



THE Saltire

No 1

Message from the Chieftain

April 2016



"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2016-2017

Chieftain

Douglas Melville

Vice Chieftain

Diana Paxman

Hon Secretary

Darian Ferguson

Hon Treasurer

Cheryl Hill

Members

Eoin Kennedy

Mary McBride

Reggie McNeill

Elizabeth Melville

Richard Paxman

Graeme Ward

Honorary Piper

Jason Hutt

Email

enquiries@saintandrew.org.au

Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

Chieftain's Ceilidh for a cause

In three weeks time we will be gathering for our ever-popular first event of the Society's year, the annual Chieftain's Ceilidh.

(Just to explain, it's the first event of the year after the Society's AGM!)

To be held at the RAAFA Club, Bullcreek Drive, Bullcreek, on Saturday 14 May (7pm for a 7.30pm start) the Chieftain's Ceilidh is always great fun.

However, the Committee has been pulling out all the stops to ensure this one is extra special.

And if you needed an extra incentive to be there on Saturday 14 May, all the proceeds of the event raffle will be donated to "Soldier On".

This is a charity that supports women and men from Australia's armed services who have been physically or psychologically wounded in the service of our country.

As usual the Heel 'n Toe Band will provide the dancing music and the Drum Corps of 7 Wing, Australian Air Force Cadets (which is sponsored by the Society) will once again provide its special type of entertainment.

Tickets are available at \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members, for which guests will get a two-course meal, two bottles of wine per table and a special 'Chieftain's tippie'.

Further drinks can be purchased from the bar.

Book your tickets through our website at www.saintandrew.org.au.

Dance classes will be held on three Fridays prior to the event – on 29 April, 6 May and 13 May – for those who have not tried Scottish dancing before, or feel they are a bit rusty, or just want some extra fun.

Classes will be held at the Royal Park Hall, corner of Charles Street and Vincent Street, West Perth, from 7:30pm, at a cost of \$5 per person each evening.

I look forward to seeing you at the ceilidh and the dance classes . . . I'm sure you will have a great time at both!

Douglas Melville
Chieftain

DONATION: I should mention that the Society recently supported Police Legacy with a donation of \$250.



The same but different after AGM

The Saint Andrew Society of WA held its Annual General Meeting on 5 February, 2016, in the Perth and Tattersalls Bowling Club, East Perth.

As usual, the main activity of the evening was the election of office-bearers for 2016-17.

The executive positions remained the same as the previous year, with Douglas Melville re-elected as Chieftain and supported by Diana Paxman, Vice-Chieftain; Honorary Treasurer, Cheryl Hill; and Honorary Secretary, Darian Ferguson.

Of last year's Committee Members, Eoin Kennedy, Reggie McNeill and Richard Paxman were re-elected.

Three new members were elected — Graeme Ward, Elizabeth Melville and Mary McBride — replacing Bob McGhee and Cameron Dickson, who decided not to stand again.

New Committee Members



Graeme Ward

Graeme Ward

A retired dairy farmer, Graeme is fitting his Society duties around a busy schedule that includes playing badminton three times a week, dancing, bike riding, kayaking, archery and regularly running 5-10 kilometres just to keep fit!

Graeme has two grown-up children . . . a daughter who lives in Fremantle, a son who is a permanent residency of Singapore . . . and a Singaporean daughter-in-law, a grandson and a granddaughter due in May.

Elizabeth Melville

Elizabeth is currently the principal of a southern suburbs school.

However, she knows rural WA like the back of her hand, having spent most of her working life in places such as the Pilbara, the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, the Wheatbelt and the Murchison, as well as Christmas Island.

When she returned to Perth in 2014, she looked around for new things to try and decided to have a go at Scottish Country Dancing, which she really enjoyed.

About the same time she was introduced to the St Andrew's Day Ball and enjoyed the company of the Society's members so much, she became a member herself and started going to as many events as possible.

She says she is still investigating how she can be of use to the Society in her new role.

Mary McBride

As a long-time member of the Society, Mary doesn't need much introduction.

She was originally drawn to the Society through her love of Scottish Country Dancing and having a good time in a Scottish way.

She has joined the Committee to give something back to the organisation that has provided her with so much enjoyment over the years.



Elizabeth Melville



A terrific evening for everyone

By Elizabeth Melville

The Burns Supper is a night to participate in an institution of Scottish life.

The Saint Andrew Society event is an event full of pomp and circumstance to celebrate the life and work of the Scottish Bard.

At my first Burns Supper, at the Hyatt Hotel, there was a couple at my table who were in their late 80s and were attending the supper because it was on their "bucket list".

I knew then I was at an important event – I was sitting with people who *had* to be there before they died.

The Burns Supper fits in beautifully with Australia Day celebrations, as Australian Scots are equally proud to be Australian and as such enjoy the connection between the two days.

Through the toasts and table conversations, we acknowledged with pride that Scottish culture is imbedded in Australian culture.

What I heard at the Burns Supper was a dual love and commitment to past and present peoples.

Pipers evoke an element in all of us, stirring us to war, marriage, christenings, along with life's other confrontations and celebrations, and piping at the Burns Supper was no exception.

Our newly appointed piper, Jason Hutt, delighted the guests with his stirring choice of tunes.

The welcoming speech from Society Chieftain Douglas Melville expressed how the Burns Supper is a cornerstone of Scottish celebration.

The address was quickly followed by the Grace, because though tradition should be followed, it is to be remembered that fun is the true cornerstone of any Scottish celebration.

Our honoured reciter, Brian McMurdo, offered a fluent and entertaining rendition of the "Address to the Haggis", with his knife poised at the ready.

On cue, he cut the casing along its length, spilling out some of the tasty gore within to release the intoxicatingly delightful smell of spices.

The recital ended with Brian raising the haggis in triumph during the final line "Gie her a haggis!", which we all greeted with rapturous applause.

The toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns followed Moira Martin's light-hearted yet well-informed speech, remembering some aspect of Burns' life, along with a recitation.

Moira's speech was my most memorable part of the evening.

Phil Robinson gave us his views on women, as he led the gentlemen in the toast 'Tae the Lassies', while the 'Response Fae the Lassies' was beautifully delivered by Cheryl Hill and thoroughly enjoyable.

Finally, after much dancing to live music, conversations with new people and fun we came together to join hands and sing Auld Lang Syne, bringing the evening to an end.

Thank you to all who organised the event, it was a terrific evening for everyone.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016

Chieftain's Ceilidh: 14 May

Venue: RAAFA Club, Bullcreek

Social Evening: 27 May

Venue: Royal Park Hall, West Perth

Reel Night: 24 June

Venue: Royal Park Hall, West Perth

Weekend Away: 6 August

(Venue and details to be confirmed)

St Andrew's Ball: 8 October

Venue: Hyatt Regency Perth

St Andrew's Day Dinner: 29 November

(Venue and details to be confirmed)

2017

Burns Supper: 25 January

Venue: Hyatt Regency Perth

See our new website

The Society website has been redeveloped, with the aim of making it brighter and more accessible.

It still features a lot of useful and interesting information.

Take a look on <http://saintandrew.org.au>.



Real fun is promise at Reel Night

The Society is to hold its first Reel Night on Friday, 24 June.

The aim of the evening is to teach the fun art of 'reeling', which is a popular form of Scottish Country Dancing that is less formal than the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society way.

By the end of the evening you should have learned a whole lot of new skills!

These include:

- ◆ dancing "doubles" rather than waiting your turn at the bottom of the set
- ◆ picking up variations that turn the 'Reel of the 51st' from a good dance into a great dance
- ◆ dancing a 16some reel and a 32some reel

It is promised that you will have had a laugh, been mildly mentally challenged and generally had a lot of fun!

Some knowledge of Scottish Country Dancing will help you get the most out of the evening.



The Reel Night will be held at Royal Park Hall, West Perth, other details will be distributed later.

Forfar man latest Lotto millionaire

Scotland's latest Lotto millionaire said he celebrated his win with a pint at his local pub.

Forfarian John Bowman scooped the jackpot of £10.3m in the Lotto draw.

The 59-year-old said he initially thought he had won £10,000 until a friend informed him of the actual amount.

"I checked my numbers in the house on Sunday morning and thought I'd been lucky enough to win £10,000," John said.



John with youngest Daughter, Emma

"I went over to a friend's so he could double check it for me and when he looked it up on his phone he realised it was actually 1000 times that amount.

"I immediately phoned my two daughters, Lisa and Emma, I told them to sit down because I had some news for them, but they didn't believe me at first."

His next stop was the local pub to celebrate his winnings, which total £10,317,199.

"My first drink as a millionaire was still a pint of beer," he said.

John, also known as Jake locally, said he plans to buy a new home in the sun with some of the money.

"The first thing I did was to look after my daughters and I will also be sharing some of my good fortune with family and friends," he said.

John played for Perth team St Johnstone when he was younger and regularly attends Forfar Athletic games, which he said he plans to keep on doing.

Unsurprisingly, he has also given up his job at local firm Ramsay Ladders.



Dinosaur footprints found on Isle of Skye

Ancient tracks from sauropods that plodded through a lagoon in the middle Jurassic period have been uncovered on the Isle of Skye, making the spot the largest dinosaur site in Scotland.

The zigzag pattern of giant prints is on a slab of rock reaching out to sea on the north eastern tip of the island.

Left by multiple beasts over thousands of years, there are hundreds of tracks.

"It's a cool thing for Scotland to have such a big dinosaur site," said Steve Brusatte, who led the Edinburgh University team that found the tracks.

"And it's important globally, because these are from a time in the middle of the Jurassic where there are hardly any fossils anywhere else."

The 170-million-year-old prints are in several layers of rocks that formed from sediments at the bottom of a brackish lagoon, when the sea was farther away and more cut off from the land than it is today.

The tracks are detailed enough for researchers to identify them as belonging to primitive sauropods, distant relatives of brontosaurus and diplodocus.



The tracks were preserved when sediments, perhaps stirred up by storms, washed into the footprints left in the lagoon bed.

Some are now visible as dents the size of dustbin lids, others as casts, created when the stone around them weathered away.

The number of toes, their shapes, and heel pads at the back of the foot, all mark the prints out as those of the sauropods, which grew to at least 15 feet long and weighed more than 10 tonnes.

Now David really is a doctor



Former Doctor Who star David Tennant is to be awarded an honorary doctorate by his alma mater, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

He will be honoured at a graduation ceremony this summer.

The Scottish actor, who achieved cult fame for his portrayal of the 10th Doctor in the BBC series Dr Who, will be awarded an honorary drama doctorate.

Tennant studied drama at the Conservatoire from 1988 to 1991, when it was known as the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

He then went on to roles on stage and screen, including performing with the Royal Shakespeare Company and starring in the TV series Broadchurch.

Last weekend, Tennant co-hosted a live celebration of Shakespeare's work from Stratford-Upon-Avon on BBC Two to mark the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death.