



# The Summer School Signal

30 June 2010

This is the second issue of *The Summer School Signal*, the newsletter of the next New Zealand Branch Summer School, to be held in Dunedin from 28 December 2010 to 6 January 2011.

Gregor Macaulay, Editor  
[gregor.macaulay@otago.ac.nz](mailto:gregor.macaulay@otago.ac.nz)

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## Book early and save

A pleasing number of registrations have been received already but dancers planning to attend who have not yet registered are urged to do so soon for four reasons: to beat the GST increase later in the year; to meet the registration deadline of 31 August; to ensure that they are in the limit of 250 at the School; and to help the organisers with various aspects of planning.

## There is still plenty of accommodation available at Knox and Salmond Colleges.

Detailed information about the School and registration forms are available on the New Zealand Branch website ([www.rscdsnz.org.nz](http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz)) or from the organiser:

Janet Favel, P O Box 8019, Gardens, Dunedin  
9041, New Zealand  
Telephone 64 3 473 8178; fax 64 3 477 9837;  
email [janet.favel@clear.net.nz](mailto:janet.favel@clear.net.nz)

It has now been confirmed that GST (goods and services tax) will be increased in New Zealand from 1 October this year, so registering and paying before that happens will save money!

**Remember, registrations should be in by 31 August.**

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## Visit to Larnach Castle

Part of the programme for everyone at the School is a visit to historic Larnach Castle, on the Otago Peninsula, on Wednesday 29 December. The house is really a mansion rather than a castle, but is filled with historic furnishings and displays and is set in award-winning grounds.

Everyone will be taken by bus to the Castle and will have the opportunity to explore the house and grounds before enjoying high tea and dancing (either in the ballroom or the grounds, depending on the weather and the majority inclination) before returning to Knox College for relaxation and supper.

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## Dancing in the Dunedin Botanic Garden

Knox College is within easy walking distance of the Dunedin Botanic Garden, which should be at its best during the School.

It is planned to have a display of Scottish country dancing in the Garden on the afternoon of Sunday 2 January.

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## Dunedin's sights and activities

Dancers from beyond Dunedin should seize the opportunity to explore the sights of the city and perhaps venture further afield.

Attractions include: the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Olveston (stately home), Otago Museum, the Otago Settlers Museum, the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame at the Dunedin Railway Station (and the Station itself), the scenery and wildlife (albatrosses, penguins, and seals) of the Otago Peninsula, the Taieri Gorge train, and many cafés and eateries.

Brochures on Dunedin attractions will be available from the School office. The main source of information and bookings is the Dunedin Information Centre in the Municipal Chambers, 48 The Octagon, telephone 474 3300, website [www.dunedinnz.com](http://www.dunedinnz.com)



## First Timers

If you will be attending your first New Zealand Branch Summer School, we are particularly delighted that you are going to join us in Dunedin.

There will be a special get-together for first timers on the first night of the school to explain what a summer school is about, to answer any questions you might have, and to introduce you to other first-timers, some key members of the Branch, and the organising committee.

Your name tag will be colour-coded so that other School members – 'old hands' and fellow first timers alike – can identify you and give you any help that you need.

The School begins with a informal social on the evening of Monday 28 December.

Morning classes are compulsory, unless special arrangements have been made with the School organiser. Dancers should arrive at class in good time to change shoes and be ready to start at 9.00 a.m. Appropriate dress is skirt and blouse or dress for women, and kilt or tidy trousers or shorts for men.

Afternoon classes and activities are optional; you will be provided with further information when you arrive at the school.

Appropriate dress for the informal evening social events (28 December and 5 January) is again skirt and blouse or dress for women, and kilt or tidy trousers or shorts for men. There will be a fancy dress night (30 December) when we hope you will choose to dress in accord with the School's theme (the world of Scottish country dancing). The two casual nights are 2 January, when you can soak up the music at the musical soirée, and the ceilidh night on 4 January. For the two formal evenings (31 December and 3 January) you have the chance to wear your glad rags - evening dress for women, kilt and jacket for men - but don't worry if you don't have full formal rig, you won't be alone.

On arrival at the School, you will be given a booklet detailing the venues for classes and other functions, meal times, facilities at Knox College, and the location of shops, medical services, churches, etc. There will also be a School office staffed with people who will be happy to help you in any way they can.

If in doubt - ask someone!

## Meet the Teachers

**Fiona Bullivant** – tutor – Whangarei

Fiona started dancing in Whangarei as a teenager and continued dancing and teaching in Australia, where she gained her full Certificate in 1984. She has taught at Winter and Summer Schools in both countries. Since



returning home she has taught at day and weekend schools and is one of the Whangarei Club and Northland advanced class teachers. Fiona has taught at all levels.

**Lois McEwan** – tutor – Auckland

Lois was introduced to Scottish Country Dancing by Kath Burn who invited her along to an Open Night at Milford Club in 1973. In 1989 she began teaching at Milford and gained her Teacher's Certificate in 1993. Since then she has taught at Region level and New Zealand Branch Summer School as well as continuing to share teaching at Milford Club.



In 1999 Milford Club started a junior group which she has enjoyed teaching since its inception. JAM Camp classes and school courses have given her further opportunities to encourage children to enjoy the fun of Scottish Country Dancing.

**Alan Burn** – musician – Christchurch

Alan's formal musical training is limited to two or three years' piano lessons at primary school age, and he has enjoyed playing music of various kinds ever since, self-teaching himself along the way. He began to take a serious interest in SCD music about ten years ago, and he has attended several of the New Zealand Branch



Summer School Musicians' Courses over recent years. He has thoroughly enjoyed them all, and believes he has developed his skills considerably, as a result.

Playing for classes at Dunedin Summer School will be his first such assignment, and he is very much looking forward to the challenge.

**Andy Nicol** – musician – Auckland

Andy is no stranger to Scottish dance music as both parents are dancers and teach dancing and his father plays accordion and piano for dancing. There was frequently dance music playing while he lived at home and so he was immersed in the style and rhythm of Scottish music since birth. Andy started dancing as a child, and as a result, has a good understanding of what makes great music from the dancer's point of view.



As a child, he also began playing piano and fiddle and not surprisingly had many Scottish tunes in his repertoire. With this background and his passion for Scottish dance, he now leads the Dervaig Scottish Dance Band and regularly plays for dance classes. More recently he has also mastered the bass and plays in several other SCD bands, providing the all important rhythm.

Having both played piano for, and attended numerous classes as a dancer, he believes that the ideal class environment is provided by the combination of teacher and musician working together to challenge and stretch the dancers and, most of all, to encourage the fun of dancing.

