



THE Saltire

No 2

Message from the Chieftain

April 2014



"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2014-2015

Chieftain

Douglas Melville

Immediate Past Chieftain

Ken Suttie

Vice Chieftain

Diana Paxman

Hon Secretary

Darian Ferguson

Hon Treasurer

Cheryl Hill

Members

Susan Bogie

Cameron Dickson

Eoin Kennedy

Bob McGhee

Reggie McNeill

Jacqui Ure

Honorary Piper

Alex Foster

Email:

enquiries@saintandrew.org.au

Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

Warm welcome to a new year

Hello to members, supporters and friends of the Saint Andrew's Society.

I am privileged to be Chieftain of the Society for 2014 and I look forward to supporting the Committee in its task of promoting all things Scottish, particularly Scots culture, history, music, dance and song.

The Annual General Meeting on 16 February had sufficient financial members present to form a quorum, but attendance was well down on previous years and this is of great concern, for obvious reasons.

The Committee is charged with promoting and delivering the Society's objectives, but to do so it requires the support and input of its members.

The meeting brought some significant changes to the composition of the Committee with our previous Chieftain, Brian McMurdo, and Vice Chieftain, Doris LaValette, not seeking reappointment, and with Jeff LaValette and Michael Haines not standing for membership.

I would like to personally, and on behalf of the membership, sincerely thank Brian, Doris, Jeff and Michael for their significant contributions to the Society and acknowledge the amount of time they dedicated to their roles in supporting the Society's objectives and social functions.

The Committee for 2014 is: Chieftain Douglas Melville, Vice Chieftain Diana Paxman, Honorary Treasurer Cheryl Hill and Honorary Secretary Darian Ferguson, with Reggie McNeill, Cameron Dickson, Eoin Kennedy, Susan Bogie, Bob McGhee and Jacqui Ure elected as Committee Members.

In the absence the previous Chieftain from the Society during 2014, Ken Suttie was co-opted into the position of Immediate Past Chieftain and I thank him for agreeing to provide his experience.

The Committee has met for a planning day, to look at the direction of the Society over the next few years, and while it remains a work in progress, I can assure you that there will be additions to the Society's repertoire of activities for our members and supporters to enjoy.

Details of these activities will be made available as they are finalised, and I encourage members to support us where you can.

A membership drive is high on the agenda for the Committee this year, and we're especially on the hunt for younger folk.

On social activities, the Chieftain's Ceilidh is shaping up to be a great success, so get your friends and family together for what will be an excellent evening of song, dance and music at the Stirling Bowling Club.

The Committee can assure you of a great fun night for all.

Douglas Melville
Chieftain



Momentous Year for Scotland

2014 will be a momentous year for Scotland, with two massive international sports events — the Commonwealth Games and golf's Ryder Cup — hundreds of local events in the Year of Homecoming (<http://www.visitscotland.com/en-au/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2014/>) and a national referendum that will be vital for the future of the country.

Scottish Diaspora Tapestry creation

A Scottish Diaspora Tapestry is being created by volunteers in communities across the world and it will be displayed in Scotland as part of the 2014 Year of Homecoming celebrations.

Scots have migrated all over the world and have often had a profound impact on the areas in which they settled.

The Tapestry project will see 25 communities documenting their Scottish connections on a series of embroidered panels.

Their combined stories will pay homage to the incredible determination and courage of Scots over the centuries.

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry is the brainchild of Prestoungrange Arts Festival in Prestonpans.

The tapestry is inspired by the success of the The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry.

An 104-metre artwork, embroidered by 200 volunteers from around Scotland, it shows the early part of the Jacobite campaign of 1745 and was inspired by the Norman Bayeux Tapestry.

Since its completion in 2010 it has attracted thousands of visitors as it tours the country.

Its enormous success is due to the passion of the volunteers who created it, the quality of the artwork and embroidery, and the history it depicts.



That same skill and enthusiasm is behind the Diaspora Tapestry.

The same artist, Andrew Crummy (left), provided the outline designs, and the same administrators and switchers are managing the project.

The 2014 Year of Homecoming provides the perfect arena for the tapestry's assembly, with



The WA Genealogical Society panel features James Drummond, of Forfar, a pioneer botanist in WA.

representatives from each of the 25 communities set to accompany their panels to Scotland for the program of events and celebrations.

Each community was invited to produce between five and ten panels documenting their links with Scotland, each measuring 50cm by 50cm,

The tapestry, which is likely to measure to least 90 metres, will continue to be displayed long after 2014 Homecoming, both at home and abroad.

As it is designed in sections, it can be separated for display in different locations simultaneously.

Eventually, the Diaspora Tapestry will join the Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry at a purpose-built venue in Prestonpans, but until then it will tour the UK and the countries which helped in its creation.

It will continue to educate audiences and promote Scottish heritage for many years to come.



Australia's role in the Scottish Diaspora

When Captain James Cook sailed the *Endeavour* into Botany Bay in 1770, claiming the Australian landmass for King George III, he set in motion events which would lead to around 8.9 per cent of the Australian population claiming Scottish ancestry by 2011 (some 1,792,600 people!).

Cook's own father was from the Scottish Borders.

Scotland could even claim the first European to die in Australia, a sailor Forbey Sutherland (hence Sutherland Point in Sydney Harbour).

The first wave of Scots settlers arrived a few years later, after the arrival of the first British fleet in 1788.



Second in command of the expedition was a Scot, Captain John Hunter, of Leith.

Hunter went on to become the second governor of the new colony in New South Wales, and the

Hunter River, Hunter Valley and Hunter's Hill in Sydney all bear his name.

The fifth governor was also Scottish, Lachlan Macquarie from the Hebrides, who served from 1810-21 (and whose mausoleum on the Isle of Mull proclaims him to be the Father of Australia) and he was succeeded by Sir Thomas Brisbane, from Ayrshire.

Then, of course, there was Sir James Stirling, founder and governor of the Swan River Settlement (later to become Western Australia), who was from Drumpellier, in Lanarkshire.

Stirling administered the Swan River settlement from June 1829 until August 1832, when he left on an extended visit to Britain, and again from August 1834 until December 1838.

In all, just 5 per cent of the convicts dispatched to Australia were Scots, but the development of the colonies soon began to attract more willing immigrants.

Many of those who went willingly to Australia in the early nineteenth century were lowland land-owners or farm workers, and there was a particular draw from Edinburgh and the east coast towns in Scotland.

These were families willing to work hard and improve the land, using their education and contacts to develop commercial opportunities and support trade.

Economic pressures in Scotland saw a rise in working-class emigration from the 1830s, and by the middle of the nineteenth century Scots accounted for nearly a quarter of the European population in Australia.

The tradition of Scottish migration to Australia continued throughout the years and the Scottish tradition is alive in Australia to this day.

The legacy can be seen throughout Australia — in the names of capital cities Brisbane and Perth, and many other towns and suburbs, and in the many Scottish groups, such as the Saint Andrew Society.

Many Scottish migrants also took with them their Presbyterian faith and their education, and Scots schools and colleges in all Australian States maintain those traditions today.

Diaspora Tapestry will be on the road

Throughout the Year of Homecoming 2014, the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry will be touring across Scotland, visiting homeland communities.

There will also be a series of major exhibitions featuring the whole Tapestry:

31st May - 8th June 2014
Prestonpans – Three Harbours Arts Festival
Prestonpans Community Centre

24th June - 23rd July 2014
Stirling – MacRobert Centre, Stirling University

6th August - 31st August 2014
Edinburgh – St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

6th September - 22nd September 2014
Paisley – Anchor Mill

27th September - 25th October 2014
Inverness – Museum & Art Gallery
and Wick – St Fergus Gallery



Chieftain's Ceilidh first cab off the rank

The Society's new Chieftain, Douglas Melville, is hoping that you will all come to the Stirling Bowling Club on Saturday, 10 May and make his first Chieftain's Ceilidh a huge success.

We know that are a few members out there who are very excited about getting back into harness again.

They haven't been to a Society event since our Burns Supper, back in January, and they're suffering withdrawal symptoms.

For those of you who haven't been at a Society event before, or not for a while, it's time you found out what all the excitement is about!

The Society used Stirling Bowling Club, at 78 Jones Street, Stirling, for the first time last year, and the Society members and friends who went to the Winter Ceilidh there were very impressed with the venue.

Add a magic program of song and dance to a super venue, and throw in the Heel n Toe Band to spice things up, and you have the recipe for a great night out.

To make sure your energy levels are kept up, you'll also get a two-course meal, with two bottles of wine on each table to share.

So, don't hesitate, just copy the link below into your browser and get a copy of the Chieftain's Ceilidh flyer and ticket application form.

<http://saintandrew.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Chieftains-Ceilidh-Flyer-2014.pdf>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014

Chieftain's Ceilidh: 10 May
Venue: Stirling Bowling Club, Stirling

Winter Ceilidh: 2 August
Venue: RAAFA Club, Bullcreek

St Andrew's Day Ball: 29 November
Venue: Hyatt Regency, Perth

2015

Burns Supper: 25 January
Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth

Society trophy winner

The Society sponsored the D Grade solo piping contest at the recent 2014 Fremantle Highland Championships.

The winner of The Saint Andrew Society of WA Perpetual Trophy was Selby Longmire, from Matt Bishop in second and Stuart Bradford in third.

Selby lives on a farm at Woodanilling, mid-way between Katanning and Wagin, but regularly plays at competitions and events in Perth.

Hosted by the Fremantle Sailing Club Pipes and Drums, the Championships were a great success and the Society was pleased to be involved for the first time.





There's gold in them thar hills

Gold panned in Scotland is being used to form part of a trophy which will be awarded at all future Commonwealth Games.

Around six grams of the rare metal, panned from the Kildonan Burn, near Helmsdale in Sutherland, is being moulded to the shape of the official Glasgow 2014 logo by a skilled jeweller.

It will be permanently attached to the David Dixon Award, which is presented at the Games' closing ceremony.

The award is given to a single athlete chosen from the thousands who compete in the Commonwealth Games and is based on their performance, spirit of fair play and overall contribution to their team.

Commonwealth Games Federation honorary secretary, Louise Martin, said the David Dixon Award encapsulates all the values of the Commonwealth Games.



"The fact that this trophy will now carry a little bit of Scotland to all future Games will serve as a wonderful reminder of Glasgow 2014 and Scotland's contribution to the Commonwealth Games movement."

The gold was gathered from the burn at Baile an Or, Gaelic for 'Town of Gold', at the site of the original Scottish gold rush of 1868, when some 500 prospectors made their way to the Strath of Kildonan in a bid to make their fortune, after a local man found gold in the water.

The 18 carat material being used for the addition to the trophy was collected by hand

by gold panners and local school children.

The trophy is named after former honorary secretary of the Commonwealth Games Federation, the late David Dixon, in honour of his contribution to Commonwealth sport, and was introduced at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

Even Miss Piggy is wearing Harris Tweed

Miss Piggy has emerged as the latest high profile TV and film character to wear Harris Tweed on the screen.

Miss Piggy wears a tweed suit and hat, hand-woven on the Western Isles, in the latest Muppets film, *Muppets Most Wanted*, which stars British comic actor Ricky Gervais.

Clothing made from the fabric has already famously been worn by the previous Doctor Who, Matt Smith.

Also, US actor Ben Affleck wore Harris Tweed in the Oscar-winning spy film *Argo*.

Following the movie's release, the real secret agent Affleck portrays, Tony Mendez, revealed that Harris Tweed jackets were the "uniform" of CIA agents when working overseas.



Miss Piggy in her tweed clothing with Tower Bridge in the background.

Sean Connery wore Harris Tweed in 1989 film *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.



McCall Smith gifts Rankin painting to national gallery

One of Scotland's most admired authors has gifted a portrait of one of the nation's other great writers to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

Alexander McCall Smith commissioned Edinburgh-based artist Guy Kinder to paint a striking portrait of renowned crime writer Ian Rankin, which he then presented to the gallery.

The author, famed for his series The No. 1 Ladies' Detective

Agency, said it gave him "the greatest possible pleasure" to donate the portrait to the national collection.

"I think that Guy Kinder has captured Ian Rankin perfectly," Mr McCall Smith said.

"Ian is a good and kind man, and I think that this comes out in the portrait, while at the same time



the artist has somehow managed to hint at the atmosphere of Ian's novels.

The result, I think, is something of a triumph."

The portrait depicts Rankin in a contemplative pose, in the surroundings of the Oxford Bar, the Edinburgh pub famously frequented by both his fictional creation, Inspector Rebus, and the author himself.

THE HOUSE OF TARTAN PERTH KILT HIRE



Over 170 kilts for hire

**Kilt, Sporrان, Highlander Shirt,
Belt & Buckle, Ghillie Brogues,
Hose & Flashes**

Usually \$165

**Special price for Saint Andrew
Society Members**

\$150

**Formal and part outfits
also available**

Ph: 9371 2211

314 Walcott Street, Menora 6050

www.the-house-of-tartan.com.au

E-mail: houseoftartan@bigpond.com.au

TRADITIONAL KILTS BY THE HOUSE OF TARTAN



**Highest Quality
Fully Hand-Stitched
Men's Traditional Kilts
Made to Measure
Using 100% Pure Wool
milled in Scotland**

*We have access to all the mills in
Scotland milling high quality authentic
tartans and can source any tartan for your
custom made kilt*

*Our standards are equal to or above the minimum quality
set by the Kiltmakers' Association of Scotland*

Phone Heather on 9371 2211

www.the-house-of-tartan.com.au

E-mail: houseoftartan@bigpond.com.au

Feel free to drop in and see
a kilt "under construction"!

