



"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>

Another year and a new Committee

Sorry that this edition of The Saltire is a bit on the late side, but I went on holiday for a few weeks soon after the Annual General Meeting and have taken a little while to get back into things since my return.

As you probably realise, the AGM saw a few changes, with the main result being a couple of new faces on the Committee and the return of some former stalwarts.

I have to say that I'm impressed with the make-up of the new Committee and I'm sure the members will work together harmoniously to bring you some great functions throughout the year.

It was pleasing to see such a large number of members attend the AGM at the Mt Hawthorn Community Centre . . . perhaps the experiment of having the meeting on a Sunday, instead of a Friday, had something to do with it.

The new Committee consists of Doris LaValette and Cheryl Hill (new members), Susan Bogie and Reggie McNeill (former members returning after a break), and Cameron Dickson and Margaret Weir, who were on the Committee last year.

We have a new Hon Treasurer in Diana Paxman, who has an unenviable task in taking over from long-term Treasurer Pauline Sedgwick, who is taking a well-deserved rest.

The Vice-Chieftain and Hon Secretary remain unchanged, with Jeff Crookes and Brian McMurdo once again stepping into the positions they have filled so admirably in the past.

In welcoming the new Committee, it is also important to thank the outgoing members from last year for their sterling efforts . . . former Chieftain Sandy Milligan, Pauline Sedgwick, Bob McGhee, Jacqui Ure and Thelma Koppi.

As usual, the first event of the year is the Chieftain's Ceilidh, to be held on Saturday 7 May, at the RAAFA Memorial Estate premises, in Bull Creek (see attached flier for more details and application form).

The flier is also available on the Society's new-look website.

Ken Suttie
Chieftain



Gearing up for another year

It has been a long time since the Society's excellent Burns Supper and even longer since the superb St Andrew's Day Ball.

So, you readers who are regular guests at the Society events probably have your tongues hanging out in anticipation of our next 'do'.

And those who have yet to attend a function are probably eager to see what all the fuss is about!

Well, you won't have long to wait . . . the Chieftain's Ceilidh is only a few weeks away on Saturday 7 May.

Traditionally the first event in the Society's year following the Annual General Meeting, the Chieftain's Ceilidh is usually huge fun, as everybody gets rid of all that pent-up energy.

As for the last three years, the Chieftain's Ceilidh will be held at the function centre in the RAAFA Memorial Estate, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek.

For those who haven't been there before, this is a great location for one of our functions, with its big dance floor, heaps of seating space and reasonably-priced drinks.

The extremely affordable price of \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members gets you a three-course meal.

It also includes a drinks package consisting of two bottles of wine (one white and one red), a jug of beer and a jug of soft drink for each table.

And we'll throw in our old friends the Heel n Toe Band, just to make sure the fun doesn't stop all night long!

Also, if any of you are singers, can play a musical instrument, or have another skill that we would find entertaining, we would love to hear from you on the night.

Please complete and send us the application form on page 6 (with payment, of course) if you are among the smart ones who recognise a top night when they see one.

Even if you are paying directly into the Society's bank by electronic funds transfer, we would like to get a completed form, to ensure that your seats or tables are booked.

Remember that we can only take tables of eight people.

If you need any further information on the event, our Hon Secretary Brian McMurdo (who will also be the MC on the night), will be happy to help . . . just contact him on 0402 081 857 or on bdmcmurdo@bigpond.com by email.

Dance Classes Dates

The pre-St Andrew's Day Ball dances classes will be held every Wednesday from 21 September this year.

So, if you need to brush up on your Scottish dances in preparation for the Ball, put these dates into your diary.

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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 or send it through Australia Post to The Saltire Editor, PO Box 479, West Perth WA 6872 .

Ageing friends

A group of 40-year-old friends discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should go to the Ocean View Restaurant, because the waiters there had tight pants and nice bums.

Ten years later, at 50 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed that they should go to the Ocean View Restaurant, because the food there was very good and the wine selection was also good.

Ten years later, at 60 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed that they should go to the Ocean View Restaurant, because they could eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant had a beautiful view of the ocean.

Ten years later, at 70 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed that they should go to the Ocean View Restaurant, because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and it even had a lift.

Ten years later, at 80 years of age, the group again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed that they should go to the Ocean View Restaurant, because they had never been there before.

A Selection of Scottish funnies from member Eoin Kennedy.

Did you hear about the London criminal who fell foul of the Glasgow Mafia?

They made him an offer he couldn't understand.

A wee Glasgow boy comes home from school and tells his mother he's been given a part in the school play.

"Wonderful. What part is it?" she asks.

The boy says, "I play the part of a Scottish husband."

The mother scowls and says, "Go back and tell that teacher you want a speaking part!"

A Glasgow woman staying in a hotel in Edinburgh, phoned room service.

"Ah'd like some pepper, please," she requested.

"Black pepper or white pepper?" asked the concierge.

"Toilet pepper!" yelled the woman.

What do you call a man who takes a small size in a shoe?

Wee Shooley



When is a kilt a kilt

At the age of 49, I wore a kilt last year for the first time.

My wife, Denise, and I had been invited to a Spring Ceilidh, so I decided it was time to act on my family's vocal tradition of Scottish heritage and buy a kilt and accessories.

My family's tradition is secured to a female relative who has handed down a plaid brooch from the 16th or 17th Century, possibly of Jacobite influence.

Beyond that we know little of its origin, but it is the most treasured item from my father's family.

Anyway, I brought a kilt and plaid in the Stewart Blue Heirloom tartan.

Wearing a kilt for the first time was a moment of pride, as well as some trepidation, that I may be inadvertently making a faux pas that would insult those who wear Scottish dress as a tradition.

All seemed to go well and I believe I only embarrassed myself with my attempts to dance.

Attending the Spring Ceilidh ignited an interest in Scottish heritage, dancing and wearing kilts, so Denise and I subsequently joined the Society.

We have since attended the 2010 Ball and the 2011 Burns Supper, and have been given a great welcome from the Society members, coupled with a sustained curiosity regarding my dancing style.

I have since obtained what is known as a 'contemporary kilt'.

The comments at work quickly changed from "Why are you wearing a kilt, you're not a Jock" to "That's not a kilt, it's a pleated skirt with pockets".

Pockets! It has enough pockets to carry 18 bottles of beer!

So, to the dictionary.

The noun kilt seems to be of Scandinavian origin from a word that means to tuck up or fold, with the Old Norse *kjalta* referring to a pleated garment.

This is now taken by some to refer to the pleats in a kilt and my 'contemporary kilt' has pleats, so it fits the etymology of the word (tick one).

And to a definition.

A kilt is a knee-length skirt (tick two) with deep pleats, usually of a tartan wool (no, it's cotton), worn as part of the dress for men in the Scottish Highlands (maybe not, but I'm taking it with me when I go there).



To the tradition.

Without attempting to tell you how to wear a kilt, the great kilt dates from the 16th Century with the small or walking kilt dating from the late 17th or early 18th century.

To wear even a walking kilt in Perth at most times of the year would be less than comfortable, but a 'contemporary kilt' I have found to be comfortable at all times.

So is it a kilt? "We Sell Freedom" is the slogan of the company that made my 'contemporary kilt'.

Therefore if you see me at a society event in a 'contemporary kilt', I am not wearing this garb as a challenge to the traditions of Scottish dress, but I am wearing it instead of my Ceilidh best so as to save my best for future Ceilidhean.

I accept that some may feel that my 'contemporary kilt' is not really a kilt, but then my 'dancing' has only a passing resemblance to dancing.

Be assured I will wear a proper kilt in the highland tradition at formal events.

By Michael Stuart Haines



Year of the Light

2011 is the Year of the Light.

It is a 12-month celebration marking the bicentenary of the creation of one of the world's greatest feats of engineering, the Bell Rock Lighthouse (right).

The Angus town of Arbroath is the focal point of the Year of the Light, with a program of community events .

Built by Robert Stevenson (the father of famous Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson), the Bell Rock Lighthouse guards a notorious section of the North Sea, 11 miles from Arbroath Harbour.

The lighthouse was completed on 1 February 1811, after four years of construction.

It has saved countless lives over the last two centuries, by alerting vessels to the deadly rocks lying below the surface of the water.

The celebrations were sparked off on 1 February 2011 with a spectacular fireworks display on the shore.

As well as the series of events, a short digital film about the building and history of the Bell Rock Lighthouse has been created.



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, which we'll be adding to over the year.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chieftain's Ceilidh: May 7
Venue: RAAFA Club, Bullcreek

Xmas in July Ceilidh: July 23
Venue: Yokine Bowling Club

Spring Ceilidh: Date to be advised
Venue: To be advised

St Andrew's Day Ball: November 26
Venue: Novotel Langley Hotel

2012

Burns Supper: January 25
Venue: To be advised

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



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To book tickets please complete and send in the form below

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Please provide me with the following tickets:

..... 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, PO Box 479, West Perth WA 6872.

Or use EFT to St Andrew Society of WA - CBA; BSB 066 105; Account No 901144
DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME.