



Kiwi News

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi there,

I write to you from Brisbane, Australia where Frances and I spent last week at the Australian Winter School, at Cromwell College, Brisbane. A larger school than those in the past, but 130 dancers, tutors and musicians was a good number.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Scottish Country Dancing is that despite the fact both of us are several thousand kilometres away from home, we are among friends and making new ones and being made most welcome in Brisbane.

While dancing at club and region introduces you to other dancers, Winter and Summer Schools introduce the international side of dancing. At this School, we met dancers from England, France, Singapore, America and Germany. Along with the Australians, there was a large contingent from New Zealand.

The NZ Summer School is being held in Auckland from 28th December till 5th January; yet another chance to meet other dancers from around the globe.

Get online, contact your club or region secretaries and fill in the application form for this School. Both Frances and I look forward to seeing you there.



SHOP KEEPERS

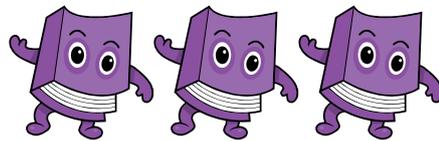
RECORD SHOP

Dorothy W Wilson

P O Box 612, Blenheim 7240

Ph 03 578 3766

Email: recordshop@rscdsnz.org.nz



NEW IN STOCK

“**Carriages at Midnight**” Fiddle and Piano music by Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt incl. “Catch the Wind” and “Anna Holden Strathspey” (6x32) plus two Demonstration Tracks. \$28-00 + P&P Contents listed in February 2015 Recordshop Newsletter.

IN THE PIPELINE:

Release date late July: “**Music for Book 49**” recorded by Jim Lindsay & his S D Band – an initial order has already been placed with HQ which will cater for all orders already placed with the Recordshop. Further orders being taken for September delivery.

RECORDSHOP CLOSURE:

It will soon be time for Stocktaking, Annual Balance etc. Please note, the Recordshop will close to orders on 4 August. Orders received after that date may not be processed until 1st September.

Recordshop Gift Vouchers are always available – minimum value \$30

Do you receive or are you able to view the Branch Recordshop Newsletter? This is the most up to date way of knowing the latest situation with regard to CDs. This newsletter goes out to all clubs and regions in the hope that it is circulated to members and displayed on Club Notice Boards. If any member would like to receive this Newsletter mailed direct please send me your email address and I will be happy to add your name to the list.

BOOKSHOP BITZ

Sue Pearson

C/- 21 Stafford Street, Wanganui 4501

NZ Branch website

Email bookshop@dancescottish.org.nz

Book 49 will be released by Headquarters later this year. I expect to receive a supply by September and am happy to take orders if you would like to be among the first to get a copy of the new book.

Recent arrivals

- Book 48
- Leaflet Dances 1964-1998, in A5 format
- Dances to Song Tunes by Hugh Foss
- RSCDS Edinburgh Branch 90th Anniversary book
- Graded Book 3
- MacNab Dances combined Vols 1&2
- The Imperial Book Vols 1-3
- Unit 2 Teaching Certificate Dances
- New Manual of Scottish Country Dancing

GLENDARROCH CLUB DANCE

Saturday, 26 September 2015

5.30 p.m.

**Wanganui Intermediate School Hall
Dublin Street, Wanganui**

St Andrew's Ball

Blenheim Scottish Country Dance Club – hosting this year's St Andrew's Ball for the **Nelson-Marlborough Region**

To be held in Blenheim on Saturday 28th November with Live music.

Watch out for details in the next edition of Kiwi News.

wild heather

vibrant and expressive music for
Scottish Country dance schools and
formal events

wild heather

Sharlene Penman - piano
Anne-Marie Forsyth - viola / fiddle
Lynne Scott - fiddle / piano
Mary McDonald - fiddle

A professional band with international stage
and class playing experience, and
in-depth dancing knowledge.

Contact

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**RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc.
Summer School**



2015 - 2016 Mount Wellington

The RSCDS New Zealand Branch Inc. extends a warm invitation for all dancers to attend the Summer School to be held from Dec 28th 2015 to Jan 5th 2016 in the Mount Wellington/Panmure area in Auckland.

Auckland, often referred to as the City of Sails contains more than 50 volcanoes spread across the isthmus.

Auckland is known for the Sky Tower, Rangitoto, the Harbour Bridge, and One Tree Hill as well as its harbour which is well used by the multitude of yachts and other boats that call Auckland home.

Mount Wellington is named after Maungarei/Mt Wellington, a 135 metre volcanic peak that dominates the sky line and was used as a pā by local Māori.



Residents will be accommodated and fed at the 4 star Waipuna Hotel and Conference centre off Waipuna Road, Mount Wellington.

The Hotel features a swimming pool and spa, gymnasium, bar, café as well as a variety of conference rooms we will be using for shops, offices and meals during the Summer School.

All venues are situated within 5 kms of the Hotel. Some are within easy walking distance and the others will be serviced by a bus leaving the hotel in the morning and returning at lunchtime for residents. All venues have wooden floors and most offer air-conditioning or have been designed to stay cool.

Classes are offered at most levels and include: Junior and Senior JAMs, Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced, Very Advanced, Advanced Low Impact, Teachers and Musicians, Teachers Preparation and the Musicians' Course.

"Reel of Seven" are a group of friends based in California who love to play music together. With 8 members attending Summer School, attendees will enjoy this "fiddle power" band with an exceptionally rich and diverse balance provided by cello, piano, recorder, and percussion.

<http://summerschool.dancescottish.org.nz>

Organiser: Duncan Laidlaw

duncan.laidlaw@dancescottish.org.nz

Phone: +64 21 245 1468
or 0800 023 862 (NZ Only)

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And now for another glimpse into the musical and dancing adventures of Sharlene Penman.....

My journey to France this year was as a dancer at the dance weekend of 10th -12th April, hosted by Lyon SCD club and with a contribution to the music class.

I was geared up to play for the regular class too on the Friday night, when AG tune was asked for by a frantic teacher who was going to Spring Fling (for 35yr olds and under) the weekend before, in London.

Corinne, the fiddler who has been playing for SCD for a couple of years by now was going to be away on a school trip with her class so she offered me her apartment!

Wonderful... I shared it with a British lady who lives in Montpellier now.

She spoke fluent French (compared to my halting attempts) and was completely au fait navigating 'le Metro'.

We were very compatible and she was an excellent guide.

The first night's dancing happened to be the Friday night, so I was not needed after all, for the regular class because they were all at the dance weekend!

The musicians were Callum Mitchell and Keith Anderson. I already knew them from St. Andrew's Summer School and the Craigellichie Band respectively. The teachers were Fiona Grant and Mervyn Short and the programme was sent to me on the 10th February.

As soon as Waitemata club opened for dancing I asked Esther to please put a few of the dances that were unfamiliar to me on the club programme. So club members had great fun firstly wondering why they were dancing 'Lyon dances' and secondly how to navigate their way around dances that are much more familiar to Europe's SCD community. Dances such as Clitheroe Castle, Engine Room and Déjà 10 Ans. (a 64 bar medley), the Vienna Conspiracy, the Wellingtonia Reel, Compliments to the Lawson's and Lyon Rosette. Esther very kindly obliged over the 3 weeks before I left for France, including a couple of them each club night.

So it was with somewhat informed anticipation that I joined the social on the Friday night.

Always, musicians are at the mercy of their equipment, and unfortunately the accordion leads were not working properly to deliver a well-balanced sound for the dancing so we basically danced to an un-amped fiddle and an accordion that came and went with its sound. I felt for them because they are both very fine musicians. They kept on trying different things to get the jolly thing to deliver the sound they were expecting to come out of the amplifier. No such luck!

The next morning at 9.45 was the welcome and registration, with a 10 am start to the dancing. There were small breaks at 2 dance intervals only, for water and catch your breath!

Dances were taught in English, with the odd French clarification. My class had Keith as musician, where he knew what he had to play and played extremely well but instead of being on the stage, he came down onto the dance floor where we could hear him very well. He used one of my favourite tunes, The Quarryman, in one of his jig sets and I told him so after the dance finished.

After a sumptuous meal at a local buffet style restaurant we all walked back to class where the musicians swapped over.

I was in the general class and there was a teaching class as well, taught by Fiona - a friend of Esther. Small world!

The evening's programme was made up on the spot immediately after the afternoon class, by the two MCs, Fiona and Mervyn, and consequently the musicians had to 'find' suitable tunes from what they had brought in their suitcases. Sometimes they had the lead tune and other times they didn't.

Adaptable, flexible, agreeable, are words I would describe this organisational collaboration by the musicians!

Next morning it was 9.45 start with a choice of two classes, a general class taught by Fiona, and a Highland class with Mervyn; then at 11.45 all the weekend dancers joined together for a combined class. So with 'not quite' beginners through to very advanced dancers and teachers in it, the two teachers had their work cut out. However everyone helped and it was a very enjoyable time. My visit as a dancer was made especially memorable by the last dance of the afternoon, and weekend, which was called Friendships, and when it was announced I quickly put my hand up in class to tell the teacher that the devisor, Jennie Miller, dances at my clubs, Waitemata and Royal Oak. The musicians very respectfully came down off the stage and asked me if there was a lead tune, because they didn't know they were playing it till today. I said it had been published in the third Graded book, with a tune chosen maybe by Jennie, maybe by the RSCDS, but I was not familiar with the tune, just the dance.

In the afternoon after another sumptuous buffet lunch, I went into the musicians class to help the two pianists, whom I already knew from my previous visits.

Many questions were offered up and we had great discussion with Calum and Keith.

The dancing had finished and the music class wound up at around 5pm. This was by now Sunday night 13th, time to leave, so I was delivered to the hotel closest to the Lyon airport by Raphaele, and after a great night's sleep, I was happily on my way to New York for my granddaughter Isabella's 1st birthday party.

A bientot,
Sharlene Penman.