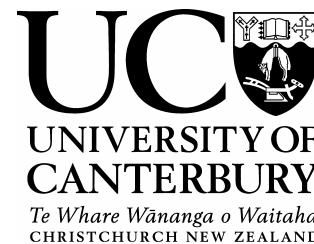


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News Release

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Dancing mathematicians coming to town

Sefton, get ready for a hoedown – mathematics-style!

As highlighted on TV, Mathematical entertainers from the University of Canterbury are coming to town with their dancing shoes on this month and they want the community to join them for a free barn dance with a live band.

The dance will run from 6:30pm to 9:30pm on Thursday 30 June in the Sefton School Hall. The next day will be some fun maths entertainment at the school.

Bill Baritomp, an experienced caller will teach and step you through the dances. *Celtic Fare*, a professional bush band will play jigs and reels and entertain with NZ songs.

"I hope this is a real community affair. It will be great fun for the whole family. Everyone can do these barn dances. Bring along a supper plate to share, tea and coffee will be provided."

Bill, who is also senior lecturer in Mathematics and Statistics, has received a grant from the Royal Society of New Zealand Science and Technology Promotion Fund to create his "Dance of Mathematics" project (www.danceofmathematics.com). The Sefton barn dance is the fifth of a series of maths dances he is running in rural towns in the coming months.

"Barn dancing is extremely mathematical, though most people don't realise it. Take for example the patterns of the dance – 'Join up hands and circle left; take four steps in and four steps back' are geometric, symmetric, repetitive cyclic movements. These ideas are the stuff of mathematics!"

The community barn dances are primarily a social event but will carry an educational bonus.

“There the community will meet mathematicians as real people doing interesting things and the following day we will give a mathematical performance with lots of demos and participation.”

“It’s not a heavy maths trip, but a way to meet us socially. People at the previous events around the country really enjoyed themselves.”

“On Friday morning starting at 10 o'clock, we will put on math entertainment at the Sefton School. Chris Hann will start with a show and tell about how maths helps medical doctors. After a refreshment break, Bill will get you involved with ‘Puzzling Area Facts,’ and Tim Bell will get you to help with computer science unplugged.”

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