

AUSSIE-SCOTS NEWS

NEWSLETTER , NO 130

January –February 2015

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."



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



webpage

Our hearts and minds are with the people of Glasgow with another Christmas tragedy. So sad and with the helicopter crash of the previous Christmas still fresh in memory.



facebook

Aussie Scots break up party with entertainment courtesy of Brian Bissett and Bruce Davidson of Scotch on the Rocks. Many thanks Brian and Bruce and a Merry Xmas to you both

Just a note to all that Tartan Day 2015 will be on the 2nd Saturday of July the 11th owing to another body booking KGS. A mix up in paperwork. Please let everyone you can think of about the change of dates.



Forms are going out now to all pipe bands and entertainers about the change of dates for Tartan Day 2015 .

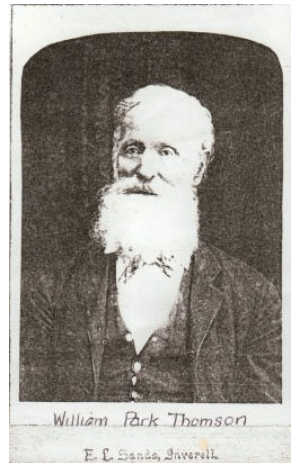
Please note it is now the 11th of July, the second Saturday in the month



EARLY SCOTS IN QUEENSLAND PRE-SEPARATION



William Park Thom(p)son was born Westerkirk Scotland 1823 and met and married Mary Elizabeth Fraser in Perth Scotland in 1847. After the birth of two children at Kinfauns he became Head Gardener at Parkhill Estate in St Vidgeans in Forfarshire where Mary gave birth to a son. Here in Australia, a partnership of Robert Ramsay MacKenzie later Treasurer of Queensland and Louis Hope of Ormiston later "Lord" had a property called Rosalie Plains Station near Oakey. They needed a horticulturalist to assist at that property. In the 1800s Scots were recognised as the best you could get in that field. Ramsay had relatives near to Parkhill who knew William and he was made an offer to come to Australia. Arriving here c1854 William and his family settled down at Rosalie Plains. Two girls were born during their stay Susan and Agnes. Susan Ramsay Thompson became very ill and the family came down to Brisbane in 1859 with the assistance of Ramsay and Hope to be near a doctor. Hospital was not an option as Hospitals at that time did not take children under the age of 5. Louis Hope provided, at peppercorn rent, one of his properties along the banks of Norman Creek stretching from beside the current bridge near the Brisbane River to up where the Church of England Grammar School now sits.



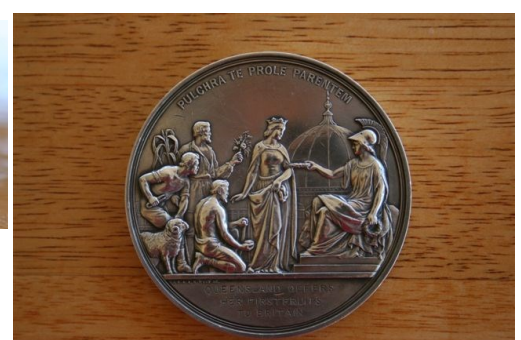
Susan Ramsay passed away that year and the family stayed on. William farmed the land and the family increased by 3 more girls and one boy. Sadly the last born Eva Mowbray Thompson only survived 9 months. William obviously had a green thumb as his produce consistently won major prizes at the Horticultural Exhibitions at the Botanic Gardens in the 1860s and early 1870s.

An extract from the Courier 1864: Concerning the Annual Horticultural Exhibition held at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens: **To Mr. W. P. Thompson, of Norman's Creek, belongs the honour of producing the best collection of vegetables, and winning the "Weekly Herald Medal". The prize is certainly a very handsome and worthy one. On one side is a wheat sheaf, surrounded by a laurel wreath, on the other the following inscription "Presented by the proprietor of the Weekly Herald, January 14th, 1864". The medal was manufactured at the establishment of Mr. Kosvitz, Queen Street. Mr. Thompson got also the first prize for carrots, the second for sweet potatoes, the first for cabbage, the first for turnips, and the second for water melons. It should have been mentioned that the collection included, besides the vegetables mentioned, cucumbers, peas, beans, parsley, four sorts of herbs, onions, pumpkins, and vegetable marrows. He exhibited also, earthnuts and maize.** There were many other fruits and vegetables mentioned over the years.



Every year this was a similar story and when you look at other prize winners such as Louis Hope and Walter Hill and so on, that he consistently surpassed over the period of time he farmed that land he certainly was versatile. He also exhibited cotton at the delayed 1862 Expo in London. This cotton was grown on what is now the Church of England Grammar School main oval. In 1872 William took the family to Canal Creek near Leyburn to fossick and leaving the older girls in Goodna he built two oxen drawn drays, one with a blacksmiths and kitchen built on it and the other with a bedroom and storeroom ventured to Stanthorpe tin mining. Crossing rivers and creeks with logs strapped to the sides to aid flotation he then moved to Vegetable Creek now Emmaville where his much loved wife Mary passed away suddenly on their daughter Cecilia's 14th birthday. Mary is buried incorrectly under Mary Park Thompson instead of Mary Elizabeth and is recorded in the NSW BDMs also incorrectly. His 3rd born William Fraser Thompson stayed in Vegetable Creek for a while as postmaster and had something to do with the first medical fund in NSW and was involved with the building up of the hospital there. He later became a draper in Inverell. William Park passed away in 1897 in Inverell and was buried at Ross Hill. His grave amongst others lie under the present school there.

The medal William received in the 1862 London Exposition regarding the bale of cotton he sent.





Clan Fraser society of Australia
www.clanfraser.org.au
 e-mail: clanfraser@gmail.com



A WEE BIT O' SCOTLAND



RADIO 4EBFM 98.1

2.15 -4.30 PM THURSDAY

GLOBAL Digital Radio

2.00 – 3.00 PM SUNDAY



Clan Donald Society of Queensland

www.clandonaldqld.org

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Clan Lamont Society of Australia

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Clan Thompson

[Www.clanthompson.org](http://www.clanthompson.org)

Email: Ernestt481@optusnet.com.au

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SEAN CAIRNEY, Australian Editor

PO Box 6202 Marrickville South,

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TARTAN DAY BAND

"Scotch on the Rocks"

Contact: Brian Bisset (07) 3298 6538

Mob: 0412 572 040

No. of Players : Three

Instruments: Keyboard, Accordion, Percussion and Vocals



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CHRISTMAS IN EDINBURGH







AND MORE XMAS EDINBURGH



Beginners Scottish Gaelic Class 2015

Location:

Brisbane Square Library

266 George Street

Brisbane 4000

Community Meeting Room (Ground Level).

There are tea/coffee making facilities in the community room, just bring along a tea/coffee bag. Some people find the parking expensive.

To cut down on expense, some drive to a suitable train station and then catch the train to Central Station and walk up the Mall to the library.

Contact: Diane Lingard (07) 3269 1761/0407 158 781

or email: dianelingard@optusnet.com.au

The classes are designed for people with no exposure to the Gaelic who would like to be able to use some Gaelic phrases and make a little conversation in the language.

This is an initiative of the Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia

SEE DATES AND TIMES BELOW

(4th Sunday of month)

Beginners: 10:30am - 12noon

2PM

22 March, 2015

Continuing: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

24 May, 2015

26 July, 2015

Tiered Theatre

23 August, 2015

Sundays: 10.00am – 2.00pm

27 September, 2015

22 February, 2015

22 November, 2015

19 April, 2015

20 December, 2015

28 June, 2015

Sandy: " Fiona, here's your engagement ring."

Fiona: " But this diamond has a flaw in it."

Sandy " You shouldn't notice that - we are in love, and love is blind."

Fiona: " Not stone blind."

Nurse:" Dr. MacLeod, there's a man in the waiting room who claims he's invisible"

Dr MacLeod: " Tell him I canna see him."

Sandy stepped up to the tee and drove off. The ball sailed straight down the fairway, leaped onto the green, and rolled into the hole. Sandy threw his club in the air with excitement.

" What have you suddenly gone crazy about ? " asked his wife, who was trying to learn something about the game.

" Why, I just got a hole-in-one," yelled Sandy, a wild gleam of delight in his eyes.

" Did you ? " asked his wife very calmly.

" Do it again, Sandy, I didn't see you."

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SCOTS HOLIDAY LAUGHTER



" And how is your new Minister getting on ? " the villager was asked.
" Oh fine, I think, " was the reply, " but he's hardly settled in yet. "
" But they tell me he is one of the kind that doesn't believe in Hell. "
" Well, " came the grim rejoinder, " He'll not be here long before he changes his mind. "

* * *

The day of the funeral had come and gone and the old widow was receiving a visit of condolence from some of her friends in the village who were reminding her life was indeed brief.

" It's just the way of the world, Mrs McKay, " said one of them with some word of comfort.
" Here today and gone tomorrow ! " was the matter-of-fact reply, " just like the Circus ! "

* * *

Andrew had been busy for a long time in clearing some very rough ground as an extension to his garden. After months of toil he was at last seeing some of the fruits of his labors and, with pardonable pride, was admiring the display of blooms and vegetables when the Minister approached with a smile of approval.
" Well Andrew, " he began, " I must say that you and the Creator have between you have done a grand job on this ground. "

But Andrew was not too pleased about the division of credit.

" Maybe so, " he replied, " maybe so -- but you should have seen it when the Creator had it all to Himself. "

* * *

A Scottish farmer was in his field digging up his potatoes.

An American farmer looked over the fence and said

"In Texas we grow potatoes 5 times larger than that!"

The Scotsman replied " Ah but we just grow them for our own mouths son!"

* * *

A philosophical Scotland supporter on the train south to attend the Scotland versus England soccer match was heard to comment: *"No matter if we win or lose this game, we will still be winners in the game of life, because when our opponents wake up tomorrow they'll still be English and we won't."*

* * *

An elderly Scotsman goes into a Chemists shop. He says to the assistant - I have a headache, have you any aspirin. Certainly sir, she replies. Would you like 50 or 100. No, the Scotsman says, just the one. I've only got one headache.

* * *

Hamish took his lass for a wee drive on his motorbike. As they were gaun by a hot dog stand she sighed, " My, thae hot dogs smell really nice." "If ye jist haud on a meenit", said young Hamish with great gallantry. " I'll drive a wee bittie closer so ye can smell them better".

* * *

Little Sandy was in the habit of sucking his thumb all the time. His mother tried everything to break him of the habit. Finally, one day she pointed to a fat man with a very large stomach and said that the man had grown his stomach because he did not stop sucking his thumb. The next day the child was with his mother in a supermarket, and he kept staring at a woman with a stomach that was obviously not normal. In fact the woman was very pregnant. Finally the irate woman said to the child,
" Stop staring at me like that. You don't know who I am." " No, " said the boy, " but I do know what you have been doing."

* * *

Sandy was showing the tourists the historical places of the area as he drove the large tourist bus through central Scotland

" Here at Bannockburn we hammered the might of the English..... "

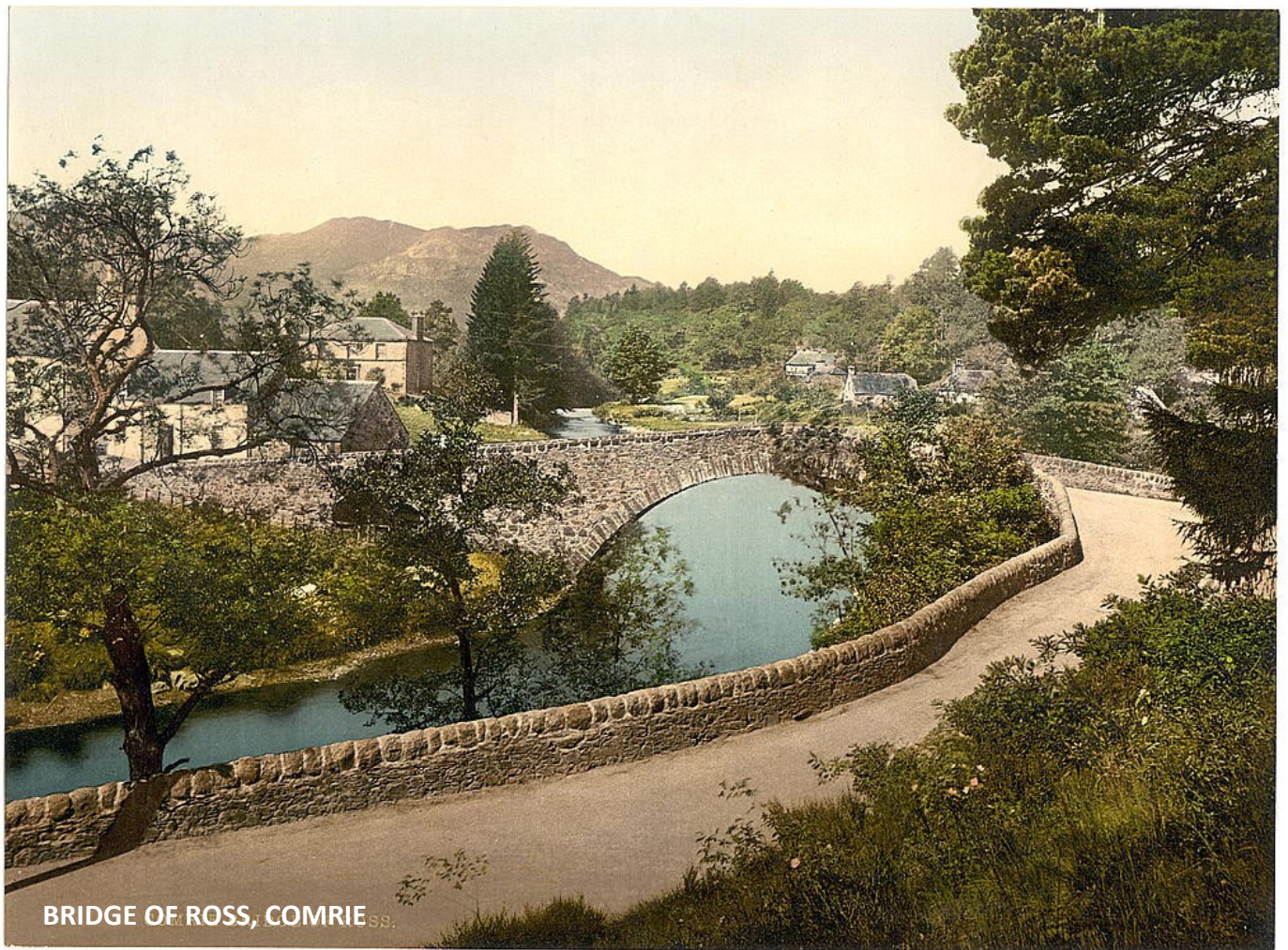
They moved on. " Here we thrashed the brutal English. " A little further.

" On this spot, ladies and gentlemen, we knocked the unholy lard out of a crowd of English redcoats in spite of their treachery."

An English tourist grew understandably irate.

" Look, " he said, " surely the English must have beaten the Scots some place or other ? "

Sandy glared. " Not on this bus, anyway, " he growled.



BRIDGE OF ROSS, COMRIE SS:



BRIG O' TURKS, TROSSACHS



DIARY DATES 2015

Sunday 18th January 2015 Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary 0435 326 206

Sunday 15th February 2015 Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary 0435 326 206

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Sunday 19th April 2015 Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary 0435 326 206

19th Tartan Day 2015

Saturday 11th July

Please note 2nd Saturday not 1st as usual

TOUCH OF TARTAN
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Long ago,
When people cursed
and beat the ground
with sticks it was
called witchcraft.

**Now it's
called golf**



If you can catch him, he must give you his pot of haggis.

A possible reason for the Highland Fling could be the long thistles in the heather.

The Englishman came into the garage, walked up to the parking space, and, squatting down, went through the motions of driving a car. "MacDonald," said a shocked customer, "why don't you tell the poor man he doesn't have a car?" "Are you crazy? He pays me \$5 to wash it every time he comes into the garage."

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Phone: 3403 7690 Fax: 3403 7693
Email: mcdowall.ward@ecn.net.au