

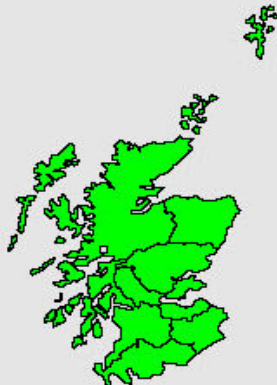


# THE Saltire

No 2

Message from the Chieftain

May 2011



## "Alba Gu Brath"

### COMMITTEE 2011-2012

#### Chieftain

Ken Suttie

#### Vice Chieftain

Jeff Crookes

#### Hon Secretary

Brian McMurdo

#### Hon Treasurer

Diana Paxman

#### Members

Susan Bogie

Cameron Dickson

Cheryl Hill

Doris LaValette

Reggie McNeill

Margaret Weir

#### Mistress of the Dance

Dawn Cromb

#### Honorary Piper

John Sinclair

#### Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

## Chieftain's Ceilidh a great start to year

It was terrific to see an excellent crowd of 91 people turn out for the Society's first event of the new Committee year, the Chieftain's Ceilidh.

Many of that crowd were new to the Society's events, and it was especially heartening to see a large group of young people had chosen the ceilidh for a night out with friends.

Those youngsters didn't know all the dances, but what they lacked in knowledge they made up for in enthusiasm.

With a bit of luck we might see them at more of our events and I was encouraging them to get along to the dance classes, because (as we always say) the more dances you know, the more fun you have.

Held in the RAAFA Memorial Estate premises at Bullcreek, the ceilidh also attracted our usual group of hard-core ceilidh people, who did more than anyone to ensure the event was such a success.

The ceilidh was slow to get going, for some strange reason, but once the meal was out of the way, the guests really started to let their hair down.

And we didn't just have to rely on the Heel n Toe for our entertainment, with a couple of guests getting up to give us a song or two.

A group of Society members also showed us two new dances.

By all accounts, everybody had a great time . . . and that's what we're all about, after all is said and done.

Our next event is the **Xmas in July Ceilidh**, but that is covered in greater detail elsewhere in this issue of The Saltire, as is the flier with the form for booking your seats for what will be a fun event.

Ken Suttie  
Chieftain

## New Postal Address

The Society has a new postal address:

Midland BC, PO Box 1212, Midland DC WA 6936



## New dances designed to boost the fun

Your new Committee has been busy working on new ideas to reach out to new members, as well as encouraging existing members.

One of the first changes we have put in place is the expansion of our dance schedule from 18 to 25 dances.

This will give us the option of mixing our dances and having variations for each event . . . don't worry all the oldies are still there, though!

We feel the new dances are simple, fun, will add a little bit of variety and, above all, are easy to teach and learn.

The new dances we have chosen are:

*The De'il Amang the Tailors*

*The Duke of Atholl's Reel*

*Shiftin Bobbins*

*Inverness Country Dance*

*The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*

*Good Hearted Glasgow*

You can have a look at the expanded dance list on the Society's web site.

Most of the new dances will have links to locations where the dances can be viewed.

The new dances will be introduced at this year's St Andrew's Day Ball, in November, so if you want to enjoy them why not come along to our dance classes, which get underway on Wednesday 21 September.

## Colourful event in July

Four years ago, the Society Committee decided to have a break away from the traditional style of ceilidh to fill the middle of the year spot.

The result was the Xmas in July Ceilidh, which has gone on to become a really popular event on the annual calendar.

The Committee has a lot of fun putting the ceilidh together . . . going a little bit over the top with the decorations, the menu and the program.

For instance, a couple of years ago Committee member and dancer extraordinaire Reggie McNeill worked with the Heel n Toe band to put some of our dances to Christmas music, with great success.

Reggie is the convener of the organising committee for this year's ceilidh, so look out for something special.

You all have the opportunity to enjoy another of these great ceilidhs on Saturday 23 July at the Yokine Bowling Club, where we've held it for the past three years.

As usual, the Heel n Toe will be there . . . and, you never know, Santa's helper may be persuaded to come along.

All we ask you to do is come dressed in Christmas colours (red and green, mainly) and ready to have a good time.

The first step is to send in the flier on page 6 of The Saltire to book your seats or table.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Xmas in July Ceilidh:** July 23

Venue: Yokine Bowling Club

**Spring Ceilidh:** September 10

Venue: Scarborough Sportsman's Club

**Dances Classes:** Wednesdays, Sept 21 to Nov 23

Venue: To be advised

**St Andrew's Day Ball:** November 26

Venue: Novotel Langley Hotel

### **2012**

**Burns Supper:** January 25

Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel



## 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](mailto:kas@inet.net.au) or send it through Australia Post to The Saltire Editor, Midland BC, PO Box 1212, Midland DC WA 6936.

## Denis the Menace is 60

The ultimate Scottish bad boy turned 60 recently, but he is as mischievous as ever!

Dennis the Menace first appeared in The Beano comic book in March 1951.

Famous for his thick black hair, red and black sweater and naughty pranks, Dennis captured the imagination of children everywhere.

To celebrate his birthday The Beano has launched The Year of the Menace.



## A Taste of Scotland

The Scottish Masonic Charitable Foundation is holding A Taste of Scotland Gala Dinner on Saturday 2 July at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel, to celebrate International Tartan Day.

For \$125 a [head](#), guests will get pre-dinner drinks, a three-course meal and entertainment, which will consist of a pipe band, Scottish dancers and dancing to the Heel n Toe Band.

You can learn more at [www.smcfwa.com.au](http://www.smcfwa.com.au), or by contacting Kelly on 0433 707 716 or [eo@smcfwa.com.au](mailto:eo@smcfwa.com.au) by email.

## Male logic

A wife asks her husband "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk, and if they have eggs, get six!"

A short time later the husband comes back with six cartons of milk.

"Why on earth did you buy six cartons of milk?" the wife asks him,

"They had eggs," he replied.

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## Pitsligo Castle

In the North-East of Scotland, bounded by the rivers Don and Deveron, lies an area known since ancient times as Buchan.

It is an area of good rich farm land and coastal villages that were fishing villages in the days when the North Sea still contained fish!

Near one such village, Rosehearty, on Buchan's north coast, stands the ruins of Pitsligo Castle.

Until the mid-16th century, Pitsligo Castle stood as a simple oblong keep, and in this fairly poor corner of Aberdeenshire, it would be reasonable to expect that it might have remained as such, but that was not to be the case.

A period of considerable building activity occurred in the late 1500s, which may or may not be related to a curious historical event that happened nearby.

In 1556, Ivan the Terrible, 'Czar of all the Russias', sent an Ambassador and a shipload of treasure to "Bloody" Mary Tudor (elder daughter of Henry VIII, and half-sister of the future Elizabeth I), the ruling Queen of England, with whom he wished to form an alliance.

Some have claimed it was the richest treasure ever loaded onto one ship!

Unfortunately, as the *Edward Bonaventure* sailed down the North Sea with the Russian Ambassador and all the goodies onboard, a huge storm blew up and when the ship tried to find shelter in the Moray Firth, it was driven ashore near Quarry Head – just two miles west of Pitsligo Castle.

By the time the authorities reached the wreck, the treasure was nowhere to be found!

There followed a flurry of diplomatic activity between the courts of England, Scotland and Russia (whose Ambassador had survived the wreck and seen much of his treasure being salvaged).



Mary Queen of Scots was still a child and Scotland was ruled by a Regent – her mother, Mary de Guise – who ordered a judicial enquiry into the disappearance, conducted in the Hall of Pitsligo Castle's old keep, where the two main suspects, Forbes of Pitsligo and Fraser of Philorth were interviewed.

The lairds pleaded complete ignorance, and after a lot of shoulder shrugging, "Fit likes", "Wreck – what wreck?" and "Dinna kens", that was pretty much the end of the business!

Except that the properties of Pitsligo and Philorth both thrived from that time on – in fact, the two families even went on to build their own towns nearby.

The Frasers built the town and port of Fraserburgh (which even had a university for a while) and the Forbses built Rosehearty.

In 1577 a substantial new 'palace block' was added onto Pitsligo's old 15th century keep, to be followed by various other extensions and improvements over the years that followed.

It would seem likely that much of this work was funded inadvertently by Ivan the Terribly Wealthy's imperial treasure!

**By Richard Paxman**



## The Bunbury MacAussies . . . a new Scottish group

A Scottish group with strong links to the Society has been founded in Bunbury.

Called The MacAussies, the group was formed by Ellen Reid, a Society member, and her husband, John.

Ellen has been interested in starting a Scottish group in Bunbury for a few years, but it was after last year's St Andrew's Day Ball that she decided it was time to do something about it.

"Just before Christmas I placed a notice in the Community Billboard of one of our local papers and there was a good response," Ellen said.

"At our first meeting on 15 January we had 14 people attend.

"Since then we have had another two gatherings, an article with a photo in another local paper, and an Easter picnic on 17 April.

"We were lucky enough to have perfect Scottish weather for our picnic . . . overcast and showers!"

The group now has about 30-35 members, covering a variety of ages from families with young children to mature people, singles and couples.

The members include Scots, Australians with Scottish heritage or who have married Scots, and others who just enjoy Scottish culture, music and food.

"We have a great time reminiscing about growing up in Scotland, sharing stories and enjoying a few drinks," Ellen said.

"One comment I have heard a lot from young and old is how great it is to hear the Scottish accent, which broadens as the night goes on, of course.

"I've passed on The Saltire to members of the group and there has been talk of going to the St Andrew's Day Ball in November.

"So look out for a few Bunbury MacAussies on the night!"



*Ellen Reid shows where her allegiance lies.*

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# The Saint Andrew Society of WA

## Xmas In July Ceilidh



**SATURDAY 23 JULY at 7.00pm**



**YOKINE BOWLING CLUB**

10 Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine

## Dance to the Heel n Toe Band

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Cheques should be made payable to 'The Saint Andrew Society of WA' and should be returned along with this completed form before Friday 15 July 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

*Please remember to include your name.*