



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



Issue 2/2016



Jigs And More

How much do you know about
Scotland and Scottish Country
Dancing?

1. What is the capital city of Scotland?
2. How many people live in Scotland?
3. When is Burns Night, and who is 'Burns'?
4. Which of these is the Scottish flag?



5. Which Scot invented the television?
6. What does Mac or Mc mean at the front of a surname?
7. What is the national symbol of Scotland?
8. What is the name of the famous Scottish monster?
9. Who is the Patron of Scottish Country Dancing?
10. What is the name of the pouch worn on the front of a kilt?

11. What is a Ceilidh?
12. Who/what was Pelorus Jack?
13. Where would you find a chanter and a drone?
14. What does 'Allemande' mean?
15. What is the name of this tartan?



16. Who is the Patron Saint of Scotland?
17. What is the name of this famous Scottish castle?



18. Who organised for Mary, Queen of Scots to have her head chopped off?
19. How many times through does a 3 couple dance in a 4 couple set go?
20. Is there a dance with your name in its title?



Tips and advice for medal test candidates

Have you ever wondered what your examiner is looking for when you are dancing in your medal test? Below are some comments examiners made when asked what they like to see in your test.

"I look for candidates who are well prepared and are obviously trying hard to incorporate everything they have been taught as far as their steps and formations are concerned."

"When assessing medal tests, I most enjoy seeing dancers who look as if they are enjoying their dancing - smiles, a natural carriage (not stiff or tense), showing energy and joy."

"I like to see dancers working as part of the team, being aware of and helping the other dancers."

"I don't mark down for a single mistake in a dance - but I'm looking for whether you can recover from the mistake (which shows that you do understand the dance) and how the rest of the candidates help you out (which shows their team work and understanding of the dance)."

"Although everyone is nervous, I am looking for smiles that they are enjoying their dancing."

"In the exercises, I like to test how you cope with formations in a different order from those in the set dances - so in preparation, you need to practise the required formations (and all the easier ones) by dancing lots of different dances."

"At the higher levels, I'm particularly looking to see if you are dancing in time with the music - for example, skip change and pas de basque should be different in reel time compared to jig time because the musical rhythm is different."

Many thanks to the examiners who contributed their thoughts and ideas to this.

Summer School Scholarships

Congratulations to Saskia de Graaf (Ellerslie Club) and Anan Zhao (Milford Club) whose names were drawn at the Levin 60th Annual Dance recently, who will receive full scholarships to the Summer School at the end of the year. We hope they enjoy their trip south to Christchurch and make new dancing friends there.

Our next JAM Camp

"Thistle" Be A Fun Camp

Where?

Wairarapa College, Masterton

When?

21st – 23rd 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

Upcoming Medal Tests

Waikato/BOP Region, Saturday 17th September, Hamilton.

Milford Club, Saturdays 8th and 15th October, Auckland.

Summer School, Christchurch, Friday 30th December 2016

You can find the application form on the NZ Branch website in the Youth section, or email jam@dancescottish.org.nz
Applications to : Hazel Fish
86 Whitneys Road, RD 8, Waimate 7978

\$\$\$ available

Under the **Branch Youth Fund** grants are available twice a year to provide funding for events, activities or resources that encourage or facilitate youth Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand. Preference is given to applications by RSCDS NZ Branch members (which includes registered JAMs), but non-members may also apply.

Applications for the next round must be received by **1 December**. See the NZ Branch website's Youth page for the application form. There is information there about what the fund can be used for.

Summer School 2016-17

28 December 2016 – 5 January 2017

Ilam, Christchurch

Junior and Senior JAM classes are offered.

Contact David Williamson at

ss2016@dancescottish.org.nz

or 2 Balkwell Street, Halswell, Christchurch 8025.

See your name in print!

Jigs And More is for you - email jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz by **31st August 2016** with your story or photo. We'd love to hear about the dancing you have been doing, so please let us know!

Scottish Quiz Answers

1. Edinburgh
 2. About 5.3 million
 3. 25th January; It is the birth date (1759) of Robert Burns, who was a Scottish poet and lyricist.
 4. Blue with the white diagonal cross; bottom left. Also known as the Saltire, it has been the official flag since the 15th century.
 5. John Logie Baird in 1926
 6. Son of
 7. Thistle
 8. Nessie (the Loch Ness Monster)
 9. Queen Elizabeth II
 10. Sporrán
 11. A fun evening of dance, songs and stories.
 12. A Risso's dolphin, famous for accompanying ships in the Cook Strait (between the two islands of NZ) between 1888 and 1912.
 13. On bagpipes
 14. It is the French word for 'German'
 15. Royal Stewart. This is also the personal tartan of Queen Elizabeth II. In the 1970s this tartan became popular in punk fashion.
 16. St Andrew. He was a Christain Apostle and may have been the older brother of Saint Peter. He is the Patron Saint of several countries. It is said he was crucified on an X-shaped cross, hence the shape of the St Andrew's Cross.
 17. Eilean Donan Castle, a 13th century castle on an island where three lochs meet (Lochs Alsh, Duich and Long)
 18. Her cousin, Queen Elizabeth (I) of England, after being imprisoned for more than 18 years.
 19. 8 times through
 20. Have a look at www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com/dance-cribs.html and see if you can find a dance with your name in its title.
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Tokoroa JAMs

Since restarting in 1979 the Tokoroa Club has always had young dancers in their midst. It is part of the culture of the club that young dancers are encouraged and supported. They dance on the same night as the adults because the club believe that this helps them appreciate the social aspects of dancing and can help to raise their technique. Dancing begins at 6.30pm with JAMs finishing at various times depending on their experience and ability. Invited JAMs dance with the adults during the school holidays.

When the first JAM Camp was held in 1997 in Otaki, Tokoroa JAMs and adults were there. In fact there have been Tokoroa JAMs and adults at each of the 10 JAM Camps that have been held and they intend to be at the next camp in Masterton. There has been Tokoroa input into helping with the three camps held in the Waikato with two Tokoroa JAMs being on the Committee for last year's camp.

Similarly, since the Junior Associate Membership began in New Zealand young dancers in the club have been encouraged to register. As for all young dancers this is a great way for them to realise they are a part of a much wider dance community.



Beyond Club Nights

Theme nights are usually held at the end of each term and mean we can dress up and have some extra fun. Individualised certificates are presented to JAMs at the end of each year. Since 2002 the Club has held an annual Tea Dance especially for JAMs and newer dancers in our region which has developed a good following. Most of our JAMs also dance at our annual ball in August. We have sometimes held a club

picnic and encouraged dancers to bring other family members along.

For JAMs who are interested there are opportunities to work towards Medal Tests, to dance in demonstrations and to attend events run by other clubs. Our demonstrations throughout the year usually include an afternoon at the local Tokoroa Resthome facility during each school holiday break. This is seen as a good way to contribute to the community. Other demonstrations have been at a wedding Ceilidh and at community events such as a neighbourhood party, Cheese Rolling Championships, A & P shows and a youth festival.

We have attracted new JAMs through occasional advertising in school newsletters, through current JAMs bringing their friends along and more recently through continued inclusion of a notice in the 'What's On' section of the local free newspaper.

About half of our JAMs in recent years have been from home schooled families. We reckon about 200 young people in Tokoroa have been part of our club over the last 30 years.

Currently we have 15 JAMs and 15 adult members. The JAMs range in age from six years to eighteen years old. We don't usually have children younger than six dancing with us unless they are there with older family members.

Favourite dances

Most recently Domino Five (especially Double Domino Five) has been the most requested dance. Other favourite dances are Petronella, The Magic of Summer School, The Piper and the Penguin, Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel, Sandy Butterly, Catch the Wind, Sammy Snake, The Kingston Flyer and the list goes on....

