



Macdonald of Macdonald



Clan Ranald



Glengarry



Sleat



Keppoch  
Glencoe

# *Chlainn Domhnaill*

*By sea and by land*

*Newsletter  
of the  
Clan Donald Society  
of  
Queensland*

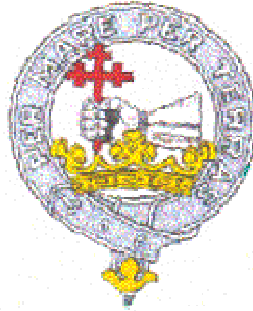
*NOVEMBER – DECEMBER*

*2006*



Nollaig Chridheil agus Skaubte, Sonas Sith agus gach  
beannachd eile anns a Bhliadhna Tha Tighinn'

[Merry Christmas and Health, Happiness, Peace  
and every other blessing in the coming year.]



From the Commissioner, President, Committee and members of  
Clan Donald Society Queensland.

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Editorial: A chairdean Ionmhainn mo Chinnidh,  
[dear Clansmen and Clanswomen],

The Clan Donald Dinner was a very successful social and clan evening with guest speaker Allan Macdonald of Vallay and wife Lee honouring us from New Zealand. Allan who is Lieutenant of Sir Ian Macdonald Chief of Sleat and a member of the Council of Finlaggan, gave a most interesting and informative presentation on "Clan Donald International," referring to the Clan Donald Lands Trust and The Museum of the Isles, the Chiefs Tour and Forum, the reconstitution of the Council of Finlaggan and other news.

Copies of this will be available on the Qld. Clan Donald web site.

Chiefs Tour, Forum and Gathering on Skye, from 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2007. For particulars Contact: Roddy Macdonald, Clan Donald web site:  
[clandonald.org.uk/chiefs/tour](http://clandonald.org.uk/chiefs/tour)

The legal argument with Historic Scotland to allow restoration of Castle Tioram continues with Historic Scotland only talking negatively of 'monument' and 'ruins.'

Le deagh dhurachd,

*Malcolm C. McDonald.*  
Castle Dunaverty Councillor,  
Council of Finlaggan.

## Presidents Report:

Hi all,

Well another Clan Donald dinner has come and gone. A great evening was had by all who attended. The main door prize was won by Les McAndrew and a bottle of fine single malt whisky was given to the retiring Commissioner, Malcolm McDonald. Guest speaker, Allan MacDonald of Vallay's speech was most interesting with much interesting information provided regarding events overseas for the clan. His pet topic being genealogy and in particular the use of DNA profiling for region of origin. I suggest those interested in discovering the origins and lineage of your particular branch of the Clan should do the DNA test.

Else where in this newsletter there is an article about a much missed friend and clan member who passed away recently. Gail Kreisch contracted motor neurone disease which progressed quickly leading to her untimely passing, our thoughts are with Gail and her grieving family.

The Stones brought back from Scotland by Malcolm have been sent and the plaque has been ordered to be made and ready for installation at next years Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes during May. There will be a ceremony and unveiling on the Saturday during the festival.

There will be a group of us going for the Clan Donald Queensland Stone ceremony, so anyone interested in joining us should contact the secretary.

Our web site is now active and material is constantly being loaded so make sure you visit to find out the latest facts and goings on.

The address is [www.clandonaldqld.org](http://www.clandonaldqld.org) or you can use one of the search engines to find our site. Anyone wanting to contribute information, articles, photos etc. should contact me or our secretary Sue or Email us at: [secretary@clandonaldqld.org](mailto:secretary@clandonaldqld.org)

The Christmas lunch will be held at Sue Brkich's home for 12 noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, all members are welcome so give Sue a ring for arrangements. I wish everyone an enjoyable time.

Finally, I would like to say on behalf for Clan Donald Society of Queensland, have a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Cameron Macdonald.  
President



L to R  
A. Grahame MacDonald  
Allan Macdonald of Vallay  
Malcolm McDonald Castle Dunaverty Councillor



Clan Donald Dinner 2006

## VALE – Lorraine Gail Kriesch. 1943 –2006

Gail Kriesch (nee Butterworth) with her late husband Lang Kriesch was a strong member of Clan Donald Society Queensland.

Gail and Lang were inaugural members when the Queensland Society was reconstituted in 1990 -

I could do no better than refer back to the Clan Donald Newsletter of January 1991 to the article "Meet the Treasurer"

Gail Kriesch was born in Collinsville, north Queensland. During her younger years she was a Girl Guide and participated in the sports of swimming and softball and enjoyed dancing. On the completion of her secondary schooling Gail attended Teachers Training College and later left College to join the Public Service in the Department of Customs and Excise.

She married Lang Kriesch in 1962, and as was the custom of the Public Service at the time, she 'retired through marriage'. They had two children, Michael and Karen.

Gail started a new pre-school at St. Ambrose's School at Newmarket. She was Director there for nine years before taking over a Parish Secretary and Book-keeper for many years.

Clan Campbell society initiated the 'Bannockburn Dinner' in 1989 and in 1990, Gail with husband Lang and Blair McDonald assisted Trevor and Mavis Campbell to get the Dinner established. Gail with Clan Donald continued to assist in partnership until 2002 when the cost of Liability Insurance and other costs made the Dinners not viable for Clan Donald.

Gail's partnership with the Clan Donald Society Gail started in June 1990 with her as Treasurer, and with Blair McDonald as President and her daughter Karen as Secretary, she worked to get the Society 'off the ground.' Gail was also the Clan Donald Society representative on the Clans Congress of Queensland and was elected Honorary Secretary of the Clans Congress for 1991.

She and Lang would be there each year with the Clan Donald Banner at the Kirkin' of the Tartan and the various functions. She regularly visited interstate attending at

Bundanoon and the Glen Innes Celtic Festival. Gail was pleased that she and Lang were able to visit the Clan Donald Centre on Skye and sign The Book.

Gail was elected secretary treasurer of the Society in 1995 and continued in that capacity until 1997 when due to circumstance Gail reduced her activities within the Scottish community.

We kept in touch and in March 2003 the Commissioner appointed Gail as a Councillor to the Clan Donald Society of Queensland and she renewed her activity within the Society.

As a member of the Clan Donald Society since 1990 with Gail, I say on behalf of all members, thank you for your long and committed service to a Society you loved and for your Christian values by which you lived your life –

*Malcolm McDonald,*  
IP Commissioner Clan Donald Qld.,  
Member of the Council of Finlaggan.

## GLENGARRY SCOTTISH GAMES

At the Inverness & District Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Dance held in Inverness on Friday, 27 October, 2006, The Chairman, Kirsteen MacCorquodale, announced "The Glengarry Homestead" a 32-bar Strathspey, and being of Macdonell of Glengarry descent - informed the dancers that: "The Glengarry Homestead is situated about 20km east of Geraldton in Western Australia and in August 1995 was the venue for the inaugural "Glengarry Scottish Games".

A Strathspey is a delightful dance and some of the music for it on that night was 'Waltzing Matilda', which was greatly enjoyed. One of the dancers was the late Chief of Glengarry's widow, Lois MacDonell of Glengarry, and she thought it would be interesting to try to find out more about how the dance came to be written so she contacted the Commissioner of Clan Donald Queensland on the east coast of Australia to ask if he might assist.

After days without sleep and at great expense, the author tracked down Faye Smart a Councillor of the Geraldton/Greenough Shire who is a previous owner of "Glengarry" station from 1993-2003; Faye has provided much of the rich history of this famous property.

Thomas and Eliza Brown came from England in 1841, went to York and farmed there, then travelled to the Port of Geraldton, 424 km north of Perth, in 1850 to take up the first pastoral property in the Geraldton/Greenough area which they called "Glengarry." They named the property after Glengarry in Scotland as they had visited Scotland and thought the new property resembled the countryside there.

Mists rise in the valleys surrounding the Greenough River that flows on the eastern boundary.

An original section of the property is still called 'Strathspey', no doubt named by the original Browns.

Dame Edith Cowan (nee Brown) was born at Glengarry on 2nd August 1861 the granddaughter of Thomas and Eliza and daughter of their son Kenneth and his first wife Mary.

Mary died in childbirth when Edith was only 7.

Kenneth and his brother Maitland were explorers and Maitland a Resident Magistrate like his father before him.

Books to read are "Ancient Landmarks" by Mary Albertus Bain and "A Faithful Picture" by Peter Cowan grandson of Dame Edith.

Dame Edith was the first woman elected to the Australian Parliament in 1921. Her portrait is on the current \$50 note. She died in 1932.

The Browns were a very interesting family, pastoralists, writers, explorers, magistrates, parliamentarians, possible murderer (Edith's father Kenneth shot his second wife...a bit of a mystery surrounds this), horse breeders etc. They certainly left their mark in this area and Western Australia.

Faye Smart bought Glengarry in 1993 and set about restoring the magnificent 1910 homestead and the wonderful stables complex over a period of time.

These stables were built from the late 1850's onwards with the help of convict labour. They consist of 4 buildings set around a quadrangle.

A hayshed, buggy shed with tack room and kitchen quarters, a shearing shed and a two storey stables building.

Stables and lunging room circular in shape, which is recognised as the only one in Western Australia if not Australia - all the buildings on the property are now heritage listed including the original 1852 homestead.

#### **The start of the 'Glengarry Homestead Games':**

As a tourism venture Faye Smart ran a Cafe at Glengarry in 1995 and 1996 and in both those years conducted the 'Glengarry Games' which was the idea her friend and chef, Lesley Craig who came from the Isle of Arran.

The 'Glengarry Games:' There were the usual Highland type of games, shotput, hammer throw, caber toss, hill race, races for children, stalls, etc. The Saltire was flown, the Police Pipe Band travelled from Perth to play, and all enjoyed the Ceilidh in the evening.

"Glengarry" hosted two Harvest Concerts which were held outside on the expansive lawns surrounding the homestead and on other occasions Soirees were held inside. "Glengarry" was opened for two Australia's Open Garden Schemes in 2001 and 2002 which were extremely successful with attendances of 750 people and 1000 the second year.

Visitors could have morning, afternoon teas on the verandas, have a guided tour through the homestead, learning of the history of Glengarry and inspecting the magnificent pressed metal ceilings, then at their leisure walk down to the Stables Complex where they could view a brief history and photo boards of the restoration.



Glengarry Homestead 1910 "in the dry".

In 2002 in a good year



Interior of the restored 'Glengarry'  
Faye Smart, 1993-2003 owner.

#### SO, HOW WAS THIS DANCE CHOREOGRAPHED:

In July 2006 Members of the Inverness Branch of the RSCDS travelled to Western Australia to attend the Winter School in Perth - Barbara Boyd had emigrated to Perth, WA and was one of the teachers at the Winter School.

The Glengarry Homestead is one of 13 dances featured in a book called "The Kangaroo Paw" (the Red and Green Kangaroo Paw is the floral emblem of Western Australia). The dances have all been devised by John Brenchley, published by the Western Australia Branch of the RSCDS.

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## HALLOWEEN – in Scotland in the 1950s

How as a lad in Scotland remembers 'Oiche Shamna' ('Halloween') :

It is a carry over of a pagan celebration for the time when the very last of all available harvests were completed and great fires were burned and the people rejoiced.

It was also considered that at this time the barrier between the living and the dead became very fine, to the extent that each could communicate with the other. This was a time of celebration when children could communicate with their deceased parents, but also a time of concern and even fear that the spirits of unknown and unwelcome origin could wander the earth. Clearly the only solution was to be even more frightening than the evil spirits, and to that end terrifying masks were devised and worn by the people to keep them at bay.

When I was a young lad, Halloween was not in any real way celebrated in Ireland, Wales or England. It was very much a Scottish tradition and indeed was not celebrated in England since their great night of festivities was November the Fifth - Guy Fawkes night. Scottish migrants took the festival to Canada, America and Australia.

In Scotland Halloween was essentially for the young. We would disguise ourselves, in our small villages where everyone knew everyone else, and go around in twos or threes, knocking on the various doors of the houses in the village. We would be let in, and the adults in that house would have to guess who we were.

Few children's parents in those days could afford more than pretty basic clothing, the wearing of a face mask scarcely fooled anybody, since they just needed to look at the child from the neck downwards. The cost of top-to-toe fancy dress was well beyond any West Highland village family. However the adults of the house concerned would play the game and go through a tortuous process of pretending to guess until eventually they came up with the correct names.

This was the signal for the masks to be removed, and with good reason, for now the fun began, there would be a basin with apples floating in it and we would have to 'dook' (duck) for an apple with our hands behind our back, and take one out using only our teeth - a pretty difficult task, I can assure you. Or they could be hanging on pieces of string and have to be taken in the same way by the teeth only as they bobbed and swayed with every touch.

There were a number of such challenging tasks to be performed, such as guessing where things were hidden and so forth and if guessed correctly were kept, and when we left for the next house, we were given a few sweeties and maybe 2 or 3 pence to see us on our way. When every house in the village had been visited we went home confident in the knowledge that the next morning we would have at least a shilling we didn't have the night before.

We would generally have terrible stomach ache from eating too many unripe apples, pears or whatever the local orchards had delivered that year.

But there was no question of demanding, there was no question of (however subtly) threatening any household who for whatever reason unknown to us wasn't in a position to be handing out apples, sweeties or a penny or two.

It was delightful good humour, a little bit of spookiness with the masks and the candles in the carved vegetables (we used turnips in those days for there were no pumpkins, at least not in the West Highlands) and generally a night when all generations in the village interacted.

It was essentially good, friendly, innocent village fun.

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#### COMING EVENTS:

This Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Christmas Lunch at secretary Sues residence,  
contact 3356 4779

Society of St. Andrew, St. Andrew's Day Dinner Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Carlton Crest Hotel.

1<sup>st</sup> January, Fred Logan New Year Day Gathering, Petrie Park Nambour.

20<sup>th</sup> January, Brisbane Clans Pipes & Drums Burns Supper, Weller's Hill Bowls Club  
contact 3369 2232 or 3849 8271.

27<sup>th</sup> January, Scottish Clans Congress – Burns Supper at Qld. Irish Club contact  
3397 2615

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#### CLAN DONALD QUEENSLAND.

Malcolm C. McDonald, Esq., OAM.,  
Castle Dunaverty Councillor, Council of Finlaggan (Clan Donald International)  
A. Grahame MacDonald, Esq., Clan Donald Historian.

Clan Donald Society of Queensland.

President – Cameron Macdonald.

Secretary – Sue Brkich.

Delegate to Scottish Clans Congress - Sue Lambkin.

Committee members: R. Macdonald; V. McDonald; J. Mair; J. Mitchell; G. Strange; K. Young; R. Lambkin.

Mailing Address :-

Clan Donald Society of Queensland,  
31 Dunsmore Street,  
Kelvin Grove,  
BRISBANE. QLD. 4059

Editor: email: [malmcdon@westnet.com.au](mailto:malmcdon@westnet.com.au)

*The Clan Donald.*

The great Clan Donald is made up of the families of Mac/Mc Donald, Donaldson, Mc Donell, Donald, and the Septs of the main Clan as well as families who were traditional members of the Clan Donald.

*If you are one of the above names, are traditionally connected by descent, or have a genuine interest in the history and traditions of Clan Donald, you are eligible to apply for membership to the Society.*

*The Clan Donald Society of Queensland bids you welcome, give us a call.*