

AUSSIE-SCOTS NEWS

NEWSLETTER , NO 86

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2007



A publication of the AUSTRALIAN SCOTTISH COMMUNITY (Qld) Inc.
PO Box 3188, SOUTH BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND 4101
Ph 07 3359 8195 Email: editor@aussie-scots.org.au ABN 27 277 574 370
Web Site: www.aussie-scots.org.au

OUR AIM: "To collaborate with other Scottish and Celtic Groups to maintain, promote and advance the Scots culture and Heritage in Australia.

THE PINE RIVERS FESTIVAL HILLS CARNIVALE 2ND JUNE 2007

It was a fine overcast day. The ground was spacious and excellent, and the layout of the stalls etc was very good. The entertainment was of a high quality with a Scottish flavour to it with 2 pipe bands, the Clan Stewart Pipe Band, the City of Brisbane Pipe Band and the Isle of Skye Highland Dancers. The program also included the Danish Dance group. There was plenty to keep all ages busy from face painting etc, Dodgem Cars, to Rock Climbing for most ages. The stalls were of a large variety and excellent wares. The food stalls included Smoke Fired pizzas and Aussie Burgers. Those who did not attend missed out on an excellent day and well worth attending next year. It is about time Scottish people of all ages got behind these events and showed that there is still some life left in the Scots.
(Editor)

11th International Tartan Day 2007

Tartan Day was held at The Cultural Forecourt, South Bank. We had beautiful weather, no gusty winds or rain. The morning started out cold warming up during the day and cooling down to cold in the afternoon. Scotch on The Rocks as always did an excellent job in entertaining us, Brian Bisset and Warrick Jacks did a wonderful job in keeping the program flowing. The Pipe Bands were a pleasure to listen to and with Brian Hornig leading them in the massed band they were a wonderful sight to see and hear. It is always good to see so many different kilts which makes for a very colourful display. The Gaelic Dream Scottish and Celtic Dance Troupe are great entertainers with their dancing, which is very fast and precisely performed. Their singing and instrument playing is always a pleasure to listen to. The Scottish Country Dancers had a large number of children dancing with them from their children's classes. These classes are designed for the children to learn not only to dance but also about the Scottish Culture. It was a pleasure to watch the whole group dancing. The Scottish Highland Dancers from both the St Andrews School of Highland Dancing and the Isle Skye School of Highland Dancing performed beautifully. It is always interesting to learn about the origins of the dances performed by the students. For the first time at Tartan Day we had Kathleen She has a beautiful voice and entertained us excellently, she has a number of CDs she has made and was selling them on the day. I hope she will be available for Tartan Day next year.

Also for the first time at Tartan Day was the Brothers at Arms who gave us a display of the science and art of sword fighting. This is a group where you can be taught this art in the ancient way of fighting battles.

Our Scotty Dog mascots with their owner and trainer, Beril Williams as always were entertaining and a great favourite of the children. They are a great credit to Beril who puts a lot of work into her mascots, well done. The stalls as always had a large range of quality Scottish wares. These stalls are well patronised by the public and we hope to see them all next year.

The Clans etc who participate on the day spend a lot of their time answering questions on their clans, and are a great attraction. The Brisbane Clans Pipes and Drums sold wonderful shortbread and Scottish tablet which we all enjoy.

Our own stand with craft made by some of our members and other members answering questions on the Clans and all things Scottish was well patronised.

The Scottish Time Line is progressing slowly, we had a small sample on display this year and we are hoping to have it on screen in the near future.

This year for the first time the Griffith University Lions Club produced a big sausage sizzle to keep our energy up so everybody could cope with the day. The funds made from the sausage sizzle will help their on going projects for disadvantaged and handicapped children.

The Australian Scottish Community thank all those who took part in the day and hoped you had a good and enjoyable day.
(Editor)

TARTAN DAY IN MACLEAN 7th July

Ian and I went to Maclean for their Tartan Day celebrations. It was an enjoyable trip but slow because of the road works between Ballina and Maclean. On Saturday the program including Jocks in Kilts, Scottish Highland and Country Dancing, the Maclean Pipe Band, Haggis throwing, and Wheelbarrow races. There were a good crowd of people from surrounding districts who attended this event. Both Ian and myself had an enjoyable time. While we were there we also went shopping and then visited the Historical Museum and Genealogical Society, this is well worth a visit if you are in the area. On the way home we took an inland route though Woodburn, Lismore, Murwillumbah and Nimbin so joining onto the Gold Coast Highway near Currumbin. These roads were narrow but mostly in good condition.*(Editor)*

Flora MacDonald's Lament

Far over yon hills of the heather sae green,
And down by the corrie that sings to the sea,
The bonnie young Flora sat sighing her lane-
The dew on her plaid, and the tear in her ee.
She looked at a boat, wi' the breezes that swung
Away on the wave, like a bird of the main;
And aye as it lessened, she sighed and she sung:
'Fareweel to the lad I shall ne'er see again!'

The muir-cock that craws on the brow o' Ben Connal,
He kens o' his bed in a sweet mossy hame;
The eagle that soars o'er the cliffs o' Clan Ronal',
Unawed and unhunted, his eyrie can claim.
The solan can sleep on his shelf o' the shore,
The cormorant roost on his rock o' the sea;
But ah ! There is one whose hard fate I deplore,
Nor house, ha', nor hame, in this country has he.
The conflict is past, and our name is no more;
There's nought left but sorrow for Scotland and me.

The target is torn from the arm of the just,
The helmet is cleft on the brow of the brave,
The claymore for ever in darkness must rust;
But red is the sword of the stranger and slave.
The hoof of the horse, and the foot of the proud
Have trod o'er the plumes on the bonnets of blue:
Why slept the red bolt in the brest of the cloud,
When tyranny revelled in blood of the true?
Fareweel, my young hero, the gallant and good!
The crown of thy fathers is torn from thy brow.

James Hogg.

A 107-year-old car, built in Glasgow by the Argyll Motor Company, was sold at auction for £113,700. The first owner paid £258 for the car when it was new. The Argyll 5hp spindle rear entrance Tonneau has not been driven for the last 68 years. Indeed, it has spent the last 45 years in the living room of an eccentric artist from Dublin. *Rampant Scotland News-*

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JAMES RUSE 1760—1837

Pioneer and Smallholder

He was born in Launceston, Cornwall on 29th July 1782. He was convicted of burglarious breaking and entering at Bodmin Assizes. His capital sentence was changed to transportation to Africa for 7 years. Then followed 5 years in the hulks at Plymouth until being transported on the First Fleet to New South Wales on the Scarborough in 1787.

In July 1789 he claimed his sentence was complete and asked for a land grant. In November 1789 Phillip permitted him to occupy an allotment near Parramatta because he knew Ruse to be industrious and because he was anxious to discover how long it would take an emancipist to become self-sufficient.

Ruse reported: 'I dug in the ashes, and then hoed it, never doing more than eight or perhaps nine rods a day, not just scratching over like the government farm. Then I clod-moulded it and dug in the grass and weeds; this I think almost equal to ploughing. I then let it lie as long as I could, exposed to air and sun; and just before I sowed my seed I turned it all up afresh.' He proved to be not only a hard worker but an enlightened farmer who made effective use of the limited means at his disposal. In February 1791 he was fully able to support himself and in December also took over the maintenance of his wife and child.

The Deed of grant for the 30 acres promised to Ruse if successful—the first land grant issued in Australia was signed on 22nd February 1791.

In 1793 Ruse sold his farm to John Harris and the following year began to clear another 40 acre grant on the Hawkesbury. He obtained the title in 1797 and lived there for many years. Ruse died in 1837 and is buried in St John's churchyard, Campbelltown.

His tombstone bears the inscription:

'My mother Reread Me Tenderley
With Me She Took Much Paines,
And when I Arivd In This Coelney
I sewd the Forest Grain. And Now
With My Hevenly Father I Hope
For Ever to Remain.'

(From The People Who Made Australia Great)

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE KIDS
WHO WERE BORN IN THE
1920's, 30's 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's !!**

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes or cervical cancer.

Then after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a Ute on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

Take away food was limited to fish and chips, Pies & Chinese, no pizza shops, McDonalds, KFC, Subway or Red Rooster.

Even though all the shops closed at 6.00pm and didn't open on the weekends, somehow we didn't starve to death!

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner store and buy fruit tingles and some crackers to blow up frogs with.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because.....

WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. We built tree houses and cubby houses and played in creek beds with matchbox cars.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....

WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no Lawsuits from these accidents.

Only girls had pierced ears!

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross buns at Easter time.....no really!

We were given BB guns and sling shots for our 10th birthdays.

We drank milk laced with Strontium 90 from cows that had eaten grass covered in nuclear fallout from the atomic testing at Maralinga in 1956.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or just yelled for them!

Mum didn't have to go to work to help dad make ends meet! Footy had tryouts and not everyone made the team.

Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

Our teachers used to belt us with big sticks and leather straps and bully's *always* ruled the playground at school.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. **They actually sided with the law!**

Our parents got married *before* they had children and didn't invent stupid names for their kids like "Kiora"

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 70 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned.

And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.

Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?!

PS -The big type is because your eyes are shot at your age.
(Sorry I had no room for the big type)

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

And YOU are one of them!

CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good.

(So I have passed it on by printing it in this newsletter I was born in the mid 1940's and I remember this very well)

Editor

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Tidal Energy From Scottish Power The utility company Scottish Power has teamed up with a Norwegian tidal energy company to create a new organisation to test an "underwater windmill" off the shores of Britain, providing renewable energy from tidal power. In 2003, Norwegian company Hammerfest Stroem built the world's first tidal turbine to supply power to the Norwegian commercial electricity grid. The company claims that Britain is the most attractive place in Europe for tidal energy, not just because of locations, but also support structures from government. It is planned to have a prototype turbine installed in Scottish waters during 2009.

Rampant Scotland Newsletter (Maybe our own government might like to look at Tidal Energy)

Outlook Tower and Camera Obscura Just below Edinburgh Castle is a Camera Obscura and Outlook Tower, set up by Maria Theresa Short, daughter of Thomas Short, the astronomer and optician who set up the Observatory of Carlton Hill.

Maria returned from the West Indies to discover she had no rights to her father's old observatory, now operated by the Edinburgh Astronomical Institution. She demanded the return of equipment, including telescopes and a camera obscura. She set up a commercial exhibit on Carlton Hill and operated this until she was evicted in 1850.

In 1853, she acquired the old 17th Century townhouse of the Ramsays of Dalhousie on Castle hill and added further storeys to provide an appropriate platform for her equipment. Short's Observatory, a museum of scientific and other curiosities, came into being. The building and the museum were refurbished by town-planner Sir Patrick Geddes in 1892. In 1955, the 17th Century doorway to the west in Ramsay Lane was installed, being brought from Woolmet House in Midlothian, demolished two years previously.

There is an exhibition of Geddes' work, together with various scientific galleries including holograms and pin-hole photography.

On top of the tower is the camera obscura which is used to project a 'virtual' tour of the city for tourists.

1613 Pinkie House is in Musselburgh, on the River Esk. It was a 16th-century tower house, and was extended in 1613 by Alexander Seton, 1st Earl of Dunfermline. On the death of the 4th Earl in 1694, the house passed to John Hay, 2nd Earl and 1st Marquess of Tweeddale. Prince Charles Edward Stuart stayed at Pinkie on 31st October, 1745, after the Battle of Prestonpans. It was sold to the Hope family in 1778, who made various additions, including a stable-block by architect John Paterson in 1800 and interior modifications, together with some 'baronialisation' by William Burn in 1825. Inside are some fine rooms, such as the Long Gallery, with a well preserved tempera ceiling. The King's Room was built for King Charles I, who stayed there when he came north for his coronation in 1637.

Since 1951, Pinkie has been a boarding house for Loretto School and in 1971, two further houses (named Seton and Hope) were added in its grounds.

Bronze Age Cemetery Found on Barra Researchers on the TV Channel 4 archaeology programme "Time Team" have uncovered a Bronze Age cemetery on the island of Barra in the Western Isles. Over 50 archaeologists and a television crew undertook a three-day dig at the Allasdale sand dunes and uncovered 4000-year-old burial kists (small stone boxes used as coffins), some containing perfectly preserved skeletons. They also discovered the foundations of a stone wheel house (so named as its internal walls resemble the spokes of a wheel) and two Iron Age round houses, as well as whale, seal and sheep bones. The site was initially highlighted after storms in 2005 had moved sand dunes, exposing some relics. Post-excavation tests in the next few months are expected to reveal all kinds of details about life and death on Barra as far back as 2000BC. *Rampant Scotland Newsletter*

Try Harder Donald was lying on the operating table, about to undergo surgery at the hands of his only son. Donald looked up and said: "Remember lad - if anything happens to me, your mother would have to come and live with you..."

HEATHER MIXTURE
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1603 THE BATTLE OF GLEN FRUIN 7.2.1603

A savage inter clan battle occurred at Glen Furin near Loch Lomond. 300 men of Clan MacGregor, with men from the MacDonalds and MacIans of Glencoe, Robertsons, Macleans and "some Camerons." fought with Clan Colquhoun, the Buchanans and the burgesses of Dumbarton. This desperate battle resulted in the defeat of the Colquhouns and the outlawing of the unfortunate MacGregors, who were armed with "halberschois, powaixes, twa-handit swordies, bowis and arrowis, and with hagbutia and pistletis. "The Colquhouns, numbered three hundred mounted men and five hundred foot, they were soundly defeated by the MacGregor contingent. The armies met in Glen Fruin (the Field of Lennox), which runs westward from Loch Lomond. Among the slain was John Dhu MacGregor also known as " Black John of the Mail" from the black chain mail he wore in battle. John, the brother of the Chief of the MacGregors, Allaster MacGregor, was killed by an arrow aimed by a young man named Maclintock who succeeded in shooting through the neck joint of his chain mail.

Devastation and spoliation of the battle was vast. 140 Colquhouns, including women and children were slaughtered, large numbers of horses, cattle, sheep and goats were carried off and the houses of the tenantry burned to the ground. On April 3, 1603, King James VI visited Dumbarton, near Glen Fruin, to meet Alexander Colquhoun, the clan chief, and ninety widows of the Colquhouns. He expressed great sympathy for them and took instant and severe measures against the unfortunate MacGregors. He decreed that the dreaded name of MacGregor was proscribed from this time forward. All MacGregors will henceforth assume other names upon the penalty of death. No person shall use the name of Gregor or MacGregor in the realms of Scotland. A price was put upon the heads of 70-80 of the MacGregors by name and their confederates from other clans. All who took part in the battle, now know as the " Slaughter of Lennox" were prohibited from carrying any weapon other than a knife to eat their meat. Between May 20, 1603 and March 4, 1604 thirty five of the clan were taken prisoner and executed after trial. Among them was Alastdair MacGregor the chief of the clan.

This battle occurred because the MacGregors were an outlaw clan, who were in constant conflict with their neighbours and the King. They committed violent acts of murder and thievery upon the more prosperous low country, especially around Dumbartonshire, territory of the Colquhouns. They constantly raided their neighbours and stole their cattle, horses and other property, murdered the tenant farmers and burned their houses. The Clan Colquhoun supported the Scottish Crown and had taken part in the " Letters of Fire and Sword" issued by the crown against the MacGregors some years earlier. This added fuel to the feud between the two clans. The "Letters of Fire and Sword" was a proclamation of the King because of the violent and criminal acts committed by the MacGregors upon other clans. As the King's sheriffs and military were unable to protect the law abiding clans from ravages by the MacGregors. The "Letters of Fire and Sword" permitted other clans to aid the King in punishment of the MacGregors for their criminal acts by putting them to the sword and burning their dwellings without fear of punishment by the Crown. Conflict between the two clans had existed for years prior to

1603, because the Colquhouns had taken part in carrying out this commission from the King.

Atrocities were committed on both sides as the MacGregors would raid the Colquhouns and the injured clan would retaliate. In December 1602 the MacGregors made a regular raid on the Colquhoun lands at Glen Finlas and carried off a number of sheep and cattle and slew several of the tenants. Alexander Colquhoun, who had complained to the Privy Council against the Earl of Argyll for not repressing the MacGregors went to Stirling Castle to appear before his majesty James VI, accompanied by a number of female relatives of his clansmen who had been killed or wounded at Glen Finlas, each one riding a white horse and carrying a bloody shirt of her relative, to implore the king to avenge the wrongs done them by the McGregors. It is suspected that some of the blood was sheep's blood as well as human blood. This ruse had a profound effect upon the King who was known to be very sensitive to the sight of blood and descriptions of a bloody battle scene.

The King immediately granted a commission of lieutenancy to Alexander Colquhoun, granting him power to hunt down and apprehend the McGregors and repress similar crimes. This commission from the King infuriated the McGregors, who arose in a lawless rage to defy the Colquhouns with the attack at Glen Fruin as the ultimate consequence. Within ten years of Glen Fruin most of them were either dead, run off their lands or in Government hands.

The Colquhoun family or " Clan Colquhoun " has the distinction of claiming the oldest unbroken inherited lairdship in Scotland. The family has held their property for 840 years. The other clan territories around Loch Lomond have all been purchased by other landowners. Sir Ivar Colquhoun is the 31st owner of the original family lands and the 33rd of the Lands of Luss. He continues to maintain his home at Camstradden near the Georgian Mansion, Rossdhu, on the land of his ancestors. Rossdhu mean "Black Headland" in Gaelic. It is located on a wooded peninsula surrounded on three sides by Loch Lomond and has been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan Colquhoun since it was built in 1772 by Sir James Colquhoun 23rd of Colquhoun and 22nd of Luss.

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DIARY DATES

Saturday 4th August Children's Scottish Country Dance Class
St Brigid's Church Hall, 78 Musgrave Rd Red Hill. 4.30 pm to 6 pm.
\$3 per child or \$8 per family. Contact Heather 3266 9131

Saturday 18th August Queensland Irish Assn Pipe Band Debutante
Ball, Qld Irish Club Elizabeth St Contact 3849 8271 or 3848 9588

Sunday 19th August Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. 11.30am Meeting starts 12.30pm. Finishing time 3.00

Sunday 19th August Historical Ormiston House Spring Garden Party
Contact 3824 1285

Saturday 25th August Ipswich Gathering of the Clans

Little Athletics Oval—Limestone Park, Lion St, Ipswich.

Saturday 1st September Family Ceilidh Saturday 4.30pm – 8.30pm St
Brigid's Church Hall, 78 Musgrave Rd Red Hill. Contact Heather
3266 9131

Sunday 16th September Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

**Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms,
27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, look for
Aussie Scots Sign. 11.30am Meeting starts 12.30pm.**

Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary.

Saturday 6th October Beenleigh Historical Village Octoberfest.

Saturday 6th October Historical Ormiston House Music Under The
Stars, Timeless Classics **Bookings essential 3824 1285**

**Refer to Flyer—The Flying Scotsman—Graeme Obree always had
to fight for survival. Movie release 9th August Australia wide.**

ROSNEATH CASTLE stood near Campsail Bay. In the 16th century
the Castle and it's lands were confiscated from the Lennox family by
the Crown, and given to the Campbell Earls of Argyll. In 1630, the
Marquis of Argyll used Rosneath as a subsidiary residence to Inveraray
Castle. It was modernised and extended for Archibald Campbell, the 3rd
Duke, by William and John Adam, later Robert Mylne advised on fur-
ther enhancements. In 1802, it was destroyed by fire, and replaced by a
new, neo-classical mansion constructed near the original site, between
1803 and 1805. HRH Princess Louise, Dowager Duchess of Argyll,
resided there until her death in 1939, the house and estate were sold,
ending the area's connection with royalty and the Clan Campbell.
During World War I, the mansion was used as a military hospital.
During World War II, it became Rosneath House, headquarters for
Rosneath Naval Base.

The house was abandoned in 1947, and the base closed in 1948.

The house was destroyed by fire, then demolished in 1961.

RENEWALS DUE FROM 1ST JULY.

**For office purposes to
bring all memberships
into line some renewals
were only for six
months. This makes all
renewals for 2008/9 will
be due on the 1st July.**

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