



Branch Briefings

October, 2015

No 17

President's Note

Welcome everyone to the final Branch Briefing for 2015 – believe it or not, the end of the year is rapidly approaching, confirmed when my daughter casually reminded me that there are now only 7 weekends till Christmas! Scary isn't it? However there are plenty of opportunities to dance your heart out at many functions still to be held. The Branch Day for Lower Intermediate takes place on 7th November and hopefully many of you have put your forms in. Quite a few groups have end of year socials and break-up parties etc. coming up in the next couple of months, plus Matthew and David have a few Ceilidhs in the pipeline for November, so be sure to try to catch one of these as they should be lots of fun.

2015 has been a great year with lots of exciting happenings to keep us on our toes (or should that be "on the balls of our feet"). Anniversary celebrations have been held by Ballarat, East Keilor, Glenroy and Mitcham, all with live music and attracting a happy and enthusiastic crowd. Also, Scotsraig held a special 100th Anniversary for the Anzacs at their usual April Social, where over \$400.00 was raised for the RSL.

The Branch has held a variety of classes and activities, ranging from Beginners classes, Days of Dance, level classes, the ever popular 'Bring a Child Day' to the increasingly popular Amberley residential teaching weekend.

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to 2 people held in high esteem by the Branch and Scottish Country Dancers everywhere. Firstly, we were saddened to hear of the death of Les Morrow's amazingly supportive wife, Alison. Alison was a lovely warm and amazingly talented lady. Her leatherwork, especially the making of sporrans for various dancers, was incredible and in recent years she was most prolific in exquisite cross-stitch and embroidery work.

Secondly, the loss of Jeanne McFarland was keenly felt by many of us. Jeanne had gone through such a lot of varying health complications in recent years but came up smiling at every opportunity. So often one would walk into a social or class somewhere, to find her sitting cheerily on the sidelines, oxygen tank by her side, animatedly chatting away, taking everything in and, in the case of a class, usually teaching one or two dances. Jeanne was a joy to know and her funeral was attended by many Scottish country dancers. She will be sadly missed, not only at Glenroy and East Keilor but at the many groups and socials she attended. Like Les Morrow, Jeanne, and her husband Rod, were providing an important link between city and country.

On a lighter note, enjoy the coming holiday season. To those travelling to New Zealand or Tasmania or indeed anywhere else, - enjoy and have a safe and happy trip. We look forward to seeing you at either the President's Luncheon/Delegates meeting on 14th February or the Branch Opening Social, 20th February.

Happy Christmas/New Year,

Mary

The Branch AGM was held on the 18th October. Thank you to those who attended. The following is the Committee for 2016:

President: Mary Buckingham
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Jo Reed
Treasurer: Christine Freeman

Assistant Secretary: Kathy Trace

Committee: George Cooper
Ross Gawler
Dianne Sides
Vacant

As you can see we do not have a Vice President for 2016. We also have one vacant Committee position. Please consider joining the Committee as more people make lighter work for those involved. It is not a very onerous task and you would be made very welcome. If you would like more information please contact one of the Committee members.

From the Treasurer:

We have been advised by Headquarters that a motion to increase the fees for RSCDS membership will be put to the AGM to be held in Edinburgh at the beginning of November. At this stage, the fee for single membership is suggested to be set at GBP\$20 with a pro-rata rate for other memberships. Obviously, this will have an effect on our membership subscriptions for 2016 and we will advise after the decision is made from Scotland.

St James – Box Hill South

We contacted the Church after hearing that the Church and Hall had been sold as we had forward bookings into 2016. We have been informed that the site has NOT been sold and our bookings remain. They were very keen to let us know that they look forward to our continued use of the venue.

THE SPURTLE – 2016

Did your Group hold any 'special' events this year? We are looking for articles and Group reports for the next production of The Spurtle. Please send a report together with any photos. If anyone has an article of interest these would also be welcome. Send your contributions to Christine Freeman chrisfree@optusnet.com.au preferably in Word format. Of course, if you are unable to send by email you are welcome to send hard copies to 52 Leach Street, Briar Hill 3088.

AMBERLEY TEACHING WEEKEND 2016

We have booked Amberley for the 30th Sept – 2nd Oct, 2016. We assumed that the AFL Grand Final would revert to its usual last Saturday in September for 2016 so holding our weekend then would not impact on the footy fans amongst us. However, the AFL announced, this week that they are adding a 'bye' week before the finals and, therefore, the Grand Final will be played on the 1st October. As there is no other weekend available to us at the venue for 2016 we have decided to continue with the booking, at this stage. We have plans to cater for those attending to partake in 'footy fever' if they wish to on the Saturday afternoon. We are required to pay a deposit by the end of November, so are asking for feedback regarding holding the weekend on these dates so we can ascertain whether it will be feasible to go ahead.

Feedback to Christine Freeman chrisfree@optusnet.com.au or 9444 7828.

Classes for 2016

All information about Branch classes and other events is sent to your Group's Secretary. Please keep a look out for this information and we look forward to seeing you during the year. We are planning on running another Reel Clinic, Formation Clinics, Days of Dance and Theme Days together with classes for the benefit of members (and others). These classes are an excellent way to meet with other members and to develop your dancing knowledge and skills.

Is there anything you would like to see on the Branch classes/events program for 2016? Please let us know.

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

The Australian Teachers' Alliance

The Executive of this Association rotates around the Australian RSCDS Branches and the Melbourne Branch agreed to accept the task of running the Alliance for the next two years.

A Teaching Skills Workshop is planned for the weekend of the 9 – 11 September, 2016.

The Branch Bookshop has now ceased operating.

The Sydney Branch Bookshop continues to operate. Contact Brian Charlton sydbranbooks@gmail.com.

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

The Branch Committee of Management wishes all members and Groups a happy end to their dancing year and we hope that 2016 will see everyone back on the dance floor and enjoying the fellowship and fun of Scottish Country Dancing.