

Royal Caledonian Society of S. A. Inc.

379 King William Street ADELAIDE S.A. 5000.



Secretary Ph 51 5268 (Mon to Friday)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A.H. 79 4673.

CHIEF - Charles Gardiner Ph. 332 5833.
Ah. 352 2595.

PIPE BAND - A. J. Forbes. Ph. 51 8577.

NEWSLETTER

FREE TO MEMBERS

Registered for posting as a Periodical Category "B"

JANUARY 1980

CHIEF'S MESSAGE.

We are starting a new year, a new decade, with a 'new look', but more particularly a 'new outlook! There is a new feeling among members which bids fair to lift us out of the doldrums of the last few years. Possibly it stems from a sense of achievement, but it appears to the Council that the Society is now better equipped to take advantage of our undoubted assets.

With this in mind, we have done a lot of forward planning for your entertainment and also on the fund-raising side. We have proved that we can cater for large functions as well as small ones. St. Andrews Day Dinner enabled us to spot and correct a few weaknesses in both equipment and organisation.

We have just completed what has been an exciting year, culminating with a Hogmanay function. This was the first for many years, and was a tremendous success, as we had about 100 present, who feel strongly that this old Scottish Custom should be celebrated in our hall each year.

In order to help you plan and attend our functions this year, we have set out a timetable. You will see that we have at least one function a month throughout the year.

We also hope to make the weekly Bingo night one of our main fund raisers. Each session will be licensed and will be open to the public.

This promises to be an exciting year, and may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a 'Guid New Year' and may it bring you and your families all you wish yourselves.

CHARLES GARDINER. CHIEF.

BAIRNS REPORT.

BAIRNS EVENINGS. SEASON 1980. Commences Friday
7th March 7.30PM.

Happy New Year to all Bairns, Parents and Friends.

With our hall and clubrooms now completed and no more dust and inconvenience to disturb us, make this the best attended year for quite awhile.

For the ensuing year, Miss Lorna Marshall will be Instructress ably assisted by Mrs. Bev. Hawthorne.

One of the aims of our Society is Scottish traditional dancing both National and Country dancing and these are taught on Friday nights. Please be punctual at 7.30pm and all members and friends are welcome.

I would like to say Thanks to Mrs. Barbara Hamlyn for her efforts last year under trying conditions during the hall alterations, and also the senior girls helping to teach the younger ones. To the parents who helped in the kitchen or looked after the cleaning up afterwards, my thanks.

CHIEFTAIN FLEETWOOD.

BAND NEWS.

The Band finished a busy 1979, looking back on a year of mixed fortunes, including 3rd prize at the Highland Games, a series of country engagements and difficulties with obtaining full Band strength at some functions.

Drum Major Malcolm Hatty won the Harry Fairbank Trophy for general proficiency and Bob Saint the "Big Noise" Trophy. These were presented at the Band Breakup in December at Pipe Major Vern Raymond's home at Para Hills.

The Band will be commencing practise in late January with a week-end at Mannum followed by intense preparation for the 1980 Highland Games. 1980 will also focus on a funds drive to bring the uniform up to a reasonable standard.

We also welcome back Ron Modra after 3 years in Darwin.

HAGGIS.

CHIEFTAIN R.A. LAYTON.

We get many requests for a Haggis recipe. Properly made it proves a little difficult to obtain all the ingredients. There is however a good substitute.

1/2 lb Sheep's liver.
2 Onions.
1/2 Cup suet.
1/2 Cup fine oatmeal.
Salt and pepper.
Pinch of herbs and some cayenne pepper.

Place liver in a saucepan, cover with water, and simmer for 1/2 hour-keep the stock. Mince the liver. Toast the oatmeal in an oven for 10 minutes. Finely chop the suet and onions. Mix all the ingredients with the seasoning and enough stock to make the mixture reasonably moist. Place the mixture in a well greased basin. Cover with foil and steam for 2-2½ hours. Turn out onto a hot plate and serve with mashed potatoes and mashed turnips (with a dash of ground ginger).

Good eating for 3-4 persons.

CHIEFTAIN R.A. LAYTON.

BAR COMMITTEE REPORT.

To date the activities of the Bars have been pleasing, as a number of functions held have been successful, but there have been many evenings when the clubrooms have been open and only a few members have used the facilities.

Unfortunately we still do not know your requirements in regard to Bar hours as we received a poor response to our request in the last Newsletter for suggestions as to times and the use of the Clubrooms.

In an endeavour to make the facilities available, the Clubrooms WILL BE OPEN FROM 5 O'CLOCK ON FRIDAY NIGHTS from the first week of February. It is also the Social Committee's intention to have card or games evenings on Friday nights.

At present the Clubrooms are open on Wednesday night from 7.30pm and we will be re-opening them on Thursday nights from 7.30pm in early February.

It is our hope that each and every member and friends will use and enjoy the facilities that are now available and remember each Member can sign-in 5 friends, so make your clubrooms your venue for a pleasant evening. If you have any suggestions where we can improve our service to our Members, would you please contact the Secretary, The Chief or a member of the Council.

MEMBERSHIP.

As you will see by the list of new members that our membership is increasing and I will be very pleased to forward applications for membership to friends of our members who wish to join the Society, and I am sure that with your encouragement many will join. The annual subscription has not changed for some time, as follows:

CORPORATE MEMBER	\$5.00
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$5.00
JUNIOR MEMBER	\$3.00

and these are very nominal fees when compared with other Clubs and Societies and considering the facilities that are available to our Members.

Membership is from 1st July to 30th June each year, and I remind unfinancial members that subscriptions for 1979/1980 are now overdue. A financial member keeps the Society growing.

SECRETARY.

NEW MEMBERS.

A warm welcome is extended by the Chief and Members of the Council to the following new members accepted since our last Newsletter:

Mr. R.T. Modra.	Mrs. M. Tredrea.
Mrs. O.M. Modra.	Mr. R. Campbell.
Sister E. Macaulay.	Mr. J. Steele.
Mrs. M.C. Johnson	Mr. C.A. Fornaciari.
Mr. W. Fenwick.	Mr. F. Price.
Mr. W.S. Crawford.	Mrs. J. Price.
Mr. L.A. Fletcher.	Dr. Neil Jensen.
Mrs. P.C. Tait.	Mrs. H.E. Varcoe.
Mr. T. Towers.	Mr. Ian McLaren.
Mr. R. Sayers.	Mr. Duncan McLaren.
Mrs. D.E. Hill.	Mrs. A. Inglis.
Mr. M.D. Cleggett.	Dr. H.M. Holland.
Mr. G.T. Simpson.	Mr. P.K. Jamieson.

MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL DIRECTOR.

The Clansmen's Ball held on 21st September 1979 in our Hall was a very successful occasion, and well attended especially as it was just prior to the completion of the rebuilding project. The bar facilities and the supper was appreciated.

The Hallow'een Cabaret held on 2nd November 1979 was not so well attended but was a very enjoyable occasion as it was a forerunner to bigger and brighter functions to come.

On the 30th November 1979, the St. Andrews Day Dinner was attended by 200 members and friends and it was a very successful dinner, with an excellent guest speaker in Sir Billy Snedden, and the traditional piping-in and toast to the Haggis. This was the first dinner function held in the hall and with detailed planning this will be a greater annual event. On this occasion, it was gratifying to have practically every ticket paid for before the event and I thank you for your co-operation. It is important that all tickets are paid for before hand when catering is involved, both for the organising committee and the caterer.

COMING EVENTS FOR 1980.

PUT THESE IN YOUR DIARY.

Wednesday 13th February. A Card Afternoon - Canasta and Bridge will be held in the Clubrooms at 2pm. Tea and biscuits will be served and the cost will be \$1.00 to cover prizes. If this proves to be a success, it will be run on a monthly basis.

Friday 29th February. Highland Games Ball.
See below for details.

Saturday 22nd March. A progressive Dinner will be held with the finale in the Clubrooms. Approximately 40 members and friends to attend and the cost \$8.00 single.

Friday 18th April. A Cabaret will be held in our own hall with a basket supper, Members \$2.00 Non-members \$3.00

Friday 16th May. A Dinner Dance will be held in the hall and will be a catered dinner. More details in a later newsletter.

Friday 27th June. A Cabaret will be held in the hall with a basket supper, Members \$2.00 Non-members \$3.00.

Friday 27th July. Burns Dinner will be held in the hall and will be a catered dinner. More details in a later newsletter.

AND NOW THE BIG ONE. The Royal Caledonian Society of S.A. Inc. will present the ANNUAL HIGHLAND GAMES BALL at the REDLEGS CLUB, Wood Street, Norwood. Enter through the main entrance and upstairs to your right to the A.J. Diamond Ballroom.

WHEN. FRIDAY 29th FEBRUARY 1980. DANCING from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music by Jim Nesbit's Band.

Cost \$11.00 single. Supper included. Refreshments available.

BOOKINGS. Tickets are now available from the Secretary or the Social Director, Mrs. Richards. Phone 71,7354.

FINAL BOOKINGS BY FRIDAY 15th FEBRUARY 1980

Tickets must be paid for and collected by that date to comply with Redlegs Club requirements.

HOGMANAY 1979.

We did receive some publicity about Hogmanay 1979 as the Adelaide Advertiser gave us a write-up:

'Adelaide's Scottish community had an extra reason to celebrate New Year. Last night was the first time in 15 years that the Royal Caledonian Society of S.A. had celebrated the ancient Scottish tradition of Hogmanay. About 100 Society members, most of the men wearing kilts performed traditional Scottish dances in the Society's City Hall to welcome the New Year. The Society's Chief, Charles Gardiner said Hogmanay was the biggest celebration of the year in Scotland. And if the Scots ate, drank and were merry last night, how will they be next year? For 1981 will be the Society's Centenary.'

We will make it even bigger and better.

THE MELBOURNE MILITARY TATTOO 1980.

We have been approached by Viscount Coachlines, Mary Street, Unley, who are arranging Coach travel to the Military Tattoo from Friday 21st March 1980 to Sunday 23rd March 1980, and this may be of interest to our members. The Tattoo is in affiliation with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and is produced by Col. Douglas Spratt.

The coachline advised the following travel arrangements:

Accommodation Montmartre Motel, St. Kilda on a bed & breakfast basis.

Depart Friday 21st March at 7p.m. from Bus Depot Franklin Street.

Arrive Melbourne approx 8a.m. Saturday. Breakfast as Motel.

Saturday 22nd March Day free.

Depart Saturday 22nd March at 6.30p.m. from Motel for Melbourne Cricket Ground for Tattoo and returning to Motel after Finale.

Depart Sunday 23rd March at 9.00a.m. from Motel for Adelaide, arriving approx 9.30p.m.

Cost of Coach travel, accommodation, & admission to Tattoo is \$65.00

Bookings and further enquiries ring Viscount Coachlines - Phone 272.6690.

Brochures are available from the Secretary.

ADELAIDE HIGHLAND GAMES. Sunday 9th March 1980

OLYMPIC SPORTS FIELD. KENSINGTON PARK.

BINGO - BINGO - BINGO - BINGO - BINGO -

The Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia Inc. is continuing it's diversified activities utilising the Licensed Clubroom atmosphere by introducing BINGO which is to commence on... TUESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 1980.

"HEADS DOWN" at 7.00p.m. and from then on EVERY TUESDAY.

We welcome members and friends to this social outing of participation and enjoyment. Make up a party and SEE YOU THERE ON 5th FEBRUARY.....

SCOTLAND VISITED. (Continued).

At Invermoriston we stayed in a lovely little house overlooking the Loch, and had for company four other Australians and two South Africans. Behind us rose steep, richly forested hills, and in the distance and across the Loch we could see the equally steep but desolate and treeless heights of the Monadhliath Mountains. We had time to spare at this little village and so after the children were safely in bed we simply sat down and gazed across the Loch until well after 9p.m. It was still quite warm and not a breath of air - if it wasn't for the thick forest about us we could have easily been back in Australia. Later in the evening we compared notes with our countrymen who were based at this B&B before heading south again. They mentioned a number of routes north, none of which we took, as we were still wishing to pick our way as fancy took us.

Heading off again we were becoming quite excited as it was the west coast we had principally come to see and experience and the route this particular Monday would take us there. The country became more rugged by the hour. One only has to look at the map to see how few roads passed through - it was truly a country for only the red deer, wild goat and fugitive.

Some of it reminded us of home, especially along Loch Cluanie, which except for the water, could have been the Flinders Ranges. Glen Shiel took us down to the first of the sea lochs Loch Duich, on which is situated the picturesque Eilean Donan Castle, built in 1220 and now the seat of the Clan MacRae. Such places were much revered by clansmen, and the £230,000 raised in 1932 bears testimony to this. Eilean Donan occupies a rocky island which is completely cut off from the mainland at highwater - access is by way of a very narrow causeway.

And it was across this causeway we walked to see yet another place of considerable interest. We were soon absorbed in the history of the place and the beauty of its position, imagining what it must have been like to a lonely sentinel, protecting this important waterway and the entry into its hinterland. Very little of this castle was open which served mainly as a museum for the Clan MacRae - here were stored the relics of many centuries - armoury, photographs, treasures and bagpipes.

This particular day we were not quite sure where we were heading and Lock Carren via Streme Ferry looked interesting on the map. On arrival at the ferry and via a very rough road we found it was not operating, and so a spur of the moment decision was made to head for the Isle of Skye. A back track along Loch Carron, through thickly forested rhododendron country brought us to the Kyle of Lochalsh. Here we had enough time to visit the local bakery before paying the incredible £3.20 (\$4.80) for the 10 minute trip to the island. A heat haze hung over the island, and once again we marvelled at how similar the mountains were to parts of the Flinders Ranges. The incredible barrenness stood all the way to the chief town of Portree. Here we found an interesting B&B with an old Gaelic speaking couple. From our window we had a view of the Island of Raasay and the mountains further north. Whilst Katria slept, Lachlan and I spent the afternoon wandering around the town, exploring the harbour and looking at what had to be looked at. The people outwardly appeared severe and unfriendly, but we soon learnt they had a character all of their own.

In our travels we learnt of the ceilleigh being held that evening and so we hurried back to the house, had dinner at a local restaurant and joined the packed audience to learn again how wrong were my first impressions. The performance was largely in Gaelic, full of incredible wit, song and artistry, most enjoyable of which was the unaccompanied singing of the island choir.

The finction also had considerable audience participation and it was quite inspiring to see how totally absorbed the people became. During the performance, I learnt of attempts at reviving the Gaelic language and culture and was given an invitation to become a member of the Gaelic College of Scotland - this I did when several months later we returned to Australia and it was done by post. From Portree, the road continued north with the stark mountains on the left and the Sound of Raasay to the right.

Thousands of years of erosion had yielded the mysterious shapes of peaks such as Ben Storr and the awe inspiring Quirang. The latter is so incredibly broken up that it appears a mountain range in itself, rather than a single rock mass that it is. Skye is also the home of many ancient clans and they had their presence felt at almost every turn of the road. Near the northern extremity of the island are to be found the ruins of Duntulm Castle and the former seat of MacDonalld of the Isles. This castle is perched precariously, high above the rocks washed by the turbulent Minch. The rocks still bear evidence of the MacDonalld galleys which plied and plundered the Inner and Outer Hebrides, and days of conflict with the vikings and other warring clans. Southward from Duntulm, the crofting village of Kilmuir is reached. Like Bannockburn, this is also scene of Scot's pilgrimage for here lies Flora MacDonalld, the heroine of Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape after Culloden and his fugitive wanderings in the Highlands. Her shroud is reputed to be a sheet from the bed in which the Prince slept during his stay on skye. Near her grave is a crofter museum which keeps alive the tradition of her time and the type of life existent during the late 19th century.

ROYAL CALEDONIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

From Kilmuir, the road winds through wild and desolate country to the protected harbour of Uig where some more of those antique ferries leave for the Outer Hebrides. Uig proved a peaceful little village and the children bore witness again that its chief attraction was the bakery. Our way now took us across Vaternish Peninsula to Dunvegan Castle, country where there had been countless numbers of ancient and bloody skirmishes between the MacLeods and MacDonalDs. Dunvegan, one of the oldest inhabited castles in the country and continuously lived in, warranted a visit. Having met Dame Flora MacLeod many years before in Australia this place also had particular significance, although the grand old lady is now dead. In this castle are the treasures of the clan including the famous Fairy Flag, which is reputed to protect any clan member during times of trouble. During World War II members took a photograph of this delicate piece of silk to provide them with such protection.

Across Loch Dunvegan is Boreraig, where the MacCrimmonds, hereditary pipers to the Clan MacLeod had their piping school for over 300 years. Nothing now remains, although a fund has now been established to erect a modern college on its site. From Dunvegan, the road crosses over the mountains again to Broadford, but before doing so provides excellent views of the Cuilan Mountains, Talisker Peninsula and numerous other places, all providing one with reminders that this Isle was once the home of Scots, Gaels and Vikings alike. These names certainly bring it home to the visitor that this place is different from the rest of Scotland and having just come from Norway, many such names were quite familiar.

To be continued