



THE Saltire

No 1

Message from the Chieftain

March 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

Michael Haines

Cheryl Hill

Eoin Kennedy

Jeff LaValette

Reggie McNeill

Honorary Piper

John Sinclair

Email:

enquiries@saintandrew.org.au

Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

Welcome to a new year

Hello all. This is my first message for The Saltire since I was given the great honour of being elected Chieftain of the Society.

It was great to see so many members making the effort to support the Society by attending the AGM on Sunday, 19 February.

It would seem that holding the AGM on a Sunday afternoon has struck a chord with the membership, and many stayed on for a bit of dancing at a mini-ceilidh following the business of the day.

As well as the financial and Chieftain's reports, the main business of the day was the election of Committee members, and I believe I have a strong, hard-working Committee, with a bit of experience and the freshness that comes from new members.

My good friend Doris LaValette is the new Vice-Chieftain – a chance to use her organisational skills and she will enjoy being event manager.

Diana Paxman retains the Honorary Treasurer role and Darian Ferguson, a new face on the Committee, will take over from me as the Honorary Secretary.

Among the general members, three are new to the Committee . . . Eoin Kennedy, Michael Haines and Jeff LaValette . . . while Reggie McNeill, Cameron Dickson and Cheryl Hill were re-elected.

Ken Suttie joins the Committee as Immediate Past Chieftain, and I would like to thank Ken for the hard work and leadership he provided last year, and for his long-standing commitment to the Society.

Ken will continue to be editor of The Saltire and webmaster for the website, as well as providing advice and help to the new Committee.

I would like to pay tribute to the members of the previous Committee who won't be serving this year.

Jeff Crookes has been Vice-Chieftain, in support of his mate Ken Suttie and Sandy Milligan, for the past four years, and feels he needs a rest, but he has put in a huge effort on behalf of the Society.

The Committee will also miss the organising abilities and experience of Sue Bogie, but there are strong personal reasons behind her decision not to stand again.

I would also like to thank Margaret Weir for her efforts and her friendship as part of the Committee for the past two years.

I'm looking forward to the year ahead and I think we have a Committee that will ensure the Society continues to put on the "good fun" events it has been organising for many years!

Brian McMurdo
Chieftain



Glamis Castle

Glamis Castle looks like what most people's idea of a castle should be and is one of the best-known (and photographed) castles in Scotland.

Located five miles south of the town of Forfar, in Angus, it is famous as the birthplace of the late Queen Mother (Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon before her marriage) and the second of her daughters, the late Princess Margaret.

The Glamis estate, set in the broad and fertile lowland valley of Strathmore, covers more than 57 square kilometres (14,000 acres).

There are two streams running through the estate, including the Glamis Burn, which has an arboretum overlooking it that features trees from all over the world, many of them rare and several hundred years old.

The original 14th century keep was granted by King Robert II to his son-in-law Sir John Lyon, Thane of Glamis, and it has remained in the Lyon (later Bowes-Lyon) family.

The castle was rebuilt as an L-plan tower house in the early 15th century.

Glamis Castle is also famous for its myth and mystery and is said to be the most haunted castle in Scotland, with its ghosts including the "Grey Lady".

There is a small chapel within the castle with seating for 46 people, but one seat is always reserved for the "Grey Lady", who is said to be Janet Douglas, Lady Glamis.

John Lyon, 6th Lord Glamis, married Janet Douglas, daughter of the Master of Angus, at a time when King James V was feuding with the Douglases.

In December, 1528, Janet was accused of treason, and then charged with poisoning her husband, who had died in the September.

Eventually, she was accused of witchcraft, and was burned at the stake in Edinburgh.

However, the castle's most famous legend is that of the Monster of Glamis, supposedly a



hideously deformed child born to the family, who was kept in the castle all his life, with his suite of rooms bricked up after his death.

There is a story that guests staying at Glamis once hung towels from the windows of every room in a bid to find the bricked-up suite of the monster, but when they looked at it from outside, several windows were towel-less.

The legend of the monster may have been inspired by the true story of the Ogilvies.

Hidden in the 4.9m (16-foot) thick walls is the room of skulls, where the Ogilvie family, who sought protection from their enemies, the Lindsays, were walled up to die of starvation.

In 1606, Patrick Lyon, 9th Lord Glamis, was created Earl of Kinghorne, and he began major works on the castle, then in 1670, Patrick Lyon, 3rd Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, started restorations, which continued until 1689.

John Lyon, the 9th Earl, who succeeded in 1753 and married coal heiress Mary Eleanor Bowes, set about improving the grounds of the castle in the current picturesque style.

Glamis is currently the home of Michael Bowes-Lyon, 18th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne.

By Ken Suttie



Chieftain's Ceilidh leads off again

We know you are all eagerly waiting for the first event of the year and as is our tradition it will be the Chieftain's Ceilidh, on Saturday 19 May.

You have an added incentive for being there this year.

It will be the first event for Brian McMurdo as the Society's new Chieftain and he'll need as many of you there as possible to help him celebrate!

Over recent years, the Chieftain's Ceilidh has found a regular home at the Royal Australian Air Force Memorial Club in Bull Creek.

It is an ideal place for one of our events, with a large dance floor, heaps of seating space, and its own kitchen and bar.

It's also easy to get to, with heaps of parking.

As usual, our friends the Heel n Toe Band will be on hand to get our feet dancing and lead the singalongs.

Also, we are hoping that there will be a few people from among the guests who will be part of the entertainment.

The Chieftain's Ceilidh has always been a popular event, like the big party a ceilidh should be, and we're sure this one will be the same.

But we need you there to make it happen!

The application form for tickets to the Chieftain's Ceilidh is on page 6.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chieftain's Ceilidh: 19 May

Venue: RAAFA Club, Bull Creek

Winter Ceilidh: 11 August

Venue: Scarborough Sportsmen's Club

St Andrew's Day Ball: 1 December

Venue: Kings Hotel, Perth

Burns Supper: 25 January, 2013

Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel

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MEET THE COMMITTEE

A Committee newbie

Michael's family has connections with Glamis Castle

Michael Haines is one of our newest Committee members.

Mike and his wife, Denise, joined the Saint Andrew's Society in 2010 (after prompting by Heather Anderson, of the House of Tartan).

However, Mike has already gained some fame in the Society for wearing a 'casual kilt' (it was featured in a past issue of The Saltire) and while he admits it is a bit controversial, he says it is a convenient way of carrying 20 bottles of beer!

Born in Swan Districts in 1960, Mike's childhood was dominated by country living . . . staying in seven rural towns in nine years, but spending his formative years in Bunbury.

He eventually came to Perth to have a tilt at university and finished up as an air traffic controller.

Mike, Denise and their daughter, Zoe, live in East Victoria Park, in what Mike describes as "a tumble down house that I keep adding tumble down bits to".

Although a fourth generation Australian, Mike is proud of his Scottish heritage.

"There is one piece of hard evidence to my Scottish heritage," Mike said.

"Our daughter Zoe has a plaid broach given to her by my father that, as far as we can tell, originated at Glamis Castle with a, numerous greats, grandmother Mary Lindsay.

"Mary married William Whiteburn, who worked at Glamis Castle.

"Curiously, they were married in the same month that the legendary 'Monster of Glamis Castle' was supposed to have been born . . . big month at the castle, I guess!

"I could go on with family legends, but for me the plaid broach is sufficient connection.



"The broach, which has a large quartz crystal in a gunmetal mounting with Jacobite motifs, is the only thing that goes back before my father and is, therefore, something very special."

"I wear a Stewart Clan heritage tartan, which seems right if the family stories have any truth, and I like the idea of it representing heritage.

As a member of the Committee, Mike aims to put in the work so that the Society remains the friendly and welcoming group Denise and he found when they joined.

"I like the way the Society is made up of those who are clearly Scottish; those who don't have a Scottish accent, but have an easily established connection; those, like me, whose connection is wafer thin, but know when they hear pipes and drums that there is an ancient connection; and those who have no connection with Scotland, but love things Scottish," Mike said.



MEET THE COMMITTEE

. . . . and a Committee veteran

Ken's home town is only five miles from Glamis Castle

Ken Suttie is the Immediate Past Chieftain of the Society and the longest serving member of the Committee.

Ken has been a member of the Society for 16 years and for 13 years of that time has been a Committee member — eight years as Chieftain, two years as Vice-Chieftain and now into his third term as Immediate Past Chieftain.

A proud Scot . . . and proud to be Australian . . . he has a strong commitment to promoting and maintaining Scottish culture in WA.

Originally from the small town of Forfar, in the county of Angus, on the east coast of Scotland, he moved to Perth with his wife, Liz, and son, Craig, in 1977.

The move was only supposed to be for 10 years at the most, but somehow they just stayed on and now Ken and Liz have lived as long in Australia as they did in Scotland.

"I still have a deep love of Scotland and can get homesick at the drop of a hat, even after all these years, but Perth is now our home and we love it, too," Ken said.

"We still have family in Scotland, including my parents, and we try to get back to see them as often as possible.

"When we're in Forfar, we always visit Glamis , because the village pub is our favourite hostelry, with a magic ambience and great food."



This year, Ken's main task will be to continue to edit The Saltire and update the Society's website.

He will also be available to provide advice, and the benefit of his experience, to the Chieftain and the Committee, as required.

Meet the Committee

In the next few issues of The Saltire, we'll introduce the Committee, usually two at a time, as in this edition.

The aim is to help you know who is looking after the Society's interests on your behalf.

The Society on Facebook

Did you know that the Society has a Facebook page?

The Society invites all of to log on to the page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Saint-Andrew-Society-of-Western-Australia/221139567902758>.

When you are there it's hoped that you will become "Friend" of the page, or at the least "Like" the page.

This will help ensure that the Society Facebook page becomes an entity in its own right, instead of attached to its administrator's Facebook page.

People have differing views about Facebook, but as a promotional tool for the Society it has huge potential.

However, to achieve that potential it needs the support of the Society's members and friends.

The Saint Andrew Society of WA



CHIEFTAIN'S CEILIDH

DANCING TO HEEL n TOE BAND

SATURDAY 19 MAY 2012 ✦ 7.00pm for 7.30pm

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MEMBER TICKETS \$55 ✦ NON-MEMBER TICKETS \$65

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..... CHIEFTAIN'S CEILIDH MEMBERS @ \$55 each, \$.....

..... CHIEFTAIN'S CEILIDH NON-MEMBERS @ \$65 each, \$.....

TOTAL \$_____

Cheques should be made payable to 'St Andrew Society of WA' and should be returned along with this completed form before 1st May to The Treasurer, The Saint Andrew Society of WA, Midland BC, PO Box 1212, Midland DC WA 6936.

Or use EFT to St Andrew Society of WA - CBA; BSB 066 105; Account No 901144 including your name and event covered by payment.