



1938 St Andrew Society of WA 2023 **Celebrating 85th Anniversary**

The St Andrew Society of WA is delighted to be celebrating its 85th anniversary this year. Throughout its existence it has been helping to preserve and promote Scottish culture in Perth and throughout the state. Membership has ebbed and flowed over the 85 years but despite the lean years and generation diversity it is great that we are still a strong society with a membership of over 150.

From its inception in 1938 the main purpose of the Society was to celebrate St Andrew's Day (Scotland's National Day) with a black tie dinner and a line-up of distinguished guests. Over the years the Society has evolved from an annual St Andrew's Day only celebration to include a Burns Supper, Ceilidhs and other social events all encapsulating our national forms of dancing, singing and entertainment. It is encouraging to see folk of all ages come along and have fun nights.

During the early years of the Society the chief office bearer was called the President. Over its 85 year history the Society has had a total of fifty five presidents / chieftains with many of our very early chief office bearers (up until the early 1980's) serving just one year.

Like many other St Andrew Societies around the world we pride ourselves on being a welcoming and inviting society, be you Scots or not, and encourage everyone to enjoy themselves with us.

Some of the changes we have in place for this year are new venues for both our St Andrew's Day Ball and our Burns Supper. More information will be released on our website and social media pages as we get into more detail. We are looking forward to seeing you all this year and celebrating this milestone.

Reggie McNeill

Chieftain

St Andrew Society of W.A.

Another Great Burns Night

Burns Supper 2023

How good it was to be back in the Grand River Ballroom of the Pan Pacific hotel. The Golden Ballroom may have its grandeur and opulence but the ambiance of the Grand River Ballroom with its wall of windows looking out onto the Swan River and South Perth beyond is more informal and colloquial .

This year's Burns Supper was one of the best ever and was over in the blink of an eye. Speaking with many members and guests on the night they all agreed, and acknowledged the work done by the committee was a credit to the Society. The Pan Pacific staff were exemplary not only during the night but during the day leading up to the event. I never heard so many make such great comments about the food.

We were delighted to have as our guests Tina Redshaw, the new British Consulate-General to WA, plus Linda Miles, Senior Trade Specialist of the Scottish Development International. Tina arrived in Perth in December 2022, so this was her first opportunity to get out and meet Scots in Perth, see them celebrate and join in a few of the dances. Both had a great time and vowed to be back at future events.

The night commenced with a warm and welcoming address from our chieftain, a self-introduction by the British Consulate-General followed by the address 'To A Haggis' by Ken Suttie and the 'Immortal Memory' by Eoin Kennedy interspersed with a couple of dances. The 'formal' part of the night was concluded with a toast to the Lassies and Laddies by Alan Tervit and Adrienne Knocker and capped off with an amusing and entertaining reading of Burns poem 'Tam O'Shanter' by Doug Gillespie plus a Burns poem from Ken Suttie, 'Tae a Mouse'. The night concluded with a great selection of Scottish Country dances which had most of the room up dancing and culminated with 'Auld Lang Syne and 'The Australian National Anthem' in celebration of Australia Day.

Overall, it was a great night enjoyed by everyone I had the opportunity to speak with, and they did not want it to come to an end. Congratulations goes to our vice chieftain and the committee for all their hard work throughout the year and for making the night such a success.

Below is a selection of photos from the night. All photos are on our website.





2023 Committee

Meet the Committee

Our annual AGM was held in the Irish Club, Subiaco on Friday 17th February. Despite numbers being lower than expected it was a cordial and satisfying night. It was good to see a number of our new members attend for the first time. We said farewell to two of our 2022 committee and welcomed two new members onto the 2023 committee.

Alka and Nicola both decided not to seek re-election and stood down due to work and family commitments. The Society membership and friends thanked them for all for the hard work they put into the committee that made 2022 a successful and enjoyable year for all who attended the events. Alan Tervit and Lisa Hollingworth were elected to the committee.

The outgoing committee offered a free drinks voucher and a 'door prize' raffle ticket to all who attended. Two door prizes were won by Suzie Costello and Adrienne Knocker

The new committee for 2023 are:

Reggie Mc Neill (Chieftain), Mark Wimshurst (Vice-Chieftain), Carol Smith (Secretary), Eoin Kennedy (Treasurer), Douglas Melville (Immediate Past Chieftain) and Darian Ferguson, Tom McAlister, Brian McMurdo, Alan Tervit, Adrienne Knocker, Lisa Hollingworth, all committee.

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 to renew your membership before time runs out. At our annual AGM last month a proposal to amend Rule 9(b) in Part 3, Division 1 and Rule 13(4) in Part 4 Division 2 of the constitution by deleting 'within the last 12 months' and substituting with 'within 3 months of the fees becoming due' was passed collectively by the financial members in attendance on the night.

This means that the renewal forms on our website will go dark on 1st May each year and not go live again until early January the following year. The committee however will look at applications on a case by case basis. New membership will remain open until the 31st October each year. However, new members will be reminded that no matter when they join, their membership will be up for renewal in February of the following year.

Membership is a yearly subscription which runs from AGM to AGM and is only \$30. We have held this price for a number of years and are happy to do so for another year. If you join now you will get discount on tickets for 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

2023 – 2024 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 13th May. Details have been posted on our website and will be on our social media pages very soon. Tickets will be available from early April so expect an email from our secretary soon with details.

Events that have confirmed dates are:

Chieftain's Ceilidh Dance Practice 2023: 18th April, 2nd May and 9th May. All will be at the Irish Club starting at 7.30pm. See website for details. There is a gap between the 1st and 2nd week. This is due to ANZAC Day being on a Tuesday this year.

Chieftain' Ceilidh 2023: Saturday 13th May. Yokine Bowling Club starting at 6.30pm. See website for details.

Winter 'Family' Ceilidh 2023: Sunday 2nd July. Irish Club starting at 2.00pm. We are hoping this will be a day and time that will suit most young families.

Gin and Whisky Tasting 2023: Friday 1st September. Irish Club starting at 7.30pm. More details will appear on our website closer to the time. Mark the date.

St Andrew Day Ball Dance Practice 2023: 26th September through to 21st November. All will be in the Irish Club starting at 7.30pm. Details will be on our website later in the year. Mark the dates.

St Andrew Day Ball 2023: Saturday 25th November. New location and details will be on our website soon. Mark the date.

Burns Supper Dance Practice 2024: 9th January 16th 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 2024: Thursday 25th January. Location and details will be on our website later in the year but do mark the date in your calendar.

House of Tartan

The House of Tartan are your local specialists in all areas of kilt hire and sales, offering kiltmaking, kilt outfit hire – both partial and full outfits, kilt alterations and adjustments, dry cleaning as well as a range of giftware and other Scottish accessories. There are over 400 kilts available in hire, with 5 different styles of outfits to choose from and if you are purchasing your outfit, your choice is much more extensive, including the option of tailor-made jackets and waistcoats from a variety of fabrics and tweeds.

Established in 1995, The House of Tartan has grown and expanded into the amazing shop it is today, with the support of the local Scottish community here in Western Australia and is now owned and run by Greg and Jennifer McAdam.

Greg and Jennifer and the staff at The House of Tartan are trained in measuring you for purchase or hire, as well as assisting in finding your clan and tartan. With sample books available you can have confidence in your purchase, and if there are any difficult questions they will contact the Scottish mills or the Scottish tartans authority for confirmation. Greg and Jennifer also have experience with woven to order tartans as well as tartan design and registration, following the success of the Spirit of Australia and Spirit of Pride tartans.



Head instore soon, to feel like you've been transported back to Scotland.

We are pleased to announce that The House of Tartan will be attending our per-Burns dance practice. Jennifer will be available to assist anyone who wishes to get measured up for a kilt to wear or need to buy accessories such as a shirt, bow

tie, socks, sash, or the likes.



Meet the Team at the House of Tartan

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.

World Whisky Day 2023



Don't forget, **Saturday 20th May 2023** is World Whisky Day (and the Chieftain's birthday).

Why not get together with a group of friends and raise a dram to celebrate the water of life.

The Thistle

Scotland's National Flower

The thistle is the flower of Scotland and one of its most recognisable symbols. Since King Alexander III, it has been Scotland's national emblem.

A Legendary Story

No-one is truly sure of how the thistle came to be Scotland's national flower. A well-known story though attributes the thistle being chosen as the emblem of Scotland to the Battle of Largs (a coastal town in Ayrshire) in the 13th century. A Norse army journeyed to Scotland, intent on conquering the land. The legend has it that they left their ships under cover of night and were planning to ambush the sleeping Scottish Clansmen. In order to be as quiet as possible, the Norsemen had removed their shoes. However as they crept across the countryside, one of them stepped onto a thorny thistle. His cry of pain roused the Scots, and the warriors rose up and defeated the invaders.

The Thistle of Scotland is the oldest recorded National Flower.

Silver coins in Scotland and later Britain have long featured a thistle, and the first coins to do so were as early as 1474, issued by King James III in Scotland. The most recent design to feature the thistle plant was the British 5p coin (which stopped being minted in 2008), which was impressed with 'The Badge of Scotland, a thistle royally crowned'.

In 1687 King James VII and II founded the Order of the Thistle. Its heraldic emblem was, of course, the thistle. Its full title is the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle (second only to the Most Noble Order of the Garter in precedence), and it is an order of chivalry, the highest honour Scotland can bestow on an individual. The motto of the Order, *Nemo me impune lacessit*, 'No one provokes me with impunity', pairs well with the prickly thistle which cannot be picked without difficulty.



The symbol of the thistle can also be seen in combination with other national flowers and symbols such the flag gifted to Falkland Palace in 1950, to mark the 300-year history of the Scots Guards. The emblem represents the Crown and the rank of Colonel, showing the Scottish thistle, English rose and Irish shamrock with the words *Unita Fortior*, 'stronger in unity'. The military colours were presented to George VI when he was Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards from 1932–7.

The Thistle Flower

Thistles can be found right across Scotland, from the Lowlands to the Highlands, and even on the islands! There are a number of different types which grow in the UK, and a variety of thistles can be found in the wild around Scotland, the most common being the spear thistle, the creeping thistle, and the marsh thistle.

It is the native spear thistle, *Cirsium vulgare*, which is thought to have been used as the national emblem. They are abundant in Scotland, and the imagery on coins, flags and other symbols through history closely matches this particular variety.



A Popular Symbol



The thistle is now well ingrained into the cultural identity of Scotland, and you can find it everywhere. Amongst other things, it is the logo of Scottish Rugby, adorns the crest of Scotland's national football team, is a core component of the Police Scotland logo, and is a popular choice for any number of Scottish businesses.

The thistle is responsible for one of the finest and influential poems in the Scottish literary cannon, Hugh MacDiarmid's *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle*, an epic, stream-of-consciousness poem that touches on everything from the state of the nation and the mysteries of the universe to the wondrous joy that is whisky.

For visitors to Scotland, a keepsake decorated with a thistle flower is often a must-have!

Thistle plant extract can also be found in beauty products, particularly soaps and face creams, as in recent years it has been found to have anti-inflammatory properties and be a beneficial ingredient in skincare.



I look forward to seeing you all at the dance classes and the Chieftain's Ceilidh in April and May and celebrating what we hope will be a special year for the Society. Wishing all a great time at both

Sláinte

Reggie McNeill
Chieftain
St Andrew Society of W.A.