



THE Saltire

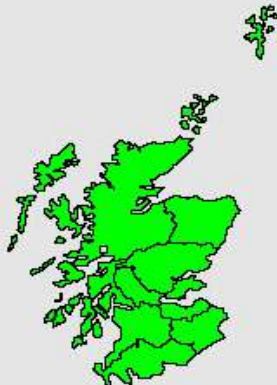
No 11



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



December 2010



From the Chieftain



It is amazing that we are now on the other side of our annual St Andrew's Day Ball, it only seems like yesterday when we started the dance classes and the Ball was ten weeks away.

The St Andrew's Day Ball has always been the highlight of our calendar year and this year was no exception.

As usual, the function started with the Chieftain's party being piped to their places followed by the Grand March, inciting our guest of honour, The Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi, to jump to her feet and take photographs, which she did many times during the evening.

It was obvious that the Lord Mayor was having fun and with Scottish grandparents she had all the credentials required to enjoy the evening as one of us and make us proud to have our 'ane wee Scottish Lord Mayor'.

With the Police Pipe Band called away on official duty, we were fortunate to acquire the Perth Metro Pipe Band, who entertained us brilliantly with great traditional tunes and some modern tunes.

The Heel n Toe band were in fine form and kept us dancing all evening and I was very pleased with myself, teaching The Lord Mayor the Gay Gordons and the Dashing White Sergeant

I proposed the toast to Scotland and Saint Andrew with a preamble on some Scottish History and this, along with a bit of bragging about the famous inventors and clever people Scotland has produced, left me feeling proud to be Scottish while the wee dram of the golden nectar slipped down.

Lisa Scaffidi replied by talking eloquently about her visits to Scotland, on finding her grandparents' house in Dundee and on how she enjoyed her time in Aberdeen.

She ended her interesting talk by toasting the 'Land We Live In', and judging by the rapturous applause her speech was very well received.

More dancing took us through to 'Auld Lang Syne' and a good night was had by all.

I would like to thank your committee for their efforts in organising and running the Ball, with special mention of coordinator Jeff Crookes and MC Pauline Sedgwick.

Sandy Milligan
Chieftain

"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2010-2011

Chieftain

Sandy Milligan

Immediate Past Chieftain

Ken Suttie

Vice Chieftain

Jeff Crookes

Hon Secretary

Brian McMurdo

Hon Treasurer

Pauline Sedgwick

Members

Cameron Dickson

Bob McGhee

Diana Paxman

Thelma Koppi

Jacqui Ure

Margaret Weir

Mistress of the Dance

Dawn Cromb

Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>



Let's celebrate Rabbie's life in style

With the St Andrew's Day Ball behind us, the next event on the Society's calendar is also one of our most popular . . . our Burns Supper.

As always, it will be held on the date of Robert Burns' birthday, 25 January, and will be the usual mixture of celebrating the life of Scotland's national icon in the traditional way and a mini-ceilidh.

In the traditional part of the program, the toast The Immortal Memory will be made by Ken Suttie, the Address to the Haggis by Brian McMurdo, the Toast Tae the Lassies by Phil Orchard and the Response Fae the Lassies by Diana Paxman.

Then we'll be inviting the gathered guests to come forward (as in all good ceilidhs) to recite a Burns poem or sing a Burns song . . . we've had some excellent contributions in the past.

If you would like to be part of the best Burns

Supper in Perth, complete and send in the form attached to this newsletter.

Also, our old friends the Heel n Toe band will be there to help us dance the night away.

The Society's Burns Suppers are always memorable and this year we'll be returning to the Parmelia Hilton, where we've had so much fun before.

Many of our guests at the Burns Supper choose to stay over at the hotel and to help with booking, the Parmelia Hilton has set up a special link (www.hilton.com/StAndrewsBurnsDinner).

The hotel has reserved 10 rooms for the Society

Get The Saltire by email . . . please

It would make the Committee's job much easier if we could send you The Saltire by e-mail . . . no stamps, envelopes, address labels, folding time and posting.

The benefit for you is that you would get The Saltire in colour (we can't afford to print it in colour for mailing).

So, please send your e-mail address to:
Brian McMurdo [bdmcmurdo@hotmail.com]

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011

January 25: **Burns Supper**
Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel

February 25: **Annual General Meeting**
Venue: Mt Hawthorn Community Centre

May 7: **Chieftain's Ceilidh**
Venue: To be decided

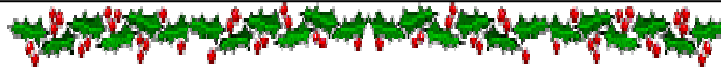
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The Members' Spot



Do you have something you would like to share with the other Society members?

Well, this is your chance . . . take the pressure off the Editor by sending in your contributions!

It could be:

- ◆ News and pictures from Scotland.
- ◆ Your favorite Scottish recipe.
- ◆ A special holiday destination, including hotel or B & B information to pass on.
- ◆ A joke — Scottish or otherwise (clean of course)
- ◆ Birthdays, new babies, new grandchildren, weddings, anniversaries, etc, with pictures.

Just drop an email to kas@inet.net.au or send it through Australia Post to The Saltire Editor, PO Box 479, West Perth WA 6872 .

Sharing everything

A young man watched an elderly couple sitting down to lunch at the local burger restaurant and noticed that they had ordered one meal, and an extra drink cup.

As he watched, the gentleman carefully divided the hamburger in half, then counted out the fries, one for him, one for her, until each had half of them.

Then he poured half of the soft drink into the extra cup and set that in front of his wife.

The old man then began to eat, and his wife

sat watching, with her hands folded in her lap.

The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal for them so that they didn't have to split theirs.

The old gentleman said, "Oh, no! We've been married 50 years, and everything has always been, and will always be, shared 50/50."

The young man then asked the wife if she was going to eat, and she replied, "It's his turn with the teeth."

Have you changed your mail or email address recently?



To make sure that our records are up-to-date, fill in the form below with your new contact details and mail it to The Hon Secretary, PO Box 479, West Perth WA 6005.

Or you could go into our website (<http://saintandrew.org.au>), click on "Contact Us" and complete and send in the form there.

Name:

Address:

.....

Phone: Email:



Scotland's world class train journey

With the towering bulk of Ben Nevis behind us, we set off from Fort William on one of the world's greatest train journeys.

We were achieving a long-held ambition to travel on The Jacobite steam train, a 135 km trip from Fort William to Mallaig and return, through some of Scotland's most beautiful scenery.

The route started below Britain's highest mountain, crossed Scotland's only canal, and took us past the country's deepest loch, shortest river and most westerly train station.

The train is also nicknamed the Harry Potter train, because The Jacobite provided the steam engine and carriages for the 'Hogwarts Express' in the movie series.

Its part of the West Highland line, a 264 km route between Glasgow and Mallaig, which last year was voted the world's top rail journey for the second year in a row.

However, the popularity of the diesel train pales alongside that of The Jacobite, which operates from May to October and is always full of passengers from all over the world.

The carriages of The Jacobite weren't the height of luxury, and they often got filled with smoke through open windows, but that didn't seem to matter because everyone was so entranced by the beauty around us.

A few minutes after departing Fort William we were crossing the bridge over the Caledonian Canal, with its series of eight locks known as Neptune's Staircase.

The level run along the Shores of Loch Eil was followed by a steady climb up to the 21-arch Glenfinnan viaduct, also made famous in the Harry Potter movies.

The train crossing the viaduct was very popular among photographers on the ground . . . there seemed to be hundreds of them!

From here we got magnificent views of Loch Shiel and the Glenfinnan Monument, marking the site where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his father's standard in 1745.

The train went on to climb the steep Beasdale Bank and travel through the Borrodale Tunnel to Arisaig (the most westerly station in Britain), from where we got great views of the small islands of Rum, Eigg and Muck and the southerly end of Skye.

After leaving Arisaig we crossed over Loch Morar (Britain's deepest loch) and the River Morar (the shortest river) before arriving at Mallaig in time for lunch . . . it had to be fish and chips, of course, and the fish was huge!!



Then we saw all the views from a different angle on the way back to Fort William.

It was a wonderful trip, made even better by the fact that it was on a lovely summer's day . . . honestly!

By Ken Suttie

*The Jacobite crossing
the magnificent
Glenfinnan viaduct*



Society members gathered

The Society had a successful day at the Armadale Highland Gathering on Saturday 13 November.

The Committee members on duty spoke to a lot of visitors, especially a number of people interested in becoming members of the Society.

They were especially interested in our events. . . particularly the Burn's Supper.

It was great to catch up with a few of our members, who were there to have a look around.

We were also surprised by the number of members who had stands or displays.

As always, the Society representatives were there to support a great Scottish event, tell people about the Society and answer any queries.



Chieftain Sandy Milligan and Committee Member Diana Paxman outside the Society stand.

Website improvements

The Committee is in the process of redeveloping the Society's website.

Take a look at our brighter, more accessible website on <http://saintandrew.org.au>.

Vale Ann Cameron

A long-term member of the Society, Ann Cameron, lost her fight with cancer on 14 November.

A previous Society committee member and wife of former Chieftain Don Cameron, Ann made a significant contribution to the Society over many years

She never lost her enjoyment of Society functions, although in latter years these were generally restricted to the St Andrew's Day Ball.

The Society's commiserations were sent to Don and his family, and the Chieftain, Committee members and Society members attended the celebration of Ann's life at Fremantle Cemetery.

The number of people that crowded into the Cemetery's East Chapel was testament to the esteem in which Ann was held.



Hogmanay & Burns Nights

Kilt, Sporan, Highlander Shirt,
Belt & Buckle, Ghillie Brogues,
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Usually \$165

Special price for Saint
Andrew Society Members

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The Saint Andrew Society of WA



BURNS SUPPER



TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2011

**7.00pm for pre-dinner drinks (complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks)
Program starts at 7.30pm**

**ARGYLL ROOM
PARMELIA HOTEL PERTH
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Members \$85 v Non-Members \$100

Three-Course Meal v Dance to the Heel n Toe Band

For information please contact Ken on 9444 2069 or kas@iinet.net.au

To book, please complete and send in the form below

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Please provide me with the following tickets:

..... **MEMBERS @ \$85 each.....\$.....**

..... **NON-MEMBERS @ \$100 each.....\$.....**

TOTAL \$_____

**Cheques should be made payable to 'St Andrew Society of WA' and should be returned along with this completed form before 15 January to:
The Treasurer, St Andrew Society of WA, PO Box 479, West Perth WA 6005.**