

## THE TREE FERN

A three couple, 32 bar reel.

- 1-2 First, second and third couples set with nearer hands joined.
- 3-8 Second couple, followed by first couple, dance down between third couple with nearer hands joined, cast up round third couple and dance up outside own side-lines to finish with second couple in first place and first couple in second place.
- 9-10 Second, first and third couples set with nearer hands joined.
- 11-16 First couple, followed by third couple, dance up between second couple with nearer hands joined, cast down round second couple and dance down outside own side-lines to finish with first couple in third place and third couple in second place.
- 17-20 First couple cross over giving right hands and cast up round third couple on opposite sides. Third couple move down on bars 19-20.
- 21-24 First couple lead down with left hands and cross over between third couple and cast up round third couple on own sides.  
On bar 24, second couple turn to face down.
- 25-28 Second and first couples turn once round – the men with left hands and the women with right hands.  
On bar 28, third couple turn to face up.
- 29-32 First and third couples turn once round – the men with right hands and the women with left hands.

Repeat having passed a couple.

At the end of the second time through, first and fourth couples turn one and a half times.

Devised by Iain Boyd on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2002. Bars 17-24 were changed on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2002.

Bars 1-16 were suggested by bars 33-40 of Georgina Findlay's dance "Saint Andrews Links" which Martin Mulligan taught the Kilchurn class of the Hawkesbury Australian Winter School that morning.

The original version was walked through at the end of the tour of the Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens that afternoon.

George Caley, a plant collector who had traveled to Australia under an arrangement made by Sir Joseph Banks, named Mount Tomah 'Fern Tree Hill' in 1804. The aboriginal word 'tomah' reputedly means 'tree fern'.

No symbolism was intended when the dance was initially devised, however, the 'setting on the sides' could be considered to represent the trunk of the tree fern while the 'leading and casting' could represent the fronds and the 'crossing and casting' the roots.

Suitable recorded music – "32 Bar Reel Medley" recorded by Bobby Macleod and his Highland Dance Band on "Complete Scottish Dance Master No 1" (Beltona LBAM 49), side 1, track 3

or

"Alastair Hunter's Reel" recorded by Muriel Johnstone and her Band on "15 Social Dances" (Scotscores SSCD 09), track 1.