



Welcome to the first Saltire for 2019!

Following the usual busy start to the year, with the Burns Supper celebrations quickly followed by the AGM, we have now emerged out into calmer autumnal waters. Autumn down here of course, means spring up there and many of our members are now 'pouring' over maps of the northern hemisphere and examining cruise ship timetables. The other half are at work of course! Ah, the joys of retirement!

In this edition of the Saltire you will find:

- Obituary - Gordon Allen German.
- Your 2019 committee.
- Provisional list of events for the next 12 months.
- An unusual request.

Gordon Allen German

On December 21st last year, we lost a distinguished former Chieftain and Western Australia lost one of its most brilliant scientific minds. Vale Professor Gordon Allen German, MB ChB.(Aber. Hons); DPM; FRCPE; FRCPsych; FRANZCP; MAfrPA; IOM; PHF, died peacefully after a year battling cancer. He was 83.

Allen was Chieftain of the society in 1996, 1997 and again in 2002.

Born in Aberdeenshire in 1935, he was the son of a Plymouth Brethren evangelist. From an early age he was fascinated by science, particularly neuroscience and Freudian psychoanalysis and went on to attain three degrees in as many years.

He subsequently worked in Uganda where, among other things, he became Idi Amin's personal psychiatrist! His character was featured in the film 'The Last King of Scotland'. Perhaps for telling

"His Excellency, President for Life, Field Marshal Al Hadji Doctor Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, MC, Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Seas and Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular" what he needed to be told, rather than what he wanted to be told, Amin eventually had him deported from Uganda!

Not wanting to return to Britain and, like many another forced to leave Africa since, he looked around and chose Perth to be his new home. The University of Western Australia was to take centre stage for the remainder of his working life.

In the 1960s and 70s, UWA was still quite a parochial institution, with little international standing and psychiatry was still looked at askance by many in the medical profession. Allen German did much to raise the profile of psychiatry in the UWA Faculty of Medicine as well as in the wider medical community and to give psychiatry equal standing with other clinical departments at UWA. The calibre of his professional standing in the Faculty was reflected in him being elected Dean of Medicine in 1988, and thereafter, the Head of the Division of Dentistry & Medicine. He was awarded the RANZCP Meritorious Service Award in 2001 for outstanding contribution to psychiatry in Western Australia.

By the time he retired, he was Professor at Makerere (Uganda) as well as UWA; Dean and Pro Vice Chancellor of UWA and a prominent WHO researcher in Cross-Cultural Psychiatry and Neuroscience worldwide.

We offer our love and sympathy to his wife Silvi and sons Gordon, Michael and Douglas.

If I may further quote his obituary in the West Australia "A brilliant mind has left us and the light will be a little darker for our loss."

Your 2019 Committee

Many thanks to all those that attended this year's AGM. The meeting was quick, cheerful and got through all the business that needed to be got through! In particular, all positions on the committee were filled and the draft for the new constitution was approved unanimously (it has since been submitted to the 'Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety' for final

(we hope!) approval).

It was very pleasing to have enough volunteers to be able to fill all ten committee positions - and what a quality committee it is:

Chieftain	Richard Paxman
Vice Chieftain	Ron Cooper
Hon. Secretary	Margaret Davies-Slate
Hon. Treasurer	Eoin Kennedy
Committee members	Reggie McNeill
	Pennie Stewart
	Steve Banks
	Gerda Banks
	Ann Kennish
	Mark Wimshurst

Ron has kindly taken on the busy Vice Chieftain's role for the second year and Eoin agreed to do battle with the MYOB accounting software again. Margaret has stepped up to assume the Secretary's role from Diana, who is now, much to her satisfaction, sitting around home not doing very much! Pennie, Steve and Mark have all returned to the committee, bringing back with them their experience from last year. Reggie of course has been on the committee for many years previously and is returning after a year's sabbatical.

We are joined by two new recruits, Gerda, who brings enthusiasm to everything she does and Ann, who brings her experience as past President of the West Australian branch of the Australia-Britain Society with her.

Thank you to you all!



Planned events

We have held one committee meeting since the AGM, in addition to which there has been much visiting of venues and a lot of crunching of numbers going on! The outcome of all this is that the first event of the 'society year', the Chieftain's Ceilidh, will be held at the Scarborough Sportsman's Club on Friday 7th of June.

As I explained at the AGM, the RAAFA Club at Bull Creek is no longer available. This has had a significant effect on the ticket price because we were able to use the RAAFAC for free. Most other venues start at around \$450 and by the time you get up to yacht clubs, you are paying \$1000 or more - with a 'minimum spend' to worry about on top of that. By the time all the other factors involved such as dance floor size, catering, available dates etc are all taken into account, the short list is just that - short! Scarborough 'ticks all the boxes', as the saying goes, and is a known quantity, because we have used it before. We can also hold the Chieftain's Ceilidh there for only slightly more than last year's ticket price. We also appreciate that Fridays do not suit everyone. We would have taken Scarborough on a Saturday if we could, but it was not available.

The provisional list of events for the coming year is"

Friday 24 May - Dance practice
Friday 31 May - Dance practice
Friday 7 June - Chieftain's Ceilidh
(TBA) Weekend away
Friday 25 Oct - Dance practice
1 November - Dance practice
8 November - Dance practice
15 November - Dance practice
22 November - Dance practice
29 November - St Andrew's Day Ball
17 January - Dance practice
24 January - Dance practice
25 January - 2020 Burns Supper



An unusual request

The photo above is of a beautiful young Perth family. It shows Gennaro and Joanne Di Marco Rapinese and their three children. They all look happy and well, but they aren't! Gennaro has recurrent acute leukaemia.

(Don't stop, read on!)

Gennaro was first diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in 2015. After five months of chemotherapy, he went into remission. In February of this year, it came back. He was rushed straight to hospital for five weeks of grueling chemotherapy. The problem is that this time, chemotherapy won't be enough - he needs a lifesaving bone marrow transplant and to make matters worse, they are having a lot of trouble finding a suitable genetic match for Gennaro.

Now, I am a mere 'chieftain' that spent his working life drilling oil & gas wells, so I am no expert on genetics and bone marrow transplants, but I do know that the chances of finding a suitable genetic match are much higher among people of the same ethnic background.

I know what you are thinking! With those swarthy good looks and a name like Gennaro Di Marco Rapinese, there's not much likelihood of a genetic match between him and a peely-wally ginger

headed wee Scotsman like me! That might be the case, but Gennaro obviously has some good Scottish genetics because they are specifically looking for "young men (between 18 and 30) of Scottish descent". While not too many of our members fit into that bracket unfortunately, many of us either have descendants that do or know someone that does.

"Aye, but I'm feart of pain, knives, tubes, needles, anything red, stainless steel and people in surgical masks!"

Me too! Perfectly natural in my opinion! But in this case, stem cell blood is donated via a four-hour procedure which is similar to a regular blood donation. They do stick a needle in you, but after that you sit back and watch back-episodes of Home & Away or listen to rap music!

So what do you need to do if you want to help? You need to register with the Australian Bone Marrow Donor registry as a bone marrow donor - which involves a quick blood test. To do so, click [HERE](#). Despite the ease of joining, less than one per cent of the population is on the ABMDR - and Gennaro's match is somewhere in the other 99 per cent of the population.

Do it today - you could save Gennaro's life!

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