

Shooting the Breeze

RSCDS Wellington Summer School Newsletter

28 December 2024



You'll be blown away by a Wellington welcome!



You can't beat Wellington on a good day

Welcome to Summer School 2024 - 2025

We hope our school brings fun, fitness and friendships for you!

If this is your first NZ Summer School, please come along and meet other first timers, the NZ Branch Committee, and the Summer School committee, at **4.30 pm** in the Hub.

If you need help from a member of the organising committee, phone 022 092 4307, or look for us in the Summer School Office, in McKinnon or in the Hub. We'll be wearing maroon Summer School shirts. 😊

There are no classes for most people on New Year's Day. *Residents* can explore local dining options or sign up for a casual barbecue on site. See more detail over the page.

Warm regards, Wellington Summer School Committee.

Helpful links: [tonight's cribs](#).

Wifi password: #RSCDS24

WHAT'S ON TODAY?

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 – 4 pm | Registration |
| 4:30 – 5:30 pm | First timers' welcome, Hub. |
| 5:30 – 6:30 pm | Dinner for residents and casuals (pre-booked) |
| 7:30 – 10 pm | Opening Night Social
Scots College Hall
Dress code: Smart casual
(see Information booklet) |

TOMORROW

Residents' meals: Breakfast 7 am, Lunch 12:30 pm, Dinner 5:30 pm

MORNING CLASSES 9 am - noon

Find your **class venue** in the Information booklet in your Welcome Pack or on the website. Note: the Beginners' class is now in Breaker Bay hall.

Vans will leave from in front of Scots Reception at **8:15 am**. Please wear your nametag and bring your keep-cup, a water bottle, and your dancing shoes 😊

AFTERNOON & EVENING

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1:30 – 3:30 pm | Musicians' & exam classes |
| 2 – 3 pm | General class with Diana |
| 3 – 4 pm | Walk-throughs |
| 7:30 – 10 pm | Youth Social, Hall |

You will be emailed a copy of *Shooting the Breeze* newsletter daily.

Some paper copies are available at morning tea or find them at <http://nzsummerschool2024.nz/newsletters>

MORE ACTIVITIES

Pilates tomorrow, 4 pm A calming, strengthening 55-minute workout designed to help you get the most from your Summer School. If you're interested in joining the Pilates class, please talk to a committee member. Cost: \$30.

400 years of Scottish Country Dance Music in 60 minutes. 30 December, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, with Elke.

Route 2 Ramble

Many of the places highlighted in the newsletters can be visited from **#2** bus route. There's a bus stop close to Scots College, and they take cash or Gold Card. See the map at the Summer School office. On your return journey, find a **2S** bus to take you close to Scots' College.

Zealandia

Book for the trip to Wellington's wildlife sanctuary at the Summer School office. An oasis of nature close to the city. Entry and transport is included in the ticket price. Residents will have a picnic lunch provided.

SOME EXPLANATIONS

Walk-throughs help you to prepare a dance by practicing the formations and pattern of a dance. It is walking, not dancing.

Hogmanay is a traditional Scottish celebration held New Year's Eve. There are many customs, for example, [first-footing](#), the giving of symbolic gifts such as [salt](#), [coal](#), [shortbread](#), [whisky](#), and [black bun](#) (a rich [fruit cake](#)). Dancing and singing too 😊

The *Grand March* is a ceremonial way to start a formal ball. As directed, couples (the person you want to dance with) march to the left and right alternately and proceed around the room. The couples join into fours, then eights, and sixteens to finish ready to form sets for the first dance.

A *Ceilidh* is a social event with casual dancing, musical performances, and dancing demonstrations. Wear your lightest clothes; it's often fast and furious.

The *Mock Court* is just for a laugh. We bring people to account for 'offences' during the Summer School. Ridiculous 'charges' are proclaimed, and the 'judge' gives a 'penalty' (such as *leading down the middle and back* wearing a silly hat). 😊

FOR RESIDENTS

Door decorations: We would love you to colour an A4 piece of paper and display it in the plastic pocket beside your door. Paper and pens are in your common room.

Linen Change: There is an opportunity for fresh sheets and towels during Summer School. On your assigned day, leave your linen outside your door before you leave for your morning class. Pick up a clean set from your common room about 3.30 pm.

- 31 Dec: Main Boarding House (South, Middle, and North Wings)
- 2 Jan: Main and Lower Gibb.

New Year's day is a relaxed day and you may want to head off on adventures, go out for tea or visit friends in Wellington.

If you want to stay on site and have an early night, the Summer School Committee has arranged to use the Scots' **Barbeques**. We will provide the basics: sausages, sauces, bread and salad. If you want anything else, then please bring your own (BYO) and pop it on the barbie. To help us with catering please sign up on the notice board at the Summer School office in McKinnon.

WINDY WELLINGTON

I've had so much fun looking for products that celebrate our city.

[WHAT MAKES? WELLINGTON WONDERFUL](#), a jigsaw puzzle capturing the beautiful harbour and city with its unique features.

[WELLY GIRL](#) souvenirs: t-shirts, key rings, hoodies, and more.

[METAL BIRD](#) native birds or Lord of the Rings for your garden.



[BEAUTY AND THE WIND](#) sculptures and more. My favourite is the Rainbow Drop, above.