Scottish Ramble

Autumn 2023

Newsletter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Queensland Branch Incorporated

Chairman's Report

This year, 2023, marks the centenary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and dancing groups from all around the world will be celebrating. Here in Queensland we will be holding a Centenary Ball on 24th June and, together with groups around the world, a Centenary Social on 17th September. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars! All club teachers contributed their club's favourite dances for the Ball programme.

Our Branch Opening Social was held on Saturday 1st April with reports suggesting that it was a huge success. Most clubs and classes however returned to dancing after a summer break early in February. Several clubs and classes have reported new dancers attending, which is encouraging.

A group has been working hard on the dance programme for our Ball, with numerous suggestions having been offered by a number of members. Devising a dance programme is not as straight-forward as one might think, with the need to balance numbers of jigs, reels and strathspeys as well as avoiding somewhat similar dances following one another and having a balance between more and less complex dances, so as to avoid discouraging less experienced dancers.

Looking further ahead, the Brisbane Winter School Committee is developing plans for the 2024 Winter School to be held in Queensland. Planning is well underway with the enthusiastic team looking forward to sharing some news and dates soon.

Last, but not least, our AGM is scheduled to be held at Love Street on Sunday 28th May, starting 10am. Do please attend if you can!

Bryan Hacker

Chairman

YOUR BRANCH COMMITTEE FOR 2022 – 2023

POSITION	MEMBER	CONTACT	EMAIL
Chairman	*Bryan Hacker*	*07 3374 1468*	*rscdsqld@iinet.net.au*
Vice Chairman	*Cathy McLeod*	*0403 280 402*	*pczb@bigpond.net.au*
Secretary	*Kat Hayes*	*0410 587 887*	*riviera3kat@outlook.com*
Treasurer	*Connie Witt*	*0431 015 269*	*cwitt@iprimus.com.au*
Membership Secretary	*Mark Dancer*	*0487 193 819*	*mark.david.dancer@gmail.com*
Events Coordinators	*Kat Hayes* *Irina Gibson*	*0410 587 887* *0405 288 449*	*riviera3kat@outlook.com* *irinaegibson@gmail.com*
Committee Members	*Irina Gibson* *Diana Pascoe* *Fran Beausaert*	*0405 288 449* *0428 501 226* *0411 523 316*	*irinaegibson@gmail.com* *pascoediana@gmail.com* *beausaer@tpg.com.au*
"Scottish Ramble" Editor *(all contributions by 17Th June)*	*Fran Beausaert*	*0411 523 316*	*beausaer@tpg.com.au*

BLUE DOT REMINDER …THIS MEANS CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Website:
https://rscds-qld.org.au/

Facebook:
"SCD Qld"
"Scottish Country Dancing Queensland- RSCDS"

All correspondence:
(other than newsletter items) to:

The Secretary
RSCDS QLD Branch
PO Box 255
Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108

NEW…QR Code
A direct connection to the new Queensland website!

AGM…ALL welcome
Sunday 28th May 2023@10am

Holding a position on the Qld Branch Committee is rewarding. Not only do you meet new people, but your skills will be applauded and appreciated as valuable resources in the continued advancement of the committee.

As many members will be retiring from their positions, **NOW** is the time for new volunteers to take a turn to inspire and help the group.
(See pages 19 - 21 for more information)

PLEASE PRINT PAGES AS NECESSARY AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION. PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF SUBMISSION DATES.

* Remember Covid -19 is ***still*** in the community.

RSCDS QLD BRANCH and CLUB CALENDAR – 2023

Dates	Times	Event	Location
April			
May			
Saturday 20th May	1:00 for 1:30pm start 1:30 - 5:00pm	Cleveland Club's 50th Birthday	Redlands Memorial Hall, 46 Smith St, Cleveland
Saturday 27th May	7:00 - 10:00pm	Gold Coast May Soiree	Maher Hall, Matilda St, Burleigh Heads
Sunday 28th May	9:30 for 10am start	AGM	Communify Hall, Love St, Spring Hill
June			
Saturday 24th June	7:00pm	RSCDS Q'ld Branch Centenary Ball	Brisbane Room, City Hall, Brisbane, Qld
July			
August			
Saturday 5th August	1:00 for 1:30pm start 1:30 - 5:30pm	Gold Coast Touch of Tartan Tea Dance	Maher Hall, Matilda St, Burleigh Heads
September			
Saturday 17th September	10:00am – 4:00pm	RSCDS WORLDWIDE Dancing through the Decades Centenary Social	Communify Hall, Love St, Spring Hill
October			
November			
Saturday 11th November	3:00 for 4:00pm start 3:00 - 7:30pm	Gold Coast Summer Tea Dance Centenary Celebration	Maher Hall, Matilda St, Burleigh Heads
Saturday 25th November	7:00 for 7:30pm start	St Andrews Gala Celebration	"The Newmarket" 212 Ashgrove Ave, Ashgrove
December			

"Take your Shoes"

…Global Centenary celebrations for travellers in 2023…

"With 160 Branches and around 300 Affiliated Groups around the world you are never far from Scottish Country Dancing"….
RSCDS WEBSITE

You can find ALL classes on the RSCDS website…

https://www.rscds.org/get-involved/global-dance-listings

https://www.rscds.org/branch-group-finder

Events further afield…Please check availability closer to the date

3rd - 4th June 2023	King's Birthday Weekend School King's Birthday Weekend	Matangi, NZ
24th September – 1st Oct 2023	Australian Winter School 46th Australian Winter School Brochure September 2023	Kiama, NSW
17th September 2023	Worldwide RSCDS Centenary Social Dancing through the Decades	Communify Hall Love St, Spring Hill
26th October - 31st October 2023	Ebony and Ivory NZ's Musicians Tasmania Tour	Tasmania
28th December 2023 - 5th January 2024	NZ Summer School NZ Summer School 2023/24	Nelson, NZ
July 2024	Australian Winter School	Brisbane, QLD

Sally Connie Lyn Cathy Ross Fran Diana ….. and Sinea

Win ter School Committee Brisbane 2024

We're creating something very special for 2024!! Stay tuned!

CENTENARY BALL

QUICK LINKS TO THE CENTENARY BALL.

MORE INFORMATION IS ELSEWHERE IN THE RAMBLE.

- Centenary Ball Venue Brisbane Room City Hall
- Centenary Ball Ticket Order Form
- RSCDS Worldwide Centenary Celebrations
- Centenary Ball Invitation
- Centenary Ball Programme

1923 2023

"Glitz & Glamour of the 1920s"

Many activities are on offer around the world for the centenary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

You're invited to join in the celebrations wherever and whenever possible.

The Queensland Branch is hosting a **Centenary Ball** on Saturday, 24th June 2023.

The Centenary Ball Programme is on page 11 with further details to follow.

Interesting Facts about RSCDS…and The Flying Scotsman

Brief history of SCD to RSCDS (video)

https://rscds.org/about/history/founders

From RSCDS HQ

"Last year we invited RSCDS Branches and Affiliated Groups across the world to film themselves dancing *The Flying Scotsman* for a Centenary project. We can now reveal the outcome of this project…

Friday 24th February 2023 marks 100 years since *The Flying Scotsman* – the world's most famous steam locomotive – embarked on its first voyage from the sheds at Doncaster Works. Now a national treasure, *The Flying Scotsman* is a star attraction in the collection of the National Railway Museum (part of the Science Museum Group) in York, where it is a working museum exhibit.

What better way to celebrate both centenaries than a collaboration between RSCDS and *The Flying Scotsman*!

We're delighted to be able to share this video with you all now after a fantastic launch at Edinburgh Waverley, with the locomotive herself!"

Celebrating 100 years of The Flying Scotsman

Watch to the very end to see familiar places & faces!

Eight beautiful stamps honour the 100-year journey of the world's most celebrated steam locomotive.

This special issue in the UK commemorates the centenary of *The Flying Scotsman* – a national treasure of engineering and design.

CLASSES AND CLUB CONTACTS for 2023

Club	Night	Place	Club Contact	Phone/Email
Atherton	***Wednesday*** 5:45pm	St Joseph's Church Hall 28 Mabel St, Atherton	Kylie Akers	0417 007 432 pakers@bigpond.net.au
Ballina NSW	***Tuesday*** 4:00 — 5:30pm	Presbyterian Church Hall Crane Street, Ballina	Elspeth Lacey	0416 150 150
Brisbane Love Street Branch Class	***Monday*** 6:00 — 8:30pm	Communify Hall Love St, Spring Hill	Bryan Hacker	07 3374 1468 queensland@rscds.org.au
Bundaberg	***Tuesday*** *Ladies Step* TBA 7:00 — 9:00pm	Private Home Bargara	Janet Oliver	0407 034 241 janet.bundyscd@internode.on.net http://ja0392.wixsite.com/bundy-scot-dancers
Cleveland	***Friday*** 7:30pm	St James' Anglican Church Hall 17 Station St, Wellington Point	Geoff Thompson	0458 208 257 geoffthommo@gmail.com
Gold Coast	***Thursday*** 7:00pm	Maher Hall Matilda Street, Burleigh Heads	Dorothy Merriman	07 5578 8497 0409 285 080
Graceville	***Thursday*** 9:30 — 11:30am ***Friday*** 7:30 — 9:30pm ***NOTE:*** **venue change**	St John's Anglican Church Hall California Rd, Oxley St David's Anglican Church Hall Cnr Chelmer East & Appel Sts, Chelmer	Helen Draper	07 3379 7141 helendraper@bigpond.com
Gympie	***Wednesday*** 9:00 — 11:00am	Guides Hall Shanks Street, Gympie	Kay Callen Ann Johnston	*Kay* 0407 242 677 *Ann* 0419 647 269
Maleny	***Monday*** 7:00 — 9:00pm	RSL Hall 1 Bunya St, Maleny	Helen Jackson Linda Scharf	*Helen* 0432 251 606 *Linda* 0429 654 033 lpscharf@tpg.com.au
Mareeba	***Thursday*** Every 1st and 3rd week 7:00pm	Spanish Club 38 Chewko Rd, Mareeba	Kylie Akers	0417 007 432 pakers@bigpond.net.au
Noosa U3A	***Monday*** 9:00 — 11:00am	Masonic Hall Moorindil Street, Tewantin	Joanne Kjorstad	0400 116 517 0499 293 917
Northside Branch Class	***Wednesday*** 7:30 — 9:30pm (NOT OCTOBER)	Wonargo Revue Scout Hall Flower St, Northgate	Jim Walters	07 3204 4444
Redlands U3A	***Monday*** 11:30am — 2:30pm	St James' Anglican Church Hall 17 Station St, Wellington Point	Heather Heron	0402 408 905 hetheron@iinet.net.au
Schiehallion	***Monday*** 7:00 — 9:00pm	Uniting Church Pope St, Tarragindi	Paul Smith Denise Smith	0410 588 281 0439 270 191 pauldenise3@bigpond.com
St Philip's	***Tuesday*** 7:30pm	St Paul's Anglican Church Hall 554 Vulture St, East Brisbane	Connie Witt	0431 015 269
The Gap	***Thursday*** 7:30 — 9:00pm	Memorial Hall Glory St, Ashgrove West	Christine Warner	0415 856 532 cywarner@gmail.com
The Glen Caboolture U3A	***Tuesday*** 6:30 — 8:30pm (School Terms)	Memorial Hall (Supper Room) King St, Caboolture	Bev Melville	07 5432 4815 Or text 0410 293 466
Townsville	***Monday*** *General* 7:00 — 9:00 pm ***Friday*** *Daytime* 10:30am — 12:00pm (2nd & 4th Friday) ***Sunday*** *Experienced* 3:45 – 5:15pm (2nd & 3rd *Sunday*) ***Monday*** *Beginners* 6:00 – 7:00pm 8 weeks	The Upstairs Hall Suburban Bowling Club (Enter from Charters Towers Rd) 5 Carr Street Hermit Park	Margaret Silke	*Margaret* 0431 434 579 *Alex* 0488 716 316 margaretsilke@gmail.com
Warwick U3A	***Friday*** 10:00am	Cnr Tooth & Wood Street Warwick	Margie Bond	0429 700 217

Come and try

Scottish Country Dancing in Qld

Start HERE

Tell me more...

- *Fun...Fitness...Friendships*
- *All ages*
- *No partner needed*

Classes:

- New Dancer and Intermediate

Where:

- Communify Hall,
  Love Street, Spring Hill

When:

- Mondays (New) 6:00pm - 7:30pm
  (Inter) 7:30pm - 8:30pm
- ONLY $10/lesson
- Free parking

Contact:

rscdsqld@iinet.net.au

07 3374 1468

https://rscds-qld.org.au/

What's a New Dancer's class?

Often, people are scared of starting something new, so unfortunately they "put it off" until later…missing out on all the good stuff that joining in can bring.

When it comes to any kind of dancing, there are many excuses
…I don't have a partner
…I can't dance
…I'll spoil it for everyone else
…I can't remember
…I don't know anyone
excuses we've heard…or given ourselves!

NOW is the time to change all of that… a new dancer's class helps a learner with elementary steps, dance etiquette, making new friends… all the basics needed towards becoming a confident dancer who can easily join in group dances.

Invite a friend to join the Branch New Dancer's classes with this great offer!

New Dancer's Class
$10/lesson
Air-conditioning
Free street parking

Tell a friend
…or two
…or three!!

Share …
- Instagram
- Facebook
- Email
- Talk

Graceville Friday Dancers
now dance in a new location:

St David's Anglican Church Hall
Cnr Chelmer St East and Appel St, Chelmer
7:30 – 9:30pm

Map details

50TH GOLD 'N' TARTAN ANNIVERSARY TEA DANCE

CLEVELAND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

20TH MAY 2023

START: 1:00PM FOR 1:30PM ... FINISH: 5:00 PM

REDLANDS MEMORIAL HALL, SMITH STREET, CLEVELAND

Music: EMMA NIXON & IAIN MCKENZIE *(Black Bear Duo)*

ADMISSION: *$25* NON-DANCERS: *$15*

1	*Jubilee Jig*	*8 x 32 J*	*RSCDS Leaflets 14*
2	*Maxwell's Rant*	*8 x 32 R*	*RSCDS 18/10*
3	*Rose of the North*	*8 x 32 S*	*R Goldring Leeds Silver Jubilee*
4	*Follow Me Home*	*8 x 32 J*	*RSCDS 38/3*
5	*Flowers of Edinburgh*	*8 x 32 R*	*RSCDS 1/6*
6	*Miss Gibson's Strathspey*	*8 x 32 S*	*RSCDS Leaflets 21*
7	*Mrs Stewart's Jig*	*8 x 32 J*	*RSCDS 35/1*
8	*Neidpath Castle*	*3 x 32 S*	*RSCDS 22/10*
9	*Trip to Timber Ridge*	*8 x 32 R*	*RSCDS 52/12*

SCOTTISH WALTZ

AFTERNOON HIGH TEA

10	*Catch the Wind*	*8 x 32 R*	*RSCDS 45/5*
11	*The Golden Years*	*8 x 32 S*	*RSCDS 48/3*
12	*EH3 7AF*	*8 x 32 J*	*RSCDS 40/6*
13	*City of Belfast*	*3 x 32 S*	*RSCDS 48/6*
14	*Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder (SQ)*	*1 x 128 J*	*RSCDS Thirty Popular 2/5*
15	*Cleveland Hospitality (TRI)*	*3 x 40 S*	*Marilyn Watson*
16	*Mairi's Wedding*	*8 x 40 R*	*RSCDS Thirty Popular 2/40*

AULD LANG SYNE

*Please contact Heather Heron on 0402 408 905 or hetheron@iinet.net.au to reserve tickets and name tags **prior to the 20th May**. Payment for tickets will be accepted on the day.*
Cribs for all dances will accompany your ticket and name tag.

The Gold Coast Scottish Country Dance Club
Invites you to a

May Soiree

Saturday 27th May 2023
6.30pm for 7:00pm
Maher Hall, Matilda Street,
Burleigh Heads

Entry: $10.00

PROGRAMME

1.	Dancing DolphinsBook	J8x32	Skelton, Dolphin
2.	Maxwell's Rant	R8x32	RSCDS Book 18
3.	The Haar on Skye	S8x32	RSCDS Graded Bk 4.
4.	Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	J6x32	RSCDS Grade Bk 1
5.	Catch the Wind	R8x32	RSCDS Book 45
6.	There's Something about Thirty	S3x32	RSCDS Book 50
7.	The Shetland Shepherdess	J8x32	RSCDS Graded Bk
8.	Clutha	R4x48Sq	RSCDS Book 31
9.	Midsummer Common	S8x32	RSCDS Book 49
10.	Bethankit	J8x32	RSCDS Graded Bk

SUPPER

11.	New Year Jig	J8x32	RSCDS Book 51
12.	The Corian Strathspey	S3x32	RSCDS Book 43
13.	Happy Returns	R8x32	RSCDS Book 30
14.	Minister on the Loch	S3x32	Goldring 24 G&SDances
15.	Mairi's Wedding	R8x40	Cosh 30 Popular Dances

Auld Lang Syne

Maher Hall, Matilda Street, Burleigh Heads

Saturday 5th August 2023 1:00 for 1:30pm start

Dancers $25 Non-Dancers $10

The Black Bear Duo

PROGRAMME

1.	St Andrews Fair	J8x32	Goldring, 5 SCD
2.	The Grassmarket Reel	R5x32 RTR	T.Wilson – 5 Dances 2009
3.	Wisp of Thistle	S8x32	RSCDS 37
4.	The Button Boy	R8x32	Zobel – Allanton Colln
5.	Inchmickery	J5x32	Goldring 14 Social Dances
6.	Gang the Same Gate	S8x32	RSCDS 36
7.	The Summer Assembly	J4x32Sq	RSCDS 35
8.	The Falkirk Lass	S8x40	E.Brunken – Merse Colln
9.	Scott Meikle	R4x32	RSCDS 46
10.	A Capital Jig	J8x32	T. MacKay 2009

HIGH TEA

11.	Allemande to Go	R8x32	Gaye Collin
12.	Ross in Bloom	S4x32	RSCDS Birmingham Bk
13.	A Babbling Brooke	J8x32	Gaye Collin
14.	Jean Martin of Aberdeen	S3x32	M. Johnstone 3 Dances 2006
15.	The De'il Amang the Tailors	R8X32	RSCDS 14

Auld Lang Syne

RSCDS QLD INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

THE CENTENARY BALL

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2023

1	EH3 7AF	8X32J	RSCDS BK 40
2	HIGHLAND RAMBLER	8X40R	RSCDS 30 POPULAR DANCES 2
3	THE BONNIE TREE	8X32S	RSCDS BK 46
4	GOOD-HEARTED GLASGOW	8X32J	COLLINS
5	CLUTHA	4X48R	RSCDS BK 31
6	MARGARET PARKER'S STRATHSPEY	8X32S	RSCDS BK 31
7	CATCH THE WIND	8X32R	RSCDS BK 45
8	MIDSUMMER COMMON	8X32S	RSCDS BK 49
9	MISS JOHNSTONE OF ARDROSSAN	5X32R	RSCDS 30 POPULAR DANCES 2
10	LAIRD OF MILTON'S DAUGHTER	8X32J	RSCDS BK 22

SUPPER

11	LADY CATHERINE BRUCE'S REEL	6X32J	RSCDS GRADED BK
12	SCOTT MEIKLE	4X32R	RSCDS BK 46
13	ANNA HOLDEN'S STRATHSPEY	6X32S	RSCDS BK 42
14	BEST SET IN THE HALL	8X32J	RSCDS BK 46
15	CITY OF BELFAST	3X32S	RSCDS BK 48
16	REEL OF THE ROYAL SCOTS	8X32R	LEAFLET

7PM

TICKETS : $70

LIVE MUSIC WITH

THE BALMORAL BAND

1923 2023

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE RSCDS QLD

CENTENARY BALL

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2023

THE BRISBANE ROOM, BRISBANE CITY HALL

ENTRANCE ...91 ANN STREET, BRISBANE

7:00PM WELCOME DRINK

7:30PM GRAND WELCOME & PARADE

FORMAL DRESS FOR ALL

TICKETS $70 DANCERS, $50 NON DANCERS

TICKETS MUST BE PREPAID, NO TICKETS AT DOOR

FULLY CATERED

GETTING THERE AND PARKING...

* KING GEORGE SQUARE CARPARK $10 FOR 8 HOURS

* DROP OFF ZONE NEARBY *LIMITED STREET PARKING

Payment

Please Complete ticket form on Page 3

via EFT: RSCDS Qld Branch Inc,
BSB 034-002
ACC: 413904
Ref: your name and ball23
Send confirmation email to treasurer@rscds-qld.org.au

Via Cheque/money order:
RSCDS Qld Branch Inc
PO Box 255,
Coopers Plains Q 4108

IN LOVING Memory

Remembering
George Utterson

10 September 1932 – 21 November 2022

George Utterson, enthusiastic dancer, very dear friend and co-founder of the Gold Coast Scottish Country Dance Club, passed away on November 21st aged 90.
George lived a full and happy life, which was marked by his love of family and friends and constant contribution to his community.

George was born in Callander, Perthshire in Scotland, one of nine children (5 boys and 4 girls). As well as a general education, the Church of Scotland Sunday School and Bible Class were very important in George's upbringing and his faith was a constant in his life.

George served his apprenticeship as a painter-decorator. He was enlisted for two years of compulsory National Service in England in 1952 where his initial wage was 14 shillings a week, half of which he sent to his mother. After six weeks training in Aldershot, where tuition was given in rifle shooting on the firing range and drill on a freezing parade ground, he was then attached to the Aldershot Military Hospital where he trained in dietary cooking. The military minds decided as George's father was a baker, he would therefore be a good cook. (This was made evident later in life by his mouth-watering shortbread.) George left for overseas service in August 1952 bound for Pusan in Korea and was then posted to Japan where he was billeted in the Royal Australian Signals Camp in Kure. Casualties from the Korean conflict were flown to Japan by air ambulance where George and his fellow specialised dietary cooks provided nutritious meals to assist in their recovery. In fourteen months of service in Japan, he was only allocated one week of R&R which he spent with mates on the island of Myajuma.

George returned to the UK at the end of 1953 and was discharged from National Service. He had celebrated his 21st birthday while serving in Japan.

In 1955 the next stage of his life commenced when George and elder sister Margaret migrated to Sydney at a cost of 10 pounds each, on the condition that they stayed in Australia for two years. George became an Australian citizen in 1984.

George met his future wife Maureen in Sydney. Maureen had migrated in 1966 and in 1968 they returned to Scotland for six years where their children Margaret and Garry were born. On returning to Australia, the family moved to the Gold Coast where they purchased their home in Miami. (This residence hosted many guests for dancing events over the years.) George was employed at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary until his retirement in 1994.

Maureen also retired at this time so they could pursue their interests, do some travelling and volunteer for community organisations.

George was on the committee of the Burleigh Heads RSL for several years and continued to assist in any way he could. He was awarded certificates of appreciation from many organisations for volunteering his time to Riding for the Disabled, the Boys Brigade, Sunday School at the Burleigh Uniting Church, library service - delivering books to the elderly and infirm, and as a Visitor Service volunteer at the Information Centre. He also helped older neighbours by mowing lawns and gardening. In 2003, George was awarded the McPherson Electorate Community Contribution Award.

George was involved with the running of the Gold Coast Scottish Country Dance Club for many years. He served as Inaugural President after co-founding the club in 1976, then President for a further fourteen years, a committee member for five years and Branch representative for ten years. George and Maureen were part of many dance events around Queensland such as the weekends of dance in Maryborough and Toowoomba and various club and Branch socials in the Brisbane area, forming strong and enduring friendships everywhere.

As well as enjoying Scottish Country Dancing, George was an avid bush walker and regular bridge player. He loved social occasions and could be relied upon to be the life and soul of any party.
George was a thoughtful, kind and caring man with a wonderful sense of humour.

He is deeply missed and will never be forgotten.

Dot Merriman

News from the Branch

Our Branch Opening Social for 2023 was a resounding success, not the least aided by perfect weather and a great floor. There have been times in the past when the floor at The Newmarket has been too slippery or too sticky, but luckily that was not the case this time. There were four sets on the floor, aided by some less experienced dancers from the Branch Technique class at Love St, some of whom were attending their first social. Thank you everyone for making them feel welcome. And thanks to Bryan for being an excellent MC, aided by experienced recappers Cathy, Connie, Denise, Ken, Mark, and Paul. Thank you also to Connie and Mark for the music, and also to Connie and Judith for an excellent supper. And finally, thank you to the four sets of dancers who came, including a group form the Gold Coast and one from the Sunshine Coast!
A great evening all round!

Cathy McLeod

"The Branch Opening Social was held on Saturday 1st April and was a great success. Dancers came from the North Coast and Gold Coast and there were four sets on the floor for most dances. It was great to see a number of newer dancers joining in and thanks go to teachers who had taught many of the dances at club and class events before the big night. In all there were 15 dances, mostly well-known, with a supper interval following dance 9, Trip to Timber Ridge, and finishing with De'il amang the Tailors."

Bryan Hacker

Click below for great pics of the Opening Social

Qld Branch Opening Social 2023

News from the Clubs

Bundy Scottish Dancers

Bundy Scottish Country Dancers are still struggling along despite our low numbers.
We are dancing at my home in Bargara which helps reduce costs, so if we haven't enough to form a set then we are not loosing money on hiring a hall.
We have started Step Dancing again for about 20 minutes before our regular class.
If any dancers visiting the area want to come along please phone first to get my address and to make sure we have enough to dance.

Janet (0407034241)

The Gap Dancers

We started back dancing on February 16 on a very hot evening. 2022 was another difficult year at The Gap with low attendances making it a struggle to maintain the status quo. Since the start of the New Year however, several ladies have seen Heather Clarke's post on Facebook calling for new dancers to come and try us out, and they have now commenced learning with us. Also a couple of previous members have indicated they will return as soon as the weather cools down, so here's hoping things are looking up at last. There have been a number of renovations carried out at the church hall over the past year also, which has spruced it up and made it more appealing. Air-conditioning would be a welcome addition, however we have some decent fans now replacing the old ones.
Christine Warner

(Secretary for The Gap Dancers)

Gold Coast

We received a huge shock late in December with the very sad news that one of our lovely dancers, Sandra Rivers-Smith passed away from a catastrophic stroke on Christmas morning.
Sandra commenced dancing in 2018 and really embraced it. Some of the formations didn't come easily to her but she persevered and was always thrilled when she succeeded. Sandra was one of the first to arrive at class each Thursday and helped set out the chairs. Her daughter emailed the following when letting us know that she had lost her dearly loved mother.

"I am emailing to thank you and all her friends at dancing for welcoming her. She enjoyed dancing more than anything and just couldn't wait for Thursday night to come around. She loved going there so much and said everyone there was just so lovely. Anyway, thank you all once again for all your hospitality toward my mum. You made her so happy."

Beginners and Improvers classes tutored by Sandra Bell, commenced in February. There are no beginners this year unfortunately as our advertising was not focussed. The Improvers found the technique and formation revision invaluable.
The general class commenced on Thursday 2nd March with just over two sets. Some injuries have carried over from last year.
Tina and David brought along a box of chocolates to share on the first night, continuing their supply of treats from previous years.

We are thrilled to announce that NZ musician Sharlene Penman will play at our class from 7pm on Thursday June 29th. Many thanks to our branch for sharing Sharlene's willingness to play with the clubs.
Further details will be published later.

The date of our November social has been delayed by a week so Iain Mckenzie could accept a request from New Zealand to play at an event in Auckland on the 4th.
Our new dancing date is 11th November, and this will be our Centenary Celebration.
There is a new start time of 3pm for 4pm with drinks and nibbles being served from 3pm. Dancing should conclude by 7:30pm which is hopefully not too late for our NSW dancers. (8:30pm NSW time.)

Our first social for 2022 is on Saturday 27th May and commences at 7pm. The program devised by Sandra Bell, includes dances from Graded Books and should give less experienced dancers a more relaxed evening. Entry is $10.00 and dancing will be to great recorded music.

The program is published elsewhere in this edition as is the program for our Touch of Tartan Tea Dance on August 5th.
Please mark these dates in your dancing diary.

Dot Merriman

Townsville

The dancing year 2022 started with us having to say good-bye to Jan and Colin who moved south to Bundaberg. Luckily they had introduced Margie and Bruce to Scottish Country Dancing and convinced them to not only dance but to also take on roles on the committee. That was handy!

We started the year without a beginners course as Covid was still making things difficult. Yet we still managed to have the three classes throughout the year. Monday weekly evening class, Friday morning fortnightly social class and a Sunday fortnightly advanced session. I must again pay tribute to Margaret as she's the driving force behind our classes. Her weekly emails with the program and links to the classes as well as news from across the Scottish Dance scene are so important. It helps with improving our dancing and keeps us all connected.

In June we celebrated Tartan Weekend with our traditional social dancing in the afternoon with live music by Iain Mckenzie. For a variety of reasons the Scottish Community unfortunately had to cancel their Ceilidh. While Iain played for us he started feeling unwell and the dancing doctor (thank you Katherine) in the house took him off to hospital. Luckily Iain recovered quickly and was well enough to play on Sunday morning. Besides the usual display dance, we had a great number of audience members participating in some dances. A big thank you to all the members who supported the event by joining in the dancing and the 12 members taking part in the Tartan Parade as well.

August saw us hosting the Queensland Branch Intermediate Day of Dance on beautiful Magnetic Island. What a fantastic weekend we had. Maggie proved to be the perfect spot for the Magnetic Medley. Dancers from the Atherton Tablelands, Brisbane and even from NSW came to enjoy some fabulous dancing with Jan McCudden teaching and Iain McKenzie playing live for us.

A number of people from Townsville had never attended a dance workshop like this. I'm very thankful to Jan and Margaret for doing all the research and planning (we Scottish Country Dancers are a picky lot when it comes to floors we would like to dance on!). A big thank you also goes to the Queensland Branch for supporting dancing up in North Queensland. It definitely injected some new energy and enthusiasm! Let's hope that we can have another weekend like this in the not so distant future.

September saw Margaret's and Doug's 70th birthday celebrations - it was a great party and obviously with a very Scottish flair.

Further away May and July saw a few dancers travel to and dance at the Eungella Ceilidh and the Bluewater Fling in Mackay. Margaret was asked again to teach at both events.

In October our dancer Margaret Walter lost her wonderful husband Tom. A lot of us knew Tom as he was often at Margaret's side at our events.

Looking to the future of Townsville Scottish Country Dancing I'm pleased to say that we have started this year with another beginners course and we're looking forward to our day of Dancing through the Decades in April. Thank you to all the members because Scottish Country Dancing is a social activity and we need to support each other so we can dance for many decades to come.

Alexandra Roberts

President TSCD

SCD teacher John O'Shea

In reading the last Ramble I noted John and Paula O'Shea have closed the Nambour SCD Club they started twenty-two years ago. Before his time in Nambour John was the teacher in Townsville, also for twenty plus years. I want to acknowledge the contribution he and Paula have made to SCD in their forty-five years of dancing which started the year before they were married.

John and Paula were both involved in the running of the TSCD when I joined twenty-five years ago. John was the teacher and Paula his "social secretary". If dancers missed a class Paula would ring and check to see they were fine, making people feel missed and appreciated.

The club was in the process of becoming incorporated when I started dancing in the late 1990s. At that time, we danced at St Andrew's Hall on a Monday night and had one to four sets. John did the training to become an official SCD teacher but was not awarded the certificate, however this did not stop him running two extremely successful SCD clubs.

John and Paula spent many hours promoting and teaching TSCD. They organised dancers to demonstrate SCD in the community at various events. TSCD were a feature of the Multicultural Fest and lead the parade with the RSL Pipes and drums. We had monthly dress up nights with a shared supper.

One memorable occasion I remember was when we hired a minibus and John drove more than a dozen dancers from Townsville to Lake Tinaroo where Anne Archdeacon and the Cairns and Tablelands SCD clubs organised a weekend of dance with visiting teachers and musicians. John's driving enabled the rest of us to enjoy travelling together. Each year we travelled to Cairns for their weekend of dance.

At John's instigation TSCD held an annual ball with a crowd of sixty to seventy people most of whom were dancers from Townsville, Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands. John organised David South to play for us so we could experience the pleasure of dancing to live music.

I owe my involvement in SCD to John and Paula and appreciate their efforts for SCD here in Townsville and acknowledge their commitment, dedication and promotion of SCD in general.

Margaret Silke

Etiquette in class and at socials

This document is slightly modified from one produced by the Nova Scotia Branch. Jean Dodds referred to it during her "Back to Basics" class.

1. Try not to miss classes unless really important.
2. During classes there is only **one** teacher.
3. If you do not understand any instructions, ask the teacher for clarification, not the other students.
4. Be on time. If you are late, you may miss something that you will need later.
5. Try not to dance with only one partner, such as your spouse. Mix with other dancers. If you are experienced, remember when you were a beginner and give a helping hand.
6. At workshops – it is advisable to attend the class at your level. You will feel more comfortable if you do not exceed your limitations and you will learn more quickly. If in doubt as to which class, ask your teacher.
7. At socials – do not form sets until the MC announces the dance.
8. Always join the set at the bottom. Do not walk through a set that is already formed.
9. Never leave a set once you have joined it.
10. The first man (or couple) in each line should count the couples in their line to help form the sets.
11. Never join a line after it has been counted, unless asked to do so.
12. Listen quietly to the talk-through and watch very closely if the first couple are to walk the dance through.
13. Do not look at the floor while dancing but smile and look at your fellow dancers.*
14. At the end of the dance, thank your partner and fellow dancers then walk with your partner back to their seat.
15. If you find that a dancer in your set is not quite sure of the dance, speak to them…."over here" or "face me". Never push or pull them.
16. If a dance is announced as for "experienced dancers only" please do not join the dance if you are not experienced or do not know it. Do not ask an inexperienced dancer to join the set. This is very unfair to them and to those already in the set.

**Number 13 has practical benefits for the new dancer, in addition to being courteous. At socials the floor may be more crowded than at classes and you may have trouble knowing in which set you belong if you have not looked at your fellow dancers' faces. Furthermore, a more experienced dancer may be signalling you with a wave or nod, or trying to speak with you, which you will miss if you gaze steadfastly at the floor.*

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Queensland Branch Incorporated

RSCDS Qld Branch Inc
PO Box 255
Coopers Plains Qld 4108
Ph. 0410 587 887
riviera3kat@outlook.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Qld Branch of the RSCDS will be held on Sunday, 28th May 2023 at 10.00am in the Communify Hall, 10 Love Street, Spring Hill.

All positions will be declared vacant. Nominations are called for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Events Coordinator and three other committee members.

Nomination forms for positions on the Committee must be with the Secretary no later than 14 days before the AGM (14th May 2023) and any proxies are to be handed to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the AGM.

RSCDS Scotland head office has raised the subscription fees for single members by 1 pound (to £26.00) and joint memberships by 2 pounds (to £42.00) for the 2023-24 year, starting on 1/07/23. The currency conversion rate for Aus$ to British£ currently is close to 1$ to 0.52£. The following **motion** will be put to the AGM for approval:

The RSCDS Qld Branch Inc proposes to raise the annual membership fees from $63.00 to $65.00 for single membership and from $116.00 to $120.00 for joint membership from 1/07/23 for the 2023-2024 year.

The Nomination form for positions on the Committee for 2023-2024 and the Proxy form are included in this Ramble.

Club Representatives are also requested to urge their Branch members to attend the AGM so that a quorum is achieved.

This is a reminder also to committee members, Branch class representatives and club representatives to submit their annual reports for 2022-2023 by the end of April for inclusion in the papers for the AGM.

Kat Hayes
Secretary
30th March 2023

www.rscds-qld.org.au

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Queensland Branch Incorporated

RSCDS Qld Branch Inc
PO Box 255
Coopers Plains Qld 4108
Ph. 0410 587 887
riviera3kat@outlook.com

Nomination Form - Branch Committee 2023-2024

Nominations must be returned to the Secretary
By Sunday 14th May, 2023

Mailing Address: Secretary, RSCDS Qld Branch Inc., PO Box 255, Coopers Plains Qld 4108
Email: riviera3kat@outlook.com

Member Nominating for Committee ……..

Member's Home Club ……...

Branch Membership No ……..

Position Nominated for ……..

Proposed by ……..
Print Name Signature

Seconded by ……..
Print Name Signature

Nomination accepted ……..
Print Name Signature

www.rscds-qld.org.au

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Queensland Branch Incorporated

RSCDS Qld Branch Inc
PO Box 255
Coopers Plains Qld 4108
Ph. 0410 587 887
riviera3kat@outlook.com

Proxy Form AGM 2023

I, _____

of _____ (address), being a member

of the above-mentioned Association, hereby appoint _____

of _____ (address)

or failing them, the member _____

of _____(address),

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association,

to be held on the 28th May, 2023, and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2023.

Signature of Member _____

(Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as the proxy thinks fit).

NB: Proxies must be deposited with the Secretary prior to the commencement of any meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote.

www.rscds-qld.org.au

RSCDS Sydney Branch presents

46th Australian Winter School Kiama, NSW

24 September - 1 October 2023

DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES
46th AUSTRALIAN WINTER SCHOOL
SYDNEY-KIAMA
2023
RSCDS CENTENARY

Come and join us in Kiama on the beautiful shores of the south coast of New South Wales. There will be classes in the mornings, a variety of interesting afternoon sessions, a social or special event in the evenings, culminating in the Centenary Ball.

TEACHERS	MUSICIANS
Gary Coull (UK)	Ewan Galloway (UK)
Hazel Fish (NZ)	Shona McFadyen (UK)
Andrew Nolan (UK)	Iain Mckenzie (Qld)
Ann Oliver (NZ)	Emma Nixon (Qld)
Sally Ord (Tas)	Sharlene Penman (NZ)

The theme of the school is Dancing Through the Decades. Each day will include dances chosen from the RSCDS books spanning a different decade of the past 100 years. The Centenary Ball will be a Dance Through the RSCDS Decades.

Email: winterschool@rscds.org.au
Website: https://www.sydneywinterschool2023.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/sydneyws23

Register now!

Dancing Through the Decades:

As many people are attending Winter School in Kiama in September it has been decided to change the date for the Qld Day of *Dancing Through the Decades*.

PLEASE NOTE THIS NEW INFORMATION

When: **Sunday 17th September 2023**
Time: **10:00am - 400pm**
Where: **Love Street Hall, Spring Hill**
Please bring: a small plate to share for lunch…maybe select a decade and bring something from that time?

Dress: Why not dress for a particular decade too?
More details to follow, closer to the time.

Start thinking!

King's Birthday Weekend School NZ

KING's BIRTHDAY WEEKEND SCHOOL 2023 Page 1

King's Birthday Weekend School 2023

Hosted by Lochiel SCD Club

Classes	Tutors	From
Beginner / Intermediate	Ruth Budden	Tuakau
Advanced Low Impact	Jeanette Watson	Wellington
Musician's class	Lynne Scott	Wellington

With Live Music by ***Wild Heather***

Organiser: Jill Littlewood

Email: cjlittlewood@gmail.com Mobile: 021 264 3939

A NOTE ABOUT THE CENTENARY BALL

START THINKING ABOUT YOUR COSTUME ....

THINK ART DECO !

Membership Information and **Renewal Form** will be in the next edition of **The Scottish Ramble** after the AGM on 28th May '23.