



The Caledonian Extra

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Hogmanay Greetings for 2012

The last night of the year is a friendly, much anticipated holiday in Scotland. Traditions for celebrating the arrival of a new year are very important to the Scots. For New Year's Eve, Hogmanay, the house must be sparkling clean, rid of the dust and debris of the old year, and guests who come and go must be welcomed with plenty of food and drink. One traditional food is Black Bun, a currant loaf baked in a pastry case. "The party goes on after midnight until every guest feels the New Year has been fittingly welcomed in. A real Scottish New Year may be interrupted by a constant ringing of the doorbell as friends and neighbors arrive to wish folks a Happy New Year and share a toast to the year ahead."

Most important of all the guests is the First-Foot, the first person to step over the threshold after midnight, who determines the luck of the house for the new year. Ideally the First-Foot should be a tall, dark man without a limp or stammer or any physical impairment. He should arrive with gifts: *drink*, usually a bottle of whisky, to salute the health of the host and all in the house; *food*, such as cake, to insure prosperity; and *fuel*, perhaps a lump of coal, to bring warmth and comfort.

The Chieftain and Council of your Caledonian Society offer these toasts for your Hogmanay celebration:

*A guid new year to ane an' a',
And mony may ye see.*

*May the best you've ever seen
Be the worst you'll ever see.
May the moose ne'er lea'e your mealpoken
Wi' a' teardrop in its' e'e.
May ye aye be hale and hearty
Till ye're auld enough tae dee.
May ye aye be just as happy
As we wish ye aye tae be.*

Reminder: Burns Night Early Bird Deadline Jan 9

Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns on Jan 28 at the Oahu Country Club. **For best prices, reserve by Jan 9.** Use form on reverse. Need a ride to Burns Night, phone Tina Yap 375-8462. No-host cocktails (cash only) start 5:30 pm. Highland or evening attire.