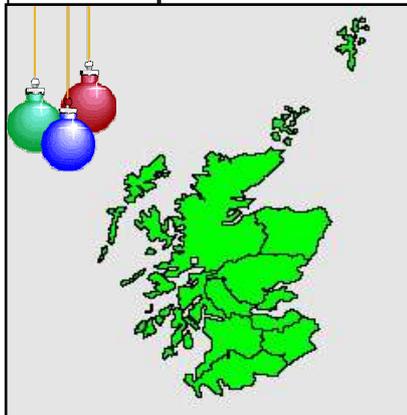




No 6

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

December 2014



"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2014-2015

Chieftain

Douglas Melville

Vice Chieftain

Diana Paxman



Hon Secretary

Darian Ferguson

Hon Treasurer

Cheryl Hill

Members

Susan Bogie

Cameron Dickson

Eoin Kennedy

Bob McGhee

Reggie McNeill

Jacqui Ure



Honorary Piper

Alex Foster

Email:

enquiries@saintandrew.org.au

Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr

(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)

The year has flown by and our Chieftain's and Winter ceilidhs now seem a long time ago, but it's great to report that they were very successful with the overall attendance numbers improving.

Just a few weeks ago, we enjoyed our premier event of the year, the St Andrew's Day Ball, and again attendance numbers improved.

It was a bit of a squeeze on the dance floor, but judging by the feedback from the people I spoke to, everyone had a great time.

Our guest speakers, Mike Robinson (who delivered the toast to Scotland and Saint Andrew), and Robert Somerville AM (who toasted The Land We Live In), provided outstanding presentations and engaged well with their receptive and appreciative audience.

The evening was ably handled by MCs Bob McGhee and our Dance Master, Reggie McNeill, who also led the pre-Ball dance classes over a ten-week period, assisted by Brian McMurdo

I must also pay tribute to the Society Executive and Committee Members for their outstanding contributions, which have seen the Society continue to grow and flourish.

The Committee, their spouses and friends have worked hard to ensure our events meet the expectations of members and guests.

The Committee relies on the support of the Members of the Society and to that end I ask that you help us continue to provide our service by renewing your membership and actively encouraging new members.

The most important upcoming event for the membership is the Annual General Meeting, to be held on 22 February 2015, in St Peter and Emmaus Church Hall, corner Green and Banksia Streets, Joondanna.

The AGM provides members the opportunity to have input into future directions of the Society, vote on any proposed changes to the Constitution and elect the Chieftain, Vice Chieftain, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and up to six Committee Members.

Indeed, you may wish to nominate for a position for 2015 and if you have an interest or a set of skills you consider would be of benefit to the Society, I would encourage you to do so.

Finally, I would take the opportunity to again thank you for supporting the Society throughout 2014 and I wish you and yours a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, and a healthy and successful 2015.

Douglas Melville
Chieftain.





Membership renewals due soon



It is that time of year when the Society requests that members pay their membership fees and it would be appreciated if that could be as close as possible to 1 January.

Members are being encouraged to renew their membership early in the New Year to assist in the organisation of Society finances.

Currently, membership runs from Annual General Meeting to Annual General Meeting.

New memberships that are accepted mid-year, or renewals that are paid mid-year, are only valid until the following Annual General Meeting.

Of course, members need to have paid their fees to vote or stand for office at the Annual General Meeting.

There is a Membership Renewal Form included in the email with this issue of The Saltire or you can copy the link below into your browser.

<http://saintandrew.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Membership-Renewal-2014.pdf>



Scotland's Natural Larder

In 2015, Scotland will celebrate the Year of Food & Drink, placing all the wonderful natural produce of Scotland into the limelight.

The aim of the Year of Food and Drink 2015 is to spotlight, celebrate and promote Scotland's natural larder and quality produce to its people and its visitors.

Scotland's food and drink comes from unspoilt habitats and varied weather, perfect for producing a wide variety of high quality fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, meat and much more.

Food and drink is an important part of Scottish cultural identity and heritage, and is a key to promoting Scotland as a holiday destination.

Almost half the people visiting Scotland want to try local food and two-thirds think that quality food is important when deciding holiday destinations.

To find out more about Scotland's unrivalled produce visit <http://www.visitscotland.com/en-au/about/food-drink>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

Burns Supper: 25 January

Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth

Annual General Meeting: 22 February

Venue: St Peter and Emmaus Church Hall, corner Green and Banksia Streets, Joondanna

Chieftain's Ceilidh: 2 May

Venue: RAAFA Club, Bullcreek

Winter Ceilidh: August

Venue: To be decided



St Andrew's Day Ball: 28 November

Venue: Hyatt Regency, Perth

2016

Burns Supper: 25 January

Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth

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

E-mail: houseoftartan@bigpond.com.au

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





Liquid gratitude for a few stalwarts

A few Society people received early Christmas presents on the last day of the pre-Ball dance classes.

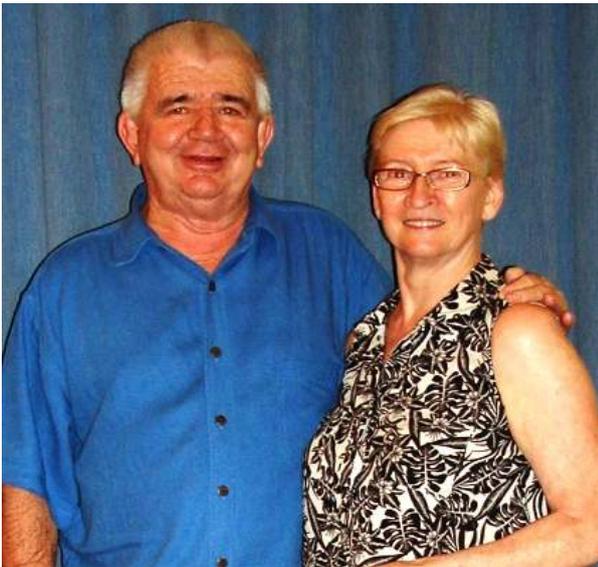
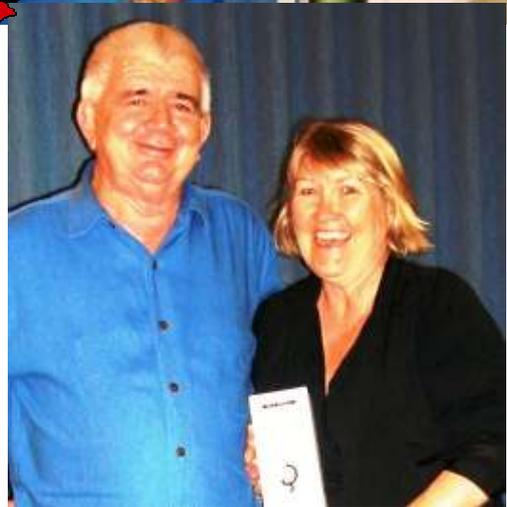
They were really "thank-you" gifts from the Society, presented by Chieftain Douglas Melville.

The team that organised those classes and taught the dances – Committee Member Reggie McNeill (pictured top right with Douglas Melville) and his assistant, former Chieftain Brian McMurdo – were each given a bottle of whisky, in recognition of their efforts.

And champagne was the order of the day for two lady members.

Susan Branch (bottom right) received her bottle of champers for her valuable role in running the Society's Facebook page over the past year.

Then Jan Gane (below) got a bottle of bubbles as a reward for using her skills to design flyers for the Society's events and for arranging the printing of a few publications at very favourable rates.



THE HOUSE OF TARTAN PERTH KILT HIRE



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

E-mail: houseoftartan@bigpond.com.au

Diamonds are forever

Angus was boasting to his pal about the ring of large, sparkling diamonds he had given to his wife for her Christmas.

His friend was impressed - but a little puzzled - and asked "Ah thought she wanted a red Ferrari sports car?"

Angus looked scathingly at his friend and replied: "Aye, she did want that - but where was ah goin' tae find a fake Ferrari?"



Order for Glencoe massacre goes on display



Written in absolute secrecy more than three centuries ago, it remains one of the most chilling documents in the history of Scotland.



The original handwritten order for the Glencoe massacre of 1692 is the centrepiece of a new exhibition at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Somehow the original order and its damning evidence has survived.

The first line reads: "*You are hereby ordered to fall upon the rebels, the MacDonalds of Glencoe, and put all to the sword under 70.*"

In the attack, 38 MacDonalds were killed, 40 more died from exposure after their homes were burned to the ground.

Still commemorated centuries later, the massacre was one of several factors which led to the Jacobite rebellion of 1715, when supporters of the deposed Stuart dynasty tried to win back the throne of Great Britain.

The uprising, which ended in failure for the Jacobites, was led by "The Old Pretender" James Francis Edward Stuart, son of James VII, who lost the chance to rule because of his Catholicism and ended up living in exile in Rome.

With the 300th anniversary of the Jacobite rebellion next year, the National Library's new exhibition explores the complex web of royal dynasties, family infighting and political manoeuvring that was to change the face of Scotland forever, including the key events that led to the Act of Union of 1707.

Titled Game of Crowns, some of the items are rarely seen and have been loaned by the Queen's own Royal Collection at Windsor Castle, as well as the National Records of Scotland, the National Museum of Scotland and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

Brought together for the exhibition are letters, manuscripts, books, maps, portraits and even a Jacobite sword.

Though the exhibition also touches on the



1745 Jacobite rebellion, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Old Pretender's son, it largely focuses on the earlier rising and its less-romantic cast of characters.

One royal proclamation warns that Jacobites will be tried for treason and hung drawn and quartered

And a Jacobite statement calls James Edward Stuart, King James the 8th — even though he never made it to the throne.

The exhibition runs until May next year.



Highland hospitality followed by betrayal

The Glencoe Massacre followed a proclamation issued in August 1691, requiring all Scottish clan chiefs to take an oath of allegiance to the new king, William of Orange, by the end of the year.

The king offered a pardon in an attempt to make them do so, but many clan chiefs were waiting until word had come from the exiled King James before they took the oath.

John Dalrymple, secretary of state for Scotland, wanted an excuse to make an example of a clan.

Alasdair MacDonald, the clan's chief, arrived at Fort William on 31 December, 1691 to take the oath but was told he would have to travel 70 miles to see a sheriff at Inveraray, in Argyll.

He finally took the oath on 6 January, 1692 and was given assurances that his people were safe, but under a plot hatched by Dalrymple, about 120 troops arrived at Glencoe on 2 February under the command of Captain Robert Campbell.

They were given hospitality by the MacDonalds, as was customary in the Highlands.

Then Captain Campbell received orders to "fall upon the rebels, the MacDonalds of Glencoe, and put all to the sword under seventy."



Hogmanay in Scotland



Edinburgh's Hogmanay is one of the biggest and best New Year celebrations in the world.

Things get underway on 30 December with the spectacular Torchlight Procession, when thousands of torch carriers create a river of fire from the Royal Mile to the son et lumière and fireworks finale on Calton Hill.

On Hogmanay itself, the action moves to Princes Street in the heart of the city, beneath the spectacular backdrop of Edinburgh Castle.

Around 80,000 people party their way into the new year at the Concert in the Gardens, featuring live music and entertainment, DJs, giant screens, outdoor bars and the world-famous Edinburgh Hogmanay Midnight Fireworks on the castle ramparts.

And if you need something to clear your head the morning after, you can take part in the Loony Dook, the annual splash in the River Forth at South Queensferry.

Those crazy enough to do this, join the Dookers Parade through the High Street before taking the plunge in the freezing Forth.



Stonehaven Fireball Ceremony



Hogmanay and the new year is also celebrated with a number of traditional fire festivals that hark back to a more primitive age.

The most spectacular of these include the Biggar Bonfire, Comrie's Flambeaux Procession and perhaps the most famous, the Stonehaven Fireball Ceremony.

Stonehaven's Fireball ceremony at Hogmanay consists of mainly local people of all ages marching through the streets of the town swinging flaming wire cages around their heads.

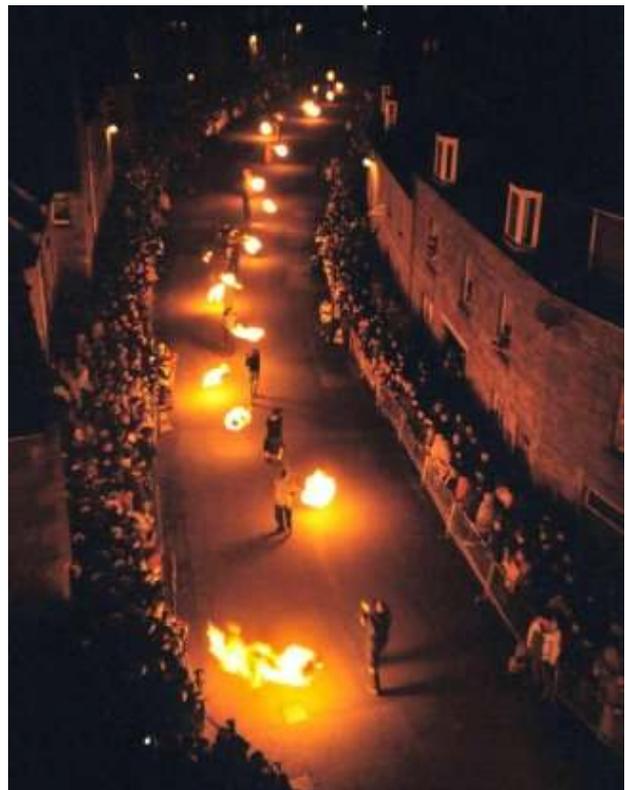
Each cage has a wire handle two or three feet long, which keeps the flames well away from the swinger, but spectators can be vulnerable!

The idea behind the ceremony, thought to be up to 150 years old, is to burn off the bad spirits left from the old year so that the spirits of the New Year can come in clean and fresh.

The event, which is watched by thousands of visitors, starts at midnight and lasts around 30 minutes . . . but in the past it could last much longer.

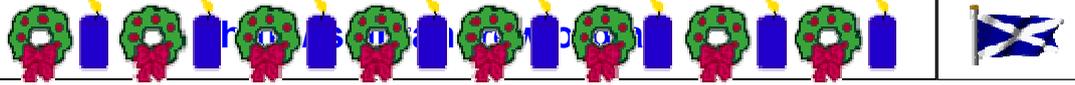
Back then, some of the swingers would swing their fireball for a few yards and then stop outside a house of someone they knew, where they would drop their fireball at the kerbside and pop in for their 'New Year' (a dram of whisky)!

Then they would come out, pick up their 'ball' and swing on down to the next house, and so on.



The swingers would have had many relatives and friends staying in area, so it could take some time to get from one end of the street to the other!

The 'balls' had to be made of material that would smoulder and stay 'alive' when unattended and every swinger would have their own concoction.



Lost Robert Louis Stevenson masterpiece published

The story was written more than 130 years ago by a writer who would go on to become one of Scotland's greatest literary legends.

But Robert Louis Stevenson's comic novel *The Hair Trunk* was created when he was a complete unknown, well before he found fame with *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

The work was never published after the author decided to abandoned the story, despite penning more than 30,000 words over two years.

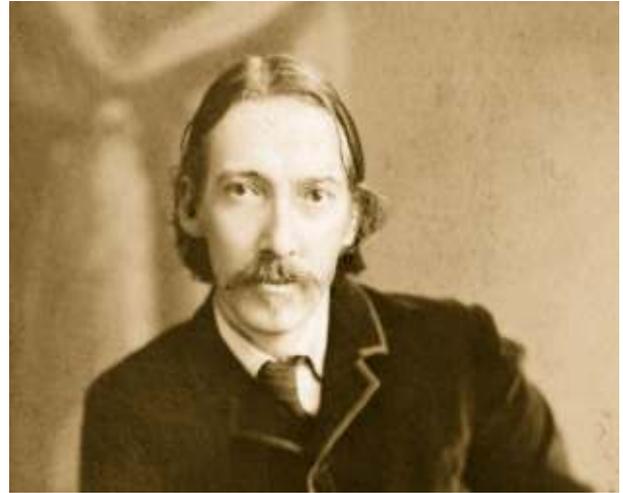
Now the book, which has been described as Stevenson's "missing masterpiece", has finally seen the light of day after being rescued from obscurity by an American, Roger G Swearingen.

The satirical book charts the exploits of a group of Cambridge university graduates who decide to try to set up an "Ideal Commonwealth" in Samoa – where Stevenson would spend the last years of his life.

Stevenson's story follows the adventures of the students as they set off on the trail of a trunk of gold and jewels.

The complete story has just been published by the small Ayrshire firm Zeticula.

Mr Swearingen has written a number of books on the author's work and discovered Stevenson's first ever short story, *An Old Song*, which he published anonymously in 1877.



Stevenson is thought to have started writing *The Hair Trunk* the same year, when he was just 27.

It wasn't until 1883 that *Treasure Island*, his first novel, was published.

"The *Hair Trunk* is an engaging and memorable snapshot of Stevenson in his mid-twenties," Mr Swearingen said.

"There's lots of good, entertaining stuff in *The Hair Trunk* and while it isn't up to the standards that Stevenson eventually reached, it's very good for when he wrote it.

"It shows a side of Stevenson that most people don't realise exists – a sceptical, humorous side, willing to poke fun at himself."



Explore Scotland's historic cream on Google Maps

Some of Scotland's most historic castles and landmarks have been added to Google Maps' Street View function, giving heritage lovers the chance to explore centuries-old sites in a new way and from the comfort of home.

Stirling Castle, Edinburgh's Arthur's Seat and Arbroath Abbey are just three of 15 places added to the app, which allows users a panoramic, 360 degree view of city streets and landmarks.

Edinburgh's Craigmillar Castle, Dunfermline Abbey and Palace, and Fort George, north-east of Inverness near Ardersier, also make up the 15-strong list.

To explore the sites, visit goo.gl/x0ZyKZ.



See Dumbarton Castle on Google Maps Street View