
JIGS AND MORE



Casey and Petronella with the other Summer School scholarship recipients.

Summer School 2019/2020

At the end of December 2019, dancers from all over New Zealand and around the world came together to dance in Cambridge at the NZ Branch Summer School. Senior JAMs joined with other energetic young dancers and were put through their paces by Jamie Berg while the Junior JAMs were taught by Helen Smythe.

The Royal Scottish County Dance Society New Zealand Branch Inc

Junior Associate Newsletter

Issue 1 2020

Casey Marshall (Christchurch) and Petronella Verhaegh (Waikato) were the recipients of the JAM scholarship to help attend the Summer School and greatly enjoyed their experience.

Casey: This was the second summer school I have attended, and I am so lucky and thankful that I got one of the JAM scholarships. I was in the advanced high energy class, taught by the incredible Jamie Berg. The advanced high energy class lived up to its name, as Jamie would start each class with an energetic warm up, and then move us straight into dance after dance, pushing my limits both physically and mentally. We were taught not only energetic dances but also wacky and different dances, such as "Four Ducks in a Row", a very interesting strathspey. Jamie also brought us plenty of dances from over in the United States, most of which were completely new to everyone in the room. Thanks to Jamie for making the class so fun, and also keeping us safe from injury with her fantastic warm-ups and cool downs.



Three of our young dancers - Casey Marshall, David Osgarby and Emily Currall

When I wasn't completely exhausted from class I attended a few afternoon activities such as helping out with stooging for those taking Unit 5 throughout the school. All of the evening dances were amazing, with great programs and MC's. My favourite night would have to be Hogmanay though, from the dancing and singing to the super fun party held afterward. Thankfully I had nothing happening on New Year's Day until the talent show, so I was able to catch up on the sleep I had missed the previous night. Having live music all week was amazing, and so I would like to thank all of the musicians, especially James Grey who played the piano for our class each morning, even putting up with weird requests such as "only play bar 6".

This Summer School was such fun, and it was great meeting so many new people, and also seeing familiar faces from previous dancing events. I had such a good time and highly recommend going to a Summer School, and also applying for the JAM scholarship.

Petronella: Summer School 2020 was amazing. I had an amazing teacher called Jamie Berg, she made class so much fun. From warm ups to warm downs, I was on my toes. To be honest I don't know which night was my favourite - they were all so much fun. After parties were great, we danced

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Flowers of Edinburgh getting tagged in and out, once you tagged yourself in three bars later you were out. I went to three after parties and stayed no later than 2am because by then I was exhausted.

Mock court was fun and I don't know if I should be happy or sad I wasn't called up on my first Summer School. Swapping name tags with Natalie was fun - we managed to confuse one or two people. I think I can safely say I put the scholarship to good use. After all that, Summer School would not have been half as much fun if I hadn't gone with Anna Verhaegh, Natalie Garcia Gil, Sophia Kilgore, Samantha dos Santos and Nicolas Concha. I can't wait to go again.

Kids Dancing Around the World

From the 23rd of November to the 30th November 2019 the Youth Committee for RSCDS ran a Global Youth Week. Kids from all over the world got together to dance and take part in fun activities. Some activities they participated in included ceilidhs, judging dances, and dressing up as well as learning new dances.



They also ran a competition to see whose videos and pictures that had been uploaded to Facebook got the most likes. In 2019 the winner was the Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles Branch. Their post showed over 200 school kids enjoying a St Andrews Day ceilidh (on the left - photo courtesy of Roxburgh, Selkirk and

Peebles Branch). The photo to the right showcases young dancers from Lyon, France wearing French colours during their dance class. Below is also a link to a video of Deer O'Dale Dance School in Russia dancing The Happy Meeting and the Braes of Mellinish: <https://youtu.be/zyoRIHtBokU>

Maybe next year New Zealand Branch could win. Make sure to take photos of yourselves dancing!



Try a New Dance

During Summer School 2019/2020 the High Energy class devised some new dances. They had to include certain formations or progressions but each turned out differently! Why don't you ask your teacher to try this one:

Gender Bender

A 32 bar strathspey for 3 couples in a longwise set

Bars:

1-8: 1s set, turn with RH, cast one place and turn to the top LH.

9-12: 1s and 3s dance half figure of 8 around 2s (1s casting to begin).

13-16: 1s and 3s change on side with LH, and turn into allemande hold RH, *while*, 2s turn once RH into allemande hold. Finish 321

17-24: All 3 couples dance a 3 couple allemande.

25-32: 1s and 2s dance half diamond pousette
1s and 3s dance half diamond pousette.

N.B. All men must dance on the "ladies" side.

Devised by Casey Marshall, Emily Currall, Nicolas Concha, Jenny Ross, David Osgarby and Natalie Garcia Gil.

See Your Name in Print!

Don't forget that you can email us with your stories and photos at jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz. The closing date for the next edition is **31st May 2020**.



Create Your Own Tartan Competition

Tartans are a very important part of Scottish culture. Tartans can tell you important things about where someone comes from, who they are related to or even what school they went to! They come in a huge range of colours and each one is unique. We are putting a challenge out to see who can create their own tartan and send it in to jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz. We will showcase the completed tartans in the next edition.

Included in this newsletter are 3 different designs of tartan that you can colour however you like. You could also design your own! Get colouring!

My Tartan Design

My Tartan Design

My Tartan Design
