



FEINTS AND FORESHOTS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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CALENDAR

- Saturday 23rd June 2018
Winter Solstice Degustation Dinner
(featuring Rarities & Exotica from the Vault)
Maylands Hotel
67 Phillis Street
Maylands, SA
6:30pm for 7:00pm start
- Wednesday 29 August
Whisky, Chocolate & Coffee Matching
(venue to be confirmed)

EDITORIAL

In this issue of Feints and Foreshots we not only look back to the 2017 Winter Solstice Dinner, with a review of the whiskies from the palate and the pen of Andrew Derbridge. Although he couldn't attend in person, we sent him drams of all the whiskies for an impartial review. What he missed, however, was the sublime pleasure of tasting these whiskies with the degustation menu that had been assembled under the leadership of Malcolm O'Farrell and his staff at the Maylands Hotel.

So don't miss out this year. Craig Daniels has written about the back story of each whisky, to whet your appetite. Make sure you punch a hole in your calendar so that you can attend. Tickets are strictly limited in number and bookings can be made by visiting the *upcoming events* page on our website, maltwhiskysociety.org.au

There's plenty of other whisky-related reading in this issue:

- Ian Schmidt shares his Scotland travelogue, including a visit to the small, yet significant, Pulteney Distillery;
- more tasting notes in *Notes From the Grog Locker* (who would've thought our readers make a habit of this?);
- reviews of recent events; and
- news about our new bespoke bottling release.

I hope you enjoy it, and that I get to see you at an event soon.

Slàinte mhath !

Viano Jaksa

Editor

fnfeditor@maltwhiskysociety.org.au

MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON ALL TOPICS WHISKY

CONSIDERED MUSINGS ON THE AUSTRALIAN MALT WHISKY INDUSTRY

It goes without saying that I am a keen student of the local malt whisky scene and I'm watching the burgeoning local whisky industry with great interest, excitement and some trepidation. While I've been a fan since about 2001 I'm also someone who's studied political economy (for my sins) .I know that what's happening in Australia at the moment is a classic example of resource allocation under capitalism and I'm reminded of the old parable about the gold rushes: the best way to get rich is to sell mining equipment.

I also understand the concentration and centralisation of capital that's occurring now and what worries me is that the distillers with the highest quality whisky may lose out to non-distillers with the "best" prospectuses. Playing with OPM (other people's money) very rarely ends well and has more than a reasonable chance of destroying a big chunk of the industry. Anyone else remember Managed Investment Schemes?

Maybe I'm doomed to be another Cassandra whose prophecies were never believed, but even excluding the odd Ponzi scheme there's a shake out coming, my guess it's more a matter of timing rather than probability. The history of craft brewing provides a very recent and handy guide. There are plenty of examples; pioneers have long been gobbled up by big corporate players. The people that built those brands no longer own or control them. The same is true in the 'craft end' of the Australian whisky industry. Lots of the better-known names/brands we know so well continue but they are no longer owned by their founders or rescuers. Why does it matter? The people who started the industry are legends and their brands were built almost entirely on their personalities and their distilling skills and expertise. Their product reflected their personalities and their distilling ethos. And now we have corporate players that exploit the 'craft' card when it's no longer justified, authentic and warranted just like in local 'craft' brewing.

Without even bothering to observe that when industry sectors get 'hot' there are always latecomers that are going to get burnt by any overall slump or malaise without even mentioning that the business models of a lot of newish distillers are relatively high risk and some are bound to fall over. Nant's killed barrel investment schemes for a while. Also some are getting hammered on social media, probably for no good reason, but I won't put any of my own money into 'investment' schemes. I buy my own barrels and if the distillery goes belly-up I'm

probably going to be out of pocket, but at least I know that I actually have whisky spirit in barrel as I visit my casks once a year. Having personally invested in my own brand and without making it myself I have to secure supplies. There are people in the industry I trust because they have their own reputations invested in their product and I prefer to deal with them.



ON CASK SIZE AND STYLE: DOES IT MATTER?

Further regarding the local scene, a lot of the newer producers (since 2013-14) are putting new make into 20 ltr barrels trying to get to market quicker, which you can understand, but this may not be in their long-term interests nor be forgotten or forgiven. Established distillers I know reckon that 20 ltr barrels are too woody after 15 to 16 months. Of course this could just be a matter of protecting their own USP or a post-facto justification of their own decisions but I know from personal experience that 50litre barrels can be too woody at 5+ years old. Again from personal experience 100ltr barrels start to sing after 5 to 6 years, although the wood matters as well. Bourbon and sherry take longer than port to deliver an acceptable profile but 20ltr port barrels often just deliver something that tastes like very alcoholic port; the base spirit is so buried that it could be just about anything. Pinot is another barrel type that delivers good results early on but the problem is always going to be balance. When people talk about balance what they are really talking about is that the wood, the malt and the tertiary compounds are in harmony, well integrated and the overall product is neither raw nor clunky.

It's becoming apparent that from most consumers' and experts' POV, sherry and bourbon 100ltr or 200ltr barrels (in general) deliver the best whisky but only after 6 to 10 years. There's a very good reason that Sullivan's Cove, Hellyers Road and Limeburners have picked up national and international gongs for whiskies aged more than 8-10 years recently.

I understand that many producers don't want to (and probably can't afford to) wait that long, so there's always inherent tension and conflict. Nevertheless, pumping out immature spirit, (arguing it's legal so it's OK), isn't the only way to wreck your brand but it's a good (or should I say a bad) start.

If there's a shake-out imminent, the producers who already have lots of whisky legal and maturing in 100 and 200 ltr barrels and a respected brand are going to be advantaged over those who don't.

So am I another Cassandra or is there going to be a lot of second hand distillery equipment on the market in 10 years or so. I would love to hear your thoughts via our F&F editor at:
fnfeditor@maltwhiskysociety.org.au



RENEWING ACQUAINTANCES

THE MALTS FEATURED AT THE MWSOA'S 2017 WINTER SOLSTICE DEGUSTATION DINNER

Andrew Derbridge is a long-time member of the MWSOA and one of Australia's most influential whisky advocates. He is the author of the authoritative blog, Whisky & Wisdom, and a Director of the Scotch Malt Whisky Society of Australia. Andrew freelances as a whisky presenter/ambassador and has written for Whisky Magazine in the UK, Tumbler Magazine, Australian Gourmet Traveller, Unfiltered Magazine, the Sydney Morning Herald, and numerous other printed media, plus countless online/digital publications.

As Andrew was unable to attend the Society's Winter Solstice Dinner last year, Craig Daniels sent him samples of each of the whiskies.

Here are Andrew's reflections on the whiskies presented at the Dinner. Andrew originally tasted all but one of these whiskies at the first MWSOA Convention in 2003, so he is indeed "renewing acquaintances."

Today's whisky scene is vibrant, dynamic and – if you're on the lookout for an amazing whisky event – there's usually something pretty special going on somewhere in the country. Certain whisky events or gatherings used to be the exclusive domain of the likes of Sydney and Melbourne, but it has been both pleasing and liberating to recently see some incredible whisky events pop up all across this big, brown land.

Sadly, it just ain't possible to get to every event...and certainly if the event is interstate. Whilst I remain a keen member of the MWSOA (and have been since its foundation in 2003!) and would dearly love to participate more, jumping on a plane to Adelaide for a one night whisky dinner is a bit of a stretch! Thanks and gratitude, then, to the MWSOA committee who allowed me to purchase and subsequently try the incredible drams that were featured at the Winter Solstice Degustation Dinner in 2017.

I'm told by many that the dinner was exceptional and, indeed, one of my Sydney whisky buddies did actually make the trip to Adelaide and returned with high praise of the event. However, a whisky dinner is very much the sum of its parts. Its success, enjoyment, and post-event satisfaction all rely on the quality of the food; the calibre of the whiskies; the effectiveness of the respective matches where malt meets dish; and the execution of each element. And then there are the intangibles: The vibe in the room and the mood of the diners.

So what happens if you take the whiskies out of the dinner and examine them by themselves? If you remove the wonderful food, and the mood and joviality of the event, such that the whiskies must stand on their own feet, are the malts any less appealing? Will they stand up to naked scrutiny? Yours truly had the opportunity to make that very assessment.

Of course, these whiskies were not new ground or uncharted territory. Quite the opposite, in fact. In reality, I was renewing acquaintances, having tasted these whiskies previously in the past and, in most cases, on multiple occasions.

The Glen Albyn, the Millburn, and the Macallan Cask 17112 were all featured at the first MWSOA Malt Whisky Convention in Canberra back



in 2003, and I attended the respective Jim Murray and Gordon & MacPhail master-classes where these were showcased. The Glenfarclas was, obviously, the MWSOA's bespoke bottling for the second Convention in 2005, (and I confess to still having a few bottles of it tucked away somewhere). And the Macallan Cask 17113 actually made several appearances in Sydney at some rather special dinner events I attended around 10 years ago or so.

It would be both twee and tedious to present and paste here my detailed tasting notes for the whiskies as I re-assessed them one recent night. However, some general comments and observations might not go astray:



GLEN ALBYN 1974

This whisky was 29 years old when bottled in 2003. In a statement that might frustrate and anger a few younger readers, the early 2000's was a time when whisky drinkers benefited tremendously from the so-called whisky loch that resulted from over-production in the 1970's, and so affordable access to such aged whisky was pretty easy. In short, drinking a 29yo whisky from the 1970's was a not-uncommon event! However, drinking from a closed distillery is always special and, whilst Glen Albyn never received many plaudits in its day, the older whiskies I've tried since its closure have always been reasonably good. This release, in particular, packed a very light and fragrant nose that belied the oak and depth it displayed on the palate. Fine drinking, and a lovely piece of history.

GLENFARCLAS 1980

In a straight whisky-only line up, one wouldn't usually tackle a well-aged, sherried Glenfarclas as Whisky No. 2! However, for the sake of chronology, I tasted the whiskies in the same order as the dinner's menu. The nose had that wonderful sweetness, fairy floss, and sugar dusting that comes with many older Glenfarclas whiskies, but – given the cask was a second fill – it wasn't weighed down by oak or aggressive tannins on the palate. It displays delicate traits of oloroso, rather than great dollops of grape. John Grant (the distillery's current Chairman) is a firm believer that Glenfarclas is best expressed in second fill casks, and it's hard to argue with him when you taste this.

MILLBURN 1978

Millburn had something in common with both Glen Albyn and Randy Rhoads – none of them survived the 1980's. Of all the distilleries to disappear in the 1980's, Millburn is perhaps one of the hardest to find bottlings of. This particular release was brutal with an ABV of 65.6%, and I still recall many in the 2003 Convention Masterclass with Derek Hancock gasping for breath! It's very rare that I'll reach for water, but this whisky needs it, and is all the better for it. The water brings out incredible citrus on the nose, and there are wonderful cereal and toffee notes on the palate. It's exceptionally complex, and if you have the time and the patience, this dram will reward you over half-an-hour's careful assessment.

THOSE MACALLANS

Legendary bottlings in their own right, I'd tasted them both side-by-side at a special Macallan dinner in the late-2000's, and it was wonderful to re-visit them together again. You cannot discuss Macallans from the 1970's without leaning on the usual points of interest: Golden Promise barley; clean oloroso; superior casks; and – the pure and simple fact – that Macallan was slaying them in the aisles in those days. Ah, nostalgia. Of course, this isn't the first time that writing nostalgically about Macallan has got me into trouble with *Feints & Foreshots*. (Check out *Feints & Foreshots* issues 7 and 8 from 2006 if you're curious!)

Cask 17112 is clean, powerful, robust, and slightly tannic – but in a good, European oaky way. It is a wonderful time capsule of how many of us remember aged Macallans from the glory years. In stark contrast, Cask 17113 displays a wee lick of sulphur. As sulphur goes, it's at the low end of the spectrum and doesn't detract too heavily from the dram, but – for those who are sensitive to sulphur (and I'm one of them) – it's a dirty dram nonetheless. Something both casks share is an exceptional richness and the length of the finish that lingers for an eternity.





And so, what's the verdict? If nothing else, these are five drams that all entered MWSOA folklore. They are rare, and they are special. Two of them come from distilleries that are no more; two of them come from a distillery that may as well no longer exist. And one comes from a distillery that keeps on keeping on. However, more interestingly, these five drams were all bottled before the single malt boom really took hold; they were bottled before the internet, whisky auctions, collectors, and flippers caused whisky prices to skyrocket. Despite their age and rarity, they were relatively modest whiskies at the time they were bottled, yet they shine even brighter in today's context. And, best of all: They're delicious.

**Cheers,
Andrew Derbidge**



TRAVELS IN SCOTLAND

MWSOA Treasurer and whisky producer, Ian Schmidt, undertook a pilgrimage to the spiritual home of malt whisky, Scotland, late last year. Here's the first instalment of his travels.

In September of last year I was lucky enough to do a road trip through most of Scotland accompanied by She Who Must Be Obeyed (She Who for short), Young Pete and his bride, Pam.

It was cool and raining on arrival in Edinburgh by air from Birmingham. Birmingham airport is one of those places that leaves a lasting impression on you. Sadly, not a good one! Edinburgh on the other hand is bloody marvellous.

I am pleased to say the quality of food on offer in the city's bars, cafés and pubs is greatly improved since my last visit in 2005, with the possible exception of square sausage and breakfast haggis that I suspect were left over from my 2005 visit! The highlights of this visit to Edinburgh were a few drams at The Balmoral Hotel and comedy at The Stand.

After a few days we took possession of a shiny new Ford wagon and after an hour or so exploring the various permutations we finally worked out how to pack all our gear into the back of it and set off to view the Kelpies, monster horse head sculptures half way between Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Aberdeen was next with another excellent meal in an Asian restaurant. I was expecting to see a grim and grey city but we were surprised to find a pleasant and vibrant small city with beautiful parks and gardens. Then it started to rain and Aberdeen lived down to our expectations!

Expectations met we headed off towards Balmoral. She Who and young Pam abandoned Young Pete and me at our first distillery, Royal Lochnagar, while off doing non-whisky orientated touristy stuff. A small malt distillery the staff were very friendly and helpful which may well have something to do with the exceptionally pleasant surroundings in which they work. The drams they serve up were pretty easy to drink and may have contributed to the workers sunny disposition, not to mention ours! We had not planned a visit to Royal Lochnagar, it happened almost by accident because we saw a sign and thought it looked a better bet than tourist shops. We were right!

Car duh House, just around the corner from Cardhu Distillery was our home for the next night and I can't recommend it highly enough. Reasonably priced for what you get and pretty much in the middle of Speyside, so within easy reach of our primary goals for this part of Scotland, Glenfarclas and the Craigellachie Hotel.

We had been in Scotland for a few days now and one thing that stood out, to me as a flagpole maker anyway, was that almost all of the flagpoles in Scotland are erected off plumb. Not even the most famous Scottish landmark, Edinburgh Castle has more one of its many flagpoles perfectly vertical! I was seriously delighted then to drive up to the Glenfarclas distillery and see three, ten metre flagpoles, all perfectly plumb at



While we were sweltering, the temperature was somewhat cooler in Scotland. Here are our intrepid travellers at the most north-eastern point of the British mainland.

From left to right: Pete Hayward, Jackie Schmidt, Pam Welford and Ian Schmidt.



Ian Schmidt enjoys the company and wisdom of Malcolm Waring at the Pulteney Distillery. . .and some amazing whisky. (photo by Pete Hayward)

the entrance to the distillery.

The attention to detail carried through to the distillery and the whisky. Ian McWilliams showed us through the workings of the distillery for the best part of three hours. Every nut and bolt and item was shown and explained in intimate detail. Naturally we finished off in the barrel room and tasted samples from barrels filled in the 90's, 80's, 70's, and two rippers from the 60's. The oldest was from 1953. Even with so much time in Oak the whiskies were fresh, vibrant and very, very nice.

One thing about touring distilleries in Scotland is that after a few they all start to look the same. By that I mean once you have seen one mash tun, you have pretty much seen them all, the same with malt mills, stills and warehouses. There are differences, but unless you are a whisky nerd the differences won't mean much to you. Even if you are a whisky nerd it will be hard to appreciate the subtleties of a 6-roller mill vs a 4-roller mill. That said, due to the sheer beauty of most of them, and the people and personalities involved, distillery visits have to rate as one of the most worthwhile and satisfying things you can do in Scotland.

The other worthwhile pastime is castle visits. Scotland is quite literally, littered with castles bearing testimony to a long and violent history. Most are in ruins and grim looking fortifications, but on the coast road to Wick, overlooking the North Sea is Dunrobin Castle. It looks more like a fairy tale castle from a Walt Disney animated film and is not a ruin, but most amazing was the Falconry display in the magnificent gardens. This spellbinding display of wild birds of prey is well worth the few pounds and the hour of your time it takes to be mesmerized by falcons and owls flying by so close you can touch them.

The East coast of Scotland is characterised by grim, grey buildings that are, to be perfectly honest, only attractive to the natives of that part of the world. Where if it is not raining, it is about to. Nestled amongst the grim grey houses are the grim grey, almost black from mould, buildings of the Old Pulteney Distillery.



If it were not for the sign above the door it wouldn't be distinguished from the surrounding industrial and residential buildings. There is no pagoda roof, no carpark or flash visitor centre, certainly no flags poles, plumb or other wise to draw attention to the place, merely a modest sign above the door.

What Old Pulteney does have is Malcolm Waring, distillery manager and a font of knowledge for all things whisky related. Through mutual friends I had arranged for young Pete and myself to get a few hours of his time and a personal tour of the distillery. Malcolm shared his views (he has lots of them) on everything from whisky trends, production methods, marketing and blending, to ladies' fashions. We discovered that he makes very nice whisky, although to be honest we already knew that. We discovered that the image of the tight arsed Scotsman is alive and well when we asked Malcolm why some of the barrels had black paint on them and others yellow. The answer was that the company CFO instructed Malcolm to use up left over safety yellow paint on the barrels before he was allowed to buy some more black paint! We also discovered that at this distillery they are not averse to philanthropy and environmental responsibility. Steam to run the stills is generated on site in a biogenerator boiler burning woodchips. The residual hot water and steam is provided to the local council houses for heating as a community service.

Ian Schmidt
(to be continued. . .)



NOTES FROM THE GROG LOCKER

Once again we feature tasting notes for your pleasure and for you to consider when contemplating what to buy for your whisky shelf. I welcome you to share your whisky tasting experiences and opinions with other members. Please use the same format as you see here for your notes and email your contributions to fnfeditor@maltwhiskysociety.org.au. (I can email you a template to use, if you like).

If questioned, you can always reply that you're conducting research for Feints & Foreshots!

STRATHISLA 1937 (70 PROOF 40% ABV)

**STRATHISLA-GLENLIVET DISTILLERY CO.
ORIGIN: GORDON & MACPHAIL**

The Streak Malt Whisky Club recently held their annual Robe Whisky Weekend. Craig Daniels reports on some of the whiskies presented at the Dinner on the Saturday night.

APPEARANCE

Medium dark Black tea with reddish and golden brown highlights.

NOSE

Lots of linen and flax, hints of iodine, mustard plaster, drying and dusty wood, cocoa powder and dark bitter chocolate.

PALATE

A catch of dust from an old cupboard, antique store - hints of old furniture, mahogany and shellac. Chocolate, cocoa and carob covered candied/crystalline plums. Must have been refill sherry from European oak

FINISH

Has dry peat, dry grass/straw and cocoa/carob. Dry and dusty.

BALANCE

It's pretty perfect and linear throughout. No surprises in the transitions.

Amazing stuff. Dry, dusty, medicinally peaty and austere by today's standards but intriguing and a hell of a lot of fun. **92/100**

Craig Daniels



OLD PULTENEY 30 YO (44% ABV)

**PULTENEY DISTILLERY
WICK, CAITHNESS, SCOTLAND**

This is an official bottling, that was bottled circa 2012/2013.

APPEARANCE

Pale lemon/gold with lime or extra virgin olive oil type vibrant green highlights. I have seen green in whiskies before but it's quite rare.

NOSE

Early hits of toffee, sesame snaps, crème caramel, milk bottle lollies then big honey and beeswax, linseed oil or light machine oil and trailing citron or candied lemon and some biscuit dough and malt. After 20 minutes: toffee and some woodworking shop, but very subtle.

PALATE

Lemon, straw, grapefruit sprinkled with sugar, barley sugar lollies, fruit syrup and vanilla and honey in the tail.-The biscuit and uncooked dough notes reprise.

FINISH

A very light toffee, more of the crème caramel fighting with the honey. Clean, creamy, lemon bitters and malty. Wood influence is minimal.

BALANCE

Remarkably stable over time with lots of development in the nose and palate. Another whisky where there are no unpleasant surprises in any of the transitions. The wood is remarkably subdued and only really plays a supporting role to the distillate. Most likely from refill bourbon casks.

COMMENTS

It rivals the best Clynelish or the best Scapa you've ever come across. Solid, seamless and probably underrated. Encapsulates everything about why and when I loved Pulteney Distillery the most. They were making very fine whisky in the period 1976 to 1984. 90/100

Craig Daniels



MACPHAIL'S 30 YO (40% ABV)

UNDISCLOSED DISTILLERY

ORIGIN: GORDON & MACPHAIL

Puccini Decanter Bottled circa 2010

APPEARANCE

Straw coloured with a green tinge.

NOSE

Sultanas, vine canes, cognac, lint and a hint of liniment and a touch of tar. Sherry wood then mustard cress, iodine and flax seed.

PALATE

Christmas cake fruity then drying, tannic and slightly medicinal. More dry sherry and spice in the tail. Some powdered chocolate.

FINISH

Dried fruit then dry and a little austere. French polish and wood tannins. Dry sherry.

BALANCE

More generous in the nose than in the palate and finish. Maybe a tad too dry and a bit too tannic, but these are minor quibbles.

COMMENTS

Much speculation about the distillery of origin. It's probably an exercise in brand building and it gives them the option of vatting and bottling two or three 30+ year old casks (all from the same distillery) with a similar profile from a multitude of distilleries. There's definitely markers for both refill sherry casks from European oak and refill sherry from American oak. I've tasted similar whiskies from Glen Elgin, Linkwood, Bunnahabhain, Dailuaine and Strathisla. **89/100**



Craig Daniels



I recently took a drive down to Goolwa and visited Fleurieu Distillery. This is something I have wanted to do for some time now and I am glad I have finally made the trek down there. I was lucky enough to have visited shortly after several new whiskies were released for sale by the distillery. Several of the whiskies I tasted have since won medals at the Australian Distilled Spirits Awards. I'm really not surprised by this success as each of the releases from this distillery has been of a very high quality.

Aaron Baxter

ATLANTIC CROSSING (52% ABV)

FLEURIEU DISTILLERY
GOOLWA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OTHER DETAILS

Medium Peat

NOSE

Honey, spirity, roasted nuts

PALATE

Honey coated figs, lightly smoked peanuts

FINISH

Sweet lingering oiliness

BALANCE

Very well balanced

COMMENTS

All elements work well together. One of my favourite drams from Fleurieu Distillery to date. I'll need another bottle soon. Won Silver in the Australian Distilled Spirits Awards

87/100

Aaron Baxter



RIVER'S END (53% ABV)

FLEURIEU DISTILLERY
GOOLWA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NOSE

Orange zest, mint, faint herbiness

PALATE

dry, tannins, orange zest, peppermint

BALANCE

Good balance

COMMENTS

A lovely balanced whisky

83/100

Aaron Baxter



BOGART & BACALL

(61.2% ABV)

FLEURIEU DISTILLERY

GOOLWA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OTHER DETAILS

Heavily Peated

NOSE

Smoked almonds, Vicks vapour rub, spiritry

PALATE

Honey coated figs, lightly smoked peanuts

COMMENTS

High ABV prominent on the nose and ashy characters unbalanced on the palate. It is a very good whisky but during the tasting the ash character overwhelmed the other aspects of the whisky a little too much and the high ABV really came through on the nose. I feel that my enjoyment of the whisky may have been affected by the food I had before tasting it. I'll definitely have to try this whisky again. Won Gold in the Australian Distilled Spirits Awards85/100

Aaron Baxter



HEART OF GOLD

(54.1 % ABV)

FLEURIEU DISTILLERY

GOOLWA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NOSE

Sticky sweet, honey, violets

PALATE

spiritry, hot, chilli, tannins, honey, light smoke lingers

COMMENTS

Another enjoyable whisky from Fleurieu Distillery.....83/100

Aaron Baxter



FIRST EDITIONS SPRINGBANK 21 YO (49.9% ABV)

SPRINGBANK CAMPBELLTOWN

ORIGIN: HUNTER & LAING (DISTILLED 1995)

APPEARANCE

Pale Straw

NOSE

Freshly cut cucumber, brine, oily, light smokiness

PALATE

Creamy vanilla, cinnamon, oily, briny, light smokiness

FINISH

Good length with smoke and brine lingering

COMMENTS

This is an excellent Springbank. I enjoyed every drop.....

88/100

Aaron Baxter



MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Newly-elected committee member, Peter Golotta, has organised Society lapel badges as a further way of publicising the society and of adding value to society membership.

Badges will be distributed to all new members, in addition to the membership certificate, and are being distributed to existing members as well.

If you'd like one sent to you, please drop Peter an email at: committee1@maltwhiskysociety.org.au



WEBSITE NEWS

Long-standing members of the Society would know that the old domain name, mwsoa.org.au, fell out of the control of the Society two years ago. We're pleased to report that we've been able to re-secure the domain name, and so when typing mwsoa.org.au in a web browser, the user will now be automatically re-directed to the Society's webpage, which continues to be maltwhiskysociety.org.au

SHADES OF ISLAY PEAT

In another of the Society's *Treasures From the Vault* series of tastings, the Society held a whisky and tapas paired tasting on Thursday 12 April at the Cru Tapas Bar and Kitchen, in Goodwood, an inner southern suburb of Adelaide that was founded in 1839, shortly after the proclamation of the colony of South Australia.

Martin Ardill, the proprietor of Cru, together with Craig Daniels, put together a menu that showed how, with understanding, peated whiskies can be a perfect accompaniment to a meal. As one of the attendees put it in an email sent after the event:

"I'm just amazed that peaty whiskies go so well with food - I had no idea - Not that I ever doubted your expertise - I think you have wisdom in whisky and food that is remarkable and you deserve a gold medal for doing such an amazing job."

Here's a list of the whiskies, with their food pairings.

- **Ardbeg Blasda** 40% Lightly Peated (8ppm phenols) Released 2008 (Limited Release) was matched with **Oysters with Lime & Wasabi Sorbet**;
- **Laphroaig 18** 48% Bottled 2012 (Discontinued); **Ardbeg Uigeadail** 54.2% Bottled 2011; and **Ardbeg Ardbog** 52.1% Ardbeg Day Release June 2013 (Limited Release) were matched with **Crispy Whitebait with Cumin and Lime Salt**; **Gorgonzola Dolce**, **Beetroot Relish and Jamon Serrano**; and **Vanilla Poached Pear with Dark Chocolate Squares**;
- **Buichladdich Port Charlotte PC7** 61% Released 2008, Bottled November 2008, was matched with **Crema Catalana**.





The line-up from the Shades of Islay Peat tasting. . .
a rare treat indeed.

ANTIPODEAN WHISKY TASTING

One of the Society's stated aims is to spread the appreciation of malt whisky and to run introductory sessions that introduce people to the wonderful world of malt whisky. To this end, the Society recently ran a tasting of Antipodean whiskies, which brought together select Australian and New Zealand whiskies, from the Society's vault, to a new audience in Gawler.

The tasting was held on 10 May at The Prince Albert Hotel, Murray Street, Gawler.

The whisky menu was:

- Limeburners M80 43% (WA)
- NZ Whisky Co 21yo Single Malt
- Smiths Angaston 12yo D2000/B2012 (SA)
- NZ Whisky Co 1992 Single Cask
- and the mystery whisky was a Timboon 2008

Canapés and supper were provided by the hotel's kitchen and the many positive comments received about the dishes supplied, indicates that the Society has found another partner venue for whisky appreciation. Watch this space (and our website) for upcoming events at the Prince Albert Hotel.







The Antipodean Whisky Tasting held at the Prince Albert Hotel, Gawler.

(photos by Peter Golotta)

MWSoA's WINTER SOLSTICE –2018

“RARITIES, GREATS AND EXOTICA”

Those of you who've attended the Society's Winter Solstice Whisky Degustation Dinner will know just how special an event it is. Rare whiskies matched with thoughtfully paired dishes make for a memorable event, as the 2017 event at the Maylands Hotel proved.

And so it with pleasure that we announce the Winter Solstice Degustation Dinner for 2018, which will be held on Saturday 23 June at the Maylands Hotel. The very limited number of tickets will be \$260, with a \$15.00 discount for Society members, redeemed by using the code WINTER18 when booking tickets.

Craig Daniels has put together these notes regarding the history and provenance of the outstanding whiskies to be savoured on the night.

WHISKY NOTES: BACKGROUND AND PROVENANCE

1 **GLENFARCLAS 30 43% (OB), BOTTLED CIRCA 2011**

In the annals of the MWSoA's Malt Whisky Awards (run six times between 2005 and 2013) this was the most successful of all entries. It won 2 trophies for Best in Show (Non-Australian), 5 Golds (89.5+) and 1 Silver (84.5+). The Silver was 88pts. It's not an everyday drinking proposition unless you're a rock star but it's probably the malt in the core range that shows what Glenfarclas can really deliver with top quality refill sherry casks. When people compare single malt scotch to the best of cognacs, I'm thinking they have Glenfarclas 30 in mind as a template. It's also a perfect example of why 43% makes sense and works for whiskies of a venerable age.

2 **BUNNAHABHAIN 39YO 49.4% (CADENHEAD SMALL BATCH) CIRCA 2016**

There's a very good reason why members of the MWSoA chose to acquire this whisky to supplement our own reserves for the upcoming Winter Solstice Degustation Dinner. A core group of us tasted it at the Strehl Robe weekend in 2017 and most of us thought it was the premier whisky of the whole event. If it was entered into our competition it would've easily scored a Gold medal. This is also a time capsule of malts on Islay when quite a few distilleries used strains of the same yeast which contributed the tropical fruitiness that are evident in lots of Scotch malts distilled in the 1960s and 1970s. Bunnahabhain which was almost certainly lightly or un-peated back then, still has accents of Bowmore and Laphroaig from the 1970s. A truly great whisky and the cask strength proof is perfect.

3 **LIMEBURNERS M23 61% (OB) CIRCA 2010**

Like a lot of Aussie distillers their early releases were all single cask whiskies. They didn't have enough to think about batching or vatting until they'd accumulated sufficient stocks. The number on the bottle usually indicated the order in which the barrels were filled so 23 came before 31 for example. M23 was one of the first entries from Limeburners entered into our competition and the first Australian Whisky to win a trophy.

4 **OVEREEM SHERRY CASK OHD004 61.5% FOR THE MWSoA BOTTLED IN NOV 2011**

This was the Society's Bespoke single cask, single malt cask strength whisky in 2012. There were only 96 bottles at 61.5% and it was only ever released in Australia. Casey Overeem kicked off his distillery in 2007. I approached him about getting a cask to bottle for the Society and he sent me 5 cask samples but he kept OHD-001 and OHD-002 for himself for obvious reasons. We had a tasting panel of four that put the 5 samples through their paces at my place in November 2011 and picked OHD-004.

This is an incredibly rare dram, bottled for the Society before Overeem became famous and revered around the world; a little bit of history and unique because we asked Casey to bottle it at natural cask strength. It's a perfect time capsule; travelling back to when Australian Single malts were just beginning to blast into the stratosphere.



The line-up of rare and outstanding whiskies that will be featured at this year's Winter Solstice Degustation Dinner

5 OCTOMORE 01.1 63.5% FIRST EDITION RELEASED 2008

There's only two ways to describe Octomore: totally bonkers or the 'cult whisky' of cult whiskies. I suppose if you're looking for a malt enthusiast's "bucket list" experience then the very first release of Octomore from Bruichladdich fits the bill. From what I've gleaned over the years, Jim McEwan had lots of ideas about what he could do with Bruichladdich's stills by playing around with barleys, mash bills, different types of oak and ramping up the peating levels and I'm convinced he was largely responsible for Port Charlotte and Octomore. Back in the day Octomore 01.1 was put up as competition or a rival for Ardbeg Supernova, and I don't which one was produced first but they were definitely put on tables in Australia at the same time. Both are now very rare and the Octomore 01.1 sells for ridiculous amounts of money north of £850 or \$1,400. Despite all the hype it's actually a pretty decent whisky even at 131ppm phenols and only 5 years in bourbon barrels. My verdict: it's an extreme whisky that works, very well.

Craig Daniels



MWSOA 5TH BESPOKE BOTTLING



The society is pleased to announce its Fifth Bespoke Bottling, a marriage of two casks from the silent distillery, Southern Coast. Before Ian and Vic became Tin Shed Distilling and began producing Iniquity, they'd become famous for producing what Jim Murray described as making him weak at the knees and proclaimed as liquid gold.

There were only 60 bottles produced at 51.3% ABV, and at \$165.00 (plus \$15 postage, packaging and insurance) this is a rare opportunity to buy a piece of Aussie malt whisky history.

There is a limit of one bottle per member, and to secure your slice of whisky heaven, simply send an email to:

chair@maltwhiskysociety.org.au

Please note the following details:

- payment only by EFT or cash and collect;
- if paying by EFT, please note the following details:
BSB: 325-185
Account #: 032117466
Reference: MWS-BB2018
- if paying by cash and collect, please indicate in the email and collection instructions will be emailed to you; and, remember
- only one bottle per member.





**MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
INCORPORATED**

**MWSoA
MEMBERS' POLO SHIRT ORDER FORM**



The Malt Whisky Society of Australia has commissioned a Members' Polo Shirt that depicts the Society's colours and highlights the Society's logo.

*At a cost of \$AU 25.00
(plus \$8 p&h, for Australian delivery only)
it represents excellent value for money
and will make an excellent gift.*

SIZE	CHEST CIRCUMFERENCE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
M	108 cm	
L	114 cm	
XL	120 cm	
XXL	126 cm	
XXXL	132 cm	

Total number of shirts ordered:	
Total cost of shirts ordered:	\$
Postage & Handling (\$8.00)	\$
Total:	\$

Name:			
Delivery Address:			
Suburb/City:		State:	Postcode:

Method of Payment:

Direct Deposit



Cheque



Cash



Please tick here for collection in South Australia:



All payments to be made to Malt Whisky Society of Australia Inc.

1. Please make cheques payable to: Malt Whisky Society of Australia Inc.

2. For direct deposit, the account details are:

Institution: Beyond Bank Australia (a trading name of Community CPS Australia Limited)

BSB #: 325 -185

Account #: 032117466

Account Name: Malt Whisky Society of Australia Inc

When completed post form to:

"MWSoA Polo Shirt"- Malt Whisky Society of Australia Inc

P.O. Box 206 Glen Osmond SA 5064

or via e-mail to marketing@maltwhiskysociety.org.au

(NB: Cash option only for collection in SA)



MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
INCORPORATED

MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA SOUVENIR GLASS ORDER FORM



IN FEBRUARY 2013 THE MWSOA COMMISSIONED 300
BADGED GLENCAIRN WHISKY GLASSES FOR THE FOURTH
MALT WHISKY CONVENTION AND FOR SALE TO MEMBERS.
WE HAVE 180+ REMAINING. THE MWSOA LOGO IS WHITE
AND FUSED TO THE GLASS.

LIMIT OF 6 GLASSES PER MEMBER

Number of Glasses	Member's Only Price (AUD)	Postage, Packaging and Insurance (AUD)	Total (AUD)
Single	\$10.00	\$6.50*	\$16.50
Trio	\$30.00	\$9.50*	\$39.50
Six Pack	\$55.00	\$12.50*	\$67.50

Method of Payment Direct Deposit ☐ Cheque ☐ Cash ☐

All payments to be made to Malt Whisky Society of Australia Inc. **Please make cheques payable to Malt Whisky Society of Australia Inc.**

For direct deposit the account details are:

Institution: Beyond Bank Australia (a trading name of Community CPS Australia Limited)

BSB #: 325-185

Account #: 032117466

Account Name: Malt Whisky Society of Australia Inc

Lodgment Reference: MWS-SG2013--first letter of first name plus first three letters of surname, for example John Citizen would be MWS-SG2013-JCIT.

☐ Please tick here for collection in South Australia. NB: Cash option only for collection in SA.

For Delivery within Australia Only *

Delivery Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

NB : Product available whilst stocks last

When completed post form to:

**"MWSoA Souvenir Glass"- Malt Whisky Society of Australia Inc
P.O. Box 206 Glen Osmond SA 5064
or via e-mail to marketing@maltwhiskysociety.org.au**