

# SCOTCH CIRCLE

Vol 26 No 3

August 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

First, our thanks go to organiser Barbara Monahan and all of the dinner hosts who entertained dancers on the occasion of the recent Branch "Hosted Dinner Dance" in July. This has become one of the most successful events on our calendar, giving an opportunity for dancers at all levels a chance to meet and socialise as well as to enjoy an evening of popular dances with live music – out thanks also to Hugh McKenna for playing for us.

One of our far South Coast members, Sheelagh Brunton, was recently successful in obtaining the RSCDS Teacher's Certificate. Sheelagh did the course through the Sydney Branch which involved many weekend trips to Sydney. Congratulations Sheelagh!

The 2006 Winter School has come and gone. Several of our members who went to Perth for the occasion (as described later in this Scotch Circle) introduced the 2007 School, to be held in Canberra from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> October next year. Our brochure was distributed in Perth and will now be sent out as widely as possible to invite Scottish Dancers and their families to join us at the Hotel Heritage for a week during Floriade 2007. Local dancers – whether or not members of the Branch – are especially welcome to sign up when applications open on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006. We will also be asking for volunteers to help with the myriad of tasks that will arise closer to the School. Meanwhile the venues for the classes and the residential accommodation have been reserved (locals can, of course, commute daily without being in residence). A wonderful team of musicians and teachers has accepted invitations to lead the School: Elaine Brunken (USA), Sandra Carroll (Canberra), Eric Finlay (Scotland), Doug Mills (New Zealand) and Denice Walter (Hobart) are the teaching team. Chris Duncan will head the musicians, with Jane Ellis, Polly Garland, Bob McInnes, Kate Scott, Strathmannan and Catherine Strutt. For those who cannot manage the whole week of classes there will be a full programme of evening socials, available for separate attendance.

Meanwhile our regular activities will continue. Classes are already practicing dances for the Canberra Ball on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The Ball is organised jointly by representatives of all four SCD groups in Canberra and is our main opportunity to get together, so please give your support and sign up early. Tickets are available. Olive Bassett-Macleod will be leading a workshop at Batemans Bay on 18<sup>th</sup> September, then there is our AGM at St Andrews on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – if you have not already sent in your annual subscription please join (or re-join) now! We will do our best to dispose of the formal business of the evening quickly so we can get on with the dancing. We look forward to seeing you there.

Elaine and Brian

## **Branch News**

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

The annual general meeting of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (Canberra and District) will be held at St Andrews Church Hall Forrest commencing at 7.30pm on Saturday 23 September 2006. The agenda for the meeting and nomination forms are attached.

We will have a program of well known dances that everyone can enjoy without weeks of study and practice.

### **Afternoon workshop at Batemans Bay**

On Monday 18 September, Olive Bassett Macleod will be teaching the class at Bateman's Bay and they would welcome visitors. It is being held at Batemans Bay Community Centre between 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm. If are interesting you will need to bring your body, your brain *and your sense of humour*. Just so they know how many to expect could you please call Joan Kelly on 02 4472 2440.

### **Demonstration uniforms**

During last year we obtained a grant from the ACT Government to assist us with getting new uniforms for our public displays. We have bought white jacobite shirts for the men and Canberra tartan sashes and many, many metres of the material selected for the women. Now all that remains to be done is to make the dresses.

We will be performing at events related to Floriade so we need to get finish the uniforms by mid September. Jan Clark is coordinating the dressmaking. If you are able to help please give her a call on 6288 2487.

### **Membership Renewals**

The Treasurer tells me that he is yet to receive subscriptions from some members. For the convenience of those who were just about to do it, there is a reminder slip at the end of this issue for you to complete and return with your subscription of \$49.00 (of which \$24 goes to Edinburgh).

The Treasurer will have a full report at the AGM but you might be interested in my quick back of the envelope calculation that gives some idea of what we do with the \$25 local element of your subscription. We generally try to run classes and events so that they cover direct costs (allowing a discount for members). The subscription is intended to cover the overhead costs of running the branch and servicing members; insurance, audit fees, postal charges and web site registration fees which amount to around \$30 a member. In addition, there is the cost associated with the Scotch Circle. In 2005/06 the shortfall is offset by small surpluses on events and interest payments. Obviously the numbers go up or down fairly dramatically according to the number of members – which is why we would really appreciate your renewals!

## **Events**

### **Canberra Ball – 2 September 2006**

The program (with music by Strathmannan) is The Summer Assembly, the Kelloholm Jig, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Whistling Wind, The Wild Geese, Cherrybank Gardens, Shiftin Bobbins, Major Ian Stewart, Wisp of Thistle, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossen, Napier's Index, Sauchie Haugh, The Australian Ladies, Pelorus Jack, Culla Bay, The Montgomeries' Rant, The 51<sup>st</sup> Travellers, Miss Florence Adams, Joie de Vivre, The Meeting of the Waters.

Ticket still available if you hurry contact Bruce (02) 6288 2487

### **Southern Highland Scottish Country Dancers - 20th anniversary**

Southern Highlands Scottish Country Dancers are holding a social to celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, 2nd September, 2006 at St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Browley Street, Moss Vale. The dancing starts at 7.30pm with music by Bob McInnes and Rhonda Langford

\$10.00 including supper

Contact Helen Wales for more information (02) 4861 6471

### **Marengo Social**

The Annual Marengo Social is being held again this year on 16 September 2006 at The Hall. Murringo. Dancing starts at 7.30pm with music by Hugh McKenna – admission \$10

Program – Maxwell's Rant, Hooper's Jig, Neidpath Castle, The Montgomeries' Rant, The Sailor, Dalkeith's Strathspey, The Falls of Rogue, Shiftin' Bobbins, Marengo Blue, The Black Swans of Narrabeen, The White Heather jig, MacDonald of the Isles, The Hunting Horn, A trip to Bavaria, Drumelzier, The White Cockade, The Frisky, Monymusk, Catch the wind

### **Can you help?**

As Secretary of the Branch I am used to unusual requests like "I need to hire kilts for a bridal party in Cairns – can you help?" from a caller from UK. Not all the requests are so far out of left field.

Recently Verley Kelliher a Scottish Country dancer from the Blue Mountains area rang to ask if we could give her any assistance in putting on a display in Tasmania.

A set of dances has been devised by John Foster in Scotland that are relevant to the making of a Quaker tapestry and Verley would like to present these dances at the yearly meeting of Australian Quakers to promote the making of a Quaker tapestry in Australia. The meeting is being held in Hobart 6 -13 January 2007.

If you can help call Verley Kelliher on 02 4787 5968

## **Correction – Brigadoon at Bundanoon**

In our last issue our article on Bundanoon referred incorrectly to the announcements at Bundanoon being done by Jean Farnon. The announcements were made by Jean Conway. To paraphrase the Canberra Times, this was a reporter error and the Scotch Circle did not intend to malign anyone. It seems that the mystical qualities of the event got to our reporter.

## **What's been happening**

### **Tartan Night held by Caledonian Society of Batemans Bay**

On 16 June the Community Centre in the heart of the CBD of Batemans Bay was the venue for this social event. Over 70 enthusiastic dancers attended, some from as far afield as Canberra and Bermagui. It was a very cold night in Batemans Bay's terms, though mild in Canberra's, but a selection of jigs, reels and strathspeys kept everybody warm. Hugh McKenna provided the music on accordion.

A variety of interludes gave the dancers time to recover energy. Warren Hughes entertained the gathering with his pipes, supported by Greg Hazlett on the drum, followed by Aileen Hughes who recited a comic poem on some of the less rewarding aspects of Scottish Country Dancing. Some of the members of the Caledonian Society demonstrated 'The Dundee Whaler' and 'The Highland Rambler' while John Morrison threw much energy into a spirited Highland dance over a sword. A very different form of dancing was contributed by a group of international folk dancers, some of whom are also Scottish Country dancers. Particularly striking was a dance of Eastern European origin performed while the dancers held candles.

A magnificent supper made up of the various 'plates' brought along by all the participants rounded off an evening of good fun and fellowship.

*Joy Hooton*

### **Scottish Country Dance connection between Canberra, ACT and Berne, Switzerland**

Recently a message was posted on the Strathspey server by Alan Paterson, principal teacher of the Berne SCD Club, seeking information on music on a cassette tape which had been held in the archives of the Berne SCD group for approximately 15 years. As the tape included music for two dances devised by Les Cumming (Sharing and Caring and Coppins' Crossing), Alan thought the cassette may have been from a dance program held in the Canberra area and was seeking an explanation as to how it could have found its way to Switzerland.

On making a few inquiries, I discovered that in fact the cassette had been taken to Berne by one of our local dancers, Charles Hocart, when he went to work there in 1987 and 1989. As Charles tells me, when he arrived in Berne there was no Scottish country dance group registered there, however, there was a group in Fribourg but by the time he contacted them, the group had just folded. Charles thought there was to be no more SCD for him until he received a phone call from Professor John McGuigan, who just happened to be working in the building next to Charles at the university and who was keen to start a SCD Group in Berne. Charles, as the only person with any experience with Scottish Country dancing, was persuaded to become the teacher. The group met and still meets at the International School in Gümligen, just outside Berne (a short cycle or train trip away) where John's wife Rosemay teaches. They started out with about six or seven sets and drew people in from a variety of connections including the Englischer Kirke, Upstage (the English language theatre) and from the University of Berne – Scots, English, American, Swiss and one Australian. Charles says that after the initial bout of enthusiasm

evaporated numbers dropped off a little and settled down to about five sets. Charles reports it was hard going at first finding appropriate material and getting everybody up to a minimal level of competence but the group ended up being asked to do demonstrations and members of the group even ventured off to attend Swiss Scottish Country Dance Balls. He said it was a very social group and after class they used to adjourn to the pub on the other side of the railway line. *(Maybe we should try that in Canberra and perhaps increase our numbers)*

Charles' story of the establishment of the Berne group was all news to Alan Paterson, as it was to us here in Canberra. But Charles clearly remembers Alan being in the class at the time. Alan reports they now sometimes have trouble getting two sets! Although the Berne group is not large in numbers they do have their own web page which you might like to check out at the following link <http://www.scottap.com/scd>. They are obviously a very organized group.

The remaining question is who made the tape? Charles relates that he did not make it but cannot recall who gave it to him. Jan Livingstone, who was teaching the Belconnen class during the time that Charles regularly attended it, has no recollection of the tape. This leads me to speculate that the producer of the tape may have been the late Archie Brown.

*Elaine Arthur*

## **Winter School 2006**

Winter School in Muresk was a well organised week of fun and dancing. Audrey Emmet and her crew did a brilliant job of putting on the event.

There was one cameo appearance of Basil Faulty. We weren't quite sure what we had let ourselves in for when the driver of the bus chartered to take us from the airport to the Muresk Institute of Agriculture about 90 kilometres from Perth got lost. It seemed he didn't have a map but eventually conceded he was lost and asked the way at a local pub - much to the delight of all the women on board who were busy recounting untrue stories of how "men never ask for directions". It wasn't too much of a detour and we did arrive in time for tea.

The school was held at a college where the earliest buildings dated from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The accommodation was very comfortable and for those of us from Canberra it was pretty normal to wake up to a cold frosty start which dissolved into a bright sunny day. Those from Queensland and NT found the going a bit rough the first couple of days.

The classes catered for a wide range of abilities and I am sure everybody enjoyed themselves, well most of the time. The teachers reminded us of some of the things that we tend to forget and introduced some very interesting dances which Jan and I will be sharing with our classes over the next few months.

There was one instance of harassment on the first day when one class completed 354 bars of pas de bas practice for one dance. The Muresk Morning Mail reported that after completing this workout the kind New Zealand teacher told her class "if anyone is injured, just limp!!" However, it wasn't all one way traffic. The next day, in the same class we did a dance involving advancing and retiring in lines of three across the dance (my brain has irrevocably suppressed the name of this dance). There was a grave danger that the retiring gentleman would stomp on the heels of those above him. When we danced through this little number in our best fashion, one of our number was overcome with concerns about the occupational health and safety aspects of this advance and retire movement; he retired emitting the raucous, repetitive klaxon sounds of a reversing bobcat excavator.

Our dancing was accompanied by some great music. Marion Anderson and her band provided a great stimulus to the dancing at evening socials and it was a bit of a come down when we had to make do with CDs in classes on a couple of mornings.

We ate well and partied into the night after the evening socials. Supper invariably extended to an informal ceilidh with more dancing to music provided by various ad hoc combos, singing and poetry (some serious, some not so serious – there is an not so serious example by that well known author *anon.* at the end of this article). Among the people who go to Winter School there are some who are exceptionally talented in more than just dancing.

I hadn't been to Winter School for a few years as other things seemed to intervene, so the outstanding feature of this year's school was that again I was able to be part of a group of people who are long standing friends and who meet each other for just one week each year.

*Bruce Clark*

### *Scottish Country Dancing*

#### *INJURIES*

I pulled a muscle last night in class  
I've a great big bandage to prove it  
It's not too bad if I keep it still  
But it gives me hell when I move it.

It's rather lucky my twisted knee  
Is almost entirely well  
But I'll have to look after the ankle  
That recently started to swell.

My instep is nearly better  
And the pain in my toe's getting less  
But the ligaments round the back of my heel  
Are rather a nasty mess.

I had a few days of concussion  
An error in Postie's Jig  
It was only a hair-line fracture  
But the bump was uncommonly big.

My shoulder has never been quite the same  
Since my partner got out of hand  
And twizzled me wildly in Hamilton Rant  
And I ended up in the band.

Oh, it's lovely to do Scottish dancing  
But to my eternal sorrow  
I've decided it's just too rough for me  
So I'm taking up Rugby tomorrow.

## Quincentenary performance by David Currie's SCD teams

On September 11, 1991, I received our first invitation to dance at a nursing home. After almost 15 years it is hard to believe we have tallied up a total of 500 performances.

Our first invitation was to the Canberra Nursing home, now known as Amity of Aranda and at one time known as Alambie. On my first visit, I was met with a sight that unsettled me a bit. I had never seen so many people in wheelchairs together in one place at the same time. We have now danced there a total of 42 times and I am well used to what to expect over there. In fact I look forward to going there where they are always so glad to see us.

We have danced at 23 nursing homes and retirement villages and received invitations to a number of senior citizens groups in Canberra and Queanbeyan. We have also had two invitations to dance at Young and have been to Boorowa twice.

The table below shows the number of invitations year by year. 2001 was a very busy year with most of the invitations being from February to November.

I would love to know how many dancers have danced with us over the 15 years. I must count them up when I have a spare couple of hours. Looking back at my earlier notes, I am reminded of a lovely American lady called Merrily Richie who was in our very first set at Aranda and was a regular with us until she was posted to another country. Other names such as Anna Gordon, Peg Arthur, Loui Swan, Nan Home, Peter Cooper and Lloyd Melhuish appear in my notes from the early 90s.

The story of these 15 years would not be complete without special mention of James Coward. Our audiences marvel at what he does - being in his early nineties and minus a limb. He has been a member of the team on 425 of the 500 times we have danced.

My award last year of the Order of Australia Medal was a wonderful reward for what I have been doing. To be able to light up the faces of the residents of the homes is reward enough but the award of the medal was the icing on the cake for me.

Filling the sets each week has been the hardest part of the jobs and I must thank all the dancers who answered the calls to dance.

1991	2	1995	15	1999	42	2003	44
1992	13	1996	28	2000	47	2004	41
1993	14	1997	44	2001	52	2005	35
1994	13	1998	45	2002	47	2006	18 so far

*David Currie*

## Events until the Next Issue of Scotch Circle

**19 August – Burns SCD Spring Hop**, St Andrews Church Hall, **7.30pm**, music by Strathmannan, \$10 including supper. Recap sheet available at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/Burns-Hop2006Inst.doc>

**2 September – The Canberra Ball**, to be held in a new venue for Scottish dancers, St Edmunds College, Canberra Avenue. The main events of the 2007 Winter School will also be held here, so this is your chance to see it. The Ball starts at 6.30pm, with music by Strathmannan. A substantial supper (but not a full meal) is included in the ticket price of \$30. Visitors are most welcome and billets can be arranged. Contact Bruce Clark Ph 6288 2487 or [jbclark@webone.com.au](mailto:jbclark@webone.com.au)  
Recap sheet available at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/CanberrBallInst.doc>

**2 September – The Southern Highlands Scottish Country Dancers 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Social**, Saturday, 2nd September, 2006 to be held at St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Browley Street, Moss Vale, at 7.30 pm. \$10.00 (supper supplied). Music by Bob McInnes and Polly Garland. Contact Helen Wales 4861 6471

**8 September - Belconnen SCD Advanced Social**, 8.00pm, Assembly Hall Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr., Macquarie, led by Sheelagh and Trish.

**16 September – The Marengo Social** 7.30pm at The Hall, Marengo, music by Hugh McKenna, \$10, contacts Maurice Harcombe 63846222 or Jean Williams 63821514. Programme and Instructions at: <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/texts/MarengoSocial2006.doc>

**18 September – Afternoon SCD Workshop at Batemans Bay**. 1.30-4.30pm, led by Olive Bassett Macleod at the Batemans Bay Community Hall

**23 September – RSCDS Canberra and District Branch Annual General Meeting and Dance**: St Andrews Church Hall.

**13-15 October – Bermagui SCD weekend** including the 7<sup>th</sup> annual “Bemboka Social”

**20 October – Belconnen SCD Advanced Social**, 8.00pm, Assembly Hall Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr., Macquarie. At this final Advanced Social for 2006.

**4 November – Branch End-of-Year Social**, St Andrews Church Hall, Forrest.

**11 November – Batemans Bay St Andrews Supper Dance** 7.00pm at the Batemans Bay Community Hall

**18 November – Burns SCD Group St Andrews Night Dance**

**1 December 2006 – Gentle Dancers Picnic** Friday 12 noon at Lennox Gardens. BYO everything. All welcome. Enquiries to Jessie on 62733482 or [tmi04138@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tmi04138@bigpond.net.au)

**2 December – Belconnen SCD and SCDCC Combined Christmas Social**, in the Assembly Hall Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cr., Macquarie

**7 December – Monaro Caledonian Society Christmas Social**, St Andrews Church, Soho St, Cooma, 7.00pm. Please bring a gift for the tree (max. \$5).

**12 December – Burns SCD Group** last Monday dance for 2006

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

*Closing date for next Scotch Circle – Tuesday 1 November 2006*

*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

Membership renewal for financial year 2006/07

- \$49.00 for annual membership is enclosed, or
- \$10.00 for subscription to Scotch Circle is enclosed, or
- I do not wish to continue my membership/subscription

Name:.....

Postal address:.....

Email.....

Telephone.....(business hours).....(home)

Please return to:  
Treasurer  
Canberra and District Branch  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
PO Box 1795  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

.....**tear off here**.....

**ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
CANBERRA AND DISTRICT BRANCH INC  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

7.30pm, Saturday 23 September 2006

St Andrews Church Hall Forrest

**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of previous Annual General and Special General Meetings
- 3 Business arising from minutes
- 4 Annual Report
- 5 Treasurer's report and financial statement
- 6 Election of office bearers and committee
- 7 Appointment of auditor
- 8 Appointment of editor
- 9 Motion to determine annual subscription

PTO

## **Motion to amend determination of annual subscription**

Motions have been agreed at previous General Meetings which determine that “the annual subscription for any financial year shall be the sum of the rate of annual subscription set by the Society in the previous November (at the exchange rate prevailing on 1 May preceding the financial year and rounded to the nearest whole dollar) and \$A25, this amount to include the annual subscription to Scotch Circle which will be available to other members for a subscription of \$10 a year.”

Situations have risen in the last few years where people who wish to join our Branch are already members of the Society through membership of another branch or headquarters. The committee considers it is desirable that we allow them to become members of our Branch without incurring the cost of another membership to the Society. Accordingly it is proposed to amend the determination of the rate of annual subscription to provide that they pay only the local element of our annual subscription

It is proposed that the following clause be added at the end of the determination of the rate of annual subscription.

“Where a person is otherwise a current financial member of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, the annual subscription for membership of this Branch shall be \$25.”

**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)

.....  
(Signature)

.....  
(Name - BLOCK LETTERS)

.....  
(Name - BLOCK LETTERS')

Date:.....

Date:.....

I, ....., the person nominated,  
consent to this nomination

.....(Signature)      Date:.....

**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 23 September 2006 and at any subsequent adjournment of the meeting.

(Signature of member appointing proxy)  
Date: