

THE CANE TOAD JIG

A three couple, 32 bar jig.

1-8 First, second and third couples dance reels of three on own sides. First and second couples pass by left shoulders to begin. On bars 7-8 first and second couples pass by left shoulders to finish with first woman in the middle in second place facing third woman, first man in second man's place and second couple in top place.

9-24 First couple dance a "hello and goodbye" setting 'chase' with corners. First woman dances the "hello and goodbye" figure for bars 9-22 all the way round to finish between third couple facing up. On the last two bars, the first woman (who will be between the third couple) should turn once around on the spot, pulling back her right shoulder, to finish facing down. The first man does not begin the hello-goodbye figure until bar 11. Rather, on bars 9-10 first man advances across the set towards first corner before beginning to dance the figure. First man finishes in the middle in second place facing down. Corners set as appropriate. The figure is called a "hello goodbye chase" because the woman is dancing the figure 2 bars in front of the man.

25-32 First woman dances up behind third woman, across the set below second couple, up behind second man, across the set above second couple and down behind second woman to finish in second woman's place while first man dances down the middle, up behind third woman, across the set below second couple, up behind second man and down in front of second man to finish in second man's place facing out.

Repeat having passed a couple.

Devised in Pomona, Queensland, Australia in May 1993.

The dance refers to the occasion when my sons Carlton and Alex chased and caught two cane toads during a visit to Pomona in 1993.

Symbolism -

1-8 The chase.

9-24 The toads in a bucket trying to escape.

25-32 The boys let the toads go but chase after them.

The dance is intended to be rather playful, with no touching, since who wants to touch a cane toad? It is good for teaching intermediate dancers setting to corner and partner.

At the end of the second time through, first couple finish in third place facing down. Fourth couple turn to face up. On bars 1-2 of the next sequence the

original first couple dance to the bottom passing the original fourth couple by the passing right shoulders. Thanks to Shoko Okumura for a correct here; previously I had both the men and women passing LS.

Recommended tune - "Juniper Jig" composed by C F Sherrit and played ABBA.

Suitable music - "The Lantern Of The North" recorded by Andrew Rankine and his Band on "The London Highland Club Diamond Jubilee" (LHC LP7), side 2, track 2 or "C'est L'Amour" recorded by Rob Gordon and his Band on "The Complete Caledonian Ball" (LDDL 8005), record 2, side 1, track 5.