



# “CÀRN-NA-CUIMHNE!”

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## **Clan Chief**

*Capt. Alwyne Compton Farquharson MC, of  
Invercauld*

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*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**

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### **Vice President**

*Mr Bruce Finlay*

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

*Mrs Brenda Finlay*

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### **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'm very pleased to report that our Clan and the Association have enjoyed a busy and productive 2013 Scottish calendar.***

***As well as being at several major east-coast Gatherings, our Clan was instrumental in placing the "Moy Stone" in the Wall of Remembrance at Glen Innes. Our High Commissioner Bruce, and his wife Pauline were the Chieftains of the Day at Wingham, a great honour for the Clan.***

***Great support has come from our members. At Bundanoon people came down from Qld and over from WA. Most impressive were 2 young members who came and saw us, proudly wearing their Farquharson kilts. At Glen Innes we had a great group up from Armidale and Guyra, and down from Brisbane. Member Dawn Grassick and helpers showed the Clan's colours in Brisbane for Tartan Day, 6<sup>th</sup> July.***

***For us "Clan" is not just a link to the past but a foundation for community in the present. Our members are a very important part of this. Our Committee are most grateful for the support you have given us.***

***Following the Canberra Gathering in October, we will be hosting a dinner like last year. Details are being finalised, but if you want to book a spot you can contact me now by Email: [finlaysb@bigpond.com](mailto:finlaysb@bigpond.com) or phone (02) 4883 6703.***

***We look forward to seeing you all at future events proudly sporting the famous Farquharson tartan.***

### **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.***

**NEW MEMBERS**

We extend a warm welcome to new members of the Association, but especially to: **Gai GUY of INALA, QLD**, who we also owe an apology for leaving her out last time. We also warmly welcome:

- Trevor CHRISTIE of PETERSHAM, NSW;**
- Karen CROSSMAN of SUNNYBANK HILLS, QLD;**
- David & Jenny FINLAY of GUNNEDAH, NSW;**
- Donald FINLAY of SCONE, NSW;**
- George FINLAY of SCONE, NSW;**
- Joel HANSFORD of CARDIFF, NSW;**
- Johnathon HARDY of NOWRA, NSW;**
- Robert & Janine McCAIG of ST CLAIR, NSW; and**
- Richard WATSON of GOSFORD, NSW;**

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**NEWS FROM SCOTLAND and ELSEWHERE**

**HOMECOMING 2014**

Briefly:

- **There will be no Homecoming Gathering as took place in 2009;**
- **In June 2014, to celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn the National Trust of Scotland will conduct battle re-enactments at the battle site close to Stirling – there will be only limited space for Clan marquees on site;**
- **Individual Clans will be free to conduct their normal Clan Gatherings, where they do so annually, without disruption, and other Clans will be encouraged by subsidies, also to conduct their own events.**

The Rt Hon Lord Jamie Sempill was able to confirm this summary when he was at Bundanoon in April, and it has since been confirmed also by the SCSC (Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs). Further information has come from the newly formed Scottish Association of Highland Clans and Societies, that the accommodation for Clans at Bannockburn is likely to be in the form of a central Marquee where individual Clans can run a "desk" and display.

In July 2013, representatives of SCSC and COSCA (Council of Scottish Clans Associations USA) will attend a Convention of the Clans at the Grandfather Mountain Gathering in North Carolina to discuss the future direction of Homecomings.

**Formation of ASSOCIATION of HIGHLAND CLANS and SOCIETIES** took place in April 2013 at Inverness in the course of Clans Culloden and Ancestors event. The new Association embraces Clan Chattan and many of the Clans of the north-east of Scotland, and aims to be a voice for the Clans in organizing future Homecoming events, and to establish a permanent showcase of the Clans and their histories.

**CLAN FARQUHARSON UK** will be organizing its usual events at Ballater during the first 2 weeks of August this year and next year.

**SCOTTISH DIASPORA TAPESTRY** This is a project undertaken as part of the Homecoming 2014 and will highlight the contribution of Scots to the countries of the Diaspora, each country contributing panels. In Australia Yvonne Murphy is co-ordinating the work in conjunction with the Scottish Australian Heritage Council (SAHC). If you are interested in taking part in this project please contact the SAHC.

**CANADA Correspondence** We have received a very kind message from Jean MacKaracher-Watson, a member of the Nova Scotia Clan Farquharson Society of Canada. She has sent us a Poem entitled *Ode to Colonel Anne Farquharson-Mackintosh*, which we plan to publish in our Newsletter in March 2014, closer to the actual anniversary of the events that the Poem recalls.

**POSTCARD from Dawn Watson** After a couple of weeks in London visiting the Chelsea Flower Show, Dawn travelled with her friend Marion to Inver near Dunkeld, where Marion's sister lives. They went to the Highland Gathering at Blair Castle, and saw the Atholl Highlanders' annual parade, visited Perth, Pitlochry, Crail and St Andrews, and then were off to Edinburgh. We hope to hear more when we next meet up.

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**ASSOCIATION NOTICES**

**THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING**

The Clan Farquharson Association Australia expects to hold its 2013 AGM in October or November at a place and time to be announced.

All the elected officers and Committee members will stand down at this meeting. Members wishing to stand for election or to raise items of business should notify the Secretary/Treasurer at P O Box 414, BUNDANOON NSW 2578.

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**NEWS FROM THE NORTH**

**GLEN INNES CELTIC FESTIVAL – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013** The Year of the Scots! And three days of glorious weather. On the Friday afternoon we went to the Welcoming Ceremony outside the Town Hall. Honoured Guest was John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac who was welcomed by Mayor Colin Price.

Saturday morning was the big Parade along Grey Street. Clan Farquharson had a good roll-up with Nanette Jemmeson, Bruce and Janice Johnson and Jenny Johnson from Armidale, Dawn Grassick and father Alex down from Brisbane and John Dillon joining us. It was a busy morning at the Clan Tent seeing people - we welcomed new member Karen Crossman from Brisbane, and met a number of people asking about Clan Chattan. In no time it was late afternoon, and following the Massed Bands, it was down the mountain to change for the formal SAHC Dinner.

Sunday, another brilliant day, and we were pleased again to welcome members to our Clan Tent, including Ron Vickress up from Guyra. The Kirkin' and "Blessing of the Celts" Service took place punctually at midday in the Standing Stones, followed by the Parade of Clans to Tynwald Hill, where the Calling over of the Clans and Stone Dedication Ceremonies took place.

Clan Farquharson led the dedication of the "Moy Stone", High Commissioner Bruce Finlay giving the dedication speech. After the unveiling by the Clan Chattan representative Clans present, the Stone, and the new Macpherson Stone, which are well placed in the Wall, were blessed by an attending celebrant. There was a strong sense of a job well done in at last having the "Moy Stone" enshrined in the "Wall of Remembrance".

We were able at last to rest up in our Clan Tent and savour the success of this Gathering. Then sadly it was the final Massed Bands in the Standing Stones and it was all over at this most enjoyable venue.

Over the course of the weekend we had the good fortune to see in action two outstanding groups of very young performers, "Pumpkin Juice", 4 young fiddlers aged just 9 to 13 years of age, and the "Cape Byron Celtic Dance", which included 4 young men aged about 12 to 16 years of age who performed all of the traditional dances to near perfection with very modern music. The future of traditional music and dance is in good hands if these groups are any measure.

**BONNIE WINGHAM SCOTTISH FESTIVAL – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013** High Commissioner Bruce Chieftain of the Day! A great honour for our Clan. Brenda and I arrived Friday afternoon for the mayoral reception, and Rev Wes Hartley and friend George Stewart drove up Friday and stayed at nearby Taree, getting to Wingham in time for the Street Parade at 9.30am.

The weather was good with a high cloud cover and quite balmy temperatures. There seemed fewer people in the morning, but they came with a rush for the afternoon, and quite a few visited our Clan tent, where we were kept busy. The Clan Tent also was useful for the Chieftain and Pauline to take a break out of the limelight. The day was busy with field events, and all too soon the Chieftain declared the Festival closed. We were able to put everything away before predicted rain came.

The Grand Scottish Ball was a pleasant and relaxed evening with friends. It was a duty night for me as Banner bearer for the Chieftain, but this duty was quickly over. The Wingham Services Club Pipe Band put on a good performance. Bruce and Pauline led off the dancing in good style and everyone enjoyed an energetic dance program. The night ended on a high note with Strip the Willow and Auld Lang Syne, in time for us to rest up for the morrow's events.

We looked at Sunday's skies with a little tribulation. We needn't have worried - at the early morning service at Wingham Brush, Eric Richardson and Rev

Darrell McKeough kept the weather at bay until we were under shelter having bacon and eggs courtesy of local Rotary.

Another great Bonnie Wingham was over – it was time to say our good-byes and head for home, chased by the weather all the way to Bundanoon!

**ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES - Saturday 6th July 2013** **Out of space: to be more fully reported next issue.** We were again pleased to have a good roll-up of members. We saw quite a few interesting people and signed-on several new members. The only minus to a fine day was the wind on Friday and the early morning cold – just above zero on Sunday!

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**NEWS FROM THE SOUTH**

**BUNDANOON is BRIGADOON - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013** The day dawned misty, but clear with a heavy dew, so we got showered by the condensation in our Tent just putting up the displays. Commissioner Syd, and High Commissioner Bruce, after a satisfying second breakfast, met the Clan ready for the Street Parade, Jane with sons Max and Austin back from sunny Queensland, Pauline Finlay who carried the Banner, Dawn Watson, and Rev Wes Hartley now also an East-sider, and wife Beverley Biggs all the way from WA.

After the Gathering was declared open by Chieftain of the Day, The Rt Hon Lord Jamie Sempill, Chief of Clan Sempill, we quickly got down to business in the Clan Tent, meeting a steady stream of visitors. There was also Clan business for our Commissioners. Syd Finlay, as Vice President of the Organising Committee, attended upon the Chieftain of the Day, and Bruce Finlay was called to attend a briefing session conducted to inform Clans of what they may expect at the Homecoming in Scotland in 2014. **For Members' information, brief details are outlined under News from Scotland and Elsewhere, above.**

A highlight of the day was the visit of the Chieftain of the Day to our Clan Tent. It was an opportunity for the members present to meet Jamie Sempill.

In the afternoon it rained and the crowd thinned, but we didn't get that wet. The Prize for best presented Clan, deservedly went to Clan Donald and was presented by the Chieftain of the Day to Lachie MacDonald, NSW Commissioner. Best presented Commercial stall was Stylish Sticks, offering highly refined timber products, and cromachs.

In all a very satisfying, but sometimes chaotic, day. It was good to get back to the Ranch and rest up. No rest, however, for our guest Susan Cooke, Secretary of the Heritage Council and High Commissioner for Clan Lindsay, who attended the Ceilidh partnering Lord Jamie, an energetic Scottish dancer!

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**HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DIARY**

**BUNDANOON April 6<sup>th</sup>** A good day for the Clan Association where we were well represented, with new members joining, and current members visiting. It was pleasing to renew acquaintance with The Rt Hon. Lord Jamie Sempill, Chief of Clan Sempill, who we first met in 2008 and at Edinburgh 2009. He continues to have a strong presence and a persuasive voice in representing the Clans as member of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Congratulations to Lachie MacDonald and Clan Donald on their award as best presented Clan.

**GLEN INNES May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>** I was very pleased to see so many of our Clan up there from Armidale and Guyra and down from Brisbane – we especially were pleased to meet again Dawn Grassick, and to meet her father Alex who also came down.

**THE "MOY STONE"** My main duty at Glen Innes was to deliver the speech in the dedication ceremony of the "Moy Stone". We were well supported by others member Clans of Clan Chattan, the Davidsons, MacPhersons, MacQueens, and MacBains, and by messages from Robert Mackintosh Australian Councillor for the Clan Chattan Association, and Ken McCole of Clan MacThomas. But we were let down by the organisers who failed to turn on the amplification system. I do apologise to our members who were there, if they could not hear. The text of the speech is at the end of the Newsletter.

The dedication of the "Moy Stone", taken in 2009 from the ruins of the third Moy Hall, traditional seat of the Mackintosh Chiefs, was an important undertaking. Clan Chattan, and its constituent Clans, over many centuries played a major part in the history of Scotland in the north-east. The Stone commemorates the pioneer efforts of members of the Clan Chattan Clans in the European settlement of Australia.

We cannot say how proud and relieved we were on the day marching through the lines of pipers, that we had finally fulfilled our mission to realise Beryl Hardy Nisbett's original quest. For it was Beryl, my predecessor as High Commissioner who originally brought a stone from the Mackintosh estate to be placed in the Wall, but it was lost when she passed away in 2006.

We are grateful for the graciousness of Chief John Mackintosh and the Hon Celia Mackintosh in allowing us to try again, and for the efforts of Standing Stones Guardian John Mathew in getting the Stone mounted. We are also most grateful for the attentiveness of the people who witnessed the ceremonies, and for the support of all our Clanspeople who were there for us.

**CHIEFTAIN of the DAY at BONNIE WINGHAM – A View from the Inside - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** I was once again honoured and privileged to be invited to be Chieftain of the Day at one of our favourite Gatherings. **Wingham is the quintessential community festival with its idyllic setting on the Village Square right in the middle of town.** Colonel Eric Richardson (Retd) MA OAM, town

identity, is the Festival Organiser, ably assisted by Warwick Murray NSW Commissioner for Clan Murray. The Festival celebrates the pioneering settlers and the community they carved out of the virgin bush.

**Baveheart Breakfast** First up on Friday was the Poets' Breakfast at 7.30am on the Friday at the Anglican Hall. There were plenty of willing poets.

**The Bus Tour** at 10.00am showed that this area was tough going for the first settlers. Once heavily timbered, the land is given over to grazing and crops. Colonel Eric, his cousin Barbara, President of the Historical Society, and bus-driver Peter ably provided the commentary. Lunch was at the old homestead of Normond by gracious hosts Pauline and Adrian.

**The Mayoral Reception** was in the School of Arts Library at 5.30pm. We were welcomed by Deputy Mayor Alan Tickle and members of the Scottish fraternity attending the Festival.

**Saturday was the big day, first up the Street Parade at 9.30am** A Colour Party and mounted guard of the Australian Light Horse led the Parade. Our Banner bearer and the Chieftain's party followed lead band Wingham Services Club, under the control of Drum Major of the Day, Malcolm Murray.

Following inspection of the Clans, Banner bearers, and assembled Drum-Majors and bandsmen it was my special pleasure to acknowledge this Community celebration and the people who make it all possible, and declare the Festival "open". In the morning we visited the Clan and Community Tents, and some fifty commercial stalls selling all sorts of wares. In between we were especially impressed by the schoolchildren from the local Wingham Brush Public School, performing traditional country dance.

The "blood sports" - sword-fighting and children's tug o' war and races were the last events. It was my sad duty to declare the Festival "closed" at 4pm. A Lone Piper played the Lament and the Bands marched off.

**Grand Scottish Ball** in the Services Club. We were ceremonially piped into the Ball with a full escort and Banner bearer. Following opening speeches by Colonel Eric Richardson and Deputy Mayor Alan Tickle, Haggis was served and Pauline and I were called upon to lead the first dance. The Wingham Services Club Pipes and Drums and dance band "Fiddle Tunes" performed during the evening. In my response to Deputy Mayor Alan Tickle's Welcoming Address, I took the opportunity to praise the Scots for their renowned acumen in finding ways to enjoy their favourite pastime – escaping to the isles where there were, so often, non-stop ceilidhs **every** weekend!

**Sunday Kirkin' at Wingham Brush** After the reading of the Lessons and a brief Sermon given by Rev Tracey Sutherland, the gathering sang the Hymn *How Great Thou Art* accompanied on accordion by Rev Darrell McKeough. Safely under shelter we enjoyed breakfast as the rain tumbled down.

**Colloquium at 10.00am** At the invitation of Colonel Eric Richardson discussion was led by Malcolm

Buchanan, President of the Heritage Council. Next year resident Chiefs will be invited, under the aegis of the SAHC, to conference at Bonnie Wingham.

**Afternoon Concert in the Memorial Town Hall** We were treated to two hours of superb entertainment by a wide variety of performers, many with quite excellent talent and skills.

And then finally it was time to say good-bye to a most memorable weekend and Festival that will linger long in our memories. Just as at Bundanoon, a little over a year ago, I was impressed at the detailed planning and dedication that goes into these events. I have nothing but praise for the efforts of the volunteers that take on the task.

### SCOTTISH WEEK IN SYDNEY

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June Inspection of Bicentennial Cairn Mosman** Special Guest Torquil MacLeod of The Lewes carried out the Inspection Ceremony and will report to the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June History Lecture on the Battle of Flodden 1513** Guest Speaker Dr Kate Stevenson gave a talk on the sociological fall-out of the Battle of Flodden especially reflected in the Arts and Literature.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July Reflections on Present Day Scotland** Dr Kate Stevenson gave us an unparalleled insight into the rarefied cloisters of *academe* Scotland.

**ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES - Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July** Fine and cold, we had a great weekend apart from the wind on Friday that threatened to blow our tent away.

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## A Wee Bit of Clan History

### THE FARQUHARSONS

*The last of our series on the Farquharsons is very much a modern-day success story. Sources for this article are:*

*"CLAN FARQUHARSON A History" by Geoffrey Farquharson, Tempus Publishing 2005;*

*"FINZEAN The Fair Place – Celebrating 400 years" by Angus Farquharson, Ternan Publishing 2008;*

*Wikipedia entry: Angus\_Durie\_Miller\_Farquharson.*

*- Pauline Finlay, Editor.*

### ANGUS DURIE MILLER FARQUHARSON (1935 –

**Sir Angus Farquharson of Finzean, KCVO,OBE, CFStJ, DL**, born Angus Durie Miller 27 March 1935, was Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire from 1998 to 2010, and was knighted in 2010 for his services to the Crown.

**The story of Sir Angus Farquharson, and Lady Alison Farquharson who in 1988 inherited the Baronetcy title** granted by Queen Anne in 1707 to Robert Farquharson, the 4<sup>th</sup> Finzean Laird, is a culmination of the resurrection of the Finzean Estate and a family dynasty, which had its beginnings 400 years ago. But more than that, it is in modern times, also the story of the resurrection of a thriving and successful rural community in the north-east of Scotland, overcoming bankruptcy, and the depredations of two world wars.

The dynasty had its beginnings in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century when Robert Farquharson, a grand-son of Finlay Mor, married a young widow, Margaret the daughter of the Mackintosh Chief. The couple were handsomely endowed by a grateful father. They purchased a property at Tillygarmond with the proceeds of the dowry, calling it "Finzean", Gallic for "A Fair Place", being highly attractive land eminently suitable for farming.

**Through good management and dynastic marriages, the Estate was built up**, eventually becoming one of the largest land-holdings in the north-east. To prevent the Estate being broken up when the 5<sup>th</sup> Laird, Francis, died childless, a Deed of Entail was granted in 1784 by the Lords in Council such that no part of the lands could be separately sold. This was to be the bane of subsequent Lairds.

**The marriage of the 8<sup>th</sup> Laird, Archibald in the early 1800s to the Blackhall heiress**, brought the landholdings to their high-point with the death of her father, Francis Russell of Blackhall. The Blackhall estate was heavily encumbered. To add to the Estate's problems, the 8<sup>th</sup> Laird was more interested in pursuing a career as MP and socialite than running a Highland Estate. He was eventually bankrupted. The Land could not be sold, so the Estate was run-down and stripped of assets.

By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although Archibald's successors had succeeded in improving the situation, the Estate was burdened by accumulated unpaid Death Duties. Agriculture was in the throes of depression, and the entail prevented sale of any part of the Estate. The entail was finally lifted in 1936 and sale of property at Lumphanan enabled settlement of the outstanding Death Duties.

**With the onset of World War II agriculture took off** and once again the newly regrown woodlands were stripped for the war effort. Although, stranded in the Sudan for much of the war, William Lang Farquharson the 14<sup>th</sup> Laird commenced many changes that eventually led to the restructuring of the Estate and its recovery post-war.

**Alison, only child of William, married Angus Durie Miller in 1961.** Adopting the ancient Scottish custom Angus Miller took the Farquharson surname. To the surprise of the newly-weds, the major part of the Finzean Estate was made over to them by Alison's father. Determining to make a success in management of the Estate, Angus commenced a re-education, taking factoring positions to gain experience, and joining a firm of Land Agents and Chartered Surveyors on completion of his qualifications. Alison Farquharson became the 15<sup>th</sup> Laird in 1988, on the death of her father.

**Early on Angus and Alison were to learn that it was not only the Estate that would occupy them, but the Community of Finzean.** They soon became involved when the Aberdeenshire Council mooted the Finzean School for closure. Their own daughter and two sons received an excellent grounding at the School, but they represented a

whole 10% of the school population – its population was more likely to shrink than grow in modern times. The Farquharsons discovered the question was not just about them or the school, but about the much bigger question of people who were to provide labour in a farming community, and indeed who were to take up farming as a profitable and ongoing enterprise.

**This went almost directly to the availability of affordable land in the area**, which for those who wanted to work the land, had to be in large enough plots to produce a living, and secondly, in finding affordable land to provide housing for farm workers. In the 1970's, due largely to the Farquharsons' efforts 22 low-cost housing sites were developed for Finzean's young people to raise their children in the place where they had been raised, and by 2002 the school had doubled its enrolment. It didn't stop there. As the families grew and the children married the grand-children were also educated at Finzean School. And so did the Farquharsons' involvement.

**Over time the nature of farming in the Finzean valley changed**, though it is still the most important form of land use. Today the majority of tasks are highly mechanised, and because of the need for holdings to be of a considerably greater size viable for a living the number of tenanted holdings has reduced to seven. The Finzean Estate is now a partnership between sons Andrew and Donald managed by Andrew, while daughter Jean owns a separate holding. Major production is devoted to beef cattle, for which the land is given over to harvesting for winter feed. Venison is also marketed. Parts of the Estate are devoted to barley production. Forestry is still a major undertaking in the valley, producing saw logs and pallets. Hunting is also an important activity, small woods being set aside for game, which dressed and prepared is sold in the Farm Shop, also operated by the Estate, and in the nearby Restaurant. Finzean operates as a farming community in all these activities. As with any farming community there is an exchange of intelligence and a co-operative participation especially at harvest time.

**In the 1980's the Farquharsons with other land-holders** formed a Timber Cooperative, and follow a planned thinning programme. The Farquharsons pioneered the first Community Wood in the north-east, and this is now leased to the Birse Community Trust, formed by the Farquharsons with other land-holders. The Community Trust also took over ownership of the Birse Kirk, historic watermills and other historic buildings and formed a local history Archive. Redundant farm holdings have been turned over to other uses, and with the help of The Prince's Youth Business, these have provided employment for young people.

**The local Kirk was modernised and extended in 2005, embracing the parishes of Birse, Finzean and Strachan**, and has now become the central Presbytery for Deeside and Kincardine. The Community Hall originally built by Joseph

Farquharson in 1927, was recently substantially renovated and is still the centre of many community activities. Again leading the way, the Finzean Community established over the last 20 years a scheme of sheltered housing for the elderly, the first such rural scheme in Aberdeenshire.

**In so very many things the rural community of Finzean has been a leader in setting the standard for Aberdeenshire** and indeed for rural Scotland, in modern-day community living. Sir Angus Farquharson says in his work *Finzean – A Fair Place* how fortunate they were to have so many people to serve as leaders in their community. He was without question one of their prime movers. In August 2009, the Family and the Clan celebrated the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Farquharsons of Finzean.

**Angus and Alison Farquharson led the way in restructuring farming in their community and in reshaping how their community would adapt to these changes in the Finzean valley.** Angus Farquharson was commissioned as a Deputy Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire in 1984 and as Vice Lord-Lieutenant in 1987. He became Lord-Lieutenant in 1998, succeeding Captain Colin Farquharson. He was promoted a Commander of the Order of St John in 2009, having been an Officer since 2002, and was awarded the honour of OBE in 1995 for services to forestry and the community in Aberdeenshire. Upon his retirement as Lord-Lieutenant in 2010, Angus Farquharson was awarded his knighthood.

Sir Angus served on the Red Deer Commission from 1986 to 1992. He has also been an elder of the Church of Scotland since 1969 and served on the Board of General Trustees from 1995 to 2006. Since 2006 Sir Angus has been a Director of the Scottish Traditional Skills Training Centre.

**A truly outstanding and busy life of Community Service.**

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**Back Home**

**THE SYDNEY MECHANIC'S SCHOOL OF ARTS**

**One of the most significant and beneficial legacies of the Scots Kirk** was its aim to teach all its parishioners to read, not only to read the Bible but also to be able to participate in classes on subjects such as philosophy, economics and politics. This legacy of education has featured in several of our previous newsletter articles such on the Scottish radicals, John Dunmore Lang's work to establish schools and the strong influence of the Scots in the establishment and early teaching at the colony's University of Sydney.

**The Mechanics' Institute**, which had as its' aim the intellectual improvement of members through the teaching of scientific and other useful information and the cultivation of literature, science and art,

{basically what we would now call adult education} was a further development of this idea. Importantly, this teaching was to be available to all. The first Mechanics Institute was set up in Scotland in 1821 and it was not too much later when such an Institute was set up in colonial Sydney.

**In the 1830s the Reverend Henry Carmichael** had been sent by Dunmore Lang back to Scotland to recruit craftsmen for the colony. While the recruiting scheme itself was not really a great success, during the return journey to Australia, Carmichael gave classes to some of these men. On arrival they then formed the nucleus of a Mechanics Institute.

Carmichael, Surveyor General Major Thomas Mitchell and Dr Charles Nicholson met on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1833 and "...resolved to found an institution similar to those established in England by Dr. Bricbeck, Dr. Ure, and other distinguished promoters of popular education". The institute would promote further education for working men through public lectures, classes and the establishment of a lending library. Governor Richard Bourke and his administration recognised the establishment of the Institute by providing a land grant and a small annual subsidy. Aided by donations, in 1836, vacant land was leased at 275 Pitt Street, Sydney and the first lecture was given on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1837 by Carmichael followed by a chemistry demonstration by Nicholson.

**The Institute was a great success** with more than 1500 students attending lectures and classes. Subjects taught included art, maths, architecture, anatomy and simple surgery. Among the lecturers were the explorer Ludwig Leichhardt, the poet Henry Kendall and the suffragist Louisa Lawson. In 1874, the school was incorporated under an Act of Parliament and subsequent amendments to this Act allowed changes to its original charter.

**But by 1870s, it was felt that the institution was drifting away from its original aim** of educating the working class and it was decided to expand its scope by forming the Technical and Working Men's College which included a new hall, laboratories, classrooms, offices and a yard area. This extension was built at the rear of the existing building and extended into George Street. This new emphasis on practical learning increased enrolments substantially but, increasingly, both space and funding limited further expansion, so much so that in 1883, the State Government took over the College, transforming it into the basis for a new technical college. This was to become the basis for the Sydney Technical College which continued to use the Institute's as well as other buildings in the city until it moved into a purpose built building at Harris Street in Ultimo in Sydney in 1891. In 1988, this was to become the University of Technology.

**In addition to providing adult education, the Institute also provide a lending library.** However, as the Colonial and later State Government took on

greater responsibility for education and then later local councils provided free public libraries, its role continued to diminish.

**The Institute continued to struggle with falling cash reserves from diminishing enrolments** and in 1987 it was decided to sell the site. The buyer at this time was Bondcorp who proposed that it should become part of the "Park Plaza" Project which would include a monorail station and a condensed area for the Institute. However, before any work commenced, Bondcorp went bankrupt and the Japanese company, Kumagai Gumi (the builder of the Sydney Harbour Tunnel) purchased the site and the Institute moved into a series of temporary homes before purchasing a site across the road from its original site in Pitt Street. The original site is now the home of the pub, the "Arthouse Hotel". Many of the features of the original building have been retained by the proprietors of this pub who have continued the link with the cultural and educational programmes that were a focus of the Institute by including courses in drawing, and photography.

**The concept of easy access to education for the working class** brought over from Scotland by the earlier settlers, has come a long way and formed an important basis for Public Education in NSW and throughout Australia.

Next time you are walking down Pitt Street take the time to stop and look up at the façade of the Arthouse Hotel and you will see the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts signage. In 1999, the building became part of the NSW State Heritage Register.

*Reference: Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Wikipedia.*

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## STICKS 'n BAG

### REDLANDS SPORTING CLUB PIPE BAND

**This band is based at Redlands, a south-east suburb of Brisbane.** It was formed in 1981 after the persistent efforts and hard work of Robert 'Bob' Sharp, a drummer and Mervyn 'Merv' Fogg, a piper, with the support of the Redland Shire Council and the sponsorship of the Redlands Returned Services League. The aims of the band were and still are, to continue the traditions of a pipe band, to encourage young people to learn the pipes and drums and in particular to have a strong involvement with the local community. In its early days the band, then known as the Redlands R.S.L. Pipe Band, became famous for hosting well- attended Ceilidhs and in particular for hosting a Highland Debutante Ball, which was held for over 10 years.

**Over the years, like many of the other bands that we have looked at,** the band changed its name to the Redlands Pipe Band Inc and then after a sponsorship proposal from the Redlands Sporting Club in 1999, to its current title of the Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band. Changes of name,

however, did nothing to change its aims. The band entered competition in the 1990's as a Grade 4 band and has gradually built up its playing reputation. In 2000/2001 it achieved success with wins for the best dressed full band and drill. Originally the band was dressed in Thomson tartan but in 1997 adopted the Hunting MacGregor Tartan which reflected the band's MacGregor Crest Badge.

**In 2010, the band was the only Australian band represented at the Paeroa, New Zealand Games.**

You can view their performance on You Tube, admittedly not a very good download, but it does feature a fine performance by one of their young drummers, playing "The Little Drummer Boy" and is an excellent example of their aim to encourage young talent. The band has continued its community involvement working closely with the Australian Scottish Community {Qld} particularly in the organisation of Tartan Day in Brisbane as well as other events during the year. As reported in an earlier newsletter {Vol 13, No 2, December 2012} it took a prominent part in the Whepstead Spring Equinox Gathering and the Inaugural Julie Appleton-Seymour Memorial Solo Piping Competition.

The band is hoping that it may be able to attend a future Bundanoon Highland Gathering and we look forward to seeing them there in the not too distant future.

**A footnote from the other side of Australia.**

*In researching Pipe Bands from around Australia, the editor came across the Freemantle Sailing Club Pipes and Drums, located in Freemantle, Western Australia. This band formed in 1985, is one of the few Pipe Bands in the world that includes sea shanties in its repertoire!*



**DEDICATION OF THE MOY STONE**

**Bruce Finlay's speech at the Dedication Ceremony at Glen Innes on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013.**

(Following introduction by Malcolm Buchanan, President of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council.)

*Thank-you Mr President. Honoured Guest of this Celtic Festival, John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac, Distinguished Guests, Clansmen, and women, Ladies and Gentlemen, today we dedicate the "Moy Stone" taken from the ruins of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Moy Hall in Scotland, on the traditional lands of the Mackintosh Clan Chief. The Stone set here in the Wall of Remembrance is to commemorate the Clan Mackintosh and Clan Chattan pioneers of European settlement in Australia.*

*I call those representatives of the constituent Clans of the Clan Chattan Confederacy here present to support me, from Clan MacPherson, Clan MacBain, Clan MacQueen, Clan Davidson and Clan Farquharson, to join me on the dais. I also acknowledge generous messages of support from Robert Mackintosh, Australian Councillor to the Clan Chattan Association in Scotland, who is unable to be here today, and from Clan MacThomas Australia.*

*Clan Chattan is unique among Clans as it is not a single Clan, but a Confederacy of Clans mainly in the north-east of Scotland, known loosely as the "Cat Clans". This probably stems from the fact that the Scottish native wild cat features prominently in the Clan crest. The Clan motto is "Touch not the Cat but a Glove"...with good reason!*

*The Clan commenced its existence around the 12<sup>th</sup> century near Lochaber and was led by one Gillichattan Mor. Over time, traditionally, the Clan Chattan Chief has been the Chief of Clan Mackintosh. At first the relationship with other Clans was a loose one based on mutual self-protection and consisted of smaller Clans and families. In time the centre of their influence gradually moved to the north-east. Under King James VI (James I of England) there was increasing pressure for Clan Chattan to formalize the confederacy. In part this flowed from the desire of the Crown to seek a counter to the restive and powerful Clans in the west. A formal Band of Union was signed at Termit near Inverness in 1609.*

*Traditionally, Clan Chattan and the constituent Clans supported the Stuart Kings, and figured prominently in all of the risings over the course of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. They were to pay dearly for this support with loss of life and forfeiture of lands. However, the Confederacy has survived to the modern era. Once a band of more than 20 Clans and Families, today it embraces Mackintosh, MacPherson, Shaw, Farquharson, MacBain, MacPhail, Davidson, MacGillivray, MacQueen, MacThomas, MacLean of Dochgarroch, and MacIntyre of Badenoch.*

*In 2009, to celebrate 400 years of the Band of Union, a new Band of Union was signed at Inverness following a brief ceremony at Termit. Several of those here today were privileged to take part in that historic event. The Band of Union, both the original and the new one, recognises the central tenet of 'amity friendship and kindness' that binds the parties 'to assist, maintain and defend each other in mutual love and unity in all matters that are honourable and to preserve and foster the right and true spirit of our Clans...'. It is this extension of the same bond we have to kith and kin we find so often expressed in each of our individual Clans, that is reflected by the deeds of our forebears who first came to these shores and is now recognised and commemorated in the laying and dedication of this token from our former homeland, the "Moy Stone".*

*On behalf of all who claim allegiance to the constituent Clans I invite the representatives of the Clans here today, to step up to the Wall of Remembrance and unveil the "Moy Stone" as a fitting recognition of the Pioneers of settlement here in Australia who were fellow Clansmen and women.*



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

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**TO HIRE SCOTTISH DRESS - Contact:**

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**GETTING THE NEWSLETTER BY E.MAIL**  
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**FINDLAY FAMILY GATHERING – DUNEDIN NZ – 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2013.**

To all our Findlay members who believe they may be connected to the Findlays in NZ, for this SPECIAL EVENT, contact:

Robert Findlay  
26 Convoy Lane  
OTAHUHU AUCKLAND 1062 NZ  
Or by Email: [Findlayrm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Findlayrm@xtra.co.nz)

**EVENTS CALENDAR to November 2013**

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	CALEDONIAN SOCIETY XMAS Mt Barker SA.
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2013	CLANS QLD GATHERING Logan Gardens QLD.
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2013	CALLUM'S CEILIDH Uniting Church Epping NSW.
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2013	WARRINGAH SCOTTISH Dinner Dance Collaroy Bch NSW.
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2013	BOONDOOMA CELTIC FESTIVAL Boondooma QLD.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2013	BEECHWORTH H'LAND GAMES Beechworth VIC.
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2013	GATHERING of the CLANS Norah Hd, Central Coast NSW.
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2013	CLANS on the COAST CELTIC Nelson Bay, Pt Stephens NSW.
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2013	COLLEGE PIPING & DRUMMING. Workshop, Kambah ACT.
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2013	CANBERRA H'LAND GATHERING Kambah Oval, Canberra ACT.
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2013	KAPUNDA CELTIC FESTIVAL Kapunda SA.
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2013	ILLAWARRA SCOTTISH FAIR Wollongong NSW.
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2013	COMBINED SOCIETIES GATHERING Castle Hill NSW.
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	ARMADALE H'LAND GATHERING Minnawarra Pk, Armadale WA.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	ST ANDREW'S DAY KIRKIN' St Stephens Kirk Sydney NSW.

**WHERE WE'LL BE:** Contingencies permitting, we'll be at : Aberdeen, Tartan Day Brisbane, Warringah Scottish, Canberra, and St Andrew's Day Sydney. Look forward to seeing you there!

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**Two well-dressed young Farquharsons – cousins Daniel and Bede Patterson at Bundanoon.**



**Rev. Wes Hartley and Beverley Biggs meet Chieftain of the Day at Bundanoon – The Rt. Hon. Lord Jamie Sempill, Chief of Clan Sempill.**



**The "Moy Stone" in the "Wall of Remembrance" at Glen Innes.**



**Dedication Ceremony at Glen Innes for the "Moy Stone" – Bruce Finlay giving the dedication speech with Clan Chattan representative Clans in the foreground.**



**Left - Farquharson Clan members at the Glen Innes "Wall of Remembrance" – L to R: Syd Finlay, Karen Crossman, Ron Vickress, John Dillon and Dawn Grassick.**



**Right – Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band in action.**