

# Royal Caledonian Society of S. A. Inc.

379 King William Street ADELAIDE S A 5000



Secretary Ph 51 5268 Tues., Wed. & Fri.  
10 am to 12.30 pm

CHIEF - Charles Gardiner Ph 43 4230  
Ah. 352 2595

PIPE BAND - G F Chatfield Ph 223 4500  
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NEWSLETTER

FREE TO MEMBERS

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Registered for posting as a Periodical Category "B"

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SECRETARY After Hours 277 5090

FEBRUARY 1978.

Let me wish you all you wish yourselves in the coming year, and the best you have ever seen. It can be a momentous year in the history of the Royal Caledonian Society. There are many proposed changes in the wind which could help the Society to complete our building plans, increase our Membership, and provide better facilities for our Members and to provide better functions.

We have waited a long while about providing Members facilities, and a new kitchen, this year we hope to see the commencement of this project.

The first thing of importance is a meeting between your Council and that of the Scots Cronies, with the basic idea of bringing them into the Society, still retaining their own identity, but not only providing them with a permanent home, but increasing our Membership.

Unfortunately on 17th March we will lose the services of our worthy Secretary, Albert Bonney, this is due to his wife's continued ill-health and the fact that Alby's time will be taken in urseing her back to better health and strength. Our sympathy goes out to both, I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Bonney a speedy recovery. Our thanks also to Alby for the first rate job he has done in his relatively short stay with us.

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There will be a facelift for the Newsletter during the year bringing it up to a standard of a Royal Society. We will be strengthening ties with other associations here, interstate, and overseas by setting up information centres, and conducting dialogues with other well established bodies, letting them know what we are doing, and finding out what they do, all with the idea of providing a better service to our members.

We hope to make our little journal on paper of real value, and invite all of you to contribute items which you feel will be of value to other Members. If you have any suggestions for the betterment of the Society, address them to "Suggestion Box" c/- the Secretary.

We will keep you posted with the doings of the Council during the year.

Lang may your lum reek.

Charles Gardiner. Chief.

### OBITUARIES.

We regret to record the passing of ~~four~~ of our Members, Mr. Keith Murdoch, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Treloar, and Mr. Nichol.

Mr. Murdoch joined the Society in 1955, took over as Treasurer in 1958 and was made a Life Member in 1964, his contributions to the Society and the Highland Games Committee was beyond the normal course of duty, he was not seen by many Members over the last few years due to ill-health, nevertheless his Membership with the Society provided a steady influence on the Council, with his continued efforts to lift the Society to the Heights to which we should reach.

The other three Members, Mrs. Treloar also being a Life Member, were also very stalwart Members, and will be a great loss to us.

### QUARTERLY MEETING.

FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY 1978. AT 8 p.m.

To be held in the Caledonian Hall at 379 King William Street.

Sundry Reports.

General Business.

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Entertainment,

Supper (Bring a Basket)

Pipe Band and Dancers in attendance.

The November meeting was not very well attended only 32 being present, and one of the matters discussed was ways and means of making these meetings more interesting, they are held to enable you to find out what your Council is doing on your behalf, and for you to air your views.

Any suggestions for improvement would be welcomed by the Council, so how about coming along on the 24th February and let us hear your views. One idea put to the Council was to hold an Indoor Bowls Night, this has yet to be considered by the Council as there was no meeting in December, but it appears this could be held only on a Monday night, as Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays the Hall is let to outside bodies, a very necessary part of your income bringing over \$8000 a year, Friday nights are for the Bairns and Members, and Thursdays for the Band. How many would attend on a Monday night ?

A further suggestion was to hold a second Ball each year about September or October, on the lines of the Highland Ball held in March, instead of so many Cabarets which are run at a loss, a decision on this will need to be made at the February meeting as it is necessary to book a hall at least six months in advance, at Joe Oberdans Centre or some other suitable place, this could be called the Halloween or Caledonian Ball.

A suggestion has been made to the Council that the Adult and Childrens Halloween could be combined, but this has been tried before and found wanting, so perhaps a Ball instead of a Cabaret would be more suitable if held in a large Hall, It was stressed, however, that a better attendance of adults at the Childrens Halloween as impreative, and emphasis will be placed on this when the plans for the next one are being prepared.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY YOURSELVES.

AT

"THE HIGHLAND BALL"

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To be held at the Joe Oberdan Convention Centre, 292 Findon Road, Findon, on:-

SATURDAY MARCH 4th 1978. 8 p.m.

A first class supper will be provided with music by the "Clansmen", the hall will probably be increased in size, and the floor will be an improvement on last year. A licence has been arranged, and there will be 20 lucky tickets worth \$5 each. Guests will be piped in at 8.30 p.m.

Last year 527 attended, this year we are catering for 550, including about 20 official guests, so there are only 530 tickets for sale, in view of the enquiries being made it appears that the sale of tickets will be quite brisk, these are now ready and can be obtained from the Social Director Bob Saint, Doug Bramley, Bill McBey, or the Secretary. Tickets are \$6.00 each, and previous conditions will apply, admission will be by ticket only, which can be obtained on receipt of money. Tentative bookings may be made by phone, but must be confirmed by Wednesday 1st. March, the day on which we give the caterers the final figures and for which we are obliged to pay.

MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY

Bob Saint Director.

ADELAIDE HIGHLAND GAMES.

SATURDAY MARCH 11th 1978.

AT THE OLYMPIC SPORTSFIELD KENSINGTON.

The 19th Games to be held for the second time at the Olympic Sportsfield promises to be a day of pageantry, colour, and sportsmanship, equal to the past years on the Adelaide Oval, but with many added attractions.

Many improvements have been made to the grounds and stands, and further alterations are proposed which will make this oval second to none in staging Highland Games, have you noticed the backdrop of the Adelaide Hills looking through the tall trees on the eastern mound?, just as we picture Braemar to be in the Highland setting of Deeside.

The tug o'war section requires some more teams, how about light or heavyweight teams challenging other Caledonian Societies. Highland dancing entries are expected to be their usual large numbers, but with

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with the new grading of Dancers into "Levels" sections, are expected to be smaller but more competitive.

Pipe Band entries particularly in Grade 2 will be highly competitive, the majority of Grade 2 and some Grade 3 Bands will be competing at the Australian Championships at Warwick Farm, Sydney during Easter weekend, and will be making our Adelaide Games full dress rehearsal to uncover any weaknesses in their performance.

A dance program by the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society Adelaide Branch, will be staged at the conclusion of the Official Opening Ceremony by the Minister for Recreation, Tourism, and Sport, the Hon. Tom Casey M. P. at 2 p. m.

A special athletic program has been arranged for the Games. Pole vaulters from interstate will be invited to join South Australians to attempt to match the 18ft height now the current record. "That's a long way up and should be well worth watching".

It is strongly recommended that all Societies set up their own marquees on the mounds, invite their members old and new alike to meet at the Games, to renew old friendships and improve their membership.

Gates will open at 8. 30 am. tickets are Adults \$1. 50, Pensioners with cards and Children 50 ¢ Bring your friends, we need the attendance to show South Australia that the Scots can get together for this, the Gathering of the Clans.

Ewin Masson.

### THE BAIRNS.

Parents are advised that the classes for 1978 will commence on Friday 31st. March at 7. 30 pm. in the Caledonian Hall, and judging by the number of enquiries to date there appears to be a good chance of quite a few new members, and it is hoped that all of the old ones will also continue to attend.

In the November Newsletter it was stated that the Festival of Arts Folkloric program and Picnic would be held on Sunday March 19th, this should have been Sunday March 12th.

JOHN FLEETWOOD  
CHIEFTAIN.

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## THE NEWSLETTER.

More contributions this quarter are much appreciated, but more are needed. Do you realise that any suggestion you make at a Quarterly meeting are made known only to those present, whereas in the Newsletter, they reach every Member. This letter now goes to all interstate kindred Societies, and even to Madang PNG. Not counting Scottish Dance Groups or Pipe Bands, there is one in the ACT, two in Queensland two in N.S.W. two in Victoria, one in Alice Springs, two in Darwin, two in WA, five in Tasmania, and of course we have twelve in S.A.

Should any Member be travelling Interstate and would like to have these addresses, they are readily available from the Secretary during office hours. The November letter was the first sent to these Societies and an immediate result was obtained as Mr A McKinna, the President of the Victorian Scottish Union of Societies who was holidaying in S.A. came along to the Quarterly meeting where he was warmly welcomed by the Chief.

## MEMBERSHIP.

Thirty-Six new Members for the first seven months of the year is very pleasing, compared with 43 last year and 23 the year before, with a little more effort by Members there is no reason that we cannot reach 50 this year.

There are still 46 outstanding subscriptions, and it would be appreciated if these could be paid without any further reminders.

## FROM OUR PAST .

I am writing this article on the eve of yet another election, and thought it fitting to present a few lines on the considered founder of the Australian Constitution, Sir Josiah Henry Simon, a native of Caithness. This distinguished man of law has been considered one of the greatest minds this State has had. He arrived in S.A. in 1866, and studying under his cousin in Mt. Gambier he quickly developed a prominent partnership, he was also prominent outside his legal practice and was for six years the Member for Sturt in the House of Assembly 1881-87, in these few years his influence in Parliament was strong having a reputation for speaking without fear or favour.

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A man of considerable literary skill, and a reputation as an orator, he is principally known for his work towards the Federation of the Australian States. In a time when South Australia was very small compared with its eastern neighbours, he not only won the case for this State, but also ensured that the interest of every section of the country were considered and built into the Constitution.

Sir Josiah was deeply proud of his Scottish ancestry, but was equally determined to create a new country. His skill and endeavour earned him a knighthood on January 1st. 1901, the foundation Day of the Australian Commonwealth.

Ron Layton Chieftain.

### OUR LIBRARY.

The Society continues to up-date its already good library with modern publications. Received during the period since the last Quarterly Newsletter have been:-

R W Munro-"Highland Clans and Tartans". This is a delightfully refreshing book tracing the development of Clans and Clan Societies through to the present day.

"Automobile Association Book of Scotland"- a large book containing maps and a little something on every Scottish village, town, and district.

James D Scarlett "The Tartans of Scottish Clans"- of particular interest in this book is a section on waving tartan.

"Scottish Field" September, October, and November editions, the October edition has an interesting article on the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Sth. Carolina, there are some useful sections with pointers for our local games. These books are available for Members to borrow during office hours.

### ST. ANDREWS DAY DINNER.

This year's dinner held again at the Sturt Club attracted 159 guests. Officials included Chief and Mrs Jim Dunning from Mt. Barker, Chief and Mrs Jack Paton from Salisbury, Mr and Mrs Jim Craig from the South Coast Scottish, The Laird of the Cronies.

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Mr Scott and Mrs Matheson. and representing the Chief of Pt. Adelaide, The Secretary, Mr Vern Moore and Mrs Moore.

The addresses to the Haggis, and Pipers Toast were more than ably presented by Mr. Jim Hamilton, and we were all treated to the beautiful soft Scottish songs of Mrs Nickoli, singing with us for the first time. The Haggis was borne in by Chieftain John Fleetwood following Piper Robert Jones.

The highlight of the evening and the main toast, Land O'Cakes was presented by Mr Wesley Miles, Headmaster of Scotch College. His theme for the evening focussed on the impact of Scots in Australia, he referred to the hardships they faced in the early days, when because of their culture and language they were often set aside from the rest of the community. Reference was made to the strong Scottish community in the South East, where these people were self supporting, and from whence many notable South Australians came forth in later years.

The experiences of N V Wallace, author of "Bush Lawyer", and one of the founders of Naracoorte proved particularly enjoyable. Mr Miles' wit had the audience in "stiches" for over a half an hour, particularly when referring to a prominent Adelaide Hotel which did not know how to cook Haggis. The cook had shot all the Haggis and emptied the contents into a huge saucepan, and made a horrible mess, upsetting many Scots. We thank Mr. Miles and his delightful wife, Helen, for making this evening the best for many years.

#### GAELIC COLLEGE . ISLE OF SKYE.

Chieftain Ron Layton has recently been appointed a Member of Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the Gaelic College of Scotland, he is one of thr in Australia and will be regularly receiving information from the College on it's activities around the world. There are currently 425 Members who have as their aim:-

1. Provide education in Gaelic in every subject and especially in the literature, philosophy, and culture of the Gaels.
2. Offer an opportunity to people world wide to learn about the culture of the Gaels and their language.
3. Be a social centre for people living in Skye or visiting it.
4. Supplement schools and education authorities in the Gaelic policies
5. Strive for the restoration of Gaelic as the main language of



Scotland as a whole.

Chieftain Layton has received a request for any items of news for the College and the Society intends to send copies of the News-letter for their interest.

### A RECIPE.

(An Angus Way with an Ox-tail)

Mrs. Suzanne Layton submits this delightful, and delicious recipe for the preparation of an Ox-tail cooked the "Angus Way", it is a favourite with the family, and some of you other good Scottish cooks may like to try it, particularly on a cold night.

INGREDIENTS. 1 Large Ox-tail, 4 oz bacon, 2 onions, 2 carrots, bay leaf, parsley, thyme, 12 black peppercorns, a whole clove, 1 quart of beef stock, 2 oz butter,  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint of white, (or red wine), and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz flour.

Joint the ox-tail, dice the bacon, slice onions, and carrot. Place bacon and vegetables in a shallow saucepan, or stock pot, place the joints on top, add the herbs and spices, then stock. Cover and simmer until almost tender  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 hours-, melt butter and add with wine, Mix the flour to a cream with sock, and stir in until boiling, and then simmer for a further half an hour, Dish up with potatoes and green peas after removing excess fat.

### WANTED - A SECRETARY.

After nearly two years our Secretary, Alb Bonney, has reluctantly been compelled to resign from that position due to the ill-health of his wife, and the Council has accepted his resignation with regret, and we are now seeking someone with the necessary qualifications to attend to the administration affairs of the Society for the Council, and be directly responsible to the Chief.

The position is interesting entailing on an average of about 18 hours a week throughout the year, busy at times with Quarterly meetings and Newsletters, but at other times slackening off to routine matters. The office is open to the public for  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours a week, from 10 am to 12. 30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays. other hours can be spent attending to the necessary duties, at the office, or at home, and includes posting and banking when necessary.

It must be understood that it is not a position for an unemployed person seeking a livelihood, but more suited to a retired person looking for an interest in life, a person who already has part time work, or home duties, one who is prepared to diligently attend to the affairs of the Society. An Honorarium is paid and is subject to negotiation with the Executive Committee, the Chief, two Chieftains, and the Treasurer.

The successful applicant would be required to attend the Council meeting on Friday 17th March at 7.30 pm, and commence duties on Tuesday 21st. March.

The present Secretary is readily prepared to give any assistance in the initial stages, and with the next Newsletter in May, if required, and approved by the Council.

Is there anyone connected with the Society, with the necessary qualifications, who would be prepared to offer their services to further the aims of the Society, or knows of someone else who may be suitable?

Applicants can contact the Secretary or the Chief, either with an application, or a request for further information.

BAND REPORT.  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER.

To begin my report I would like on behalf of the Band to wish everybody a happy, successful and prosperous New Year, and to thank you for your support of us during the past twelve months.

The Band end of year function was held in late December, and our Harry Fairbank Trophy for General Proficiency was awarded to Drummer David Stretton.

Congratulations David on your award from your fellow Band Members

A busy period is ahead of the Band, as we have entered into the Competitions at Mount Barker on the 12th February, and the Adelaide Highland Games on the 11th March, between these dates the Band will be representing the Society at the Loxton Mardi Gras on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the 24th, 25th and 26th February.

Because of the above, practice is now picking up, however if you know of anybody wishing to learn the pipes or dums please contact me care of the Society for further information.

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We have an URGENT need for sets of bagpipes and if you know or hear of any for sale, please contact me with your information, it would be most appreciated.

G.F. Chatfield.

Director/Band Secretary.

### SCOTLAND VISITED (Cont).

In the November Newsletter we reached the stage where Prince Charles was invested with the Order of the Thistle, and it was here we noticed that despite strong feelings of nationalism, Queen Elizabeth is still very much Queen of Scotland, and that the Scots will not let her forget her Scottish heritage.

The next few days were hectic as we explored the city and nearby Holyrood Park, the Castle held us spellbound, and once again we re-lived all that we had heard in story, film, and legend, Lachlan was beside himself at being in a castle where Scottish soldiers actually lived and were to be seen. Although we kept running into the Queen and were fascinated by the pageantry, our highlight was the day we concentrated on shopping.

At 10 am we parked our car behind the castle and spent until 5 pm without moving our car on Princes St. a fortune was spent that day on books which are tax free in Britain, clothes, materials, and food. So much so that despite having a pusher, I had to make several trips back to the car with loads I could barely carry. I am now in the position of having to build new bookshelves to accommodate the massive collection which has accrued, key amongst these books were the numerous quality publications on Scottish history and culture, of a type just not seen in Australia.

Edinburgh left an indelible mark, but we were heading for the Highlands, and on Friday 27th May, we all had tears in our eyes as we left Dalkeith, back through Edinburgh, down the Queensferry Road, and on to the Forth Road bridge, then along the north-shore road past Culross Palace, and back across the Forth of Kincardine to Bannockburn. On 23rd June 1314, this moor saw one of Scotland's greatest and most successful battles for independence, and it is now seen fit to have this as the main centre for the

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promulgation of national heritage, King Robert the Bruce here defeated the English against odds of nearly three to one.

Part of the battlefield is now owned by the National Trust of Scotland, and is a scene of permanent exhibition, forging the Nation, a modern information centre, and most impressive equestrian stature of King Robert, unveiled by the Queen in 1964.

From here we can see numerous other historical sites, most dominant of which was the 'Gateway to the Highlands', Stirling Castle. Like Edinburgh, this castle crowned a precipitous rock overlooking the town stretching away on a narrow ridge, because of its strategic position it has been seiged on numerous occasions, has been a Royal residence for centuries, and is currently undergoing extensive restoration as a national monument, and a military barracks. Like all other such places this was well and tastefully kept. The Museum intrigued us, especially when we found a presentation reference to Captain C Layton, who commanded C Company, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, during World War I.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

NEW MEMBERS.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new Members since the last Newsletter.

Prof. E Richards, Messrs J W Hay, W. J. Fraser, Mesdames J M Abbott, R. Y Hardie, C Stone, M A Tweeddale, C M Tryk, G E Martinsen, Y R Klienig, B J Hamlyn, and H R Carr.

BOOK NOW FOR THE HIGHLAND BALL MARCH 4th.

DON'T FORGET THE HIGHLAND GAMES. MARCH 11th.