



# Feints and Foreshots



## WELCOME TO

Feints and Foreshots #31

### MWSOA SURVEY RESULTS 2010

MWSOA member survey results: what you voted for **P. 3 - 6**

### TASTING NOTES

Chairperson Craig Daniels reviews some lesser known malts. **P. 7 - 8**

### MWSOA MALT WHISKY AWARDS 2010

Read all about the upcoming 2010 awards and how to book a table at this year's dinner **P.2**

### MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Chairman Craig Daniels muses upon the survey results **P. 10 - 11**

## MWSOA Membership Survey - the results, the findings and the winners!

Thanks to all MWSOA members who put forward your views in the recent survey. It helped us see what you really want from the society, and we've published the survey results to share with you on page 3.

One of the incentives for completing the survey and leaving your name was that we were going to give a prize to a randomly selected member who had completed the survey and identified themselves. We threw all the identities into a hat and conducted the draw on 30 June 2010.

**The lucky winner of the Glenmorangie Astar is Dale Gatherum-Goss of Victoria.**

Congratulations to you Dale and thanks again to all members who took part!



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# Feints and Foreshots

## 2010 MWSOA Malt Whisky Awards

Judging for the 2010 MWSOA Malt Whisky Awards will take place on Sunday the 15th of August in Adelaide. The Awards are open to all malt whiskies commercially available or soon to be so, somewhere in Australia. The Medals and special Awards will be presented at a dinner at the Rob Roy Hotel in Adelaide on Saturday 04 September.

Members and guests had a hoot last year, with good food to match the whiskies on show and all the entries on the table to sample; many of them were very expensive and exclusive whiskies that the average whisky tragic just doesn't get to taste too often, if at all. The same will be happening again this year so put September 4th in your diary and be prepared for what could reasonably be described as the highlight of the year for anybody who loves whisky.

Bookings can be made direct with the Rob Roy Hotel, Halifax St, Adelaide (08 82999980).



Whisky Awards organiser Ian Schmidt and chairman Craig Daniels show off the selection of malts from last year's awards

### **The sweet sniff of success.... by Ian Schmidt**

Patrick Maguire from Sullivan's Cove tells me he sold the very last bottle of his Liquid Gold award winning whisky for what we believe is a record price for an Australian made whisky, \$1125 to an undisclosed collector from NSW.



# Feints and Foreshots

## Malt Whisky Society of Australia - Membership Survey conducted 1<sup>st</sup> April to 28 April 2010 (42 respondents)

**Question 1. How could the Malt Whisky Society of Australia best help you improve your enjoyment and knowledge of malt whisky? (The responses often covered more than one issue.)**

### MAJOR RESPONSES

- ☒ More tasting/comparative tastings/notes with tastings/structured and sponsored tastings
- ☒ Newsletters & Information including through Feints & Foreshots

**ANALYSIS.** There were 42 answers to each question thus one answer represents 2.4% of the sample. Question 1 saw tastings (19 responses) and newsletters/information (10 responses) as being the way in which survey respondents saw MWSOA assisting most.

**Question 2. Do you want the MWSOA to organise whisky tastings in 2010?**

### FIGURES FROM SURVEY MONKEY

<b>Yes</b>	82.3%
<b>No</b>	4.8%
<b>Other</b>	11.9%

**ANALYSIS:** Over 80% of survey responses favour the society holding whisky tastings.

**Question 3. Why did you join the MWSOA?**

### MAJOR RESPONSES

- ☒ To learn about, enjoy or mix with malt whisky and malt whisky enthusiasts
- ☒ Attending Conventions
- ☒ Invited by friends

**ANALYSIS:** 32 responses or 76% of the responses joined the Society to drink malt, mix with other malt drinkers or learn about malt whisky.



# Feints and Foreshots

**Malt Whisky Society of Australia - Membership**  
Survey conducted 1<sup>st</sup> April to 28 April 2010 (42 respondents)

**Question 4. Do you find Feints and Foreshots a useful resource?. Please specify how you find it useful.**

## FIGURES FROM SURVEY MONKEY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Always	26.2 %
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Often	42.9%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sometimes	19.0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rarely	7.1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Never	4.8%

**ANALYSIS:** Nearly 70% of survey respondents found Feints and Foreshots useful often or always with a further 19%, finding it occasionally useful.

**Questions 5. What are your sources of information on Malt Whisky?**

## FIGURES FROM SURVEY MONKEY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feints and Foreshots	73.8%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Websites	61.9%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whisky retailers	57.1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friends	64.3%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MWSOA meetings	35.7%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other whisky societies	45.2%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whisky Magazines	23.0%

**ANALYSIS:** Feints and Foreshots is the major source of information on malt whiskies for 74% of survey respondents.

**Question 6. What other whisky clubs are you a member of?**



# Feints and Foreshots

## Malt Whisky Society of Australia - Membership Survey conducted 1<sup>st</sup> April to 28 April 2010 (42 respondents)

### MAJOR RESPONSES

- ☒ None
- ☒ Other clubs/societies

**ANALYSIS:** Responses to this question revealed considerable overlap with 35% belonging to no another malt whisky organisation and 48% belonging to two or more whisky organisations.

### Question 7. Would you attend a malt whisky convention over a weekend in?:

#### FIGURES FROM SURVEY MONKEY

- ☒ Melbourne 69.0%
- ☒ Adelaide 61.9%

**ANALYSIS** Melbourne 69% and Adelaide 62% were the two most favoured venues for further MWSOA whisky conventions.

### Question 8. What other sort of event would you attend?

#### FIGURES FROM SURVEY MONKEY

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supplier supported tastings   | 85.7 % |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whisky & Food matching dinner | 83.5 % |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Themed dinner                 | 61.9%  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whisky Awards dinner          | 47.6%  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not interested                | 2.4 %  |

#### ANALYSIS:

over 85% of survey responses favoured attending supplier supported whisky tastings but nearly as many 83% supporting a whisky and food matching dinner and a themed dinner was the next most popular option at nearly 62%



# Feints and Foreshots

Malt Whisky Society of Australia - Membership  
Survey conducted 1<sup>st</sup> April to 28 April 2010 (42  
respondents)

## Question 9. Would you take advantage of a MWSOA single cask bottling?

### FIGURES FROM SURVEY MONKEY

Yes	71.4 %
No	2.4%
Unsure	26.2%

**ANALYSIS:** Over 70% of respondents supported a MWSOA single cask bottling.

## Question 10. Are you or your business interested in sponsorship opportunities with the MWSOA?

### FIGURES FROM SURVEY MONKEY

Yes	9.5%
No	76.2 %
Unsure	14.4 %

**ANALYSIS.** Over three quarters of survey responses were not interested in  
business ventures with MWSOA.

**MWSOA Survey Competition winner:**

**Dale Gatherum-Goss (Victoria)**

Thank you to Nic Lowrey, Peter Johnston, Ben Calcraft and Craig Daniels for putting  
the survey together, sending it out and doing the analysis.



# Feints and Foreshots

## **TASTING NOTES - JUNE 2010** with MWSOA Chairperson Craig Daniels

Off the Beaten Track - Malts from lesser known distilleries.

There are often some unusual and left field offerings in bottle-shops that may well be unfamiliar to all but the most well read of the malt community. I've purchased and tried all of these in the last 6 months and scored all them over 80/100, which means I think they are all medal material.

### **Linkwood 10yo 46% 1998/2008 Hart Brothers**

Linkwood (founded 1821) is one of those distilleries which has a very good name with blenders but where official bottlings are very rare. Located in the heart of Speyside on the southern outskirts of Elgin and owned by Diageo, its malt mainly ends up in Johnnie Walker and White Horse, although Gordon & MacPhail have plenty of stocks and some of them have been brilliant. This one is from another independent bottler, Hart Brothers and maintains a very high standard.

Nose: Floral character with crème fraîche, white chocolate, pyrethrum, dry bouquet garni, barley sugar, hazelnut praline, honey and malt. The herbal character grows in the glass.

Palate: honey and malt and some metallic/wood bitters in the tail, slightly vegetal in the aftertaste.  
85/100

### **Imperial 9yo 43% (Duncan Taylor, Battlehill) B2008**

Another "secret" Speyside (further south than Linkwood) near the town of Carron and across the River Spey from Dailuaine. Founded in 1897, it's one of those distilleries that was frequently mothballed. It's spent over half its life silent. I think it may have been dismantled, after finally falling silent in 1998. There have been rumours that Pernod Ricard who bought it in 2005 may have plans to reopen but the local council has previously given permission for the distillery to be demolished. Very, very rare to see any of Imperial bottled as a single and I've only ever tried three others, all from Gordon & MacPhail. This bottling must have been from the penultimate season as it was bottled in 2008.

Nose: Icing sugar, nougat, whipped cream with hint of mint, menthol, then stone dust, minerals (quartz, gypsum, chalk) and papyrus/bond paper, meranti, charred oak, fruitiness (still apple juice and cut pears).

Palate: Warm, lively & fruity, fruit salad, fresh sultana juice and fresh crushed grass, (sour sobs, coriander, lemongrass, crushed mint) and a little bit of treacle and some tannic wood and warming bitter metal in the finish. Clean and nicely fruity, if a tad fiery. 81/100





# Feints and Foreshots

## **TASTING NOTES - JUNE 2010 continued.**

with MWSOA Chairperson Craig Daniels

### **Jura 10yo 40% (OB)**

Jura is the only distillery on the Isle of Jura (immediately east of Islay) and the name of the distillery and the malt has oscillated between the two in the last 40 years. The current distillery began production in 1963 and was extended in 1978-9. Most Juras from the fairly recent past have been either unpeated or lightly peated but the recent releases (since 2006) are all peated to some degree. This expression is in the same ball park as Highland Park 12 or Johnnie Walker Green 15 while the Superstition and the new Prophecy are more heavily peated.

Nose: Plastic and coal dust. Slightly sour, then seaweed (nori) and some oily toffee, resin, turf, fruit and peanuts. The leafy, ferny, resin and light peat character become more forward over time.

Palate: toffee, light peat, turf, leafy, resin and slightly nutty/oily. More turf/grass and toffee in the finish. Nicely balanced with subtle peat and oily toffee. 82/100

### **Ardmore NAS 46% Peated, Traditional Casks (OB)**

Located on the very eastern edge of Speyside and sometimes designated Highland (along with Glendronach) Ardmore is another first rank distillery where the output is rarely bottled as a single, except that the situation has changed in the last 4 or 5 years. Probably most famous for providing the peaty top notes for the Teachers blend, this malt is ample proof that peated Speysides are nothing new, even if they were extremely rare and almost always entirely devoted to blending.

Nose: sweet, fudgy, earthy, peanut butter toffee, cream and barbequed meat, slightly medicinal (plastic, lanolin, antiseptic ointment) and smoked bacon

Palate: Sour and slightly briny, earthy with toffee, fudge and tar, chocolate and brine, finishes with sour fruit, smoke and tar. Interesting and complex. 84/100

### **Benriach 10yo 46% "Curiositas" (OB)**

Neighbour to Linkwood, further south on the road between Elgin and Rothes and cheek by jowl with sister distillery and much more famous sibling, Longmorn. Benriach was silent between 1900 and 1965 when it was rebuilt. Seagrams/ Chivas Bros used to release a Benriach 10 but it was a particularly bland malty offering and bore no resemblance to this release. Benriach has been a bit of a Cinderella since Chivas Brothers sold it to a private consortium and they took little time to start to bottle some of those peated blending stocks that were previously kept in-house, much to the applause and plaudits of the cogniscenti. This Benriach and the Ardmore NAS are proof that you don't have to head to the West Coast to get a decent peated malt.

Nose: Sweet pipe tobacco, a hint of boot polish, dry autumn leaves, mixed stone fruits, a little bit of peat along with leather, tar, rubber, honey and more sour leather.

Palate: sour leather, tobacco and earthy (leaf litter, compost), burnt nutty notes and a more obvious peaty punch along with a positive alcohol bite. 82/100





# Feints and Foreshots

## Lark Distillery scoops the International Whisky Awards, April 2010

The 2010 International Whisky Competition held at the Penthouse Suite of the Hotel 71 in Chicago last month came to an end on April 8th. Over 45 whiskies were tasted by 6 judges, master whisky tasters, coming from different parts of the world (Scotland, Netherlands, Canada, USA, and Belgium).

Every whisky was blind tasted and rated on a judging grid which included 5 categories ranging from packaging, to nose, to color, to taste, to finish as well as various sub-categories.

Here are some selected results:

### Whisky of the Year:

1. Gold: The Yamazaki 1984 – 25 Year Old Single Malt
2. Silver: The Dalmore 40 Year Old
3. Bronze: The Yamazaki 12 Year Old Single Malt

### Single Malt No Age:

1. Gold: The Dalmore Gran Reserva
2. Silver: The Dalmore King Alexander III – 1263
3. Bronze: Lark Distillery 43% Single Cask Release, Single Malt Whisky

### Cask Strength:

1. Gold: Signatory Vintage Royal Lochnagar
2. Silver: Lark Distillery 58% Cask Strength
3. Bronze: G&M Caol Ila 8 Year Old

### Islands:

1. Gold: Isle of Jura 16 Year Old
2. Silver: Lark Distillery 43% Single Cask Release, Single Malt Whisky
3. Bronze: Lark Distillery 58% Cask Strength Whisky

### Young Whisky:

1. Gold: Douglas Laing Big Peat
2. Silver: Lark Distillery 43% Single Cask Release, Single Malt Whisky
3. Bronze: G&M Caol Ila 8 Year Old

For more results and information about the awards go to: [www.whiskycompetition.com](http://www.whiskycompetition.com).



# Feints and Foreshots

## FEINTS AND FORESHOTS

EDITOR: Nic Lowrey

Contributors:

Ben Calcraft

Craig Daniels

Peter Johnston

Ian Schmidt

Photos: Craig Daniels, Nicole Lowrey

### MWSOA:

#### CONTACTS:

Editor: [fnfeditor@mwsoa.org.au](mailto:fnfeditor@mwsoa.org.au)

Webmaster: [webmaster@mwsoa.org.au](mailto:webmaster@mwsoa.org.au)

Chairman: [chair@mwsoa.org.au](mailto:chair@mwsoa.org.au)

## œ MWSOA EVENTS 2010 œ

**Whisky Awards Judging – Adelaide, Sunday 15 August 2010.**

### **Fancy yourself as a budding whisky judge?**

Will you be in, or can you arrange to be in, Adelaide on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010? If you want to be part of our major exercise of 2010, please submit a whisky CV to [chair@mwsoa.org.au](mailto:chair@mwsoa.org.au)?

**Whisky Awards Dinner – Adelaide Saturday 4 September 2010.**

Our major event for 2010, the Whisky Awards brings together producers, distributors, agents and malt enthusiasts to celebrate the very best in malt whisky from Scotland and Australia. Come along and get a chance to try all o the competition entrants and participate in the Members' Choice Award, where participants on the night get to vote for their favourite malt, tasted on the night.

**4 Course meal and drinks - \$90 per person**

**Rob Roy Hotel – Halifax Street, Adelaide.**



# Feints and Foreshots

## Musings from the Chair

July 2010

### **Members' Survey and Directions for the Future. by MWSOA Chairperson Craig Daniels**

Back in the relatively recent (yet thankfully) dim and dark past when the GFC wave came crashing down on our efforts to assemble the support for the proposed Fourth Convention in Hobart, I began wondering what the Society could actually do to service our members, since the Convention was our abiding *raison d'être*.

The Committee have been planning to canvas the members for a long time, and the postponement/cancellation of the Hobart Convention just provided additional impetus. So the newly elected committee got together in March 2010 and at our Planning Day we started to compile a list of topics that we needed member input and feedback upon.

The questions were refined by Nic Lowrey and Peter Johnson and sent out by Peter for response by 28 April 2010. Thanks to everyone who responded and you can review the results earlier in the edition.

I suppose the main purpose of this missive is to give you my thoughts on where we might head based on the strength of support for various options. The strongest messages were about more tastings, releasing Society bottlings and supplier supported tastings, along with a solid groundswell of support for the revival of the Convention.

I'll deal with the last item first. In lots of ways, the Convention was one of our main purposes. It was one of the reasons that we were established, although in the early days the Convention was mainly considered to be a vehicle to connect with like-minded connoisseurs around the country and the world, it gradually morphed into something more significant especially when Melbourne became such a major factor in recruitment.

The feedback from the survey was that Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney were well supported and we'll make a decision in the next month. I'll argue for Adelaide for a couple of reasons, not least of which is that we've not had it there before and we started off with the intention of having it in as many capital cities as we could and keep rotating it. Also, as the majority of the committee lives in Adelaide we'll be able to keep a close eye on the venue and other logistical considerations. At this stage (to be confirmed) the most likely date for the Convention is the last weekend in July 2011.



# Feints and Foreshots

## Musings from the Chair

July 2010 - continued

With regard to more tastings, we'd love to run tastings in other cities, but unless a local member is willing to do the spadework we just can't justify the costs as we can't attract a big enough crowd to cover the travel costs. However there is an obvious work around. While we can't run MWSoA only tastings, we can link into our sponsor and supporter base and progress the 'Supplier Supported Tastings' that received such a massive endorsement in the Survey. So it will be a high priority from now on to regularly contact the producers and distributors and find out when they are running tastings and other promotions and include them in either "*Feints & Foreshots*" or in ad hoc e-mails. Thus while we might not be directly involved, we will give our members the chance to meet with other malt enthusiasts and give them the opportunity to expand their malt knowledge.

There was solid support for Society bottlings and we've been thinking about this for quite a while. We had an arrangement with Glenfarclas for the Sydney 2005 Convention Malt 1980 Single Cask and that arrangement meant that all the bottling, labelling, shipping and distribution remained the responsibility of Glenfarclas and their local representative (Angoves), so we didn't have to worry about licensing issues or tie up any capital. We intend to go down the Society bottling route as the Member Survey suggested sufficient support, but there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed, not the least of which is obtaining a liquor licence and sourcing the malt. Licensing is not an inexpensive exercise so we'll have to make sure that we can justify the cost in the medium term.

There are always a lot of good ideas thrown up in exercises like this and the input is invaluable. Thanks to everyone who contributed. As Chair and longest serving committee member I must admit that my views are shaped by previous experience and when we start putting numbers and budgets to concepts then some become less viable.

Most of you also supported Feints & Foreshots which is gratifying for the small crew who put it out.

If you have any observations or comments please send to [chair@mwsOA.org.au](mailto:chair@mwsOA.org.au)