



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



Issue 1/2024



Jigs And More

Hello and Welcome!

My name is Jeanette Lauder and I am the Youth Coordinator on the New Zealand Branch Management Committee. I love to see young people enjoying Scottish Country Dancing.



Unlike you, my Scottish Country Dancing began when I was adult. My son was about to start school when neighbours from our Wairoa farming community took me along to a club night

and I have continued dancing ever since. My son turns 50 next month so you can see I have been dancing for a long time!

I now live and dance in Tokoroa where I teach at the local Scottish Country Dancing club.

It has been a while since Jigs And More has been published. For future issues I hope you will share some of the things you have been doing in your clubs. It is interesting for everyone to hear about what is happening around the country. Maybe you will have some better Scottish related jokes than the ones we have here or perhaps you can send us a puzzle to include.

Our first article is about a dancer who I remember as a JAM (Junior Associate Member) with Ellerslie Juniors in Auckland.

Happy dancing,
Jeanette

JAMs have talent!

It doesn't seem so long ago that Saskia de Graaf was a JAM at Summer School – a beautiful dancer, a little shy, not quite as raucous as some of the other JAMs in the group.

At the Nelson Summer School, Saskia was on stage MCing Youth Night's dance with calm and confidence. Saskia not only briefed the dances, she set the programme – and what an awesome programme it was. It had a very definite youthful feel but wasn't so energetic that those of us who are more youthful in nature than in years couldn't keep up and enjoy it alongside the younger ones. Saskia was supported in her preparation by her mentor Katharine Hoskyn... because we all need a little help to find our feet in a new role.



It can be a daunting experience for even the most experienced MC to look out over a hall with 80 plus dancers and know they are looking to you to set the tone for the evening. But Saskia managed like she'd been doing it for years – she was very professional and clear. Even managing a band didn't throw her off her stride.

At the end of the night everyone agreed they'd had a fabulous time, and Saskia's turn as MC was a huge success. It was a good reminder to us all that JAMs grow up and are just bursting with talent and energy that can brighten our evenings in all sorts of ways, if only we allow them the opportunity.

Well done, Saskia!

Keeping everyone in the know

We are keen to keep in touch with all our young dancers and their clubs. This edition of Jigs And More is being sent directly to all clubs we know of that have younger dancers, whether or not they are registered as JAMs /JAM Clubs

To continue to receive your newsletter please register with the New Zealand Branch. This can be through your club or online. We particularly want clubs to register (at no cost) to help us all keep in touch.

Hogmanay thanks

Do you know about the Hogmanay traditions that some Scots share as each New Year starts?

In Scottish Country Dancing circles Hogmanay ceremonies often include a sweeper (to clear away the remnants of the old year for a fresh start) and a first foot bearing gifts that represent warmth (coal), health (salt) and hospitality (food and drink).

This year the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region held its Hogmanay celebration in Eureka, near Hamilton. Dancers from the local and Auckland regions were joined by some people new to SCD including a family of young teens. It was wonderful that some members of a Wellington dancing family also came along. Big thanks to Thomas, Catherine and Elizabeth who helped these new dancers feel more at ease during the occasion.

Getting underway in 2024

It is great to hear about clubs around the country getting underway for the year, especially junior clubs.

In Auckland, a new group called *Young Unicorns* has started at **Innes SCD**. On their first night four young lads arrived to learn about the joys of dancing Scottish.

The **Blenheim Juniors** restarted in February while **Lower Hutt Juniors** and **Newtown Group** got underway in March.



In **Tokoroa** the junior group began the year with a small group of children. After a year with no JAMs

they were excited to have reformed in the last term of 2023.

On their first evening in February the **Glendarroch Juniors** had more than doubled their numbers from the end of 2023 with 19 youngsters ready to go. Amazing!

Some clubs, like **Hoon Hay**, have JAMs dancing with them at their general club nights.

Summer School is in Wellington!

The Wellington Region invite you to join the JAM class (if you are aged 8 to 19) at the NZ Branch Summer School. The school runs from 28th December '24 until 5th January '25 and will be based at Scots College in Wellington City.

Interested? Talk with your teacher and visit the website nzsummerschool2024.nz for more info. Also ask for information about a JAM scholarship to attend. If you are under 16 you'll need an adult at the school with you.

Rowan

Have you heard about our RSCDS mascot? Rowan is a Scottish Blackface Dancing sheep who is keen to promote Scottish country dance to young people all over the world. This line of sheep began dancing after watching some Girl Guides in action in Argyll, Scotland in the 1920s.



My next adventure was attending the Napier Club's 70th Anniversary dance right across on the eastern side of the North Island. I was introduced to everyone by Isabel Jackson, the club's President.



A few days later Milford Club, on Auckland's North Shore, welcomed me to their Tartan Night and it was great to see the hall full of dancers.

Next my travels took me back to Whanganui for a night and then it was off to Lower Hutt in the southern part of the North Island - just north of Wellington - for the Lower Hutt Club's annual dance. I spent most of the evening on the stage with the band (Aileen, Jason and Hilary) enjoying the dancing and the music. Jason even allowed me to join in with the band on one or two items using his accordion.

I also attended the Glendarroch Scottish Country Dance Club's adult class. My final event was attending the club's 60th Anniversary dance before I left New Zealand with Mary and Duncan McDonald (Saltire Band) on my way to Winter School at Kiama, New South Wales, Australia.

Rowan's visit to NZ



In August last year Rowan travelled to New Zealand as part of the RSCDS centenary celebrations and had a busy time visiting as many dance clubs as possible.

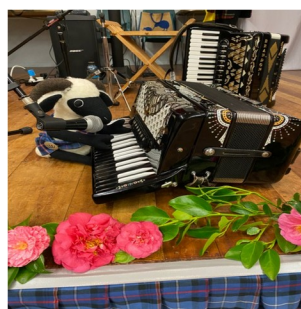
Rowan reports:



My first stop was in Whanganui where I met up with the Glendarroch Junior dancers. They are an enthusiastic group.

I was able to attend the Ashhurst Club, in Manawatu, for their Annual Afternoon Dance. Dancers from Wellington, Hawkes' Bay and Whanganui joined the local club members for a great afternoon of dancing, with music provided by the Saltire Band (Sharlene, Mary and Glenice).

I have had a lot of fun in New Zealand and there were lots of lovely sheep - I would have liked to take one or two home with me, but there was no room in the travel bag!



100 years of RSCDS

Did you know that in 2023 the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society celebrated 100 years of dancing Scottish? The RSCDS has branches all around the world, including our branch in NZ. The headquarters of the society is in Edinburgh in Scotland. Do you know anyone from Edinburgh?

Puzzle page

A wee true or false quiz for you

How much do you know about Scotland? Read these statements and circle whether you think they are true or false.

1. The national animal of Scotland is a unicorn. True False
2. The Scots word for a child is 'bairn'. True False
3. St Patrick is the Patron Saint of Scotland. True False
4. Scotland has over 750 islands. True False
5. A Scot invented the television. True False
6. Edinburgh is the largest city in Scotland. True False
7. Ben Nevis is Scotland's highest mountain. True False
8. The Clyde is the longest river in Scotland. True False
9. Peter Pan was written by a Scotsman. True False
10. The national flower of Scotland is the Scotch Thistle. True False

Try this with your friends and family.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Euan.
Euan who?
No one, just maeself.

What time does
Andy Murray go to
bed?

Tennish

Solve this centenary wordfind:

Instructions: The words in the puzzle may be hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward, or backward. Circle discovered words with different colors, and cross them off the list when you've found them. When all of the words are found, you will know some terms relating to the Scottish Country Dancing and our centenary.

centenary
couples
dancing
friendship
fun
jig
music

New Zealand
music
Scotland
strathspey
tartan
youth

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W Q Z S A W R B X B D I H I T
O A W D N Z K A J C N B T L A
D T A T Z R T R Q M A I U T O
Y E P S H T A R T S L S O Q K
F R I E N D S H I P T B Y E R
D D F M R A B G S Q O J E B U
D N Y R A N E T N E C U I F K
T Y A M P H V Q K I S Y E G N
B A K L O W J R W M C A H U H
Z W R U A Z N E J R D N F N V
P R P T C E G E T I E K A M A
Z L W I A N Z L B W G I Z D R
P E S R Z N H W C O U P L E S
C U Y U T Y R Y E U H K Z R D
M Y T O C W T L U N D C B Z F
    
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Thanks to Nicole who created this wordfind for us!



Send your news, ideas and comments to youth@dancescottish.org.nz by 15th June for our next newsletter.

Answers to our wee quiz:
1.T 2.T 3.F 4.T 5.T
6.F 7.T 8.F 9.T 10.T