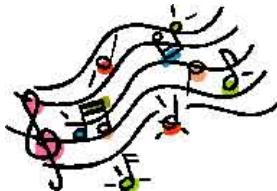




The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
New Zealand Branch Inc  
Junior Associate Newsletter



Issue 1/2025



# Jigs And More

Hello again,

I hope your start to the dancing year has been fun. For some of you this began early at Summer School in Wellington. It was good to meet you and see you learning more and enjoying the experience. The Senior JAM class item at the Ceilidh was just great. Given the title 'The JAM Tart', it was based on a dance that many dancers know and love – 'The Cranberry Tart'. Read reports from Aila and Cameron about their Summer School experiences below. If you are keen to go to the next Summer School in Christchurch perhaps, like them, you will apply for a scholarship to cover the school fees. You have plenty of time to think about that.

Do let us know what is happening in your group ~ [youth@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:youth@dancescottish.org.nz)

*Jeanette*

**Aila writes:**

I thoroughly enjoyed the school as it was entertaining, I learned a lot and the people were very friendly. The morning classes were fun and I learned a lot of new dances as well as revisited many dances I had not done for a long time. The teacher and her assistant were both hard working and provided great instructions.

The afternoon classes helped me memorise the dances and were really good preparation for the evening dances.

The formal dances were lots of fun, especially the final one. I particularly liked the faster dances. Everyone helped me out if I forgot or didn't know a move or a dance. The band were excellent both for dancing and for listening to when I was not dancing.

I loved all the themes and it was good to see people all dressed up, especially on the Kiwiana night.

The kai was really well made.

I felt a strong connection with my Scottish heritage being surrounded by people in kilts and other Scottish attire and by hearing Scottish music and some Caledonian accents.



**Cameron writes:**

When I first applied for the Summer School Scholarship I was keen to learn, however the experience turned out to be far more than I had imagined.

An interesting aspect for me was that I got to meet people from not only around the country but all around the world. Apparently Country dancing is very popular in Japan, with a number of people from Japan and other Asian countries attending. Along with America, Canada, Australia, and the UK (as you would expect) to name a few of the places I can remember.

I am very glad that I did the JAMs class as I was able to meet dancers of a similar age. Seeing their talent and skill levels has inspired me and also given me new friendships.

My main motivation to attend was always to learn and develop my dance techniques and knowledge. The intensive nature of the week meant that apart from just learning new formations and setting steps, we also learnt some of the more unusual variations on formations. As well as dancing in a triangle set, which was entirely new to me. Being with so many people who are passionate about dance was very energising.



Photos of Aila and Cameron courtesy of Ash Church

It feels great to be a part of such a vibrant and welcoming community. The summer school has left me feeling inspired and enthusiastic to continue improving as a dancer.

I am so pleased to have attended and thank the RSCDS NZ Branch for providing the scholarship, and for the encouragement from the people in my clubs to apply. Without this I would never have learnt so much and met such a variety of people, making new friends, all with our shared love of dance.

*The Senior JAMs at work in one of their morning classes during the Wellington Summer School under Susanna's watchful eye.*

*Photo courtesy of Ash Church*



**Summer School  
2025-2026**

**RSCDS NZ BRANCH**

**Glam, Christchurch  
New Zealand**

**28 December 2025 to 5 January 2026**

**Website:** [www.summerschool2025-26.co.nz](http://www.summerschool2025-26.co.nz)

**Registrations:** Please complete the **online registration** form on the website, to guarantee your place.

**Organiser:** Graeme Plank. 021 260 8727

**Email:** [ss2025@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:ss2025@dancescottish.org.nz)

Summer School is on again this year. We are thrilled to be back in Christchurch after some trying turbulent years. We welcome JAMs to register on our website now for a week of 1920's style glamour and fun over the Christmas/New Year period. Think of it as GlamCamp.

If staying as a resident, you'll be hosted at College House in their University of Canterbury student accommodation. An ideal place to get a group together as the rooms are generous single occupancy, 5 rooms per floor with a shared lounge and bathing facilities. If under 16 years of age at the time of the school, you will need to be accompanied by an adult resident. College House also boasts a party room or two, generous on-site facilities, a big dining hall, lots of outdoor space including a tennis court, walk through to award winning gardens and massive sports fields. Easy public transport access into town to experience this revitalized city and surroundings. Full details including a virtual tour of College House are on the Summer School website at [www.summerschool2025-26.co.nz](http://www.summerschool2025-26.co.nz) or via the NZ Branch website.

Iain Matcham from Wellington is the senior JAM teacher and you will also see him playing on some of the evenings with his band. Our overseas teacher is Linda Henderson from the US (originally Scotland) and you will no doubt know and love her dance "Trip to Timber Ridge". Joining Linda, all from Scotland, are musician sisters Shona and Susan MacFadyen and acclaimed accordionist Ewan Galloway. All are regulars at dancing's premier event in St Andrews, Scotland, where they are reknowned for their high energy and fun, so expect a great time in Christchurch.

Fees are \$1350 for resident JAMs and \$150 for JAM commuters which includes all classes, evening dances and live-in costs for residents. Please register on the website before 31 August 2025 so the organizing committee can determine which classes can viably run. With luck we will need another teacher to join Iain.

*Graeme Plank,  
Organiser of the 2025-2026 NZ Branch RSCDS Summer School*

# Activity page

## Scottish foods wordfind

Check out these foods. Have you heard of them all? I hadn't so I have been doing some searches to learn about them. See what you can find out about them after you've completed the wordfind.

black bun  
black pudding  
clootie dumpling  
cock-a-leekie  
cranachan  
cullenskink  
dundee cake  
finnan haddie  
haggis  
neeps  
oatcakes  
oatmeal  
salmon  
Scotch pie  
shortbread  
stovies  
tatties



## Words within words

Maybe you can use the letters of one of the words above to make words of 3 letters or more. Use each letter only once in a word. Can you get more than 9 words from **haggis** or more than 20 from **stovies**?

## Acrostic poems

Try making an acrostic poem using a word related to Scottish food.

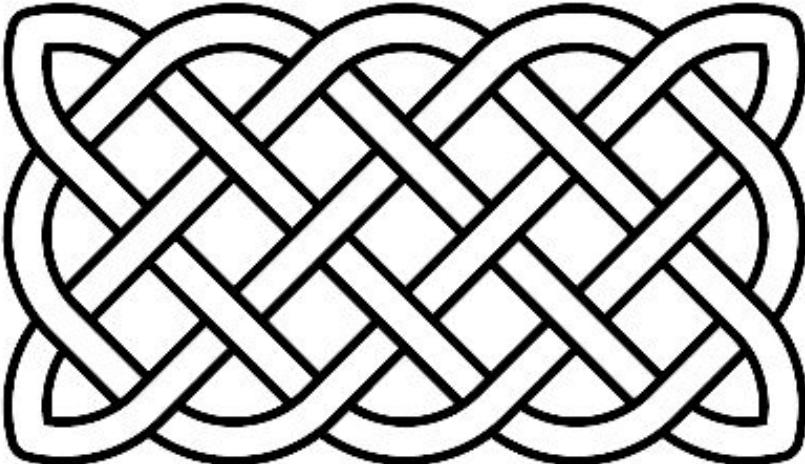
There are no rules about how many words or syllables can be in each line – and the lines don't have to rhyme.

Here's a couple of examples:

Hearty  
ancient  
goodness,  
great  
instead of  
stew

Never did I think I would  
enjoy  
eating swedes with  
potatoes  
so much

## A Celtic knot to colour



Decide on a food word to use (or another word related to Scotland or maybe the name of a dance) and get started. I am sure you can come up with some great poems. Send them in so they can be published in our next issue.

Be sure you send in your photos, notes, poems and anything else you want to see in print to [youth@dancescottish.org.nz](mailto:youth@dancescottish.org.nz) by 3 July for the next issue of Jigs And More



## Coming events

If these events are in travelling distance of you, perhaps you can get a group together to attend.

### MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU.....

KID'S CELTIC BARN DANCE aka a **CEILIDH** ("Kay'lee")

**2.30 – 4.00pm SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

For school-age kids  
with Live Music & Fun Dances



JOIN BABY YODA, CHEWBACCA AND THE STORMTROOPERS FOR A STAR WARS CEILIDH TO CELEBRATE May 4<sup>th</sup> 2025...

**PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME (BOY & GIRL)** (remember you have to be able to dance in your costume!)

WHERE: St Aidan's Church Hall 27 Thames St  
Claudelands HAMILTON

**Free Entry**

All children must be accompanied by an adult

**BYO water bottle**

Enquiries: 022 340 7865 [dancefolkus@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:dancefolkus@slingshot.co.nz)

SPONSORED BY CELTIC ARTS AND HERITAGE WAIKATO

Tokoroa JAMs invite you all to their

### Tartan Tea Dance

on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June  
from 2 to 5pm in the  
Amisfield School Hall,  
Tokoroa

More info, including programme at  
[waibopscd.org.nz/events/](http://waibopscd.org.nz/events/)



A few photos from 2024-2025 Summer School  
Thanks, Andrew Oliver



Isobel and Helen, hosts of the Youth evening



The JAM class in full flight at the Ceilidh during their item, "The JAM Tart".



So what did these young dancers do to deserve this punishment at the Mock Court?



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Iham, Christchurch  
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