



The Summer School Signal

25 August 2010

This is the third 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.

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Register now!!

There are still places available in the School and there is plenty of accommodation. All dancers applying to attend classes must be prepared to take a full and active part, but non-dancing partners are also very welcome to be part of the School.

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

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Remember, registrations should be in by 31 August. Dancers who register after that date may not be placed in their class of first choice.

School Programme

A detailed programme for the School, listing all events and venues, will be provided to all participants when they arrive. However, the following main points from the draft programme (still subject to some fine-tuning) might be useful.

Tuesday 28 December 2010

Move in day

All day: Management Committee meeting
3.30-4.30: Organisational meeting for teachers, musicians, etc.
4.30-5.30: Function for first timers and overseas visitors
7.30-9.30: Opening social dance

Wednesday 29 December 2010

9.00-12.00: Classes (and photographs)
Afternoon: High tea and dancing at Larnach Castle

Thursday 30 December 2010

9.00-12.00: Classes
2.00-3.30: Optional dance class
Afternoon: JAM medal tests
7.30-9.30: Fancy dress dance

Friday 31 December 2010

9.00-12.00: Classes
2.00-3.30: Optional dance class
Afternoon: Walk-through of ball dances and 32some practice
8.00-1.30: Hogmanay function

Saturday 1 January 2011

1.30: NZ Branch AGM

Sunday 2 January 2011

9.00: Ecumenical church service
10.30-12.00: Combined classes
Afternoon: Dancing in Botanic Garden
7.30-9.30: Musical soir e

Monday 3 January 2011

All day: Teacher candidate examinations
9.00-12.00: Classes
2.00-3.30: Optional dance class
Afternoon: Walk-through of ball dances
8.00: President's Ball

Tuesday 4 January 2011

All day: Teacher candidate examinations
9.00-12.00: Classes
2.00-3.30: Optional dance class
Afternoon: Open forum
7.30-9.30: Ceilidh

Wednesday 5 January 2011

9.00-12.00: Classes
2.00-3.00: Mock court
7.30-10.00: Final night dance

Thursday 5 January 2011

Move out – tired but happy

The Ceilidh and the Fancy Dress Night

It isn't too early to give thought to an item that you – solo or with others – could perform at the informal ceilidh night (4 January). Songs, skits, recitations, dances, musical items, conjuring tricks, lightning sketches, ventriloquism – you name it, it could be included in the programme (just remember it's a family show!).

You might also like to start thinking about how you will interpret the theme of the School for the fancy dress night (30 December): "the world of Scottish country dancing". Think creatively! Some form of national dress would be appropriate or a costume based on the name of a dance or ... it's up to you!!

School and Class Photographs

A professional photographer will visit the various teaching venues on the morning of 29 December to take a photograph of each class and before lunch will take a group photograph of everyone at the School. He will also be at the President's Ball to photograph various groups and individuals on request. It is expected that you will be able to order copies of any photographs you want and either collect them at the School or have them posted to you.

What to Wear

Dunedin is noted for its variable weather – it can be very warm in summer but it can also be chilly at times, so be prepared for all eventualities. Let layers be your byword! Have a couple of layers (including something in wool or polypropylene) that you can add to your normal summer wear if necessary. A raincoat or umbrella might also be useful.

Appropriate dress for morning classes is skirt and blouse or dress for women, and kilt or tidy trousers or shorts for men.

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 (a musical soirée) and 4 January (ceilidh night). 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.

Meet the Teachers

Maureen Robson – tutor – Wellington

Maureen was born in Newcastle upon Tyne and has danced since she was a child. She dabbled in tap, ballroom, modern dance and a bit of Scottish country dancing as her family lived so near the Scottish border. In 1967 she moved to Invercargill, New Zealand, with her husband and started dancing with the Otatara Club, where she danced for two years. After moving to Wellington, she joined the Ngaio Club and danced there until 1982, under the tutorage of Marie Malcolm, where she obtained her Teaching Certificate. She has been the tutor at the Tawa Club since then and has taught at a number of day, weekend and Summer Schools in New Zealand and an Australian Winter School.



Anne Smyth – tutor – Scotland

Anne is now retired after a teaching career: her last position was as physical education teacher and sports co-ordinator in Lochaber High School, Fort William, with specialisation in dance and gymnastics.



She began Scottish country dancing at the age of 4 in Gibraltar, where she was taught by the Cameron Highlanders, who were stationed there at the time. Her father was Attorney General there and himself a very keen dancer, hosting Scottish country dance parties. She continued dancing on returning to Scotland at the age of 9.

Anne took her Preliminary Certificate at the age of 19 with Miss Milligan examining. She subsequently taught Scottish country dance in the

various high schools and primary schools that she taught in and entered her pupils for festival competitions.

After time out for her family she took her Teachers Certificate in 1989. Subsequently, in the autumn of 1989, she took over as teacher to RSCDS Lochaber Branch, where she teaches children, beginners, a general class, and an advanced class.

After further assessment she was invited to teach at the St Andrews Summer School where she has taught intermediate, upper intermediate, advanced, very advanced, seniors and teachers certificate classes and tutored.

She has also taken various weekend and day schools and tutored at home and abroad and is a medal test assessor and examiner.

Jim Lindsay – musician – Scotland

Born and bred in the Kingdom of Fife, Jim has lived for the past 30 years near Perth on the edge of the Scottish Highlands. Becoming Scottish Accordion Champion in the early 1970s while still a teenager established him as a top band musician working with most of the legendary names from the golden era of Scottish dance music. Over the intervening 40 years or so Jim has consistently been one of the most respected and 'in demand' musicians on the Scottish music scene. You will find him on the credits for countless dance recordings and he has played at every significant Scottish dance event across the UK with one band or another. You may also recognise him as a regular performer and teacher at the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews.



Jim formed his own band in the 1980s which quickly became renowned for his innovative arrangements and concert performances. Their popular brand of listening music is regularly featured on the BBC and their critically acclaimed 'Free Hand' CD inspired a generation of young Scottish musicians.

In recent years Jim has brought the two strands of his music career together, playing and recording for dancing under his own name. His band is

firmly established as one of the most popular for Scottish country dances in the UK and he has made several playing visits to Europe and North America, including the TAC (Teachers' Association (Canada)) Summer School in 2009. His Christmas Dance Party CD brought a smile to faces all around the world and in 2009 he recorded Book 8 for the RSCDS with his own band and the unique "Reel On" CD with Muriel Johnstone. A new CD is scheduled for release in late 2010.

This will be Jim's first visit to the southern hemisphere and he is looking forward immensely to a memorable and exciting summer school.

Margaret McMurtry – tutor – Christchurch

Margaret gained her Full Teacher's Certificate in 1986. She has taught elementary, intermediate, advanced, and technique classes within the Canterbury Region, at New Zealand summer schools, and at a number of workshops in Canada and the United States of America.



With her enthusiasm, patience, and pleasant manner, Margaret has the ability to motivate her students and convey the feeling of the music and dance.

Beyond dancing, Margaret enjoys reading, art, gourmet cooking, gardening, and birdwatching.

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