



The Royal Scottish County Dance Society
New Zealand Branch Inc
Junior Associate Newsletter



Issue 3/2011



JAMs @ Hinuera

In a little village close to Hobbiton in the middle of the mighty Waikato, an enthusiastic little Scottish Dancing Group with about 12 children between 6 and 11 years old has met weekly since mid June.

It all started with a keen mum, who does the organising, and a great Tutor - Jeanette Lauder (of Tokoroa), that the children adore. It was only meant to be a 5 week course, but the children loved it so much, that Jeanette was persuaded to carry on teaching at Hinuera.

To show parents, friends and families what the children had achieved so far, we held a "Mini Ball". A Piper joined us for the occasion along with other Club members from Rotorua, Cambridge and Tokoroa. Adults brought their grandchildren or their neighbour's children, to introduce them to Scottish Country Dancing. We had a lovely dance followed by afternoon tea.

In the first week of October, the Hinuera girls, joined by some from Tokoroa, danced at the Matamata A & P Show. It was their first dance display, and their excitement started weeks prior. They put on a great display, and we are all proud of them.



We have another 5 weeks to dance before we hold our "End of the year Dance" on 3 December (see details in Upcoming Events section). We invite young dancers from across the region (or further afield) to join us for some easy dancing with a BBQ to follow. Who knows, Santa might come to visit as well...

Report by Inge Schiffer

Medal Tests

Results

Hamilton 23 Jul 2011

BRONZE

Siobhan Frost Laura Swears
Olivia Humphrey Rosemary Swears
Amy Martin

SILVER

Michelle McEwan

Christchurch 9 Oct 2011

SILVER BAR

Eden Arawa-Stirling Kerridwen Russ
Laura Gruschow Kate van Beurten
Angela O'Carroll

Congratulations to all the recipients!!!

Upcoming Tests

Masterton Summer School Dec 2011
(Applications close 21 Nov 11)

Next Issue

Do write to us! We welcome contributions to the newsletter from JAMs, JAM groups and teachers.

We want this newsletter to have in it what you want to read, and to tell you about what JAMs are up to in the rest of New Zealand. So please send in your articles, photos, dances you've devised, ideas for competitions or activities, or details of upcoming events. We would love to receive them.

To list Upcoming Events, please send details of event, date, and contact name.

Please email your contribution for the next issue to jam@rscdsnz.org.nz by **15 March 2012**

Upcoming Events

Hinuera End of Year Dance

End of Year Dance
Hinuera Hall, Hinuera, State Highway 29
Saturday 3 December 2011
Dance 1.30 - 3.00pm
Followed by BBQ until 5.00pm

Please bring a small gift to contribute to Santa's sack. Why not combine it with the Christmas parade in Matamata at 11.30am?!

Contact Inge Schiffer
07 888 1658

Summer School

RSCDS NZ Branch
Wairarapa Summer School
28 December 2011 - 5 January 2012

Applications may still be possible, and your presence at any or all evening dances is encouraged!

Contact Summer School organiser, Elaine Laidlaw
on ph +64 6 377 0322 or email
elaine.laidlaw@rscdsnz.org.nz
or look at the website
<http://sswairarapa.rscds.nz.org.nz>

AWE Weekend

"Australasian Weekend of Excellence" 2012
Abbotsford, Melbourne, VIC Australia
3 to 5 February 2012

Residential weekend of Scottish Country Dancing for dancers of all levels (elementary to advanced) **aged 18 to 35**.
Fees due by **16 December 2011**
[\$50 (AUD) extra after this date]

Contact organiser Heather Ross
ph +61 3 9886 1028
therosshome@bigpond.com

JAM Forum, Summer School

Wednesday, 4 January 2012
Party Room 2-3pm

The JAM Committee will be holding an open forum at the Masterton Summer School. JAMs, teachers, parents and anyone else interested in JAM matters are welcome.

If you have feedback or questions that you would like the JAM Committee to consider for the Forum, please send these to the JAM Convenor, to the address on the front page of the newsletter. You don't have to have raised the matter before Summer School, in order to discuss it at the Forum but as not all Committee members will be able to be in Masterton, it may help the Committee to prepare and consult beforehand.

Summer School Scholarship Winner

This year's winner of the Summer School Scholarship is (drum roll, please):

Josie Olsen

A Hello to Jimmy Shand

Your current editor and JAM Convenor, Jeanette Watson, has just returned from 6 weeks travelling in Europe, including a few days in Scotland. While there, she "met" the famous Scottish dance bandleader Jimmy Shand - at least, was photographed with his statue in his birthplace of Auchtermuchty (which is easier to say if you remember that the "ch" sound in Scots is like you're clearing your throat to spit!) It's a tiny village in the "Kingdom of Fife", north of Edinburgh.

Jimmy was a button accordionist - Peter Elmes, one of New Zealand's current bandleaders, also

plays the button accordion, but most other accordionists these days play piano accordion (which has a set of black & white piano-like keys down the side, rather than the buttons you can see on the sculpture).



Sir Jimmy Shand died in December 2000 at the ripe old age of (very nearly) 93 - he was born in January 1908. The statue's inscription reads

"Happy to Meet,
Sorry to Part,
Happy to Meet Again"

which might refer to meeting in Heaven after death, or we could think of it as how we feel as we meet our friends at Summer Schools and dances, say goodbye, then meet again at the next one!

BREAKING NEWS!!!

**Advance Notice
JAM Camp 2013**

The Canterbury Region have been invited, and have agreed, to hold the next JAM Camp - more details to come, but start planning to be in Christchurch in late Sept /early Oct 2013.

Christchurch JAMs back in the swing

The whole country knows that the year here in Christchurch has been a disrupted one. The effect on our Juniors group has been a substantial reduction in our numbers. It was difficult to find a new location for the children's classes when our usual hall was unfit to be used, with hundreds of other community groups in the same position, and we had to accept a change of night in a different suburb.



The Christchurch Juniors class at their end of year party

That meant that some could no longer come, as it was too far to travel; others were already involved in other activities on that night.

Classes started in mid-May with 3 seniors and 6 juniors. We were resigned to there being no medal tests this year. However, with a positive attitude and hard work by their tutor Margaret McMurry and the senior girls, good progress was made and it was decided to invite our friends from Rangiora to join us in applying for a Silver Bar Medal Test. The test was held on Sunday 9 October with 6 candidates, followed by afternoon tea for the girls and their supporters.

Our last night for the year was on 31 October when we had dancing and a party and were joined by some of the parents and adult club members.

Report by Sandra McCormick

Auckland JAMs fling

Auckland Region held two successful events for juniors during the year - the Youth Fling in May, and Junior classes and an evening dance in September.

The Youth Fling was organized by a youth subcommittee. 21 dancers in the 13 to 30ish age group attended. The wonderful music of the Rose and Thistle Band helped to lift the feet off the floor, and proceeds from a raffle were donated to Christchurch.



On 3 September, beginner, intermediate and advanced junior dancers gathered to be taught by Katherine Hoskyn, Heather Hine and Anne Anderson. Classes were followed by

a shared meal and some games. Four sets of dancers then enjoyed an evening dance to round out the day. Muckle Flugga and The Kingston Flyer were danced in the dark, wearing glo bracelets - a real hit! The request to dance Posties Jig in the dark was turned down for safety reasons - the compromise was "no hands".



Report by Lois McEwan