



St Andrew Society of WA – Autumn 2022

Welcome to 2022 and a new committee

As we begin a new year for the Society, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting the Society over the last year. Membership is now at numbers not seen for a long time, which is down to the hard work of the committee. We set a high bar for ourselves last year and with the backing of a great committee we hope to achieve the same level again this year.

Amid the uncertainty around the spread of Covid, restrictions and the likes, we managed to hold all our events last year plus the Burns Supper and AGM this year without too many issues.

The breaking news at the beginning of January this year that Omicron was spreading in Perth and beyond had the committee concerned our luck was running out and there was a strong possibility we may have to cancel the Burns Supper. Despite the restrictions in place such as having to wear masks and show proof of vaccination, the Burns Supper went ahead and what a great night it was. Thanks to all 142 members and guests who came along and joined in the celebrations. It was disappointing to learn a couple of days before the event that our photographer was a close contact and had to isolate. We were unable to find another photographer at such short notice.

We held our AGM in the Irish Club, Subiaco on 17th February, and got through all the business in record time. We said farewell to three of our 2021 committee and welcomed four new members onto the 2022 committee.

Ann (secretary), Kelly (committee) and Jacqui (committee) all decided not to seek re-election and stood down. The Society members and friends would like to thank them all for the work they put into the committee that made 2021 a record year for new members and an enjoyable year for all who attended the events throughout the year.

The outgoing committee offered a free drinks voucher and a 'door prize' raffle ticket to all who attended. Two door prizes were won by Brigitte Melville and Ron Cooper

I look forward to seeing you at the Chieftain's Ceilidh and the dance practice.

Wishing all a great time at both

Sláinte

Reggie McNeill

Chieftain

St Andrew Society of W.A.

Meet the New Committee

At the 2022 AGM all positions were filled through nominations received by the secretary well in of the AGM, thanks to the hard work of the outgoing committee who canvassed for committee members for over three months. There were no nominations put forward for any of the executive committee positions on the night.



The 2022 committee (minus Brian)

The new committee for 2022 is:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Chieftain: | Reggie McNeill |
| Vice Chieftain: | Mark Wimshurst |
| Secretary: | Carol Smith |
| Treasurer: | Eoin Kennedy |
| Immediate Past Chieftain: | Douglas Melville |
| Committee member: | Tom McAlister |
| Committee member: | Darian Ferguson |
| Committee member: | Brian McMurdo |
| Committee member: | Alka Jain |
| Committee member: | Adrienne Knocker |
| Committee member: | Nicola Morrison |

After a few years away from the committee we welcome back Brian and extend a very warm welcome to our new committee members Carol, Adrienne and Nicola.

We would once again like to thank the Irish Club for the use of their facilities on the night. Food and drink were enjoyed by many members who attended. Since connecting with the Irish Club back in 2020, we have been warmly welcomed by the staff and committee who have supported us in every way possible.

Membership

Renewal of Membership Reminder

A timely reminder that this is the most beneficial time of the year to renew your membership or become a member of the Society for the first time. Membership is a yearly subscription which runs from AGM to AGM and is only \$30. You will get discount if you attend any of the three main functions throughout the year and end up 'in pocket' by the time the next AGM comes around To renew your membership click [here](#) and for new membership click [here](#).

Events

2022 – 2023 Calendar year

The new committee have planned most of our events for the next 12 months and our first event will be the Chieftain's Ceilidh on Saturday 7th May. Details will be posted on our website, Facebook and via Mailchimp very soon.

Together with the main events the committee will be discussing other events we could organise for our members and friends to enjoy.

So far, the following events and dates have been confirmed

Chieftain's Ceilidh Dance Practice 2022: 19th April 26th April and 3rd May. All will be at the Irish Club starting at 7.30pm. See website for details.

Chieftain' Ceilidh 2022: Saturday 7th May. Yokine Bowling Club starting at 6.30pm. See website for details

St Andrew Day Ball Dance Practice 2022: 4th October through to 22nd November. All will be in the Irish Club starting at 7.30pm. Details will be on our website later in the year but mark the dates in your calendar.

St Andrew Day Ball 2022: Saturday 26th November. Pan Pacific Hotel. Details will be on our website later in the year.

Burns Supper Dance Practice 2023: 10th January 17th January and 24th January. All will be in the Irish Club starting at 7.30pm. Details will be on our website later in the year but mark the dates in your calendar.

Burns Supper: Wednesday 25th January. Details will be on our website later in the year.

The Irish Club is open on a Tuesday night from 6.00pm for meals. Why not get there early, have a meal and make your way downstairs for a fun night of dancing and socialising.

We will be working closely with the Irish Club again this year to see what other opportunities there may be to encourage members and friends to come along, have a meal, have a drink, and just socialise – maybe listening to some music. For those that want to dance and maybe learn new dances, we will be having our Winter dance nights starting 7th June 2022. We will keep you posted but do watch our website and Facebook for details.

Scottish Stramash Perth



Scottish Stramash continue to play monthly in both the Irish Club in Subiaco on a Thursday night and the Seasonal Brewing Co in Maylands on a Wednesday night. Dates of all events are listed below. Everyone is welcome to go along to listen, singalong, join in a reel or jig, or if you have an instrument, bring it along and join in. Linda and Fiona will be delighted to see you.

Both venues provide food for those that want to go along early and have a meal. Music gets under way at 7.00pm at both venues. So, if you have nothing better to do on a Wednesday or Thursday evening why not go along. You never know who you may meet.

Several of our members when along to the Irish Club last year and had a great night with the gang. We are hoping to do the same again this year. Dates are as follows

Irish Club – 14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 11th August, 8th September, 13th October, 10th November and 8th December

Seasonal Brewing Club – 27th April, 25th May, 29th June, 31st August, 28th September, 26th October, 30th November (St Andrew's Day), 28th December (pre Hogmanay)

If you want more information, see

Website: <https://www.scottishstramash.com>

Facebook: Scottish Stramash

Email: scottishstramash@gmail.com



House of Tartan



The House of Tartan, now under the ownership of Jennifer and Greg Mc Adam, continues to grow from strength to strength and the St Andrew Society are very proud to support this great kilt hire company here in Perth.

This year, Jennifer and Greg designed their own tartan which has received the seal of approval and is named 'Spirit of Australia'. Kilts are now on display in their shop on Walcott Street, Menora.

An article by Alicia Bridges from ABC Radio outlining the story behind the design and approval was recently published and well worth reading. Refer to the following link

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-12/perth-tartan-celebrates-colours-of-australia/100904182?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=messenger&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web

Key points from the story are

- The tartan was designed in Perth and inspired by the colours of the red dirt, gold minerals and white beaches
- Its name was inspired by Australian of the Year Local Hero nominee Craig Hollywood, who was born in Scotland
- The name needed federal government support to get approval from the Scottish Register of Tartans



The Unicorn

National Animal of Scotland

When one thinks about Scotland and all the cultural symbols, legends and rich heritage of the country, what comes to mind? Maybe the thistle, the famous tartan, the iconic bagpipes, or even the Loch Ness monster.

Whilst this is all correct, one mystical figure has been hiding in plain sight across the nation, a mythological creature which has been tied to Scotland as a national symbol for centuries – the unicorn.

The unicorn was and still is an important creature with great symbolism of purity and innocence, power and ferocity. Throughout the ages, records of unicorns have entered the story-telling fables of several cultures. Historic accounts even include some sightings of creatures with one horn, said to resemble such an animal.

Across ancient civilisations ranging from the Persians, the Egyptians, Indians and Greeks, such a creature was described and recorded, often with magical connotations. Even the Bible makes a record of an animal called the re'em which has been later associated with the unicorn.

Scotland's deep connections with the unicorn stem from its Celtic culture. Celtic mythology believed unicorns to represent innocence and purity whilst also being associated with chivalry, pride and boldness.

The first recorded use of a unicorn symbol is in the twelfth century when it was adopted by William I on the Scottish Royal Coat of Arms.

By the fifteenth century, during the reign of King James III, coins depicting the unicorn had also appeared and would be in circulation for another century.

Furthermore, the Mercat Cross, erected across Scottish towns, cities and even villages, also incorporated the symbol of the unicorn, with some carving the mystical creature on the pillars. The Mercat Cross was a significant landmark for each location, serving at the nucleus of the community where ceremonies took place. The unicorn therefore represented the nation at the heart of these settlements. One such example to be found today includes the unicorn finial on the cross at the small fishing town at Prestonpans, east of Edinburgh.

Moreover, at this time some significant members of the nobility were given permission to use the unicorn in their Coat of Arms. Such special permission was granted to the Earl of Kinnoull and was seen as an honour to bear such a symbol.



This emblem thus became ubiquitous and would remain so even when the momentous union of the crowns occurred in 1603. King James VI of Scotland became King of England and Ireland on the 24th March and reigned until his death in 1625.

When he inherited the English and Irish thrones, the Royal Arms of England became merged with that of Scotland and the Royal Coat of Arms of Ireland was also added. Thus, the symbol of the majestic English lion was incorporated side by side with the Scottish unicorn.

Still today, different versions of the Royal Arms exist, with the Scottish version maintaining stronger Scottish symbolism with thistles and the unicorn remaining on the left side.

One particularly significant aspect in the heraldry of the unicorn is the gold chain which is used to restrain the unicorn. The chain wraps around the animal, perhaps depicting the enormous power of the mystical beast, which is often described as untameable and powerful, or perhaps showing the control of the Scottish kings over such a bold creature.



The use of the unicorn alongside the lion is also very symbolic, not just in its representation of two nations brought together by a union of crowns but also as two animals which have legendary status as natural enemies, as recorded in the traditional nursery rhyme

*The lion and the unicorn
Were fighting for the crown
The lion beat the unicorn
All around the town.*

*Some gave them white bread,
And some gave them brown;
Some gave them plum cake
and drummed them out of town.*

*And when he had beat him out,
He beat him in again;
He beat him three times over,
His power to maintain.*

This rhyme uses the lion and unicorn as the two protagonists and served as inspiration for others in the literary realm, including the famous writer Lewis Carroll who used the characters in “Through the Looking-Glass”. The unicorn and lion as symbols thus pervaded different forms of cultural expression, being used in art, literature and as representations of nations, cultures and history.

One such example of the cultural significance of the unicorn is demonstrated in the “The Hunt of the Unicorn” legend, less formally known as the Unicorn Tapestries which are housed and displayed both at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art and Stirling Castle.

Whilst the origins of the work are French, the tapestry depicts the unicorn chained, similarly to its representation on the Royal Coat of Arms. The historical artefact is steeped in religious symbolism and demonstrates just how vital the mystical creature was in several cultures, being used to represent something “higher”, perhaps even unattainable.

Today in Scotland, the unicorn has left an imprint on the country, whether it is found at the gatepost of Holyrood house or standing proudly in front of St Margaret’s Chapel at Edinburgh Castle. The unicorn is depicted across the country, carved in stone at St Andrews University and used as a figurehead for the HM Frigate Unicorn in Dundee. The unicorn heraldry is emblematic of the Scottish heritage and a valuable artefact denoting the ancient beliefs and value of this magical creature.

Interesting Fact: There is a National Unicorn Day which is celebrated on the 9th of April.



The Story of Flora MacDonald (1722 – 1790)

The inspiration behind the Skye Boat Song



2022 is the 300th anniversary of Flora MacDonald's birthday, the young heroine who helped the Young Pretender escape the clutches of the Government forces after the defeat at Culloden.

Flora was born at Milton on the island of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides in 1722 where her father was a tenant farmer. She completed her schooling in Edinburgh and was visiting her brother in South Uist in 1746 when she was asked to assist Bonnie Prince Charlie.

An unlikely figure to affect the life of a would-be King, never mind saving him, Flora first came across Charles Stuart after he fled to her island home after being pursued by the Hanoverian army of King George II, following the last major battle to be fought on Scottish soil in 1746. This was never going to be easy for Flora, considering both her step-father and her fiancée Allan MacDonald were keen supporters of the Government.

Then just 24, Flora would have been unsure how to deal with meeting such a desperate figure - one who her family would readily see in chains. However, brave Flora made up her own mind and decided to help the stricken Prince.

Gaining permission from her step-father to take a boat from the small island to the mainland, she arranged for her crew to include Charles, now disguised as an Irish maid named Betty Burke, as they set out. Sailing out in the summer of 1746, they left from Benbecula headed not to Mallaig but instead to Skye and landed at Kilmuir at what is today called Rudha Phrionnsa (Prince's Point). From there he was able to flee to France, where he hoped to appeal to the French King for more support for his cause.

In thanks for her help, Charles is said to have presented Flora with a locket containing his portrait. Sadly though, the Young Pretender was never able to return to Scotland and she never saw him again.

Even worse for the young heroine, when it was discovered she had helped him escape, she was arrested and imprisoned at Dunstaffnage Castle, Oban and then briefly in the Tower of London. She was released in 1747 under a general amnesty and returned to Scotland where she married Allan MacDonald of Kingsburgh in 1750.

She then emigrated to North Carolina with her husband and family. While initially successful farmers, Flora's husband joined a regiment of Royal Highland Emigrants supporting the Hanoverians at the start of the American War of Independence. He was captured at the battle of Moore's Creek and, after a spell in captivity, was expelled to Nova Scotia. They lived for a time in 1779 in a block house there - it is now the last remaining building of this type in the province (see illustration). She then returned to Skye with her husband.



She later met Samuel Johnson, the English essayist during his tour of Scotland with James Boswell. Johnson described her as "a woman of middle stature, soft features, elegant manners and gentle presence." He also said of her: "Her name will be mentioned in history, and if courage and fidelity be virtues, mentioned with honour."

Flora and her husband took up residence in Skye and Flora died at Kingsburgh on Skye on 5th March 1790, in the same bed in which Bonnie Prince Charlie (and Samuel Johnson) had slept. She is buried at Kilmuir, her body wrapped in a sheet from the bed in which Bonnie Prince Charlie had slept.

Their story was then immortalised when Englishman Sir Harold Boulton wrote the Skye Boat song in 1870 to a song collected by Scottish trad musician Anne Campbelle MacLeod.

World Whisky Day 2022



Do not forget, **Saturday 21st May 2022** is World Whisky Day. Why not get together with a group of friends and raise a dram to celebrate the water of life.