



RSCDS Qld Winter School 2024

Gatton 7 July 2024 - 14 July 2024

RSCDS Qld Winter School 2024, PO Box 255, Coopers Plains Qld 4108, Australia

Newsletter No 1 - March 2024

Our committee has been working hard to make the 2024 Queensland Winter School one to remember! Spaces are filling fast and the **5 May deadline** for registration is rapidly approaching. An exciting week of dancing and social activities is taking shape with a great line up of teachers and musicians.

Transport to Gatton

The University of Queensland (UQ) Gatton Campus is located on the Warrego Highway about 85 km west of Brisbane (approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes' drive by car, depending on traffic), and 5 km east of the town of Gatton.

If there is sufficient demand, we plan to arrange bus transport to the Gatton campus on Sunday 7 July 24 to arrive in good time for the registrations which will begin at 2pm. Pickup points will be at the domestic and international terminals at Brisbane airport and in Brisbane city (various pickup points as required). The cost for using this bus will be determined by the by the number of passengers and the size of the bus required. When this is established, we will let you know the cost of this service. The timetable will be determined by the flight arrival times of the majority of travellers. If you are still planning your air travel, it would be best to arrive sometime during the morning to be able to get to Gatton in good time. We will be asking you at a later date to let us know your arrival times and where you wish to board this bus.

Commercial travel is available through Greyhound and Murrays Coaches from the Brisbane Airports to the Gatton Campus four times a day. The cost is \$45 one way (flexible fare). These fares can be booked online at:

- [Greyhound website](#) (for time table)
- [Murrays website](#) (for time table)

Evening Socials

The evening social programmes are currently being finalised and we will publicise them in due course. If you know of people who would just like to participate in the evening socials without registering for the full Winter School, they are welcome to join us and pay \$20 at the door for each social, or \$35 for the Ball.

Musicians' Workshop

For the musicians amongst us we are offering a Musicians' Workshop, conducted by the Craigellachie Band's Ian Muir. The workshop sessions will take place at the Gatton campus on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm during the Winter School.

These sessions will be aimed at giving a grounding in good technique and enabling musicians to understand and appreciate the unique style of Scottish country dance music.

During the sessions Ian will cover the following:

- The characteristics of the different dance-types: Reel, Jig and Strathspey.
- The instrumental techniques that are uniquely Scottish.
- Repertoire and arranging sets of suitable tunes.
- Playing within the context of a band.
- How to tackle challenging tunes.

Ian will also hope to explore harmony and rhythm through the arrangements of a couple of non-dance sets.

To take part in this workshop you need a **good grounding** in your instrument but do not need to have had any previous experience playing in a band or for dancing. As a guideline, the minimum standard is around Grade 5 or equivalent of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, UK (similar to AMEB Grade 5). Ian Muir actively encourages younger players to apply for a place on the course.

Ian will send the music out to participants via a web link six weeks before the Winter School. It would be helpful if you could all come with a working knowledge of the tunes as some will be more challenging than others. The aim of the musicians' workshop is to enable the participants to join the band and play for the first three dances at our Ball on the final night.

The workshop will also be available for commuters who would like to attend the musicians' workshop without registering for the Winter School. The cost will be \$75 for the three sessions (participants must attend all three sessions). It is free for those musicians who are attending the Winter School.

Applications for the Musicians' Workshop

All applicants for the musicians' workshop should complete, scan and send the attached application form to our email address below **no later than Sunday 5 May - the same deadline as Winter School Registration.**

And, finally....

We will be in touch again when more updates are available. We are looking forward to welcoming people from far and wide for a week of dancing and fun in the sun!

Best regards and happy dancing!

Diana Pascoe
Queensland Winter School Committee 2024

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