



Scottish News

December 2016 Number 145



Vale Ross Fraser

Ross James Fraser 1.1.1947 - 24.10.2016

Ross maintained a diversity of interests throughout his life. Following school he spent time on farms on the Banks Peninsula and Otago. In his fishing days he worked out of Moeraki in Otago and the Chatham Islands. He worked at Mt Isa in Queensland and then with shipping companies in Rarotonga, Fiji, Wellington and Christchurch. He enjoyed motoring and was a member of the VW and Canterbury Car Clubs in his youth. In 1971 he navigated for Peter De Lore in a Toyota Corolla in the Silver Fern Rally, an international event; in the field of 64 they finished 5th and also first in their class. More recently he participated in a Classic Car Tour over 5,000 kilometres in the North Island. His enthusiasm for motor sport never diminished.

Sorthcoming Events

3 Dec. **Casino Pipe Band Contest** - Ilam Homestead

28 Jan. **Burns Supper** 6.30 pm for 7 pm Scottish Hall

Feb. **Provincial Pipe Bands Competitions** 9am - 5pm
Kaiapoi Rugby Grounds

26 Feb. **Canterbury Scottish Cultural Festival**

9.30am-4pm . Riccarton
Bush, Kahu Road, Riccarton

Ross brought to light much of our early Scottish Society history by reading our early minutes. Among other things he was instrumental in organising a World War 1 commemoration service for the 24 members and their sons who served. Local school children remembered the 13 men who gave their lives.

Ross had a great talent for including the community in all that he organised, such as the Burns Supper, ceilidhs and more. Many will remember his Address to the Haggis which he performed many times all around Christchurch. His limited mobility never deterred him from participating in events.

He was the Patron and an avid supporter of the Scottish Society Pipe band, following their progress in person where possible and on-line when not. The Scottish Heritage Council benefitted from his ability to coerce others to

bring heritage to the fore. He also gave much to keeping the Fraser Clan together.

The Scottish Society of New Zealand Inc. has lost an esteemed and valued member and Chieftain. Ross was the membership secretary and newsletter editor and put much energy into bringing our systems into the digital era. His knowledge, loyalty and dedication to things Scottish and to the Society is highly valued. He will be greatly missed by the wider Scottish Fraternity. He is predeceased by wife Lee and leaves family Brenda-Lee, Morgan and Emma, plus Little Adalee (The Wee Girl), Kaylah and Jaidyn.

Graeme Matheson.



The Chief's Report

All members and the Council are greatly saddened by the death of Ross Fraser. His enthusiasm, his innovative ideas and his drive to promote our Scottish heritage were an asset to the Society and to the wider community. We extend our sympathy to his family.

I am very appreciative of the offer from Nancy Gibb to act as editor of the Scottish Society News in the interim. Nancy stepped down in June 2013 after six years as editor and we have had the pleasure of reading the travels of the "Circumforaneous Gibbs" as she and Dave have traversed New Zealand and Eastern Australia. Those travels will be continuing but welcome back short term, Nancy.

The Kirkin' o' the Tartan was held at St Andrews at Rangi Ruru in mid October. Many brought their banners and tartan to be blessed as part of this old tradition and it would be good to see many more. Stories abound of the Kirkin's roots in the days of the Act of Proscription, when the wearing of the kilt was banned in the Highlands. According to legend, Highlanders hid pieces of tartan and brought them to church to be secretly blessed at a particular point in the service.

The Hororata Games in early November proved a successful event for our members in Pipe Band and Highland Dancing, while others gave their time to displays such as Scottish Country Dancing, spinning, and promotion of the Society and individual Clans. The Hororata Games are becoming cemented into the Highland Games' Calendar of Events and to this end it is hoped it will be promoted more widely to the Pipe Band fraternity and become a feature of their event calendar just as it has with the highland dancing. Congratulations to all who had success on the day.

I encourage you all to attend these events and embrace your Scottish heritage.

This coming January Geoff Tyson stands down after 10 years as Secretary to the Society. We thank him for those many years of record keeping. Minutes in particular provide a vital link to the work of an organisation. Geoff is an avid Burns enthusiast and we look forward to him and Robyn continuing to be part of the Society's activities in the coming years.

Recently Ellen and I had the opportunity to enjoy a concert celebrating the Highland Dance School successes. We were treated to an outstanding display of dance talent.

The hall remains well used, 84 times in a month either by our members or other local groups. Clearly it is in our sights to continue the renovation inside however money remains the challenge. We are approaching trusts and others who support organisations such as ours and I would value any advice members might have on sources of finance. Naturally with the revaluation of the hall subsequent to renovation the insurance cost has increased exponentially which will put significant pressure on our finances.

Happily the hall came through the recent earthquake with very limited evidence of damage.

Ellen and I wish you a very relaxing and enjoyable festive season and look forward to greeting you at the Burns Supper on 28th January 2017. Tickets are available through all Councillors and I urge you to promote these widely. We have a wonderful programme planned.

Yours aye

Graeme

From the Editor

I was greatly saddened to learn of Ross' death not long before Dave and I arrived back in Christchurch after six months touring Eastern Australia. Ross sent me frequent messages about my travel blog and I was looking forward to seeing him again and talking about Mt. Isa where he once worked, and Cloncurry where my mother was born. Dave and I are going back early next year for a few more months before settling down in our Christchurch home again.

We arrived home just in time to catch the latest series of earthquakes though! The caravan felt like a ship at sea. I hope no members were affected and no property damaged. Our little dog was not alarmed, she is an old earthquake hand plus she is used to the caravan movement.

It is a privilege to produce this edition of Scottish News. I hope someone will soon step up to take over the Editorship. Best wishes for a wonderful festive season.

Nancy. (Blog at www.nancyvada.me)

Who's Who 2016

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Highland Dancing Class

Another Winter term Dance Class ends with Concert and Competitions

Concert - Sunday 21st August 2016

The winter term of 2016 at the Scottish Society Saturday morning dance class was concluded with another wonderful concert enthusiastically embraced by the children who have attended for many years and those who had come for the first time. The concert has become a highlight for everyone, and the hall was packed. Not only do the children perform the dance that they have learnt on Saturday mornings, they also learn a dance in their groups to perform together. The older girls have enjoyed choreographing their own dances.

Aside from being a warm place to go to on a wintry Saturday morning, the classes further the aims of the Scottish Society in fostering Scottish culture and provide a large proportion of young members which the Society very much needs to sustain itself. The classes are also an affordable activity and give the children the chance to give Highland Dancing a go. Then the classes provide them with extra tuition and practice time. We also believe that they are a great place for friendships to be made.

The tutors this year were: Cushla Piesse, Jeanie Borsboom, Mary Gannaway, Julianna Latif, Heather-Maree Allen, Jordan McIvor, Rebecca Wickham and Kate Simkin.

We also have our senior girls Sammi Van den Broek, Kate Watson, Athena MerrickTaylor-Maree Allen, Victoria Stevens and Kennedy Jones helping, giving them the opportunity to work alongside the Senior tutors. They are a dedicated bunch of girls and an asset to the Society. We are also fortunate to have Shirley and Peter Aitken doing the administration work for us. We



*Kate Watson, Bonnie McLaughlin-Forbes
and Sophie Borsboom*

very much appreciate the support they give us in our rôles as tutors.

A very big thank you also goes to Raeleen and Steve Wickham who set up the morning tea every Saturday. The children love the fruit that Raeleen kindly provides.

We are supported as well by a wonderful band of parents and grandparents who give raffle prizes and sponsorship freely.

It is a pleasure to be part of the warmth and kindness of all who belong to this dancing class.

\$25 Scholarships for all those wishing to attend the Balmoral Club's Summer School in February 2017 were handed out, and three cups associated with the dancing class

were awarded to the following girls (*photos previous page*):

Bonnie McLaughlin-Forbes -W.T Lindsay Cup (most improved pupil in the dancing class 2016)

Sophie Borsboom - Wakefield Cup (most promising dancer under 12)

Kate Watson - Joyce Stephens Memorial Cup (for diligence and commitment to the Saturday morning dance class).

Competitions - Saturday 29th August 2016

Through the great team work and co-operation of tutors, (Cushla Piesse, Mary Gannaway and Jeanie Borsboom together with Heather-Maree Allen and Julianna Latif), Shirley and Peter Aitken and dancers' parents, the Scottish Society Saturday Dance Class competitions were held giving the Society's children and others another great relaxing fun day.

This year children in the First Year classes competed for Highland Fling, Sword dance, Irish Jig, Sailors Hornpipe, Highland Reel and Reel O'Tulloch.

More cups were extracted from the cupboard, cleaned and presented much to the delight of all the recipients.

A very big thank you to Raeleen Wickham who took charge in the kitchen and to Shirley and Peter Aitken for their continued support and very much needed help on the day.

We were especially privileged to have the service of three experienced pipers, Nick Eagle, Iain Braithwaite and Jonathan Findlay who played all day for us. We acknowledge with grateful thanks the support that they all give us.

The winners of the Junior and Senior Champion events loved the sashes that

were awarded to them and this year was very exciting with a tie in both Champion events.



Joint Senior Champions - Sammi Van den Broek & Taylor-Maree Allen. Runner Up - Kate Watson.



Joint Junior Champions - Danielle Joy & Kennedy Jones. Runner Up - Niamh Chamberlain.

As the dancing class grows we all look forward to 2017.

Cushla Piesse. Councillor for the Dancing class.

Facebook Link: www.facebook.com/scottishsocietydance

Scottish Society Pipe Band



The band had its first hit out for the season at the Hororata Highland Games, placing a 1st in Grade 3 and also 3rd in Grade 2.

Congratulations to all our younger band members who also competed in the Drumming and Piping Solos.

Emma won the Novice Tenor

Georgia a 2nd in D & C grade

Kaitlyn a 3rd in Novice side

Great work also to Lachlan, Struan, Madisyn and Tayla who did very well in their class.



Hororata Highland Games

This is the third time Dave and I have attended the Games. We made sure we returned to Christchurch in time! It was a wonderful day, glorious weather, and the added delight of seeing so many familiar faces which we have missed since we started on our caravanning. I joined the country dancers for an invitation dance and realised how much I missed it all.

There was something for everyone including children. I understand the Society's Highland Dancers and the Band did well in the competitions. The spinners and weavers had already started when we arrived; their tent was a hive of industry and in addition there were some displays of other related crafts and some wonderful knitted or crocheted garments. Did anyone

see the fantastic knitted cats at a stall just outside the spinners and weavers' tent?

Dave and I missed the pie eating contest last year so made sure we saw the rather unappetising sight of people gorging ...the winner was a young woman who didn't shirk in the final race when she and another contestant had to eat a pie with sauce and NO HANDS.

I tried to photograph the winner of the mile sprint (which involved several obstacles along the way including pie-eating) but he was too quick for me.



Here are a few other photos from the day.
Nancy.



The Scottish Society Country Dance Club

The Scottish Society SCD Club has had a great year under the tutorage of Shirley and Margaret. Numbers have increased, for which we are grateful, new dances learned, and we have had a lot of fun.

Dance Scottish month in June was exciting as we joined with other clubs in the city at a Ceilidh.

Also a number of experienced dancers from the City area joined together with us at the recent Hororata Highland Games to demonstrate some Scottish country dancing. This was well received, and with

encouragement, a number of the public joined with the dancers and were guided through one of the easy dances. Under a clear blue sky, it was a delight to watch, and it is hoped that the seed of "maybe I could do this" was settled in the minds of some of the participants.

Dancing clubs have now finished for the year, but with the National Scottish Country Dancing summer school being held in the city late December, we all have the chance to dance again soon.

Margaret Birse.



Websites & Facebook Links

<http://www.scottishsocietyofnz.com/>

<https://www.visitscotland.com/>

<https://www.highlandexplorertours.com/>

Scottish Society: www.facebook.com/chchscottishsocietyofnz

SSNZ Band: www.facebook.com/scottishsocietyofnzpb/

Highland Dancing: www.facebook.com/scottishsocietydance



Activities in the Hall

Cushla Piesse School of Dance Concert 2016

On Wednesday 23rd November, my dancing school gathered together at the Scottish Society hall to celebrate the end of another great year of dancing.

It was a low-key affair with each dancing group having their own item and at the concert they rose to the occasion and enjoyed performing for family and friends.

A special well done award goes to Sammi, Kate, Athena, Kennedy and Jordan for their wonderful choreography skills. They choreographed the dances Highland Five, Cutting Edge and Celtic Jiggers.

There were 7 items:

- Rosa and Alice - Nautical Sailors
- Kate, Sammi, Jordan, Athena and Kennedy - Highland Five
- Briar and Eliza - Rhythm and Ribbons
- Elina - Irish Jig
- Sammi, Kate, Kennedy, Jordan and Athena - Cutting Edge
- Niamh, Sophie and Libby - Let's Get Reel
- Jordan, Kate, Sammi, Athena and Kennedy - Celtic Jiggers

The concert was all about participation and enjoying dancing.

Well done Kate Watson, Samantha Van den Broek, Sophie Borsboom, Eliza McDonald, Jordan McIvor, Athena Merrick, Niamh Chamberlain, Briar Chamberlain, Kennedy Jones, Rosa Borsboom, Alice Rodda, Libby Rodda and Elina Wagteveld.

Presentation of Exam and Excellence In Dance certificates ended a great little concert.

The McIvor family hosted another wonderful BBQ.



Jacqueline Jones School of Dance

2016 has been a busy and rewarding year of teaching. I have seen a noticeable increase in Pre School Dance numbers, which all bodes well for future of Highland Dancing. Recently my Pre School Dancers were given the opportunity by renowned music specialist Julie Wylie to participate in the creation of a musical, song and dance video designed to promote the plight of the at risk bumblebee. This can be viewed at Facebook/New Zealand Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

My Highland Students have been focused with NZAHND Examinations and Competitions including travelling to the NZ Championships in Dunedin and Palmerston North. My dance pupils range in age from 3 years to 25 years. It is wonderful that the hall is accessible to such a wide range of local families and I thank the Scottish Society for allowing this to happen.



Christchurch Senior Citizen Assn Inc.

Monday afternoons - Euchre, 500 or Whist card games. 12.30 - 3pm

Tuesday afternoon - Indoor Bowls 12.30-3pm

Saturday afternoon - 1st & 3rd Sat each month. Old Time Dancing with a live Band.

For information on costs & other activities phone Vonnie 3833020 or 3834682 or Beth 3882375



Christchurch Savage Club

Entertainment club

We use the hall for:

- **Inward raids** - Savage Clubs from other towns come and perform in the hall for us and the supper room is used for supper.
- **Torero** - These were generally held once a month on Thursday evenings and the members would put on performances, singing, skits, musical
- **Meetings** - Mainly the supper room for the AGM

In the past three years the numbers have decreased from about 80+ to about 15. Some people have moved since the earthquake and the members are getting older and no longer with us and also not being able to perform anymore, so it looks like we may be closing our doors in the new year.

For information contact Lilian van Elk at 381-0218 or lilian_van_elk@hotmail.com



The Scottish Society of NZ (Inc.) Membership Renewal Form

P O Box 21-092, Edgware, Christchurch 8143

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please complete fully with Name(s) & Address.

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Email:

Your annual subscription for the year ending **31/12/2017** is now due.

Amount enclosed \$.....

NB: Rule 3.1.2 subscriptions shall be paid in advance before the **28th of February** in each year.

Fees: \$20 per annum per individual

\$35 per family includes children to 16 years of age.

Life Members: any donation towards the cost of the Society magazine would be gratefully received to assist with printing & postage.

Please return to address as above with your subscription, Thank you.

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