

Scottish News



June 2013 No. 132

Forthcoming Special Events

Sunday June 30
International Tartan Day

Sunday July 14
South Island Solo Drumming
championships

Sat. Aug 24
Highland Dance Class
Closing Ceilidh 9.30 am



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Please forward contributions to The Editor, Scottish News
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Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official stance of the Society
or its leadership

Who's Who 2013

In the Scottish Society of New Zealand (Inc.)
Following the AGM

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From Your Chief



I am honoured to be made Chief of the Scottish Society of New Zealand, an organisation that has been in existence for 111 years. By way of introducing myself, I joined the Scottish Society in 1999 and became a Councillor in 2007. I've been in the role of Senior Chieftain since 2010.

My paternal grandparents migrated from Scotland via Australia arriving in Christchurch in 1895.

Kenneth Matheson, my grandfather, was secretary to the Scottish Society of New Zealand in the early 1900s being made Senior Chieftain in 1906 and taking the role of Chieftain in 1907.

In commencing my role I acknowledge the significant contribution retiring Chief Bob Clyne and Pam have made to the life of the Scottish Society. Both have been members of the Society for 13 years and for 11 of those years Bob has served on the Council, seven of them as Chief. He has taken responsibility for many aspects of the ongoing life of the Scottish Society which has required a huge time commitment from both him and Pam. He has been very active in Scottish Country Dancing and until recently was tutor. We look forward to Bob and Pam continuing to participate in and enjoy what the Scottish Society has to offer without the responsibilities of steering us.

I am appreciating the advice and support given me as I step up to the role of Chief. I believe that together we can continue to foster the aims of the organisation and promote all aspects of Scottish Culture. The Riccarton and Scottish Society Pipe Band is going from strength to strength and we are proud to have the Scottish Society linked to the band as they contribute to the musical life of the city and beyond. I encourage you to support them and to support our Scottish Country Dancers and National Highland Dancers.

The Council members and I are conscious of the responsibility we have to ensure our hall meets earthquake requirements. We await input from our Insurance Company and the City Council who are responsible for assessing whether the hall meets all or part of the required building code. Our commitment is to keep the hall up to current building code requirements, which may require remediation of some form. We recognise the hall is critical to the ongoing life of the Society and plays a vital role in community activities.

(continued bottom of next page)



Editorial

This will be my last issue as the Editor of Scottish News. I took over from Laurie Richards in 2007, and am now handing over to Ross Fraser. I have greatly enjoyed my time as Editor and am sorry to resign.

It has been an absolute privilege to have been entrusted with the task of keeping Society members informed of the various affairs of the Society. Along the way I have learned much about the Society's history, about the early Scottish settlers who came to Canterbury, and about Scotland itself. At the same time I have learned many new skills on my computer!

I could not have done the job without the help of various people especially in the beginning Laurie Richards, Bob Clyne and Bruce Oliver. My grateful thanks to all the regular contributors Cushla Piesse, Maree Comfort, Ellen McCrae and more recently Rachal Aspinall, and also to contributors such as Pam Clyne for her travelogue, Ted and Viv Brown for their wonderful family history, Ross Fraser for his journey to Scotland and France, Graeme Matheson for his amazing car journey in Mongolia, Geoff Tyson for his various reports, Ritchie Mein, Isobel Kinzett and some others. Finally, heartfelt thanks to my sister in law Alison Fox for her superb proofreading. You can follow Dave's and my caravan journey at www.gibblog.blog.com. At the moment however we are staying put in Christchurch so that Dave can receive a new cochlear implant. We should be off for a couple of years(?) in early Spring.

- Nancy Gibb, Editor



(The Chief's Report, continued from last page)

Alongside the Council, I acknowledge others who play an important role in the Society:

Nancy Gibb – editor of our excellent quarterly Newsletter

Don Brown – our official pianist

Nick Eagle – our official piper, and until more recently Neil Baxter.

May I suggest that we each set a goal of encouraging at least one new member to join in the coming year. I welcome your ideas on how we might attract members and what events we might undertake to raise the profile of the Society and bring our Scottish culture to the fore in the general community.

- Graeme Matheson

What happened at the AGM 2013

In the absence of the Chief Bob Clyne, Senior Chieftain Graeme Matheson welcomed some 27 members to the meeting, quite a good attendance in the warmth of our Supper Room.

After apologies had been received and accepted (19) Graeme asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence in recognition of members who have passed on in the last year. Piper Nick Eagle played a Lament followed by a medley.

Then the Agenda was followed through. The Chief's report was read to the meeting. Chief Bob Clyne advised the Society that he is moving on after six years. Bob thanked his Council and the Society for their help in his term of office.

Senior Chieftain Graeme Matheson told the members of the work and results of Chief Bob Clyne's term in office mentioning the great improvements to the Hall, the heating, upgrading the kitchen, flooring the Supper Room and stage, upgrading the men's toilets, painting the Hall exterior and seeing us through the stages of the earthquake recovery which is still ongoing.

The Treasurer Chris Seaton gave the Financial report where she advised the Society has had a good year with a profit of over \$4000. The Burns Supper was successful, there was a reduction in maintenance costs for the year, and the first year of our subscription increase have all helped. However we still need to look at installing insulation and an upgrade of toilets as ongoing projects. Chris was congratulated on her work for the year and the report.

Other sub groups had their reports accepted. The Pipe Band reported that Nick Eagle was now the Pipe Major.

The editor of the Newsletter Nancy Gibb advised that she would soon be giving up the position of Editor and the meeting was asked if anyone would like to take up the Editorship. Nancy has done a great job over several years and the Newsletter has been of high quality and would be hard to maintain.

The Election of Officers followed. We have a new Chief, Mr. Graeme Matheson. There were no other changes so the Secretary remains Geoff Tyson, Treasurer Chris Seaton, and Council as listed. (At the first Council meeting following the AGM, Council agreed that Mrs. Dawn Satherly be Senior Chieftain and Ross Fraser be Chieftain.) Nick Eagle was appointed as Official Piper.



There being no General Business the Chief Graeme Matheson reminded members of the Installation of the Chief Ceilidh on Sunday 19th May at 2 pm and the Burns Song Contest on Saturday 25th May at 1 pm.

The meeting closed at 1.35 pm, followed by afternoon tea.

Geoff Tyson, Secretary.



Scottish Country Dance Club

The Scottish Country Dance Club commenced for the year on Tuesday 13th February 2013. As we do not have a permanent Tutor at the moment some Tutors from the Canterbury Region have kindly offered to take our Club on a Tuesday evening. At the Club's recent meeting all members accepted the invitation from these Tutors to continue for the year. We are very grateful to these Tutors. Everyone has enjoyed the different styles of tutoring and learning some interesting new dances. Why not come along and join in the fun, we are a very friendly group.

Our Open Night was held on Saturday 6 April with David Williamson and Margaret McMurtrie putting together a very good programme. The evening was well attended and everyone had a great night of dancing. Bob and Pam Clyne were invited to join us, it was good to see them catching up with people. We are sure they enjoyed the change, coming as spectators!

The Club members now look forward to dancing through the winter into the spring/summer. From the first Tuesday in June we will be meeting at 7.30 pm not 8 pm.

- Maree Comfort, President

Three Generations at The Scottish Society

By Cushla Piessie

Saturday morning the 4th May was a special day for me.

Together with 5 other little children I took my two grand-daughters Sophie Borsboom (5) (daughter of Jeanie) and Eliza McDonald (4) (daughter of Katie) through the Getting Started Level One assessment, examined by Sue Gill. This assessment is part of the New Zealand Academy of Highland and National Dancing's exam system.

The 7 children involved in the assessment all come to the Saturday morning dance class at the Scottish Society.

I spent over 30 years leading the Saturday morning dance class at the Scottish Society. While my daughter Jeanie now takes that rôle, I am still there on Saturdays teaching. As well as this commitment, I take responsibility for providing dancers for ceilidhs, articles for this magazine and the general running of the dancing class.

It all started for me at the age of 7, here at the Scottish Society. The Saturday morning dance class is not only a wonderful place for children to come and see if they would like to learn Highland Dancing, but a great place later on to learn and practise teaching skills in a controlled and friendly environment.



Inauguration of the New Chief

Words are not necessary. It was a most successful ceilidh.



A tribute to the Outgoing Chief

How many members are aware of the work the Chief and Concillors do to keep the Society running?

Since he became Chief in 2006, Bob Clyne has done a tremendous amount of work for the Society, particularly regarding improvements to the Hall.

He arranged and successfully applied for several grants, including one to the Eureka Trust which provided the Hall and supper room heating systems. Another successful grant replaced the old windows with aluminium frames; and yet another provided for repairs in the men's toilets. An application for replacing the kitchen cupboards was only partially successful but was sufficient to replace the stainless steel bench and cabinets under it. The rest of the benches were resurfaced, then Bob and Pam sanded all the cupboards and repainted the whole kitchen, one offer of help having to be declined due to the small space.

Former Chiefs Willie Hunter and Bruce Oliver, both now in their late eighties, have always been willing helpers around the hall. Many years ago Bruce and his wife Margaret wallpapered the Council room. During his



tenure as Chief Both Willie and Bruce helped Bob, spending a couple of weeks painting the Hall.

As Bob puts it "... after watching the floor on the stage bouncing as people walked across it and also having the piano go through the floor in the supper room, I arranged to purchase enough flooring to re-floor the supper room and

stage. Willie Hunter was there to assist me putting down the floor. When it was all down I hired a sander and sanded both areas. Pam was there with the vacuum clearing the dust. I then applied two coats of varnish in the supper room and Willie Hunter and I painted the stage black on the advice of The Red Rose Theatre Group."

People occasionally asked who owned the Hall, so in 2008 Bob arranged for a sign to be painted and Willie Hunter and Bruce Oliver helped him put it in position.

Concerned about all the old photos hidden away in the Council room, Bob asked me (Nancy Gibb) to photograph them, then we framed them in some old frames and as a result there are a series of photographs in the supper room for everyone to enjoy. Following up on an idea by Laurie Richards, Bob worked with me on the crests that now run round the Hall, buying the frames and putting the crests into them and fixing them to the wall.

For years Wallace Scott looked after the Hall bookings and also did the cleaning. When he had to give up the latter, the Council considered hiring an expensive commercial cleaner but Willie Hunter, Bruce Oliver and Bob decided to do it themselves. Eventually only Bob was left, at which time Pam joined him, often for long hours. Council recompensed Pam.

When Wallace retired and an initial offer fell through, Bob took over the Hall bookings as well and managed them on top of his many other duties.

Bob was also the Membership Secretary for about five years, taking over from Trevor Davie and his card system. Bob set up a computerised database. Ross Fraser took over about two years ago.

While not part of the duties of a Chief Bob, assisted by Pam, was the tutor for the Scottish Society Country Dance Club for many years. Both Bob and Pam were on the Dance Club Committee that oversaw many important Dance club events including the 50th Anniversary, and of course many a Hogmanay. All the white hand-painted tablecloths used at the Dance Club Open Nights and at Hogmanay are Pam's handiwork.

Pam was a tremendous support for Bob in his time as Chief. Besides the Hall cleaning and painting, she made the blue cloth with the Council crest that now graces the Council table at official events, such as during the recent AGM and following Inauguration of the new Chief.

Bob also served as Chair of the Canterbury Scottish Festival committee, an organisation under the umbrella of the Scottish Society (see "A history Lesson" on page 14). He had the honour of carrying the haggis last year. Usually at least one Scottish Society Council member takes part in this ceremony.



- Nancy Gibb

Riccarton & Scottish Society Pipe Band

The band members enjoyed a well-deserved break after the Nationals, getting back together for the Papanui RSA ANZAC parade. Since then, we've been back into weekly practices, busy learning tunes for the new season.

The band is in good heart and looking forward to building on our successes from last season. Our ranks are expanding, with both new drummers and pipers attending practices. Nick Eagle (*pictured in the Scottish Society Hall with the Band's youngest member Max Middleton who is going to Canada shortly*) has been appointed as Pipe Major for the coming season, with the remainder of the leadership to be determined after the band's upcoming AGM.



Our focus for the next few months will be on getting confident with our new tunes as there are very few parades or band competitions over the winter months.

The band is currently working on a website that we hope to have going live in a few weeks, this will have up-to-date information on the band's activities. If you are on Facebook, please do like the band's page (Riccarton and Scottish Society Pipe Band) and keep up to date with what's happening there too.



Stepping off at the Papanui RSA ANZAC Parade, 2013



SCOTLAND IN STITCHES

The Great Tapestry of Scotland is a unique project to stitch the entire story of Scotland from pre-history to modern times.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland is the brainchild of one of Scotland's best-known writers, Alexander McCall Smith. The 44 Scotland Street author, together with historian Alistair Moffat, and with the artistic talents of Andrew Crummy, (not to mention stitchers from all over Scotland!) form a team set to produce one of the world's longest tapestries through one of the biggest community arts projects ever to take place in Scotland.

The project will take over a year to complete and the finished tapestry will go on display from August 2013.

The creation of the tapestry initiates a legacy project worth its length in gold. It is a unique and outstanding opportunity to tell our nation's history and to involve as many people as possible in the telling. The aim is to create a series of over one hundred and fifty panels that tell the key stories in Scottish history- everything from Duns Scotus to the formation of Rangers. Each panel will focus on a specific historical chapter, and interwoven through each will be other tales of the time. These stories will add new layers and reflect not only our shared history, but tell individual stories of place and family.

Features include:

50,000 sewing hours (equivalent to sewing 24 hours a day for 6 years!)

49,000 meters of yarns (enough to lay up and down Ben Nevis 37 times!)

12,012 years of Scottish history

150 plus panels. <<http://scotlandstapestry.com/>>



The Canterbury Scottish Festival

- a history lesson

Back in the 1990's a group was formed to run a Highland games. It was quite successful. At the end there was a surplus of finance which was invested. About four years ago those groups who had been involved had a meeting and decided to form a committee to try and run some type of event for Scottish people in Canterbury.

In the meantime the Canterbury Burns Club had decided that some sort of memorial to the Scottish settlers who had come out to Canterbury in the mid nineteenth century was needed. After much work it was decided to place a cairn at Riccarton House, the site of the Deans brothers first cottage.

Eventually this was done and a ceremony was held there to mark the occasion. I spoke there on behalf of the Scottish Society and all the various groups also spoke about their ancestors.

It was decided that the gathering should be made an annual event taking place in early February. A committee made up of members of the Highland Dancing, Piping, Scottish Country Dancing, The Heritage Council, The Canterbury Burns Club and the Caledonian and Scottish Societies all met throughout the year to organize the day, assisted by Ron MacIntyre from The Burns Club (who had indicated that they did not wish to organise another event themselves).

David Burrows was the first Chair. When he resigned I was asked to take over as Interim Chair in 2011. All worked well although unfortunately Ron Macintyre took ill and also had to resign. I continued as Chair in 2012, ably assisted by the others. I was proud of what we had done to produce the last Festival.

The reason the SSNZ is more involved is because when the Festival Committee applied to use the Riccarton House grounds, they found they would require Public Liability insurance, and that meant the Festival would be better to belong to an umbrella organization.

So the Festival Committee applied to and joined the SSNZ as a subgroup, a situation which remains to this day.

- Bob Clyne



OBITUARY

Ian Fraser MacLeod

Sadly we remember Ian Fraser MacLeod who passed away 18th December 2012. Ian joined the Scottish Society in 1984 and was a prominent figure at Society C elidhs and a prominent member of Clan MacLeod in NZ. Ian was very passionate about his Scottish heritage.



**YOU MAY BE COOL...BUT YOU'LL
NEVER BE AS COOL AS DARTH
VADER IN A KILT, ON A UNICYCLE,
PLAYING BAGPIPES!**

Airly Airish Simmer Sweem [Early Chilly Summer Swim]

Lyrics composed by John Henderson on the 16th of April, 2013,
to Roy Burtch's 1922 music for his song called, '[Guess](#)'.

Glossary:

hich=high; brenches=branches; chirming=singing; schulin'=schooling;
skelpt=raced; roch=rough; tee-airish=also chilly; sweem=swim;
a wee=a little; spark (etc.)=splash; starkly=bravely; dirdums=loud
noises;
chitt'rin=shivering; thrang=busy; clinkers=boats; het bree=hot drink;
bit-clootin'=some mending; saaf=safe; gledly=gladly; ony=any.

Birds oan hich brenches wur chirmin'

Sangs tae thur neebours an' me

Bairns noo let loose frae a' schulin'

Skelpt 'wa fest doon tae the sea

Simmer hud come an' the watter wis nae ow'r roch an' tee-airish

Sae they micht sweem a wee

Spark! Spirk! Sperk! an' in they a' starkly tumbled

Wi' thur bowst'rous dirdums o' gran-gee.!

Oot frae the sea they cam chitt'rin

Bit fest they ran ower the san

Tae faar thrang chiels oan thur clinkers

Seen gied them het bree oot a can

Thur boats o' wid an' thur trawl-nets wur aye in need o' bit-
clootin'

Sae saaf at sea they'd gae

Bit fur bairns fa they hud seen starkly tumble

They wud gledly mak time ony day.!

You can read more of his songs at

<http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/doggerels.htm>