



“CÀRN-NA-CUIMHNE!”

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Clan Chief

*Capt. Alwyne Compton Farquharson MC, of
Invercauld*

Australian High Commissioner

Mr Bruce Finlay

Chief's Clan Representatives in N.S.W

*Mr Sydney Finlay, and
Mr Peter Tranter*

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

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Mr Peter Tranter

Vice President

Mr Bruce Finlay

Secretary/Treasurer

Mr Sydney Finlay

Committee Members

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Mrs Brenda Finlay

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Mr John Tate

Mrs Helen Tranter

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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.*

GETTING THE NEWSLETTER BY E.MAIL

To receive the Newsletter by Email, please contact Pauline on finlay_crmr@bigpond.com, or by phone (02) 9982-6229.

The President's Message

Dear Clan Members,

Our 10th anniversary year has drawn to a close – ending on Sunday 7th November, with our Annual General Meeting held at Castle Hill Showground.

I am delighted to advise that I was re-elected President for the ensuing year, our High Commissioner, Bruce, Vice President, with Syd retaining the important position of Secretary/Treasurer. We are fortunate that Pauline is carrying on as Editor of our newsletter, a position she has carried out to a very high standard.

John Tate has continued with his column “Sticks ‘n Bags” for which I thank him and look forward to the continuation of this enlightening column.

Syd deserves our special thanks for his sterling work in arranging our anniversary lunch at the Scottish Arms Tavern in Bowral.

As we approach the end of this year, many will be thinking of Christmas. Helen and I hope that it will be a happy occasion for all, and no doubt those households that have children/grandchildren will be anticipating much excitement as Christmas Day approaches.

However you might be celebrating Christmas, Helen and I wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Peter Tranter
President**

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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.

NEW MEMBERS

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

**Maxwell Johnson of ASHTONFIELD NSW; and
Ronald Vickress of GUYRA NSW.**

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PRESIDENT PETER TRANTER'S Recovery from Serious Illness We report with concern Peter's illness over Winter with a serious viral infection. Being a Farquhar, Peter stoically fought back, and although far from 100% well, was able to attend the 10th anniversary luncheon on 12th September, to deliver the Chief's Message. We are grateful for his continued progress back to full health.

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NEWS FROM SCOTLAND and ENGLAND

Sir Angus Farquharson KCVO We have just recently learned of the exciting news that Angus Farquharson of Finzean, on his retirement after many years' service as Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeen, was knighted for his services to community by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Years Honours List, and is now Sir Angus Farquharson KCVO, of Finzean. All of us here in Australia send our congratulations and best wishes to Sir Angus and his family who must be very proud of his efforts.

Colin Farquharson Sadly, also reported in the Spring Edition of *The Lion's Face*, Newsletter of the Clan Farquharson UK, is the passing of Colin Farquharson, of Whitehouse, the Chief's cousin, a former Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeen, on the 13th March 2010. We extend sincere condolences on behalf of all here in Australia to the Chief and families, and all Association members in UK.

Braemar clothed in Winter The Spring edition of *The Lion's Face* has some excellent shots of Braemar Castle surrounded by snow and cars on the main street of Braemar buried, in what was the biggest winter for many years. We're told the ski-ing at nearby Glen Shee was excellent.

Clan Gathering 11th to 15th August 2010 Reported highlight was an escorted tour of the Invercauld Estate by 4WD – it is planned to extend this next year, 2011.

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**CFAA (NSW Branch) ANNUAL MEETING
Castle Hill, Sunday 7th November 2010**

The Association NSW Branch held its Annual Meeting at the Castle Hill Gathering.

President Peter Tranter and High Commissioner Bruce Finlay reported on a busy year, which saw us go to a few new places, and a healthy growth in memberships. We have effected our own Public Liability insurance, which extends our reach, and we are looking at establishing a web site with the guidance of member Ian Holmes.

Secretary Treasurer Syd Finlay reported on the Association's finances, which are sound. Main new expense was subscription to *The Scottish Banner*.

All current Committee members and office holders stood for re-appointment. The new Committee is:

Peter Tranter – President
Bruce Finlay – Vice President
Sydney Finlay – Secretary/Treasurer

Committee: Brenda Finlay
Pauline Finlay
Margaret Rowan
John Tate
Helen Tranter
Dawn Watson

Pauline Finlay will continue as Newsletter Editor, and Bruce and Pauline Finlay will continue as Delegates to the Combined Scottish Societies.

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EVENTS UP NORTH

Unfortunately, due to illness my activities over the recent period have been sharply curtailed.

I have only two activities to report on, the first being the **Mattra Festival** parade at the foreshores in Newcastle and the second being The Combined Scottish Societies of N.S.W. **Gathering at Castle Hill** showground on 7th November. The Gathering was underway by the time that Helen and I arrived (just as well we were running behind time as any earlier we would have been affected by heavy fog on the F3.)

Castle Hill was, of course, the venue for our AGM. The layout of the ground had been modified by bringing Clan tents closer together – a great improvement on previous years. I suspect our Clan delegates could have had something to do with this.

By the time you read this issue, The Scottish Australian Heritage Council Gathering in Hyde Park, Sydney will be over and the next event I have earmarked for attendance is the Burns Night Dinner in January organised by Hunter Valley Scots Club.

I hope to have more to report next issue.

Peter Tranter
Association President
Chief's Clan Representative (Northern NSW)

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DOWN SOUTH

I think my previous report commenced with the fact it was cold, windy and wet in Bundanoon. Well today (Monday 29 Nov.) it's the same so I'm stuck inside ... So this report gets done!

THE DECADE LUNCH in the Highlands to mark the 10 years of operation of this association was most enjoyable. It was especially gratifying to see many of the faces that were there on that June day in 2000, at Braemar in the Southern Highlands, where it all began. I would like to acknowledge in particular

the attendance of Wally Kerr, NSW Commissioner Clan Kerr, and John Macpherson High Commissioner Clan Macpherson, with their wives Margaret and Gwen, and look forward to their continuing support of our association into the future.

At the request of those present and for the benefit of those who were not there the speeches on the day, which cover some of the important history of the association as well as the Chief's message, are reproduced later in this newsletter, though, for reasons of space, the umms and errs, and some incidental material is omitted.

LOOKING AHEAD There are some coming events that may be of interest for our Canberra members and those members who don't mind doing a bit of travel. A National Multicultural Festival is to be held in Canberra from 11 Feb 2011 to 13 Feb 2011 (Friday to Sunday). At this stage I plan to attend in 2011 to determine the viability of conducting a stall at this event sometime in the future.

Of possibly greater interest is the ACT Pipe band Championships and Scottish Fair to be held on Saturday 8 October 2011. The venue is in Kambah ACT close to the Canberra Burns Club. I am seeking to book a tent site at this event and will keep you posted on this, as it would be great to fly the Farquharson Banner in Canberra!

Well it's that time of the year when we all tend to have Christmas and family gatherings on our minds. May I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2011.

Until we meet again, best of health and keep wearing the mighty Farquharson Tartan with pride.

Syd Finlay
Association Secretary/Treasurer
Chief's Clan Representative (Southern NSW)

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ELSEWHERE – High Commissioner's Diary

WARRINGAH'S Dinner Dance – Saturday 7th August 2010 A sparkling Winter's night of entertainment and dance that was very well attended with over 100 people present. Entertainment included performances by fiddler Henry Lee, piper David Bowers, and Manly Warringah Pipe Band. Dance music was by the Col Walton Trio.

NSW BRANCH 10th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON Sunday 12th September 2010 I warmly congratulate all the Members and Officers of the Clan Farquharson Association Australia (NSW Branch) on their 10th Anniversary. Your hard work, of which we can all be justly proud, has been justly rewarded. Especially, I remind members of the huge contribution by inaugural President Syd Finlay.

The Chief's personal Message read by President Peter Tranter was an emotional highlight, and I am sure all present can confidently look forward to the continued future success of the Branch.

MANLY WARRINGAH PIPE BAND GATHERING Sunday 19th September 2010 A fine day at Manly Oval. Despite a poor public attendance, there was an excellent dance competition with a good roll-up from the Central Coast. Chieftain of the Day and patron of Manly Warringah Pipe Band was Dr Peter MacDonald, former Mayor and local MP.

COMBINED SOCIETIES GATHERING Castle Hill Sunday 7th November 2010 The weather finally relented, but we still managed to get lost in the unseasonal mist around Castle Hill before eventually finding our way to the ground.

For the first time at this Gathering there was a Parade of Clans escorted by the combined Scots College Pipe Bands led by Drum Major Richmond. Chieftain of the Day was Dr Frank Davidson, Clan Davidson High Commissioner and Vice President of the SAHC.

Castle Hill is an important event on the NSW calendar as it is the occasion of the Annual NSW Pipe Band and Highland Dancing Championships.

A modified ground layout was a great improvement to this Gathering, though numbers are still not up to expectations. We support organisers and the PBA in their search for further future improvements.

KIRKIN' O'THE TARTAN - ST STEPHENS Macquarie St, Sunday 29th November 2010

The St Andrews Day Kirkin' is always impressive with the playing of Pipe Major Bill Campbell OAM accompanied by the Church organ. This year an added dimension was the Choir's rendition of Nicolai's "Wake, Awake.." in counterpart with Bach's "Cantata".

The Service was conducted by the Rev Dr David Gill. The Kirkin' Prayer was read by Sir Wayne Broun Bt, and the Lessons were read by Les Maclean, from Isaiah 2:1-5, and by Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart, Bt CVO, from Matthew 24:36-44.

ST ANDREW'S DAY PARADE & GATHERING MARTIN PLACE and HYDE PARK SYDNEY Sunday 29th November 2010

This was our last Gathering for 2010. In light rain, the Parade moved off into Macquarie Street on time at midday, led by a Mounted Police escort and Drum Major Michael Stubbings' Blacktown Pipe Band.

Representatives of the 25 Clans in the Parade were presented at the opening ceremony, where Chieftain of the Day, Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart, Chief of the Clan Maclean, declared the Gathering open. Throughout the day entertainment was provided on a live stage by the Highlander Celtic Rock Band, Scottish dancers and by the Pipe Bands.

Clan Farquharson conducted a desk in the Clans' Marquee, where we were able to meet Farquharsons and Associations members who were in attendance.

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A Wee Bit of History

ELIZABETH HENRIETTA CAMPBELL OF AIRDS (MRS LACHLAN MACQUARIE) 1778-1835

This year there has been a programme of events celebrating Lachlan Macquarie's Governorship of the Colony of New South Wales. In general, little has been said of his wife Elizabeth who, history has shown, was not only a strong and loving partner, but, in her own right made an important contribution to the infant Colony. Yet today, apart from a few portraits, and a wonderful statue in Campbelltown, we mainly think of her in terms of the Iris flowers she is said to have introduced to the Colony and her magnificently placed chair on Sydney Harbour.

Elizabeth was born on 13th June 1778, the youngest of five children, to John Campbell, 5th Laird of Airds and Jane Campbell of Stonefield. Airds is located at Appin close to Oban on the west coast of Scotland. Elizabeth was educated in Hammersmith in London. As the youngest daughter of a laird she would be expected to spend her later years helping her family, and on completion of her education she returned to reside on the estate at Appin. While she was not admired for her looks, she was an accomplished countrywoman, a strong walker, horse rider and a fisherman who was able to cope with the extremes of weather. She was especially resourceful in times of family crisis. It was at such a time that Elizabeth first met Lachlan.

The 3 key clans of the Inner Hebridian region of the west coast of Scotland were the Maclaines of Mull, the MacQuarries of Ulva and the Campbells of Airds. These families were tightly connected by tradition, marriage and obligation. Elizabeth went to Lochbuie House on Mull to help her sister Jane with her 10 children during the deathbed vigil for Jane's husband Murdoch Maclaine, the 19th Laird of Lochbuie. Also visiting was Lachlan Macquarie a relative of Lochbuie and indeed a distant cousin of Elizabeth. Lachlan had just returned from 17 years military service in India. During this time he had met and married Jane Jarvis who had subsequently died in 1796 of tuberculosis in Macao. He had been a widower for 8 years. Lachlan noted in his diary entry for Monday 20th August 1804:

"Monday! – I have remained – and also my Brother – for the last 8 days constantly at Lochbuy [sic]; and we have amused ourselves principally with reading, walking and Fishing; at which last Diversion Miss Campbell is particularly expert and successful....What a most excellent Soldier's wife she would make – and happy – in my mind - will that man be whose good fortune it may happen to be to get her!"

On March 26 1805 just before he was due to return to India, Lachlan proposed to Elizabeth. He was 43 and Elizabeth was 27. Lachlan asked Elizabeth to keep the engagement secret as following the death

of his first wife he had vowed never again to take a wife to India. It was expected that his current tour of duty would last another 4 years. Elizabeth, rather surprisingly, accepted his proposal with "notable candour". However, Lachlan was able to return to Elizabeth much sooner than expected as he had been posted to the command of the 1st Battalion, 73rd Regiment of Foot stationed in Perth, Scotland. During his absence, Elizabeth worked as a governess in England.

Elizabeth and Lachlan were married at Holsworthy, Exeter, on 3rd November 1807. In September 1808, Elizabeth and Lachlan had a daughter Jane, named after Lachlan's first wife. Unfortunately, Jane died 3 months later from an unknown medical condition. Elizabeth was to suffer from at least 7 miscarriages before the birth of a son, Lachlan on 28th March 1814. From his journals and letters it is clear that at the start of their marriage, Lachlan did not feel the same passion for Elizabeth as he had for Jane, however, he came to greatly love and admire her. As for Elizabeth, she was a devoted and affectionate wife, although clearly strong willed and determined with very fixed ideas about life and morality. This was rather dramatically demonstrated on one occasion when the Macquaries continued a heated discussion when dining with official guests. Seated at either end of a long table, Elizabeth, in exasperation, ended the discussion, by hurling crockery at her husband.

In 1809, Macquarie was posted to the Colony of New South Wales as Lieutenant Governor with his Battalion. His immediate task was to restore stability to the Colony following the Rum Rebellion. Shortly before their departure for the Colony, Elizabeth suffered a serious illness but sailed notwithstanding, and was able to keep a lively journal of the 7 months sea voyage. Keeping the family traditions alive, also on board for the voyage, as newly commissioned officers in the 73rd Regiment, were John Maclaine and Duncan Campbell, sons of her sisters Jane and Margaret.

Once installed at Government House, Elizabeth needed all her tact and sincerity to survive the factions in the Colony. Although her force of character and straightforwardness were seen by many as arrogance and imperiousness, Elizabeth strongly supported her husband's policies particularly regarding emancipists. The Macquaries believed that the emancipists had served their time for their crimes and now should be treated as freemen, particularly as many of them had skills critical to the survival of the Colony. It was a position that did not please many of the free settlers in the Colony, who were often prepared to by-pass the Governor and go directly to the Colonial Office in London to get their way. While Elizabeth did not use "drawing room" politics as had other Governors' wives, she maintained good relationships with the wives of the leading families, which was helped by the birth of Lachlan Jnr. It was known, though, that

Mrs Macarthur, for example, believed Lachlan was mollycoddled, which was in fact probably the truth.

Elizabeth took a keen interest in the welfare of the women convicts becoming patron of the Female Orphan School. The foundation stone of the School building which still stands, was laid in 1813 by the Governor. The building was modelled on Elizabeth Macquarie's family home "Airds", and is now part of the University of Western Sydney's Parramatta Campus. Unlike her husband, she had an easier relationship with the Aborigines and showed genuine concern for their welfare. This is well illustrated by a story from their trip by boat to the Hunter Valley. Coming in close to shore, they were greeted by an Aborigine who rushed towards their boat waving 2 fish. Lachlan and the soldiers were alarmed and uncertain what to do; Elizabeth recognised the gesture as a greeting and warmly accepted the offering.

Elizabeth accompanied Lachlan on all his major trips throughout NSW and Tasmania, often travelling by horseback or boat. Her husband said she was a "brave, excellent sailor". Her interests also included architecture and gardening. Indeed she brought books with her from England on architecture which were to be of great use to the emancipist architect, Francis Greenway. She planned the road running around the Government Domain where at the harbour side she had a seat created "Mrs Macquarie's Chair". She is also credited with bringing the English Iris flower to the Colony, and with Elizabeth Macarthur was credited with bringing the skill of hay-making to the Colony.

As an outcome of power struggles in the Colony, the Bigge report saw the Macquaries recalled to England "under a cloud". On their return, they made their home at Jarvisfield, Macquarie's estate on Mull. While Elizabeth set about making the house liveable and in particular weatherproof, Lachlan became depressed and suffered ill health. In 1824, to finalise his colonial accounts, he returned to London where he became gravely ill. Elizabeth hurried to London to be with him, and he died on 1st July 1824. After his death, Elizabeth was not financially very well off. The British Government offered her a £400 pension. This she initially refused, as she insisted that the Government publish Macquarie's reply to the Bigge allegations regarding his administration of NSW; and, secondly, that the words "...rendered him truly deserving the appellation by which he has been distinguished THE FATHER OF AUSTRALIA..." be added to his tombstone.

In June 1828, the Colonial Office relented and she accepted the pension. In the meantime she lived frugally by, amongst other things, selling Lachlan's army commission and using the small annuity he had left her. This enabled her to send Lachlan Jnr to school in England and to return with him to Jarvisfield each summer. Her situation had been improved in 1825 when a favourite school friend died and left her £2,000 pounds as well as a

small house in London. She also arranged for her shares in the Bank of New South Wales and her livestock that she had left at Picton to be sold. When Lachlan Jnr was 16 in 1831, he insisted on joining the army. Elizabeth purchased him a commission in the 42nd Regiment of Foot. When he took up this appointment, Elizabeth returned to Jarvisfield.

Elizabeth's final years were full of sadness and failing health. Not only had she endured years fighting the Government to have her husband's work properly recognised, her financial situation meant that her life was hard, and then her beloved older brother, John died prematurely. Predominantly, however, she was concerned about the lifestyle of her son who was reported to be a "dissolute drunkard". He had married Isabella Hamilton Dundas, 3rd daughter of Colin Campbell of Fura. The marriage was to be childless and he died on 7th May 1845 as a result of a fall downstairs in the midst of controversy over an alleged affair. Mercifully, Elizabeth had died on 11th March 1835, prior to her son's final disgrace.

While it is said that behind every successful man is a successful woman, in Elizabeth's case her position was alongside her man and in some instances, in particular the plight of women in the Colony, Lachlan was the man behind the successful woman. Elizabeth's lasting legacy to NSW was her absolute loyalty and support of her husband and his work. Our country is indebted to the memory of this strong, determined woman, Elizabeth Henrietta Campbell of Airds from the West Coast of Scotland, who graced our shores, and indeed, was the poorer when she departed.

References: Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie Online Archive, Macquarie University.

Lecture "The Woman Beside the Man" by Dr Tanya Evans, History House Sydney, 29th June 2010.

Editor.

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY SPEECHES

SYD FINLAY Secretary Treasurer and HOST

THE NSW BRANCH IS BORN [Introductory remarks. Welcome to special guests from our brother Clans, Wally Kerr, NSW Commissioner Clan Kerr, and John Macpherson, High Commissioner Clan Macpherson].

The Clan Farquharson Association Australia (NSW Branch) came into the world on a cool Saturday afternoon 17 June 2000, at, aptly, the Southern Highlands hamlet of Braemar, near Mittagong.

For some years I had searched in vain for some evidence of flourishing family and Clan connections at the annual Bundanoon Highland Gathering. And then in 1997, there were the Farquharsons in the Street Parade with Banner Bearer, Stuart Finlayson

of Mittagong proudly leading! But there was no Clan Association in New South Wales and no Clan Tent!

A year before, Victorian Branch had been established, so we were encouraged to join this organisation, and dream. With the blessing of our High Commissioner I set up a Farquharson Tent at the 2000 Bundanoon Gathering to gauge the strength of interest that existed for a NSW Branch.

And so on 17 June 2000, 32 bonnie souls including Farquharsons, their friends and families, and High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett, attended a luncheon at Braemar Lodge. Those present voted to establish the NSW Branch and elect the inaugural Committee for the Branch. Most importantly, our brave little enterprise received the blessing of our esteemed Clan Chief, Captain Alwyne Compton Farquharson MC of Invercauld. The inaugural membership consisted of 12 Family members and 4 Individual members. Most of them are still with us.

THE BRANCH'S MOST IMPORTANT OBJECT To cultivate a spirit of kinship and pride among all who bear the name of Farquharson or that of one of the Clan Farquharson families or septs, or who are descendants of those Clan Farquharson families or septs; and to encourage mutual respect of all Clans.

Our guiding light also has consistently been our Clan's motto "**Fide et Fortitudine**" roughly translated, "**We force nae Friend, we fear nae Foe**".

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? The NSW Branch embarked on a programme of getting to as many regional Gatherings as possible with a display for people to learn about their Clan. In the year 2000 we went to 6 major Games, attended several functions hosted by our High Commissioner and hosted a number of our own functions.

Over the years this programme has been expanded – adding 5 further Gatherings and Festivals, the latest being the Armidale Autumn Festival. Our Membership has grown to 36 Family Memberships and 19 Individual Members. We have improved our Marquee set-up and our Photographic Display. More of our people have become engaged in this part of our work.

An important part of what we do is our Newsletter, which is very capably produced and edited by Pauline Finlay. This includes not only news of NSW Branch activities, but also well researched historical articles on the Clan in Scotland and Australia.

HIGHLIGHTS.....AND LOWLIGHTS With any organisation, there are highs and lows.

Some Sad Occasions:

- We recall with great sadness the accidental death in March 2002 of David Hardy Nisbett, son of our High Commissioner.
- In 2005-2006 the Victorian Branch of Clan Farquharson Association Australia closed its doors, a casualty of the public liability insurance crisis.

- In October 2006 our revered High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett passed away after a long illness.
- A great shock in 2008 was the unexpected death of Committeeman and High Commissioner's Banner-bearer Lindsay Sparkes.

Some Highlights:

- Visit to Australia in 2000 of Sir William MacPherson of Cluny, Chief of Clan MacPherson.
- Inaugural Aberdeen Gathering – this, together with Wingham, is among the more progressive NSW events.
- In 2001 we were invited to the Centenary of the Sydney University Regiment and Pipe Band when we were instrumental in returning to the Band the 'lost' Wakefield Mace.
- Our first visit to Glen Innes in 2003 was a bit of an adventure for Bruce & Pauline.
- A very big event for us was the placing of the Farquharson Stone in the Wall of Remembrance at Glen Innes on 1st May 2005, the Chief's 86th birthday.
- An important recognition for our Association Branch in 2008 was the inaugural "Spirit of Brigadoon" Award at Bundanoon.
- The attendance at the Homecoming in Edinburgh and the Farquharson events in 2009 by seven of our members.

I have been privileged and rewarded to have been on Committee over the past 10 years. In closing I thank you all and call upon President Peter Tranter to read the Chief's Message on this special occasion, and propose the Toast to the Chief.

Syd Finlay
Secretary/Treasurer.

It is my special privilege today to read the Chief's Message on the occasion of the NSW Branch's 10th Anniversary.

**"Message for Clan Farquharson Association Australia (NSW Branch)"
"10th Anniversary AGM 2010"**

"Greetings!

"My warmest congratulations and sincere best wishes to you all on this special occasion which celebrates your tenth anniversary. As I write I have just received the current issue of your newsletter 'Càrn-na-Cuimhne'. It is excellently produced and colourfully illustrated, full of interesting detail and information, and keeps me closely in touch with all that is ongoing and has been happening in the affairs of your active Association.

"It is most heartening through this to know that the splendid traditions of our clan and native heritage continue to thrive in the great continent of Australia thanks to your efforts. May I single out for special praise and congratulation my High Commissioner

Bruce Finlay and all your hard working office bearers. Well done indeed! But also go my hearty thanks and best wishes to you all for your individual support and input, which is the true seal of the strength of the bonds which bind us securely in kinship and friendship."

“ ‘Ceud Mile Failte’! And long may you flourish!”

Alwyne Farquharson Of Invercauld.
Chief of Clan Farquharson.
23rd July 2010.

TOAST TO THE CHIEF Alwyne Compton Farquharson, who has been the Chief of our Clan for nearly 70 years, was born in 1919 and educated at Eton and Oxford. He served in the Royal Scots Greys during WW II, rising to the rank of Captain, and was awarded the MC for gallant and distinguished service in France where he was also severely wounded. Alwyne succeeded Myrtle Farquharson as Chief following her untimely death in an air raid in 1941. He was confirmed as Chief of the Clan Farquharson by the Lord Lyon King of Arms in 1949.

The Clan seat is the Invercauld Estate, which stretches Deeside over 40,000 hectares from Braemar to the Cairngorm mountain fastnesses. For those not familiar with the Clan history the estate originally was largely Royal forests but also provided the living and employment for Clanspeople in a feudal agrarian society. The Clansmen swore allegiance to the Clan Chief in return for protection. Today, however, this has greatly changed following the industrial revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries and with major Land law reforms.

The Estate is now a Trust with substantial elements, including Invercauld itself, being privately leased. Notwithstanding these changes, for those of Scottish descent the Clan structure remains to this day as a basis of mutual recognition and belonging that has transcended the upheavals of history, and for many of us, despite the separation of generations and distance. The Clan Chief is no mere figurehead, but a tangible and living link, an essential focus for that recognition. Alwyne Compton Farquharson has faithfully fulfilled this role for the Clan Farquharson, and continues to do so, by a lifetime of dedication to the Clan and to public service.

During a long and distinguished public life, Alwyne Compton Farquharson served as County Councillor for Aberdeenshire and District Councillor for Kincardine and Deeside for a period of more than 25 years and was a Justice of the Peace for Scotland for nearly 50 years. He is currently Vice Patron of the Braemar Royal Highland Society and Chieftain of the Ballater Highland Games, having served in those capacities since 1948. By virtue of his status as Chief of the Clan Farquharson, Alwyne Compton Farquharson is also a Vice President of the Clan Chattan Confederation. He has actively supported

the development of the Clan Farquharson Associations here, in North America and the UK.

I would ask you to charge your glasses and be upstanding for the Toast to the Chief. **THE CHIEF!**

*Peter Tranter
President.*

Host: I now call upon High Commissioner, Bruce Finlay, to say a few words.

THE FUTURE I welcome this opportunity to speak briefly on what we may expect in the future for your Branch of the Association. Before I do so, however, I would like to turn back to the words of the Chief in his Message: he speaks of the links that "bind us securely in kinship and friendship." These and similar words run as a constant thread through all of the messages that he sends us. I ask you to think about their special and heartfelt meaning. What the Chief is saying is that we are all of the same "family", and this is what really matters – in a world of turmoil and conflict, the "glue" that holds us together and safe is in that relationship. This is the meaning of Clan.

As a Branch of the Clan Association, we look to the future development of the NSW Branch with pride and confidence that we can continue to grow and thrive, never losing sight of that cardinal principle espoused by our Chief. We look forward to the continued improvement of what we can offer our members, and their continued engagement. I join our Chief in thanking the Branch's Committee for the outstanding effort they have put in over the 10 years.

I take the opportunity, too, to thank the members and officers of the other Clans that have been a great help and support to us especially in our fledgling years – two are here today, Wally Kerr of Clan Kerr, and John Macpherson of Clan Macpherson. Jean Marshall of Clan Keith, a special friend, was unable to be here today because of other commitments. There are quite a few others, and I am proud to say that it has been a pleasure when we have been able to reciprocate.

May I say from a personal point of view that I have greatly appreciated the opportunity through our NSW Branch to take an involved and positive stance in the Scottish Australian community. In this regard I welcome the great initiatives that are beginning to be taken, for example the Wingham Colloquium of Clan Leaders - a podium from which ideas will spring and the voice of the Clans will be heard.

I ask you to charge your glasses and be upstanding for the Toast to the Clan. **THE CLAN!**

*Bruce Finlay
Vice President, High Commissioner.*

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STICKS 'N BAG

I must sincerely apologise to our Members that this time due to other responsibilities I have had to postpone preparing my usual column Sticks 'n Bag.

I expect to get back into the frame next issue in March 2011.

In the meantime, my wife Ruth and I wish you all a great Christmas and New Year, and thank you for your patience. And, please remember, if you have, or know of a set of pipes 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. Pipes and drums deserve to be heard, not left stored away, half forgotten in some dusty cupboard, roof, cellar or garage. Bands will pay for the pipes and drums, so keep a look out, please!

Pipe Bands relish the chance to rejuvenate old pipes and drums and honour the historical aspect of those who owned them and where they were played. Maybe even in some battles. Who knows? As well as Pipes and Drums, items of uniform are also of interest. Sgian Dubhs, Dirks, Swords, Sporrans and other items may well have long histories behind them and should be maintained and displayed wherever possible.

Your comments and feedback are most welcome. If there is anything you want explained or wish me to discuss, you can email me at the address below or write to the Editor of this Newsletter.

John Tate
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Castle Hill R.S.L. Pipe Band.
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SGIAN DUBHS and DIRKS

Some members may not be fully familiar with John's references to items of Highland accoutrements appearing in his column. So we thought it appropriate to say something about them. In doing so we borrow from an article by Bruce Bowman (who died some few years ago) published in "The Gathering" Vol. 10 No. 12, 2002, the Newsletter of the former Victorian Branch of the Clan Farquharson Association Australia.

The Sgian Dubh "The above words Gaelic [*Sgian Dubh* pronounced *Scan Doo*] mean dagger (*sgian*), and black (*dubh*). The dagger was called this because the handle was invariably made of bog oak, which of course, was jet black in appearance. This was a suitable very hard wood, useful for the purpose. The fact that is ornamented is merely a reflection of the Highlander's lack of confidence in paper money, which resulted in his ornamenting much of his personal wearing apparel with silver and cairngorm stones, which are of value. Thus he carried on his person most of his worldly wealth and did not entrust it to banks, which in retrospect seems not a bad idea.

The black dagger (*sgian dubh*) was invariably carried in a place of concealment very often under the armpit (oxter) [today its wearing is largely ornamental and the *sgian dubh* is usually worn thrust into the top of the right kilt hose.] This gives support to the view that

'black' does not refer to the handle but implies 'covert', 'concealed' as in blackmail, blackmarket, yea, Black Watch.

When the Highlander visited a house on his travels, having deposited all his other weapons at the front door, he did not divest himself of his concealed stabbing dagger, since in these far off days it was unsafe to be ever totally unarmed, not because he feared his host but rather because he feared intrusions from outside. Accordingly, although retaining the dagger, [it was the custom that] he out of courtesy to his host removed it from its place of concealment and put it somewhere [eg on the dining table] where his host could see it: if he was right-handed, on his right, and on his left hand side if he was left-handed.

We have heard of stories where, in some pubs, you had to check in your *sgian dubh* at the door. This worked well until some people started sneaking in and stealing them."

[Historically too, we've also heard of the infamous occasion in February 1306, when Robert the Bruce arranged to meet John Comyn Earl of Buchan, the "Red Comyn" and a rival claimant for Scotland's crown, in Greyfriars Church in Dumfries. The Earl was found stabbed to death before the altar, and the Bruce and his retinue had all departed – the likely means of despatch....the *sgian dubh*!!]

The Dirk The dirk is a much different and larger weapon – whereas the *sgian dubh* is typically less than 20 cms in its scabbard, the *dirk* is at least twice this length. As a weapon it is supplemental to the sword, and in one-on-one sword combat, being carried in the left hand (for a right handed person). On its own, in close personal combat it is still quite a formidable weapon. In essence, it is a long slender dagger, often with an elaborate ornamental and jewelled handle, typically of horn. The scabbard is often ornamentally worked with silver inlays and ferrules similarly to the handle.

The scabbard is worn most often on the left hip supported by a silver chain and belt similar to the chain and belt worn with a sporran. The scabbard contains two additional pockets, one for a modified *sgian dubh* and the other for a small fork to be used in the field for the Highlander to eat. This tends to suggest that the *dirk* and its other accoutrements, is a field weapon, although today it is most commonly seen as a dress item.

With modern laws relating to the carrying of weapons of this sort in public, one can foresee the day coming when we may be forced to abandon wearing both *sgian dubhs* and *dirks*, and even artificial replicas – at present we get by with the claim that they are an essential of ethnic national dress, and no-one turns a hair even when we wear them to church!

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ASSOCIATION NAME BAR BADGES

The Badges cost \$18.00 for Members for the individualized badge. To order your badge telephone Syd Finlay on (02) 4883-6703 or contact him by Email at: finlaysb@bigpond.com.

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TO HIRE SCOTTISH DRESS - Contact:

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kiltmaker@optusnet.com.au
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**FINLAY FAMILY GATHERING –
 GRAFTON**

Queen's Birthday Weekend June 2011

This is to notify all the Descendants of George Whitelaw FINLAY and Mary Forsythe FINLAY (nee YOUNG) who arrived in Australia on the good ship St Helena in 1854, that a Gathering of the Family will take place at Coutts Crossing south of Grafton on the weekend of 11th -13th June 2011. George and Mary had 12 children, George Colin, Laura, Mary, Elizabeth, Janet, Laurence Craigie, James, Frank John, Forest, Margaret, Ethelwyn and Garnet.

Contact Rex Finlay at finlay02@tpg.com.au.

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EVENTS CALENDAR to March 2011

As we have a number of interstate members we've decided to include selected interstate events.

Saturday 4 th December 2010	COMBINED SOCIETIES NSW - St Andrews Dinner, Ermington NSW
Saturday 4 th December 2010	DAYLESFORD GATHERING Victoria Park, DAYLESFORD VIC
Saturday 11 th December 2010	SCOTLAND THE BRAVE Canberra Th'tre, CANBERRA ACT
Thursday 16 th December 2010	Scottish Historical Soc – Burns Reading Tel - (02)9436 2307
Saturday 1 st January 2011	MARYBOROUGH GATHERING Princes Pk, MARYBOROUGH VIC
Saturday 22 nd January 2011	IPSWICH THISTLE PIPE BAND Burns Night, Limestone Park QLD
Tuesday 25 th January 2011	HOBART HIGHLAND PIPE BAND Burns Night, HOBART TAS
Wednesday 26 th January 2011	AUST DAY CELTIC FESTIVAL Bradfield Park, SYDNEY NSW
Tuesday 1 st February 2011	MACQUARIE PARADE & DINNER Women's Club, Sydney NSW
Saturday 5 th February 2011	MELBOURNE BURNS CLUB Burns Night, RINGWOOD VIC
Saturday 5 th February 2011	WARRINGAH SCOTTISH Burns Night, Collaroy Bch NSW
Saturday 12 th February 2011	BERWICK HIGHLAND GAMES Akoonah Park, BERWICK VIC
Saturday 19 th February 2011	BRUNSWICK SCOTTISH SOC Burns Night, East Brunswick VIC

WHERE WE'LL BE: We'll be at: Bradfield Park, Macquarie's Dinner and Warringah Burns Night, weather and other contingencies permitting.

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ARTICLES FOR – "CÀRN NA CUIMHNE"

Contact: Pauline Finlay

Telephone/Fax: (02) 9982-6229
 Email: finlay_crmr@bigpond.com.

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CAMERON APPLETON-SEYMOUR, the wee lad in the picture over the page, who is just 10 yrs old, was the winner of a Piping Scholarship at Maclean Gathering earlier this year. He is a cousin of the Editor's son-in-law. His extended family are very proud of him. Cameron's father and two uncles are all accomplished pipers, and his grand-mother is a prominent Highland dancing teacher in New Zealand.



Above – Braemar Village – Winter 2009-2010.



Above – Braemar Castle clothed in Winter 2009-2010.



Above – Syd Finlay and Peter Tranter at 10th Anniversary celebrations at Bowral.



Above – Our new Committee – Standing L - R Brenda and Syd Finlay, Peter Tranter, Bruce Finlay; Seated L – R Dawn Watson, Pauline Finlay, Helen Tranter, Margaret Rowan; Absent John Tate.

Below Left – Sir Angus Farquharson KCVO of Finzean.

Below Right – Cameron Appleton-Seymour at Maclean.



Above – Elizabeth Campbell of Airds – Mrs Lachlan Macquarie.

