

Otago Region
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Zealand Branch
Easter School 15-18 April 2022

Oamaru – the Whitestone City



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Programme

All necessary further information will be emailed to those who register; please bring your own name badges; there will be nothing else to collect or complete at the School.

Friday 15 April

7.30-9.00 p.m. Social dance

Saturday 16 April

9.00 a.m.-12 noon Classes

7.30-10.30 p.m. Formal dance

Sunday 17 April

1.00-4.00 p.m. Classes

5.30-7.00 p.m. Dinner – details to be announced

7.30-9.30 p.m. Social event

Monday 18 April

10.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Combined class

Covid vaccination passes are required for admission to all School events.

Information

The Easter School is planned as a weekend of classes, free time for sightseeing or just relaxing, and evening social dances. It's a great time to get to know your fellow dancers, and to explore Oamaru and elsewhere in North Otago. A useful starting point for information about the area is the Waitaki tourism website – <https://waitakinz.com/>, or try some of the links in the *Lots to Do in Oamaru* section at the end of this brochure.

Teachers

Su Marshall (Christchurch) – Elementary Class

Ann Oliver (Tawa) – General Class

Katherine Uren (Auckland) – Advanced Class

Classes

- ★ *Elementary* – for those who are still working towards familiarity with common formations
- ★ *General* – for those who are familiar with all common formations
- ★ *Advanced* – for those who are familiar with all formations and able to dance from a briefing alone

The theme is of everyone improving/learning/helping others to learn.

Music

Evening events will have music – might be live, might not.

Venues

Classes will be held in the St Joseph's School Hall, Usk Street, the Masonic Lodge, 1 Wansbeck Street, and the Garrison Band Hall, corner of Severn and Isis Streets – all halls have good wooden floors and modern facilities. The evening dances will be held at St Joseph's School Hall.

Fees

Full school \$135.00 – \$15.00 discount for RSCDS members

Junior dancers \$60.00 – no discount for RSCDS members

The full school fee includes classes, morning and afternoon teas, and admission to evening functions. Details and pricing of the Sunday dinner will be announced as soon as possible. Those who want to attend only the evening functions can pay the admission charge (\$15.00) at the door.

Accommodation and Travel

Easter is always a time of heavy demand for accommodation so please make your bookings as soon as possible.

Catering

Water will be available at all classes, and tea and biscuits will be provided for morning and afternoon tea during classes. Sunday evening dinner arrangements are still being finalised but will be advised as soon as possible.

**Easter is the first weekend of the school holidays in 2022,
so do not delay completing your registration and making your travel arrangements.**

Registration

Registration is online only. Go to <https://forms.gle/hHfqNf5SiRxpDKCf8>

Lots to Do in Oamaru

Aside from the Scottish country dancing and seeing SCD friends (including those you have not yet met), there is so much to do in Oamaru:

- Whitestone Cheese is worth visiting Oamaru for – it is a destination in itself <https://www.whitestonecheese.com/>
- In between eating cheese there's lots of food and drink to try <https://neatplaces.co.nz/guides/things-to-see-and-do-in-oamaru> or go a little further afield and visit Riverstone <https://www.riverstonekitchen.co.nz/>
- The Waitaki Valley is lovely in autumn and has so much to explore <https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/destinations/nz/dunedin/124449365/entering-narnia-24-hours-in-the-waitaki-valley>
- In particular, the Vanished World Centre at Duntroon <https://vanishedworld.co.nz/> in the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark featured on Radio NZ "Country Life" recently <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/countrylife/audio/2018808142/whales-and-dolphins-stuck-on-inland-farm> sounds brilliant for anyone with the slightest interest in geology and fossils.
- While on the topic of rocks, the Moeraki Boulders <https://www.moerakiboulders.com/> are about a 30-minute drive south of Oamaru.
- Not quite as old is the Oamaru Victorian Precinct <https://www.victorianoamaru.co.nz/> one of the most attractive town centres in the country.
- Oamaru is of course the steampunk capital of the world – if you are in any doubt, you can read about it in *The Guardian* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/30/new-zealand-town-oamaru-steampunk-capital-of-the-world>
- The Oamaru Public Gardens are big (34 acres), old (opened in 1876), and superb (a 5-star "Garden of Significance" rating) <https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/Facilities/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-playgrounds-and-reserves/Oamaru-Public-Gardens>
- 8km south of Oamaru is the historic Totara Estate which made the first frozen meat export from New Zealand <https://www.heritage.org.nz/places/places-to-visit/otago-region/totara-estate>
- The little blue penguin colony is famous throughout the world <https://www.penguins.co.nz/>
- For those with a cycling interest, the Alps 2 Ocean cycle trail <https://www.alps2ocean.com/> runs from the base of Aoraki Mt Cook (or from Tekapo) to Oamaru. Perfect for a gentle warm up before the School – or perhaps a cool down after.

