

Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia

(INCORPORATED)

379 King William Street, ADELAIDE, S.A. 5000



Secretary - Reg Verrall, Ph 51 5268 (Mon.-Fri.)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A.H. 79 4673

CHIEF - Ron Layton Ph 217 0461 or 46 6561
A.H. 339 1916

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NEWSLETTER

FREE TO MEMBERS

Registered for posting as a Periodical Category "B"

AUGUST, 1981

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Society of S.A. Inc. will be held in the Caledonian Memorial Hall, 379 King William Street, Adelaide, on Friday 14th August at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS A. G. M.
BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.
NOTICE OF MOTION.
DECLARATION OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS.
ANNUAL REPORTS.
GENERAL BUSINESS.
SUPPER AND DANCING WITH BAIRNS (PLEASE BRING PLATE).

NOTICE OF MOTION (Mr. J. Cook)

"That Rule 30 be deleted and replaced by the following:-

'Any casual vacancies occurring on the Council shall be filled by an election for the same at the next quarterly meeting or the Annual General Meeting, as the case may be, such election to be for the remainder of the term of the vacating member or members.'

ACTIONS

As per the Constitution the following positions fall vacant:

Chief, Chieftain, 4 Directors, Treasurer. One Auditor is to be elected at the A.G.M.

CHIEF. There being only one nomination, Chief Ron Layton will be re-elected at the A.G.M.
TREASURER. There being only one nomination, Ian Fleetwood will be re-elected at the A.G.M.
DIRECTORS. Five Directors are required to be elected for 2 years and one for 1 year to fill a casual vacancy. 8 nominations were received. Director Doug Bramley has resigned from Council due to pressure of work. Chieftain John Fleetwood has not sought re-election. These two long-standing and hard-working Council members will be missed sadly, but we are heartened to know they will remain actively involved.

NOMINATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM:

ENA RICHARDS (nee MacDonald) is currently a Director and a driving force behind fund raising.
Born in Glasgow of parents from Mull and North Vist.

GEORGE ALEXANDER is a high school teacher and recent arrival from Scotland. A talented musician, having been the principal viola in the Halle Orchestra. Those who have attended ceilidhs have heard this talent.

JACK MOFFATT. He and his family have been steady and hard workers in the Society over several generations. Daughter is a Bairns instructress; son the Drum Sergeant.

DAVID FENWICK. A native Scot and a real estate salesman by occupation. A current director.

MARGARET HARKNESS. A teacher by profession and mother of active bairns. Has helped to organise the T-Shirts, etc. for Centenary Year.

STAN CAMERON-FOX - currently our Cultural Director and responsible for the production of several shows during the year. A lecturer at Salisbury C.A.E.

IAN HAY - a Despatch Manager and relative of the first Chief of our Society. Has a son in the Bairns.

ANN MARSHALL - mother of three bairns. Has been attending Society functions for some 7 years.
A hard worker.

VOTES will be taken on the evening, poll closing at 8 p.m. Postal votes will be welcome - remember 6 Directors are required.

ANNUAL REPORT 1980-81

The Society commenced the year on a strong and positive note created by the outgoing Council and a group of Bairns parents. A clear forecast was given to members and the general Scottish community that unless an enthusiastic response was obtained to initiatives, the Hall and Clubrooms would be lost to the ENTIRE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY. South Australia would be without a focal point for Scots within a matter of months.

You did respond well, with the majority of functions well attended, enjoyable and profitable. Some events will go down in history for their quality. Many existing members became life members and some 120 new members were attracted during the year - few resigned. The club activity increased to the stage it is now open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday on a regular basis, offering a wide variety of enjoyment.

CENTENARY YEAR - 1981

At the outset we planned functions of a very special nature. The Rt. Hon. Viscount Maitland, Master of Lauderdale opened the year at a ceilidh, where Past Chief Gardiner was presented with his gold and silver past chief's badge. The ceilidh proved to members and visitors alike just what could be produced with a little effort.

Events followed in quick succession, including an equally successful Highland Ball in April and a (thoroughly enjoyable Early Colonial Evening in June. The calendar remains full for the rest of the year with the highlight of the year the GRAND CENTENARY SCOTTISH BALL in August.

T-Shirts, Tea Towels and a collectors item Centenary Vintage Port were produced to celebrate the year, both for publicity and a revenue source.

COUNCIL met on 16 occasions and attendances were as follows:

CHIEF: Ron Layton (16).
PAST CHIEFS: Sir Lyell McEwin (3), Charles Gardiner (7).
CHIEFTAINS: J.W. Fleetwood (13), K.P. Atwell (13)*.
TREASURER: I.R. Fleetwood (16).
SECRETARY: R.M. Verrall (15).
DIRECTORS: J.C. Moffatt (12), E. Richards (12), S. Fox (6), D. Fenwick (3), C.F. Cockerill (12)*,
I. Harrison (13)*, G. Kelly (9)*, D. Bramley (9).

(* from September only)

Council devoted its attention to forward plans, our relationship to the S.A. Scottish community and indeed Scotland itself. The precarious financial situation demanded close budgetary control. Meetings were often long and at times involved extensive work behind the scenes.

KINDRED SOCIETIES

Considerable effort was made to develop relationships with other Scottish societies in Australia and overseas. Our links with other ethnic groups also gained much attention. Your Society, as the parent Scottish body in this State, has required of your Chief, extensive representation on behalf of the entire Scottish community. This has involved attendance at 58 functions/meetings/celebrations both in S. A. and interstate.

LINKS OVERSEAS

Your Society maintains strong links overseas, resulting in correspondence interchange with bodies such as the Scottish Tourist Board, Standing Council of Chiefs and individual Clan Societies throughout the world. We have also achieved some international publicity.

MATTERS CULTURAL

Increased efforts have been undertaken to foster our culture, involving visits to schools, articles, publicity and festivals. Delegations have also been made to a number of S. A. organizations to further this objective. We have also joined other societies in an attempt to lift the customs duties on kilts, which still heavily discriminates against the Scots.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Although it is not advertised, the Society is used extensively as a source of information on the subject of Scots and Scotland. Our library is steadily growing with gifts to complement this service. We are most grateful to these donors.

In view of our constitutional responsibility and the fact that we receive a large amount of information, we are experimenting with a periodic circular to other societies, as far as our funds and energy will allow. We are also grateful for assistance from the State Government for assistance in this process.

BUILDING APPEAL

This has raised \$1,276 from 33 donors, 23 of which are members. This remains a critical appeal and we are looking to expand it in 1981-2.

HALL TENANCY

We are pleased to report an expansion in tenancy and members supporting tenants. There is still plenty of capacity, the extent to which will ultimately determine our viability in the current premises. The Hall and Clubrooms are also being used by kindred societies and members at reduced rates.

THE FUTURE

During 1981 we have been riding on the crest of a Centenary Year wave. It has been an excellent year, but we must not become complacent. We have only averted the sale of our premises for the time-being. Hence we have to develop long term plans, which will guarantee a suitable future for the South Australian Scottish Community.

Although this community is a large proportion of our population and there is a significant level of organization membership, it is fragmented, somewhat apathetic and without a clear vision as to where it is going. Your Council is committed to improve this situation both through your own society and other groups.

Unless we are able to achieve this strength of purpose, financial security and focus for the Scottish community, our building (which we must remind you was built for the whole Scottish community) will be lost - yet another piece of Scottish heritage wasted. Your Council will be actively working to avoid this occurring, but it needs your help and commitment NOW.

THANKS

Achievements have come only with hard work. One only has to reflect on the Hallowe'en Ball or the Colonial Evening to see what can be done. None of this would have been possible without leadership,

guidances, support and sheer hard work. To the small but growing core of dedicated people we owe much. To the Band, the Bairns, our Secretary we owe much. To those who have willingly taken responsibility for various functions I extend my heartfelt thanks and may we go from strength to strength in 1981-2.

Chief Ron Layton.

NEW MEMBERS

The Chief and Council extend a warm welcome to the following new members. Please seek them out and ensure that they enjoy our full hospitality.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Mrs. E. D. Simpson
Mr. E. C. Fenbow
Mrs. D. Fenbow

Mrs. C. Harrison
Mrs. K. E. Rusby
Mrs. R. K. Pawson

Mrs. J. I. Putland
Mrs. H. G. Crawford

SOCIAL/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mrs. D. J. Forsyth

BUILDING APPEAL

Previously acknowledged	\$1,236.00
Mrs. A. M. Kuhn	20.00
Anonymous	20.00
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	\$1,276.00
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1981 CENTENARY YEAR PROGRAMME

- 14/8/81 Annual General Meeting - 7.30 p.m. at Clubrooms - bairns as usual.
- 22/8/81 Grand Centenary Ball - Dom Polski Centre - 8.00 p.m.
A few tickets at \$12.50 each are still available.
Contact the Secretary for details.
- 18/9/81 Ceilidh and Country Dance.
- 4/10/81 Family Tea - 4.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. at the Hall.
\$5.00 per family or \$2 per individual.
(A Sunday afternoon of fun and dancing.)
- 17/10/81 Centenary Year Fete.
- 30/10/81 Hallowe'en.
- 28/11/81 St. Andrew's Day Dinner - to be held at the Hall. More details later.
- 31/12/81 Hogmanay.

LADY McEWIN

Members were saddened to learn of the tragic death of Lady McEwin on 30th June, 1981. A large contingent from the Scottish community attended the packed service at the St. Peters Presbyterian Church and later at Centennial Park.

Lady McEwin was loved and respected by all and will be remembered for her inspiration and hard work in the Scottish community, particularly during those years when Sir Lyell McEwin was our Chief.

Our sympathies are extended to Sir Lyell and his family at this time, and may we continue to remember Lady McEwin for all those good things for which she stood.

LIBRARY

The Society continues to receive new book donations. One more recent book - "The Automobile Association Guide to Scotland" - is missing. This is a much sought after book and the Secretary would appreciate its return.

KIRKCONNELL LEA

It is difficult for anyone not Scottish to appreciate that in such a small country there can exist widely differing modes of dress, culture, and music. The haunting melodies of the Western Isles are quite different from the rumbustious Bothy Ballad of the east coast, whilst the border country has a strain of song different again from either. Here is a very old example of a border song which commemorates an incident around the year 1600.

KIRKCONNEL LEA

1. I wish I were where Helen lies
Baith night and day on me she cries.
I wish I were where Helen lies
On fair Kirkconnel lea.
2. O Helen fair, beyond compare,
I'll make a garland o' thy hair,
Shall bind my heart for evermair,
Until the day I die.
3. Curs't be the heart that thought the thought,
And curs'd the hand that fired the shot,
When in my arms my Helen dropt
And died for sake o' me.
4. O think na but my heart was sair,
When my love fell and spak' nae mair;
I laid her down wi' meikle care,
On fair Kirkconnel lea.
5. I laid her down, my sword did draw,
Stern was our strike in Kirtleshaw,
I hew'd him down in pieces sma',
For her that died for me.
6. O that I were where Helen lies.
Night and day on me she cries,
Out of my bed she bids me rise,
O come, love, come to me.
7. O Helen fair, O Helen chaste,
Were I with thee I would be blest,
Where thou liest low, and tak'st thy rest,
On fair Kirkconnel lea.
8. I wish I were where Helen lies,
Night and day on me she cries;
I'm sick of all beneath the skies,
Since my love died for me.

The most common air to which the song is sung was first recorded in 1640 and may have originally been a Celtic harp tune. As one would expect, with a song of such great age there are several versions, but they differ only in minor details.

Helen Irvine was described as a young lady of extraordinary beauty and qualifications. She was descended from the ancient Kirkconnel family of Annandale. She was courted by two local gallants, Bell and Fleeming by name. Bell owned Blacket House, and Alexander Fleeming was of Fleeming Hall near Mossknowe. Bell told Helen if at any time he found her in Fleeming's company, he would certainly kill him. She, however, loved Fleeming and was walking with him one day along the banks of the Kirtle, when she noticed Bell amongst the bushes on the opposite side. Conscious of Bell's threats, she stepped between him and Alexander. At that moment, he fired a shot from a flintlock 'Dag' or Scots pistol. Helen fell dying in Fleeming's arms, whilst Bell, too shocked to make his escape, watched from the opposite bank. Laying her body down, Fleeming crossed the stream, and a terrible fight took place with broadswords during which Bell was literally hacked to pieces. A cairn of stones was raised at the spot where Helen died, and until Victorian times at least her grave could be seen in Kirkconnel Kirkyard with Fleeming, who did not survive her for long, buried close by.

In the very early records of the ballad, Helen's name is always spelt Eelin which is a reflection of the border dialect of late Stuart times. It would be interesting to know whether the grave is still visible. If any member of the society has knowledge of this please let the editor know. Tradition has it, that the original set of verses were written by Fleeming himself.

Stan Cameron-Fox

WHAT KIND OF MEMBER ARE YOU ?

A lot of members are like wheelbarrows, not good unless pushed.

Some are like kites, if you don't keep a string on them, they fly away.

Some are like kittens, they are contented when petted.

Some are like footballs, you can't tell which way they will bounce.

Some are like balloons, full of air or ready to blow up.

Some are like trailers, they have to be pulled.

Some are like neonlights, they keep going on and off.

Some are like a good watch, open face, pure gold, quietly busy, full of good works.

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CENTENARY YEAR FETE - OCTOBER 17TH - BONYTHON PARK

Preparations for the fete are well under way with several industrious groups preparing goods for the various stalls. Volunteers are still required to assist by donating goods and by manning the stalls (part time) on the day. If you can help in any way, please contact the fete convenor, Mrs. Raelene Welsh - telephone 266 0746.

MEMBERSHIP

All members are reminded that subscriptions for the 1981/82 year were due at the end of June, 1981 and the rates remain unaltered. Applications may be received on special forms, or that which appears on the last page of this newsletter. New Members are always most welcome.

Council is rationalizing the membership list in accordance with the licencing act and non-financial persons will not be considered to be members.

WANTED TO BUY

One set of bagpipes for new band member.
Please contact Graham Logan - phone 336 4742.

The Society is still anxious to acquire a piano for use in the clubrooms - please contact the Secretary if you can help.

SPECIAL THANKS

Over the past few months, many people/businesses have assisted the Society in our publicity campaign, and the following list is published for your interest. Members are asked, where possible, to avail themselves of the services these sponsors can offer and remember to mention that you are a member.

Steward Moffat World Travel Service
C. T. Adcock & Sons - land agents
Livingstone Mufflers Pty. Ltd.
Florences Restaurant
Aneil Press
Trophy House Pty. Ltd.
National Energy Centre
Scottish Accessories

Earl of Zetland Hotel
The Scotch Butchers
South Australian Ice Centre
Crown & Sceptre Hotel
Ditters Pty. Ltd.
Rex McTavish & Partners - furnishers
The Sausage Shop Pty. Ltd.
The Witch's Brew - Coffee Shop
The Grape Vine Cellars

DID YOU KNOW - If you explain something so clearly that nobody can misunderstand, somebody will.

CENTENARY YEAR PORT

The Society is proud to announce that in conjunction with Richard Hamilton Wines of Willunga, a special vintage port has been bottled to commemorate our Centenary.

This collector's item may be purchased at the very attractive price of \$4.50 per bottle by placing your order with the Secretary - don't delay as supply is limited.

DONATION

The Council would like to thank Mrs. K. Rusby for her donation of valuable books which have been added to the Society's library. Any donation of books, Scottish apparel, ornaments, musical instruments, music etc., would be greatly appreciated and would assist in enabling the Society to provide more for its members.

ASSETTES

A limited number of Galimaufery Folk group are still available through the Secretary at \$6.50 each.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

.....19.....

To the Secretary,
Royal Caledonian Society of S.A. Inc.,
379 King William Street,
ADELAIDE. S.A. 5000

I apply to be nominated as a member, and agree if elected to be bound and abide by the rules of the Society.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NO:

SIGNATURE:

Membership Category applied for - Life Member (\$200 or \$100)
 Corporate Member (\$15 or \$5 pensioner)
 Social/Associate Member (\$10 or \$5 pensioner/dependent student)

PROPOSED: SECONDED:

BUILDING APPEAL

Please find herewith \$....., being my donation to the Society Building Appeal.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Please indicate if receipt is required

All donations will be acknowledged in the Newsletter and Clubrooms.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Please find herewith \$....., being my subscription for the year 1981/82.
Fees fall due on 1st July, 1981.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Membership cards and receipts will be posted.