



Macdonald of Macdonald



Clan Ranald



Glengary



Sleat



Keppoch
Glencoe

Chlainn Domhnaill

By sea and by land

*Newsletter
of the
Clan Donald Society
of
Queensland*

APRIL 2007

EDITORIAL:

CEREMONY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER:

What a great day it was, balmy weather, balcony setting, and accoutrements of: 1 Piper; 1 of Uisge beatha (Glenfidich); 1 of silver Quaich; 1 of eagle feather; 1 of Certificate of appointment; many Clan Donald friends.

On the 17th February Piper Alex McConnell piped the appointee through the gathering to the Installing Officers. The High Commissioner of Clan Donald Australia, Norman A. Macdonald opened the ceremony with a resume of the attributes of the Commissioner elect and then read the Certificate of Installation under his authority. Malcolm McDonald, Castle Dunaverty Councillor of Finlaggan presented Commissioner Cameron Macdonald with the eagle feather denoting his rank as a Commissioner of Clan Donald.

The three in turn, poured a portion of Uisge beatha into the silver Quaich and sealed the ceremony with a shared draft from the Quaich signifying the ancient custom of sharing a blood tie within the Clan. This completed the ceremony of the installation of Cameron Macdonald as Clan Donald Commissioner for Queensland. Guests retired to Lunch and socialising at the residence of Sue and Sam Brkich.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

As usual this year has flown, well literally for me to all parts of Australia, and now the Celtic festival is not far away. Rachael and I will be attending for the official unveiling of our plaque and stones during the weekend. The weekend should be fun as usual with many events and ceremonies to attend.

INSTALLATION:

It was an emotional experience being inaugurated as Commissioner for Clan Donald Queensland during a ceremony that included the out going Queensland Commissioner, Malcolm McDonald and current Australian High Commissioner, Norman Macdonald, and I appreciate the support of all Clansfolk.

All those attending had a great time as well as the neighbours listening to Alex McConnell's bagpipe playing. I would like to thank Sue and Sam for their generous hospitality on the day and the use of their home for the event.

Our next meeting of the Society will be on 2nd June 12 noon at Manchant Park.

CLAN DONALD QUEENSLAND WEBSITE: www.clandonaldqld.org

I still need contributions for the Clan's web site in any format. If you have old stories photos or events that you would like to be displayed, then please contact either myself or our secretary Sue.

Until next time,
Cameron Macdonald.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND 'UPGRADES' THE SITE OF CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD.

Saturday, 14th April, 2007.

The Gaelic Society of Inverness held its Annual Service at the Memorial Cairn on Culloden Battlefield on the 14th April and the Clan Donald group were lead by Piper Sandy MacDonell to the Stone and laid wreaths in memory of ancestors who fell or were taken.

IT WAS A MUCH DIFFERENT DAY TO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS:

The National Trust for Scotland had, (without consultation with interested parties), carried out extensive clearing of the Battlefield site and improved some aspects for visitors, but, only a few weeks before the Anniversary they ploughed through the pathway to the MacDonald markers and made it so difficult to access Marker Stones that the wreath laying group could only attend at the one.

Many of us had written to the Trust requesting access to the MacDonald sites but to no avail, they are a law unto themselves and too bad for any interested parties.

In one reply to our letters we received the following from NTS:

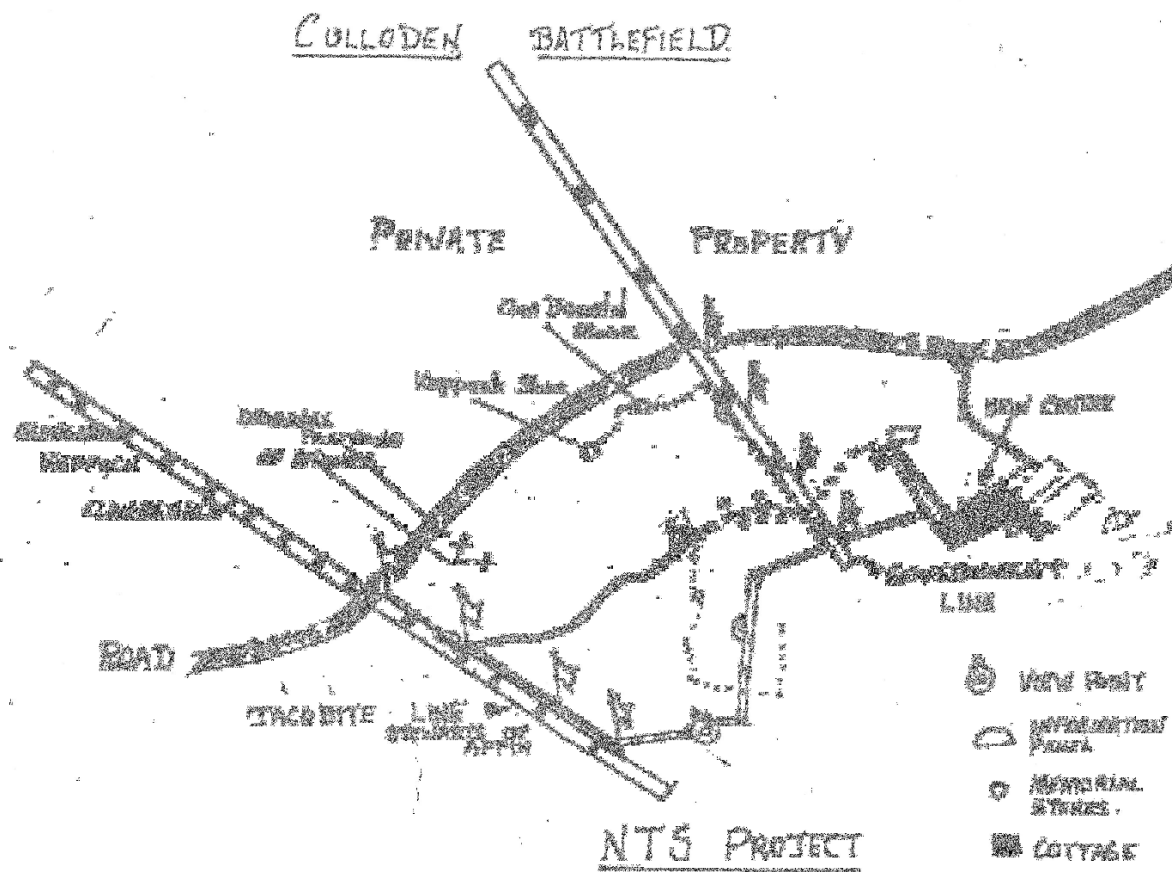
"A Statement on the site as a whole

The NTS has worked very hard to ensure that the impact of visitors to the site is minimised, and instead, to ensure that the conservation of the battlefield is its priority for all time. Interpretation of the battlefield will be by minimum intervention and with the minimum number of interpretation points necessary to present the story.

This will be supported by the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's) to provide 'virtual' information and interpretation of the site.

The site is open and accessible to visitors all year round and in formulating its policies, the Trust will manage the site for the greater good of all. That way, the Trust can ensure that its policies are sustainable and defensible.”

As anyone who has had any dealings with a Government Board such as the National Trust for Scotland, will know that they treat everyone outside the Board members as people of little intelligence and less expertise, BUT, rely on gifts and donations from these very same people.



Digital map available from the editor: malmcdon@westnet.com.au

DATES AND EVENTS:

Glen Innes Celtic Festival – will be celebrated on the 4th, 5th and 6th of May at Glen Innes with Dinners, parades, ceremonies, stalls and a variety of Celtic entertainment.

Kirkin’ of the Tartan – for 9am on Sunday 24 June 2007 at St Patrick’s Catholic Church, 58 Morgan Street, Fortitude Valley followed by Morning Tea in the Parish Centre. Congregation to be seated by 8.45 am to allow for the parade of Banners and the entry of the Official party. Please RSVP David Austin, President of SCCQ, 0412-166-260, by 1st June if attending.

SCCQ Raffle 2007 – will be drawn at morning tea after the Kirkin’ the Tartan on 24 June. Prizes to be (first) Kilt – made to measure in nominated Clan donated by Doug Manger; second prize – electrical voucher to the value of \$150; third prize Qld Tartan Tie and Scarf to the value of \$90 – tickets available from SCCQ delegates.

Tartan Day – Sun 1 Jul 2007.

CLAN DONALD 2007 TOUR: APRIL UPDATE

Due to pressure of work Roddy Macdonald has transferred the organising of the 2007 Tour to Rob McDonald Parker.

The number booked for the Tour to date is 52 with other inquiries pending.

For those still interested in joining the Tour, Rob forwards the following information:-

Single Rooms UK £1,070 or US \$2,140

Shared Rooms (per person) UK £950 or US \$1,900

If any of you who are travelling singly would like to team up with another tourist to bring the cost down, please let me know and I'll do what I can to pair you off.

The programme for the festivities at Armadale and, in summary, for the tour is:

Wed 06/06/07: Assemble & overnight accommodation Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh.

Thu 07/06/07: Travel to Skye with a look at the Invergarry Castle restoration project *en route*.

Thu 07/06/07 to Sun 10/06/07: Accommodation at the Dunollie Hotel, Skye and festivities at Armadale Castle (see attached programme).

Sun 10/06/07 to Mon 11/06/07: 2 nights accommodation at the Stonefield Castle Hotel with a tour of the Mull of Kintyre including Saddell Abbey.

Tue 12/06/07 to Thu 14/06/07: 3 night accommodation at the Machrie Hotel on Islay with a tour of the Island and visits to a distillery and Finlaggan, the home of the medieval Lordship of the Isles.

Fri 15/06/07: A leisurely drive back to Edinburgh.

Please forward inquiries to Rob McDonald Parker rmparker@btinternet.com

and cheques to Rob at:

Rob McDonald Parker

1 East Trinity Road

Edinburgh

EH5 3DZ

THE MASSACRE OF GLENCOE

a report from Ken Jones 13.2.2007:

More than 60 members of the Clan Donald Clan gathered on a windswept hillside to mark the 315th anniversary of the Massacre of Glencoe. It was a snowy February 13 in 1692 that 38 of the Macdonalds of Glencoe were slaughtered at the hands of the Government Redcoats and Campbell militiamen, who, for two weeks, had enjoyed the Clan's hospitality.

A BBC documentary broad-cast the previous week claimed Robert Campbell of Glenlyon, who led the massacre, died of shame just four years later.

The time honoured morning service of Re-quiem Eucharist was conducted by the Rev. Canon Dr Emsley Nimmo, from Aberdeen, at the village's St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

It was followed at noon by a march of clansmen and women and supporters of the Jacobite cause from the bridge of Coe to the Celtic cross monument to the slain Macdonalds at upper Carnoch.

The Rev Canon Nimmo led the open-air service at which the floral tribute was provided by the Clan Donald New Zealand and was laid by the Patron of the Otago branch, Lois MacDonell of Glengarry in the absence of the New Zealand High Commissioner Dr. Donald MacDonald Webster.

Rev. Kenneth Wigston:

Sadly, there was a familiar face missing at the Glencoe Anniversary, the Rev Kenneth Wigston, former village priest and President of the Clan Donald Society of Edinburgh, who was killed in a road accident near his Glencoe home last month, at 78. We all miss his presence and remember his fine personality and the work and support he gave to Clan Donald and members.

CLAN DONALD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND PLAQUE:

At the Glen Innes Celtic Festival on 5th May at 1.30pm on Twynald Hill , Centennial Park, the ceremony for the installation of the Clan Donald Plaque donated by Clan Donald Society Queensland, with stones brought back from Castle Tioram, Loch Oich and Clan Donald Centre Armadale, Scotland, by the immediate past Commissioner Malcolm McDonald. This will be conducted with the participation of Commissioner for Queensland Cameron Macdonald and High Commissioner for Australia Norman Macdonald supported by members of Clan Donald Queensland and New South Wales.

Another lot of proud grandparents:

We congratulate Norman (High Commissioner) and Jan Macdonald for their contribution to the safe and healthy arrival of - Alexander William Macdonald Jones born 9.12 am Friday 30th March 2007 8lb 8oz 23 inches.
We extend all good wishes to Master Alexander and his happy mother and father.

SCOTTISH RECIPE.

Parlies - Scottish Parliament cakes.

8oz. flour

4oz. butter or margarine.

2oz. castor sugar.

1 large egg.

2 tablespoons golden syrup or black treacle.

1 teaspoon ground ginger.

Set the oven to 350 F or Mark 4 and grease a baking tray.

Cream together the butter and sugar in a mixing bowl.

Add the flour, the egg, the syrup and ginger.

Beat well.

Alternatively – put all the ingredients in a blender and mix well but ensure they are at room temperature.

Drop dessertspoonfuls on to the baking tray, leaving room for them to expand.

Bake for 15-20 minutes until light golden brown.

Place on a wire rack to cool.

CLAN DONALD MEMBERSHIP

Assist with our Newsletter and mailing.

Your Clan Donald Society membership falls due in May.

HISTORY SEGMENT:

NEW AUSTRALIANS – 1839 VINTAGE.

SYDNEY TOWN.

LAND HO ! called down from the masthead - great excitement stirred everyone, there on the horizon was their new land, Australia - it was now February of 1839, four months since they had set sail from Tobermory in Scotland.

The children were chattering on in gaelic and getting in the way, the young men were talking of what they intended to do in this land of opportunity, the womenfolk looked out across the waves at the land with relief that at last they were here, they had arrived and the family was still alive and well, there was a concern of what other womenfolk there were in Sydney Town, from whom would they seek advice and information as to where were the best places to buy medicines, materials, clothing etc.

The mature men looked out with thoughts of building a life for the future of the family, they had dreams of clearing land and building a home, planting crops, starting a herd, but now the time had come to put dreams into reality – they had calculated on the purchase of grain, stock and building materials and now the time had come, so their thoughts were concentrated on how they might negotiate the trade for these essentials.

A few of the company had died on the voyage, and there had been a number of births, but now that was all behind them; they were about to sail into Port Jackson, through the giant headlands guarding the quiet waters of this natural harbour.

The ship anchored in the bay and a canopied barge with the Government standard flying approached the ship; people, in formal dress, were assisted aboard.

Sir George Gipps in uniform and plumed hat was saluted by the Captain, he was followed by his Aide-de-camp and the Government Medical Officer and other officials.

The Governor welcomed the passengers and spoke on the opportunities for everyone who applied themselves, he then informed everyone of the regulations and laws of the Colony.

The Medical Officer examined the full passenger and crew compliment for any sickness or disease, and on the ship receiving a clean Bill of Health, they were allowed to disembark and the unloading of cargo commenced.

It was the 3rd March 1839 when the McDonalds and countrymen disembarked from the 'British King' in boats, to land on a narrow jetty which ran out from a shallow beach; the centre of what is now Circular Quay.

On their individual 'Ship's Certificates' they were recorded as: Ranald McDonald son of Donald McDonald, farmer, from Moidart, or, Dugald McDonald, merchant, son of John of the 15th. Regiment, from Moidart; but when they stepped onto the shore of Australia they left whatever position they held through family behind them in Scotland, they were simply new settlers in a new and very different land.

CLAN DONALD OFFICERS.

Malcolm C. McDonald, Esq., OAM.,
Castle Dunaverty Councillor, Council of Finlaggan (Clan Donald International)
Cameron Macdonald, Commissioner Clan Donald for Queensland.
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.

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The Clan Donald.

The great Clan Donald is made up of the families of Mac/Mc Donald, Donaldson, Mc Donnell, 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.