



“CÀRN-NA-CUIMHNE!”

©

Official Publication of Clan Farquharson Association Australia (NSW Branch)

Vol. 7, No. 2

December, 2006

Clan Chief

*Capt. Alwyne Compton Farquharson MC, of
Invercauld*

Australian High Commissioner

Vacant

N.S.W. Commissioner

Mr. Stuart Finlayson

Commissioner's Banner Bearer: M Finlayson

Commissioner's Piper: R Finlayson

Clan Farquharson Association Australia (N.S.W. Branch)

President

Mr. Sydney Finlay

Vice President/Editor

Mr. Bruce Finlay

Secretary/Treasurer

Mrs. Brenda Finlay

Committee Members

Mrs. Pauline Finlay

Mrs. Jeannette Finlayson

Mr Lindsay Sparkes

Mr. John Tate

Mr. Peter Tranter

Mrs. Helen Tranter

Mail: P O Box 414

BUNDANOON NSW 2578

Email: s_b_finlay@netjunction.com.au

Annual Membership (NSW)

Fee: \$15.00

*Classes of Membership: Individual,
Family (2 Adults + Children under 18 years or
who are dependent), and
Interested Non-Farquharson (Associate)*

*Application forms are available from the
Secretary via the above address.*

O o O o O

Vale Beryl Hardy Nisbett, JP, FRGS 5 December 1928 – 20 October 2006

It is with the greatest regret and sadness that we record the passing away on 20th October 2006 of our greatly admired and loved High Commissioner for Australia, Beryl Hardy Nisbett.

Beryl was High Commissioner for many years, the most senior representative of the Chief of Clan Farquharson in Australia. Under her guidance and encouragement the Victorian and NSW Branches of our Clan Association were formed. Beryl was an authority on Scottish genealogy and Australian pioneer history, a mine of information on protocol and all things Scottish. Her energy and commitment will be sorely missed, not just by our own Clan and Association members, but by the whole Scottish Australian community.

Beryl was a close personal friend to many of our Committee and members. Her's was a life of service and care for others. Sadly, for Beryl, however, her last years were overshadowed by the grief of the premature death of son David in a tragic accident in 2002.

She slipped away from us in the still o' night in the early hours of Friday 20th October, and is now at peace.

The President's Message

Dear Clan Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I sign-off on this issue of Càrn-na-Cuimhne.

The warmth and esteem, with which Beryl Hardy Nisbett was held in the whole Scottish Australian community was readily evident at her Memorial Service at the HMAS Watson Chapel on 26th October 2006. A Personal Tribute from Clan Chief Captain Alwyne Farquharson, MC, was read at the Service by NSW Commissioner for Clan Farquharson, Stuart Finlayson. Overleaf we record the full text of our Chief's Personal Tribute.

Syd Finlay

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to new members of the Association:

Matthew FINLAYSON of Mittagong, and Ross FINLAYSON of Mittagong.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

RETIREMENT AND REPLACEMENT OF NSW COMMISSIONER

Immediately prior to her hospitalization in May 2006, High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett received the resignation, due to continuing ill health, of Stan Hardy as long-serving NSW Commissioner. Stan recommended to the Chief as his replacement, long-serving Banner-Bearer Stuart Finlayson.

We are pleased to inform members of the appointment by the Chief of Stuart as the new NSW Commissioner.

We wish Stan a more relaxed lifestyle in retirement from his duties as NSW Commissioner, and congratulate Stuart on his appointment.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BERYL HARDY NISBETT
HMAS WATSON CHAPEL
Thursday 26th October 2006**

On a dull and sultry day many members of the Clan and the Scottish Australian community gathered to farewell Beryl Hardy Nisbett, who had been for most of their lives and their involvement in things Scottish, their rock, ever there, a presence on whom they could always depend. The Cortège and Family mourners, including Her Excellency Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales, were led into the Chapel by High Commissioner's personal piper Sam Young, to the sad and arresting strains of *The Macintosh's Lament*.

The Service opened with the singing by the congregation of the hymn, *Amazing Grace*, accompanied by the Chapel organ.

Presiding Minister, Rev Jerryl Lowe led the mourners in prayer, with the beautiful and moving 23rd Psalm, upon which The Lesson and Sermon were based. The Reading was given by Beryl's granddaughter Danielle Johnke from John 14: verses 1-6.

Personal Tributes were given by Clan Chief Alwyne Farquharson, close friend Bruce Levet, and a moving Family Eulogy was delivered by grandson Robert Johnke.

Stuart Finlayson, newly appointed NSW Commissioner for Clan Farquharson, read the Personal Tribute from our Clan Chief, which is reproduced below.

"A Tribute

"I begin my tribute to Beryl by saying that I write it not only as Clan Chief but also as a close friend and one of her many admirers. Firstly and above all I acknowledge with a deep sense of gratitude, for which I cannot find adequate words, the immense debt which I and my Clan owe to her for her long, loyal and outstanding service to us as High Commissioner for Australia. Her commitment, leadership and guidance have been an inspiration to us. Her efforts on our behalf, whatever the costs to her, were always given with a spirit of generosity, counting the constant demands on her energies, mental and physical, as rewards in themselves rather than duties. Her lively frequent letters to me kept me in ongoing touch with the detail of happenings in Australia. I looked forward to their arrival, and remember with affection the percipient dry sense of humour with which they were often touched. On her judgement I could rely with complete confidence. Wherever she went she was an ambassador for the spread of goodwill amongst kith and kin; for she had friends everywhere and in all walks of life.

"Our Clan motto is '*FIDE ET FORTITUDINE*' – or '*FAITH AND FORTITUDE*'. These qualities Beryl had in abundance. She was justly proud of her Scottish roots and traditions: equally so of her own family ancestry, being a direct descendant of that illustrious naval Captain Hardy of Trafalgar and Nelson fame. And surely, passed down through the centuries, she inherited a measure of those genes of naval gallantry. Surely too these qualities, combined with her staunch Christian faith, enabled her to stand steadfast against those challenges which by cruel fate she was called upon, so undeservedly, to face: the tragic loss of her son, David, and her last long, brave battle against the overwhelming odds of massive heart surgery. In the dignity and courage which she displayed throughout she rose above them, and set an example for us all.

"To all her family my wife and I extend our most heartfelt sympathy and condolences. Finally, Clan Farquharson Australia, let us honour her memory by keeping our flag proudly flying as she would exhort us to do."

Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld
Chief of Clan Farquharson

The congregation, accompanied by the Chapel Organ, sang the Hymns *Now Thank We All Our God*, and *God be in my Head*. Following the Final Blessing and Committal, Piper Sam Young led the mourners from the Chapel. We had the opportunity of personally conveying our deep sorrow and condolences to principal mourners, daughter Jocelyn Johnke and son John Nisbett, who were exemplary to all in the great fortitude they had shown throughout Beryl's long illness and final passing.

A Reception at the HMAS Watson Wardroom followed the Chapel Service.

To all of Beryl's Family the Committee and Members of the NSW Association extend sincere and heartfelt condolences on this sad occasion.

O o O o O

**CFAA (NSW BRANCH) ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday 26th November 2006**

Clan Farquharson Association Australia (NSW Branch) held its Annual General Meeting in the Clans Tent at the Hyde Park Gathering during Scottish Week in Sydney.

Reports were received from NSW Commissioner Stuart Finlayson and President Syd Finlay. Mr Stuart Finlayson stepped down as Committee member. Syd Finlay foreshadowed a more ambitious program of attendance at country Gatherings by our Clan Tent now that amelioration of the public liability insurance issue seems to be offered by development of an insurance cover vehicle that can be shared with several Clan associations. The meeting ratified appointment by the Association of Pauline Finlay and Bruce Finlay as Delegates on behalf of the NSW Branch to the Sydney Combined Scottish Societies. The meeting agreed to the President's motion that we not renew advertising in the Scottish Banner as its cost has jumped 25% in one year, but keep the position under review.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report showed the Branch finances were steady with no large new expenditure items.

The new Committee appointed at the meeting is:

Syd Finlay – President
Bruce Finlay – Vice President/Editor
Brenda Finlay – Secretary Treasurer

Committee: Mrs Pauline Finlay
Mrs Jeannette Finlayson
Mr Lindsay Sparkes
Mr John Tate
Mrs Helen Tranter
Mr Peter Tranter

O o O o O

**APPOINTMENT of WALLY KERR
NSW COMMISSIONER for CLAN KERR**

We were very pleased to receive the good news from Clan Kerr that our very good friend of longstanding, Wally Kerr has been appointed by The Hon Marquis of Lothian as NSW Commissioner for Clan Kerr. Other appointments are Joan Elliott as Hon Secretary and Ian Kerr as Hon Treasurer of Clan Kerr Society.

Congratulations to the three appointees and best wishes to them for future success.

O o O o O

**About Town and Other Places
Places and Events since last time**

**WARRINGAH SCOTTISH SOCIETY'S
Dinner Dance, Saturday 5th August 2006**

On a rain-threatened Saturday night Warringah Scottish held its annual Dinner Dance.

With the music by the very capable Col Walton Trio, the night got off to a lively start with a bracket of waltzes, followed by the *Dashing White Sergeant*. The Chief's March and *Eightsome Reel* provided a lot of fun for the guests and members in attendance, over 130 people in all. This was probably Warringah's most successful night of the year.

During each course of the three course meal there was a variety of excellent entertainment. Manly Warringah Pipe Band were in good form. Band members Melissa Beatty and Carol Took capably performed the Sword Dance, and the highlight of the night was fiddler Jan Cooper's (also a band member) performance of variations on *The Cradle Song* from Chris Duncan's *Fyvie's Embrace* Album. It was a truly memorable performance.

MC Sid Bowers announced during the evening the attendance of Professor Richard McGregor and his family from England. Prof. McGregor, Professor of Music at Lancaster University, is also World Chairman of Clan Gregor Society, and a leading researcher on the use of DNA as a genealogical tool.

After a lively *Quadrille* a big night of dancing and entertainment ended just before midnight with the *Strip the Willow*. We trust that everyone got home safely for we know that some guests at this popular evening travelled quite long distances to be there.

O o O o O

**MANLY WARRINGAH PIPE BAND'S
Inaugural Gathering & Band Competition
Sunday 24th September 2006**

Sunday 24th September was a fine, but windy, day for this inaugural Manly Warringah Pipe Band Gathering and Competition at Manly Oval a picturesque village Rugby and Cricket ground. Warringah Scottish had its tent blown away and supplier and outfitter Jonathan Fowler decided not to set up. But quite a few stall holders were present and successfully braved the elements.

The purpose of the Gathering was to commence Manly Warringah's drive to send its main band (over 50 members) and strong and growing junior bands overseas for competition. We are told that on the day they raised over \$3,000 from entry charges alone (a one or two dollar donation for each visitor). So a good start in their venture, aided largely by the support of the local Council led by Mayor Dr Peter MacDonald (the ground was provided free of charge).

The day was an opportunity for Committee members Bruce & Pauline to meet up with member Lindsay Sparkes, just returned from Scotland, to exchange news and view Lindsay's substantial collection of photographs from his trip.

Present and competing, there were eleven bands from Sydney, the near country areas, and Canberra/Queanbeyan,. Among the competition winners were Canberra Burns Club and recent newcomers Burwood RSL wearing the Black Stewart. It was a surprise to the Editor in talking to a member of the latter band to find that the band was recently formed by former members of two Regimental Pipe Bands, which had been **disbanded**. These were the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Pipe Band and the Sydney University Regiment Pipe Band, *both formerly attached to regular army units*. The SUR Band celebrated its centenary not that long ago – (see C-na-C Vol 1 No 2). It is disappointing to see these bands with a long history disappear off the scene as a result of what appears to be a cost cutting measure by Government.

In all, an interesting and successful first Gathering for Manly Warringah.

O o O o O

**SYDNEY COMBINED SCOTTISH SOCIETIES
137TH Scottish Gathering – Castle Hill
Sunday 29th October 2006**

When the day dawned fine with little wind, everyone associated with Sydney's main annual Scottish Gathering breathed a huge sigh of relief. Last year it was washed out by torrential rain!

Syd and Brenda arrived early and helped Max Fraser to put up the Scottish House Tents where a number of Clans were to share facilities for the day. Our neighbour in quite a roomy tent, was Clan Gordon. Nearby were Clans Fraser, Gregor and Donald, all of course, very well known to us. This is the NSW response to the issue of public liability insurance, where several Clans Societies in the one tent facility spread the otherwise prohibitive cost of insurance cover.

Chieftain of the Day was Ken Moroney, NSW Police Commissioner, who was "MacMoroney" for the day. We were pleased to see a number of our members, Ross Wood and daughter Chvonne, Lindsay Sparkes, and Committee members Helen and Peter Tranter down from Newcastle, and John Tate who was busy for much of the day with his band as Drum Sergeant. Sam Young was also kept busy for much of the day carrying out his duties as Piping Judge, for this Gathering is one of the main competition days for the State Pipe Band Championships in NSW. A number of major trophies, which were on public display, including the Farquharson Trophy, were contested.

This was also the day for the NSW Highland Dancing Championships. It was interesting to see the ranks of

young male dancers, some now graduated to adult level, beginning to grow. Field events were of interest, too, as the Braemar Caber weighing 62.3kg and 6.05m long, was used for the competition. Two New Zealanders cleaned up several of the major heavy events between them.

Organizers of the Gathering, the Sydney Combined Societies were greatly encouraged by the recovery from last year, and the developing involvement of the local community at Castle Hill. Next year should see further sponsorships come to fruition and a greater public roll-up that usually follows a fine day the year before. The year 2008 will be a very important year for the Castle Hill Gathering as it will be host to the South Pacific Pipe Band Championships, so write this one in your calendar now.

O o O o O

**SCOTTISH WEEK – KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN
Sunday 26th November 2006**

The Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service was held at St Stephens Uniting Church in Macquarie Street Sydney at 10.00am. In attendance were NSW Commissioner Stuart Finlayson and wife Jeannette, Banner-Bearer Matthew Finlayson and Commissioner's Piper Ross Finlayson, Syd and Bruce Finlay and Lindsay Sparkes. In an impressive procession, distinguished guests and Clan representatives were piped into the Church.

A traditional Service was conducted by the Rev Dr Matthew Jack. Tartans were presented and the Kirkin'. Prayer was offered by The Rt Hon the Earl of Dunmore, Malcolm Murray, Chieftain of Clan Murray. The First Lesson was read by Bruce Robertson, Vice President of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, from 1 Samuel 1:1-20, and the Gospel Lesson from Mark 13:1-8 was read by Scottish Week Special Guest, The Rt Hon the Earl of Dalhousie, James Ramsay.

Dr Jack's Sermon was drawn from the First Lesson from 1 Samuel and included an interesting modern parallel, the apparent desecration of a Maori memorial just outside the city of Auckland, NZ. The Service ended with the Hymn, *Glory be to God the Father* and the procession from the church was accompanied by the Organ Postlude, Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in C*.

O o O o O

**SCOTTISH WEEK – PARADE & GATHERING
Sunday 26th November 2006**

As in previous years, the Parade commenced from Martin Place just after midday and proceeded south in Macquarie Street to Hyde Park North where the Gathering took place. Clan Farquharson, led by our new NSW Commissioner, Stuart Finlayson, brought up the rear of a group of Clans between Scots College No 1 Pipe Band and Sydney Thistle, proudly wearing the Farquharson Tartan.

Syd and Brenda manned our allotted tables in the Scottish Australian Heritage Council Clan's marquee, dealing with a number of membership enquiries and meeting other Clan representatives. Lindsay Sparkes assembled for display an excellent collage of photographs of his recent Scotland trip. The public were treated to displays of traditional Scottish dancing, mock sword-fighting, and massed bands performances. Federal Parliamentary Secretary, Malcolm Turnbull MP conducted what has become at this Gathering, the traditional Citizenship Ceremony for ex-pat and migrating Scots.

During the afternoon the Clans' representatives were met by Special Guest and Chieftain of the Day, The Rt Hon the Earl of Dalhousie, James Ramsay, and his daughter the Lady Lorna Lefebvre who was accompanying him.

A pleasant sunny day in Hyde Park came to an end with the playing of the Lament by official Piper, Sam Young.

O o O o O

SCOTTISH WEEK - MANLY DAY OUT
Wednesday 29th November 2006

As part of the Scottish Week celebrations in Sydney, the Scottish Australian Heritage Council takes its official party members and Special Guests on suburban visits to both sight-see and meet the local community members of Scottish origin. The trip to Manly takes in a ferry journey across Sydney Harbour and Mayoral reception and luncheon in the Town Hall chambers. As representatives of the nearby suburban Warringah Scottish Society, Bruce and Pauline had the opportunity to attend, and meet the distinguished guests who included The Rt Hon the Earl of Dunmore, Malcolm Murray and his wife Joy, Countess of Dunmore, The Rt Hon the Earl of Dalhousie, James Ramsay and his daughter, the Lady Lorna Lefebvre, and Dr Frank Davidson, President of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council.

The arriving Guests and official Party from the Scottish Australian Heritage Council were welcomed by Mayor Dr Peter MacDonald, himself an ex-pat Scot from the Isle of Mull. They were treated to performances by Scottish Country dancers and the Many Warringah Pipe Band, before moving inside for the luncheon.

O o O o O

MESSAGE FROM BILL MARSHALL IN
BRAEMAR, SCOTLAND

Last July, President Syd Finlay received an interesting Email from Bill Marshall, Secretary of the Braemar Community Limited, which has leased Braemar Castle from the Invercauld Estate Trust. They are proposing to raise the sum of approximately £3M to restore Braemar Castle and turn it into a tourist attraction. For this purpose BCL is planning to form a charitable trust and is seeking financial

support from the worldwide Clan Farquharson organisations.

Members who are interested in supporting this project or who seek further information are urged to contact Syd Finlay or Bill Marshall direct at Mountain Cottage, Chapel Brae, Braemar, ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND AB35 5YT.

O o O o O

STICKS 'N BAG

Welcome back to the column about Pipe Band work. For a change, we'll take a quick trip to the World Pipe Band Championships held on Saturday 12th August in Scotland.

My wife and I had the good fortune to be able to attend the World Championships to watch our daughter compete in Grade 3A.

The whole experience was fantastic! It's hard to comprehend that there were over two hundred bands competing in one day to decide who would win each Grade.

The championships were held in Glasgow Green, which is a large park in the city of Glasgow, Scotland. The weather was kind as we had broken clouds and NO RAIN!! Previous years have had pouring rain, which I know from experience is hard on all participating.

The Green is set up with a number of playing arenas far enough apart to allow the bands to play and not be heard by another band. In some grades, bands had to qualify to play in the finals due to the number of entries.

There was a special arena used for a Drum Major's Flourish Competition. Each band from Grade 3 was expected to play for this event after they had played in their competition timeslot. Speaking of timeslots, bands had to arrive at the "line" at a specific time or they would lose their place and be eliminated. Timing is crucial if the event is to finish by 5 pm.

When we walked around the Green, we felt surrounded by the sound of pipes. The sound wasn't unpleasant, it was just that we had trouble selecting which of the great sounding bands we wanted to hear! We couldn't hear them all!

We focussed on Grade 3A which was important to us and heard some great music played. We also heard bands in Grade 3 that I think some of our Aussie bands in Grade 4 could have beaten if they could afford to travel to Scotland. This raises the point of the cost for a band to travel. Think about the figure of about \$30,000 per minute for a four minute competition slot to get a band there and back! Sounds like a lot of money? It sure is. Bands have to find the money to travel and also compete in a couple of other competitions prior to the Worlds. It's not a cheap exercise at all.

After we watched Grade 3A, we took a look at Grade 2 and enjoyed some great musicians playing great music. The standard is high and the competition is fierce. The slightest mistake can mean the difference between winning 1st place and elimination! The pressure is enormous on the top grade bands. They come off the arena pouring sweat as they put everything into the performance. Higher grade bands must have two sets of music that they play and which set is selected by drawing the set number out of a hat just before they go onto the arena. That's pressure!

Overall, the experience has shown me that Australia has the capacity to produce some competitive bands, we simply need to support them better so they can travel to show the world how good Australian bands can be on the world stage. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip. The weather was kind for the two months we spent overseas and I feel confident that one day, with lots and lots of practice, I might get there. (Well, one can only hope!)

Remember, if you have or know of a set of Bagpipes or some old drums stored away that you or someone else used to play and will never play again, please dig them out and offer them via this column to a Pipe Band. Not just my band, any Pipe Band. Bagpipes deserve to be heard, not left stored away, half forgotten in some dusty cupboard, roof, or garage. Bands will pay for the pipes, so keep a look out, please!

Pipe Bands relish the chance to rejuvenate old pipes and honour the historical aspect of those who owned them and where they were played. Maybe even in some battles. Who knows?

*John Tate
Drum Sergeant,
Castle Hill R.S.L. Pipe Band.
jdtate@bigpond.com*

O o O o O

LINDSAY'S TRIP TO UNITED KINGDOM
Sunday 13th August to Saturday 26th August 2006

Sunday 13 Aug

Took off from Mascot 4.40pm on BA10 heading to the "Old Dart". Trisha and Sophie there to see me off. Longer than scheduled stopover in Bangkok as one of the plane's batteries died.

Monday 14 Aug

Landed at Heathrow 6.15am. Kind Kiwi named Chris who was returning to London showed me to the train station and explained the tube system to me. Not that hard when you get the hang of the colour codings. Left my gear at Earls Court hotel then caught train to Green Park station. Met cousin Rachel there (my guide for the day).

Walked up to Buckingham Palace. It rained on me and I thought "Here we go, typical pommie weather." But it stopped 30 mins later. I can honestly say the weather was great my whole trip –

I got about an hour of rain total and the temperature was mid 20's. Rachel and I spent the whole day touring – Buck Palace, Trafalgar Square, Cutty Sark, Maritime Museum, Royal Observatory, Hyde Park, Kensington Palace.....

Tuesday 15 Aug

Most eagerly anticipated day of my trip. Mad tank modeller off to Bovington Army Tank Museum. Met cousin Rachel at Waterloo then off on 2 and a half hour train trip to Wool with bated breath. Everything I thought it would be – first tank "Little Willie", world's only running Tiger tank – Heaven!!!! One piece of advice – do not take your lovely, charming 15 year old female English cousin with you – after 15 mins you get asked constantly, "Can we go shopping now"? (I stuck it out for 3 hours, a lot less than the 7 hours I was planning to spend there). Still managed to take about 500 digital photos. Back to Waterloo, then down to Godalming in Surrey to stay with the step-rels.

Wednesday 16 Aug

Back up to London with Rachel to see other touristy sights – Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Eye in the Sky (no way going on it), Tower of London etc. Then went shopping at Harrods for Rachel's present – 15 year old girls do have expensive tastes, don't they?? Back to Godalming for some sightseeing and photographs especially the river walk.

Thursday 17 Aug

The reason I justified to myself the trip to UK – Rachel's 16th birthday.

Friday 18 Aug

Another eagerly anticipated day – to Portsmouth for the historic ships – HMS Warrior, HMS Victory, Mary Rose. Rachel came with me. I thought, "Not another Bovington day!" But, surprise, couldn't get her off the ships. Unbelievable going through the Victory. Different to friends' earlier visits, you can now take photos below decks on board the Victory except for the spot where Nelson died (they even have someone sitting there to make sure you don't). I took photos of Captain Thomas Hardy's cabin then found when I got back that he was a Farquharson clansman.

Impressed with the longbows (the first ones ever found) from the Mary Rose. Being a keen history buff, I was blown away by what I was seeing. We did a boat tour of Portsmouth harbour – saw more destroyers in one go than we have ships in our entire navy.

Saturday 19 Aug

Seen off by the step-rels at Heathrow. Took off from England, landed in SCOTLAND. I went to pick up my car from Europcar at Aberdeen airport, had a pleasant surprise. I got a free upgrade from a little 1.1 litre Polo to a turbocharged 2.0 litre Jetta – very nice!!!. I got directions, then drove along the North Deeside road to Braemar, taking in the beautiful scenery as I went. I arrived at Braemar

mid-afternoon and booked into my accommodation, the Moorfield House Hotel. I can not recommend this hotel enough – convivial hosts Michael and Sue, great Scottish breakfasts and excellent dinners in the restaurant in the evening. The bar is open late as well – I can speak from experience. I had a quick walk through Braemar before dinner and drinks.

Sunday 20 Aug

I wandered down into Braemar about 7.00am as I wanted to get some photos of the town without people and cars. The river running under the bridge provides some great photos. After breakfast I drove the 10 kms to the Lin of Dee, a set of rapids west of Braemar. Very noisy but great photo ops. After I came back I went with Bill Maxwell to see the famous Braemar castle. The castle itself has been closed for 2 years for restoration but Bill, who is the president of the restoration society [*the Braemar Community Limited, which has leased the Castle- see separate article – Ed.*], was gracious enough to open it and show me through. A lot of work still needs to be done but Bill told me they hope to have a couple of rooms open next year, the whole open in 5 years and their 20 year aim is to reclad the outside of the castle. If you go to Braemar contact Bill (ph 013 3974 1695) as he is only too willing to show our Clan members through the castle (which was first built in 1620).

Bill also gave me directions to the shrine – the Cairn of Remembrance. I drove down the Aberdeen road until I found it down by the Dee. I had to drive past about 1 km to get a parking spot, then walk back. Climbing over two low fences (one is topped with barbed wire), I made my way to the Cairn. Standing there you can visualise the clansmen meeting there in years gone by, then heading off to fight the English, the next clan, raiding lowland clans etc. Awe inspiring. I have drawn a map to show others how to find the Cairn [see page 9 – a word of caution: readers should keep in mind that the Cairn actually stands on Royal lands upon which they would be trespassers - try and avoid days when the Royals are in residence when security will be tight –*Editor.*]. Back to the hotel then late night session over drinks getting directions to Culloden.

Monday 21 Aug

Up bright and early to head off to Culloden. The Scots at the hotel had difficulty comprehending that I was going to drive up to Inverness, see the Culloden Moor battlefield then return to Braemar, all in one day. They obviously haven't driven to Melbourne or Brisbane in one day.

I drove up across the real highlands to get there. Barren, windswept hills with no houses. I arrived at Culloden about 11am. First up I went for a walk around the battlefield myself then joined the guided tour. Our guide, Mike, was superb and made the battle come alive. You can read all the books and watch all the DVDs on this most significant battle

but when you are there looking over the field it all comes together. Standing at the Clan Farquharson marker and looking down at the Government Army lines you can virtually hear the voices of the clansmen and think what they were thinking on that day in April 1746. A deeply moving experience. I bought a copy of the Clan Farquharson History book then drove back to Braemar via Elgin and Keith, arriving back at 7.00pm to the amazement of everyone at the hotel. By the way, Culloden is my special interest topic for my next sojourn on the Einstein Factor [a Sydney television quiz show on which Lindsay has previously appeared].

Tuesday 22 Aug

Time to head off. A quick detour to have a look at Invercauld House, dropped the car off in Aberdeen then caught a train to Edinburgh (\$100 one way) as I wanted to see a bit of the coastal scenery. Went over the Firth of Forth rail bridge which Beatty's battle cruisers passed under on their way to the Battle of Jutland (there's that military history buff in me again) just before arriving in Edinburgh. I booked into my hotel, Tailor's Hall (excellent modern accommodation – even had an LCD TV in my room)

Then set off to see Edinburgh Castle or so I thought. My hotel was [in a street] parallel to the Royal Mile so I thought I would check out the Festival. By the time I made my way to the castle after stopping to watch the jugglers, magicians, comedians etc it was closed. In the evening I enjoyed the hospitality at the Three Sisters pub which is part of my hotel. I can vouch that during the festival the pubs are indeed open to 3 am.

Wednesday 23 Aug

A little tired from the previous day, I walked up to the Tartan Mill, adjacent to the castle, and had a souvenir photo taken in a "Braveheart" outfit. It is a scary photo. I then rolled back downhill to catch a coach tour. First stop was Stirling Castle. More stirring history to experience. One of the photos I took has both the statue of Robert the Bruce and the William Wallace monument in it. Then via Ben Nevis to Loch Lomond for a boat trip. Very pretty loch. We returned via Glasgow (I can now say I have spent 10 minutes in Glasgow, travelling through it on a bus) to Edinburgh just in time to jump off the bus and walk up to the castle for the Military Tattoo.

The Tattoo was another memorable experience despite no food, no toilets and oh so squeezey seats – I'm not small and I was sitting next to this big lump of a young Scotsman. It was unbelievable being there after watching it for years on TV. It was everything I expected. Back to my hotel/pub for more hospitality.

Thursday 24 Aug

Another bus trip – off to Loch Ness to catch the monster. We drove up through Rob Roy territory, stopping at several spots for some great photo ops. We entered Loch Ness via Fort Augustus. I went

on a fascinating cruise on a boat equipped with sonar which showed there is a lot of fish in the loch. Fortunately for the monster, it didn't show itself. I couldn't get over how dark and opaque the waters are up close. When we got back to Edinburgh I wandered into the pub for the trivia night. I pride myself on being reasonable at trivia but I had no show here as the compere's *brogue* was so thick I would have needed an interpreter to understand the questions.

Friday 25 Aug

Going Home!!! I got picked up from my hotel at 5.30am to go to Edinburgh airport. I sat next to a lovely Irish girl on the too short flight to London. I had time to say farewell to the English step-relatives at Heathrow (I do admit to them) before getting on the plane to Oz.

Saturday 26 Aug

27 hours, 3 takeoffs and 3 landings after leaving Edinburgh I arrive back in God's Country. I nearly kiss the tarmac!

Observations on my sojourn

England and Scotland are very expensive in everything. Petrol \$2.50 a litre, Burger King meal \$15.00, train fares exorbitant. The people in both countries are lovely – friendly, helpful. Scenery, especially in the Scottish highlands, is magnificent. It is amazing the places where you bump into fellow Aussies – historic ships, Scottish souvenir shop in Braemar, cruise boat on Loch Lomond – and how we gravitate to each other. I took 2500 digital photos in all and about 8 hours of video.

Going to Scotland really does put one in touch with one's ancestry and heightens your awareness of where you came from. My English step-relatives (who I met here in 2003) are lovely and I will be definitely going back there to see them again in 2008 (Rachel's 18th). Imagine 7 hours at Bovington with the tanks. Might get to see the inside of Edinburgh Castle.

A trip I enjoyed to the utmost. *Lindsay Sparkes*

O o O o O

A Closing Message from our President

I would like to end this Newsletter on a less solemn note than it began, by wishing all our Members and their families a very happy and healthy Christmas and Hogmanay!

Syd Finlay

PS: Enclosed are renewal forms for Members whose memberships have recently expired or will expire in the next couple of months. Please use the form, as this will avoid unnecessary expense and follow-up by the Secretary-Treasurer.

EVENTS CALENDAR December 2006 to February 2007

Saturday 23rd December 2006	EASTW'D-CAMPSIE SCOTTISH XMAS DANCE – Contact Sec 9871-3593.
Sunday 31st December 2006	EASTW'D-CAMPSIE SCOTTISH HOGMANAY – Contact Sec 9871-3593.
Sunday 31st December 2006	EPPING & DIST SCOTTISH HOGMANAY Community Hall Epping - Contact Sec 9874-6240
Date to be announced in January 2007	SAHC BURNS SUPPER Enquiries: Sec 9522 3631
Wednesday 31st January 2007	SAHC Governor MACQUARIE's BIRTHDAY Parade & Dinner Enquiries: Sec 9522 3631
Saturday 3rd February 2007	WARRINGAH's BURNS NIGHT Masonic Hall Collaroy – Contact Lesley Bowers 9981 1673

O o O o O

TO HIRE SCOTTISH DRESS - Contact:

**Mrs Janet Maxwell
"Scottish Hire Hoose"
2 Gibbons Street
DUNDAS NSW 2117**

Telephone: (02) 9630-1263

O o O o O

**KILTS MADE TO PRIVATE ORDER
(You supply the Cloth)**

**Contact: Mrs Joan Vogels
11 Settlers Court
PAKENHAM VIC 3810**

Telephone: (03) 5940-1926

O o O o O

CLAN JEWELLERY MADE TO ORDER

Contact: JEFF OKELL

Telephone: 9638-6661

O o O o O

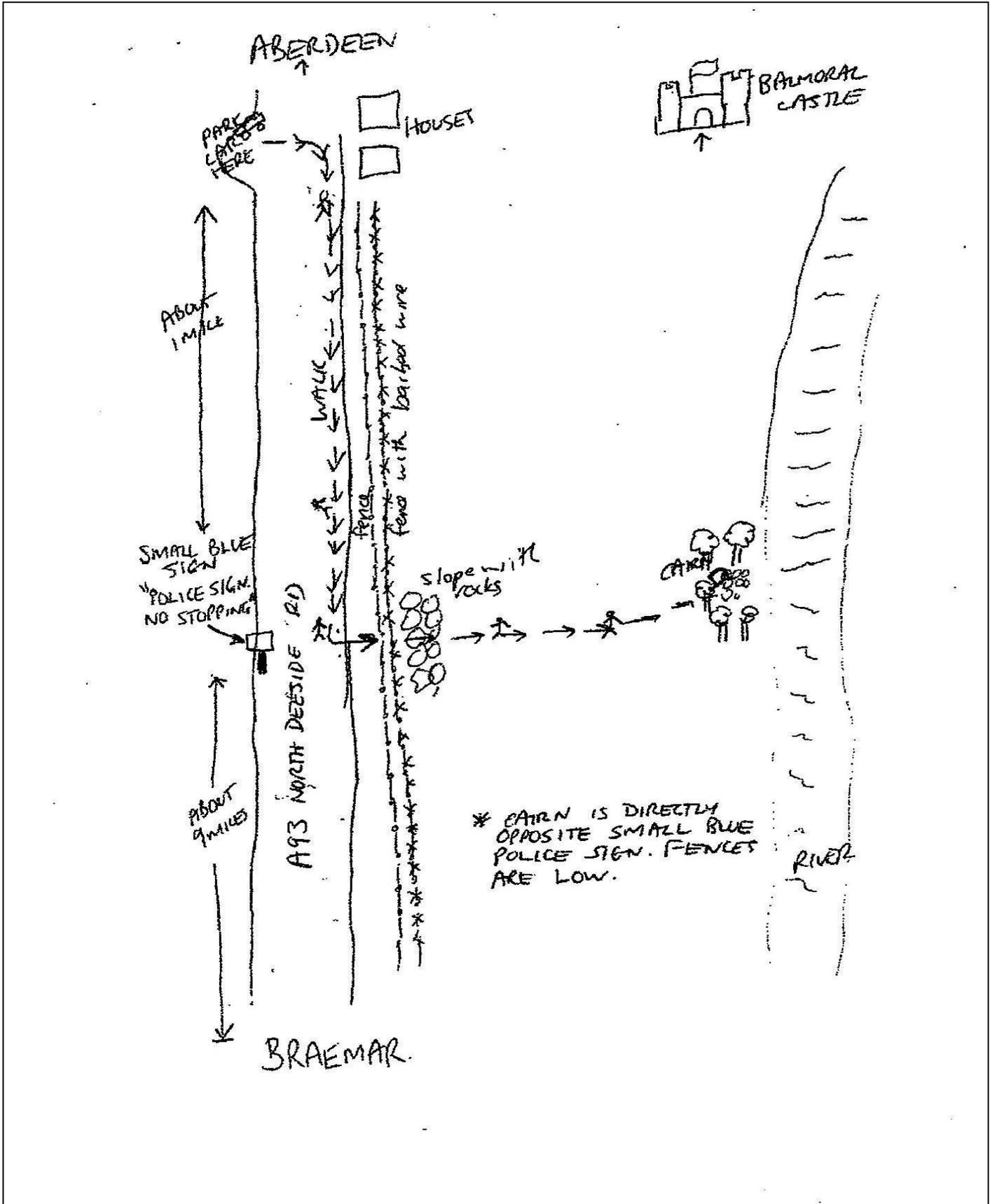
ARTICLES FOR – "CÀRN NA CUIMHNE"

Contact: Bruce Finlay

Telephone/Fax: (02) 9982-6229

O o O o O

HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY TO THE CAIRN OF REMEMBRANCE





Above Left – High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett as a young woman in her thirties.

Above Right – Our favourite pictorial memory of Beryl on her last trip back to Scotland in 2004, with Clan Chief Captain Alwyne Compton Farquharson MC, of Invercauld, the Cairn of Remembrance in the background.



Above – Lindsay Sparkes' travels in Scotland – inside Braemar Castle, one of the rooms being restored.

Left – also from Lindsay Sparkes' travels in Scotland – a rare glimpse of Invercauld House not far from Braemar, formerly the traditional residence of the Farquharson Clan Chiefs.

