



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



Issue 1/2016



# Jigs And More

## Summer School JAMs receiving financial assistance

Thank you so much for giving me the wonderful opportunity of Summer School 2015/16. I went with no idea of what to expect and came back with knowledge, new friends and sore feet! The help before and during the school and encouraging words and support were greatly appreciated.

With gratitude, **Bethany Jones**

Summer School was very fun. I loved all the balls I went to, because I learnt a lot of new dances. I thought it was good to try new and challenging dances too, so I would sort of remember them just in case we learn them in class. Judy (my big sister), my mum and I all went to the Hogmanay. Surprisingly, I didn't feel tired at all (at midnight) but when I got into the car, I fell asleep just as my mum drove out of the college! I also liked the time when our class performed 'Ripples On The Lagoon' at one particularly ball. It was funny how Lois (my teacher) dressed up like a ninja.

The classes were pretty fun, too. Although at the end of the lessons my feet hurt, it was still fun. Jasmine, (our gofer) was very helpful in class time. She helped us prepare our morning tea, and also danced when the set was not complete. I also made new friends in the class. They were called Siobhan and Esther, and were from Ellerslie Juniors.

The lesson goes like this: In the morning it's cold in the hall, so we warm up e.g. walking around in the hall, marching, pointing toes, etc. Then we do some exercises e.g. stretching, warming up our feet etc. After that, my class practises some new dances.

Next, we have morning tea. Jasmine then hands out the Mt Wellington Gazette. We got to read it while we ate, and Lois gives us worksheets about Scottish Country Dancing. Then we work on other dances too. Here is a list of the dances I remembered:

Piper and the Penguin, Petronella, Flowers Of Edinburgh, De'il Amang The Tailors, Scott Meikle, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Waratah Weaver and Ripples On The Lagoon.

I'm sure we did much more, but these are just the ones I remembered. I loved Summer School, and I think it was the best thing in my school holiday.

Kind regards, **Hannah Zhang**

Excitement filled the atmosphere once again, as I attended the 2015/2016 summer school. I had the most tremendous experience as a JAM residing at Waipuna hotel, with my 'room-mate' Rebecca. Even though this was my third summer school, each time it becomes better as you familiarise yourself with school routines.

This year's school highlight for me was the opportunity to attend the senior JAM class, which consisted of high energy levels, endurance, technical footwork and fun. On many occasions I pushed through the pain barrier as I worked on improving my technique.

Our interesting, and exceptionally amazing teacher, Wayne McConnel, always made sure that the class wasn't deprived of technique and interesting dances, some of which had extra twirls in them. Class wasn't boring, and if I remember rightly, we spent a decent amount of time on phrasing and covering in reels and especially in the grand chain (right - left - right), or 'baa' as it was sometimes known. I think our teacher referred to us as sheep at one point of the class, and pistons at another. I enjoyed every dance, but the one I enjoyed the

most was the Prince of Orange, which included stamping and clapping (in time of course). On another particular morning, we had a bit of fun with a 'yawning' session. It went from one end of the set, to the other about three or four times. Evening functions were as always terrific! The youth night was amazing, and we managed some high energy dances including the Petronella. Hogmanay was also another of those nights where you stay up all night, and practically half the morning, and others stayed on for 'after parties'. I haven't danced the Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> division since last year! And the first dance I did this year, was the Eightsome Reel. At every summer school, there are always those "New Year's" hugs - for me it was a special moment, because the first people I hugged this year were my special friend Ruth and my amazing teacher Jeanette.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January I attended the NZ Branch AGM, which took forever, but it was quite interesting. Then later that day I spent quality time with my new friends Bethany and Hannah. I must admit defeat though - the JAM forum was ten times more fun than the NZB AGM.

Mock court was another great experience, as yet again many charges were laid out before various criminals, including our poor teacher, Wayne. The musicians', teachers' and dancers' seminar was exceptionally good. We discussed various things, such as communication between teachers and musicians in class, tune selection, dance programming, working with organisers, emcees, and briefers, sound preparation, gig prep and rehearsal objectives. It was an interesting seminar, where I gained knowledge to build up in my 'teacher's resource bank'.

On another afternoon, I joined in with the teacher's prep class, which was also well worth it. In that class, taught by Maureen, there was potentially non-stop dancing!

A highlight of the school was the chance to meet all eight members of the band Reel of Seven. Summer School 2015/2016 was a friendly, energizing and fun environment and I would never have made it without the support of the NZ Branch. I may see everyone again at the end of the year, at Christchurch Summer School 2016/2017.

A special thank you to Duncan Laidlaw, and his team for organizing such an amazing school, and last, but not least our amazing teacher for that week, Mr. McConnel, who made it an unforgettable experience.

**Anna Verhaegh**

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This year's Summer School was my first...but it will by no means be my last! I arrived at the Waipuna Hotel not expecting to know many people, but I quickly made friends at the Newbies' Drinks and kept in contact with them over the week.

I was in the Senior JAMs, and my teacher, Wayne, worked us very hard ... but we learnt a few new dance steps, a few of us taught the others how to do Pelorus Jack properly (all spins and hi-fives included of course!) and got to meet some great new people. After doing 6-8 hours of dancing a day, I had the most impressive blisters ... which I still have a whole month later! I had a wonderful time and learnt so much in the 8 days I was there.

This year we had the fabulous Reel of Seven as our musicians. Each night we were so inspired by the music and had an amazing time – I danced much more than I should and of course regretted it afterwards! They also took the musicians' class and taught us so much about Scottish music. The best part of my week was when 'Reel of Twenty-Seven' took to the stage to play for the Ceilidh after a few days rehearsing together. It was heaps of fun and I wish they could have stayed for so much longer. A huge thanks to Deby, Susan and Janet who took turns teaching the melody class, I learnt a lot from you and I'm looking forward to playing for more dances this year! Also to Andy for putting us all together, and Renata and Gary who also led us in rehearsal.

Overall, Summer School was an incredible experience and I would do it all again tomorrow!

**Rebecca Warnes**

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## Summer School JAM Scholarships

The Scholarship pays the full cost of a JAM resident at the New Zealand Summer School (any travel costs are extra). Applications close on **30 June** 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.

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## Medal Test Results Summer School 30 December 2015

Congratulations to Ellerslie Juniors who passed:

Bronze	Karen Jeba
	Sharon Jeba
Silver Bar	Saskia de Graaf

A huge thank you to stooges, organisers, examiners and parents!

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## Advance notice of the next JAM Camp!



*"Thistle" Be A Fun Camp*

**Where: Wairarapa College, Masterton**

**When: 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**

**"Thistle" be a time to dance, meet friends and have a great time**

**Contact: Elaine Lethbridge**

**Phone: 04 389 3597**

**email: lethbridge@paradise.net.nz**

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Grants are available from the **Branch Youth Fund** twice a year. The next funding 'round' is in June – applications must be received by **1 June**.

Postal applications should be sent to Diane Bradshaw, 19 Thornycroft Avenue, Eponi, Lower Hutt 5011

Please have a look at the NZ Branch website for who is able to apply for this money, and for what. We want to give you money, so please ask us for it!

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## JAM Forum At Summer School – "Talk with your Mouth Full"

There was a great turnout for the JAM Forum held in the Hotel bar. Lots of people were keen to make their contributions. Our Youth Representative, Philip Oliver, reported that there had not been much activity on the JAM Facebook page advertising JAM events as this information had not been sent to him by JAMs around the country. Please keep Philip busy with your events to promote for any JAMs who might live locally or be visiting your area. We are going to be looking at linking the Facebook page to the website JAM pages.

Various options were offered for attracting new JAMs to dancing. If you have tried these, we'd love to hear which ones you have found successful:

- Newspaper advert
- Inviting children to watch demonstrations
- Children with dancing parents or friends are more likely to dance.
- Ball Programme with moderately easy dances with one walk-through.
- Ceilidh (maybe once a month or just one-off)
- Global Youth Week – bring a friend, all on same night
- Region Youth Night.
- Contact with other groups – ceilidh or other dancers, concert attendees.

An enquiry was made about qualification for those who were past JAM age. Gail Scholfield (Education & Training) shared about the **Dancing Proficiency course/award** available for older Youth (20s upwards). This is relatively new in Scotland and is available to all, not just those who have previously taken medal tests.

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## See your name in print!

Thank you so much to those who took the time to send something to us. We always love to hear from you, so please email [jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz) by **31 May 2016** with your story or photo.

## This edition's spotlight on: Milford Juniors/Youth



Our young dancers at JAM Camp 2015

### How Milford Juniors Began

Milford Juniors started in 1999 after I (Lois McEwan) attended a workshop in Auckland Region run by Katharine Hoskyn on teaching children Scottish Country Dancing. We started off in a small way with one class which was for children who were 7 years of age and up. As the years went by our numbers grew and currently have three classes attended by 33 JAMs. Junior 1 is for 6 to 8 year olds, Junior 2, 9 to 12 year olds, Teens and Twenties, for teenagers plus.

At the beginning of each year I'm usually aghast at how much children have grown over the holiday break. We have teenagers who started with us when they were 6 and 7 years of age who are now taller than me!

### Some of our Favourite Things

The activities that Milford Juniors have enjoyed over the years are the Auckland Highland Games, JAM Camps, end of year dance party nights, dancing at the Tartan Day Tattoo on the North Shore, demonstrations at various events, Tea dances, Region Classes and Dances. Some even enjoy Medal Tests!

### Favourite Dances

The Kingston Flyer has always been a favourite of the younger children – probably because they can make all those interesting train noises! And then Petronella which of course has to be danced in doubles! More recently we have added to the favourite list Fireworks Reel and

Scott Meikle. Although some are not too keen on strathspeys, 12 Coates Crescent is acceptable.

### Dance Party Nights

Dance Party Nights are always a highlight of the year when old clothes are to be worn because we are never sure what games Ann Andreassend may come up with. Food provided by our families is always yummy. After yummy food a quiet activity is a good idea so the Limbo equipment is pulled out. My word do we have some experts!



But the real, real, real favourite is dancing Muckle Flugga in the dark wearing glow sticks as bracelets, head bands, necklaces or anywhere else that works!

### The Future

This year we are trialling a once a month Youth Fling so are keeping our fingers crossed that hopefully in the future they will be added to the list of Favourite Things!

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