



FEINTS AND FORESHOTS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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ISSUE 50

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CALENDAR

- *Annual General Meeting*
(final date and venue to be confirmed)
see "Musings From the Chair"
- August 2020
MWSOA Tasmanian Malt Whisky Tour
(cancelled)
- Thursday 24th September
"Island Hopping"
Whiskies from the islands of Scotland, New Zealand and Australia
Prince Albert Hotel
109 Murray Street, Gawler SA
(event will be confirmed, subject to COVID-19 restrictions))

EDITORIAL

Hasn't the world changed drastically in the last few months?

Who would've thought that everyone would know what Zoom is, and that it would become such a ubiquitous means of maintaining contact at work and with families and friends? I can first remember using it as a means of conducting customer meetings across the state, when it was too difficult and expensive to hop in a car and drive to the APY lands, or the Riverland, or the Far West Coast of SA. And now it seems that everyone is using it.

People are talking about getting back to the way things were. I'm just not so sure. I think all events, especially major international ones, have outcomes that reverberate through the years, and leave their mark on a future that is yet to be written.

And what that means for the MWSOA hasn't been completely worked out, either. Already we've had to postpone the Annual General Meeting that was to be held this month. The venue we'd planned on holding this year's meeting, the venerable King's Head Hotel, has sadly gone into liquidation, which is indeed a sign of the times. At this stage, Craig is planning alternative arrangements, and you can read about that in his article. We will, of course, keep you informed either through *Feints and Foreshots*, or via email.

Craig's also had to cancel preparations for the MWSOA Tasmanian Malt Whisky Tour, and you can read about that, together with his suggestions for some whiskies to drink, while in isolation.

As if you ever need to have an excuse to try some new drams.

Kate Haslam offers some entertaining reflections on her favourite whiskies, and also introduces an interesting theme: music to drink whisky by.

And there's a review of our Japanese Whisky Dinner, which was a great night. Hopefully some restrictions will be lifted in time for us to hold our planned Island Hopping Whisky Adventure in September. We'll keep you posted.

All that's made me thirsty!

Slàinte mhath !

Viano Jaksa

Editor

fnfeditor@maltwhiskysociety.org.au

MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 20 DAYS MAKES

CANCELLATION OF THE MWSoA WHISKY TOUR DUE IN EARLY AUGUST 2020

It is my melancholy duty to advise that the MWSoA Whisky Tour of Tasmania is cancelled for 2020 and is officially rescheduled for October in 2021.

Background: in November 2019, now a totally different era, the committee allocated some tasks and mine was to organise a MWSoA Bespoke Whisky Tour of Tasmania to be held in the week preceding Tasmania Whisky Week (TWW) 2020.

I've been the lead organiser on four Malt Whisky Conventions, so it wasn't a hard ask and it was going well until the COVID-19 cloud built like a mini-tsunami and just rolled in. My negotiations with various parties were going fine and I was busily producing a budget and a ticket price for members, but that whole exercise took an ominous battering when Dark MOFO was cancelled and then the lights really started to go out, one by one: MONA closed, Salamanca Market shut down, the TWW committee advised they were cancelling TWW for 2020 and Tasmania closed their borders without any indication as to when they might be re-opened.



I've made quite a few contacts that will be useful when we crank the idea up again in April 2021 with the tour dates to be 5-8 October 2021.

Please put those dates in your diary and if you'd like to go on a mailing list please send your details to chair@maltwhiskysociety.org.au.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE AGM AND CHANGE OF VENUE

Following the State Government's decision to shut down venues and discourage gatherings we couldn't proceed with our AGM in April as was the original plan. Our preferred venue, The King's Head has gone into liquidation so I'm searching to find another venue. Because the lockdown was out of our control it is a case of force majeure. I'm trying to book a venue for Saturday 20 June 2020 but I won't be able to confirm the venue or the start time until around 7 June 2020. My fingers are crossed that the restrictions on gatherings in SA will be lifted by early June. I'll keep everyone posted via email on 7 June 2020.

A SELECTION OF AFFORDABLE SAH (STAY AT HOME) WHISKIES

QUALITY ON A BUDGET AND BUILDING A TOP SHELF FOR COVID-19 TIMES

Everyone assumes that being the Chair of the Malt Whisky Society since inception, that I'm a malt snob. It wasn't true back when the MWSOA was established in 2002 and it's definitely not true now. Since 2003 when single malt scotch started to get expensive, I went exploring various other spirits but for my first selection I thought I'd stick with whiskies with a target price of less than \$100. When you want to save your special bottles rather than plough through them on your own in lockdown I thought I'd put together a list of staples that I'd be happy to be offered on any visit and would grace a connoisseur's Top Shelf. I score all of these whiskies between 82 and 88/100 and I've only picked readily available whiskies that are occasionally discounted in certain large chains. The target price is in brackets.

IRISH SINGLE POT STILL

REDBREAST 12 (\$90-99) 40% ABV

Single or 'Pure' Pot Still as it was called before 2011, is a peculiarly Irish style of whiskey. Single Malts and Blended whiskies are common all over the world but only Ireland has a long history of mashing malted barley and unmalted barley together and distilling that mash in copper pot stills. There are other Irish Single/Pure Pot Still whiskies available but Redbreast is right at the pinnacle of the style. You get the spiciness and the expected grassiness and the sherry casks are top notch. It's a classic. **88/100**



IRISH BLENDED WHISKY

(1) BUSHMILLS BLACK BUSH (\$45-50) 40%ABV



Up until 2012, probably the most ubiquitous blended Irish whisky (above Jameson's) in Australia and often overlooked. It's a good quality whisky with a high proportion of first fill oloroso casks in the blend. It's triple distilled and has that Irish grass and spice but closer to a lot of scotch than more pedestrian offerings like Powers or Paddy's or Bushmills White Label. **82/100**

(2) TULLAMORE DEW 12 (\$65-70) 40% ABV

Originally a travel retail (duty free) exclusive it began with a bang in 1999 picking up numerous gongs from 1999 to 2001. It didn't really hit normal retail shelves until 2012 at the earliest and was a hit on the awards circuit again. Another typical Irish triple distilled blend like Black Bush (with the inclusion of some single pot still spirit) and with a decent proportion of sherry wood too but both more elegant and refined. Excellent value for money; it's come out in two different liveries, one moss green and one burgundy. I think the burgundy liveried bottling is a belter. **87/100**



SCOTCH BLENDED MALTS

JOHNNIE WALKER 15 GREEN LABEL (\$65-75) 43%ABV

Probably not a surprise to anyone who knows me (or a fraction of the whisky people on the internet) that JW Green 15 is a favourite Johnnie Walker product. Most of my fondest memories go back to around 2005-2007 but the new releases after 2016 hold their own. One comment I remember from the internet is that this Green Label 15 is all you could and should expect from a blended/'vatted' malt at the asking price. I agree 100%. **84/100**



SCOTCH BLENDED WHISKIES

(1) DIMPLE 15 (\$55-65) 40%ABV



Haig's Dimple is one of those old-fashioned blends that made Scotch a worldwide favourite. The 12 is OK but the 15 is probably the most well-rounded and elegant expression, certainly the best value for money. **84/100**

(2) CHIVAS REGAL XV (\$75-79) 40%

Launched in 2018, I first came across it in mid-2019 and it's been a regular on my top shelf since. There's much made of use of Grande Champagne Cognac casks but I don't know how much difference they would make. I just think the quality of the malts and grains in the blend are high. **87/100**



BOURBON – KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON

(1) RUSSELL'S RESERVE 10 (\$55-60) 45% ABV

From the stable of Wild Turkey in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, it sings in a deeper, richer register than stable mates like Longbranch and Wild Turkey 101 and I rate it much higher. It has the 'stable' traits of caramel, treacle/maple syrup and hints of cedar and sandalwood but the floral notes (lavender, lilac, violets) that are more prominent in Wild Turkey and Longbranch are toned down and the whisky is better for that. **85/100**



(2) EAGLE RARE 10 (\$75-79) 45% ABV



Part of the Sazerac Company stable of over 14 different whisky brands from across five separate distilleries with the most deservedly famous being Buffalo Trace in Frankfort, Kentucky. Lithe, supple and subtle. **87/100**

If you have a favourite whisky that isn't a single malt and fits the selection criteria (regularly available in liquor chains for under \$100 and scores 82/100 or more feel free to share with me at chair@maltwhiskysociety.org.au or Viano F&Editor@maltwhiskysociety.org.au and we'll share your thoughts. Scoring systems vary but very roughly the Society's system is 80-84 is Bronze, 85-88 is Silver and 89 + is Gold.

Craig Daniels
Chair MWSOA



Disclosure statement – I have no direct or indirect connection with any of these companies. I'm recommending whiskies that I've either bought and tasted at home or at private whisky club tastings within the last two years.

So, WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WHISKY?

I'm sure that all of you have been asked this question at some stage, and have possibly wondered like I do how to go about answering this question. I mean, whisky is such a mood dependent thing. To me, the whisky I'm drinking right now usually feels like one of my favourites, because it's the one I have chosen to drink at this moment for a particular reason. Maybe it's one I've had before and I know it will suit my mood, or it might be something I've never tasted and am curious to try. If this is the case, then unless it really disappoints for some reason I'm usually thinking 'wow, I'm so glad I tried this, I can see why my great-auntie Charlotte* suggested buying this one' and am filled with new enthusiasm and warm happy thoughts about my new discovery which will now live in my cupboard to be shared with another friend soon. But a true favourite? That's hard to pin down.

Would it be one of the ones I most often enjoy at home? Maybe a whisky that I will almost certainly in the mood for whatever the occasion? Or the one that's a bit rare and special, and only shared with the select few who will truly appreciate it, slowly watching the level in the bottle go down over weeks and months until the moment of sharing the last measures with my husband with a sense of solemn ceremony, tinged with sadness at the thought I may never taste that particular whisky again? (the only Port Ellen which we've ever bought, and brought back in our suitcase from Scotland fills that bill perfectly in case you were wondering). It's very difficult to decide...



But ask me about the best single dram I've ever had, and that's a very different story. Was it technically the best whisky ever presented to me? Maybe not. Was my experience of the circumstances surrounding and leading up to the drinking of it, and the surroundings, and the sights and smells as I held the glass in my hand affecting my subjective appreciation? Almost certainly so. And I think that's what it's really all about for many of us, don't you?

I have had some memorable whiskies over the years. To me, a standard issue Glenmorangie handed around in the common room of a cold campsite by the seaside in Tasmania one July, with a bunch of choir friends from around Australia all snuggled up in blankets and sleeping bags, singing dirty songs until the bottle ran out still tastes like the nectar of the gods in my memory. The first whisky I convinced my then 76 year old mother to try with me- a Highland Park on a Singapore airlines flight to Germany to attend the Bach festival in Leipzig – tasted absolutely wonderful. Maybe it was the high altitude affecting my tastebuds, or maybe the fact that she liked it so much she asked the flight attendant for another one 'and make it a bit bigger this time please young man' with a wicked grin and a twinkle in her eye that made me chuckle in delight. The first Lagavulin I drank with my boyfriend of the time seems far better in hindsight than any other I have enjoyed in the 25 or so years since (It was the first whisky he ever had, and now he is my husband. Coincidence? Maybe, but I still blame the whisky anyway). Even a whisky that all present at the time agreed was not at all what we liked, but kept drinking it long enough to come up with the perfect descriptive terms to send to a friend in warning the next morning doesn't seem so bad in retrospect. I am sure you all have similar whisky stories, and I'd love to hear them over a glass or two one day.

Anyway, all this reminiscing is making me thirsty, so it's time for a wee drop. Something Australian today I think. And if you want the story of the very best dram I have ever had, maybe I'll write it down for the next edition. But I warn you, it is bound to be a long and rambling tale!

*she is a fictional character, and the sort of auntie I wish I had.

Kate Haslam

Vice Chair / Membership Officer MWSoA



“UISUKĪ & DINE” – FLAVOURS OF JAPAN WHISKY DINNER

Japanese whisky is enjoying a world-wide surge of interest, which is fuelling an astounding rise in price and investment value. Japanese whisky has been rightly praised for its quality. Like other aspects of Japanese culture, where precision, attention to detail, and a commitment to the “art” of an artisan product, play an important role, so too with Japanese whisky.

It's no surprise that the MWSOA decided that a dinner, where the artistry of Japanese food would be married to the finesse and subtlety of Japanese whisky, would be the Society's first event for 2020. And so the society's “Uisukī and Dine – The Flavours of Japan” was held on Thursday February 20th at The Donburi House, in Adelaide.

The evening was arranged by Peter Golotta, who joined the MWSOA Committee in 2019. Peter's interest in Japan goes deeper than his appreciation of their whisky. He's studying the language and, with wife Zoe, has visited Japan a number of times. And he is a fan of Japanese cuisine. So there was little doubt that he would put all this together and arrange a Japanese food and whisky pairing, in partnership with his favourite Japanese restaurant, The Donburi House. Over the page, you can see the whisky and food pairings that Peter selected, in collaboration



Peter Golotta shares his passion for Japanese whisky and cuisine

with owner Ping Liew and chef Lulu. The evening validated what we've come to respect and appreciate about Japanese cuisine: careful preparation that honours the ingredients used; meticulous presentation and attention to detail; and the elevation of the whole dining experience to an art form. Ping and Lulu were very gracious and passionate hosts, and you could tell that the attendees enjoyed the night from the smiles on their faces and the animated conversations when each dish arrived. The whiskies were a delightful complement to each plate and showed that even affordable expressions from the Japanese distilleries offer the whisky drinker a high quality dram.

The evening was sponsored by Diverse Mechanical Solutions, and their proprietor, Tristan Luck, attended the event as an enthusiastic participant. Thanks for your support, Tristan, it's very much appreciated.

Unfortunately the night was over too soon. This is a sure sign of an event's success, and so the chief protagonists ought feel very pleased with their efforts. Congratulations Peter, Ping and Lulu.

Another event placed in the file marked “Fond Memories.”

Viano Jaksa





MENU (WITH WHISKY PAIRINGS)

ENTRY/WALK IN STARTER

Edamame (Share)

THE HAKUSHU - DISTILLERS RESERVE

Paired with Salmon and Tuna sashimi
(3 slices salmon, 3 slices tuna)

(Vegetarian option – Sweet Potato
Fries with dipping sauce)

SOUP

Miso Soup

YAMAZAKI 12 YEARS

Paired with Yakitori with Mentaiko
sauce (1 skewer) & Aburi chirashi
don (Diced salmon, tuna, kingfish,
prawn, crab sticks, avocado and
tamako aburi with honey mustard
sauce)

(Vegetarian option – Pan fried
vegetarian gyoza)

YOICHI

Paired with ½ Serve of tonkatsu with
tonkatsu sauce and side salad

(Vegetarian option – Tofu Katsu with
tonkatsu sauce and side salad)

NIKKA - WHISKY FROM THE BARREL

Paired with Matcha Tiramisu











Event Sponsor Tristan Luck and wife Nadia



Chef Lulu, Peter Golotta and Ping Liew celebrate a successful evening

“ONE FOR THE ROAD”

ROBIN LAING

Robin Laing is an Edinburgh-born singer and songwriter, who also happens to have a keen passion for whisky. This album, released in 2007 (I think) is the third in a series of whisky-themed recordings by him. We picked up our copy on a holiday in Scotland 10 or so years ago, and it still raises my spirits (no pun intended) every time it gets played, with its delightful mix of musical styles ranging from steel-string guitar with a bluegrass vibe to modern lyric ballads and a folk tune or two.

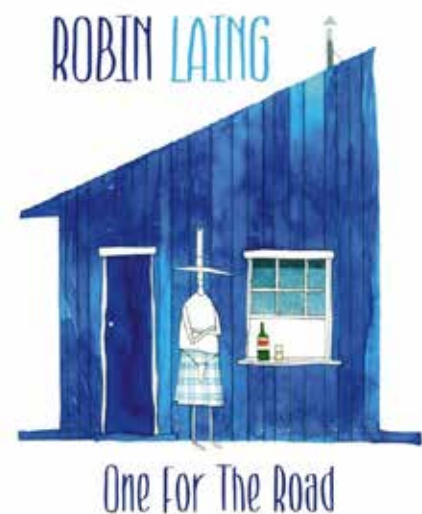
All of the songs have a connection to whisky. Sometimes the link is obvious -such as a love song of sorts entitled “A’Bunadh” which needs no explanation, and “Heaven Hill” for the Kentucky Distillery of the same name- and other times more subtle as in the more melancholy musings of “The Sun’s Coming Over The Hill”. There are little “in jokes” a’plenty for lovers of the water of life, with a song weaving many of the various expressions from Bowmore over the years into a beautiful poem of homecoming, and the jaunty “Speyside Whisky Song” where he manages to cram the names of more Speyside distilleries than I would have thought possible into a single song. (This is also a great one for listening to if you’ve ever had a friendly argument about how to pronounce one of the distilleries’ names...)

The lyrics are worth more than just passing attention, with stories which catch the imagination about people real and fictional. He also makes reference to some interesting local legends of Islay’s recent and more distant past, including the church overlooking the town of Bowmore which was built round in shape so that the Devil would have no dark corners to hide in, and the whisky that Jim McEwen reportedly made just to prove he could do it, after someone jokingly bet him that he couldn’t make a drinkable whisky that’s FOUR times distilled... There’s even a song inspired by the height of American paranoia about Al Qaeda, when USA internet surveillance officers became concerned that there were chemical weapons being manufactured on Islay and started making official enquiries about the matter - this was after seeing a live camera feed on the internet which Bruichladdich had set up in the distillery and bottling/packaging plants because they thought their customers would be interested in seeing what was going on day to day. Yep. A true story!

Some of the songs are written by others, most are written by Robin Laing, and all are sung in a warm, melodious voice with a soft Edinburgh accent that makes listening a real pleasure - I could probably listen to him sing “Baa Baa Black Sheep” for an hour and consider myself well content, if I’m honest! This is a feel-good album which stands repeated listening, and I would recommend having a look out for it. The perfect accompaniment to a dram on a relaxed evening, and an ideal one for the car on a road trip – Tasmanian Distillery Tour 2021 anyone?

Kate Haslam

Vice Chair / Membership Officer MWSOA





**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.**

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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:

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P.O. Box 206 Glen Osmond SA 5064
or via e-mail to marketing@maltwhiskysociety.org.au**