



# Jigs And More

## Summer School Scholarship Recipient : Claire Wyeth

I would like to thank the NZ Branch for giving me one of the JAM scholarships to go to the Summer School in Dunedin. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to go to Summer School this year.

It was my fourth Summer School but the first in the South Island and the first without my family, which was a whole new experience. However there were many other Auckland dancers who kept an eye out for me. I would especially like to thank Miriam and Duncan Laidlaw for looking after me and putting up with me throughout the whole school.

There were not enough Senior JAMs this year to hold their own class at the school, so all the Senior JAMs were moved to the Advanced Class with Damon Collin. I thoroughly enjoyed being in this larger class with my friends from the JAMs and Auckland and being able to make new friends from NZ and the rest of the world.

Dunedin Summer School was a wonderful experience. Hogmanay, the President's Ball and the Final Night are always special and memorable evenings. I am already looking forward to the next Summer School in Auckland.

Claire Wyeth



The photo is of Claire dancing in a recent display  
(Photo: Miriam Laidlaw)

## Summer School

The next Summer School will be held in Mt Wellington, Auckland from 28 December 2015 to 5 January 2016.

You can find more information at <http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz/summerschools.php>

## Super Spectacular Stooges

Dance exams for us dancers is a highly nerve-racking thing to do. We have to be so focused on the dances we are displaying, we have to focus on all our techniques and getting them beautifully correct. Just to get an idea of some of the techniques, these include pointing our toes, always being turned out, constantly being in time with the music, getting lower to the ground in strathspey, standing up straight, keeping good eye contact with all dancers in our set and of course keeping a nice big smile planted on our faces, even if the dance just isn't going our way.

Dance exams require a lot of practise, hard work, sweat and yes in some cases even tears but in the end, when we receive our pass results and get presented with our certificate, bronze, silver or gold medal or bar the work that was put in then becomes all worth it and we get an added sense of achievement and accomplishment.

Committing yourself to a dance exam is one thing but committing yourself to a dance exam as a stooge is a whole other thing. Many dancers rely on stooges to complete their set of 8 and fill in the missing gaps. Stooges could be compared to super, spectacular, superheroes. They give up their own time to come to practices and study each and every dance they are being placed in so they don't muck up on the day and throw us off.

They really do save the day as without them we wouldn't be able to sit an exam with only 5 people when we need 8 for example (and they don't even get awarded with a medal afterwards!). This year we had a girl from my club (Milford) that was sitting her silver bar alone. This meant she needed 7 other stooges to be in her set for the exam. Now this is much harder work than what our dance teacher makes it appear (my grandma). She had to round up 7 stooges just for the one exam that can practise and study them and be there on the day.

Some dancers may think their job as a volunteer stooge is no harder than my role as a dancer in this exam, what's all the fuss about? But in actual fact their job can sometimes be much harder as some stooges (majority) are in more than one exam so that can be extremely hard work learning several dances and a lot of pressure to not muck up for us.



The photo is of stooges and helpers being thanked at Milford Juniors' Special Medal Presentation Evening.

On behalf of especially my gold medal Milford set (which required 3 stooges that did an outstanding and unquestionable job), but every Scottish Country dancer in NZ we would like to thank each and every stooge out there; your work and efforts for us do not go unnoticed.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas!

Chelsea Herbert (16)



Gold Medal recipients: Chelsea Herbert, Michelle McEwan, Jessica MacGee, Cailin Carmichael, Isaac Clancy.

## Edinburgh in the south.

Dunedin Summer school 2014/2015.

9 days of immense fun, what more could a senior JAM want....

Summer School in Dunedin this year was one of the most memorable experiences I have had during my 7 years of dancing. It all started on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2014, when a very small group of Scottish Country dancers from Rotorua and Tokoroa boarded the Air New Zealand plane at about 12.15pm. We were all very excited of course, because we knew we were going to Summer School! On our vigorous journey, we stopped in Wellington, where we met up with more Scottish Country dancers! It was a small group from Auckland, and some of them I knew from previous occasions.

When we finally arrived in Dunedin, our small group from Auckland had no luggage! Not that us people from the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region had anything to do with it. They just weren't so fortunate with time. Don't worry JAMs, it arrived at about 9.15pm, when we were all out dancing.

The next morning was fabulous! A group of about 6 senior JAMs were taken under the wing of Damon Collin, who fortunately was taking the advanced class. At first some of us JAMs were a bit terrified of Damon, but after the first session when we got to know him better, he wasn't so scary after all, we just didn't know how much fun he was! He really taught us well, in fact I have some new ideas to bring back to our club. So he must've done a good job.

At Summer School, you can never leave out the musicians! Musicians add flavour to the school, so it's not really a Summer School without them. This year we were fortunate to have a whole bunch of them! The most

popular among the senior JAMs would be the amazing Peter Shand all the way from Scotland! (I can't really say that I have a favourite musician, a band, maybe, and that would probably be Bourach Mor. But that's just me coming from the Waikato/Bay of Plenty).

Hogmanay was another great success of the week; on this particular night we stayed up till pretty much 3.00am! First we had our dance, with an interesting set put together for the Eightsome Reel. We weren't the best set in the hall, in the range of footwork and use of hands and covering, but we didn't muck up either, so we did pretty well. Then after the dance, we had yet another after party.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, around 7pm, we had a musical soiree, where most of the school's musicians played some amazing pieces of music. One of my favourite pieces was a Christmas classical, this was where Sharlene Penman got together some of the school's musicians to play some classical music, but some bits didn't sound quite right, some bits sounded a lot like jingle bells!

The ceilidh was a terrific experience to be part of; we had talented people from all over the world. We had the Plank family singing, which was really amazing. We also had Doug Mills and Debbie Roxburgh go over our safety instructions, which was really hilarious. The senior JAMs however didn't take things quite so seriously, which is pretty much a normal thing. They did a quiz dance: the amazing Hannah Roxburgh told them the first eight bars of dance, they danced it, and we had to guess what it was.

Mock Court is always a highlight of Summer School; this is where we have all our trumped up charges. Our two amazing policemen Hannah and Philip did an exceptionally good job at that. I was shocked when I found out about some of the charges, surely we're not

that bad. I'm ashamed of some of those senior JAMs, especially Kerridwen, caught doing graffiti on the college grounds! And Doug Mills asking people to do his ironing, especially the children, I thought child slavery was abolished. Most of the school was called up, and few of us were left innocent. I was lucky to be one of the innocent few.

The final night was one night I shall never forget! How many times have you heard of The De'il among the Tailors done twice? Not me that's for sure! But it was definitely worth it. That night's after party wasn't an ordinary one... It was me who started all the dancing, and I'm glad I did. At first I suggested that we do J.B Milne, and we did, then later on we did The De'il among the Tailors, with a slight alteration with going down the middle, instead we went straight through the hall and around the corner, and back to the top just in time for the Allemande. Not so long after, we did the Petronella, and if I can remember correctly, we started with the top and bottom couples, not just the top! And we did doubles, it's not the Petronella without doubles! Much later on, we decided it was time for the Australian Ladies! But there were no more musicians alive! Except for one, it was our awesome pianist Peter! Could we have possibly asked him to play for us at that time in the night? Yep, we did, and thankfully he did! For the first few bars, it was rather...slow, and good old Kerridwen got it running a fraction faster! After that, I was rather tired, which is probably a bit unusual at about 3.30, 3.45 in the morning! So I dragged myself up the 68 steps to the last floor at Knox, got to my room, fell asleep, and woke up again at about 6.30 in the morning.

Straight after breakfast, a small group of us rushed up the 68 steps, got our suitcases, brought them down the 68 steps, and

boarded the shuttle to the airport. When we got there, we had to wait for a whole hour till our flight departed! It was at Dunedin airport that summer school ended.

Happily we returned home, with lots more knowledge and new ideas!

It won't be long now till Hoppiton JAM camp 2015! So everyone get ready for yet another adventure!

Anna Verhaegh.

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## New JAM Committee

As this is a bumper-sized edition of Jigs and More, let me just tell you who is now working hard for you behind the scenes, and we can introduce new members in future editions.

Youth Co-ordinator: Diane Bradshaw  
Medal Test Organiser: Hazel Fish  
Membership: Amy Luxton-Esler  
Committee Support: Catherine Edwards  
Youth Representative: Philip Oliver  
Jigs and More Editor: Hazel Fish

The new Committee would like Jeanette Watson for all the time and energy she has put in whilst on the JAM Committee and as Youth Co-ordinator, and for the support she is giving the new Committee as they find their feet.

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## See your name in print!

Jigs And More is for you - email [jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz) by **31 May 2015** with your story or photo.

[jam@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:jam@dancescottish.org.nz) - for medal tests and membership,  
[youth@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:youth@dancescottish.org.nz) for general queries, requests for JAM Committee support, suggestions,  
[jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz) for newsletter and Facebook things, and  
[youthrep@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:youthrep@dancescottish.org.nz) for Phillip Oliver



# Hoppiton JAM Camp 2015

Waikato 10-12 July 2015

JAM camp this year over a weekend in the school holidays 10-12 July. The camp buildings are called Totara Springs at Matamata in Waikato not far from Hamilton or Rotorua. Matamata is where some of Hobbiton and Lord of the Rings movies were filmed. Totara Springs has a warm swimming pool, and a big hall for dancing

Our camp is called Hoppiton because the theme is Hobbits and dancing.

There will be Scottish country dancing in classes with cool teachers, And a big dance on Saturday night. At the dance we are inviting people who used to be JAMS to come. We hope lots of JAMS will come, from all over New Zealand. This fabulous camp is for dancers aged 6-19 years old, and you can find out more information and print off a registration form from the 'Youth' part of their website at [waibopscd.org.nz](http://waibopscd.org.nz) or email Lady Gandalf, the camp wizard, at [jamcamp@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:jamcamp@dancescottish.org.nz)



**Hoppiton**  
**Jam Camp**  
10-12 July 2015

JAM Camps are for any young  
Scottish Country Dancers (from 6 to 19 years)

Join in the fun of JAM Camp

- Meet and make dance friends from around NZ!
- Dance for the fun and the challenges it brings!
- Visit Hobbiton!

Start saving and grab a registration form now!

**Totara Springs Camp**  
**Matamata, Waikato**

contact:  
[jamcamp@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:jamcamp@dancescottish.org.nz)

# Medal Test Results

Waimate 8 November 2014

(all Waimate SCD Club pupils)

## Bronze

Seraphina Cadogan	Amanda Kuti
Rebekah Clark	Amellia Lindsay
Alex Kuti	Paige Russell

## Bronze Bar

Edward Fish	Sarah McLennan
Jonathan Fish	Catherine Nichol
Peter Fish	Anna Peterson
Thomas Jefferis	

Dunedin Summer School 30 December 2014

## Bronze

Alex Plank	Canterbury Region JAM
Ian Plank	Canterbury Region JAM
Emma Russ	Rangiora & Christchurch Juniors

## Bronze Bar

Caitlin Tipping	Rangiora & Christchurch Juniors
Jennifer Russ	Rangiora & Christchurch Juniors

Congratulations to all, and a huge thank you to stooges, organisers, examiners & parents!

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## Upcoming Medal Tests

**JAM Camp 2015, 10<sup>th</sup> July, Matamata**  
and

**Christchurch 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Applications to: Hazel Fish

86 Whitneys Road, RD 8, Waimate 7978

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\$\$\$ available

The first grants from the **Branch Youth Fund** were made in June and December 2014. At the December meeting, the Youth Fund Committee were pleased to give a grant to Edward Fish from Waimate Juniors, to assist his travel to JAM Camp in July.

Grants are available twice a year. The next funding 'round' is in June - applications must be received by **1 June**. See website Youth page for application form.

## More \$\$\$ available !!

A reminder, too, to get your application in for the draw for one of the two JAM's **Summer School Scholarships**. There's no need to wait until the week before the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> July!!

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### Summer School Scholarship Recipient : Alex Plank

Hi my name is Alex Plank and I received the Junior JAM Scholarship for the Dunedin Summer School. My teacher was Rachel East and she was awesome. There were 9 other kids in my class. They made the class so much fun, sometimes the other kids were funny and tried to tickle me. Every day at morning tea time they gave us a treat, like choc-chip bikkies, Raro, Pineapple bites and ginger biscuits. The musicians were friendly and made me feel relaxed. On the last day we had to move into a new hall and I felt so free with all the space.

This was my first ever Summer School and going away was so much fun. My family and I stayed in the new building, unit three, which was amazing. I got a room to myself with a desk, a wardrobe, a table and a mirror and a bed of course. We got 2 bathrooms and 3 toilets to ourselves.

I loved the kitchen staff, who made all our yummy food, they were kind and gave me extra special food. I especially loved 2 lunches because they made fried rice with cooked prawns (I was sneaky taking extra prawns). The breakfasts were yummy too, I love cornflakes but I didn't try the porridge.

I hung around with the other JAM kids too. Most of the time after meals we went to the TV room to play lots of fun games, like paint-ball with ping pong balls and we also watched DVD's. We used pillows and beans bags for huge pillow fights. For 2 days we got to slide down the steep hills out the front, sitting on cardboard from McDonalds boxes. We also went to the Cadbury's Chocolate factory and the butterfly house at the museum and went to the beach too.

I liked the President's Ball, I wore my kilt and my fancy VIP shirt with a tie. We liked to sit on the balcony when we were tired or when Strathspeys were on, and play "spot the friends" below us. Helen helped me do a poussette, and told me how to do it, so it was totally easy. It was my first time doing one.

The Mock-Court was embarrassing because my mum made me join in with the other kids going on trial. But the parents got charged instead and they had to do our dishes that night, and we got chocolate fish. I joined in the Ceilidh too. I sang with my brother Ian and Mum, and danced with the Junior Jams demo.

Summer School was amazing, far away from home, in Dunedin. Thank-you to the JAM Committee for organising the Scholarship, I am glad my name was pulled out.



Photo shows Alex dancing at Summer School