

Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia Inc.  
Newsletter  
379 KING WILLIAM STREET, ADELAIDE, S.A. 5000  
**THE**

# CALEDONIAN

---

Office Hours: 10.00am - 2.00pm - Tel:2315268 Chief Mr. W.H. Paterson Tel:252 0359  
Pipe Band Secretary: Mr. Allen Walters -295 5834a.h. Editor: Mrs M. Johnson: 255143  
Registered by Australian Post - Publication No. SBH 0604

---

## A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

FEBRUARY 1992.

We have commenced the New Year with a positive and energetic team of loyal supporters with new ideas and plenty of get up and go.

I have no doubt that Members did enjoy the New Year's Eve Dance which was a tremendous success, and I would hope this to be an indication of the support we are going to get during 1992.

Members support at functions not only helps the Society, but more importantly it gives our Social Committee great satisfaction that, their work is not all in vain.

It is that great devotion to the Society that I personally do sincerely regret the passing of Lillie Moffatt, as I am sure all Members do. The countless hours that Lillie and the rest of her family have devoted to the Society is incalculable. The Royal Caledonian Society has benefited immensely due to the efforts of the Moffatt family; and I personally offer my sincere condolences to that family and trust that they can muster the strength to carry on, with the knowledge that I am sure Lillie did enjoy her life with her family and the Royal Caledonian Society.

I also offer my sincere condolences to our Pipe Major Brian Erskine and his family due to the recent bereavement in his family. Brian also has been and still is a sincere and loyal Member of our Society. From memory I think Brian has been Pipe Major for 8 years, that record speaks for itself.

Brian has been of immense assistance to me in my term of Office as Chief and I am sure that assistance will continue on his return from New Zealand. Once again Brian my sincere condolences and trust you still have the strength to beat the best; with the assistance of the Pipe Band Members and all your friends in the Society.

I would also like to make mention that I would like to thank my loyal band of workers, who have helped me get our Wednesday & Sunday night dances off & running, without their help we would not have been so successful. To our Social Committee, our Bairns Class Instructress, & all others who help in any way I thank you all very sincerely.

BILL PATERSON

CHIEF.

NB - a presentation will be made to Mr Reg Verrall at the ½ yearly meeting (21st Feb), PLEASE come along and show your appreciation of a job well done.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Celtic Fair 24/11/91

Cake Stall

Thanks to some members who provided cakes to sell. Thanks also to the regulars who worked in the stall.

Having the RCS cake stall and the P&D bottle stall next to each other enabled both stalls helped each other when needed.

A lot of setting up for a profit of \$74.

St Andrews Day Dinner 30/11/91

The number of people attending this dinner changed right up till the Friday Afternoon. Fortunately the Catering Service are Society Members and were able to adjust to this. They were able to purchase the meat at at reduced price and therefore charged the Society at the lower price of \$6.00 per head.

My thanks to the Catering Service, RCS P&D's, Mr John Fleetwood, Mrs Anne Miller, Miss Karen Page, Mr Len Maitland and fellow members who helped make the evening a success.

My special thanks to Lennox Pawson who took over as Master of Cermonies for the evening to enable me to help in our limited kitchen.

BBQ Tea, Christmas Carols and Ceilidh 13/12/91

Not well attended but those who came enjoyed the evening. Special thanks to Mr and Mrs John Minney for conducting the carol singing.

Hogmanay Dance 31/12/91

Special thanks to many people who helped make this a very successful evening.

Mrs Bev Hawthorne and 8 members of the Bairns class who provided 2 dancing displays.

The Pipes and Drums of RCS for their music display.

Miss Carolyn Minney for singing and Mrs Margaret Minney for accompaniment.

Mr Len Maitland for providing music for dancing.

Mr Trevor Hawthorne for being the first footer for this event, and others who helped set up the hall and clean up afterwards.

Jeff McFarlane

Social Director

BAIRNS DANCING CLASS NEWS.

A warm welcome to the Bairns in this years class. The instructress for this year is Mrs Beverley Hawthorne, with classes being conducted in the R.C.S. Hall, 379 King William Street, Adelaide from 7.30pm until 9.30pm each Friday night as follows:

Term 1 31/01/92 - 10/04/92  
 Term 2 01/05/92 - 03/07/92  
 Term 3 24/07/92 - 25/09/92  
 Term 4 16/10/92 - 20/11/92

Fees for the year will be:

Society Members' children: \$36 full year or \$12 per term  
 NonMembers' children : \$50 full year or \$15 per term

There is quite a saving by paying the full years fee. It would be appreciated if all fees could be paid promptly to Mr Trevor Kossatz, the Council Director for the Bairns Class.

We require the assistance of parents for supper duty on Friday nights in the kitchen, which consists of providing supper periodically & assisting with the qashing up etc. If everyone assists then your name usually appears on the roster approximately every 6 weeks. This also applies to assisting with the sale of drinks & sweets to the children during their break from dancing.

To minimise distractions to the Bairns during Friday evenings, all adults & non-dancing children are requested to adjourn to the Clubroom for fellowship & assist in planning & organising activities coming up during the year.

This is your Society, so your involvement is essential for its success. Unless more Members become actively involved, instead of leaving all the work to the faithful few (ie about 12 Members) your Society will slowly become extinct.

I am seeking one or two parents to assit me in the administration of the Bairns Class & developing strategies to attract new members to the Class. PLEASE VOLUNTEER.

The Bairns' Class also sponsors an animal at the Adelaide Zoo. DO YOU KNOW WHICH ONE??? The Zoo organises special events for sponsors & these will be circulated/announced as they come to hand.

Throughout the year, the children participate in a variety of activites Watch for announcemetns in the newsletter & the 1992 Social Programme. The Bairns will be performing at Elder Park on Sunday 1st March, 1992 at 2.15pm in the Soundshell. Come along & show your support to the Dancers who "fly the flag" for the Society.

Please discuss any queries or suggestions you may have about the Bairns Class with Trevor or Beverley.

For fun & fitness, learn Highland Dancing in 1992.

Trevor Kossatz  
 Bairns Director

For a Full list of 1992 Highland Dancing Competitions see over.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE COMMITTEE OF HIGHLAND DANCING INC.DATES OF REGISTERED 1992 HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITIONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORGANISER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
FEBRUARY 23	S.A. State Committee Enquiries: Mrs. L. Hann Ph. 384 4529	Mt. Barker
MARCH 14	S.A. State Committee (S.A. Championships) Enquiries: Mrs. B.Niven Ph.261 6653	Fullarton Community Centre (Outdoors)
APRIL 25	S.A. Teachers Enquiries: Mrs. B. Mackie Ph. 264 3676	Adelaide
MAY 9	Royal Caledonian Society of S.A. Enquiries: Mrs B. Hawthorne Ph. 381 7330	379 King William St. Adelaide
June 6/7	S.E.N.D.A. Championships Enquiries: Mrs. M. Reichelt Ph. 087 26 8331	Mt. Gambier
June 27/28	Festival City Championships Enquiries: Mrs. B. Mackie Ph. 264 3676	Gilles Plains
July 25	S.A. Teachers Enquiries: Mrs. B. Mackie Ph. 264 3676	Adelaide
AUGUST 1	S.E.N.D.A. Enquiries: Mrs. M. Reichelt Ph. 087 26 8331	Mt. Gambier
AUGUST 23	S.A. Teachers Enquiries: Mrs B. Mackie Ph. 264 3676	Adelaide
SEPTEMBER 5/6	Southside Enquiries: Mrs. L. Hann Ph. 384 4529	Reynella
SEPTEMBER 19	Broken Hill Eistedfod Enquiries: Mr. B. Wood Ph.080 87 7541	Broken Hill
SEPTEMBER 20	Silver City Show Enquiries: Mr. B. Wood Ph. 080 87 7541	Broken Hill
OCTOBER 10	Mil-Lel Show Enquiries: Mrs. M. Reichelt Ph. 087 26 8331	Mil-Lel (Mt. Gambier)
OCTOBER 24	Mt. Gambier Show Enquiries: Mrs. M. Reichelt Ph. 087 26 8331	Mt. Gambier
OCTOBER 25	Port Adelaide Caledonian Society Enquiries: Mr. K. Garrick Ph. 255 7364	Pt. Adelaide
NOVEMBER 21	Torquil Studio of Highland Dancing Enquiries: Mrs. H. Sayers Ph. 264 0573	Venue to be advised

HELP!!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

HELP!!!

The "Cale" has 2 stalls (BBQ & Beer) at the Multicultural Fair being held at Elder Park on Sunday 1st March from 11am - 8pm. & We are DESPERATELY in need of YOUR HELP.

If you can cook a "barbie" OR sell snags, onions, haggis, bread or beer, We Need you to contact: Mr Jeff McFarlane on 356 1080(AH), so a roster can be drawn up to enable everyone to take a break.

We also need your help at the Wed Night Dance (all proceeds to the R.C.S.) to help man the bar or the door. If you are able to help please contact the Chief during Office hours to enable a roster to be made up.

Last but not least if you can help at any of the "Cale" functions please contact Jeff McFarlane (ph 3561080 AH) or see him at functions, or Bairns Class. The main areas help is required in are the setting up(usually after Bairns Class on Friday nights) & in cleaning up after a function.

\*\*\*\*\*

HIGHLAND DEBUTANTE BALL

Calling all young lassies 16 - 18 years of age who are interested in making their debut to society??? The R.C.S. is having a Deb Ball on Saturday 15th August (please note amended date) and we are looking for any girls interested in making their Debut to contact either Mrs Roselee Kossatz (ph 2509673) or Mrs Isobel McFarlane (ph 3561080) A.S.A.P. for full details etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

COUNCIL NEWS

At a recent Council meeting it was decided to write to the Hon Alexander Downer, telling him of our support for the current Australian flag, & of his "Rally to the Flag" campaign. Members are encouraged to write expressing their support for the campaign & flag, to:

Hon Alexander Downer,  
Gawler Street,  
Mt Barker SA 5251

Members may also wish to express concern at the removal of the Coats of Arms from over the doors into our Court rooms.

\*\*\*\*\*

MEMBERS NEWS

NEW MEMBERS - Mrs J. I. Pearson Associate ) A very warm welcome is  
Mr I.M.G. Ferguson Corporate ) extended to these Members.

Our congratulations to Mr William (Bill) Cox on attaining his 50 year Jewel from the Masonic Lodge. Mr Cox, now of the Clayton Homes at Norwood, is well known in the Pipe Band fraternity.

To Mr Jim McLean best wishes for a speedy recovery from surgery. Also get well wishes to Past Chief Ena Richards, who has recently had another stay in hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

6/.

"VALE"

It is with great regret we announce the recent passing on one of the Society's staunchest Members.

MRS LILLIAN (LIL) MOFFATT - Lil, who spent many hours in the "Cale" kitchen & in the canteen at Bairns Class, was well known & respected with in the Scottish & Highland Dancing Communities, will be sadly missed by all who knew her. The deepest sympathy of all past & present Members of the R.C.S. & of the Bairns Class is extended to her husband Jack, daughter Bev, son Robert & their families on the loss of their wife & mother.

Her funeral was very well attended by both Members & friends, who came along to pay their last respects. Many Thanks to Piper Bob McGregor for piping & to dancers from the Moffatt School of Dancing & the Bairns Class of the R.C.S. for the guard of honour.

\*\*\*\*\*

PIPES & DRUMS REPORT.

November & December 1991 was a very busy time for the band with a number of Christmas pageants, the Celtic Fair, & various other engagements. The band's final performance for the year was at Carols by Candlelight, where they accompanied the singers John Swann & Catherine Lambert in a rendition of Amazing Grace. This was very popular with the audience and there were many cries for "more".

The band held their Xmas party on 21st December, at which the annual trophies were presented. Congratulations go to Iain Carr, winner of the Robert Pattullo trophy for the most advanced learner, & to Frank Clark, winner of the Harry Fairbank trophy for general proficiency.

As numbers of the band continue to grow, the outlook for 1992 is good, and the band anticipates another successful & busy year, a high-light of which should be the performance with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra at the Festival Theatre on Sunday March 29th.

Margaret Morgan

SECRETARY.

P.S. The following exert was taken from the "Country Times" newspaper dated Jan 14th, 1992.

"The "Drums & Pipes" of S.A.'s Caledonian Society provided a colourful & musical highlight. The band, which is the 1991 Grade 3 Championship Band, was appreciated by the large crowd which watched & listened as they marched along Marine Parade with precision & flair, their youngest member, 14 year old Evan Morgan completely relaxed amongst them".

The Country Spy.

ROYAL CALEDONIAN SOCIETY OF S.A. INCPROGRAMME 1992 Feb Update

- Sun 2nd Feb Burns March 10.00am, Lunch and Ceilidh  
Lunch available (Catering Com. to supply.)
- Fri 21st Feb Half-Yearly Meeting. Basket Supper. 7.30pm
- Sun 1st Mar Multi Cultural Carnival. Elder Park  
11am till 8pm  
We will have a BBQ Stall selling Haggis,  
Sausages, Tea and Coffee  
A Roster is being drawn up for this event
- Sat 21st Mar Gathering of the Clans. Basket Supper.  
Tickets \$5.00, \$2.00. Music Len Maitland  
7.30pm till 12
- Sun 29th Mar (P&D Concert with Adelaide Sym Orch)  
Adelaide Festival Theatre - 3:00 pm.
- Fri 10th Apr Bairns Easter Bonnet Parade.  
Music Len Maitland. Tickets \$5.00, \$2.00  
7.30pm till 12
- Sat 9th May R.C.S. Highland Dancing Comp.
- Sat 23rd May Scottish Country Dance Night. 7.30 till 12  
Music - Strathspey and Reel Soc  
Leader - R.S.C.D.S. Demonstration Team.  
Tickets to be advised.. Basket Supper
- Sat 13th Jun Clansmen's Ball (P&D Function)
- Sat 4th July Children's Disco. American Theme  
Admission \$2.00. 7.30 till 12  
Soft Drinks, Lollies, Chips available  
Good opportunity for parents to go out to  
dinner, while children at supervised disco.
- Sat 11th July (Scottish Acc. Ball  
at Payneham Civic Centre)
- Sat 25th July Burns Supper. Catered by R.C.S. Catering..  
Music - Len Maitland  
Tickets- \$20.00, \$5.00  
Sherries 7pm, Dinner 7.30pm
- Thu 13th Aug P&D's A.G.M.
- Sat 15th Aug Highland Deb. Ball. Catered Supper  
Tickets \$20.00, \$5.00. 8pm till 1am  
Music by Ian Fiddian and Band
- Fri 21st Aug Annual General Meeting  
7.30pm Basket Supper

- Sat 26th Sept Cabaret (P&D Function)
- Sat 31st Oct Bairns and Adults Halloween  
Music by Len Maitland  
Basket Supper. Tickets \$5.00, \$2.00  
Fancy Dress encouraged  
7.30 till 12
- Sat 7th Nov (John Martins Pageant, Breakfast and Lunch)  
Cooked Breakfast and lunch available
- Fri 20th Nov Bairns Class Presentations and Ceilidh  
Basket Supper during Ceilidh  
Tickets \$5.00, \$2.00  
Music by Len Maitland
- Sat 28th Nov St. Andrew's Day Dinner  
Catered by RCS Catering Service  
Music - Len Maitland  
Tickets \$20.00 \$5.00  
Sherries 7pm, Dinner 7.30pm
- Sun 29th Nov (Celtic Festival at Sacred Heart College  
Oval)
- Mon 30th Nov St. Andrew's Day ( Rundle Mall Promo.)
- Sat 12th Dec BBQ Tea, Christmas Carols and Ceilidh  
Basket Supper during Ceilidh  
Music by Len Maitland  
Tickets \$5.00, \$2.00  
6.30pm till 12
- Sat 19th Dec (P&D Christmas Breakup)
- Thu 31st Dec Hogmanay Dance. 7.30pm till late.  
Music by Len Maitland. Basket Supper.  
Tickets \$5.00, \$2.00.



Dear Editor,

When a certain H.D.A. official at a certain celtic festival, was asked the whereabouts of a particular lady, he gestured cheerfully towards the belly of the grandstand saying, "All the old boilers are in the kitchen." They were too, so this ditty is in defence of all old boilers everywhere, male or female, whom I love.

THE OLD 'UNS

Eight priests conduct a single choirboy  
 Their ancient robes all spun with gold.  
 (In flickering light from holy candles  
 Their wisps of hair look old.)  
 The boy sings like a bell in heaven  
 While eight forefingers prattle on,  
 And echoes of the bell, call clearly,  
 Captured in cathedral stone.

Eight husbands stand around a barbie  
 Chewing charcoaled flesh and bone  
 Whilst in the kitchen  
 Womanhood  
 Makes glory out of none.  
 Around the barbie husbands chortle  
 Through the ash and beery smell  
 About their bitter-sweet old boilers  
 Making life a merry hell.

Post menopausal saints stoop, weary  
 In their mantle named of Job  
 Thus born to bear the load.  
 The boys they wed strut middle-age  
 Around their jokes and ogles  
 Like a separate and forgotten extra robe.  
 Old roosters, spun in gold, keep crowing.  
 Hens pluck the seed of life for sowing.

Margaret Minney  
 January 1991

ADVERTISEMENT.

ELIZABETH GROVE MEATS

Specialising in "HAGGIS" - "REAL MACKAY" - "SCOTCH SLICE SAUSAGE".

For ALL YOUR needs in the TRUE Scottish Meats call in & see

TERRY MURPHY at

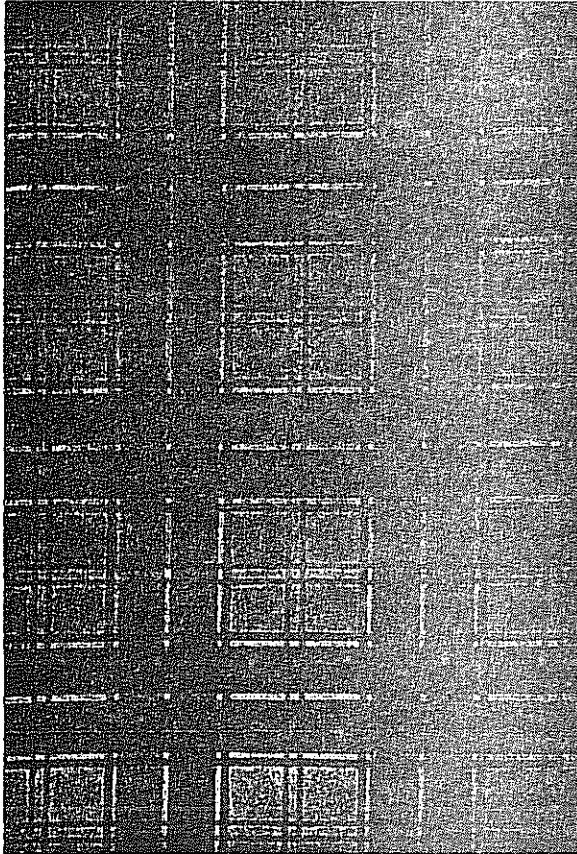
50 Fairfield Road  
 Elizabeth Grove 5112

OR

'phone 255 2368

## ROBERTSON

MAC RAIBEIRT



In 1815, in correspondence with General David Stewart of Garth on the subject of preservation of the old clan tartan patterns, Alexander Robertson of Struan disclosed that he had, some years before, asked several old men of the clan, who reckoned to know about such things, for a description of the true Robertson tartan. Since no two gave the same answer, he had adopted the Atholl tartan for his own wear. The pattern shown here was certainly around in 1815, in this or a very similar form, and the Atholl tartan of those days is now Murray of Atholl.

Robertson of Kindeace is a Black Watch derivative, with a red overcheck, edged with black, on the green, and the space between the pair of black lines centred on alternate blues filled in with white. It is also called Hunting Robertson and was being worn before 1820.

The design offered by *Vestiarium Scoticum* has not been generally accepted; in form it is Mackintosh with a green overcheck centred on the red ground.

ON THE BASIS OF THE TITLE 'de Atholia', the descent of the Robertsons is deduced from the old Celtic earls of Atholl, but the Gaelic name of Clann Donnachaidh is derived from Duncan, who led the clan at Bannockburn. The Robert from whom the clan takes its English name was the chief who apprehended the Master of Atholl and Graham after the murder of James I, but it was not until 1509 that the name of Robertson was assumed. Robert received a Crown charter, erecting his lands into the barony of Struan in 1451, but the Earl of Atholl seized about half of them a century later and this portion was never recovered. The chiefs had a succession of homes, including Loch Tunnel, Kinloch Rannoch, Carie, Dunalastair, and Rannoch Barracks.

In the troublous times of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, Robertson of Struan was a man of importance, and the leading men of his name entered into a bond with the Earl of Errol to support him and defend his property.

When Montrose raised the royal standard near Lude, in 1644, the Robertsons joined the Atholl men and took full part in the fighting. Few Robertsons were anything but passionate Jacobites, and the chief, Alexander, was out in 1689, 1715, and 1745.

Alexander died at his home at Carie in April 1749, the last of his line. The estates then passed to the Drumachune line, but gradually dwindled away, the last part being sold in 1926.

Lately, the clan has gained a new foothold in its old home country, with the opening of the Clan Donnachaidh Museum at Bruar.



**CREST BADGE:** A dexter hand holding an imperial crown, all proper.

**MOTTO:** Virtutis gloria merces (Glory is the reward of valour).

**ORIGIN OF NAME:** Son of Robert.

**PLANT BADGES:** Fine-leaved heath, Braeken.

**WAR CRY:** Garg'n uair dhuis gear (Fierce when raised).

**PIPE MUSIC:** Teachd Chlann Donnachaidh (The Clan Donnachie has arrived).

THE JOINT COMMONWEALTH SOCIETIES COUNCIL  
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Representative of the  
South Australian Branches  
of  
THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY  
THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR  
COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP  
THE NAVY LEAGUE  
THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE  
THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN SOCIETY  
THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE  
THE CAMBRIAN (WELSH) SOCIETY  
THE AUSTRALIA-CANADA ASSOCIATION  
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION  
THE AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY  
THE CORNISH ASSOCIATION

LATE AFTERNOON PARTY

9th March, 1992

To celebrate Commonwealth Day and in the presence of Her Excellency,  
The Honourable Dame Roma Mitchell, AC, DBE, Governor of South Australia,  
the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council in South Australia is holding  
a Late Afternoon Party at Edmund Wright House, 59 King William Street,  
Adelaide, on MONDAY, 9th MARCH, 1992, from 5.30 P.M. until 7.00 P.M.

Entree Tickets - \$15.00 per head - will be available from the office  
very shortly.

A young escaped convict who went on a seven year walkabout with Aborigines 153 years ago was the unlikely catalyst for the founding of Maclean, the Scottish town in Australia.

Richard Craig escaped from the Moreton Bay (near present day Brisbane) convict settlement and lived with Aboriginal tribes who showed him the rich "red gold" cedar forest inland from Shoal Bay. The bay had been sighted and charted, then inexplicably ignored by early navigators, James Cook and Matthew Flinders (1770-99).

When Craig was rehabilitated into the infant colony of Sydneyside he told of "The Big River" that emptied into the bay and of the cedar and other riches that line the banks of the river that was subsequently named the Clarence.

Cedar cutters, followed by other settlers, flocked to the district and began the history of the white men and the founding of Maclean, now widely known as The Scottish Town in Australia.

Many of the Scots emigrants were evicted crofters who, by preference, moved north onto the high rainfall, east coast river system flood plains, (heavily timbered though they were), rather than west to the drier, more sparsely timbered hinterland. The isolations of language, culture and religion saw the Scots tend to move en masse, in communities and congregations. Thus an inordinate proportion of Highlanders and Islanders selected grants on the Lower Clarence some 40 miles north of Sydney.

Over the next 40 years 448 Scottish families settled in the area; not less than 347 were Highlanders, 140 from Skye and these numbers included 240 farmers plus many widows of farmers. A survey of Maclean cemetery showed 50.73 per cent of 19th century graves were graves of Scots, (against the national population average of under 10 per cent).

Rural development was rapid and in 1861, the visionary Government of the day, ordered a township to be laid out in the area known then as Rocky Mouth.

In deference to the origins of population, many of the street names had distinctly Scottish connotations, e.g. Argyll, Morvan, Sunart, Oban, Clyde, Alexander and MacIntyre Streets; the Camerons and MacDonalDs fared better, cracking the double and having both streets and parks named in their honour. Happily, the present shire council continues the use of Highland names in the designation of new developments.

The little settlement originally called "Rocky Mouth" struggled to survive but finally gave way to Maclean, called after the Surveyor-General, Alistair Maclean, when the Post Office was officially established under that name in 1885.

In 1886 the sawmillers, Murray Bros, natives of Thurso, sponsored the first of 87 Maclean Highland Gatherings. Regularly each Easter the tradition continues and the Games have grown to a major feature on the nation's Scottish Calendar.

The pipe band was formed in 1898 under Donald Matheson, a native of Inverness and has continued, the war years excepted, with sporadic if limited success. None-the-less Maclean has produced several men pre-



## MACLEAN THE SCOTTISH TOWN IN AUSTRALIA

by Charlie MacInnes

eminent in Australian piping, none more so than Alastair Macsween, a grandson of "Sandy" Bruce of Skye, and one of the last notable products of the MacCrimmons of Borreraig.

A Gaelic Debating Society flourished for many years. It maintained a Gaelic library and vainly resisted the inroads of the State education system into their native tongue. Authority prevailed, and, sadly, Gaelic disappeared from the Clarence hearth. It is seldom heard today but one recent arrival, the Rev Kenneth MacLeod, (ex. Lewis) is sometimes heard on the BBC's Gaelic Service commenting on matters of Scottish-Australian interest.

Maclean has grown into the more-or-less typical Australian, three-pub town of 3,000 albeit with a decidedly Scottish bias. The local school uniform is Maclean Hunting tartan, the band wear Maclean of Duart and the town song is a pipe tune with words added by the composer Ron Flemming (late of Campbeltown).

Not-with-standing, southern industrialisation, the demands for tertiary education and the nationwide drift to the cities depleted the town of much of its youth. In 1986 something was found to be lacking, and local Graham Leach "had a good idea".

Leach approached Bob MacPherson, Secretary of the Lower river Scottish Association, (LCSA), the promoters of the Gathering. Bob convened a public meeting and the result was "The Scottish Town in Australia Committee". It combined most of what is best in a Chamber of Commerce, a Tourist Authority and Service Clubs.

A tattered snap of John Bruce, early Skye piper, was caricatured by talented local artist, Keith Howland. The logo was repro-

duced on banners, cast into badges, embossed on sundry letter-heads and painted on welcoming signs either end of the town. Flagpoles were erected above the shopping centre from which, each Friday and on any special day, flutter the Australian Flag, the Scottish Standard, St Andrews Cross and our Bi-Centenary Banner.

Gaelic has been provisionally introduced into Maclean High School's curriculum and two students were the first in N.S.W. to take piping as a matriculation subject. Some 20 street signs now carry Gaelic translations while a "Drive of Scottish Interest" has been carefully planned and clearly designated for tourists.

Two Highland Debutante Balls are held each year; a Scottish Country Dance Club has been formed; St Andrew's Day formally celebrated; a Burns Night is being re-introduced.

The town is sister linked with Skye's Portree.

Local businessman Sid Jones, has made available to the Committee at only nominal rent, a prominently sited main street shop opposite the riverside MacLachlan Park. Scottish corner-tourist information centre has been set up therein which operates 6 days a week on totally voluntary labour, vending imported cards, clan crests, records, discs, CD's music books, Scottish posters cards, sweets and of course haggis. Also available are locally made Scottish marmalades and shortbreads, kilted koalas plus sundries too numerous to mention. All day the skirl of the pipes and the dulcet tones of Kenneth MacKellar, Calum Kennedy Kathleen MacDonald and others announce to visitors and locals alike "where you are at".

But the committee's finest achievement must be the "Heilan Cairn". Strenuous efforts were made to secure for Maclean the stones collected from every parish of Scotland-your Nation's gift to our Bi-Centenary celebrations. Like our taxes the stones followed the votes to the city and Sydney prevailed. But the resilient Committees response was "let's build our own". Local stones were collected, carted by locals and erected by locals... well almost. George Kerridge, an octogenarian from Haddington, via Edinburgh travelled 1,000 miles from Canberra to volunteer his considerable expertise in such matters and supervise "Wee Willie" Mendes and Hugh Anderson, two local retirees, in the construction.

Maclean today is a happy prosperous town, a focal point of tourism and Scottish lore. The committee continue its endeavours and the locals grow prouder and more aware of their heritage. As Alastair MacSween was wont to say when challenged about his pseudo Scottish attitudes, "Well, if you were born in China you wouldn't call yourself a Chinaman, would you".

Most of the historical background is drawn from Mrs Eleanor H. MacSwan's books "Maclean and the Scottish connection" and "The Discovery and Settlement of the Lower Clarence", both published by the Maclean Historical Society.

Photo - John Bruce Skyeman, piper and immigrant-licensee of the "Highland Chief".

ADVERTISEMENTS

# SCOTTISH AUSTRALIA


NO LAUGHING MATTER - WE TAKE YOUR MONEY SERIOUSLY.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OFFICE - 3rd Floor, 45 King William Street (C.M.L. Building), ADELAIDE. SA

Telephone (08) 213 3777 - Ask for Ross Swan.

A Member of the Colonial Mutual Group. (Incorporated in Victoria).

**GEONNE**  
CUSTOM MADE DANCING SHOES



P.O. Box 370  
Campbelltown S.A. 5074  
ph. (08) 261 8107

Yvonne Twining

Specialising in:

- Scottish Highland pumps
- Championship pumps
- Scottish Jig shoes
- Country Dance Ghillies shoes
- Country Dance slippers

Available in black, red or green leather.

Please telephone for an appointment.

## SCOTTISH ACCESSORIES

THE NAME SAYS IT ALL

COME IN & BROWSE, YOU'LL BE SO GLAD YOU DID . . . .

SHOP 20 MARDEN SHOPPING CENTRE MARDEN

Ph 362 1722

THE CALEDONIAN IS A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

All financial members of the R.C.S. receive a FREE copy of the "Caledonian" posted to their home address.

POST your items early to reach the Secretary or Editor no LATER than the 15th of January, March, May, July, September, November for inclusion in the next newsletter. All members are invited to contribute, it is YOUR Newsletter. Circulation - 300 copies.

POST TO: The Caledonian Editor  
379 King William Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000.

\*\*\*\*\*

ADVERTISING - Rates are very reasonable

\$50.00 per issue for A4 Full Page.  
\$30.00 " " " A4 Half Page.  
\$20.00 " " " A4 1/4ter Page.  
\$10.00 " " " small line ads (up to 6 lines).  
DISCOUNT RATE \$100.00 for 6 issues (12 months) for A4 1/4ter Page.

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 of the Royal Caledonian Society, and agree if elected to be bound and abide by the Rules of the Society.

NAME :.....

ADDRESS :.....

PHONE NO.:(.....).....

SIGNATURE :.....

CLAN: (if known).....

PLACE OF BIRTH .....

Membership Category applied for;

Life Member \$500.00 once only .....

Corporate Member \$ 25.00 per annum.....

Associate Member \$ 15.00 per annum.....

Pensioner/Student Member \$ 15.00 per annum.....

PROPOSED..... SECONDED.....

\*\*\*\*\*