

Welcome to the March Newsletter from RSCDS Sydney Branch

The committee has been busy planning dancing activities for the year ahead. You'll find information on upcoming **branch events**, other **local SCD** events and **Scottish events** plus major SCD events **further afield** from Melbourne to Edinburgh!

Branch Management Committee 2019:

President	Jeanette Stephan	rjsteph.js@gmail.com	0416 272 301
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Committee Member	Tracy Mackenzie	rscdstracy.mackenzie@gmail.com	0407 351 511
When using a committee member's personal email address please mention "RSCDS" in the subject line			

If you have any queries or suggestions please contact sydney@rscds.org.au or any member of the committee.

If you would like your event to appear in a future newsletter, please email sydney@rscds.org.au with the details.

Thank you to Tracey Waight for compiling the February Newsletter. She will now take on the role of *Sydney News and Information Bulletin* (SNIB) editor. SNIB will be published 3 times a year. **Please send articles to snib.editor@gmail.com by 15th March.**

RSCDS Sydney Branch Events

Easy Dance Social 16th March

Come along and bring a friend to this accessible social event run by RSCDS Sydney Branch. Suitable for beginners, while more experienced dancers can relax without their brains being too taxed.

Saturday 16th March

7pm with supper afterwards

Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Road, Ermington

\$10 RSCDS member, \$15 non members

Tickets on the door or via:

www.trybooking.com/BAVXD

TLG Southern Highlands Dancer workshop Saturday 30th March

All are welcome to this two-level day school in Bowral on 30th March, run by the Teachers' Liaison Group.

Level 1: Beginners

Level 2: Intermediate/Mixed

To be held at Uniting Church Hall and Presbyterian Church Hall, both on Bendooley Street, Bowral.

\$15 RSCDS members

\$20 Non-members

Registration from 9:30am

Morning tea supplied. BYO mug and lunch.

Please register in advance by contacting Helen

Wales: eilidhmarg@hotmail.com

4861 6471 or 0409 244 271

Keep Calm & Dance On!
TLG Workshop for Beginners & Improvers
Monday 8th April

The Teachers' Liaison Group invites less experienced dancers to join this beginners' workshop. Aimed at dancers who have completed a beginners' course this is a chance to brush up your dancing before the follow-on course begins after Easter.

Monday 8th April 6:30pm at Fort Street School, The Rocks

RSCDS Members \$20

Non-Members \$25

www.TryBooking.com/BBASO

or pay on the door but please let us know to expect you sydney@rscds.org.au

TLG Dancers' Workshop at Killara
27th April

Killara club and The Teachers' Liaison Group invite you to a Dancers' workshop on Saturday 27th April, at the Uniting Church Hall, Karranga Avenue, Killara.

10am to 1pm

\$20 RSCDS members, \$25 non members

A sumptuous morning tea will be provided

Register by 1st April to have your say on which steps and formations you would like to be taught.

Otherwise registration in advance is appreciated by 20th April to diana.hastie79@gmail.com

Fort Street Follow-on course for newer dancers starts 29th April

Following the success of the 2019 branch beginners course which began in February, there will be a follow-on course to pick up where we left off. This 8 week course is open to any dancer who has done a beginners course (or equivalent) in SCD.

Commencing Monday 29th April and finishing Monday 24th June (no class on Queen's birthday 10th June)

6:30 to 8:30pm at Fort Street School, The Rocks

Casual attendance is available at \$12 a night (\$10 for RSCDS members), or an 8 week block can be purchased for \$80 (\$64 for RSCDS members) at <https://www.trybooking.com/BBATN>

We would love to know if you plan to come along sydney@rscds.org.au

Sydney Branch is looking for expressions of interest for DAA at Intermediate level in 2019

Here is an opportunity to **develop your personal dancing** with individual critique and teamwork. This is the entry level assessment provided by the RSCDS. Ten Sydney dancers have achieved this level since 2016 and really enjoyed the challenge. Many are progressing to the advanced level this year. You may wish to discuss the DAA with one of the previous candidates or tutors, or with your own club/class teacher.

- Course to be held in Spring 2019 and will run for 4 to 5 weeks plus the assessment
- Cost \$100 (including the HQ assessment fee)
- You will be required to learn the prescribed dances prior to the course
- At assessment you will dance a reel, a jig and a strathspey as first couple
- Contact moragnap@optusnet.com.au to enquire further or register for the course by **30th April 2019**
- For detailed information about DAA please go to: www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa

Parramatta District Branch Class Mondays 7:30 to 9:30

Reg Byrne Hall, Fyall Avenue, Wentworthville

Dance in an air conditioned and relaxed atmosphere
Every Monday evening (except public holidays) from 7.30pm
to 9.30pm

Everybody welcome - beginners to experienced dancers

Members: \$7

Non members: \$10

Enquiries: Dianne Stocks (02) 9636-8248

or distocks@toorale.net

For fitness, fun & friendship

UNIT 1 Exam October 2019

Sydney Branch would like to give members an opportunity to sit the RSCDS unit 1 exam this year. We have even created an online learning package to help you study.

Unit 1 is a written theory exam, which offers candidates a chance to understand not only the history and music associated with SCD, but to become very familiar with the most common steps and formations.

It is the first part of the teaching exam but it is also **suitable for any dancer wanting to improve their theoretical knowledge.**

See www.rscds.org/article/unit-1 for detailed information, contact diana.hastie79@gmail.com with questions or to enrol for the exam.

Local SCD events

Killara Social Saturday 23rd March

Join the Killara dancers for fun evening with with music from Iain McKenzie.
Uniting Church Hall, 9 Karranga Avenue, Killara. Drinks & Nibbles from 7pm.

Tickets \$15.

Programme and cribs are available at:

https://rscds.org.au/mgxroot/page_10797.html

The next **Scots on The Rocks Chaotic Ceilidh** will be on 30th March. Music by Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt. Tickets sell out fast so it's best to sign up to their newsletter and stay in the loop.

Tickets cost \$35, are released 2 to 4 weeks before the event and are available via Trybooking.com

Wesley School for Seniors holds regular classes in the city

Advanced class: Mondays 12:30 to 2:00

General class (beginners welcome): Tuesdays 2:00 to 4:00

These classes are for people aged 55 and over.

You can enroll by the term or turn up when it suits you, but you need to register at the office on the 3rd floor.

School For Seniors
3rd Floor
Wesley Mission
220 Pitt Street
Sydney

Contact Govin 93984370 shun.govind@gmail.com to
enquire further

Local Scottish Events

Why not head down to the **Bundanoon Highland Gathering** on the 6th April and soak up the atmosphere?

SCD and Highland dancing, strong men competition, massed pipe bands, fiddlers' tent and much more.....

Single adult tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the entries or online.

<http://brigadoon.org.au/>

Sydney Highland Gathering Sunday 31st March

The Scots College Pipes and Drums Association in conjunction with the NSW branch of Pipe Bands Australia are excited to announce the return of the Scottish Highland Gathering to Sydney on Sunday 31st March 2019. Set in Bellevue Hill in Sydney's eastern Suburbs, The Scot's College provides a perfect setting for a memorable gathering.

Sydney Highland Gatherings were once a fixture in the Australian Scottish Calendar. The first was held in 1868. The Scots College Pipes and Drums Association and Pipe Bands Australia are keen to bring back the tradition.

The Highland Gathering in the grounds of The Scots College will feature Pipe Band competitions, Highland Dancing, the Heavy Lifters (kilt wearing strongmen) and fair featuring stalls selling Scottish goods, fine food, gifts and artisan products. We hope you will come and join us.

We are hoping to open the event with a clan march. **Entry is free**. Competitions start at midday. We encourage you to use public transport and catch the 326 Bus from Edgecliff Station.

For further enquiries please call Rosemary 0414305757

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2116796275226648/>

Book now for exciting events Further Afield.....

**Edinburgh Branch 95th Anniversary Ball
11th May**

This year, RSCDS Edinburgh Branch celebrates its 95th Anniversary and as part of the celebrations will be having an Anniversary Ball on Saturday 11th May to which dancers from all over the world are invited. The venue is the iconic Greyfriars Kirk, in the heart of the Old Town of Edinburgh. The evening starts at 6.30pm with a drinks reception, then dancing to Iain MacPhail and his four piece band followed by supper and then more dancing until late.

We're delighted this year that the Chairman of the RSCDS, Andrew Kellett will be joining us and we are already looking forward to having dancers from California and New Zealand joining us, making this a truly international event.

The programme has been carefully selected to include dances connected with Edinburgh and the wider Society but also to ensure that time on the dance floor is enjoyable and not too much reading is required! An additional dance through has been organised for the 5th May for anyone wishing to brush up beforehand.

Tickets are limited for this event and an Early Bird discount is available for all applications before 31st March. An additional discount is available for those bringing complete tables of 10 on one booking form.

www.rscdsedinburgh.org

application form is also available on Facebook Dancedownunder or from sydney@rscds.org.au

Winter School this year will be in Melbourne from 7th to

13th July. Final payments are due by the end of March.
Teachers include Graham Donald, Linda Henderson, Jan McCudden, Cairistiona Tait, Patsy Marks.

www.melbourne2019ws.com

MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT IN HOBART THIS AUGUST!

The Winter Ball will be held on Saturday 17th August with music by Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt.

The weekend has options to include a tour of Markree house or attend the ball walk through on Friday evening followed by supper.

There is also a picnic dance on Sunday.

Bookings are essential.

Please see rscds.org.au/mqxroot/page_10874.html to find application forms and crib notes.

Or contact ord.sally@gmail.com

2019 Calendar

Saturday 23 February	Gosford Opening Social
1-3 March	Katoomba Weekend
Thursday 7 th March	Advanced DAA starts
Saturday 16 March	Easy Dance Social
22-31 March	Dance Tassie
Saturday 23 March	Killara Social
Monday 25 th March	Fort St Beginner course ends
Saturday 6 th April	Brigadoon at Bundanoon
Monday 8 th April	TLG Beginners' workshop "Keep Calm & Dance On!"
Thursday 11 th April	Adv DAA assessment
18 th to 22 nd April	National Folk Festival Canberra (Easter weekend)
Saturday 27 th April	TLG dancer workshop Killara
Monday 29 th April	Fort St Follow on starts
Saturday 4 May	HV Day of Dance
Saturday 18 May	Know Your Dance Social
Saturday 25 May	Nowra Social

Saturday 1 June	Beecroft Matinee Social
Saturday 22 June	Sydney Branch Ball
Monday 24 th June	Fort st Follow on ends
Saturday 29 th June	SoTR Chaotic Ceilidh
7-13 July	44th Australian Winter School, Melbourne
Mon 15 th July	Visiting WS teacher & musician, Branch class Wentworthville
Saturday 20 th July	Adelaide Ball
Saturday 3 August	Wollongong Social
Saturday 10 th August	Branch Winter Social
Saturday 17 August	Caringbah 40th Anniversary Social Hobart Ball
Saturday 7 September	Southern Highlands Social
Saturday 31 st August	Forestville Ceilidh
Saturday 14 September	HV Ball
Saturday 28 th September	TLG Teachers' Workshop & meeting
Saturday 12 th October	Canberra Ball Kiwis at Killara social
Saturday 19 th October	Blue Mts Social SoTR Chaotic Ceilidh Unit 1 exam
Saturday 26 th October	Epping social
1-3 November	Riverwood Downs Weekend
23-30 November	Global Youth Week
Sunday 24 th November	Family Ceilidh
Saturday 30 th November	HV St Andrews Social
Saturday 7 th December	End of Year Social
28 th December - 5th Jan	New Zealand Summer School

Further information (and flyers) about many of these events is available on the branch website and facebook page.

Remember, contact me at sydney@rscds.org.au if you would like to see your event or class advertised here.

Contact Tracey at SNIB.editor@gmail.com by 15th March with articles for the next Bulletin.

Branches and affiliated groups can now send articles of up to 200 words directly to the editor of "Scottish Country Dancer", the twice yearly magazine sent out by RSCDS HQ. Please send any articles or ideas via a committee member.

Diana Hastie
