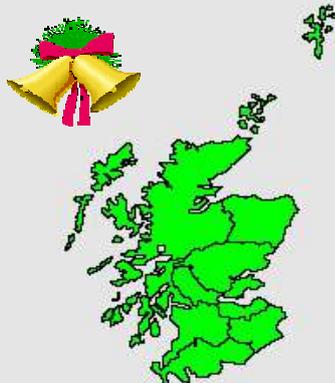




No 4

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

December 2012



## "Alba Gu Brath"

### COMMITTEE 2012-2013

#### Chieftain

Brian McMurdo

#### Immediate Past Chieftain

Ken Suttie

#### Vice Chieftain

Doris LaValette

#### Hon Secretary

Darian Ferguson

#### Hon Treasurer

Diana Paxman

#### Members

Cameron Dickson

Mike Haines

Cheryl Hill

Eoin Kennedy

Jeff LaValette

Reggie McNeill

#### Honorary Piper

John Sinclair

#### Email:

[enquiries@saintandrew.org.au](mailto:enquiries@saintandrew.org.au)

#### Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

## Society team produce top Ball

Well, my first St Andrew's Day Ball as Chieftain is now behind me and what a pleasant relief it was to see everything finish so successfully.

I worried for a long time, both leading up to and during the event . . . other past Chieftains have told me they went through the same anxieties.

However, my concerns were unfounded, as the whole evening went without a hitch.

I must congratulate my fellow committee members who put in a mountain of work to ensure everything went as planned.

I must especially mention Vice Chieftain Doris LaValette, who was Ball manager, and Reggie McNeill, the MC.

It took a bit of running around like headless chooks at times, but they kept everything running smoothly.

The Kings Hotel management team and their staff did a marvellous job and I think we would have to look far and wide to receive the type of service we enjoyed at this event.

The comments received from some of the guests suggest that the hotel may be a strong possibility as the venue for next year's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St Andrew's Day Ball.

I would like to also congratulate the two presenters of our traditional toasts, Immediate Past Chieftain Ken Suttie and former Vice-Chieftain Jeff Crookes (St Andrew and Scotland and The Land We Live In, respectively).

They had obviously put their heads together to come up with a theme about boyhood reminiscences . . . one in Scotland and the other in WA . . . and it was all very entertaining.

Finally, both Alice and I would like to extend our festive good wishes to all Society members, supporters and our friends.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Brian McMurdo  
Chieftain





## MEET THE COMMITTEE



# The team within the team



The Society is lucky to have a committed husband and wife duo on this year's Committee . . . Vice-Chieftain Doris LaValette and her partner, Jeff.

They've been members of the Society for five years and while it's Doris's second year on the Committee, Jeff is part of the team for the first time.

Both were born in Glasgow (although they didn't know each other at that time), both came to Perth 30 years ago and both have been involved in the WA health industry for all of that time.

Doris spent all of her early life in Glasgow, and was educated at Kinning Secondary School and Stow College, where she studied Business Studies and Public Relations.

While in Scotland, Doris spent a lot of her leisure time hill walking all over the country and skiing in Aviemore.

Jeff, however, left Scotland at an early age and was brought up in Africa, but he returned to Glasgow University to study medicine.

Like Doris, he got hooked on the outdoor lifestyle while in Scotland and went camping and cycling throughout the UK.

Once Jeff had qualified as a doctor, he returned to Africa to work as a district Medical Officer.

When he came to WA, Jeff couldn't settle in one place and worked in medicine from one end of the State to the other . . . from the Kimberley to Esperance . . . and was even with the Royal Flying Doctor Service for a spell.

Eventually, he put down his roots in Perth . . . Wanneroo, to be exact, where he was a GP for many years.



Doris and Jeff met many years ago, when they both worked at the old Wanneroo Hospital, and then Doris became Jeff's practice manager.

They still have the wanderlust, though, and love to go travelling as often as they can and to as many places as they can!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2013

**Burns Supper:** 25 January

Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth

**Chieftain's Ceilidh:** 4 May

Venue: RAAFA Club, Bullcreek

**Winter Ceilidh:** 17 August

Venue:



**St Andrew's Day Ball:** 30 November

Venue: To be decided

### 2014

**Burns Supper:** 25 January

Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth



# Its time to honour The Bard again



We hope you are all girding up your loins and booking your places for our annual celebration of the life and genius of a Scottish superstar . . . Robert Burns.

The Society's event works very well because we have harnessed the knack of successful combining the traditional elements of a Burns Supper with the singing and dancing of a Scottish ceilidh.

The result is great fun.

Arguably the Society's most popular event, the Burns Supper will be held on Friday, 25 January, 2013, in the Parmelia Hilton hotel, which has a record of working hard to ensure that our event goes off very well.

The hotel's understanding of what we need has played a large part in the success of our Burns Supper.

The Heel n Toe ceilidh band will be there to provide the music for the dancing and the singing.

However, we're hoping that there will be surprise contributions from the guests, as there have been most years in the past, either reciting The Bard's poetry or singing his marvellous songs.

Many of those contributions have been jaw-dropping in their quality and added significantly to the entertainment.

Of course, there will also be the usual elements of a Burns Supper . . . the Address to the Haggis, the toast to the Immortal Memory, the toast Tae the Lassies and the response Fae the Lassies.

Remember, the tickets for the Burns Supper sell quickly and there's no guarantee there will be any tickets left if you leave it too late!

So, all you need to do to ensure that your part of a wonderful evening is to complete the application form in the link below and send it in as soon as you can.

<http://saintandrew.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Burns-Supper-Flyer3.pdf>



## Helping himself!

Angus was telling his friend, Hamish, how his uncle tried to make a new car for himself.

"So he took wheels aff a Mazda, a radiator fae a Ford, some tyres and bumpers fae a Toyota . . ."

"Yer kiddin'" interrupted Hamish, "What did he end up wi'?"

"Two years," Angus replied.



**Hogmanay & Burns Nights**  
Kilt, Sporrans, 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](http://www.the-house-of-tartan.com.au)

E-mail: [houseoftartan@bigpond.com.au](mailto:houseoftartan@bigpond.com.au)



## Airthrey Castle

Airthrey Castle lies just to the east of Bridge of Allan, 3 km north-east of Stirling, and today is the administrative centre for the University of Stirling, lying at the centre of a 134 hectare parkland campus.

It was built in 1791 to a design by the eminent architect Robert Adam for the evangelist Robert Haldane, whose family had owned the estate since 1759.

The castle includes two standing stones which are reputed to mark the battlefield where King Kenneth I defeated the Picts to unite Scotland in 839.

In 1370, the estate was granted to Sir John Herice, Keeper of the nearby Castle of Stirling.

In 1472, the Airthrey Estates passed to the Grahams of Montrose and in 1645, the manor house was burned to the ground by Archibald Campbell, the Marquis of Argyll, in reprisal for the burning of his nearby Castle Campbell by the royalist Grahams.

The estate remained in the ownership of the Grahams down to the 5th Earl and first Marquis of Dundee.

In 1678, the estate was purchased by John Hope of Hopetoun.

He was succeeded by Charles Hope of Hopetoun, who was elevated to the House of Lords in 1703 with the titles of Viscount Airthire, Baron Hope and Earl of Hopetoun.

In 1759, the estate was sold to Captain Robert Haldane of Plean, and it was his son, also Robert Haldane, who commissioned the design that is Airthrey Castle today.

He improved the estate, created a loch and landscaped the grounds before selling the estate in 1798 to Sir Robert Abercromby.

The castle and estate remained in the ownership of the Abercrombie family until 1889, when yet another Graham (a Mr Donald Graham) bought it and made a large addition to the side of the castle in 1891.



Airthrey Castle became a Maternity Hospital during World War II and continued in this role after Stirling County Council purchased the estate in 1946.

Then in 1967, the estate became the site of Stirling University.

Some of the early students at the university had been born at Airthrey Castle during the time it was a maternity hospital!



### Whisky was illegal!

Did you know that whisky was once illegal in Scotland?

The English Malt Tax of 1725 shut down much of Scotland's whisky production and drove many Highlanders to bootlegging.

Not that this stopped people from drinking the stuff . . . even King George IV called for his Glenlivet by name.

Of course, the spirit back then was not quite the same as it is now, with distillers not aging their whisky until much later.



# How Maggie started in business



These photographs from the Milligan family vault, show a young Maggie Milligan (right) and her daughter Melanie (left) with Maggie's family's main claim to fame, Carmel Shorties.

Maggie's father owned Macdonald's Bakery, based in Bridgeston, Glasgow, initially and later in Shawfield.

Macdonald's Carmel Shorties were famous throughout UK . . . Maggie's dad sold them wholesale to bakeries in England, Ireland and Scotland, and these big bakeries distributed the Shorties to smaller shops.



Maggie used to merchandise the shorties at Cash and Carry outlets and Lewis's food hall, in Argyll Street, Glasgow.

The product became very popular and profitable for Maggie's father, until every bakery in the UK started to make their own.

The Shorties were also known as caramel slices and millionaire's shortbread.

The business was sold around 1983, when plans were underway to emigrate, but it is obvious from where Maggie got her business

When he moved to Shawfield to concentrate on wholesale, Maggie's dad sold his string of shops and opened 'The Pantry', in Clarkson Road, Muirend, a coffee shop/bakers that Maggie ran when she was just 17.

Maggie sourced her bakery products from a few local bakers, including a large bakery run by none other than Sandy Milligan.

"One of my drivers kept talking about the cute wee chick in The Pantry, so I had to check her out for myself," said Sandy.

"So, I started Maggie on 13 Milligan's rolls to the dozen right away, and the rest is history!"

## 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](http://www.the-house-of-tartan.com.au)

E-mail: [houseoftartan@bigpond.com.au](mailto:houseoftartan@bigpond.com.au)

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



## Growth in Scotland's people

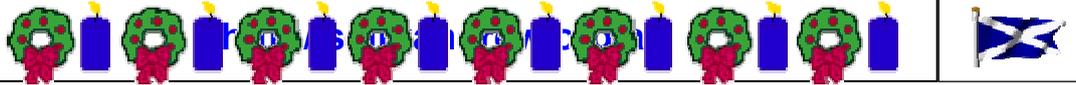
Scotland's population is at its highest level ever at almost 5.3m people.

The results of the 2012 Census show the population rose five per cent since 2011 to 5,295,000.

Also, the population is ageing, with more people aged 65 to 79 than those aged five to 14, for the first time.

Those over 64 now account for 17% of the population and the under 15s take up 16%.

The National Records of Scotland said the population increase was due to more people moving to Scotland to live.



## First Minister's card celebrates Scottish nature

The official Christmas card of the First Minister of the Scottish Parliament is a selection of flowers and plants.

The painting, by Dame Elizabeth Blackadder, celebrates the upcoming Year of Natural Scotland.

The original artwork will be sold to benefit four charities . . . Breakthrough Breast Cancer, Dyslexia Scotland, the Scottish Steelworkers Memorial Fund and the Sick Kids Friends Foundation.

Since 2007, sales of original artwork and limited edition prints from the First Minister's Christmas cards have raised more than £131,000 for various charities across Scotland.

"Throughout 2013, we will celebrate the outstanding and diverse beauty of this country in the Year of Natural Scotland," First Minister Alex Salmond said.



"It is therefore fitting that my official card this year will feature a work by Dame Elizabeth Blackadder, whose painting is well known for its celebration of nature through its flower and plant motifs.

"I am absolutely thrilled that Dame Elizabeth has agreed to be involved.

"Her beautiful image shows a vivid array of common flowers and plants that can be seen in the wilds or the gardens of Scotland."



### A few funnies

Sandy and Geordie were walking home from Sunday school in the Western Highlands after hearing a strong sermon on the devil.

Sandy eventually said to Geordie, "What do you think about all this Beelzebub stuff?"

Geordie thought for a moment and then said brightly, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."



Alex told his friends that he couldn't come to the pub because his wife was doing bird imitations — she was watching him like a hawk.



Callum decided to call his father-in-law "The Exorcist", because every time he came to visit he made the spirits disappear.

## SCOTTISH ALPHABET

AA	<i>aye</i> sentence substitute yes
BBE	<i>bampot</i> n a person not of sound mind.
SEE	<i>crackin'</i> adj great, fantastic.
DEE	<i>doolally</i> n a person of an unhinged disposition.
EE	<i>eejit</i> n a person of low intelligence.
EEI	<i>fidgit</i> vb to move constantly.
GEE	<i>glaiKIT</i> n to look or be stupid.
A-TEN	<i>hackit</i> adj ugly.
AYE	<i>isnae</i> vb is not.
JAYE	<i>jessie</i> n a man with effeminate qualities.
KAY	<i>knackert</i> adj to be extremely tired.
ELL	<i>lumber</i> n a concubine.
EM	<i>mingin'</i> adj to be very drunk or smelly.
EV	<i>numpty</i> n an idiot.
ON	<i>oxter</i> n armpit.
PEE	<i>piece</i> n a sandwich.
QUE	<i>quality</i> adj great, brilliant.
ARR	<i>ran-dan</i> n an evening for libations.
ESS	<i>stoater</i> adj a very attractive woman.
TEA	<i>thingmie</i> n uncertain article or person.
YOU	<i>urnie</i> vb i am not.
VEE	<i>vicky</i> vb two finger salute.
WYOU	<i>wallies</i> n false teeth.
EX	<i>xtorshinit</i> adj an item of high value.
WHT	<i>yonks</i> n a long time.
ZED	<i>zoomer</i> n a person of an erratic disposition.

FFTB