



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



Issue 3/2015



Jigs And More

2015 Hoppit JAM Camp

The JAM Camp Committee were pleased with the success of the JAM Camp held near Matamata in mid July. The 80 young dancers who were involved all seemed to gain much from their classes and from meeting with other young people who Dance Scottish. The Hoppit theme, with the chance to visit the Hobbiton movie set, seemed to be a drawcard for many. Regardless of the abnormally cold nights and early mornings everyone entered into the weekend's activities with enthusiasm.

Four classes, each relating to a Hobbit family, were put to work by five fabulous teachers – as well as four dance class sessions the Tooks, the Gamgees, the Proudfoots and the Bagginses each experienced a music session to give them an understanding of the music that enhances Scottish Country Dancing. JAMs also had the experience, new for many of them, of having a musician play for several of their class sessions.

The social events of camp revolved around the Hoppit theme with 'The Bag End Bash' as Friday night's opening social, a Hobbiton tour after classes on Saturday prior to 'Bilbo Baggins' Eleventy-first Birthday Party' and 'The Return Journey' as Sunday's closing Ceilidh. The hall decorations on Saturday night even featured a Hobbit home thanks to the talents and efforts of Cheryl from the band, Bourach Mor. Many JAMs wore Hobbit-related attire.

There are so many people to thank for their help and support with the camp:

- the many adults who came to camp and helped out in so many ways to make the camp a success

- families, clubs, regions who supported JAMs in raising the necessary funds to travel to and participate in the weekend
- all those who donated materials and zips for the shoe bags or their time and skills in sewing these bags
- the wonderful teachers and musicians over the weekend
- the emcees who made the social events such fun
- the various committee members who put in so much effort before, during and after camp
- The New Zealand Branch for funding the music sessions and the class musicians.

Congratulations to:

- all the JAMs who met challenges from their teachers during JAM camp
- the 14 JAMs who sat their Medal Tests prior to camp on the Friday afternoon and who have all achieved their particular medal or bar.
- RSCDS New Zealand Branch on the holding of the 10th JAM Camp

We look forward to hearing of the progress of the JAMs in their clubs and regions over the next two years before they meet again at the next JAM Camp in the Wellington area.



I really enjoyed JAM Camp! My dancing has improved heaps. The trip to Hobbiton was great and I made lots of new friends. I loved the dance on Saturday night and I would love to do it again!

Emma, Newtown Club

I really enjoyed JAM Camp because everyone was really friendly and the teachers were gentle when you did something wrong and the kids I had never met before were lovely. The food was great too!!! My favourite dance that I learnt was "The Magic Of Summer", I liked it because you always had to be on your feet because there is always something that you need to do. I really liked sleeping in the cabin with all my friends. Bilbo Baggins Eleventyfirst Birthday Party and the trip to Hobbiton was really awesome and everyone dressed for the occasion with a really cool night. Overall I loved JAM Camp and I can't wait for the next one in Wellington!!

Abigail, Milford Club

The ceilidh was my favourite part. It was so fun on the last day because everyone could do something to show the rest of the camp. I also liked Bilbo Baggins' eleventy-first birthday because we got to dress up like someone from The Hobbit. The visit to Hobbiton movie set was super cool - I enjoyed it very, very much.

Emma, Christchurch

This was my first JAM camp I have been to, and I am very pleased I went. I made some nice friends and learnt lots of new dances like Domino Five and my favourite, Petronella. My teacher Catherine helped me with lots of things but mostly setting - thanks to her I can now do a proper Petronella and a poussette. My favourite dance was Bilbo Baggins eleventy first birthday because we were all allowed to dress up as something out of The Hobbit. I went as a elf but most of my friends went as a Hobbit or Galadriel. I definitely recommend JAM Camp.

Olivia, Hinuera Club

I had never gone to a JAM camp before in fact I hardly even danced before! But by the end of those awesome few days I felt like a pro like I had been dancing for years, they take you step by step so you get it right, I had awesome partners and awesome teachers, I made lots of friends and it was a GREAT experience. I had a great time and if you go too you will have as much fun as I did!:-)

Alana, Opotiki

JAM Camp 2015 was full of fun times and new experiences. Fun times making new friends from around New Zealand and catching up with old ones. I have learnt how hard it is to really stretch in a strathspey when your set is made three times bigger. Seeing all of the fantastic costumes on Saturday night at Bilbo Baggins Eleventy First Birthday was astounding. All who dressed up made the night memorable and I can't wait to see everyone in Wellington.

Tegan, Tokoroa Club

I enjoyed the JAM Camp; it was cool and our teacher was amazing. The Hobbiton trip was my favourite bit, but the dancing was also a lot of fun.

Jonathan, Waimate Club

It was a very impressive experience for us to go to our first JAM camp, and we are looking forward to our next one already. We are very grateful for the organizers, teachers and volunteer parents, without whom the program wouldn't have been so successful with lots of fun and learning.

All meals were well organised and my girls were full of energy to go with their classes. They had a very tight schedule of activities. It was great opportunity for them to have different tutors. However, some most thrilling experiences happened outside classes:

It was the first time I saw the body of my car frozen with a coat of frost the next morning. With frozen cold hands, we managed to take photos and then pour water onto the windscreen. To catch up with other cars already heading for the town, I worked frantically with the windscreen and rear mirrors. Outside a dance hall, another parent told us how her friend's car windscreen got broken with hot water!

Another highlight of JAM camp were the visit to Hobbiton and the dance ball with the Hobbiton theme. The tour was a great treat for the girls after quite a few intensive classes and events. At the end of it, we cheerfully sipped the icy ginger beer in front of the fireplace, immersed in the dreaming world of Hobbiton. At the theme dance ball, we saw the band played beautifully behind the colorful Hobbiton stage props. Dancers young and old dressed up and enjoyed every moment of the night.

The most daring thing we did was running across the frosted ground and jumped into the steaming pool after a whole day's activities. It was again our first. They said it was the coldest winter for years. It was very romantic to watch the full moon from the pool.

This is our third year into Scottish Country Dancing and we never regret stepping into this world of music, exercises, teamwork, and socialization. Thank you all who kindly guided us along the way!

Maggie, Judy, and Hannah, Milford Club

JAM Camp 2015 was awesome because I learnt 'The Magic of Summer School'. My teacher was Antanas. I made new friends and I met my friends from last JAM Camp.

Petronella, Tokoroa Club

This was my first JAM Camp and I really enjoyed it, meeting lots of new friends and old ones.

On the first morning there was a large frost and a lot of grass was destroyed with people walking on it.

Overall it is very recommendable and fun!!

Hendrik, Tokoroa Club

The JAM Camp was an excellent experience, and my highlights were the Hobbiton trip and dancing the Magic of Summer School.

Peter, Waimate Club

I went to JAM camp and had a great time. I really enjoyed the food and the dress up dance on Saturday night. It was great learning things in different ways from different people, and I learned heaps. I would really like to go again next time.

Breana, Lochiel Club

JAM Camp this year was a whole lot of fun. I enjoyed being in Cairistiona's class and also immensely enjoyed the trip to Hobbiton. It was great to catch up with dancing friends from around the country! I look forward to the next one - my last as a JAM!

Kerridwen, Christchurch

We had a blast, dancing until we couldn't breathe, meeting new people, making new friends and totally enjoying ourselves.

We visited the famous Hobbiton and learned new things on the tour, and the oldest class danced "Around The Party Tree" around a post, since they couldn't do it around the actual party tree.

The Bilbo Baggins's eleventy-first birthday party was amazing! The music band dressed up like hobbits and there were amazing costumes that people were wearing.

The Ceilidh was AWESOME! We saw wonderful performances from lots of people, including the middle aged group doing SUCH a fun dance, Called "The Magic of Summer School". It was such a great experience.

Robyn, Tokoroa Club

One of the things I like best about JAM Camp was dressing up. It was so cool to see everyone's outfits and to wear one of my own.

Jennifer, Christchurch

It was a cold wet morning when we woke on the day we were travelling to JAM Camp. My teacher, Diane Bradshaw, was driving us for the long journey from Wellington to Matamata.

When we got to her house we discovered that all the roads in the Central North Island were CLOSED and we had to travel via Napier. The long journey suddenly got much L O N G E R !

The journey wasn't actually too bad in the end. My sister, Rebecca, and Diane were pretty good company and I got to see snow (and pelt Rebecca with snowballs!) for the very first time on the Napier-Taupo Road.

The JAM Camp was great fun, it made the long journey worthwhile. There were lots of fun dances, the tutors were really nice and taught us lots of things, but my favourite part of the weekend was the Ceilidh. As well as the great dancing, lots of people did 'items'. I ended up doing 3 items – playing 'Le Petit Negre' on the piano, accompanying Rebecca and her friend (Xavia) who played Pachelbel Canon and a dance with some of my fellow 'Proudfoots.'

All too quickly camp was over and we packed up all our things, said our goodbyes and headed back to Windy Wellington. It was a substantially shorter route this time as all the roads were, thankfully, open again. I'll definitely be back again next time... and next time it will be somewhere closer to home in the Wonderful Wellington Region.

Jonny, Lower Hutt Club

JAM Camp 2015 was an amazing experience. I appreciated and enjoyed every moment on the committee. The class was a highlight of camp. Our teacher, Cairistiona, was amazing and really funny. I learnt a fair bit, including Highland Scottische technique. We had really good MCs for every night.

The Saturday night dance was really good. Helen did a fine job as MC and there were some really good dances. We also had Bourach Mor as our band that night who were breathtakingly amazing. Band members Ruth and Virginia were our class musicians and they did a brilliant job. I loved every minute of it.

Thank you to everyone who made our weekend possible and exciting.

Anna, Tokoroa Club

Upcoming Medal Tests

Summer School 2015/16

30 Dec 2014, Mt Wellington, Auckland.
See NZ Branch website Youth page for application form.
Applications to: Hazel Fish, 86 Whitneys Road, Waimate 7978
Closing date for applications is **16 December**.

Medal Test Results

(take a deep breath....)

JAM Camp 9 July 2015

Bronze

Lower Hutt: Thomas van der Gulik

Bronze Bar

Lochiel: Natalie Garcia Gil
Lochiel: Breana Nobilo
Milford: Sophie Hollingsworth
Tokoroa: Robyn Pascoe
Waikanae: Emily Warner

Silver

Ellerslie: Saskia de Graaf
Lochiel: Sophia Kilgour
Lower Hutt: Laura Totton
Tokoroa: Petronella Verhaegh

Silver Bar

Newtown: Emma Loader

Gold

Christchurch: Amy Martin
Lochiel: Xavia Fraser
Tokoroa: Anna Verhaegh

Canterbury Region 10 October 2015

Bronze

Strathallan, Timaru: **Waimate:**
Alyssa Bentley Serenity Apiata
Caitlin Bentley Jolene Brady
 Xanadu Brady
 Kayla Briggs
 Hannah-Rose Walters

Bronze Bar

Christchurch JAMs: **Waimate:**
Alex Plank Seraphina Cadogan
Ian Plank Alex Kuti
Emma Russ Amanda Kuti
 Amellia Lindsay
 Margaret Nichol

Silver

Christchurch JAMs: **Waimate:**
Eleanor Plank Edward Fish
Jennifer Russ Jonathan Fish
Caitlin Tipping Peter Fish
 Catherine Nichol
 Anna Peterson

Milford Club 17 & 18 October 2015

Bronze

Felicia Chen Isaac Middlemiss
Josephine Deady Marius Nuttney
Rachel McGuigan Jasmine Stallard
Amberly Middlemiss

Bronze Bar

Alexandra Deady Isaac Middlemiss
Jenny Howe Maya Russell
Rachel McGuigan Holly Webb
Amberly Middlemiss Hannah Zhang

Silver

Emilia Burton Grace Stapleton
Sophie Hollingsworth Judy Zhang
Abigail Mitchell Anan Zhao
Kiara Nuttney

Silver Bar

Christopher Burton Juliette Lyons
Sophia Burton

Gold

Iona Grigor

Gold Bar

Cailin Carmichael Michelle McEwan
Isaac Clancy Zoe Rangihaeata
Jessica MacGee

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

\$\$\$ available

Grants are available from the **Branch Youth Fund** twice a year. The next funding 'round' is in December – applications must be received by **1 December**. See website Youth page for application form.

The last recipient of the fund was Edward Fish of the Waimate Club. He wrote to us:

"Thank you so much for the funding to pay for my flights to get me from the South Island to the JAM Camp and back. It was a huge help to the cost of my trip, especially as my mum and two brothers were also going! JAM Camp was fantastic and I am so glad I was able to go. Thank you again."

Summer School JAM Scholarships

The two successful candidates were **Rebecca Warnes** from Lower Hutt who will be living in, and **Hannah Zhang**. Hannah and her sister Judy both applied. Hannah is a local and will be commuting, which is significantly cheaper than the residential cost. It was therefore decided that **Judy Zhang** also be offered the opportunity to attend on the scholarship as a commuter. Their mum had also applied for one of the other scholarships and was successful, so they will all be attending!

The Scholarship pays the full cost of a JAM resident at the New Zealand Summer School (any travel costs are extra). Applications close on **15 July** each year and are drawn soon after. The award is by ballot only – there is no grading – so start thinking about getting your application in for next year!!

See the application form on the NZ Branch website Youth page, or talk to your Club Tutor for further details.

See your name in print!

It has been fantastic to hear from so many of you with comments for this edition of Jigs and More. Thank you so much for taking the time to send something to us. We always love to hear from you, so if you have something to tell us, please email jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz by **28 February 2015** with your story or photo.

Spring Fling

Were some of you lucky enough to try out the dances for the Spring Fling at the end of last year? Young dancers from all over the world were invited to send in their dance creations to be part of this. The winning dance was chosen, but the judges were so impressed with the entries they have decided to put them together to make the dance book 50, due out early next year. And we know that two of the dances in it were created in New Zealand. One of the selected dances was created by Amy Luxton-Esler who is on your JAM Committee. Her dance is called 'Spirit of the Dance'. The other was devised by Waimate Club's Peter Fish,

who was 12 when he wrote "The Wandering Wallaby".

The RSCDS is now busy creating the music to accompany them, and you should all be able to dance them in your Clubs sometime early next year!

Waikanae SCD JAM Group

Waikanae is on the Kapiti Coast, about 45 minutes travel time north of Wellington. The Waikanae SCD has just celebrated its 40th birthday. Over these years there have always been children dancing at the club. If there were only a couple of children, they joined with the adults. One of these children was Nicole Trewavas who completed her Teachers Certificate a couple of years ago. She was guest tutor at the club last year and is a great role model for the present JAMs.

In 2003 a children's group was started and this group continued into their early teens.

In 2014 another group was started. These children were mainly six years old and a nine year old. This group is again very keen and continue to enjoy their dancing on a Friday night. Each of them have had a dance named for them which has been typed up and presented to them.

The JAMs have done a number of demonstrations for the club and in November they are going to be part of the Club's demonstration at a local School Gala. The group have also attended the Club's last two Social Dances and thoroughly enjoy dancing with adults.

Two of our JAMs attended the Hoppit Camp in July. Emily sat and passed her Bronze Bar.

The Group's favourite dance is the Kingston Flyer, followed closely by the Barmkin.

