



Mt Barker Caledonian Society

Thistle



**A Very Happy Christmas and Hogmanay
to all our Readers**

December, 2012



Chief's Chatter



To our Members and friends, wholesome greetings. Betty and I have returned from our overseas trip, glad to have had the experience, but a little battered by the flying!

The trip was from Paris to Prague, via the rivers Rhine, Main and Danube on an APT cruise. The ship is a floating hotel, and, the food and service so good; we put on weight as a result! Hopefully, the kilt still fits!

Travelling is an excellent way to understand the lives of others and for the world to become just that bit smaller, bringing many cultures just a little bit closer and creating a more peaceful world. While we were travelling, we did not have to show our passports as we crossed borders, nor change currencies, and we got by with English as the universal language. In the Czech Republic, where we did change some currency, they are desperate to get the Euro as soon as they can, and we still did not have to show our passports. The strictest place for passport and customs is Australia, which is comforting in a way, but disappointing in another.

Despite the universal Euro and lack of border concerns, the local people still manage to maintain the links to culture and traditions and are very proud of it!

In the Czech Republic, we were reminded of their Celtic background, with music and songs that sounded like we were in Scotland or the Isles, even producing some bagpipes!

Notice, no blow stick!

Tradition is something we are well aware of — the comment being made that the 'colonies are more Scottish than Scotland' However, it behoves us to keep the traditions alive.

To that end, I am appealing to you all to lend a hand, to roll up your sleeves and to volunteer to help at our Highland Gathering. Decide today that you will be there and helping for at least some of the day — setting up on Saturday, manning the car park or gates, or packing up, it is through involvement that the satisfaction comes and we all benefit and the traditions live on. Ring Sonya, Lorraine or myself and "put your name down". See you there!

To our Pipe Band, our best wishes as they march through the Pageant Season and then look forward to a rest before they prepare for the year ahead.

To those of you, who are unwell, may the spirits of good health visit you soon, and to those who may have lost loved ones, our sympathies, and be supported in the fact that those who have passed have made their mark on life.



To all our members, the very best wishes for the Christmas Season, may all your wishes be rainbows.

Peter Stewart

Chief ✘



Dates for 2013



17 February — 2013 Gathering



Band Notes

As the weather warms up, the lads and lassies of the Mt Barker Pipes and Drums have been out and about, dusting off those marching shoes in preparation for the 2012 Christmas pageant season!

The Band performed at each night of the Royal Show, which required nine straight nights of amazing effort from all the Band members. It was great to see so many of us in the Massed Band numbers, as well as catching up with people from the other bands. Many thanks go to the Society for funding our purchase of Inverness capes for the show; even though the extraordinary happened and we managed to stay dry every single night (something that's never happened at a Royal Show before) we appreciated having them as windbreaks the first few windy nights!

We also performed at the 2012 Adelaide Proms (pictured below) with the Adelaide Australian Army Band and the Metropolitan Male Choir, playing some rousing tunes as well as accompanying the wonderful Scott's Highland Dancers — we even managed to march despite being weighed down by metres of streamers!

However, we have also been working hard for the 2012-13 pipe band competition year, which effectively began at the Tanunda Band contest on 20 October. Combining the concert and pipe



band contests, the Band firstly competed in a full street march competition before taking on the MSR and Medley elements. With weekend practices leading up to the day, a great huge from everyone on the day (and Jem's wonderful tuning) we had a really great sound and demonstrated months of work on the tunes over winter. Unfortunately, the other bands have been working hard too, so we came home with second place, however, we are already on the track to developing something amazing for the Mount Barker Highland Gathering contest.




As we start to build up our resistance to the effects of tinsel and Christmas carols, the Band members have been keeping busy in this spring season with piobaireachd contests (congratulations to **Gabrielle** and **Anna Doecke** for winning second and third place respectively in the RU Brown Silver chanter unrestricted contest), and the beginning of the serious wedding season!



We are also incredibly grateful to **Pat** and **Lorraine Scott** (and their Green Thumb Crew) for participating in the 2012 Open Garden scheme, nominating the Band to receive the proceeds and raising some quite considerable (and very welcome) funds for the Band. The crowd were amazed by the beauty of the Scott's magnificent garden and they were wonderfully serenaded by **Gabrielle** (pictured left) playing in the garden!

Now with daylight savings (and an increasingly warm practice hall) the Band will be taking the opportunity to "share the love" and perform outdoors — please feel free to come along to the Hahndorf park near the hall to hear us on a Wednesday. We will also be performing once a month in Mount Barker to raise interest in the Band and recruit new members — so watch this space for details and please let us know if you can support us by handing out information, water or simply start some clapping along! 🍷



PIPE MAJOR

up to £2040 p.a.

plus gratuity and other allowances

Fully qualified Pipe Major required to instruct, drill and supervise a pipe band of the Southern Police College in Ikeja, near Lagos.

The appointment will be for two tours of 18-24 months in the first instance with prospects of re-engagement. Generous U.K. leave; children's allowances; low income tax rates; free air/sea passages for wife and children; car loan schemes; free medical and dental service; low rental furnished accommodation provided. Gratuity at the rate of £150 p.a. on completion.

For further details and information on life in Nigeria to-day, write stating age, experience and qualifications, quoting Ref. S.4/APP, to the Recruitment Attache,

NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION
Nigeria House, Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2.

From a 1964 copy of the "Soldier" Magazine

Membership Matters

Libby Day and family had a real thrill recently when Libby's son, **Noel**, mad a trip home from England for Libby's Surprise Party. A great time was had by all.

Lesley Anderson is making sure her trousers stay up by wearing two belts to work!



Congratulations to **Damon Potter** who has just become engaged to **Emma Matters**. Damon is the son of Gathering Coordinator, **Sonya Millar** and step dad, **Scott**, and son of **Glynn Potter** and step mum, **Kerri**.

A photo of **Scotty** having fun with a giant leprechaun on her recent trip to Ireland. We also heard that **Pat** sang a very nice version of "Molly Malone" whilst dining in an Irish pub. Apparently "Molly Malone" is a favourite tune of theirs.

Hurry up and get well to our friends, **Molly** and **Jim Dougherty**; both are having a few health problems and we really miss seeing them up in the Hills.

Congratulations to Past Chief **Roger Scott** who has just celebrated his 60th birthday. We believe that he and everyone else had a fantastic night around the bonfire, and his Address to the Haggis was very well done!

Donations are being sought for the Thistle Pick — so out with all those unwanted Christmas presents or off to the shops for some goodies to donate. If you would rather, you can also do a cash donation and the Thistle Pick ladies will put the money to good use. Ring **Scotty** on 8391 1361 if you have items to donate.

Our good wishes to **Pat Scott** who has just had a knee repair — first time we have seen **Pat** slow down! He has also had two cataract operations. Get it all over at once is **Pat's** motto and we know he'll be fighting fit in no time.

Also on the Cataract list are **Eunice Porteous**, (wife of our Editor, **David Porteous**) and **Ken Larwood**. A speedy recovery to both of you. **Ken** has also been in hospital with a bad bout of 'flu. His wife, **Sandy**, is also recovering from the 'flu.

On the subject of **Eunice Porteous**, she recently had a fall and broker her hip. At the time of writing, she is in a nursing home and, short of a miracle, may have to spend quite a long time there.

Congratulations to our Secretary/Piper — **Mel Inglis** who won an award at her recent hockey finals. **Mel's** award for fair and consistently good play is well deserved. Well done **Mel**.

Our Pipe Sergeant, **Caitlin Fry**, has been out and about playing for the Governor. Where will she turn up next! Don't forget, if you are in Strathalbyn, pop in and see **Caitlin** (and **Al** if he's home) in their lovely book shop there. There are lots of books on Scotland!


We believe **Scotty** had an interesting experience on one of her recent walks — quite the lost sole, right **Scotty**?

Scotty and **Pat** have once again had an Open Garden on 27/28 October. All money raised from this event goes to support our Pipes and Drums. So, I hope you came along and helped this worthy cause. The garden is looking lovely and the jam and scones were pretty good, too!

Have you got your costumes ready for Celtic Night on 10 November? You still have time to make borrow or hire an outfit. It's a great night, so get into the spirit and a have a lot of fun. If you ever had a hankering to be a medieval lady or knight, here's your big chance! 🏰

Haggis Recipe

Highogmanay is the time to eat Haggis.

Below is a recipe from over one hundred years ago — 1890, to be precise. Why not give it a try? 

By Mrs. Black of The
Glasgow School of Cooking.

Scotch Haggis

The famous Caledonian Dish.

One Sheep's Stomach, a sheep's pluck, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Suet, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Oatmeal, 1 onion, pepper & salt.

Procure a sheep's pluck and Stomach bag; wash the pluck well, & put it on to boil, allowing the windpipe to hang out of the pot so that any impurities will come out by it; boil gently from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours.

Get the Stomach bag well cleaned by butcher, wash thoroughly & put on in cold water to boil, (just bring to boil which will cause it to contract) take it out of pot immediately, wash & scrape it well, stay in salted water till needed.

Mince the best part of the lungs and heart, leaving out all gristly parts; grate the best parts of the liver & put all into a large basin. Toast well the oatmeal & add to contents in basin.

Chop suet finely, add a middle-sized onion finely chopped up, two teaspoonsful of salt & one of pepper, a breakfast-cupful of liquor in which pluck was boiled to moisten & mix the whole. Now take up the Stomach bag, fat or smooth side inside & fill it up, but not quite full; sew up the opening & put in boiling water to boil gently for three hours. Prick the haggis several times with a darning needle to prevent bursting & put a plate under it to prevent it sticking to the bottom of pot.

Bonnie Dundee *By Hamish Brown*

John Graham of Claverhouse (pictured right) was born in 1648 near Perth. But the descendant of King Robert III will always be known as Bonnie Dundee, a clever moniker attached to him years later for his fighting spirit.

Claverhouse lived during a time of religious upheaval in Scotland. After attending St Andrews University, the handsome and devil-may-care cavalier embarked on a successful military career in the service of French King Louis XIV in the war with Holland.

On his return to Scotland around 1679, he was conferred the rank of captain by Charles II of Scotland, who had renounced the Covenants and duly sent Claverhouse to the country's south-west tasked with suppressing "seditious conventicles", the illegal Presbyterian meetings being held by Covenanters there.



The Black Bull Hotel, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, where Bonnie Dundee was stationed during his oppression of the Covenanters.

Setting up his headquarters at the Black Bull Hotel in Moffat (pictured left), he coordinated the systematic persecution and oppression of the Covenanters, rounding them up from the Galloway hills and escorting them to Edinburgh for imprisonment or execution. It was evidently a duty he carried out with enthusiasm, as he earned the nickname "The Bluidy Clavers" from the Covenanters.

Following the deposition of James II (James VII of Scotland) from the throne in 1689 during the so-called Glorious Revolution (which saw William of Orange take his place) Claverhouse, now with the title Viscount Dundee attached, quickly became active within the Jacobite movement, the campaign to restore a Stewart King to the throne. In reaction to a convention called in Edinburgh, he made for the Highlands to assemble a Jacobite army to participate in the numerous rebellions and risings

throughout Scotland, the most famous of which, and the one for which he is best remembered, was the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689.

William of Orange's government troops, primarily made up of Lowland Scots rather than English and led by Major General Hugh MacKay of Scourie, a Highlander himself, were making their way north when they were intercepted by Claverhouse's 2,000 strong Jacobite army at the dramatic pass of Killiecrankie in Highland Perthshire.

Claverhouse's Highlanders were outnumbered by almost two-to-one by an enemy armed with modern-day muskets. Surveying the opposing forces from the tactical high ground above the pass of Killiecrankie, Claverhouse waited for the sun to drop on 27 July, and that evening led the charge into a hail of musket fire. What the Jacobites lacked in firepower they made up for when it came to close combat, and soon the Government troops were being slaughtered in what was to be one of the last examples of a successful Highland Charge.

The battle was notorious for its savagery. Ian Lorn Macdonald, the bard of Keppoch stated





Blair Castle, a few miles north of Killiecrankie in Blair Atholl, where Bonnie Dundee's grave lies within St Bride's Kirk.

that "the red blood flowed in waves over the grass, and a thousand spades would be needed to level the graves of the enemy". The following day a Jacobite commander escorted his men back to view the corpse-strewn battlefield and they were horrified by what they had done. The losses were great on both sides, however, with the Jacobites losing a third of their numbers — their commander amongst them — meaning that Claverhouse's greatest victory would also prove to be his last stand, and he was carried from the field fatally wounded at the end of the battle.

It is thought that as he died he asked "How fares the fight?" and was told, "The day

goes well for the King, but I am sorry for your Lordship". To which he replied, "It matters less for me, seeing that the day goes well for my master". His hope for the cause was misplaced, however, as within a month the unsuccessful standoff at the battle of Dunkeld would effectively signal the end of the Jacobite movement.

Claverhouse's body was carried north to Blair Atholl kirkyard, Perthshire, where he lies in a vault in St Bride's Kirk (pictured right) within the grounds of Blair Castle. The Killiecrankie stone, a menhir in a field near the battlefield, is also known as Claverhouse's stone and is clearly viewable from the road through Killiecrankie. ✘



Entrance to the vault at St Bride's Kirk, where Bonnie Dundee was buried after he was killed leading his troops to victor at the Battle of Killiecrankie 27th July 1689

Stone of Destiny

On November 15, 1996, the Stone of Destiny, on which Scottish kings had been crowned since time immemorial, was brought back to Scotland 700 years after the army of King Edward I of England carted it off to Westminster Abbey in London.

Now safely ensconced in Edinburgh Castle, the 152 kg rock popularly known outside Scotland as the "Stone of Scone" (pronounced "scoon") has joined the other Scottish royal regalia — crown, sceptre, sword and jewels — in a closely-guarded museum (pictured above).

The origin of this famous Stone is shrouded in myth. According to legend, it came from the Holy Land, where Jacob supposedly used it as a pillow in Biblical times. Transported through Egypt, Sicily and Spain, it was taken to Ireland, where Saint Patrick himself blessed this rock for use in crowning the kings of the emerald isle. It is certainly possible that the Stone may have been used in the coronation ceremonies of the Irish Kingdom of Dalriada from roughly 400 AD until 850 AD, when Kenneth I, the 36th King of Dalriada, moved his capital of his expanding empire from Ireland to Scone in what is now Perthshire, Scotland. The Stone was moved several times after that, and used on the remote, western island of Iona, then in Dunadd, in Dunstaffnage and finally in Scone again for the installation of Dalriadic monarchs.



The Honours of Scotland

The Stone was last used in a coronation in Scotland in 1292, when John Balliol was proclaimed King. Four years later, in 1296, the English monarch, Edward I (infamous as the "hammer of the Scots," and nemesis of Scottish national hero William Wallace) invaded Scotland. Among the booty that Edward's army removed was the legendary Stone, which the English king apparently regarded as an important symbol of Scottish sovereignty. The present Coronation Throne was made to house the stone in 1301.

According to the treaty of Northampton of 1328, peace was restored between the warring neighbours, and King Edward III of England promised to return the Stone to its rightful owners forthwith. But somehow the English never got around to fulfilling their end of the bargain, and the Stone of Destiny remained in London until British Prime Minister John Major, with the approval of Her Majesty the Queen, arranged to right this persistent, historical oversight in 1996.

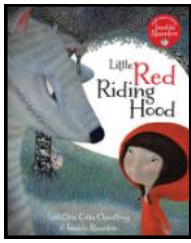
But is the stone that finally rests securely in Edinburgh Castle the real Stone of Destiny? After so many centuries, it is impossible to know. According to one legend, the Stone never left Ireland at all. One tale suggests that the original Stone of Destiny was white marble, carved with decorative figures — in no way resembling the plain slab of yellow sandstone with a single Latin cross carved on it that sat beneath the throne in Westminster Abbey for these past seven centuries. To make matters more confusing, there may have been several copies made down through the ages! It is entirely within the realm of possibility that some canny Scots fobbed off a fake on Edward I, seven hundred years ago, hiding the original coronation stone where it would never be found. One story, particularly satisfying to Scottish nationalists with long memories, claims that Edward actually took the rough rock used to hold down the cover of the cess-pit at Scone Castle, and that subsequent English monarchs have ceremoniously seated themselves on this medieval plumbing accessory for their coronations ever since 1308! At least one acknowledged copy of the "Westminster" Stone exists, on public display at beautiful Scone Palace in Perthshire, where it serves as a favourite roost for the elegant peacocks and camera-toting tourists who stroll through the grounds.

Are there additional copies? On Christmas Day, 1950, four Scottish students, inspired by nationalist sentiment, heisted the Stone from under the Coronation Throne in Westminster Abbey, dumped it in the trunk of their car, and drove off with it. About four months later, the rock was recovered from Arbroath Abbey, where it had been deposited by the stone-nappers. Or was it? Rumours have always persisted that there was plenty of time for the students to fashion a replica to be "returned" to Westminster, while the original Stone was spirited north to a secret location in Scotland. One seemingly far-fetched theory even suggested that the actual stone was hiding in plain sight for decades — that the purported replica on public display at Scone Palace was in fact the real Stone of Destiny!

Only the thieves would know for sure. Evidence that the Stone was in fact returned to Scotland for safe keeping of the Church of Scotland is to be found in Ian R. Hamilton's book, *No Stone Unturned*, an autobiographical account of how, when and why the Stone was heisted.

Lingering doubts about the provenance of the Stone are unlikely to be resolved: fables are always much more fun than mere facts. But few would debate the symbolic significance of restoring what is at least presumed to be the original Stone of Destiny to Scotland.

Most Scots were pleased, by this turn of events. Technically, under British law the Crown still "owns" the Stone — the assumption apparently being that, after seven centuries, possession is ten tenths of the law. However, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth I (of Scotland) has decided to lend it permanently to her Scottish subjects, on the understanding that it can be temporarily taken back to London whenever it might be required for future coronations. The last time the Stone was used was in 1953 for the formal Coronation ceremony of Queen Elizabeth II, who had succeeded to the throne the previous year on the death of her father King George VI. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



Book Review

With Christmas coming here's a Children's book .

Little Red Riding Hood loves to visit her Granny's cottage in the forest. Her

mother warns her to go straight to Granny's, but when she meets a handsome grey wolf, she doesn't see the harm in stopping for a chat.

Scottish storyteller Lari Don's retelling of this well-loved tale is lively and exciting with a wolf who is just scary enough for younger children to enjoy. From "booksfromscotland.com" it is just £5.94 plus postage etc. ❀



Jest for a Larf!

Hamish walks into the Bank in London and tells the manager that he is going away on business for two weeks and needs to borrow £5,000.

The manager asks him for some form of security for the loan, so Hamish hands over the keys and documents of a new Ferrari parked in front of the bank. As everything checks out, the manager accepts the car as collateral.



The manager enjoys a good laugh at the rough looking Scotsman for using a £120,000 Ferrari as collateral against a £5000 loan. The car is then parked in the bank's garage.

Hamish returns, repays the £5,000 and the interest, which comes to £15.41.

The manager says, "We are very happy to have had your business, but we are a little puzzled. We checked you out and found that you are a multi-millionaire. Why would you bother to borrow £5,000?"

Hamish replies, "Where else in London can I park my Ferrari for two weeks for only £15.41 and expect it to be there when I return."

Ah — the mind of a Scotsman! ❀

~ Contact List ~

Society

Chief

Peter Stewart 8536 4014

Senior Chieftain

Nil

Junior Chieftain

Di Franklin 8188 0261

Immediate Past Chief & Treasurer

Roger Scott 8537 5202

Secretary

Mel Inglis 0415 093 519

Function Booking Officer

Sarah McInness 8537 5003

Gathering Coordinator

Sonya Millar 8389 6741

Celts on the Green Coordinator

Tim Ferguson 8387 2817

Band

Pipe Major

Tim Ferguson 8387 2817
0412 336 763

Band Manager

Martin Ricketts 8389 1322
E-mail: bandmanager@adam.com.au

All Correspondence

ALL Correspondence to be addressed to:

PO Box 998

MOUNT BARKER S.A. 5251

Society Website

www.mtbarkerscots.org

Celts on the Green Website

www.celtsonthegreen.com.au

Thistle Editor

David Porteous 8379 1943
E-mail: daibhidhp@tpg.com.au

Mount Barker Caledonian Society sincerely
thanks

~ RE/MAX Hills & Country ~

for printing this issue of the Thistle



Mount Barker Caledonian Society Inc

2012 — 2013 Membership

Application for Membership

Membership renewal

(Please tick appropriate box)

I, the undersigned, desire to be nominated as a member of the Mount Barker Caledonian Society Inc., and agree, if elected, to be bound by the Rules of the Society.

Given Names: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____



Suburb: _____ Occupation: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____ Country of Birth: _____

Phone No.: _____ Mobile No.: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____

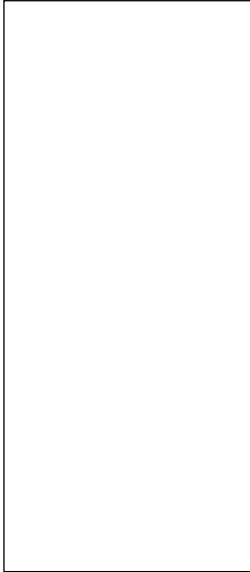
	MBCS Adult Membership	\$15.00 p.a.
	MBCS Family Membership	\$25.00 p.a.

Proposed by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Date Approved	Member No.	Member Type	Payment	Receipt No.

Please return to: The Secretary Mt. Barker Caledonian Society, PO Box 998 Mount Barker SA 5251

If undeliverable please return to:
The Mount Barker Caledonian Society Inc.
PO Box 998
MOUNT BARKER S.A. 5251



The Origin of Halloween

Some historians trace the origin of Halloween back to the Celtic people of pre-medieval Europe. The Celts of Ireland, Britain, and France divided their year into halves: the “light half,” roughly consisting of the spring and summer months when days are longer and nights are shorter, and the “dark half,” roughly the months when days are shorter and nights are longer. Celts celebrated the end of the light half of the year with the festival of Samhain” (pronounced sah-wen), which they observed during the October/November lunar cycle. Following the Roman conquest of Britain, British Celts adopted the Julian calendar and fixed the date of Samhain’s observance to November 1.

Costumes and treats were a traditional part of the Celtic celebration. And while Samhain began as a strictly Celtic festival, it is probable that aspects of Roman religion were incorporated into its observance over the four centuries of Roman rule in Britain (43-410 AD). For example, Pomona was the Roman goddess of fruit trees and gardens. Her symbol was an apple. Some scholars believe this may explain how candied apples and bobbing for apples became associated with Halloween

Pope Boniface IV reconsecrated the Pantheon in Rome on May 13, 609 AD, renaming it the “Church of St. Mary and the Martyrs,” he established that anniversary as a day of celebratory remembrance for all of the Church’s martyrs. Pope Gregory III later changed the date of remembrance to November 1 when he dedicated a chapel in St. Peter’s Basilica to “all saints.” November 1 became All Saints Day, otherwise known as All Hallow’s Day. The night before became All Hallow’s Eve (“Halloween” being a colloquial contraction of that phrase). While Halloween began as a localized celebration, Pope Gregory IV extended its observance to all of Christendom in the 9th Century AD. 🍁