” times, NSW and various hall restrictions may change – so please check again before attending events.

(Ψ Most current program or event details in this RANT)

2022

Dec 28 – Jan 5	NZ		Summer school – Cancelled (More information)
Jan 4, 11, 18, 25	HV	Ψ	Dancing on the Foreshore – Tuesdays
Jan 21		Ψ	Burns Night Ceilidh, Gosford
Jan 26	HV		First Gosford class
Jan 29			Hunter Valley Scots Club Burns Night at Club Macquarie
Feb 4	HV	Ψ	First Colleges class
Feb 18	HV		Colleges Opening Social
Feb 26	HV	Ψ	50 th Gosford Opening Social
Mar 26	HV	Ψ	HV Branch Welcome Easy Dance Social



BRANCH NEWS

Secretary’s Report

Another year gone with little dancing to keep up our bodies in shape. I am sure we will need a refresher course on a number of movements before we can really get into the swing of things next year.

Once again, the Annual General Meeting had to be held online as happened last year. Many thanks to those who replied to the AGM email with their votes. The results of the election for the new Committee are as follows:

Chairperson – Marney Wilson
Honorary Secretary – Allyn Douglass
Honorary Treasurer – Kathryn Bourke

Also, the following people have been nominated for various positions:

Committee Members – Ros McKie, Simone Fox and Jenny Goldsmith
Rant Editor – Julia Smith
Rant Assistant Editors – Kim Nolan and Sue Mackenzie
Teachers’ Representative – Ros McKie
Catering Manager – to be appointed
Public Officer – Julia Regent

A big welcome to the Committee to Jenny Goldsmith.

The minutes for the 2020 AGM and the Treasurer's report were accepted unanimously as well as the Honorarium for the Auditor.

I wish you a very merry Christmas and look forward to a safe dancing New Year.

Allyn Douglass



CLUB NEWS

Gosford Class Report

The year is coming to a close and unfortunately we have been unable to dance since the Covid outbreak in June. However things are looking up and we look forward to returning to class on January 26th 2022.

Next year will be our 50th Anniversary Social, Covid permitting. We will have live music provided by the wonderful Chris and Catherine. I had the pleasure, with many others, of enjoying a concert with Chris and Catherine at Adamstown on Saturday 27th November as a celebration of St Andrews Day. It was a really enjoyable experience being able to listen to and appreciate the music with Chris telling us a bit about each tune before they played it. Dancing to their music is such a pleasure so make sure you mark your diary for our 50th Gosford Opening Social on Saturday 26th February, 2022.

Hopefully we will see many more Scottish Country Dancing events going ahead in 2022 so I look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year.

Sue Mackenzie



ARTICLES

Warners Bay Picnics and Dancing in November

As we are still not able to have our regular Friday night dancing at Colleges, due to COVID restrictions, Ros McKie suggested we should meet for a picnic meal and possibly some dancing on Friday evenings in November. It was really good to meet up with dancing friends on the Warners Bay foreshore, with lovely views of Lake Macquarie and have a good chat and a picnic; it has been ages since we did that.

The weather was unfortunately not too kind to us and on Friday 19th we managed to have only one dance, the lovely strathspey "City of Belfast", with a few drops of rain falling on us near the end of the dance. Then the rain came down more heavily and some left for home while others sheltered under cover. There was a brief thunderstorm and at times the clouds formed dark and very strange looking shapes, like something out of a Harry Potter movie!

There was a very long-lasting partial eclipse of the moon that evening, apparently the longest since February 18, 1440. The next longer one will be in 2669! Unfortunately, the dark clouds covered our view of the “blood moon” that evening. ([ABC Article](#))

On Friday 26th (the so-called “Black Friday”) the weather was so wet that the event was cancelled. In reality it was a “Grey Friday” with grey clouds and rain nearly all day and night; although I had my wellies, raincoat and umbrella ready, the conditions were just too wet for the get-together. Despite the poor weather, it was very enjoyable to meet on those three occasions. Many of us were able to go to the St. Andrew’s concert on the following evening with Chris and Catherine; we were so looking forward to that!

Julia Smith



Photos by Julia Smith and Judy McLeod

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St. Andrew’s Concert



A concert featuring the fabulous musicians Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt was held at the Adamstown Uniting Church on Saturday 27th November, instead of the usual dance.

Firstly, we all checked in on arrival and were served drinks and nibbles. We were required to sit at tables to enjoy these while catching up with dancing friends, many of whom we had not seen for months; so that was great!

Then Chris and Catherine played for us in the Church itself. What a delight that was; we are so lucky to have such expert musicians living locally and willing to play for us. The music played was largely Scottish, with some dance tunes. A few items were solos featuring Chris on violin or Catherine on piano presenting some of the work from her recent album “No Wind at the Window”. Additionally, they played a lovely waltz from the USA and Catherine played a couple of hambos from Finland and an Australian Christmas carol. Chris explained that a feature of their playing as a duo is that they will take turns as the lead musician during many of their pieces. Much of the reels and jigs were played at a cracking pace while other tunes were by contrast dreamy and atmospheric. Several of the tunes will be used on their upcoming album, or as Chris said, “alleged album”, which is unfortunately delayed by current restrictions etc.. The music was clearly enjoyed by all the audience, who begged for an encore!

Our only problem with the concert was that as the dance music tends to drive our feet (on “auto-pilot”), it was hard to just sit there at times and not get up and dance in the aisles; but that wouldn’t have been allowed! Many thanks to Chris and Catherine for a great concert. Thanks also to those HV Branch members who organized and/or helped run the event.



Julia Smith and Arthur Kingsland



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

This section includes details or flyers for forthcoming events, associated application forms and Branch membership form. Details of Hunter Valley events, including information, flyers and cribs (if available) are published on our websites (see links on page 1). Arthur Kingsland's website also has links to dance resources for forthcoming Hunter Valley events via Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary and Strathspey Server; through these links cribs, diagrams, videos and other Scottish Country Dance information can be found.

DANCING ON THE FORESHORE - January 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Yes - this is on again!!!

We will run it at the usual place (the foreshore at Warners Bay) on the usual day (Tuesday) and at the usual times (6pm for picnic, 7 to dusk for dancing).

Please be fully vaccinated.

If you want to come and just socialise and not dance that's fine.

Let's get together again and enjoy the fun of SCD.

COLLEGES CLASS

I'm sure you all have missed your dancing and your socialising so the good news is that Colleges intends to start on Friday February 4th next year. It will be at the usual place (Adamstown Uniting Church) and time (7.30)

You **MUST** be doubly vaccinated to attend and also be prepared to follow whatever Covid rules are in place at the time.

I look forward to seeing all of you again

Ros McKie
(President)



Burns Night Ceilidh
Friday 21st January 2022
Panorama Lounge, The Entertainment
Grounds
4 Racecourse Road, West Gosford
7pm start (doors open 6:30)

Tickets are now available through TryBooking on the following link.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BVFTZ>

Options on the link are entry only or entry with a meal.

Meal Selections are:

Steak Sandwich - Toasted brioche, carmalised onion, relish, chips and aioli

Chicken Schnitzel - served with chips, garden salad and gravy

Battered Flathead - served with chips and garden salad (GF option available)

Salt and Pepper Squid (GF) - served with chips and Asian slaw

Chicken Caesar Salad

The bar will be open for you to purchase drinks

We will start the evening off with the traditional address to the haggis, followed by a taste for those who would like to try it.

There will also be dancing displays and a pipe band display.

Get onto the link now and book your spot, let's start the year off with a great Scottish party atmosphere.

50th Gosford Opening Social



2022

Saturday 26th February 2022

East Gosford Progress Hall
Cnr Henry Parry Drive & Wells Street

Admission \$25 purchased at the door
Includes supper and door prize

Drinks and nibbles at 7:00pm Dancing at 7:30pm
Programme to be announced and posted on rscds.org.au

Music by Chris and Catherine



RSCDS Hunter Valley Welcome Easy Dance Social



**Saturday 26th March 2022 at Dora Creek Community Hall
2 Doree Place, Dora Creek
From 1:30 till 4:30, dancing from 2pm
Walk throughs for all dances
Programme devised by Ros McKie**

- | | | |
|---|---------|---------------------|
| 1. It's Nae Bother | 8X32J | Graded Book 2 |
| 2. The Dancing Bees | 8X32R | Goldring |
| 3. The Birks of Invermay | 8x32S | Book 16 |
| 4. It's All Right | 8X32J | Graded Book 3 |
| 5. Catch the Wind | 8X32R | Book 45 |
| 6. Seann Triubhas Willichan | 8X32S | Book 27 |
| 7. Good Hearted Glasgow | 8X32J | Collins Pocket Book |
| 8. Craigleith | Sq 88 R | Graded book 3 |
| 9. 12 Coates Crescent | 4X32S | Book 40 |
| 10. The Wandering Wallaby | 4X32J | Book 50 |
| 11. The Reel of the 51 st Division | 8X32R | Book 13 |

There is no charge but please bring a small plate for afternoon tea.

Enquiries to Allyn Douglass at hvrs cds@gmail.com or 0422747965



RIVERWOOD DOWNS 2022 - 4th – 6th November

As you all know, Riverwood was cancelled again this year, due to the ongoing uncertainties related to the COVID virus.

We are very hopeful that we will be able to hold it again in 2022 and are making plans to that end. Chris and Catherine have again agreed to play for the weekend. The management at Riverwood Downs have allowed anyone who wanted to, to move their bookings for this year over to next year without penalty.

As always, there will be more information in the March 2022 Rant. For the moment, just pencil in the dates and we'll all keep our fingers crossed.

HOPEFULLY SEE YOU THERE!

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