



MACDONALD



SLEAT



CLANRANALD



GLENGARRY



ANTRIM



*Chlainn Domhaill*  
*By sea and by Land*

CLAN DONALD SOCIETY of QUEENSLAND

NEWSLETTER

Kirkin' of the Tartan:

August, 2009



Deputy Commissioner Clan Donald Queensland, Sue Lambkin and the Toiseach of Finlaggan Council Malcolm McDonald at the 'Kirkling of the Tartan' 2009, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Cathedral, Brisbane. The majority of Scottish Clans were represented with the parade of their Banners following the entry of the Official Party lead by Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, AO, Governor General of Australia and Alistair Henderson of Fordell, Chief of Clan Henderson.

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings to all Clan Donald Kith and Kin, this has been an extraordinary year for the Scottish Diaspora, returning to Edinburgh on the 25th and 26th of July, to Gather and to celebrate our Heritage.

I am very thankful, that my husband Ron, supports my Clan Donald activities for our trip, to Scotland and driving a five speed diesel car on 'Wee lanes' in pursuit of my Ancestors. We stayed at the MacDonald Holyrood Hotel, where other Clansfolk from the Tour for Clan Donald were also based, where we were able to renew friendships, from our past tours, with Clan Donald Members from around the world. A Forum was held for all Members to bring forth their ideas, for the future of Clan Donald, a very positive and forward planning management strategy, under the authority of the Chiefs of the High Council and the Finlaggan Councillors.

The Chief of our Clan, Godfrey Macdonald of Macdonald, addressed our Farewell Dinner, his words of support and encouragement, in leading his Clansfolk, not only to survive, but to prosper into the future, was well worth the trip.

The World Clan Gathering on the Saturday was a full day of activities, including the Official Opening by Prince Charles. Holyrood Park was a spectacle of rows and rows of Clan Tents, other tents for every aspect of Scottish Life and Wares. The Highland Games were a special treat for Edinburgh, as they are generally not held there, to my surprise an Australian was coming second, in throwing the 'hammer'. In contrast to being my dour self, (shock to Ron), I start yelling out 'COME ON AUSSIE' in an asthmatic shriek, to be told by an American Female, that their was only one of me. Our Aussie Laddie, named Harrison, WON, to my great delight and joy, turning to the lady, I said, it only takes 'ONE', in my best Highland 'Mac DONELL' manner.

Clan Donald had three tents displaying our American, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian History with Clansfolk in attendance to answer questions. We were honoured by the attendance of Clan Chief Ranald MacDonell of Glengarry and Lady Carolyn, together with Lois MacDonell of Glengarry, the widow of the Late Chief.

Gaye Strange, a fellow Queensland Committee Member, joined us in the tent and later marched with us, up the Royal Mile waving our Australian Flags and our Finlaggan Chairman's Armiger's Banner, of Malcolm MacDonald Esq., from Queensland.

The parade took two hours to reach Edinburgh Castle, where a Pageant was held celebrating the 'Home Coming' of the descendants of all the Clans. A dramatisation of an Australian Grazier's family, "MacLean and his Ancestors through the Millennium" successfully revealed their historic journey through Verse, Song and Battles, to be the people we are today, many, but beating with one heart, to celebrate the Glory, Sacrifice, Justice and Freedom of our Heritage.

I received a letter, from our High Commissioner Clan Donald Australia, Norman Macdonald, dated the 10th June, 2009, appointing myself, Deputy Commissioner of Clan Donald Society of Queensland, I have accepted the position offered, being profoundly grateful, for the entrusted opportunity to promote and encourage the growth of Clan Donald.  
To all Clansfolk,  
Health , Happiness and Prosperity,

Yours Aye,

Suzanne Lambkin [Nee MacDonell]  
Deputy Commissioner,  
President of Clan Donald Society of Queensland.

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PORCELAIN CUP AND PLATE SET:

Angus McDonald, who is setting up Clan Donald in Wellington New Zealand was left crockery with the Macdonald tartan and asked Maggie Macdonald of Clan Donald Library, Skye of their origin: Angus McDonald [<mailto:mcdonald2@clear.net.nz>]



"This particular tea service set was produced by a company called Royal Stafford which was established in 1845 in Stoke on Trent in the potteries area of England. It was part of a series called the Tartan Series which included a variety of Scottish clan and regiments like the Black Watch. In other words the tea service would not have been specially commissioned - it was one that anyone could buy.

Royal Stafford were not the only ones to produce this kind of china.

Another Staffordshire company called Royal Albert produced a very similar tea service, using the same Clan Donald shield in a tartan ribbon, but without the heather."

Maggie Macdonald, Archivist, Museum of the Isles. [<mailto:library@clandonald.com>]

High Commissioner Clan Donald Australia, Norman Macdonald –

News for the Clans:

Again, it has been a while since my last newsletter, but I have not been idle. The last year being busy with Clan Donald, the Victorian Scottish Union, Scottish Rite, and family.

#### CLAN DONALD SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

My wife and I have travelled to South Australia for an impressive dinner with Clan Donald South Australia, to meet with their executive, as well as being a guest at a meeting of the South Australian Scottish Associations. We had attended earlier in 2008, being interviewed on the South Australian Scottish radio, attending the Mount Barker Highland Gathering, and an excellent dinner held by Clan Donald South Australia.

I was also invited by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council in New South Wales to attend their festivities in Sydney in late November 2008; attending the 'Kirkin' O' the Tartan' at Saint Stephens Uniting Church, the Parade up MacQuarie Street, and the Heritage Festivities in Hyde Park. I was also able to meet with the Executive of Clan Donald New South Wales the next day.

The Clan Tent has been erected again at all the major Highland Gatherings within Victoria, with Daylesford in December. Closely following was Maryborough on New Years Eve with the traditional Hogmanay Party at the Maryborough Highland Society. Maryborough is the oldest continual, and wealthiest Highland Society in Australia, established in 1851 by the Scots flocking to the area for the Gold Rush. New Years day festivities include the Maryborough Athletics and Highland Games, where the Clan Donald, Clan Sinclair, Clan Grant and the Victorian Scottish Union shared two tents sites.

#### *Berwick Highland Gathering Memorable for the Wrong Reasons*

Berwick Highland Gathering was held on a Sunday, but overshadowed by the previous day. The same weekend incorporated a day to be remembered in Australian history as "Black Saturday", with severe, and horrifically fatal, Bush Fires blazing in the nearby hills. Unfortunately the major freeways between Sydney and Melbourne had been cut by the fires, with the result that a large number of vendors, Pipe bands, Highland dancers and Clan stalls, etcetera, normally attending were unable to get through.

Although the weather on the Sunday was more pleasant and bearable than the previous day, we were constantly reminded of the nearby fires, and ready to leave if necessary. The Sky Cranes carrying the water, flying several times overhead, the smoke visibly in the distance, and the constant smell of the burning Eucalypts kept the mood more sombre than wished. A moments silence during the official opening was held for the loss of life the previous day.

The Black Saturday saw the loss of 173 lives, on a day of 45<sup>o</sup> Celsius (113<sup>o</sup> Fahrenheit) accompanied by winds of over 70 km/h (44 mph). The preceding months, even years had seen Victoria hit by drought drying out the bush into a gigantic tinderbox. Entire communities were wiped out, with families, massive amounts of properties and livestock destroyed, leaving only vast expanses of ash. My son in law, and I, each in our official capacities attended the fire regions, and will remember the devastation for years to come.

The world wide response will be remembered in Victoria for many years, with charities and help arriving from our allies in New Zealand, the U.S.A., and even as far as Scotland, all supporting the Colony. *I would personally like to thank those outside of Australia for their support, and prayers.*

Geelong Highland Gathering was a pleasant day, with Clan Macdonald of Yarraville, led by the President/Honorary Chief Thomas Macdonald attempting a Clan Picnic; those attending were thoroughly entertained. The Clan Tent was popular throughout the day with large numbers of enquiries, and applications to consider an affiliate Clan Donald Society in the Geelong and Western District regions

Ringwood Highland Gathering was another pleasant day, even as a "Scottish Mist" hit toward the end of the day. June Macdonald the President of the Clan Macdonald of Victoria assisted at the tents with the West Highland Terriers popular with the children.

The National Celtic Festival, at Portarlington near Geelong, Victoria was again a successful weekend, with Clan Donald, Clan Sinclair, and the Victorian Scottish Union Highland Dancers represented. We were besieged by questions of all clans and corners of Scotland, Ireland and even Wales

During the time of the fires, I was also able to catch up with Murdock Macdonald from New Zealand.



### APPOINTMENTS

There has been a major change in the line up of Commissioners throughout Clan Donald Australia, due to the passing of my predecessor, James McConnell (\*\*Retired as High Commissioner in 2002 but remained as Commissioner for Clan Donald New South Wales till his death in 2008). He was a much respected man, and will be replaced by two Commissioners due to the size of that state, and vast distribution of Clan Donald in N.S.W.. Their exact boundaries and titles will be decided at a meeting of the Commissioners.

A Leave of Absence has also been accepted by Cameron Macdonald, the Commissioner for Clan Donald Queensland due to work relocation, and family commitments. Cameron will however remain the Webmaster for Clan Donald Queensland.

THE COMMISSIONERS FOR AUSTRALIA will be as follows :-

- \* High Commissioner for Clan Donald Australia and Commissioner for Clan Donald Victoria : Norman A. Macdonald  
[admin@clandonaldaustralia.com](mailto:admin@clandonaldaustralia.com)
- \* Commissioner for Clan Donald New South Wales: Callum Angus Currie  
[callum.currie@bigpond.com](mailto:callum.currie@bigpond.com)
- \* Commissioner for Clan Donald Northern N.S.W. : Sean McDonald Sheridan  
[nora\\_natureslarder@hotmail.com](mailto:nora_natureslarder@hotmail.com)
- \* Deputy Commissioner for Clan Donald Queensland: Suzanne Lambkin  
(Assuming duties of Commissioner till position called) [rlambkin@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rlambkin@optusnet.com.au)
- \* Commissioner for Clan Donald South Australia: Donald McDonald  
[idmcdonald@bigpond.com](mailto:idmcdonald@bigpond.com)

### Council of Finlaggan (Clan Donald International)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2009, the High Council of Chiefs made the following promotions and appointments to the Finlaggan Council, of the following Australian members:-

- To the position of *Toiseach* Finlaggan Council: Malcolm McDonald, Esq., Qld.  
Castle Dunaverty  
[malmcdon@westnet.com.au](mailto:malmcdon@westnet.com.au)
- Councillor Finlaggan Council: Ian MacDonnell, Vic.  
Castle Aros

[imacdonn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:imacdonn@bigpond.net.au)

Myglengarry.Com

CLAN DONALD CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE PROJECT.



A project in Scotland which is selling plots of historic Clan Donald homeland in Scotland, back to Clan members across the world is going from strength to strength. The land being sold is a three and a half mile stretch of the River Garry and its river banks and is located in the heart of the Scottish highlands. It is the historic home land of the MacDonells of Glengarry – a major branch of Clan Donald. Each plot costs £30 and profits go the Myglengarry.com Conservation Trust to preserve and conserve the land and heritage. Putting the land up for sale might seem like an extreme solution, but landowner Paul Williamson is in no doubt that it is the only way to raise the vital funds needed to help maintain this beautiful part of the Clan Donald past. Since the project's launch last November over 400 people have become members of the Myglengarry.com Conservation Trust and many of them have bought a plot of land for themselves or for family members. This Scottish land sale scheme is completely unique. The would-be purchaser gets to explore the entire river online before they choose their 1 metre square plot. This has been made possible by advanced mapping technology providing detail 8 times greater than google earth! Owners get full legal ownership of the land and title deeds to prove it. Whilst the Trust manages the land on the owners' behalf . don't worry you don't have to ensure its upkeep! - the purchaser does get a vote on which projects the Trust should spend money on. Trust chairman Paul Williamson says "If you aren't able to help by buying a plot please support us by signing up as a Trust member (which is free) and let us have any ideas you may have to help make this project a success. Both membership and land purchase can be done at [myglengarry.com](http://myglengarry.com)" For further information please visit the website or email [info@myglengarry.com](mailto:info@myglengarry.com) \*\*\*\*\*

#### GLENCOE HERITAGE GROUP, AUG 2009

Ryan Littrell, is interested in any descendent of the MacDonalds of Glencoe, who wish to learn more about our shared ancestry. The group held a Gathering recently at Glencoe to benefit the Glencoe Heritage Trust (<http://www.glencoe-heritage-trust.co.uk/index.html>). It is a way for Glencoe MacDonald descendants to ensure that our traditional lands stay in local hands. If you have any questions relating to MacDonalds of Glencoe, please contact Ryan Littrell via email ([ryanlittrell2002@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanlittrell2002@hotmail.com)) or phone (1-646-509-8412). \*\*\*\*\*

#### HIGHLAND VILLAGE AT KILBEG, SKYE – CLAN DONALD LAND'S TRUST action. Courtesy article by David Ross.

It is known as the Garden of Skye and now the Sleat peninsular is to become the location of the 40 acre site for a green village of 80 houses over the next 2 decades at Kilbeg, between the two campuses of Skye's Gaelic College, Sabhal Mor Ostaig. The College which started in an old farm steading which was converted between 1973-83, now boasts a multi-million pound development nearby, which has grown since 1998 to become the main economic driver of south Skye. The first building blocks were the Primary school which was gaelic speaking and a Medical centre. The Clan Donald Lands Trust , (the body established in 1972 to buy 20,000 acres of the former McDonald of Sleat Estate), unveiled the planning at their July meeting in Edinburgh – The Trust issued a statement saying " At the heart of the village will be the linked Campus of Scotland's Gaelic College, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, part of the University of the Highlands & Islands. The new village aims to provide a mixture housing clean enterprise units, a large community recreational space and, importantly, vital room for the expansion of the college, including a major new conference facility – the master plan would propose a vision for the 'New Clan

Donald Village.' " Sir Ian Macdonald, Chairman of the Trust, said, "The ambition to help the College to expand is entirely consistent with one of Clan Donald Lands Trust's principal aims, namely to foster interest and education in the Gaidhealtachd."

"The Clan Donald Lands Trust will ensure that this development, situated in such iconic landscape, will be sustainable, harmonious, as well as culturally and contextually appropriate. The scope to create an entirely new Highland Village in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with a first class University campus at its heart, presents an unparalleled opportunity to enhance and enrich the lives of all residents on Sleat."

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SCOTTISH RECIPE: Poached Salmon with green Mayonnaise..

6 salmon cutlets Cucumber, sliced or garnished.

COURT-BOUILLON:

- 2 pints of water.
- 1 cup of white wine.
- 1 carrot, chopped.
- 1 onion chopped.
- 2 sticks celery, chopped.
- Bay leaf.
- Salt and pepper.

MAYONNAISE:

- 2 eggs.
- 1/2 pint of olive oil.
- 1 teaspoon salt.
- 1 teaspoon mustard powder.
- Pepper to taste.
- Dash of wine vinegar.
- Freshly chopped parsley and chives to taste.

Put all the bouillon ingredients together in a saucepan. Simmer for 30 minutes. Strain and replace the liquid in the pan. Add the salmon. Bring to the boil and boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside; the salmon will continue to cook in the bouillon while you make the mayonnaise.

Put the eggs in a food processor blender with the mustard, salt and pepper. Switch on and whilst blending, pour in the oil and vinegar in a steady stream until the sauce thickens. Add the chopped herbs. Check that the salmon is cooked (10 – 12 minutes). Lift on to a serving dish. Garnish with sliced cucumber and serve hot or cold with the mayonnaise.

Courtesy "Favourite Scottish Recipes."

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ANNUAL DONATION TO CLAN DONALD SOC. QLD.

All 2009 subscriptions fell due earlier in the year but no reminders were sent to members – please assist with your \$10 or \$15 family sub to the acting secretary.

CLAN DONALD OFFICERS.

\* Malcolm C. McDonald, Esq., OAM.,

Castle Dunaverty, Toiseach Council of Finlaggan, (Clan Donald International)

\* Cameron Macdonald, Commissioner Clan Donald for Queensland, (LOA).

\* Sue Lambkin, Deputy Commissioner Clan Donald Queensland.

\* A. Grahame MacDonald, Esq., Clan Donald Historian.

Clan Donald Society of Queensland.

President – Sue Lambkin.

A/Secretary – Ron Lambkin.

Delegate to Scottish Clans Congress - Sue Lambkin.

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

J. MacDonald; M. McDonald.

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Clan Donald Society Queensland web site: [www.clandonaldqld.org](http://www.clandonaldqld.org)

The High Council of Clan Donald web site: [www.highcouncilofclandonald.org/](http://www.highcouncilofclandonald.org/)

#### 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, or of a Sept of Clan Donald, or 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.