

## **A TANGLE OF TREE FERNS - for Maka Polacheck's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

By David "Oddsocks" Wanless, Hobart, Tasmania, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

Scattered triangles of three couples, facing in – Robins on the right of their partners, Larks on left.

Progressive mixer in a contra style – swingy walking steps. 48 bar contra-style tunes.

Bars	Call	Details
8	Circle L & R	8 steps each way
4	Top couple butterfly	Couple closest to the music lead through between the other two couples, then separate and cast around those couples to place
4	Second couple butterfly	Couple on top couple's right do the same
4	Third couple butterfly	Couple on top couple's left do the same
4	Dosido R partner	All dance back to back with own partner
8	Swing partner	Contra swing (ballroom hold)
4	RH star	Taking handshake hold with opposite person
4	Pull through and turn	Raise joined hands; couple with hand at bottom pull one person (the Robin) through; then next cpl. All turn into upper (over the shoulder) promenade hold
8	Promenade on to find new triangle	Dance in any direction with your new partner and negotiate to join up with two other couples
	Repeat	From new positions, with new partners

Note: It's fine, and often preferable, to not bother with dancing roles (Lks/Rbs) at all in this dance.

## A TANGLE OF TREE FERNS - for Maka Polacheck's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday

By Wavid Dauntless(5), Hobart, Tasmania, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

Scattered triangles of three couples, facing in – women on the right of their partners.

Steps: swingy walking steps, as per contra dancing, as Maka loves her contras.

A progressive mixer, first danced at the Springs on Mt Wellington on a gorgeous summer afternoon, with the organ pipes towering in the distance and currawongs calling across the bush.

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4	Dosido R partner	All dance back to back with own partner
8	Swing partner	Contra swing (ballroom hold)
4	RH star	Taking handshake hold with opposite person
4	Pull through and turn	Raise joined hands; lady with hand at bottom dances under; then next. All turn into upper (over the shoulder) promenade hold
8	Promenade on to find new triangle	Dance in any direction with your new partner and negotiate to join up with two other couples
	Repeat from new positions	Will have new partners as well

Music: 48 US bar contra-style tunes suitable for swingy walking.

Notes:

1. The dance will also work reasonably well with more than three couples.
2. The 'butterfly' figure was originally designed to have the dancing couple casting back between the men and women in the opposite couples, but on the spur of the moment when teaching the dance to a novice crowd, casting all the way around the couples seemed to be easier. I have yet to try it the original way, or in a dance hall rather than out on the grass, so I'm not sure which way is better.
3. The 'butterfly' figure could also be done as a mirror dosido with the person opposite you.
4. I had been trying to write a dance for Maka for days but it wasn't until I was walking up the Fern Glade Track from Fern Tree to the Springs that I got my inspiration. It came, as does so much of my inspiration, from nature. There were two tree ferns fallen over but still growing, leaning across a mossy log to make a triangle. There was moss everywhere, and tangled roots and fern fronds. I sat on the side of the path and wrote the dance in the peaceful forest. A small bird hopped around on the tree ferns, darting in and out of the fronds chasing insects.
5. "Wavid Dauntless" is "David Wanless", after his son Marcel got to the document!

(original calling card version)

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