



# Branch Briefings

February, 2015

No 16

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## President's Note

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the first issue of the Branch Briefings for 2015.

The end of 2014 was a very busy time with so many Christmas/End of Year Socials and Class Break-Ups. Two standouts were the Branch's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball and the Final Night for the St John's Group. Both were wonderful occasions with fabulous music and a crowd of happy dancers.

For the St John's group it was a bitter sweet ending to their long and happy association with the Church in Toorak, but I'm sure they were thrilled with the turnout and it is now full steam ahead for the new Stonnington Group.

Unbeknown to many, at the same time the social I attended for Flinders Shire was also their last, as they have decided to disband, which is quite sad.

Many groups will be celebrating special Anniversaries in 2015 with Keilor East kicking off in April with their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Glenroy will also reach this milestone and Mitcham celebrates 60 years. To a lesser degree Scotsraig will be celebrating 55 years.

GREAT things are planned by the Branch for the year so – stay tuned (and also check the Website!).

Our Branch Opening Social is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February and is always a fun night.

Beginners' Courses commence with an Introductory Day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April and then 3 terms will follow. This is an excellent grounding for new dancers and for those NEWER dancers, wishing to brush up on steps and formations. And remember, helpers are always appreciated at these classes.

Now I am sure we will all embrace 2015 with some enthusiasm – and some healthy exercise for body AND mind, lots of fun, lovely music and the opportunity to meet new dancing friends.

I look forward to meeting you on the dance floor,  
Mary Buckingham, President

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### From the Treasurer:

The Committee of Management has agreed to set aside the following amounts from investment funds as follows:

2019 Winter School	\$15,000
Music Equipment	\$5,000
Visiting Teachers/Musicians	\$5,000
Scholarships/teaching support	\$5,000
Health Strategy	\$2,500
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	\$32,500

A Branch brochure has been produced for use by the Branch and Groups to promote SCD. If your Group requires any copies please let us know.

The Branch membership booklet will be upgraded soon and all members will receive a new copy.

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## Benefits of membership of the Melbourne & District Branch Inc

MEMBERS may attend:

- (a) Branch Schools and Functions
- (b) Overseas Schools

MEMBERS will receive

- (a) Tuition from trained teachers at all levels.
- (b) The Melbourne & District Branch Directory and Social Calendar.
- (c) The RSCDS magazine Scottish County Dancer published twice yearly.
- (d) Admission to Branch functions at members' rates.

*MEMBERS are invited to actively participate in the running of the Branch.*

### **Memberships – due 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Membership forms for the RSCDS have been supplied to all Groups. These are to be returned to your Group Secretary for forwarding to the Treasurer no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April. An additional \$15 late fee will be required if membership forms are received after the due date.

Payment can be made either by cash, cheque or EFT/Direct Debit to the Branch's nominated bank account. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque out to the RSCDS Melbourne & District Branch Inc. If paying by EFT/Direct Debit please make payment to: ANZ - BSB 013 128 - A/c 006713853. It is **ESSENTIAL** that you use a reference to enable the Treasurer to trace your payment and ensure your membership is valid. The recommended reference is to use your surname plus the membership type against your payment – e.g. Jones/Single

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Melbourne Branch Fee</b>	<b>RSCDS Fee</b>	<b>Total Payable</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Full Annual Single	21.2	38.8	60
Annual Joint	26.5	63.5	90
RSCDS Life	22	N/A	22
Annual Young Adult (18-24)	10	30	40
Youth (12-17)	10	20	30

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**The Branch Bookshop** has now ceased operating. However, we are holding some stock which is still available at reduced prices. A list has been given to your Group Secretary. Please contact Jo Reed if you would like to purchase any of the items.

The Sydney Branch Bookshop continues to operate. Contact Brian Charlton [sydbranbooks@gmail.com](mailto:sydbranbooks@gmail.com).

RSCDS publications and CDs are available through the Society's website [www.rscds.org/](http://www.rscds.org/) Remember members receive a member's discount when ordering through the RSCDS shop.

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**The Branch Beginners' Class** will commence with a 'free' Introduction morning on the 11<sup>th</sup> April commencing 10.00am at St James' Uniting Church Hall, Riversdale Rd, Box Hill South. The First Term of 8 weeks will commence the following week (18<sup>th</sup> April). If you have any friends who are interested in learning SCD or new dancers in your Group please encourage them to attend the course.

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## **BRANCH HAPPENINGS – MARCH and APRIL 2015**

- March 14th **Teachers' Workshop**, St Faith's Anglican Church Hall, 4 Charges Street, Glen Iris - Mel 60 G6 commencing 10.30am
- March 22nd **Branch Children's Class** – Coatesville Primary School
- April 11<sup>th</sup> **Branch Beginners' Introduction Morning** 10.00am – 12 noon  
St James Uniting Church Hall, Riversdale Rd, Box Hill South
- April 18<sup>th</sup> **Branch Beginners' First Term** commences 10.00am – 12 noon  
St James Uniting Church Hall, Riversdale Rd, Box Hill South
- April 26th **Branch Children's Class** – Coatesville Primary School

### **Special Branch Events in 2015:**

Mark your diaries for the following:

- April 17<sup>th</sup> A group of dancers from Southern California will be visiting Melbourne on the nights of 17/18<sup>th</sup> April. A special social will be held at the Ormond Uniting Church Hall at 8.00pm. Is anyone interested in billeting one of these dancers? Please contact Jo Reed. Program and further details TBA.
- July 1st **General class with Mervyn Short** – Visiting Winter School teacher. Details TBA.
- Sept 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> **Branch teaching weekend at Amberley**  
Teachers: Anne Kennedy (Sydney) and Elaine Arthur (Canberra)

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#### **Other Events**

- March 1<sup>st</sup> **Geelong Highland Gathering & 2015 Pipe Band Championships**  
Deakin University, Waurin Ponds Campus
- March 29<sup>th</sup> Ringwood Highland Gathering
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- July 5-11<sup>th</sup> **40<sup>th</sup> Australian Winter School**  
Cromwell College, University of Queensland, St Lucia  
Email: [eqld40thwinterschool@ozemail.com.au](mailto:eqld40thwinterschool@ozemail.com.au)  
Website: [www.rscds.org.au/mgxroot/page\\_10863.html](http://www.rscds.org.au/mgxroot/page_10863.html)

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#### **Branch Website**

**REMEMBER:** if you would like your Group's social events to be put on the Branch website you should send a notice (preferably in pdf format) to Christine Freeman [chrisfree@optusnet.com.au](mailto:chrisfree@optusnet.com.au)

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The Australian Teachers' Alliance will be running a Teaching Skills Workshop immediately prior to the Brisbane Winter School.

Time: 5pm Friday 3/7/15, until 2pm Sunday 5/7/15

Place: Cromwell College, St Lucia, Brisbane (same venue as the Winter School).

Arrangements are still being made, and further details will be sent out as they are confirmed. Accommodation and all meals will be provided, as well as the workshop.