



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



Issue 2/2012



Hey everybody! This issue of Jigs and More is all about life after JAMS, so for all you Senior JAMS, dancing doesn't end when you get old. But don't worry, our next issue will be for you Junior JAMS, we haven't forgotten about you! Love and kisses Mel and Josie.

Summer School JAM Scholarships - TWO available!!! Apply by 15 July

Two Summer School Scholarships will now be awarded each year, both for the full cost of a JAM resident at the New Zealand Summer School! Applications will close three months earlier - 15 July - and be drawn by the end of that month.

Applications are particularly encouraged from junior dancers who might not otherwise be able to go to Summer School - whether due to financial constraints, because their family are not SCD dancers, or other reasons. However, the successful applicants will continue to be drawn by ballot only - there is no grading by criteria.

Application forms and information about Summer School and the scholarship were sent out with Issue 1, and are also available on the Branch website, from the Youth page.

Youth Fling

On Friday the eighteenth of May the dancing youth of Auckland gathered for their annual Youth Fling. We took some photos and interviewed some of the dancers, and here they are!



Caleb, above: "Enjoyed! Fairly good for beginners." Mel, your editor, and Claire, above right, also enjoyed the evening. Zoe thought the food was good, as Liz demonstrates!



Medal Tests

Upcoming medal tests 2012

Waikato Bay of Plenty - September

Christchurch - Summer School

More information about the medal tests will come in the next issue of Jigs and More.

Copies of the dances are to be placed on the Branch website, so all you potential stooges can prepare.

Contact Ruth Oldfield at P.O. Box 86, Meremere 2441, jam@rscdsnz.org.nz

Upcoming Events

Youth Scottish Fling for 13 to 30's

Friday 20 July 2012, 7.30-10pm

St John the Baptist Church Hall, 47 Church Street, Northcote, Auckland

Supper - Adult Supervision
\$7.00 Admittance

Enquiries: Angela 09 478 3138 or
angela.maxted@gmail.com

1st Birthday Celebration Dance

Scottish Country Dancing at Hinuera invites all Youth & those Young at Heart to join them for a celebration dance.

Date : Saturday the 28th of July 2012

Venue : Hinuera Hall, Hinuera, State Highway 29

Time : 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm then afternoon tea

Cost : Children : \$ 2

Adult : \$ 4

Please bring : some fruit or baking for dessert

Tokoroa Tea Dance

The Tokoroa Scottish Country Dance Club are having a Tea Dance for the JAMS and Beginners.

This will be held on 8 July from 2 - 5pm at the Amisfield School Hall in Moffatt Road, Tokoroa.

All welcome.

"SPRING INTO CHRISTCHURCH"

JAM CAMP, 4 - 6 October 2013

Start your fundraising now

An awesome weekend of dancing with other young dancers in Christchurch!

Organiser Sandra McCormick: Ph 03 960 8866
Address 7 Ngata Place, Hei Hei, Chch 8042:
email johnandsandramccormick@gmail.com

Dancing after JAMs: in the Midwest of America

In August, I moved from Wellington, New Zealand, where I had spent the previous 15 years of my life, to Chicago, Illinois, USA. I did it to start working towards a PhD in neuroscience. There were many unknowns and scary parts to moving to a new country, and starting at a new school, but I knew one thing: I would have a Scottish Country Dancing community there. Having a fun and familiar environment that I could fit into in this new and foreign place was invaluable.

I've been dancing since I was 7 years old. As a JAM, I worked my way through the medal tests and have had the privilege of being taught by some really great tutors. Having now danced outside of NZ, I really appreciate both how popular it is in NZ, and how high the calibre of dancing is. While some things are different here, the people you find in dancing are always super friendly. Not just a dance-with-you kind of friendly, but a bring-you-into-their-home, and give-you-rides-to-places kind of friendly. I've

really been so grateful for all the warmth I've been shown here.

One of the first differences I noticed was how social dances are MC'd. At home, we'd usually have the tutor who put the programme together, MC the whole night (or at most two people). But here in the Midwest (encompassing Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota groups) social dance MCing is done tag-team style. There's one person who introduces each of the briefers, who only brief one or two dances each. It's kind of nice, because it gives more people a chance to practice briefing, but it did surprise me a bit at first, since you have to get used to lots of different styles of briefing!

Another thing that's different and rather impressive is how far people travel for dancing. It feels like things are much more spread out here (both in dancing and other things), because it's just such a big country! For example, for the Chicago New Year's Ball, people travelled from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Twin Cities, Minnesota. Ann Arbor is about a 5 hour drive, and Twin Cities is a good 8 or 9 - that's further than the drive between Auckland and Wellington! It's great too, because it means I get to see more of the Midwest just by going to other Branch's dances! So far I've already been to Milwaukee's Halloween dance, the New Year Ball in St. Charles, Madison's 35th Annual Ball, and the annual Midwest Weekend Workshop.

Scottish Country Dancing has been a part of my life for a long time, and I honestly can't imagine not doing it. People think I'm joking when I say that I would have re-considered my choice of grad school if Chicago didn't have a dancing group! Dancing gets me out of the lab, and keeps me sane. I enjoy dancing socially and doing demonstrations when I can. And it gives me a great excuse to travel! In fact, I'll be travelling back home for this year's NZ Summer School in Ilam. I hope to see some of you there.

Xiaowen Yu

An AWESome weekend

Does the idea of 15 hours of dancing in one weekend appeal to you? It certainly did to me and so on the 3rd of February (at 6:30 in the morning!) I flew to Australia for the most AWESome weekend ever!

For years people have been saying "but what happens after JAMS, it would be nice to have something for other young dancers" and so the wonderful Cairistiona decided to organize a school in Australia for dancers between 18 and 35 (inclusive) "camp AWESome". I cannot imagine a more successful weekend!

The start of the AWESomness was a dance on Friday evening, MCed by the fabulous and amazing Hannah Roxburgh and Oly Miller and why would we do Culla Bay in a 4 couple set when we have a room full of crazy young dancers filled with far too much energy? We couldn't see any reason to, so our two sets quickly merged into a double! Of course being in Australia for a weekend of dancing with all your friends means you aren't going to be going to bed after the dancing stops, that would be far too sensible!

However, the next morning we all managed to get to class without looking too dead, and it is a good thing we weren't because class was fantastic with our brilliant musician David South; and our teacher, the marvellous Jean Dodds, who seemed to have gone through all the dances she could find, picking out the strangest and most tiring. I've never done a highland schottische poussette before!

The afternoon was equally terrific, with a class on dances that WERE ACTUALLY MEANT TO HAVE TWIRLS IN THEM, and then Bonnie Anne...

After all that we were a bit dead but we somehow managed to revive during dinner for the evening dance. We had a sensational time with an amazing band.

Of course we are all so awesome that everyone wanted to see us dance and so we did a very, um unrehearsed would probably be the kindest way of putting it, demo of De'il Among the Tailors. That was on Sunday evening and the last evening together so, as everyone who has been to JAM camp knows, that meant PARTY!

We managed to drag ourselves to class the next day and somehow managed to get through another AWESome class finishing with a dance combining Maxwell's Rant, De'il Among the Tailors and Montgomery's Rant.

To finish off the weekend there was a 'dance challenge' where we were shown and did dances written by 3 of the wonderful dancers: Oly Miller, Michael Darby and Iain Matcham and then afternoon tea and hugs.

As I'm sure you gathered I had an absolutely AWESome time and we all have many hopes of another one soon which nothing could keep me away from and where I hope to see many of you!

Susan Jowett



Some more winners from the colouring competition! Kiara Nuttney and Dasha Spiridonova are holding their certificates and their friends from Milford Juniors are with them. Congratulations!



Just a little bit of housekeeping to end our newsletter. The JAM Committee have been having a few issues with emails bouncing and mail being returned. If your contact details have changed please let Sandra McCormick know: johnandsandramccormick@gmail.com.

Next Issue

Do write to us at our new email address -

jigsandmore@rscdsnz.org.nz

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.

Please email your contribution for the next issue to jigsandmore@rscdsnz.org.nz by **31 August 2012**