

Scottish News



August 2013 No. 133

Who's Who 2013/2014

Sorthcoming Events

Saturday August 24th – Scottish Society Céilidh, Scottish hall, 7.30pm

Sunday October 20th – Scottish Heritage Council Annual Kirkin o' the Tartan service, St Andrews, Rangi Ruru 2pm

Saturday November 9th – Hororata Highland Games, Hororata Domain all day from 9am

Tuesday November 26th – Scottish Country Dance Club closing night, Scottish Hall 8pm

Saturday November 30th – St Andrews Day & Scottish Society Gathering of the Clans Céilidh, Scottish Hall 7.30pm

Saturday December 7th – Victoria Square Day Pipe Band & Highland Dancing, Ilam University, Ilam Road, all day from 9am

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The Chief's Report

Welcome to Ross Fraser our new Newsletter editor. My grateful thanks to Nancy Gibb for all her work for our Society, Nancy is continuing in an advisory capacity currently although we know she and Dave are keen to resume their peripatetic lifestyle. Ellen and I took a break in July and with like minded friends drove from the eastern most point in Australia via Alice Springs and Uluru to the western most point. There was amazing variation in landscapes through the deserts of middle of Australia and we delighted in the colour and geology of these ancient landscapes. I thank all members of the Council for their commitment to our Society affairs in my absence

Editorial

Well here goes, a very hard act to follow to ensure that the **Scottish News** is delivered to you to the same high standard that Nancy has maintained since 2007. Naturally enough what appears in this publication is very much dependent on what you the members contribute but also a vehicle for letting you know what is happening, reporting on recent events and endeavouring to bring to you a broad spectrum of articles, humour and personal stories of a Scottish bent.

Are you receiving this per NZ Post & would rather receive in colour by email please let me know.

The following history was prepared for the Society in 2002 by one E Campbell with some additions by Ross Fraser

On the evening of 22nd May, 1902, a meeting took place of selected and interested persons in the rooms of the Yorkshire Society at 158 Hereford Street. Present were fifteen members of the Lyttelton Scottish Society and about fifty Christchurch gentlemen who had received invitations by circular to be present. Presiding as Chief was George Laurenson, a Member of the House of Representatives, and from the Lyttelton Scottish Society of New Zealand. The gathered group were intent on their purpose of forming a new Scottish Society in the city itself to celebrate their Scottish heritage. The meeting was the direct result of the work of two members of the Lyttelton Society, Messers D. McKenzie and J. Fraser. In short order it was unanimously resolved, upon a resolution put by a Mr James, to form a society in Christchurch for those of purely Scottish descent.

At the formation of the Society the aims were to:

- Gather together all the Scotsmen in the district.
- Preserve the records and traditions of Scottish history.
- Promote the study of Scottish music, song and literature.
- Encourage the wearing of Highland costume.
- Render assistance, counsel and moral influence to deserving Scotsmen.
- Conserve and build up all that is strongest, deepest and best in the Scottish national character.

From the outset it was determined that membership of the Society be restricted to those of purely Scottish descent on their paternal side. This was in contrast to Christchurch's other Scottish organization, the Canterbury Caledonian Society. *Members* of the Scottish Society

were to be males of at least eighteen years of age, who “must be Scotsmen by birth, parentage, or descent on the male side.” *Associate* membership was the only category for those who were sons of Scottish women. *Juniors* were those male youngsters not yet eighteen years, but who had the necessary prerequisites to become *members*. On making a donation of £5 5s., or performing a great service to the Society, one could assume a *Life Membership*. The annual subscription for members and associates in the earliest years of the Society was set at 10s. For juniors the subscription was 2s. 6d. if the son of an existing member, otherwise 5s.

The Society’s first Gathering of the Clans took place in November 1902. The Society’s Pipe Band had modest beginning, being formed in August 1902 with nine members. The hope was expressed that the Scottish Society would soon have a Pipe Band “second to none in the colony.” Highland dancing and choir practice groups also appeared in these early months, to ensure the proper maintenance of traditional Scottish music and dance.

During the first year, the Society adopted a Rampant Lion as its crest, with the Gaelic motto ‘Cum Daingeann’, or ‘Hold Fast’. The Society also adopted the Royal Stuart tartan around the same time.



One Hundred Years Of Scottish Occasions

Unlike the other Scottish organisation in Christchurch, the Canterbury Caledonian Society, regular social gathering came to be the prime function of the Society. These have taken the form of C ilidhs and the traditional Scottish celebrations, such as those of Hogmany, Halloween, Burns Nights and even occasionally, the anniversary’s of famous Scottish victories such as Bannockburn. The c ilidhs have been the main social substance of the Society over the years. These monthly gatherings of members for an evening of Scottish song, dance and story-telling were usually very well attended during the first decades of the Society. Reports of them would appear in the newspapers the next day, such was the interest.

C ilidh’s began as a way in which member’s Scottish heritage could be displayed socially on a regular basis and the wearing of Highland dress began early in the history of the Society’s c ilidh’s.

The greatest events put on by the Society in its history were the annual Gathering of the Clans each November over Show Week in its early years. Perhaps the grandest of these was the second the Society staged in 1903. Taking place in the Colosseum, the Society set to work transforming an ice-rink into a theatre with the stage the largest in Australasia. The gathering, or reunion of Scots, included in its five day programme a “wapinschaw” or a weapon show, piping and song and dance. A Grand Concert was held as well as a great

Scottish Musical Festival. The Colosseum was a huge building erected in 1888 and covered the whole length of New Regent Street. At various times the Colosseum contained O'Brien's Boot Factory, a skating rink and a silent movie theatre. In 1929 it was demolished and 2 years later a shopping complex known as New Regent Street was opened.

Such was the enthusiasm that for many years their popularity remained strong and the 1903 event attracted not just those with thistle in their veins, with the Lyttelton Times reporting that the aggregate attendance over the five days was nine thousand, with 3,500 in attendance on Friday alone. As the years have progressed sadly the scale of the Gatherings and the Céilidhs have declined and today 2013 the Society only hold about four such events in a year, the Burns Supper in January, the Installation of the Chief in May and the Gathering of the Clans in November and others as may be determined. In the 1950s and 1960s regular annual Highland Gatherings would take place at the Linwood Domain. Today Canterbury is once again blessed with the annual Hororata Highland Games.

The pipe band of the Society has had a chequered history with periods of great strength, and periods of decline and in the 1950's and 1960's enjoyed a particularly high public profile. Today the pipe band which had been for some period been nonexistent has resurfaced with the Riccarton and Districts Pipe Band joining the Society and with rebranding is now known as the Riccarton and Scottish Society Pipe Band and is flourishing with over 30 members.



HAS SCOTLAND FINALLY GOT ITS ACT TOGETHER?

Bringing Bannockburn to life.

An incredible new experience that changes how you learn about Scottish History

Next year will see the opening of the brand new Battle of Bannockburn visitor experience near Stirling; an innovative attraction with state-of-the-art 3D battle simulation that transforms the way visitors of all ages learn about Bannockburn.

After considerable uncertainty and frustration amongst the Diaspora, it seems

that finally, things are moving on the HOMECOMING 2014 front. It appears – albeit from a distance – that a deciding factor in this rush of certainty in Scotland has been, to a considerable extent, the lead taken by Highland Clan Societies in the face of apparent ineptitude amongst officialdom. In a release dated 1st May, the Chairman of a new council of clans, Graeme Mackenzie, announced the formation of THE ASSOCIATION OF HIGHLAND CLANS AND SOCIETIES (AHCS) in Inverness on Friday 12th April.

To quote the release: “The following clans joined on the night: Cameron, Chisholm, Davidson, Donald, Fraser of Lovat, MacAulay, MacLean,

MacMillan, Macrae, and Clan Chattan representing the Mackintoshes, Farquharsons, MacBeans, Macintyres in Badenoch, MacGillivrays, MacPhails, MacQueens, MacThomases, and Shaws. The representatives of five other clans were to recommend membership to their committees/executives (Brodie, Grant, Macpherson, Urquhart, and Macfie); and a further four clans have been involved in the previous consultations about the Association but were unable to be represented on the night (Mackenzie, Munro, Stewart, Urquhart). We expect other Highland clans as well to join in due course.”

The release continues:

“With regard to events planned for next year, one of our members (Norman McPherson, the Chairman of the Scottish Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association) has attended a meeting with the National Trust for Scotland and other interested parties, about the plans for the clans during the three days of **the Battle of Bannockburn** anniversary events. You’ll recall that since plans for an all-clan gathering at Stirling in July were dropped, VisitScotland have been pushing this event as the one for the clans to attend instead. Up to now there has been a dearth of information about the actual arrangements we’ll have to work with, and we have been pressing for some answers so that we – and you – can start making concrete plans to attend (or not, as the case may be).

“Having strongly championed our concerns, particularly about costs for participating clans, Norman reports that the following arrangements have been agreed upon:

1. Though there will be no Clan Village as such, there will instead be a large tent inside which each clan can have a table and a couple of chairs (this is the sort of arrangement that has been used in the past – particularly here in Inverness – to

overcome the vagaries of our weather).

2. The clans will pay a nominal charge for their pitch inside the tent, and for the use of the table and chairs – but will not be expected to meet all the costs of the hire.

3. There will be free entry for the clan volunteers staffing the tables – maybe up to four per clan per day, and these will be interchangeable from day to day.

4. There will be no restriction on what the clans can sell at their tables.

5. There will be limited parking on the site, but there will be shuttle buses to and from Stirling.

6. There will be security on site (details to be confirmed), so it will probably be safe to leave the tables set up overnight.

7. There will be no other specific clan features or events during the three days (28, 29, 30 June) – so no clan march – but the organisers are promising a lot of exciting and attractive features (so far unspecified), in addition to the twice daily battle re-enactment, to make it a worthwhile day-out.

“Norman will attend further meetings about this, and will keep the AHCS informed as matters develop – which news we’ll pass on to you. In the meantime he has been asked to sound out the clans about how many of us think we might wish to attend, and take our places in the Clans Tent, in the light of this news. Obviously the NTS need to have some idea of numbers in order to get the right size of tent.”

IMPORTANTLY, because there will be no Clan march at Bannockburn as there was in Edinburgh in 2009, the AHCS have organised an event for Friday 12th September in Inverness: “It will be a torch-lit procession on the Friday evening through the centre of the city, beneath the castle walls, across the river, by the cathedral, and into the Northern Meeting Park where its arrival will kickoff the opening ceremony for the

Inverness Highland Meeting and the Highland Homecoming. The weekend will also feature the finale of the Blas Festival – a week-long celebration of Celtic music and culture throughout the Highlands – and on Sunday the 400 year-old ceremony of “Kirking the Council” will take place in the historic High Kirk of Inverness (said by some to be located on the site where St Columba converted the King of the Picts to Christianity). The AHCS is in consultation with Highland Council about also holding a ‘Clan Roots’ Conference over this weekend.”

Editor’s note: since receiving the above I have heard from Lady Saltoun, Chief of the whole name and Arms of Fraser that Lowland Clans have now been included. For those of us in Australia and New Zealand it is for many, cost prohibitive to attend such events and here in Christchurch we can look forward with pride to the 3 main Scottish events each year – Scottish Cultural Festival, Hororata Highland Games and Victoria Square Day.



Recent noteworthy events



Sunday July 7th was the Scottish Heritage Council **Tartan Day** celebration held at Robbies Elmwood. The event was well attended by the Clans and approximately 60 people gathered for a meal also Haggis ceremony.



The Haggis Party



News from within Council

Scottish Country Dance Club

We have continued meeting on a Tuesday evening each week, with visiting Tutors. This has been great, and everyone has enjoyed their input, and learning new dances. Our numbers have remained steady. A decision was made to start our classes at 7.30pm throughout the winter evenings, which has turned out to be a good decision, as we all get home earlier on wet cold evenings. At this time of the year the committee put on a mid-Christmas supper for the members, and this is to be held on the 30 July. Our closing night is November 26.

Maree Comfort
President.

Highland Dancing Class

Saturday mornings are going well with the Scottish Society dancing class. Attendance is steady and the children are enjoying learning new dances.

On Saturday August 17th There is a break up concert and morning tea and the following Saturday August 24th we conduct our competitions. We invite everyone to come along and be part of both of these events.

Riccarton & Scottish Society Pipe Band

The Riccarton and Scottish Society Pipe Band is currently building on new music and drum scores in preparation for the new competition season. Both the drum and pipe core are well advanced in learning new music and committing this to memory and further ahead in terms of preparedness than other seasons. Max our youngest piping player is currently in Canada, where he has been playing with the RMM Pipe Band. He has been competing in solo competitions where he won the solos Grade 4 2/4 March. Pretty amazing as it was a big field of competitors at the Pacific northwest Highland games near Seattle, he placed second in the S & R solos. Two of our side drummers Kirsty and Alan have been in Halifax Canada playing at the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo! Nick our Pipe Major and James our Pipe Sergeant next week head to Scotland to compete with the Canterbury Caledonian Pipe band in Glasgow for the World Pipe Band Championships.

The band executive is still positive on moving forward with a restructure that would see the Scottish Society Pipe Band brought out of recession and appropriately merging both bands. We are now just entering the technical phase of this and require the council's official sanction and commitment to action. It is our hope to be able to launch the new name and a uniform this competing season.

The band desperately needs funds this year to enable us to compete in both the New Zealand South Pacific championship in Tauranga in March 2014 and the Australian National in April 2014. Additional funds will also be required to re kilt the band and effect the name change to the Scottish Society Pipe Band. We are planning a number of fundraising events and hope to enjoy the support of the Society with these.
Stu Gordon



Important Reminder

Saturday August 24th – Scottish Society Céilidh – 7.30pm Scottish Society Hall

Great entertainment & supper – members \$4
Non-members \$5

An interesting piece of trivia



The above photo I took back in 2011 at the Boleskine Cemetery which is located on the eastern side of Loch Ness approx 18 miles from south of Inverness. The photo is of a tablet on the wall of the old priory and is one of 2 showing the Crest of Fraser of Lovat. What had me intrigued was the skull and crossed bones at the bottom which I found interesting after discovering the significance. The inscription below the crest reads “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord” – Revelation 14:13. How many readers know the significance of a symbol we usually attribute to ‘pirates of the high seas’ so what does this mean when found in a cemetery on the shores of Loch Ness? Next Scottish News I will report the names of those who responded to this piece of trivia and also explain the background it. Editor.



A wee biddy humour

A Glaswegian walking down Argyle Street steamin' & skint spots a chap tinkering with his car! “What’s up Jimmy?” he asks. “Piston broke” he replies. “Aye same as masel”.

A Scotsman in London is having trouble phoning his sister from a telephone box. So he calls the operator who asks in a plummy voice: "Is there money in the box?" "Naw, its just me," he replies.

thinly and buttered.

I wasn't going to add any more humour but this just came in;

Scots never forget the field on which Scotland's independence was finally re-established; nor are they slow to joke, good-naturedly, with English friends about it, when a chance occurs.

One Englishman, who was finding fault with everything Scottish, said to a Scottish farmer, that nobody, who had once seen England, would ever think of going to, and then remaining in, Scotland.

A farmer, who was a bit of a wag, replied,

"Weel tastes differ. But I'll tak ye tae a place, nae far frae Stirling, whaur thirty thousand o' yir countrymen have been for five hunner year, an' they've never thocht o' leavin' yit."



Chi mi a-rithist thu (until next time) €ð

Selkirk Bannock

- 8oz Flour
- 1/2ts Salt
- 1 1/2oz Butter
- 1 1/2oz Granulated sugar
- 1/4pt Warm milk
- 1/4oz Fresh yeast
- 8oz Sultanas
- 1 Beaten egg to glaze

Butter a llb. loaf tin. Dissolve the sugar in the milk and stir in the yeast until thoroughly mixed. Leave in a warm place for 15 minutes. Meanwhile sift the flour and salt into a bowl. add the butter and rub in. Make a well in the yeast mixture. Mix together vigorously until it forms a soft dough. Turn on to a floured surface. Knead gently and shape into a ball. Transfer to a greased bowl, cover and leave to rise in a warm place for 30 minutes. Then work in the sultanas with the hands so they are evenly distributed. Re-form the dough ball and leave to rise for 30 minutes. Finally transfer to the tin; leave to rise for 45 minutes. Brush with beaten egg. Bake for 20 minutes in a pre-heated oven at 180°C until golden in colour. Turn on to a wire rack to cool. Serve sliced

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Please forward contributions to the editor at resarf@paradise.net.nz

Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official stance of the **Society** or its leadership.



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