

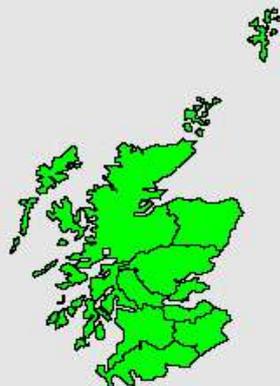


THE Saltire

No 4

Message from the Chieftain

September 2011



"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2011-2012

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Reggie McNeill

Margaret Weir

Mistress of the Dance

Dawn Cromb

Honorary Piper

John Sinclair

Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

Ready to celebrate?

It's that time of year again, as we all get excited about the prospect of our annual celebration of Scotland's National Day, the St Andrew's Day Ball, just around the corner.

I can tell you that some of the most enjoyable evenings I've ever had have been at the Ball and I'm sure there a few others out there who would echo that comment.

Arguably Perth's Scottish event of the year, the St Andrew's Day Ball gives us all a chance to dress up in our finery and enjoy an evening of fun and frivolity unlike any other.

(The application form for booking your tickets is at the end of this issue of The Saltire, and my advice is to send that form off as soon as possible to ensure that your seats are booked.

Of course, you might want to put a table of friends together . . . the Ball is an ideal occasion for a get-together . . . and the tables hold up to 10 people.)

This year, the Ball will be at the Novotel Langley Hotel . . . it's one of the few central Perth hotels that can offer the space for the number of tables and the size of dance floor we need . . . on Saturday 26 November.

And for the ridiculously low price of \$165 for members and \$180 for non-members (still one of the lowest Ball prices in Perth) you can have a night to remember.

That ticket price includes a sumptuous four-course meal and all the drink (alcoholic or otherwise) that you can handle!

It also includes the traditional pipe-band entertainment . . . the Perth Metro Pipe Band will play for us this year . . . and dancing to the Heel and Toe ceilidh band.

Of course, the pre-Ball dance classes start on Wednesday 21 September and each Wednesday until 23 November.

There's more on the dance classes on page 2.

I'm looking forward to catching up with a whole host of you at the Ball this year and perhaps I'll see you at the classes, too.

Ken Suttie
Chieftain



Get on your dancing shoes

As we always say, the St Andrew's Day Ball is even better fun if you know how to do the dancing makes up the majority of the program.

To help make sure you have the opportunity to either learn some of the dances, or just to jog your memory, the Society will be putting on its usual dance classes.



So if you come along every Wednesday, from 21 September to 23 November, one of Perth's foremost Scottish Country Dance teachers, Dawn Cromb, will be on hand to put you through your paces.

The classes will run from 8 - 10pm.

This year, the dance classes in the lead up to the Ball will be held at Karrynup Community Centre, which is a new venue for the Society.

The hall is directly behind Karrynup Shopping Centre, on Davenport Street, Karrynup.

There's plenty of space for dancing in the hall, which looks like a real find.

They entertained the guests at last year's Ball and the Perth Metro Pipe Band will be there again this year.

Lots of warmth during winter in Bunbury

A hardy band of 12 Society members made the trip to Bunbury on Saturday 27 August to support the Bunbury MacAussies in their first ceilidh.

Altogether, just over 40 people turned up . . . some out of curiosity, interested to see what it was all about, and a few looking at resurrecting memories of living in Scotland.

It turned into a great evening, with the Society members taking over the dancing part of the evening and showing the locals what great fun it can be.

Many of the locals had never tried Scottish Country dancing before, but once they got a taste they were soon asking for more.

With a few nips of whisky (and other beverages) to keep them going, the Society group danced and sang until midnight . . . and even helped with the cleaning up at the end!

Ellen and John Reid, the driving force behind the MacAussies and the organisers of the ceilidh, were grateful for the input of the Chieftain and his group.

And the Committee is talking about making an annual pilgrimage to Bunbury for the MacAussies winter ceilidh.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dances Classes: Wednesdays, September 21 to November 23

Venue: Karrynup Community Centre

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!

Just drop an email to kas@iinet.net.au or send it through Australia Post to The Saltire Editor, Midland BC, PO Box 1212, Midland DC WA 6936.

Spring Ceilidh fun in new venue

What a great time we had at this year's Spring Ceilidh!

Everybody who made the trip to Scarborough Sportsman's Club arrived ready to get stuck into dancing and singing and generally having good fun.

Even the Chieftain getting up to give them a song didn't seem to put them off!

It was the first time we'd held an event at that club and it's certainly a venue we'd use again, with seating and dancing room for comfortably 80 to 100 people.

Also, we were trying a new caterer and the general agreement was that food more than passed muster.

For the occasion, the Committee decorated the hall with the flowers of spring.

And a novel feature was a collection of photos, taken at previous Society functions, shown in a continuous loop on a big screen.



Tom Weir and Georgina Nicholson enjoy The Triumph

Look at our website

You can read more about Society events and other news on our redeveloped website .

There are Scottish recipes, lists of our dances, Society information and links to other interesting sites.

It's worth a look on <http://saintandrew.org.au>.

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Beside the seaside – Scotland-style

On the northern coast of Aberdeenshire, right on the water's edge where the base of the mountains falls into the ocean is a small village called Crovie.

According to the landlord of the Garden Arms in Gardenstown, it is pronounced Crivie.

The village is 750 paces long and only ten wide, including the cobbled pathway that runs along the front of the houses.

The cottages are turned sideways, with tiny shuttered windows to the sea and the view, and the reason for this the weather, which gets so foul that waves crash over the houses for a good part of the year.

Seemingly a local woke one morning a couple of years ago to find his fireplace full of seaweed that had come down the chimney during the night.

However, we arrived in perfect sunshine, with a cloudless blue sky overhead, not a hint of a breeze, and it was even warm.

Crovie is so narrow there's no room for cars, so you have to park at the far end of the village in a small car park that's cut into the towering hills that overpower the village, and then cart your luggage and groceries to your house by wheelbarrow.

There's a pool of specially numbered wheelbarrows near the car park.

The trouble is that after carting everything all the way to the house, you have turn around and go all the way back again to return the barrow and then back again to the cottage.

So I walked almost three kilometres just to move in!

While there I met two old blokes enjoying their mid-morning walk from Gardenstown, which is about four kilometres round the bay.

They were both born and grew up in Crovie, but moved away in 1953 when storms lashed the village so ferociously that most of the houses were destroyed or so badly damaged they became uninhabitable.

With the waves pounding your house to pieces with you trapped inside, that night must have been a truly terrifying experience.

One said in his lovely, soft accent, "Ye canna believe it noo, but my father sold oor wee hoose in Crivie for just five pounds and we moved away to the next village."



The next village is built into the side of the hill, well above the waves, so the family would have felt a touch safer from then on.

According to his mate, if you'd had a couple of hundred pounds back then you could've bought the entire village . . . so now it would be worth more than 30 million dollars!

By Norman Jorgensen



World championship for 'our Alisdair'

For those of you who haven't been checking the Society website or Facebook page, the big news recently featured our former Honorary Piper, Alisdair McLaren.

Alisdair has become the first West Australian to be a member of the winning band at the World Pipe Band Championships.

He plays for the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, which topped off an amazing year by winning the Grade 1 section of the 2011 World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow on 14 August.

Field Marshal Montgomery was considered favourites for the premiere grade after a clean sweep of the other main piping championships this year . . . the Scottish, the British and the European.

From Lisburn, Northern Ireland, but with a mixture of Irish, Scottish and, of course, West Australia members, the band was runner-up at last year's championships.

This year's win makes Field Marshal Montgomery the most successful pipe band in history, with a total of seven world championship titles.

Simon Fraser University finished second in Grade 1, with Scottish Power third, Inveraray and District fourth, St Laurence O'Toole fifth and Boghall and Bathgate sixth.

The World Pipe Band Championships, which took place today in its traditional location on Glasgow Green, attracted 30,000 people to watch 8000 pipers take part in nine hours of fierce competition.

Winners in the different pipe band categories were:

- Grade 1: Field Marshal Montgomery
- Grade 2: Seven Towers
- Grade 3A: Oban
- Grade 3B: New York Metro
- Grade 4A: Scottish Borders
- Grade 4B: Closkelt
- Juvenile: George Watson's College
- Novice Juvenile: Kintyre Schools



Alisdair (centre) celebrates with his bandmates

Society email address

You can now contact the Committee by email (enquiries@saintandrew.org.au) with queries or feedback.

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The Saint Andrew Society of WA



ST ANDREW'S DAY BALL



SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2011

7.00pm for 7.30pm

**NOVOTEL LANGLEY HOTEL
221 Adelaide Terrace, Perth**

Dancing to the Heel n Toe Band

Featuring the Perth Metro Pipe Band

Pre-Dinner Drinks + Four-Course Meal, with Drinks Provided

MEMBER TICKETS \$165 + NON-MEMBER TICKETS \$180

For further information, email enquiries@saintandrew.org.au

To book tickets, please complete and send in the form below

Name:.....

Address.....
.....

Phone:..... Email:.....

Please provide me with the following tickets to the St Andrew's Day Ball:

..... members @ \$165 each \$.....

..... non-members @ \$180 each \$.....

Total \$.....

Cheques should be made payable to "The Saint Andrew Society of WA" and should be returned along with this completed form before 17 November to: [The Treasurer, The Saint Andrew Society of WA, Midland BC, PO Box 1212, Midland DC WA 6936](#)

Or pay by EFT to St Andrew Society of WA -- CBA: BSB: 066 105 A/C No: 901144

Please remember to include your name.