



2022 Chieftain's Ceilidh

The 2022 Chieftain's Ceilidh was very successful and well supported despite Covid spreading very fast both in the city and in the regions. Seven days prior to the ceilidh our numbers were just over one hundred but due to covid, that number dropped to ninety-one. Thanks must go to the committee who put in a lot of hard work to make this event so successful, especially the new members on the committee. Thanks also goes to the Yokine Bowling Club for allowing us the use of the facility and the caterers 'Only Foods and Sauces' who once again provided us with excellent meals. I believe we have now found a venue that provides us with everything the RAAFA building in Bull Creek afforded us for many years. Entertainment was provided by the 51 ACU Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes who put on another great performance and our honorary piper Alisdair who played for us at the beginning of and during the night. What a delight it is to have him as our piper. Alisdair will be going back to Scotland soon for a few months to take in the pipe band world championships and The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo where he is a member of the Pipers Trail Pipe Band, a house band for the Tattoo. A ceilidh would not be the same without a few jigs and reels. Thanks to Rob, Col, Kieran, Kerri, and Katrina from the Heel N' Toe ceilidh band who were on top form yet again.





A small selection of photos from the night's entertainment. Visit our website <https://saintandrew.org.au/> and go to the Chieftain's Ceilidh 2022 under galleries to view all the photos

Membership

Renewal of Membership Reminder

Do not forget to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Membership is a yearly subscription which runs from AGM to AGM and is only \$30. Membership renewals for 2022/2023 will expire at the end of October 2022. You will still qualify for a discount on tickets to both the St Andrew's Day Ball and the Burns Supper if you renew before 31st October 2022. To renew your membership please visit our website <https://saintandrew.org.au/annual-membership-renewal-form/> or become a member by visiting the link <https://saintandrew.org.au/membership-application-form/>

Events

2022 – 2023 Calendar year

Since the Autumn Saltire the committee have now planned our events for the rest of the year. Details will be posted on our website, Facebook, Instagram and via Active Campaign.

Winter in Perth is usually a time for many of our members to fly away to warmer climates or to visit family and friends back in Scotland. With overseas travel now open to all many will be leaving Perth to see family and friends for the first time in almost three years. For those staying behind we will keep you entertained over the winter months with a series of Scottish Country Dance nights and a 'Family' Winter Ceilidh. Both the Dance nights and the Ceilidh will be held at the Irish Club in Subiaco. The events are currently up on our website and on our Facebook page.

So far, the following events and dates have been confirmed

- Winter Dance Nights:** 7th and 21st June, 12th and 26th July, 9th and 23rd August, and 6th and 27th September. All will be at the Irish Club starting at 7.30pm. See website for details.
- Winter 'Family' Ceilidh:** 13th August at the Irish Club starting at 6.00pm. Tickets go on sale on 4th July. See website for details.
- Gin and Whisky Night:** 9th September at the Irish Club. Dates and times will be posted on our website very soon.

Ball Dance Practice: These will be at the Irish Club from 4th October until 22nd November. Dates and times will be posted on our website very soon.

St Andrew Day Ball: 26th November. Pan Pacific Hotel. See website for details

Burns Supper Dance Practice: 10th, 17th and 24th January. All will be in the Irish Club at 7.30pm.

Burns Supper: 25th January. Pan Pacific Hotel. See website for details.

We are continuing our connections with the Irish Club again this year following on from the success last year. The Irish Club are delighted to have us on board and are looking forward to many years of the Celtic connection and culture we bring to the club.

The Piper from Perth

From Trinity College to World Champion

Alisdair McLaren is an Australian bagpiper. He is currently the Pipe Major of the Grade 1 Western Australia Police Pipe Band, Piper's Trail Pipe Band, the former Pipe Major of the Grade One Glasgow Police Pipe Band, and the former director of The National Piping Centre in Glasgow and in 2011 became the first West-Australian to ever win the World Pipe Band Championships as part of the Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band.

Prior to moving to Scotland, Alisdair attended Trinity College and was Pipe Major of Trinity College Pipes and Drums until 1997 when he joined the WA Police Pipe Band for 10 years.

In January 2020 Alisdair stepped down from his post as the Pipe Major of the Glasgow Police Pipe Band and the director of the National Youth Pipe Band in order to return to his native Australia.

In May 2020 he was appointed Pipe Major of the Western Australia Police Pipe Band and became the Honorary Piper of the St Andrew Society of WA in November 2020.



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. Fiona and Linda will be delighted to see you.

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

Fiona Davidson

Fiona was born in Aberdeen and comes from a family of musicians. She started learning the bagpipes at the age of 9 (father was Pipe Major) but then moved onto violin at the age of 10. Fiona's playing is heavily influenced by the bagpipe sound and north-east Scottish fiddle playing from where she grew up in Fochabers, Morayshire. In her youth, Fiona won various Scottish traditional fiddle competitions. In Scotland she has appeared in television, radio and over the years, has made multiple recordings with multiple bands of differing genres.

Since moving to Western Australia, Fiona has played in the psychedelic folk band Lammas Tide and local folk band Southern Celt. She often records and arranges music for local instruments and currently performs with Trio Failte, Stringbirds and Spirit of Alba. Fiona also helps run a community based Scottish music Session called Scottish Stramash

Linda Gauld

Linda, co-founder of Scottish Stramash was born in Elgin and also comes from a family of musicians. Her father, who commenced his working life as a farm labourer was well known for his Bothy Ballads; songs sung originally in the bothy (small outbuildings used by the farm hands and was often an area used by them to sing their "bothy ballads"). This tradition of singing these ballads is still very much part of the Northeast of Scotland culture. Her brother, Ivan (an accordionist) continues to run traditional music sessions in the Northeast.

Linda, originally a member of the Elgin Strathspey & Reel Society performed in many concerts with her fellow players. Having lived in Italy and Egypt for a number of years, Linda put the 'fiddle' to rest. Fast forward 32 years and now in Perth, Western Australia, she reconnected again with Fiona, her childhood friend from Elgin Strathspey & Reel Society. **Scottish Stramash was born!**

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



Established in 1995, the House of Tartan are the specialists in kilt hire and sales, offering specialised kiltmaking along with our large range of kilt and accessory hire.

Since 2007, Heather and Jim Anderson have been the proud owners of The House of Tartan which started in 1995 and has grown into the amazing shop it is today, with the help and support of the local Scottish Community. The House of Tartan thank everyone for supporting a Perth based family-owned business in their commitment to bring us the best of Scotland right here in Western Australia.

The staff at The House of Tartan are trained to assist you in finding your clan and tartan. They have a very large range of tartan samples, in store, allowing you to see and touch real tartan, instead of just looking at digital images on a computer screen.

Any difficult questions are put to the Director of the Scottish Tartans Authority for authentication and confirmation.

The House of Tartan will not import tartans from anywhere but Scotland, and we will not sell you a tartan for their convenience - the customer will take priority in all their recommendations and advice.

Speak with the friendly staff to learn about their Woven to Order kilt making and design service. They offer a personal and bespoke service that you will not find anywhere else in Australia. They take pride in their craft and look forward to assisting people on their path of discovering or just celebrating their heritage.

This is a family run business, with Greg and Jennifer in the shop full time and 2 of their 4 children having completed a school-based traineeship in kilt making.

They love what they do and sharing that passion every day is what keeps them moving forward.

Meet the Team

Greg McAdam – Owner / Business

Greg brings 22 years business experience to ensure everything is running smoothly

Jennifer McAdam – Owner / Sales

Jennifer brings 22 years of kilt hire experience to ensure the customer in the focus at all times.

Grace McAdam – Store Assistant

Grace is our school-based trainee, helping customers find the perfect outfit for your special day

Tartan Day – July 1st

A day to wear your tartan with pride

Wear something tartan on July 1.

In an effort to crush the clan system in Scotland, the English government of the day passed an act on August 1, 1747 banning the wearing of the tartan. Following the Jacobite defeat at Culloden, Prince Charles fled to South Uist then eventually went across to France. His supporters suffered under the 'Butcher of Cumberland' and to further punish Scotland, Parliament issued Acts to destroy the clans, their identities, and economic structures. New laws were imposed to ban the playing of the bagpipes and the wearing of highland dress.

After 35 years, the law was repealed on July 1, 1782, and once again the Scot could wear his plaid with pride and without the fear of punishment. In Australia and New Zealand, we celebrate Tartan Day on July 1 - the day the proscription was lifted.



The Secret of a Scotsman's Sporrán

An essential piece of Highland dress

An essential piece of Highland dress to accompany a Scotsman's kilt is the ornately decorated pouch that hangs down the front, commonly referred to as the sporrán. But where did the sporrán originate and what was its purpose?

As early as the twelfth century Highland warriors were described as being "bare-legged, with shaggy cloaks and a scrip [small bag] ..." Such dress was, at that time, confined to the Highlands, as Scottish Lowlanders considered such apparel as barbarous, referring with contempt to their Highland kinsmen as "redshanks"!

Kilts of that time were very basic garments that required no tailoring and comprised a single piece of tartan cloth some two yards in width by four or six yards in length. This was commonly referred to as the *Breacan*, the *Feileadh Bhreacain* and the *Feileadh Mor* – or as the English called it *The Big Kilt*. It fell down to the knees and was secured over the left shoulder with a brooch or pin and a tight belt gathered it all around the waist.

Such dress was ideally suited to the climate and terrain of the Highlands. It allowed freedom of movement, the tightly woven woollen cloth was warm and waterproof, unwrapped it could provide a voluminous cloak against the weather or a comfortable overnight blanket, it dried out quickly and with much less discomfort

than trousers. But unlike trousers, the kilt could not provide pockets and so the sporran was born out of necessity. A survival of the medieval purse, the sporran was the Highlander's pocket they didn't have.

Early sporrans were made from leather or skin, both deerskin and calfskin proved particularly popular. They were simple in design and usually gathered at the top by basic drawstrings or by thongs with small tassels. The Highlanders of the Western Isles often wore cloth pouches known as *trews*.

Original sporrans dating from the fourteenth century and onwards can be viewed at many Scottish museums. The history and evolution of the sporran can also be traced through early British military paintings and portraits of Highland soldiers; these later sporrans start to show more elaborate decoration.



From the late seventeenth century and early eighteenth century sporrans were generally fitted with metal clasps, usually made from brass, or for clan chiefs, occasionally silver. The elaborate metal workings of some of these clasps are indeed miniature works of art. The goat-haired, *sporran molach* or hairy sporran was introduced by the military in the eighteenth century. These sporrans often had flap-tops and large tassels and featured a variety of furs and hair such as fox and horse, or occasionally sealskin, all set off with a badger's head.

But what is it that a Scotsman actually keeps in his sporran? Well, one sporran on display at the National Museum in Edinburgh features a clasp of brass and steel with four concealed pistols inside, the contraption being designed to be discharged should anybody attempt to open the locked purse, thus either killing or maiming the thief.

The modern sporran, or *sporan* – Gaelic, has evolved a long way from the doeskin bag containing ammunition or daily rations and many now feature stainless steel and even plastics! Despite modern enhancements however, sporrans retain their basic design principles and carry everything from car keys to mobile phones.



SS Daphne

July 3rd, 1883

SS *Daphne* was a ship which sank moments after her launching at the shipyard of Alexander Stephen and Sons in Govan, Glasgow, Scotland, on 3 July 1883

Around 200 workmen were on board the ship at the time it was launched, ready to begin fitting out work as soon as she was properly afloat. According to the usual practice during a launching, anchors were attached by cable to each side of the ship. As the *Daphne* moved into the river, the anchors failed to stop the ship's forward progress. The starboard anchor moved only 6 to 7 yards (5.5 to 6.4 meters), but the port anchor was dragged 60 yards (55 meters). The current of the river caught *Daphne* and flipped her over onto her port side, sinking her in deep water.

124 people died including many young boys. 70 lives were saved. It took more than a fortnight for the bodies of those who died to be recovered.

An inquiry was held afterward; the shipyard owners were held blameless, which led to claims of a cover-up. The cause of the disaster was reported to be little initial stability combined with too much loose gear and too many people on board.

One of the outcomes of the disaster was the limiting of personnel aboard to only those necessary for mooring the ship after the launch.

The *Daphne* was later raised, repaired, and renamed the *Rose*.

Anniversaries in Scottish History

June

June 1, 1878 - First Tay rail bridge opens. It was to collapse 18 months later in the Tay Bridge Disaster.

June 7, 1690 - The Scots Parliament ratified the establishment of a Presbyterian religious system, rejecting Episcopacy.

June 8, 1333 - King Edward III orders the capture of the Isle of Man from the Scots.

June 10, 1688 - James Francis Stuart born. In honour of the "Old Pretender", this is known as White Rose Day in Jacobite circles.

June 10, 1903 - The floral clock in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, began operation - driven by clockwork and with only an hour hand. It was the first of its kind in the world.

June 16, 1586 - Mary, Queen of Scots recognised Philip II of Spain as her heir.

June 17, 1652 - Great Fire of Glasgow, destroying nearly one third of the city.

June 19, 1566 - Mary Queen of Scots gives birth to the future King James VI of Scotland and I of England.

June 23, 1650 - Charles II sailed into the estuary of the river Spey and signed the Covenant before going ashore.

July

July 1, 1505 - Seal granted by Edinburgh Town Council to the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons to practise their craft. The organisation is now known as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

July 1, 1782 - Proscription Act Repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons (banned as a result of the 1745 Uprising in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie).

July 7, 1559 - John Knox became the first Protestant minister appointed in Edinburgh.

July 8, 1296 - King John Balliol abdicated at Montrose.

July 10, 1451 - King James III born at Stirling.

July 13, 1249 - King Alexander III crowned at Scone

July 13, 1469 - King James III married Margaret of Denmark.

July 16, 1309 - James Stewart, High Steward of Scotland, died.

July 16, 1328 - David II, son of Robert I (the Bruce) married Joan, sister of Edward III (he was 4, she was 7).

July 17, 1895 - The east coast express train from London to Aberdeen set a record time of 10 hours and 21 minutes for the 540 miles.

July 19, 1333 - Battle of Halidon Hill in which Sir Archibald Douglas (guardian of David II) routed by Edward Balliol and Edward III. Scots losses were nearly 600, English losses 14.

July 21, 1796 - Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37.

July 22, 1298 - The army of the English King Edward I, using longbows for the first time, defeated the Scots led by Sir William Wallace at Battle of Falkirk.

August

August 1, 1747 - Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years.

August 3, 1305 - [William Wallace](#) betrayed and handed over to the English.

August 5, 1704 - Act of Security passed by the Scottish Parliament. This allowed Scotland to choose a successor to Queen Anne, other than the one elected by the English Parliament, if Scottish conditions were not met. This precipitated the demands in London for an Act of Union of the two parliaments.

August 8, 1296 - King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned.

August 10, 1872 - Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children.

August 15, 1963 - The last hanging in Scotland - 21-year-old Henry Burnett who was executed at Craiginches Prison in Aberdeen for the murder of seaman Thomas Guyan.

August 19, 1561 - [Mary Queen of Scots](#) lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II

August 21, 1937 - Birth of [Donald Dewar](#), former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament.

August 22, 1567 - James Stewart, Earl of Moray and a half-brother of Mary Queen of Scots, proclaimed Regent of Scotland.

August 23, 1305 - [William Wallace](#) executed.

August 24, 1482 - [Berwick on Tweed](#) finally ceded to England (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times.

August 28, 1296 - Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the [Ragman Roll](#).

I look forward to seeing you at the Winter Dance Nights and the Winter 'Family' Ceilidh.

Sláinte

Reggie McNeill
Chieftain
St Andrew Society of W.A.