



The Chief welcomes the Chiefs of Port Adelaide and Mount Barker and their partners

## 125th Anniversary Cocktail Party

One hundred and twenty-five years ago this year, the South Australian Caledonian Society was formed under its first Chief, the Hon. Alexander Hay.

The oldest surviving Caledonian Society in South Australia, it has had a long and illustrious history with many Chiefs of civic note over the years. In 1894, the Society formed a Pipe Band, a Band that still exists today and is believed to be the longest continuously operating civilian Pipe Band in the Southern Hemisphere.

To mark the occasion of its 125th Anniversary, the Society held a Cocktail Party in the Scotch College Chapel, chosen as the venue because the Society was instrumental in establishing the College. In recognition, the Society has a permanent seat on the College Council

of Governors.

The highlight of the evening was the decommissioning of the Society's old Banner (or Gonfallon) and the commissioning of a new one witnessed by some 160 members and invited guests and their partners.

The ceremony, initially suggested by Past Director David Brannen, involved parading in the old Banner preceded by the Band and flanked by members of the Society Council. The old Banner was then ceremonially carried out of the Chapel by the Banner Bearer and "Laid Up".

The new Banner was laid over an altar of drums and blessed by the College Chaplain, the Rev Mark Hewitt. The Society's senior Past Chief, Ron Layton, addressed the gathering about the Banner's significance before placing it under the stewardship of Chief David Porteous. The Banner was then paraded around the gathered guests in slow march by Banner Bearer Tom Hunter lead by pipers Dan Meehan and Alf Payne playing "My Home". Finally, the Banner was piped out, lead by the two pipers and the Banner Bearer followed by Council and the rest of the Pipe Band.


During the evening, guests were entertained by the Garrick-Stewart Highland dancers performing the Lady McEwin Strathspey Reel (a dance choreographed many years ago by one of the Society's Highland Dancing Instructors, John Ogg). This was followed by a performance by junior members of the Society's Family Scottish Dancing Group, a performance by the Band and our guest speaker Anthony Laube of the State Library who gave us a potted history of the Hon. Alexander Hay, first Chief of the Society.



The new Banner is paraded out of the Chapel



The Bairns from the Family Scottish Dancing Group, held each Friday night during term

The evening concluded with all present joining in the singing of Auld Lang Syne to the sound of the Pipes. A truly memorable occasion." 

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Patron of the Society: Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC CVO MBE — Governor of South Australia

## How the Society's New Banner Developed

It was noticed at recent marches and events that our old Society Banner was looking very tired. It was agreed that the Society should look into having a new one made and updated in design. The proposal for a new Banner was discussed at Council meetings with various designs and suggestions being put forward by Council members.

Chief David Porteous fine-tuned the ideas using his computer, added new colours and gave the crown more detail; also the sword and sceptre was incorporated and made to look more authentic. These did not appear on the old Banner. A big question was what Crown should be used? After much research and telephone discussions with Lord Lyon and his English counterpart, the St Edward's Crown was settled upon as that was the Crown used on official documents during the reign of King George VI who granted permission to incorporate the word "Royal" into the Society's name. Also researched was the correct blue for the St Andrews flag that makes up part of the design background. The appropriate yellow/gold writing colour of our name The Royal Caledonian Society also had to be decided upon.

Next was the question of what should be placed on the back of the Banner — or should it be left plain. Should another colour be introduced for the back — perhaps a pale blue, or should it have the St Andrews cross on it. These questions were thought through over several meetings. Finally, it was decided to incorporate a bit of South Australia and so the State floral emblem, the Sturt Pea was agreed upon.

Council then appointed a small sub-committee comprising the Chief, David Porteous, Ann Wickham, Christina Cockerill and Barbara Medhurst. Having made several banners for different organisations over the past few years, Barbara came to the meeting armed with materials, ribbons and braids — you name it she had it.



The Lady McEwin Strathspey Reel

From this, ideas were put forward as to what material should be used, it had to be a material that would not crease, would not blotch in the rain or the dye run. Silk



The new Banner is blessed by Rev Mark Hewitt

The Old Banner is paraded for the last time



The Old Banner is paraded for the last time

would be nice but not practical also look too shiny, gabardine will look shabby quickly. Cotton will be always creased. Is this material too thin or that too thick? How big should the banner be? What are the sizes of other banners? What are their shapes? Should it have a "V" bottom shape, or should it be straight? Does it need braid on it? How wide should the braid be? Does it need to have fringing or is that making it look cheap? How are we going to hang it? What style should we use across the top of Banner? Should we have square cut outs or plain hemmed material to hang from the pole? Tassels do we need them? There are so many shades of gold; do we want a brassy gold, metal gold or a yellow gold? What style and colour pole are we going to have, is it to be metal or wood, and so the discussion went on.

After several meetings the design and colours were decided, Chief David Porteous liaised with the Australian agents and the design was sent to Pakistan to be made. Sincere thanks must go to Jan Mullighan of Clan Campbell, for information that led to the Society using this particular manufacturer. As a result, the

Society is now the proud owner of a beautiful Banner that will last for many years. Comments were that it looked very regal.

I would like to thank our Chief, David Porteous, very sincerely for all the behind scenes work he

has undertaken to have the Banner here in time for the Society's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. There were many phone calls and e-mails to monitor how it was progressing and to ensure that it would be here in time; also many other little incidental things that all took time and energy, also the many, many hours he spent on the computer.

Chief David had the thistles turned and then he carved them for the Banner Pole and Cross Arm and has donated them as well as the new

Pole and Cross-arm itself as his personal contribution towards the new Banner. He also has donated the gold and blue rope and tassels that hang on the sides of the Banner.

Thank you, David.

Ann Wickham — Chieftain.



Guest Speaker Anthony Laube



Auld Lang Syne





## Chief's Chatter

**N**eedless to say, the outstanding event since the last Caledonian was our 125th Celebration Cocktail Party. This has been fully reported elsewhere in this issue. For those interested, a large number of photographs of this event will appear shortly on our web site and are readily downloadable should you so desire. A few of the photos appear on pages 1 and 2 but there are many, many more to choose from on the web site.

There was a good attendance at our Annual General meeting, considering that there was nothing contentious on the agenda. Thank you all for your support.

The main issue that was discussed was the winding up clause of our Constitution. This was again deferred to allow two of our members to submit suggestions for improvements to the suggested format. I thank those members for their offer. It is not an easy issue to deal with, especially when there is potentially a lot of money involved. Clearly, the main concern of the meeting was two-fold in the, hopefully, unlikely event that the Society may cease to exist: The first was to ensure the continuance of the Society's name in perpetuity and the second was to ensure the ongoing best use of the Society's funds. I hope to be able to report at the next Annual General Meeting that this issue has been satisfactorily resolved.

Talking of the next Annual General Meeting, it will be my last as your Chief. Under the Constitution, a Chief can only remain continuously in that office for a maximum of three years. This year is my third and last year. Notwithstanding, I look forward to continuing to serve the Society for some years to come as a Past Chief, God willing.

Council was recently alerted to the auction at 38 Greenhill Road. After inspection, it became apparent that the building would suit our needs very well. We could lease the ground floor and occupy the first floor ourselves.

Appropriate steps were taken to ensure that the change of use was permissible by the local council, a bank loan arranged and a maximum price that we were prepared to bid determined. I was empowered to bid up to this amount.

The day of the auction dawned and Lennox Pawson, Christina Cockerill, Wally Wickham and yours truly duly presented ourselves. The bidding started at \$600,000, well within our limits. We waited to see how the bidding developed and, as it approached our maximum range we put in a number of bids. Regrettably, there were two persons there who were each determined to buy the property at all costs and it quickly became apparent that we had no hope of buying it. After 76 bids, the property eventually was sold to one of these two gentlemen for \$990,500. Just as a matter of interest, the Government would collect over \$48,000 in stamp duty and nearly \$10,000 in GST on that sale — a total cost to the purchaser of about

\$1,138,000. On top of that is the cost of the mortgage and stamp duty on that. For us, as they say — it's back to the drawing board!

On a completely different issue, your Social Committee has been working hard to draw up a range of events to suit as many members as possible. At least one event is planned for each month during 2007 with many designed as just a social gathering to establish dialogue between members. Details are on page 5. Please make an effort to support at least one event.

On 26 January, next year, there will again be the annual Australia Day March from Victoria Square to Elder Park. Because of the extreme heat, very few of our members participated last year. Hopefully, this year the weather will be a bit kinder and we will get a better showing. If you would like to show the flag, marchers assemble in Franklin Street about 9.30am with the march moving off at about 10.30. Don't forget to wear national dress.

It would also be great to see a few members at the St Andrews Day Church Service. This will be held at St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Archer Street North Adelaide on Sunday 26 November. The service commences at 10.30am, but it is best to get there early to ensure a parking spot. A light lunch is provided afterwards. Come along and celebrate our Patron Saint's National Day.

I also hope to see many of you at our own St Andrews Day function on 18 November.

As stated in the last issue, the font size has been increased for this issue. Depending on the written feedback we receive, it will either continue at this size or revert to the former smaller font size next issue. Please write or e-mail the Editor and let her know your wishes.

As this is the last Caledonian for 2006, Eunice and I wish each and every one of our readers a very Happy and safe Christmas and throughout 2007.

David Porteous

CHIEF 




## New Members

**W**e seem to have been a bit remiss this year in welcoming our new members. Please accept our apologies for the lateness but here they all are:

Lilian Barker, Jillian Bradbury, Ben Calcraft, Ron Coventry, Colin Orr, Sylvia Parmiter, Nina Parry, Grant Taylor and Jamieanne Albrecht.

Council has been waiting on membership applications from Band members. We hope to welcome them next issue

To each of our new members and their respective families, the Chief personally extends a very cordial welcome and hopes to see you at some of our forthcoming functions. 

## Between Ourselves

**D**oug Williams is once again a familiar person at Burnside Village on a week day.

Doug was rushed to hospital in the early hours of the morning in early August with heart flutters and later had surgery. He now looks fit and well.

Joyce (Pops) Ogg is home after a lengthy stay in hospital and rehabilitation at Hampstead Rehab Centre. It was great to see her along with her sister Mary Buckley at the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebrations. Joyce had a "leave pass" from Hampstead to attend the cocktail party.

It is good to see Ian Anderson back to his old self and on deck again.

Band Manager and Tenor Drummer extraordinaire Jeannette Macdonald was on the sick list for a short while as was Anne Miller but both are well on the road to recovery.

Walter Wickham has undergone surgery for a knee reconstruction and is making slow but steady improvement.

Marjorie Burns B.A. A.A.L.I.A. I.O.M. I.O.A/L.F.A.B.I. M.O.I.F. attended the 2006 World Forum of the American Biographical Institute (A.B.I.) and International Biographical Centre (I.B.C) in Oxford, England. These organizations are concerned with rewarding excellence and achievement in professions and community on an international basis through publishing of a Who's Who and by awards of Medals or Certificates or Membership of relevant international groups.

At the World Forum, Marjorie was Australian Ambassador and gave greetings from the groups to which she belongs, including the Scottish Clubs, Adelaide University Alumni's and Scientific Research and the fine arts. Marjorie has received from I.B.C a Gold medal, the Excellence Award for Global year of Excellence 2006 and, from A.B.I., Woman of the year 2006 Gold Medal

The Forum itself began in July and was attended by 503 people from 50 countries with papers from achievers in Medicine and Technology.

Marjorie stayed at the new St Catherine's College, in the old historic university town. Being the university vacation break, members used single rooms and the students' dining room mingling with other research groups. At Windsor Castle, she saw the Fabulous Art Collection then on to Hampton Court which has a lot of records. In the Cotswolds Marjorie visited the impressive Hidcote Manor Gardens run by the National Trust.

Marjorie was first recommended by the South Australian Parliament for whom she worked as a Librarian for 20 years. She has been attending these Congresses for 20 years and has met many interesting people. Congresses are held in different countries each year. Australians are enthusiastic travellers and learn a lot from their international tours.

Congratulations to Marjorie on her awards and wonderful achievements. Marjorie has been a professional librarian for 35 years working in Adelaide Libraries, including the Royal Caledonian Society. She has been a Council member of our Society and was also responsible for attending to reference queries and for the Society's library collection. Marjorie is very approachable for queries and information on things "Scottish". Editor. 🦁

## Band Notes

**S**ince May, the Band has been busy with a variety of activities but it still feels like the quiet before the end of year storm. It is excellent to see a growing group around the practice table and the circle is expanding with the objective of introducing a number of first timers to the Christmas Pageants. The performance at the Royal Show in early September was the real beginning. The Band had excellent individual attendance, consistently putting around 16 members on the parade ground. Not only is it good experience, but also a good fundraiser. Most evenings were 'bracing' with only one proving to be damp although we had just been dismissed as the heavens opened. An interesting outcome was a 'complaint' from another band that the Callies tenor drumming flourishing was too good and upstaged the others!

Despite a deliberate emphasis on participation in competitions, attendance was a bit patchy with two mini bands in May and one non-competitive in July but the angst of competition will be valuable in the longer term. We had a number of solo entries at both events and the competitive spirit surfaced within the Band which can only be encouraged.

Band members were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Betty Wallace, wife of past Society Chief Jim Wallace. Betty was a strong supporter of the Band and our thoughts are with Jim and family at this time.

The Band enjoyed participating in the Society function for the commissioning of the new Banner in the Scotch College Chapel. Dan Meehan and Alf Payne played "My Hame" as the Banner was presented to the gathering. Dan and Hamy Marcelin combined well at the conclusion with "Auld Lang Syne" followed by "Black Bear".

Keith Hope, husband of former Callie, Lorraine, is secretary of the Jamestown Race Club and asked the Band to



The Band at Jamestown

entertain the throng on the October long weekend race meeting. With perfect weather the organisers should have been pleased with the race attendance.

The Band performed four brackets, marching into an increas-





# Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia Inc

## Annual Program 2006 — 2007



| Date                 | Function   |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>2006</b>          |  |
| Saturday 18 November | St Andrews Night   |
| Sunday 26 November   | St Andrews Day Church Service  |
| Sunday 10 December   | Christmas Picnic NE corner Tusmore Park — 12.00pm BYO food and drink etc |
| <b>2007</b>          |  |
| Friday 26 January    | Australia Day March  |
| Saturday 3 February  | Burns Dinner at the Kensington Hotel                                     |
| Saturday 24 February | Lunch at the Tonsley Hotel   |
| Sunday 25 March      | Family Barbecue at Hazelwood Park  |
| Saturday 28 April    | Film Show at the Norwood Cinema Complex with dinner to follow            |
| Sunday 20 May        | Society Highland Dancing Competition                                     |
| Saturday 26 May      | Smorgasbord Dinner at the Buckingham Arms Hotel                          |
| Saturday 16 June     | Christmas in June at the Feathers Hotel                                  |
| Saturday 30 June     | Tartan Day March in the City and Ceilidh at Port Adelaide                |
| Sunday 1 July        | Tartan Day Church Service at St Andrews Presbyterian Church              |
| Saturday 14 July     | Hogmanay in July Dinner (venue to be advised)                            |
| Saturday 28 July     | Band Farewell Cocktail Party (5.00pm to 7.00pm) (venue to be advised)    |
| Monday 17 September  | Society Annual General Meeting (venue to be advised)                     |
| Friday 21 September  | Friday Night Dance Group Celebration (venue to be advised)               |
| Sunday 28 October    | Family Barbecue (venue to be advised)                                    |
| Saturday 17 November | St Andrews Night   |

In addition to the above, the Society, in conjunction with the Band, is hoping to arrange a Whisky Tasting Evening to help raise funds for the Band. However, details are yet to be confirmed regarding the date and venue of this event.

At this stage, it is anticipated that the Band will be leaving for Edinburgh about the end of July and will not be operating again before the end of September when members return independently and their uniforms and equipment arrive back.

ingly 'untidy' audience. The fourth bracket was accompanied by various forms of gyrations, for one reveller, of limited dress! Still, it was all taken in good humour and the Band was not overly distracted. Bill Kierns was dragged into entering a 'fashion' parade but while putting up a fine spectacle in his uniform was pipped at the post.

The following day, Keith had organised a BBQ for the Band. The Band played for its supper, running through a number of sets.

The engagement calendar is very full from now until the end of the year:

|                                 |          |                  |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| Credit Union Christmas Pageant  | Saturday | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | November |
| Barossa Band Contest            | Sunday   | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | November |
| Salisbury Christmas Parade      | Saturday | 11 <sup>th</sup> | November |
| Port Adelaide Christmas Pageant | Saturday | 18 <sup>th</sup> | November |
| RCS St Andrews Ceilidh          | Saturday | 18 <sup>th</sup> | November |
| Norwood Christmas Pageant       | Saturday | 25 <sup>th</sup> | November |

|                                  |        |                  |          |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------------|----------|
| Glenelg Christmas Pageant        | Sunday | 26 <sup>th</sup> | November |
| Plympton Church Carols Evening   | Sunday | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | December |
| Lonsdale Army Passing Out Parade | Friday | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | December |
| Pt Vincent Gala Day              | Monday | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | January  |

*All Society members are encouraged to come along and support the Band at any of these events. It will be much appreciated, I assure you — Chief*

Not much time for rest as we are anticipating receiving the music for the Tattoo — then the real work begins!

As a post-script, there is some suggestion that the Band may need to rename itself incorporating "Kierns" in the headlines — with seven members of the Kierns family actively involved the Smalls and Meehans are well outnumbered. There is hardly room on the floor for others — still we welcome back Bernard Kierns from his lengthy sojourn in Ireland.

**Jan Richardson**

## Things You Maybe Not Know About Whisky

The French drink more Whisky than Cognac.

The phrase "The real McCoy" referred to whisky smuggled into the USA during Prohibition by Captain Bill McCoy — or maybe not. A famous black inventor by the name of Elijah McCoy earned about 50 patents, the most famous one being for a metal or glass cup that fed oil to bearings through a small-bore tube. Machinists and engineers who wanted genuine McCoy lubricators may have originated the term "the real McCoy." The McCoy lubricator was copied by many but the slogan used by the company that had the patent rights was that people should get "the real McCoy".

During Prohibition whisky could be legally obtained through a doctor, for "medicinal" purposes.

The "cup of kindness" in "Auld Lang Syne" is whisky. Robert Burns, the famous Scottish poet and writer of "Auld Lang Syne" was once an excise man.

Malt whisk(e)y is made in Scotland, Ireland, Japan and New Zealand.

The *SS Politician* went down off Eriskay in February 1941. Her cargo, including up to 50,000 cases of whisky, was recovered by the islanders whose ingenuity at evading the Excise was immortalised in Compton MacKenzie's book (later filmed) "Whisky Galore". Distilled in 1938, bottles were still being recovered as recently as 1990.

Whisky may not legally be described as such in the UK until it has matured for 3 years.

In 1994, there were about 2.5 BILLION litres-pure-alcohol of whisky stored in bonded warehouses in Scotland. Allowing that the value of whisky is about £8 per litre of alcohol, stocks are worth about £20,000,000,000 at sale.

A single butt (barrel) of whisky contains some 500 litres of spirit. It will lose 1-2% alcohol per annum through evaporation as it matures. Such a barrel of good 15 y.o. malt will therefore contain some 400 litres (600 bottles) and thus be worth some £20,000 at shop prices.


A bottle of 50 year-old single malt sold for £47,000 at a charity auction in Milan.

Bottles of 50 and 60 year old Macallan can fetch over £5000 at auction.

The oldest whiskies reported at recent auctions have been a Dalintober 40 y.o. in (1868) which fetched £2,400 and a Dallas Dhu 64 year old (1921) which went for around £2,900.

Once bottled, whisky does not mature and, in wood, rarely improves past 25 years.

The name "White Horse" comes from an ancient inn in Edinburgh's Canongate frequented, it is said, by Bonnie Prince Charlie's men. A white horse has long been a symbol of victory. John(ny) Walker was originally a licensed grocer in Kilmarnock before he, but principally his son, built up the business and the brand name.

It is reckoned that at one time there were over 40,000 whisky stills in Scotland. 

## Letter to the Editor

Past Chief Ron Layton has concerns about part of "The Royal Caledonian Society — a Brief History" that appeared in the June issue of the Caledonian. That article was a reprint of one prepared quite a number of years ago but brought up to date. Ron Layton writes:


"I am provoked to comment on 'Brief History' that appeared in the June Caledonian and am particularly concerned about the part dealing with Charles Gardiner.

Charles Gardiner succeeded Clarrie Martin and Sir Lyell McEwin as Chief at a time when the RCS was in good shape. He was anxious to encourage a good future for not only its members but also the broader Scottish presence in SA. A number of proposals were considered by the then Council including one related to building comfortable clubrooms and a restaurant quality kitchen, something people were seeking at the time for social activities.

A comprehensive feasibility study was undertaken over time, and with the considered approval of the membership the renovations proceeded. When completed, they were well received and patronized, including by a number of other Scottish bodies. This continued for several more years whilst membership continued to climb. At the same time, however, interest rates soared and other clubs (with pokies) emerged in competition. People were also not socialising as much — all unforeseen in the mid 1970s. The other user bodies also expected the RCS to subsidise their presence.

The premises were not mortgaged as a result of any financial disaster; rather it was incorporated into the loan arrangements right from the start. There was also no sale of land as there was none for sale. Rather, a right of way at the rear was exchanged for one on the north side of the building, for the benefit of all concerned.

In retrospect, it is easy to blame the people who spearheaded this venture, but, in reality, they were quite visionary, and it was circumstances well beyond their control that resulted in the eventual sale of the building."

*PS The Editor would welcome more letters from members on this subject.* 

## Brock Harcourts Collinswood

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NOW A REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT WITH BROCK HARCOURTS  
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## Highland Dances

**A**s Chief, I am often asked the significance of the various Highland dances one sees at the various ceilidhs we all attend from time to time. Accordingly, here is a brief outline of the dances one sees most.

### The Highland Fling

A dance of victory after battle. Traditionally, the ancient warriors and clansmen performed this dance on the small round shield (called a targe) that they carried into battle. One can understand the quick footwork and dexterity of the dancer when it is pointed out that most targes carried a pinpoint sharp spike of steel projecting some 5-6 inches from its centre. A false or careless step could be more than a little painful.

### The Sword Dance or Ghillie Callum

The ancient dance of war of the Scottish Gael. It is said to date back to King Malcolm Canmore. There is no Highland Dance older or better known than the Ghillie Callum. Tradition says the original Ghillie Callum was a Celtic prince who was a hero of mortal combat against one of MacBeth's chiefs at the Battle of Dunsinane in 1054. He is said to have taken the chief's sword, crossed over it with his own on the ground before him, and danced over them both in exultation.

### The Seann Triubhas

Pronounced 'shawn trews' in Gaelic, in English it translates to 'old trousers.' Whilst its origins are obscure, it definitely depicts a person in the act of shedding his trousers. It is said by some that the dance came about in 1783 when the British Disarming Act of 1747 was finally repealed and Scots were allowed to wear their tartans and kilts once again. During the slow, first part of the dance, the dance mimics a Scot shedding his britches and, during the final, up-tempo fling-like step, returning to his tradition of Highland dress and custom.

### Lilt, Flora MacDonald's Fancy, Earl of Errol

These three dances (and others) are known as Scottish National dances. They are of a more modern origin and have been collected from old dance masters. The attire worn by female dancers is called the Aboyne dress, named after the Aboyne Highland Games of Scotland where, up to this day, the wearing of the kilt is strictly forbidden to women. The National dances are very similar to Highland dances, but the style is more flowing and balletic. They require a lot of skill to execute correctly, and spectators will note that often the rhythms are more complicated than in conventional Highland dancing.

### The Strathspey and Highland Reel

Of all the Highland Dancing events in which the competitors vie, the reels are the closest approach to social dancing. Even these, however, are individual competitions. While the teams consist of four dancers, the judges mark each competitor individually. Legend has it that the reel


originated with well-wishers waiting for the minister to arrive at the church for a wedding on a cold day. The chilly group danced as a means of keeping warm.

### The Irish Jig

This dance may seem to be out of place at Scottish Games, but the dance is not only an Irish tradition. The Scottish version, however, is meant to be a parody of an Irish washerwoman in an agitated frame of mind. While the steps are traditional, the arm movements are not. Arm movements are an intrinsic part of Scottish dance, and so the Scots added them to the Irish Jig as a humorous salute to their Celtic brethren across the Irish Sea.

### The Sailor's Hornpipe

This dance is common to many parts of the British Isles. It derived its name from the fact that usually the musical accompaniment was played on a hornpipe rather than on bagpipes. Hornpipes were common instruments in those days; they were comparable to our present-day tin whistle. In time, the dance became popular among seafaring men and is now associated with sailors. The modern Hornpipe imitates many shipboard activities common in the days of wooden ships and iron men.

Hopefully, next time you attend a ceilidh and see some Highland dancing you will be able to appreciate what the dance is about. 


## Robert Burns' Connection with Magill

**M**ember, June Laws, tendered this snippet of information about Scotland's most famous bard, Robert Burns.

Most people will have heard of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Bard, whose works have been translated into many languages. What most people don't know is that the bard had a direct link with Magill, in South Australia.


This was brought about through his fourth son, Col. James Glencairn Burns. James Burns had a daughter, Sarah, who married a Dr. Barclay Westropp Hutchinson, and they immigrated to Australia in 1852.

Sarah, in turn, had a daughter, Annie Burns Vincent Hutchinson, who was born at Warrnambool in Victoria in 1854. This lady married a James Scott, son of Captain Scott of Brookside, Tranmere, who had a winery there.

Mrs Annie Scott died in 1935 aged 81 years, but, sadly, she and her husband had no children. 

## 125 Year History

**C**ouncil are giving serious consideration to preparing a 125 Year Historical record of the Society.

If any member has any old photographs of Society events or anecdotes that they would like to share, please forward them to the Editor either by e-mail (see page 8 for details) or to the Society's PO Box (6571 Halifax Street, Adelaide). 

## Harris Tweed

**A**long the rugged northwest coast of Scotland, the Outer Hebrides cascade for a 130 miles. The climate on remote islands, now officially called the Western Isles, can be relentless with wind and rain, chilling you to the bone. Wool is not only warm but, because of its lanolin content, is also waterproof, providing comfort against the elements. In Gaelic, tweed is known as Clò Mór, "the big cloth", but it is the Isle of Harris for which the world's most famous tweed is named.

The population of Harris is around 2,000, nearly identical with that of the 1750's shortly after the Clearances began. The island's name is an English transliteration of the Gaelic Na Hearadh.

The Ice Age glaciers left only a thin layer of soil in the Western Isles making crofting a test of patience and endurance. As a result, tweed has always played an important economic, cultural and social role for the inhabitants of these islands. From at least the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, rents were paid with bales of fabric and groups of women gathered to perform the task of waulking new tweed. Ancient implements for combing wool have been found in brochs and early settlements dating date back 2000 years.

There are a vast number of differences separating Harris and the endless variety of tweeds woven throughout Scotland; the subtle colouring is the first. There are 180 different shade mixtures used, and may be as many as ten colours in a single shade, four different colours in the warp and weft and as many as 40 colours might be used in a length. It is rumoured that the colour was the first thing Lady Dunmore -- Catherine Herbert, widow of the then owner of the Isle of Harris the Earl of Dunmore, noticed about the local cloth. Lady Dunmore exploited her society connections in order to promote Harris Tweed for garments for hunting and other outdoor sports given its imperious qualities. As a result, by the end of the nineteenth century, her efforts had created the largest cottage industry in Great Britain and Harris Tweed was firmly established as a status symbol.




The familiar Orb and Maltese Cross logo is taken from the Dunmore coat of arms. The Certification Mark, the oldest British trademark still in use, was originally granted in 1909, registered in 1910 with stamping of the rolls of tweed beginning in 1911.

To sustain the cloth's authenticity, the Harris Tweed Act (HTA) mandates three points covering production; it must be woven in the Hebrides, (the islands of Lewis, Harris, Uist, Barra and their "several purtenances") in the home of the weaver — and without the aid of any power. Additionally, the HTA mandates a maximum of two looms in a shed. Three looms and the tweed would no longer be "Harris".

Finally, the yarns are woven unaltered (left tousled and then given a random twist) to form Harris Tweed's characteristic coarse, heavy quality. Finished rolls of cloth are submitted to an independent examiner, who certifies that the cloth conforms to the legal definitions as established by the HTA. Before the HTA stamps a bolt with the famous Orb, inspectors go over every metre of a length of cloth (usually 65 metres). A swatch of cloth is then registered along with the weaver's signed declaration:


*"I solemnly declare that the Tweed coloured (blank) of which a specimen piece is attached hereto, presented by me to be stamped with the Harris Tweed Trade Mark, is made entirely from PURE VIRGIN WOOL... that the wool was dyed by (blank) and spun by (blank) and that the Tweed has been hand-woven by (blank) at (blank)."*

Preserved against all odds, with a unique status in a world of high-tech fabrics, Harris Tweed is virtually the only clothing material in the industrialised world that is still hand woven — more than a million metres a year.

"Mayest thou enjoy it. Mayest thou wear it. Mayest thou finish it. Until thou find it, in shreds, in rags, in tatters!" Old Gaelic song "blessing" of new tweed. 

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## Final Production at World's Smallest Professional Theatre

**M**ull Little Theatre began over 40 years ago in the shell of an old cow shed in Dervaig, on the island of Mull, with the audience being asked to "bring your own chairs". Since then, its reputation has grown and along the way the Guinness Book of Records accepted it as the "World's Smallest Professional Theatre" with the "house full" signs going up when 43 tickets were sold for a performance. Despite that small auditorium (or perhaps because of it), the theatre has entertained around 120,000 people in that time. But its popularity has meant that the company, with its four full-time and five part-time workforce, will be moving to a new centre outside Tobermory. So recently it was the final curtain at the Mull Little Theatre, with a production of Macbeth. But the actors were playing again the following week as they go on tour — at the Dervaig Village Hall. 

## Freeze the Balls off a Brass Monkey

**I**t was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannons on the old timber war ships. But preventing them from rolling about the deck was a problem. The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem — how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate, called a Monkey, with sixteen round indentations. But if this plate was made of iron,



balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make the Monkeys out of brass.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would be dislodged off the monkey. So, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass Monkey. 🦁

### Titanic Berths in Inverness Garden

**H**ow do you think YOUR local Council would have reacted?

Stan Fraser and his sons spent six years building a replica of the "Titanic" in the back garden of his house in Inverness. No ordinary scale model this, but one 88 foot long that could produce smoke from the ship's four funnels.

When Highland Council's Planning Department heard about the structure, it looked as though they were going to sink it as it did not have the requisite planning permission. The situation was complicated by Mr Fraser's home being an old toll house that is a listed building.

After an anxious wait, the Council agreed that, as the model had been completed more than four years ago, it fell outside the planning regulations. In a discreet location, the model did not even irk the neighbours. However, Council officials insist that if Stan wants to progress his idea of creating a museum with other (smaller) models, he must get planning permission first. 🦁

### A Letter of Congratulations from Clan Hay

**J**im Hay wrote to the Chief of Clan Hay regarding the Society's 125th Anniversary Celebration. The Chief authorised the following letter from the Commissioner.

*"Dear Jim,*

*Please pass on our hearty congratulations to the Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia on its 125th anniversary.*

*We are proud that Clan Hay was part of the formation of the society all those years ago and that we still, to this day, hold a presence in the state through you, our Con-  
vener.*

*Please send our best wishes to all members of the Society and we look forward to another 125 years of Clan Hay representation in South Australia.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Malcolm Hay*

*Commissioner*

*From Malcolm Hay of Seaton*

*Edinglassie, Glass Huntley, Aberdeenshire. Scotland."*

For our new members that do not know the history of the Society, Alexander Hay was the Society's first 🦁

### A Reader's Letter

**M**olly McArdle one of our readers who has subscribed to the Caledonian for a number of years and loves reading our magazine has sent in the following with her Survey reply:

I am 85 years old, and my Grandmother was Jane Sinclair, who married Mr T W Fuller of Dawson. Her Mother was Betsy Chalmers who was born in Stromsay, Orkney Islands. She married Mr P Sinclair in August 1851. They left soon afterwards for Australia and arrived in Adelaide after a voyage of 84 days. They settled in the Mt Barker and Mt Crawford areas.

My Grandmother had lots of old Scottish sayings and I always feel very proud of my little bit of Scottish Heritage. The Bagpipes and Dancers never fail to thrill me. 🦁

### Correct Spelling.

**T**he Barossa's Chateau Barrosa might have a magnificent garden with 20,000 roses bushes, but its owners can't spell...or can they?

The region was originally named Barrosa by Colonel William Light, after the site of a victory by the English over the French in the Spanish Peninsula War.

It was misspelled on later maps and ended up as Barossa, but Chateau Barrosa's people prefer the original. 🦁



### Explore Skara Brae

**H**ave you ever wanted to explore Skara Brae (pictured left) and perhaps other parts of Scotland but can't afford the trip, well, here is your opportunity — at least for those with access to the web.

The link below will take you to a wonderful site where you can take a video tour of a house and workshop at Skara Brae, some Stone Circles, a Crannog (pictured right) and many other interesting historical sites and aspects of Scotland. And don't omit to follow all the other links from this great site. There are so many interesting things to see.



[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/scottishhistory/media\\_museum/media\\_museum\\_index1\\_sections\\_1to3.shtml#darkages#darkages](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/scottishhistory/media_museum/media_museum_index1_sections_1to3.shtml#darkages#darkages)

You will need to have the latest version of RealPlayer which you can download free. 🦁

## Scottish Shop

66 Delaine Avenue  
Edwardstown SA 5039  
Ph/fax 08 8293 8066



- Kilt Hire Specialists
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- Whisky Flasks & Quaichs
- Practice Chanters, Reeds — Hemp

For all things Scottish — See Anne

Monday to Friday      10 am to 4 pm  
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Email: [anne@braveheartcafe.com.au](mailto:anne@braveheartcafe.com.au)

Web: [www.braveheartcafe.com.au](http://www.braveheartcafe.com.au)

## Jest a Minute


### MacAirport

The control tower at Magillicuddy's Airport in the Western Isles received a frantic call from the pilot of an aircraft in trouble out over the Atlantic. "Pilot to tower...pilot to tower, I am 100 miles from land at 600 feet and running out of fuel....Mayday, Mayday...Please instruct.....repeat, please instruct."

Sandy McGinchy was in charge of the control tower that day and he responded: "Tower to pilot..... tower to pilot.....repeat after me....Our Father, which art in heaven....." 

### Fridge for Sale

Bamish Mcfee bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old, but still working model, he put it in his front yard and hung a sign on it saying: "Free to good home. You want it, you take it".

For three days, not one person looked at it twice. Eventually, he decided that people were too un-trusting of this deal. It looked too good to be true, so he changed the sign to read: "Fridge for sale \$50". The next day someone stole it. 







*Interested in learning the  
Pipes or Drums?*

**The Royal Caledonian Society**  
**Pipes and Drums**  
**are always looking for persons  
to swell their ranks**

Contact — Alf Payne Mob. 0413 319 738

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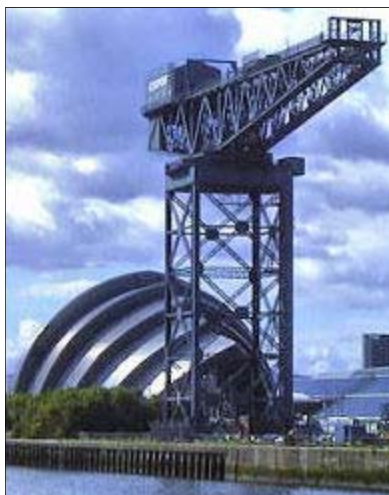
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## Diners to Enjoy the High Life?

Clydeport, which owns the 200-foot high Finnieston crane on the bank of the River Clyde in Glasgow confirmed that it is in discussions about the crane's future.

Unable to comment publicly on their plans, there is speculation the crane could become a restaurant, retaining a link to Glasgow's industrial heritage and providing spectacular views across the city.

The 2000-tonne crane was the largest in Europe when it was built 75 years ago. The crane stands only yards from the new "Squinty Bridge" connecting Finnieston, on the north bank of the river, to the "media village" being built on the south bank, alongside the Glasgow Science Centre. 🦁



## Golf Club

The Royal Burgess Golf Club in Edinburgh was founded in 1735 and is the oldest golfing society in the world. Red, as seen in the painted glass window of the clubhouse, below, is still the Club colour.

Interestingly, St Andrews, the nations, if not the world's, most famous golf club was not founded until 1754.

It is unlikely that the worthy founder members of Royal Burgess — merchants, writers, bankers and others - realised that they were forging such a rich and colourful part of the history of Edinburgh and the game of golf. As they played their golf on Bruntsfield Links and drank their ale in the Golf Tavern, they lived for the enjoyment of the moment and were somewhat unconcerned about recording their activities for posterity.

During the 1920's and 1930's both the then Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, whenever they visited Edinburgh, played over the course.

HRH The Duke of York, later King George VI, applied for membership of the Burgess and accepted honorary membership on 4 July 1929. When later he became King he awarded the Society his patronage.



In 1935 HRH the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor, agreed to be Captain of the Society. When he acceded to the throne in January 1936, he resigned his captaincy.

The Society's Royal connection continues to the present day and HRH the Duke of York accepted honorary membership in March 1991. 🦁

## New Chief of the MacDonalds of Keppoch

Resplendent in his kilt, plaid and Glengarry with three feathers, Ranald Alasdair MacDonald smiled proudly yesterday as he was installed as the first chief of his clan for more than a century and a half. The 76-year-old is the 32nd Chief of the MacDonalds of Keppoch, having fought for the honour over more than 30 years.



Chief Ranald Alasdair MacDonald

The new Chief was piped in at the start of the ceremony. Then, in front of clansmen and family members from the UK and North America, the clan bard recited the chief's Sloinntearachd (genealogy) and a eulogy in his honour, a tradition dating back to the anointing of the Scottish kings and chiefs. Mr MacDonald said: "It is a great day for the family and the clan. I'm proud to be here — it's where my family come from, going back to 1398." 🦁



## St Andrews Day Celebration

18 November 2006

7.30pm for 8.00pm

- 🦁 *Dancing*
- 🦁 *Singing*
- 🦁 *Piping*
- 🦁 *Haggis*

*Our Guest Speaker will be*

**Dorothy Kotz**

Former Member of Parliament


## Another Voyage for World's Oldest Clipper Ship?

It has been looking increasingly likely that the crumbling 19th Century wooden sailing ship HMS "Carrick" was doomed to being "deconstructed" as



finance to repair the venerable clipper could not be found, despite efforts in Scotland and South Australia. The ship carried emigrants from Britain to South Australia as the "City of Adelaide" over a 20-year period from 1864. Australian researchers have estimated more than 60% of the current population of the state of South Australia can trace their families' arrival in Australia to that ship. She was so fast that the journey time for the 12,000 miles to Australia was cut from 100 days to 65 — a record that still stands for a clipper. Later, she was berthed in the Clyde in Glasgow for more than 40 years as the clubhouse for the Royal Naval Reserve. The Carrick was moved to the Scottish Maritime Museum at Irvine in the early 1990s, where she has lain, slowly rotting away on shore, ever since.

Now a property tycoon, Tim Roper, wants to save the vessel and says he is prepared to spend £400,000 to take on the massive project to transport the ship in a metal shell to Falmouth, Cornwall, where it has historic ties and transform it into a top tourist attraction. Then he plans to spend around £15 million to restore the vessel.

The plan requires the ship to be de-listed by Historic Scotland and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. On past performance, these agencies would rather see historic buildings etc preserved as ruins, than repaired and put to a good use. 

**A**lexander Hume (1811-1859), the author of the poem below, was born in Edinburgh and initially earned his living making chairs. He became a chorister in St Paul's Episcopal. But his "convivial habits" lost him one job after another he ended up making a precarious living from his writings in Glasgow.


### Scottish Emigrant Farewell

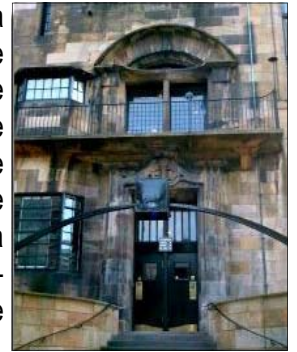
Fareweel, fareweel, my native hame,  
Thy lanely glens and heath-clad mountains!  
Fareweel thy fields o' storied fame,  
Thy leafy shaws and sparkling fountains.  
Nae mair I'll climb the Pentlands steep,  
Nor wander by the Esk's clear river;  
I seek a hame far o'er the deep-  
My native land, fareweel for ever!  
Thou land wi' love and freedom crowned,  
In ilk wee cot and lordly dwelling

## Want to Buy the Glasgow School of Art?

The Glasgow School of Art, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh was undoubtedly his masterwork.

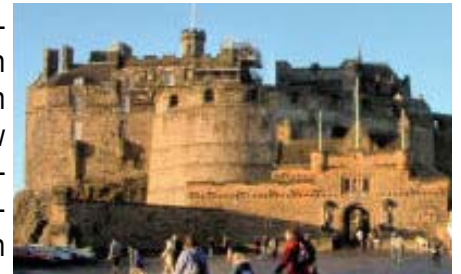
Built in two phases at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th centuries, the building clings to the side of a steep hill. Needless to say, there is a wealth of Mackintosh detail in the building that is still used as a school of art.


Management have embarked on a multi-million pound upgrade to be partly funded by selling parts of the building to the public. The "owners" won't be able to take their goods away, but they will be able to have their ownership of a Mackintosh icon recorded for posterity in a new visitor centre. The plan is to "sell" thousands of parts, from bricks to windows to lamps and the weather vane. 



## Grand New Entrance for Edinburgh Castle

Planning permission has been given for a £2.7m plan to create a new ticket office and terrace area at the entrance to Edinburgh Castle -- Scotland's



most popular entrance fee visitor attraction. At last an end is sight for the eyesore of the caravan ticket-booth. The new arrangements will also speed up the time spent by tourists buying tickets. These will also be available for purchase online for the first time. The new facilities will produce a better "first impression" as visitors approach the castle across the esplanade. Work is scheduled to start at the end of the year and the new arrangements should be in place by the start of the 2008 visitor season. 

May manly-hearted youth be found,  
And maids in every grace excelling.  
The land where Bruce and Wallace wight  
For freedom fought in days o' danger,  
Ne'er crouched to proud usurping might,  
But foremost stood, wrong's stern avenger.

Though far frae thee, my native shore,  
And tossed on life's tempestuous ocean,  
My heart-aye Scottish to the core-  
Shall cling to thee wi' warm devotion.  
And while the waving Heather grows,  
And onward rows the winding river,  
The toast be "Scotland's broomy knowes,  
Her mountains, rocks, and glens forever!"

*Meaning of unusual words:* shaws=flat piece of ground at the foot of a hill; ilk wee cot=every small cottage; wight=vigorously; broomy knowes=hillock clad in broom 