



# “CÀRN-NA-CUIMHNE!”

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## **Clan Chief**

*Capt. Alwyne Compton Farquharson MC, of  
Invercauld*

## **Australian High Commissioner**

*Mr Bruce Finlay*

## **Commissioner New South Wales & A.C.T.**

*Mr Sydney Finlay*

## **Honorary Chaplain**

*Rev Wes Hartley*

## **High Commissioner's Piper**

*Mr Sam Young*

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## **Clan Farquharson Association Australia**

### **President**

*Mr Sydney Finlay*

### **Vice President**

*Mr Bruce Finlay*

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

*Mrs Brenda Finlay*

### **Committee Members**

*Mr John Dillon*

*Mrs Pauline Finlay (Editor)*

*Mr John Tate*

*Miss Dawn Watson*

*Mail: P O Box 414*

*BUNDANOON NSW 2578*

*Email: [finlaysb@bigpond.com](mailto:finlaysb@bigpond.com)*

### **Annual Membership**

**Subscription: \$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.*

## **President's Message**

**Dear Association Members,**

**I am very pleased to report that during 2013 the Association continued to consolidate Australia-wide. In this we had the enthusiastic support of members who came to many of the Gatherings we attended. We will now be planning for 2014. Recent events reported in this Newsletter point the way for us to go.**

**In October the Association hosted a dinner in Canberra and followed up with a lunch in Springwood in November. Those who attended enjoyed meeting their fellow Clan members and friends from other Clans. The recent Findlay Family Reunion in NZ and the Kinlyside Family Reunion in ACT highlight the need for us of Scots descent to connect, a need that springs from an ancient source, the ties of Family and Clan.**

**It is our hope to help our members be part of this by expanding our efforts in arranging regional functions they can get to. Our new Website will enhance those efforts. Special thanks are due to member Mark Christie and Editor Pauline, for their work in getting it up and running.**

**Committee extends to all Association members and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2014! For some members and their friends, who were unfortunately impacted by the recent bush fires in the Blue Mts, it's not such a merry old time. Our thoughts go out to them.**

**Keep wearing the great Farquharson Tartan whenever an opportunity comes your way.**

**Syd Finlay**

**President, Commissioner for NSW & ACT**

**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.**

**VALE MEMBER MARY FARQUHAR**

Mary Farquhar who passed away early in October was the beloved wife of former member Keith Farquhar (dec'd). Keith and Mary lived in Launceston Tasmania, and Keith was the brother of our member Dorothy Leayr. Original members of our former Victorian Branch of the Association, they joined the NSW Branch when Victoria ceased to operate in 2004. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Mary's family in their sad loss, and to our dear member Dorothy Leayr.

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**NEWS FROM SCOTLAND and ELSEWHERE**

***We have now heard from our Clan Tent visitor at Aberdeen who hitched a ride with the Chief at Glen Shee way back in 1960. His name is Joe McKay, who became a "£10 Pom", and now lives in Australia. Excerpts from his story are below.***

"This hitch-hiking incident occurred July or August 1960. With a fellow-student friend Peter, I was given a lift in a very posh chauffeur-driven car (what I thought was a Rolls Royce) in the Braemar area. ...The weather was atrocious. Peter and I were absolutely drenched to the skin.

"The owner ...introduced himself simply as 'Farquharson', helped load our ruckies into his car, and described us as 'drowned rats.' The conversation must have gone something like this:

" 'Where are you heading?' 'Durness', I said, '-to visit relatives.' He laughed and said, 'We aren't going that far, but I can take you to Braemar.' He dropped us off at the Braemar Youth Hostel. I wanted to be seen arriving in a posh car, although in those days it was regarded as bad form to arrive in a vehicle. I do recall that during the ride I was scared to move in case I dripped and spoilt the upholstery.

"August continued to prove to be a perennially fortuitous month. ....Exactly 3 years after the Chief's kindness (August 1963) I left England as a '£10 Pom' – on Assisted Passage to Australia. I now have 3 sons and 4 grandchildren. ....Although I majored in Geology I never practiced, taking life easier as a Geography teacher. ....

"I am delighted to hear that your Chief is in robust health. Long Live Clan Farquharson."

**2014 HOMECOMING – BANNOCKBURN** Some of our members will be looking forward to the celebration of the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this famous battle. But the news coming from Scotland and elsewhere about this anticipated event is unsettling.

This time there will be a series of re-enactments at the battle site near Stirling at the end of June 2014. But Clan participation will be limited. The independence debate has intensified with the Scottish Parliament's

decision to run the Referendum the same year, which will affect people planning to travel in Scotland.

There is now also growing concern over the recently revealed clash of the Homecoming event with the celebration of UK Armed Forces Day which is set to take place **at Stirling** over the same period, greatly increasing pressure on the very limited accommodation available, encouraging price gouging.

Supported by Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, Susan Mackintosh, President of the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations of the USA has written in strong terms to Fergus Ewing Minister for Tourism in the Scottish Parliament, protesting this latest fiasco in organisation.

**Opportunities in Clan F Territory and the North-East** Travelling Farquharsons from Aust may be reassured that the Clan F events will go on as usual during August 2014. There are also opportunities for guided tours in the north-east, one accredited operator known to us is Andrew Forbes Hill and wife Linda. Andrew was the Homecoming 2009 Co-ordinator for the highly successful Aberdeenshire region. Members can contact Andrew and view what's on offer at [www.tartantrails.com](http://www.tartantrails.com).

**Illness of Sir Angus Farquharson of Finzean** We were very sorry to learn in July That Sir Angus had suffered a stroke and was recovering in Hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family in his continuing recovery.

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**POSTCARD FROM CHINA – Pauline & Bruce's latest adventure**

A destination once very much tourist-restricted, Pauline and I decided to book a guided tour with Wendy Wu. It's not going to be possible fully to do justice to our trip over 3 weeks but there may be just enough to stir up the itch in some unsuspecting readers. Below are the itinerary and one or two major events. Space precludes mentioning them all.

With National Guide Steven and usually also a Local Guide, the days were all busy with early starts and packed with places and events. Places visited included:

**Beijing** We flew in on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013. Saw Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Great Wall.

**Xian** On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> we flew to Xian. Visited the Terracotta Warriors

**Wuhan** After a flight to Wuhan we travelled by bus on Saturday to board our cruise ship **MV Victoria Selina** on the **Yangtze River**. The cruise took in the 3 Gorges and Dam and ended at **Chongqing** on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> where we boarded a flight to **Guilin**.

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> we cruised through the Karst Gorges on the Li River to **Yangshuo**.

**Shanghai** On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> we flew to Shanghai. Our stay included a trip on the high-speed Mag Lev.

**Hong Kong & Kowloon** On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> we flew to Hong Kong staying at Kowloon for a couple of days before flying home to **Sydney** on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>.

**We would have to remark on the amount of misinformation there is in the western Press** about China. The Chinese people and events in their country are nowhere near as sinister and ill-disposed to us as we are led to believe. Thanks to recent economic and social changes in China, most recently under Presidents Hu and Xi, many young Chinese don't see themselves as communists any more but as "socialist capitalists" – they can see the chance for themselves to be a lot better off than their parents.

**For us today's modern China** was mind-boggling in its sheer dimension – several of the cities we went to had populations that exceeded the whole population of Australia! In one city alone in one year they built 10 harbour bridges, while we struggled for ten years to build one. The road systems are incredible – freeways 10, 12 lanes wide circle the big cities. Massive flyovers link all of this together, and they use every form of public transport **successfully** to shift their people. It's get up and go to get things done and it is nothing to see huge high-rise apartment blocks, all sold off-the-plan in advance, built in a matter of months.

**If there is one word to describe China it would be "spectacular"**. And that's before you even start talking about the great tourist drawcards – and there are quite a few. We were fortunate to be in a touring group of 24 that got on really well together.

The guides taught us some Mandarin – at least enough to say hello and order a beer or two "Knee how! Bing pee joe sher!" We even started on simple Chinese characters, but then we had to go home. It was certainly a trip that we'll treasure memories of for a very long time.

*Bruce & Pauline Finlay*

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013.

The Annual Meeting 2012-2013 was held at Cromer NSW. President Syd Finlay declared the meeting open at 11.45am. The meeting received reports from the High Commissioner Bruce Finlay and from State Commissioner Syd Finlay.

Secretary Treasurer Brenda Finlay reported on the Association's finances. In accordance with approval at last year's AGM a new title banner was made for mounting on the Clan Tent. A new roll-up display also approved for purchase at last year's AGM is yet to be designed and purchased. The Committee is also yet to carry out investigation and report on review of annual dues.

Editor Pauline Finlay reported on good progress, substantially carried out with the help of member Mark Christie in design and opening of the Association's new website.

Election of Officers and Committee. The new Committee is:

Sydney Finlay - President  
Bruce Finlay – Vice President  
Brenda Finlay – Secretary/Treasurer

Committee: John Dillon  
Pauline Finlay  
John Tate  
Dawn Watson

Pauline will continue as Newsletter Editor, and Bruce will serve as Delegate to the Combined Societies.

### ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON at the Royal Hotel SPRINGWOOD NSW – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013

A ninety minute drive west of Sydney into the Blue Mountains on the bright sunny morning of 9<sup>th</sup> November brought us to the leafy village of Springwood and childhood memories of mountain holidays and running down the road to watch the big mountain locomotives, hauling heavy trains, go by.

As well as members from the mountains and adjacent parts of Sydney, President Syd Finlay had written to many local residents who bore the family names of the Clan's septs. So we were pleased to be joined at the local Royal Hotel by a number of new faces.

Guests were welcomed and we enjoyed a pleasant luncheon and house wines. Syd Finlay invited High Commissioner Bruce to speak about the Clan, and also, for the benefit of the non-members Syd spoke about the Association.

Unfortunately, overriding our otherwise happy luncheon was more than a hint of sadness and concern for the locals including our visitors, for this was just ten days since Springwood and its people had suffered the massive loss of over 200 residential homes, not to mention, farming and other plant in catastrophic bushfires that had raged not that far from where we all sat. It certainly affected the numbers who were able to come to this long-planned event. Our heart goes out to them.

**ASSOCIATION'S NEW WEBSITE** Over the last couple of months and after much hard work by Member Mark Christie in Darwin aided by our Editor Pauline Finlay the Association now has a budding Website.

A fair bit of work remains to be done to refine and build on what's there, and especially to put in a good Photo Gallery. We also want to put in a Member's page (which will be a Locked Page) where there can be an exchange of ideas, and we can post the Newsletter. We've already had quite a few hits.

Website Clan Farquharson Association Australia, is accessible at [www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com](http://www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com).

**NEWS FROM THE NORTH**

**17<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL TARTAN DAY BRISBANE – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013** Celebrated in King George Square, Brisbane, this is a busy full-day event for Queensland Scots. We gather that it was a highly successful day. The Australian Scottish Community (Qld Aussie Scots) are the organisers of the event and our member Dawn Grassick helps to man the Aussie Scots Tent. Dawn also was able to hang out our own Clan Association's banner and hand out flyers, which gives us an important bit of "northern exposure". Thanks Dawn for your efforts.

**ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013** Arriving at Jefferson Park on Friday afternoon, there was a strong wind. So we pitched the tent at its minimum height (about 4ft) and anchored it to the ground with all our displays and chairs etc. Our concerns were justified by next morning, when we could see a couple of other tents had been trashed by the wind overnight.

A cold morning (4°C)! At least the wind had died down. In the Parade of Clans we were joined by members John Dillon, Wes Hartley and young Bede Patterson, up with his dad Robert who is a piper with the Hills District PB. There was a long delay in the Opening Ceremony, a full display by the Federation Guard scheduled as part of the ceremony! We hope they are blanks they fire off in their routine!

When we finally got back to the Clan Tent we were kept busy most of the morning and early afternoon. We had a good result, signing 5 new members, including two Finlays and a Farquharson related to our other members whose forebears arrived in Australia in 1841.

In the Heavy Events, always an important part of the Aberdeen Gathering, the Tug o' War was strongly contested – next year the Gathering will feature the Australian Titles. The Hay toss also reached new heights, two contestants tossing to the maximum height. They'll need new taller posts next year!

A successful Gathering for us, we just hope they can iron out the issues with their Opening Ceremony next year, and hopefully, there being no (anticipated?) election next year there'll be fewer pollies on the dais.

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**NEWS FROM THE SOUTH**

**CANBERRA HIGHLAND GATHERING – KAMBAH – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013** A great weekend in Canberra, where we stayed at an excellently located apartment in Forrest – a short walk to the shopping centre at Manuka and just 15 minutes away from Kambah, and Narabundah where we enjoyed dinner on the Saturday night.

We arrived early at the ground. Our tent site was well located and it was not long before it was up and all our stuff was set-up with our brand new Clan Farquharson sign proclaiming our presence to the world. A nice egg and bacon roll courtesy of the Lions' Club and

with the arrival of Brenda and Pauline, John and Ann Dillon, we were ready for business.

High Commissioner Bruce took the banner in the Parade, and the Federation Guard made everyone feel uneasy lining up their fusillades. The Chieftain of the Day was His Excellency Michael Bryce.

Quite a few visitors came to see us, including members Ken Finlay, and Eileen Farquhar from nearby Burra. We always like to see our members, after all that's what we're there for. Our visitors always bring to light something new – one lady formerly a Kinlyside, told us her family name was originally MacKinlay. The family, which settled close to what is now Canberra, became known as Kinlyside, the name given to their land holding.

The Kinlysides were planning a Family Reunion in Canberra which took place on the first weekend in November.

We were pleased also to meet up again with other Clanspeople, the MacDonalds and Lamonts who were our close neighbours in their tents, and the Campbells, Lumsdens and MacGregors to name a few, All too soon the sun began retreating to the west and it was time for us to retreat also and prepare for dinner.

The Clan Dinner hosted by Farquharson at d' Browes at Narabundah was attended by 16 people from the Clans and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. The food and conversation were excellent reflecting the true spirit of Clansmanship. We have hopes that this dinner can be expanded next year to embrace a greater number of Clans and their people.

**ST ANDREW'S DAY KIRKIN' o' th' TARTAN – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at St Stephen's Macquarie Street SYDNEY** Rev Dr Ockert Meyer, Rector of St Stephen's, led the congregation in the Kirkin' service and Communion. The Kirkin' Prayer was given by Malcolm Nicholson, Lieutenant to John MacNeacail of Scorrybreac, Chief of Clan MacNicol. The Lessons were read by Susan Cooke, High Commissioner for Clan Lindsay in Australia, and by Malcolm Buchanan, President, Scottish Australian Heritage Council. St Stephen's has a fine musical tradition and this year the Organ Scholar, Joshua Ryan's choice of music and the choir's performance were quite outstanding.

After the service, the Clans, young dancers, with surprise visitors, Nessie and Wee Nessie, adjourned to Hyde Park, via the new Lachlan Macquarie statue, for a Family Picnic.

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**HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DIARY**

**ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES - Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July** Now part of Scottish Week in Sydney Aberdeen is an important date on our NSW calendar. It just happens to co-incide with the coldest month of the Year in Australia! But after we had arrived and set-up it soon warmed up.

I note what is said about the Opening Ceremony. We stood for upwards of an hour while several politicians spoke, and then the Federation Guard gave a display usually presented as part of the day's entertainment. One would expect for an opening ceremony, the Guard and the Clan Banner-bearers would parade, present for inspection, and march off. Apparently not.

It was at Aberdeen that we met Joe Mackay, who many years ago hitched a ride in the Chief's Bentley during a heavy rain storm at Glen Shee. His account in more detail is reproduced earlier in the Newsletter.

**WARRINGAH SCOTTISH'S DINNER DANCE & 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August** A special occasion for our seashore members on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. And a very good roll-up of 87. Under the guidance of President Lesley Bowers, Warringah is still going strong at its now traditional venue at Collaroy Beach.

Live music was by the Col Walton Trio, and an early start to the evening enabled a good programme of dance numbers to sit well with a three course meal, and various entertainment items. A vocal presentation was given by member Vivienne Remedios, and the Manly Warringah PB was in fine form. After the Chieftain's March, the youngest of our guests worked their own parade as escorts of a giant Cake which concealed one of their number, wearing, appropriately, a "Ruby" Crown.

A most enjoyable night. Congratulations Warringah Scottish!

**CANBERRA HIGHLAND GATHERING – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October** A great change from 2012, we had a brilliant sunny day, and the wind from the day before had abated. It looks as though the Federation Guard is to become an unavoidable part of future opening ceremonies, though I question both its relevance to Scottish Gatherings and its appropriateness as part of the opening ceremony.

We welcomed several members to the tent during the day and other visitors including Chieftain of the Day His Excellency Michael Bryce AM AE who informed us of the efforts to re-establish his family's former Clan, the Strachans.

At the Clan Dinner guests were welcomed by Commissioner Syd Finlay who spoke of the friendship and amity that binds us, not just in Scotland but wherever the Diaspora has taken us around the world.

**SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL General Meeting – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October** This was held at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. Important matters dealt with included the Homecoming Gathering 2014 to be celebrated in Scotland at Stirling, commemorating the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bannockburn.

Following the meeting the opportunity was taken by Committee and members to view the work, hung in the Gallery, of artist David Campbell brother of retiring Committee member Elizabeth Campbell-Mackenzie.

A blossoming young artist at the age of 35, David Campbell's career was tragically cut short by his death in a motor-cycle accident.

**SPRINGWOOD LUNCHEON – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November** A pleasant occasion to see our members in their regional environment and new faces among our visitors. It was sadly also an occasion to reflect on the vagaries of nature and the losses of those affected by the recent bushfires in this region.

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**FINDLAY FAMILY of NEW ZEALAND  
150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION - DUNEDIN  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

#### **Programme**

**Registration and Family Tree** After registration of attendees which commenced on the Friday afternoon, on Saturday morning and afternoon attendees gathered at the **Toitu Museum Auditorium**. In all 81 family members registered and were in attendance. Here Convenor Robert Findlay assisted by Registrar Harry and Web Master David had put up on Pin Boards the Full Family Tree with photographs. This was a massive project that obviously took many weeks to assemble.

**Presentations** On the Saturday morning, Registrar/MC Harry Findlay officially welcomed all attendees. A message conveying good wishes was received from Clan Farquharson Association Australia. A number of presentations were made in the course of the morning and early afternoon. Of particular importance were those relating to recollections of the lives of forebears going back generations, from different branches of the family. An address was also given by James Farquharson, special invitee, on the history of the Clan Farquharson to which many Findlay families in the past in Scotland had sworn allegiance. A number of those present expressed interest in the possible formation of a Clan organisation. Attendees adjourned at 4.00pm to prepare for the ReUnion Dinner at Lanarch Castle.

**ReUnion Dinner at Larnach Castle** A Group Photograph of attendees was taken on the Castle Steps. After pre-dinner drinks attendees were called into the Castle Ballroom where the ReUnion Dinner was to take place. Following a lovely performance of traditional Scottish dance by two excellent young dancers, the Haggis was piped in with due ceremony and the traditional Burns "Address to the Haggis" was delivered. During the evening guests enjoyed an excellent meal and jovial company as well as a number of dance and musical presentations.

**Kirkin' at First Presbyterian Church Dunedin** took place at 10.00am on Sunday morning 27<sup>th</sup>. Morning Tea was enjoyed following the service.

On Sunday afternoon a **Bus tour of Family significant sites around Dunedin** took place.

Over the years since first arrival of Robert and Jessie Findlay in 1863, the family and descendants were early engaged in the development of the city. Lambeth & Findlay, Builders, built a number of prominent buildings in Dunedin, some still standing today. Alfred Findlay (son of Robert) formed and ran a plumbing business. Family members were also engaged in the NZ Railways, a grandson William becoming Dunedin Assistant District Traffic Manager in the 1960's. The Toitu Otago Settlers' Museum contains much information and displays relevant to the early settlement period and documents the contribution of the Findlays.

**Late Sunday afternoon it was time for many Farewells.** A weekend of wonderful memories, of renewing once again old associations from the past, of forming new ones and of welcoming all the new little additions to the family flock.

On Monday those attendees who had chosen to stay over had the opportunity to take local bus tours to sites of interest at Olveston and the Peninsula, Fort Tairoa, the old Whaling Station and Albatross Colony, Signal Hill and Port Chalmers. Visits to Cadbury's Chocolate Factory and Speight's Brewery were also available destinations.

**Future Projects** No 1 on the Findlay Families' Agenda is the production of the full manuscript of the Family Tree and its many supporting Family histories. A secondary project, in which a core group of 10 interested family members will likely be involved, is the setting up of a Clan Farquharson Association New Zealand.

Clan Farquharson Australia congratulates the Findlay Family NZ on the success of their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ReUnion, and offers its assistance in any way we can be of help in the possible setting up of a new Clan Association.

*Editor acknowledges and thanks Member Robert Findlay, Convenor of the Findlay Family NZ 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ReUnion who made available Newsletters leading up to and following the ReUnion, from which this brief report and photographs on the back page are drawn.*

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**KINLYSIDE GATHERING – HALL ACT  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013**

In Canberra in October, I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Judy Bohmer, who told me her maiden name was Kinlyside, derived from MacKinlay which is a Farquharson sept. I was naturally curious how the name could be so changed. Judy explained to me that the family came to Australia about 170 years ago and settled in an area just outside present day Canberra where there were a lot of Scots. The Mackinlays selection was called "Kinlyside" and by repeated usage the family became known as Kinlysides – and adopted that as their family name. Judy also told me of the Family's planned Gathering early in November at the site of the old settlement near the village of Hall.

I was so struck by this charming story, I undertook to write a little note of support to the Convenor of the Gathering, Sister Pat Kinlyside.

The Gathering of a hundred or so Kinlyside-Hollingsworth "cousins" duly took place at the village of Hall. Sister Pat informed me that Kinlyside is the suburb next to Hall, and that recently the ACT Government had decided not to develop it as a suburb but rather leave it as a nature corridor forming a buffer between the rural village and Canberra's urban sprawl. It will be known as Kinlyside Nature Reserve. George Kendall Kinlyside, after whom the "suburb" was named, was an enterprising citizen of Hall village for 40 years before retiring to the suburb of Braddon. Sister Pat informs me he would be at peace with the ACT Government's decision.

The Reunion took the form of a pilgrimage to sites associated with family ancestors on the Saturday with a Family Picnic on the Sunday. Sister Pat Kinlyside has produced a booklet for the occasion based on the work and research of a cousin, Peter Kimber, and set out in the order of the Saturday's itinerary of site visits. I am hoping to obtain a copy of this historic document.

Our thanks to Sister Pat Kinlyside in providing us with information for this article. So much of what comes out of these Gatherings, if it can be documented, becomes **our history**, and says a lot about **who we are and where we came from** that can't be found in broader historical works.

*Bruce Finlay*

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**A Wee Bit of History**

**FLODDEN**

**Tragedy at Flodden** It's 4.00pm, 9<sup>th</sup> September 1513 on a field near Branxton in Northumberland England, where a Scottish army of 30 to 40,000 led by King James IV is about to fire a cannon shot at the 26,000 English army led by the Earl of Surrey to signal the commencement of the Battle of Flodden.

This year, 2013, marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle, a disastrous battle for the Scots not only because of the battlefield death of their king but also the loss of leading members of most of the Scottish noble houses.

**A time of Historic Turmoil...** At the time of succeeding to the throne, James IV (1488-1513) was 15 years old. He had inherited his throne after a Civil War culminating in the death of his father James III at Sauchieburn. By 1493, having finally seen-off the turbulent and troublesome years of conflict with the Lordship of the Isles, James IV now turned his attention to England and in particular to the need to return Berwick-upon-Tweed, in Northumberland, close to the current border, back under Scottish control. He launched 2 raids in 1496

and 1497 into the East Marches. While these raids did not return Berwick to the Scots, they were seen as a threat by the English. For their part, to secure the peace, the English had offered a Treaty of Perpetual Peace between the 2 countries as well as the hand in marriage of Margaret Tudor, Henry VIII's sister. This most prestigious Middle Ages dynastic marriage took place in 1503 and was seen as a notable foreign policy success for James IV.

**...and a Time for Plotting** For James, Berwick was still not under his control and it would seem that he coveted a more important role in European diplomacy. And so, in 1512-1513, noting that the English were intending to fight in France, James took up French King Louis XII's offer of help in regaining Berwick, which would see the Scots undertake to invade the north of England to divert English troops from France. Not only did James want to help the French, he also wanted the Danes and Irish to be involved. Louis was pleased by James' enthusiastic acceptance, which reflected the aims of the Auld Alliance, and sent help to James in the form of money, artillery, powder and cannonballs. He also promised that after this war, he would help James mount his desired crusade to the Holy Land. The Danes declined James' overtures. But after a meeting between James and Hugh O'Donnell of Tyreconnell, one of the most powerful leaders of the native Irish in Ulster, guns were sent to Ireland.

**The Scottish Strategy** James' plan was to invade the North of England with his army and at the same time to despatch his navy whose numbers he had been building up, to Ireland to draw English forces there and then to have his fleet sail to the English Channel to hinder supplies and manpower of the English army fighting in France. By late July 1513, James was ready and despatched a herald to King Henry VIII. Henry VIII who was now with his army in France, received what was effectively a declaration of war. **However, Henry was aware of the Scottish plans, had been for some time, and had taken the precaution of leaving the very capable Earl of Surrey with part of the army to defend England.**

**Disparities of Training and Equipment...** James' forces consisted of an army which was drawn from the male population of Scotland aged between 16 and 60 years who could be called up for a maximum of 40 days a year. The equipment used by the army was provided by the Crown and was generally financed by a special tax levied for the purpose. Training was rudimentary and very lax, in particular lacking in the art of fighting as a big cohesive group.

The main weapon of this army was the pike. These were very long spears that had been used with great success by well-trained German mercenaries. They were a very effective weapon when big groups of troops moved as one. But they were quite unwieldy to use by individuals to defend themselves being particularly difficult to use on unstable or wet ground. The army was backed by big artillery guns,

best suited to long-range targets, and had to be dragged by wagons making them not very manoeuvrable.

By contrast the English army used short bills or halberds, and shorter and much more easily handled axes. They had smaller, more manoeuvrable artillery pieces with a shorter target range. Tellingly, they were also much better trained and disciplined.

**...and Disparities of Battle Tactics** James ran his campaign along medieval lines. Using heralds, he agreed to meet at a certain place and to commence fighting at a certain time. As James had arrived first in the vicinity of the appointed battle site, he was enabled to choose a superior fighting position but as it was not the agreed position he moved his army and guns 2 miles from Flodden Hill to Branxton Hill\*. He then agreed that the fighting would commence at a specific time, thus allowing the English army to manoeuvre into a more advantageous position without interference from the assembled Scottish army. True to his word, James IV would not allow his army to attack until the agreed time!

For the Scots to win, it was essential that the massed formation of spearmen, would maintain a tight formation and that their artillery was sighted accurately. As it was, the artillery took some time to find the correct range and the foot-soldiers found it very difficult to stay together as they slipped down the slick slope of the hill to the wet and unstable ground at the bottom.

**Death of a King** As he had on previous occasions, James IV insisted on leading from the front and was as a result quickly killed along with many of his nobles who were with him in the thick of the fight. There are conflicting accounts of the numbers killed on that day, but certainly the Scots' losses greatly exceeded those of the English. James was the last king to die in battle on English soil.

There are few contemporary reports of the actual fighting. Much of what was written was written long after the actual event. This means that many of the specific details are not accurately known and in particular there is no known record of why James IV decided to fight or why he took part in the thick of the fighting. He was known as a "Renaissance King" and so perhaps he considered himself bound by Chivalric rules of battle, but there is also an interesting quote from the Spanish Ambassador, Don Pedro de Ayala written in a 1498 report to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in which he describes James [apparently from a time when he was quite young] as:

*"...courageous, even more so that a king should be. I am a good witness to it. I have seen him undertake most dangerous things in the last wars. I sometimes clung to his skirts and succeeded in keeping him back. On such occasions he does not take the least care of himself. He is not a good captain, because he begins to fight before he has given his orders".*

**Scotland Devastated** The immediate result of this loss was that Scotland was again in the position of having to appoint a very young King, in this case James V who was 17 months old, and so the country was to be run by a Regent and a General Council until he became of age.

There is no evidence that in attacking the English James IV had any designs on the English throne - it is singularly ironic that less than 100 years later his grandson James VI of Scotland would become James I of England.

The loss of such a large number of men and the decimation of the noble class was a disaster for many families and for the Scottish economy, a loss that was evocatively recalled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the lament "Flowers of the Forest". Today, plans are finally underway to carry out archaeological work on the battle site which for quite some-time remained on private property. In local Border towns where they still carry out Ridings to recall the battle, feelings still run high. Ownership of the flag carried by the Earl of Surrey into battle, for example, is still a source of contention.

The haunting lyrics of the **Flowers of the Forest** are a fitting epitaph to this historic tragedy:

*"I've heard the lilting, at the yowe-milking,  
Lassies a-lilting before dawn o'day;  
But now they are moaning on ilka green loaming;  
"The Flooers o'the Forest are a' wede away".*

*Dool and wae for the order sent our lads tae the  
Border!  
The English for ance, by guile wan the day,  
The Flooers o'the Forest, that fought aye the fore  
most,  
The pride o'oor land lie cauld in the clay."*

(Lyrics by Jean Elliott 1755.)

\*There is controversy as to why James IV moved his troops prior to battle and we have seen 4 different historical accounts in various publications.

References:

*"James IV at Land and Sea", David H Caldwell, Journal of the Sydney Society for Scottish History Vol 14 June 2013;  
[www.englandnortheast.co.uk/Flodden](http://www.englandnortheast.co.uk/Flodden);  
Wikipedia/Battle of Flodden  
"After Flodden", Rosemary Goring: An historical novel based on events at the time of the battle.*

- Pauline Finlay, Editor.

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## STICKS 'n BAG

### THE VICTORIA POLICE PIPE BAND

We continue our series on Pipe Bands around Australia, and this issue we talk about the Victoria Police Pipe Band, which became in the last thirty years one of the most awarded Pipe Bands in Australia.

The Victoria Police Force has a proud tradition of bands with its first band, a brass band, formed in 1897; adding a show band, a rock band and, arguably its most celebrated band, its pipe band.

**In 1936, a group of serving police officers** decided that the police force needed a pipe band and with the permission of the Commissioner and some financial assistance in the form of uniforms and equipment from a Mr W E MacPherson, the band was formed. To honour Mr MacPherson's generosity, the **MacPherson Tartan** was chosen for their dress uniform.

The Pipe Band of full time officers who played in the band on a part time basis performed at Regal and Vice Regal events but their main focus was community and charity events which helped to promote a positive policing image throughout Victoria.

**But in 1987 a change of emphasis took place**, the band took on the challenge to be the best pipe band in the world. To do this it started to compete in championships and in its first year of competition not only won the Grade 2 Australian Championships but also took out 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the World Pipe Band Championship. This remarkable effort was followed by **six successive Australian Grade 1 Championships, and nine Victorian Championships, the highlight coming in 1998, in Glasgow where they were crowned World Champions.**

In addition there were performances at the Royal Tournament, London, the Colchester Search Light Tattoo and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. At this time they held the distinction of being **the premier Police Pipe Band in the world.**

**More recently, their emphasis has changed from competition** to a successful and popular audience participation programme aimed at introduction of piping to primary school children. This is done by not only using traditional pipe band music but also music aimed for their school age audience, such as football club themes and modern popular music.

**Unfortunately, in these times of economic uncertainty**, the Victorian Police Force has, with regret, indicated that its Show Band and Rock Group will not continue in 2014. As for the Pipe Band, it is intended to convert 48 positions from the Band to front-line policing and to introduce civilian members into the Pipe Band.

We await with interest to see how the Pipe Band fares in the future. In the meantime, if you are interested, CDs of the Pipe Band are available through the Victorian Police Web Site.

Source: Victorian Police Web Site.

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**ASSOCIATION NAME BAR BADGES**

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Please Contact Editor Pauline by Email [finlay\\_crmr@bigpond.com](mailto:finlay_crmr@bigpond.com), or by phone (02) 9982-6229.

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**IF YOU'D LIKE AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN "CÀRN NA CUIMHNE" Contact: Editor Pauline Finlay**

Telephone: (02) 9982-6229  
 Email: [finlay\\_crmr@bigpond.com](mailto:finlay_crmr@bigpond.com).

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**EVENTS CALENDAR to March 2014**

Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013	HUNTER VALLEY SCOTS HOGMANAY Teralba Hall NSW.
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013	CALEDONIAN SOC HOGMANAY Inglewood Community Ctre WA.
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	MARYBOROUGH H'LD GAMES Maryborough VIC.
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	WAIPU HIGHLAND GATHERING Waipu NZ.
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND ASSOC Summer Sch'l Bellevue Hill NSW.
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	MORNINGTON PENINSULA Caledonian Soc Burns Night VIC.
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	BRISBANE IRISH CLUB Burns Night Brisbane QLD.
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	HUNTER VALLEY SCOTS Burns Night Teralba Hall NSW.
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	CALEDONIAN SOCIETY WA Burns Night Inglewood WA.
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	TURAKINA 150 <sup>TH</sup> H'LAND GAMES Turakina NZ.
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	SAHC BURNS NIGHT & CEILIDH Masonic Club .SYDNEY NSW.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	AUST DAY CELTIC FESTIVAL Bradfield Pk NTH SYDNEY NSW.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	LACHLAN MACQUARIE DINNER SAHC – SYDNEY NSW.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	HOBART PB BURNS NIGHT Hobart Function Centre TAS.
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2014	BURNS CLUB of MELBOURNE Burns Night Balwyn VIC.
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2014	WARRINGAH SCOTTISH BURNS NIGHT Collaroy Beach NSW.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	BENDIGO H'LAND GATHERING Bendigo VIC.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	Mt BARKER H'LAND GATHERING Mount Barker SA.
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> –Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	NZ PB CHAMPIONSHIPS Tauranga NZ.
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> -Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2014	GEELONG H'LAND GATHERING Deakin Uni Campus Geelong VIC.
Fri 14 - Mon 17 March 2014	ARMIDALE AUTUMN FESTIVAL Armidale New England NSW.
Sat 29 – Sun 30 March 2014	MACLEAN GATHERING MacLean Nth Coast NSW.

WHERE WE'LL BE: Contingencies permitting, we'll be at : Australia Day Celtic, Macquarie Dinner, Warringah Burns Night, and Armidale Autumn Festival. See you there!



*Left: Findlay Family Gathering at Larnach Castle Dunedin. Above: Convenor Robert Findlay with his grandchildren.*



*The Association's new Marquee Banner at Canberra Gathering, Kambah, October 2013.*



*The Victoria Police Pipe Band.*



*Left: The Flodden Battlefield Memorial at Branxton Hill.*

*Right: Big Nessie and Little Nessie resting at the Hyde Park Picnic, St Andrew's Day celebration 2013.*

