

**Mt Barker Caledonian Society**

# **Thistle**



**February, 2013**

## Chief's Report

January 2013



**V**ery best wishes and a Happy New Year from the Stewart household to all of our members and friends. May 2013 be a year of success and satisfaction in all you do.

That time of the year is almost upon us; the Highland Gathering! Like 'Uncle Sam', we need YOU! Either, setting up on the Saturday, running parts on the Sunday, or pulling down at the end, the more the merrier!

Now, I know that some of you are members of other Societies, and have their interests to meet, but the Gathering is for every Society, band, dancing class and Clan in SA and beyond, and so we would appreciate a couple of hours of each member's time to lighten the load of the overloaded few. Don't just come to the Gathering as a spectator, help out in some way and you will gain more from the experience.

We start setting up on the Saturday morning, around 7am and work starts at the oval on Sunday around that time as well.

We need you to volunteer some time in these areas:

Car park and gates — phone Betty on 8536 4014 — Gates open for stall holders at 7:30am, gates close at 4:30. We have some volunteers from Lions helping out, but there are 3 gates to man in the morning and two for much of the day. Tickets need to be sold and collected, programmes distributed and cars directed to parks. Busiest times are from 9:30 til 2pm.

Morning and Afternoon teas — phone Lorraine on 839 11361 — All organised; we just need help in the kitchen to prepare, serve and clean up, plus some help with the 'top table' lunch.

Thistle Pick and Members tent — phone Lorraine — Help to sell 'thistles' and Society souvenirs, promote membership and answer queries about the Society.

Grounds — phone Dennis on 85385067 — Everything from setting up the dance platform, distributing trestles, putting up tents, driving in droppers, running bunting, placing power boards and a whole host of 'little' jobs that need our attention, particularly on the Saturday and early Sunday.

And if that is not enough — phone Sonya — 8389 6741 — Sonya will nominate a job for you as the only one who could possibly do it!

If every able bodied member put in a little time, the Gathering would run very easily and the 'overloaded few' would not be! So, let's hear from you! Our next Gathering Sub-committee meeting is on Thursday 31 January at 7:30pm at Past Chief Lorraine's place; let's have lots of good news!

On another aspect of the Gathering: It was decided at the last Directors' meeting that we would institute a 'hot weather/high fire risk policy'.

It is as follows: *If the forecast temperature, as given at 6:55am on ABC 891 on the Wednesday before, is 38° or above, the Gathering will be cancelled.* We have a duty of care to all our members, bands, dancers and guests, and the Rec Centre is a refuge during “Catastrophic” fire danger days, so is ‘off limits’ in those conditions. The website will inform all of this condition should it be necessary, along with press releases to all radio stations servicing the region. We sincerely hope that these circumstances do not arise, but we must be prepared.

Have you ever wondered what goes on at Directors’ meetings? Well, now you have the opportunity to find out! I am issuing an open invitation for members to attend meetings if they so wish. They are held in the ‘Lower Room’ at the rear of the Mt Barker Town Hall from 7:30 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month. You are welcome to come and listen in.

On another note: We have a display of memorabilia in the Lower Room, which includes photos, news clippings, tickets and awards of the Society and Band since their inception. We would like to improve these with proper display security and consideration for their historical significance. Also, we wish to prepare “Honour Boards” that could be put on display at our functions, containing the names of Chiefs, Drum Majors and Pipe Majors who have served the Society. Life Members could also be recognised. These items will be discussed at our March meeting — if you could contribute in some way, please be there!

And so on to our other functions for the year: there will be some ‘spicing up’ of the functions to make them more appealing to a greater audience and thus bring in more patrons, making our functions better social events as well as more profitable. Watch this space!

Hoist up the kilt, slip on the brogues and see you (working) at the Gathering!

Yours aye,

*Peter Stewart*

Chief 

**Diarise these dates NOW.**



## Dates for 2013



**17 February — Gathering**



**11 May — Ceilidh**



**20 July — Mid-Winter Christmas**



**August — Annual General Meeting**



**8 November — Celtic Night**



## Band Notes

It's already been a very happy new year for the lads and lassies of the Mount Barker Pipe Band after taking a brief break over Christmas and New Year — and boy, did they need it!

The Celtic Night was a great success, with the Band featuring the amazing talent of our younger players — throughout the year they have been performing and winning awards all over South Australia as well as interstate, so we were very fortunate to have had them perform for us at the Celtic Night.

The Christmas season is always very busy with performances at various Christmas pageants throughout Adelaide and the Hills — in fact, the Band played at Murray Bridge, Stirling, Blackwood, Norwood, Goolwa, Woodside, Lobethal and, of course, Mount Barker (below)! (A couple of players helped other bands out in the Credit Union pageant too, just in case you thought you were imagining things when you saw Big Al on TV...). We were very lucky with the weather, and it was great to catch up with friends old and new, such as Dave the Drum Major!

The Band also performed at the 412 Cadet ceremonial parade at the Woodside Barracks, impressing many with the music and drill that certainly matched the level expected of that military occasion!

Currently, many Band members are interstate at the Australian Pipe Band Association Summer School for piping and drumming — an intensive camp to help players develop their skills, meet with their interstate counterparts and return with some valuable knowledge for the Band as a whole (and also fit in a fair bit of fun, too!)

But it hasn't all been hard work (although much of it has been) — after the Mount Barker pageant, the Band held its annual barbeque, which was a vital opportunity to recognise and thank the Band members for volunteering so much time and effort over the year, especially leading up to Christmas where Band members give up virtually every weekend to perform and represent the Society. This hard work has certainly paid off with great success, such as at the Australian Pipe Band championships. (It was also an important opportunity to chill out and watch CFS volunteers work the Ferguson barbeque!)

We especially congratulate those who received awards on the day as our most improved players — although it is always very hard to determine who has been the most improved as everyone has made such a concerted effort throughout the year. Our most improved piper was **Anna Doecke** and our most improved drummer was **Tim Robinson**.

We are now entering a very demanding part of the year in our preparations for the Mount Barker Pipe Band Competition at which will be held at the Highland Gathering, especially as it will be the South Australian State Championships. Band members will be putting in extra practices within the district, so feel free to come along and hear what we are working on. You can also come and hear us at the Port Adelaide Caledonian Society's Burns Supper on 19 January. We look forward to seeing 🍷 you there.



## Member Happenings

**S**adly, our Member Correspondent has been a bit unwell herself of late — most recently with some rather nasty teething problems, potentially resulting from a rather nasty virus she inherited from person or persons unknown. Notwithstanding, she has let your Editor know of at least some of the latest happenings amongst our members.

Firstly to “herself” (**Scotty**) we wish you a speedy and complete recovery from your gummy problem so that you can happily and healthily rejoin the ranks. Also to your bestest friend and the significant person in your life, **Pat**, who has a wee problem seeing things as they should auchter be. Good luck with Mr Fixit, Pat; let’s hope you can get things back in focus again soon.

Our Editor, **David Porteous**’ significant other, who broke (shattered would be a better word) her hip in September last year, ended up spending over six weeks in the Royal Adelaide Hospital followed by a further eight weeks in respite care at Glenrose Court Nursing Home. Regrettably, **Eunice**’s recovery has not been as smooth as we would have wished, and she still suffers a lot of pain and is now more or less a permanent resident in Glenrose — at least until she is able to build up enough strength to lift herself in and out of chairs etc. Husband, **David**, in trying to cope with her at home pre formal release, damaged his shoulder thus leading to the “permanency” situation.

On a brighter note, Past Chief **Roger Scott** and his good lady, **Ann** have a new little bundle of joy in the person of **Emily Sherman** courtesy of their daughter and her husband. Emily was born on 20 November last year.

It must be the Chiefly thing to do because our current Chief, **Peter Stewart** and his good lady, **Betty** have also added to their family. Peter’s son, **Andrew**, and his lovely wife, **Lana**, presented Andrew’s parents with a wee lass, **Ruby Joan**, on 18 December, last.

Congratulations to both sets of Parents and, of course, the Grand Parents. “Twas indeed a guid start to the new year.

Another one on the not-so-well list is member **Ben Calcraft**. Ben used to play the grand old and somewhat brutal game of Rugby. Regrettably, he is now paying the price with a rather painfully arthritic shoulder — possibly thanks to an altercation with one of the All Blacks. We wish him a speedy recovery as well.

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## Celtic Night

**I**f you weren’t at the Celtic night on 10 November, last year, you missed a really enjoyable evening.



There was a good crowd in attendance and lots of Celtic outfits making it hard for the judges to pick the best.

The Chiefs of several of the

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One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of Honorary Life Membership to **Sonya Millar** by Chief **Peter Stewart** (pictured left) Sonya has undertaken a number of offices in the Society over many years, most recently as Gathering Coordinator. Clearly, the honour bestowed on her was very well deserved.



Congratulations, Sonya.

One more unusual slant on the proceedings was entertainment presented by a group of Irish dancers who performed several brackets for the enjoyment of those present.

Later, we returned to the more traditional entertainment presented by **Jeremiah Doecke** who presented some brilliant piping. Somewhat

later in the programme he was joined by some of his siblings. They are clearly a very talented family, not only in piping, but also in drumming. As members will have read in previous issues of the Thistle, the family have collected quite a number of trophies recently.



No Society social get-together would be complete without a wee bit of Highland dancing performed on this occasion by **Sam Ferguson's** fantastic troupe of dancers. They never fail to impress us and, as a Society, we are very lucky to have such a competent group more or less at our beck and call. Well done all. We look forward to when we will see you next time. Pictured left are **Sam Ferguson** (rear right) and some of her dancers.



The Haggis was piped in in traditional manner by **Caitlin Fry** and was then most ably addressed by **Tom Haigh** seen her in full flight watched by some rather anxious people behind him. But all was well and nobody had their "legs or arms or heids sned like taps o' thristle".



After a wee bit more entertainment from the Doecke family came the second highlight of the evening. On behalf of the late **Alex Hervey**, **Doreen Hervey** presented a Drum Major's mace to the Society's

Band's Pipe Major, **Tim Ferguson** and Society Chief, **Peter Stewart**.

Then it was time for the judging of the best dressed., shown below in all their finery. ❀





# MT BARKER HIGHLAND GATHERING

17<sup>th</sup> February 2013



Mt Barker Recreational Centre  
Alexandrina Road, Mt Barker  
Gates Open at 10am

For more information:  
Ph: 041 815 7551

Email: [mbscgatheringevents@gmail.com](mailto:mbscgatheringevents@gmail.com)  
[www.mtbarkerscots.org](http://www.mtbarkerscots.org)

The District Council of  
Mount Barker 

 Government of South Australia  
Multicultural SA

**1125**  
**5MU**



## All Day Entertainment

State Pipe Band Championships  
Highland Dance Competition  
Strong Man Championship  
Medieval Groups  
Childrens' Activities

Visit the market stalls with  
food and goodies for all ages



### PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

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Mt Barker Girl Guides

Mt Barker Rotary

Mt Barker & Wahndorf Lions Club

St Johns SA

Mt Barker Pipes & Drums

& Many volunteers





Hogmanay in Glasgow 2012/2013

## Hogmanay (or New Year's Eve)

**H**ogmanay was, and still is, a very important date on the Scottish Calendar. Christmas was not celebrated as a festival and was virtually banned in Scotland for around 400 years, from the end of the 17th century to the 1950s as the Kirk portrayed Christmas as a Popish or Catholic feast and therefore had to be banned. Many Scots had to work over Christmas and their winter solstice holiday was therefore at New Year when family and friends gathered for a party and

exchange presents, especially for the children, which came to be called Hogmanay.

There are traditions before midnight such as cleaning the house on 31 December (including taking out the ashes from the fire in the days when coal fires were common). There is also the superstition to clear all your debts before "the bells" at midnight.

An integral part of the Hogmanay partying, which continues very much today, is to welcome friends and strangers, with warm hospitality and of course a kiss to wish everyone a Guid New Year. The underlying belief is to clear out the vestiges of the old year, have a clean break and welcome in a young, New Year on a happy note.

"First footing" (that is, the "first foot" in the house after midnight) is still common in Scotland. To ensure good luck for the house, the first foot should be male, dark (believed to be a throwback to the Viking days when blond strangers arriving on your doorstep meant trouble) and should bring symbolic coal, shortbread, salt, black bun and whisky.

Below is a wee poem, "Ne'er a Day", written by one Frank McCabe about Hogmanay in Glasgow in years gone by

### Ne'er Day — A Glasca First Fit by Frank McCabe

It was Hogmanay in Glesca,  
An' Jean, as weel as Jock,  
Was busy gettin' ready, for  
'Twas near twal' by the clock;  
Then "Ha'e ye got the bottle, lad,"  
"Ay, ha'e you got the bun?"  
Then a' bein' ready aff they gang  
Tae first-fit Robin Gunn.  
Noo, Robin an' his guid wife Meg,  
Are sittin' by the fire;  
She knits and nods, at times she yawns.  
He pu's his favourite briar.  
"I think we'll gang to bed," says she,  
"For nae ane will be here,"  
An' yet the kettle sings its lilt  
Untae the comin' year.

The clock at Glesca Cross strikes twal',  
The auld eicht-day within  
Begins to chap — it never was  
Sae very faur ahin.  
What's that? A fit upon the stair,  
An' then a knock or twa,  
An' Jock an' Jean come in just as  
The door's flung tae the wa'.  
"A guid new year tae a' within,  
I hope we see ye weel."  
"Thanks! Let us wish the same to you,  
An' hope it's fine ye feel."  
Thus spoke the men; then Meg to Jean  
"Ay, yui're the first the day,"  
Then turnin' roon tae Robin —  
"An' wha better could we ha'e?"

Then Jock sets doon his bottle,  
An' Jean puts doon the bun;  
Meg gets the glasses oot, an' then —  
Ay, then begins the fun.  
She canna find the corkscrew,  
Though it stares a' in the face—  
Weel, that bates a', I thocht there was  
Na yin about the place."

Robin laughs, an' Jock an' Jean  
Can scarce conceal a smile;  
Meg says that men are awfu' —  
Up tae every trick an' guile.  
The cake is cut in slices,  
The glasses clink, a' fu';  
The wives' wi' ginger cordial,  
The men's wi' mountain dew.

"A guid new year tae you,  
A guid new year tae a',  
An' may we aye ha'e plenty  
Tae keep us fit an' braw."  
Then Robin quotes his Burns,  
An' Jock his Tannahill;  
They crack their jokes, propose their toasts,  
An' drink wi' richt guid will.

Hours pass in such pleasure —  
A dram, a joke, a song;  
The men are gettin' hearty,  
But yet there's nothin' wrong.  
Then Jean gets up an' quietly,  
Takes the arm o' Jock;  
"Lord bless us, wha'd believe it,  
It's nearly five o'clock!"

Again the kettle's singin',  
Meg swears that richt or wrang  
They'll ha'e tae tak a cup o' tea  
Frae her before they gang.  
An' Jock an' Robin sip their cups  
As weel's the women folk;  
"I think we've had a richt royal nicht,"  
Says Robin untae Jock.

An' thus. was passed their Hogmanay,  
An' thus began their year —  
A first-fit tae auld nei'bours,  
A cup an' word o' cheer.  
A rest, a dram, anither roon  
O' hamely fare, an' then  
The daily task till Glesca Fair  
Or Ne'er Day comes again. ❀

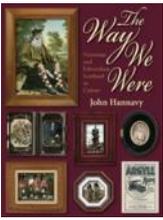
## Reading the Riot Act

**T**his means to reprimand rowdy characters and warn them to stop behaving badly.

Since the early 19th century we have used 'read the riot act' as a figurative phrase to describe attempts to calm groups of rowdies. It wasn't always so. In 1715 there was a real Riot Act and it was frequently read in public.

The control of unruly citizens has usually been the responsibility of local magistrates. Any group of twelve or more that the authorities didn't like the look of could be deemed a 'riotous and tumultuous assembly' and arrested if they didn't disperse within an hour of a magistrate reading the Riot Act to them. Harsh — maybe — but in 18th century England, the government was fearful of Jacobite mobs who threatened to rise up and overthrow the King George I. Fear of rebellion was well-founded, as Stuart supporters did invade in 1715 and again in 1745. The 'Riot Act' came into force in 1715.

The Act contained this warning: "*Our sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons, being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of King George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. God save the King.*" Punishment meant penal servitude for not less than three years, or imprisonment with hard labour for up to two years. The Riot Act was last read to a group of demonstrating mill workers at Manchester Town Hall in 1842. Surprisingly, the Act wasn't formally repealed until 1973 when it was superseded by the 1986 Public ❀ Order Act.



## The Way we Were

John Hannavy looks at how Scotland was depicted pictorially 100–170 years ago and redefines our view of Scotland's past, viewed in sepia and seeing Victorian and Edwardian people in colour adding a warmth and realism to the scenes.

The subject matter is as wide and varied as Edwardian life and work itself and it is here that the reader meets eccentrics and worthies; sees people going about their daily work, catching buses and trains, embarking on steamers; and simply enjoying Scotland's spectacular scenery.

Many aspects of Scottish life are explored from people's jobs to the many ways in which they occupied their limited holiday and leisure time between 1840 and the outbreak of the Great War.

With almost 270 photographs, many of them previously unpublished, *The Way We*



## Good for a Laugh

No English dictionary has been able to explain the difference between the two words COMPLETE and FINISHED, in a way that's easy to understand. Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.

I beg to differ because there is. When you marry the right woman, you are "COMPLETE" And when you marry the wrong one, you are "FINISHED"!

And if the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are... "COMPLETELY



## ~ Contact List ~

### Society

#### Chief

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#### Senior Chieftain

Nil

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### All Correspondence

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**MOUNT BARKER S.A. 5251**

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#### Thistle Editor

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>MBCS Adult Membership</b>	<b>\$15.00 p.a.</b>
	<b>MBCS Family Membership</b>	<b>\$25.00 p.a.</b>

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

## Ghillie Shoes

There is evidence that ghillies originated in the traditional Gaelic rural footwear. These have survived into modern times on the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland, where they are called pampooties (Irish Gaelic *pamputa*). They're often made



of sealskin.

There is an early reference to Scottish Highlanders making and wearing similar shoes. These were described in 1542, by one, John Elder, writing of the dress of Highlanders to King Henry VIII (right, below).



*"...we can not suffir bair footide...after we have slayne redd deir, we flaye of the skyne, bey and bey, and settinge of our bair foote on the insyde therof, for neid of cunnyng shoemakers, by your Graces pardon, we play the sutters; compasinge and mesuringe so moche therof, as shall retche up to our ancklers, pryckyng the upper part thereof also with holis, that the wattrer may repas wher it entris, and stretchide up with a stronge thwange of the same, meitand above our saide ancklers, so, and pleas your noble Grace, we make our shoois: Therefor, we  using suche*

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

