



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



Issue 1/2011



Jigs And More

New! Improved!
JAM Committee Members

Introducing **Sandra McCormick** from Christchurch:

I began dancing in the south of England just before my 15th birthday. When I was 18 we moved to Cumbria and I joined the Whitehaven Club, run at that time (1965) by John Drewry. In 1971 my husband and I emigrated to New Zealand with our two children, Fiona aged 18 months and Michael aged 7 weeks.

We were in Dunedin for 3&1/2 years and I danced first at the Burns Club and then Southern Cross. After moving to Christchurch in 1974 I danced at Lincoln, Burnside and finally the Christchurch Club.



In 2004, with the youngest of our seven children turning 20, I was persuaded to put something back into Scottish Country Dancing, which has given me so much pleasure for so many years, and I embarked on my teacher training. After gaining the Preliminary Teaching

Certificate in September that year, I sat Unit 5 at Summer School 2008/2009. The exam did not go well for me so I have decided to leave it at that. I assist with teaching at our club when required, and help Fiona with the younger children's class.

Nikki Hart and Renee Annan have now served for three years on the Committee, and we farewell them – thank you for your efforts for JAMs! Jeanette Watson is now the JAM Convenor and Jigs And More editor. Ruth Oldfield remains as Medal Test guru!

And (drum roll please) **Andrew Douglas** formerly of Glendarroch club in Wanganui:

Hey gang! I'm Andrew Douglas, your Youth Rep for the next two years. I've been dancing since I was but a boy of four, and am a regular goer of the summer schools. I'm currently first year Victoria University and loving every second of it. If you want to contact me you can email on andrewjaydouglas@gmail.com

The Scottish Snowman



Even though it was summer in Dunedin, the Junior JAM Class at the New Zealand Branch Summer School donned beanies and scarves for their ceilidh item "The Scottish Snowman". This dance was devised by a children's class in Canada in very cold snowy

conditions -27 degrees! The instructions are in the December 2010 issue of "Youth Ezine".

The Junior JAM Class particularly enjoyed bar 26 where they motioned placing a carrot for the nose or sticks for the arms (see photo!) Also bars 29-32 half a figure of eight – with bent knees and feet flat on the floor they patted the snow at the base of the snowman to make sure it was solid.

If you haven't tried dancing The Scottish Snowman yet, perhaps you could suggest to your teacher that your class give it a go.

Report by Lois McEwan

Medal Tests

Results

Summer School, Dunedin Dec 2010

BRONZE MEDAL

Brooke Ross

Riva Kerrisk

Leah Ross

Upcoming Tests

Auckland (JAM Camp) April 2011

(Closing date 1 Apr 11)

Waikato-BOP proposed Jul 2011

What are Medal Tests?

For those who are new to JAMs, Medal Tests are non-competitive awards, designed to give youth dancers in New Zealand goals to focus on, to improve their dancing. There are six levels of test – Bronze, Bronze Bar, Silver, Silver Bar, Gold and Gold Bar.

At each level, candidates must demonstrate their ability to dance the prescribed steps, formations and dances, and show an understanding of Scottish Country Dance music. The standard of dancing expected at each level is progressively more polished.

The syllabus for each level is available on the Branch website, or from the JAM Convenor, at the address on the front of this newsletter.

JAM Registrations

JAM registration forms have already been sent out to all JAM contacts, and adult dance groups in New Zealand. If you haven't received a form through your group, please contact the JAM Convenor at the address on the front of this newsletter.

Forms can be returned by email or mail. Payment for JAM and Friends fees can be made by cheque or internet banking (please email JAM Convenor for instructions).

In This Issue

Summer School information and registration form

Next Issue

Do write to us! We welcome contributions to the newsletter from JAMs, JAM groups, events and teachers. To list Upcoming Events, please send details of event, date, and organiser's contact details.

Email jam@rscdsnz.org.nz by **31 May 2011** for the next issue.

Upcoming Events

JAM Camp

Auckland Region invites you
to JAM Camp

Easter 22-24 April 2011

See advert on back page

Queen's Birthday

Queen's Birthday Weekend School
Putaruru

3-6 June 2011

See advert below

Summer School

RSCDS NZ Branch

Wairarapa Summer School

28 December 2011 – 5 January 2012

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>

A Special Message

to Christchurch JAMs and families

Our thoughts are with you all. We hope you are all safe, and that your dancing will help you to forget for a while, and smile!

Queen's Birthday Weekend School 2011

is hosted by

Tokoroa Scottish Country Dance Club.

The Tokoroa JAMs are keen for you to join them in Putaruru for the weekend

so "Wai Wooden Ya" come?

Junior JAM class on offer with Senior JAMs working in the general classes.

Information and registration forms have been sent to North Island Clubs and South Island Regions

If you haven't seen the forms, then "Wai Wooden Ya"

ask your secretary about them?

JAM Forum, Summer School

The JAM Committee held an open forum at the Dunedin Summer School on 2 January 2011. About 25 – 30 JAMs, teachers, parents and Committee members squeezed into a room designed for a lot less!

Thanks to all those who took time to put forward their thoughts, gripes, and general feedback, and for the great suggestions and thought-provoking discussions.

A number of subjects were discussed. The following changes are being considered:

√ Choice of email or mail delivery of Jigs And More on the 2011 registration form

√ Correct and tidy the database so everyone – JAMs, Friends, and group tutors and contacts – gets Jigs And More and other relevant information

√ Earlier notice of where and when JAM Camps will be, where possible [2011 noted as special case, moved to April, due to Rugby World Cup in Oct]

√ Look at what Branch could offer “SAMs” (ie senior JAMs and older) – possibly a Spring Fling camp, or an Australian camp alternating years with JAM Camp

√ Medal test process (including guidance on flexibility of particular rules) to be included on Branch website

√ Copy of each candidate’s medal test reports to be sent to relevant tutor

√ Provide a template certificate for tutors to use for recognising dancers’ achievements

√ Consider re-instating registration cards [discontinued 2 years ago]

√ Youth Rep and Senior JAMs to contribute more often to Jigs And More, possibly set up Facebook page for senior JAMs

If you have feedback or questions on these, or on anything else about JAMs, please send these to the JAM Convenor, at the address on the front page of the newsletter.

Summer School Scholarship

Report by Melanie Paulin.

Ten days or 240 hours or 14,400 minutes – whichever way you look at it, Summer School 2010/11 meant a whole lot of dancing and a whole lot of fun!!

Dancing, playing cards, laughing and enjoying good company are four things that instantly come to my mind whenever anyone mentions Summer School. However, before we travel down memory lane I will introduce myself. My name is Melanie Paulin and I am this year’s Summer School Scholarship recipient. Though I am 18 years of age I have only been dancing for 2 and a half

years – how I wish it was longer!! I dance at the Hillpark club and am taught by Heather Hine and Beverly Young. Winning the Summer School Scholarship enabled me to attend the School held in Dunedin at Knox College over summer 2010/11 with classes, meals and accommodation paid for.

The Senior JAM class this year was taught by Fiona Bullivant and just as we challenged her, she challenged us. We learnt many older dances, and these tended to require greater control and demanded more perfect phrasing than some of the newer dances. I personally came away from class with a new perspective on Strathspeys, thanks to Fiona’s enthusiasm for them. We were very blessed as a class to have Eddy West write a dance for us called “Stick with Your Mates”. This was instantly extremely popular with the class and it was voted unanimously that “Stick with Your Mates” be the dance we performed at the Ceilidh.

The Ceilidh was one of many awesome evening functions at the school, all supplied with fantastic live music. A surprising variety of items were performed including a protest from the United Fairies Organisation, a dance called “Those Russians” performed by Glendarroch club, a slightly unusual backwards Petronella (with accompanying backwards music), and singing by the lovely Lisa Sutherland. For me the highlight of the evening functions was Hogmanay. There is no better way, in my opinion, to welcome in the New Year than with dancing, singing and toasting Queen and country. When the official dancing ended, the party dancing began with everything from “The Best Set in the Hall” to the Chicken Dance being danced. I feel that there is something special about dancing at parties, the sheer joy, freedom and enthusiasm involved is something everyone should experience!

Mock court was in session once again, and it really was hard to keep a straight face with Andrew Douglas and Andrew Goss as Bailiffs. Although there were some new faces such as that of Andy Nolan called forth to face their crimes, the hardened criminals such as Katharine Hoskyn were not forgotten. Blindfolded piano playing, washing your mouth out with soap and being deported are just a few of the punishments that were handed out. The best thing about Summer School for me is the friendships that you make! After all where else can you meet people from all over the country and the world, and be sure that they are just as crazy as you.

There is only one sad thing about attending Summer School – all good things have to come to an end. However it is a fantastic experience and you can repeat it year after year.

Bring on Wairarapa 2011/12!
See you all there!

Melanie

The Scholarship paid Melanie’s fees for Summer School. It is awarded annually by the JAM Committee to one registered Junior Associate Member. Anyone can apply, but no one can win it more than once. Why not consider applying this year? Applications close 15 Sept for that year’s Summer School.

JAM Camp in Auckland 2011

22 – 24 April, 2011

"OVER THE RAINBOW"

Teachers:

Doug Mills from Christchurch
Ruth Oldfield from Auckland
Gail Schofield from Auckland

Venue:

St Cuthbert's College, Epsom, Auckland

Registration packs:

Registration packs have been sent to registrants with full timetable.
If you have an item for the Final Fling, please contact the jam email prior to the camp.

Outline of programme:

Friday:

Medal tests – in the afternoon prior to camp
Formal opening at 5.30pm followed by dinner and social dancing

Saturday:

Morning – SCD classes
Afternoon – a short class, then other activities
Evening – ball

Sunday:

Pack-up and vacate sleeping area
Morning – SCD classes
Afternoon – Final Fling (dancing & a few items)
Leave mid-afternoon

The JAM Camp would like to thank the Auckland Region and donors of all grants for their generous support of the camp

Remember the camp is on Facebook

Search Auckland Region JAM Camp 2011

Saturday Night Ball programme and registration information on region website www.aucklandscd.org.nz

Registration is still possible on payment of full fee

Enquiries: jam@aucklandscd.org.nz

What's in a Name?

The dance The Moudiewort (from RSCDS Book 11, but from a collection of dances about 1755) is appearing on a number of dance programmes in the Wellington Region lately.

The 'moudiewart' (say 'mow' like 'how') is a mole – you may know about Ratty's friend, Mole, in the *The Wind in the Willows* who was of course a mole.

Moles were very numerous in Scotland, and a pest – like possums are in New Zealand, but for a different reason. Moles tunnel underground, and the tunnels and

the soil pushed out behind them (molehills) were a hazard to horses, and ruined people's gardens.

The Scottish word comes from two Old English words meaning 'earth' (molde) and 'to throw' (weorpan – doesn't that look like a word you might know [weapon?] which is something that you throw!)

Mole fur is very fine, dense and soft, and dark grey, and the word 'moudie' was sometimes used about a short dark person with a lot of hair!

Moles are almost blind, but they have very good hearing and smell.