



# turnbull clan association

Vol 1- No 4. November 1981

\*NEWSLETTER\*

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Dear Member

It is now some time since we have produced our newsletter however events have been proceeding which have been keeping us fairly busy.

On new years day the clan was represented at the annual Scottish Highland Games at Wentworth Park in Sydney where we were fortunate to share the same booth with our fellow Clansmen, the Clans Campbell, Maclennan and Gordon, however very few of our members turned up which was dasappointing. Our display of Tartans, souvenirs etc, met with quite a lot of interest but again very few enquiries from our fellow Turnbull's.

Our cousins in USA also held a gathering at Orlando in Florida in January and news from our clan secretary in Chicago is that they also had a very disappointing day, mainly because of the inclement weather at that time of the year, where it was very cold and windy however they did have some membership enquiries which helped to brighten up their day.

On April 28, we had a meeting at the Blacktown RSL Club to endeavour to get some local members together for the formation of a Committee to continue with the progress of our Association here in Australia. Eleven of our members turned up and after some discussion a preliminary Committee was elected with the following positions being declared:

Secretary: Mr S J Turnbull 28 The Grandstand StClair.  
Treasurer: Mrs S A Turnbull " " "  
Chairman: Mr A J Turnbull 11 Worth St Penrith.  
Committee: Mrs L Donohue 5 Kilkenny Rd Penrith.  
Mr N U Turnbull 39 Fitzpatrick Ave FrenchsForest  
Mr R L Turnbull 9/19 Goodchap Rd Chatswood.  
Mrs J Rowe 84 Highfield Rd Lindfield.  
Fr K A Turnbull P O Box 434 Ashfield .

During May<sup>we</sup> were fortunate to be able to attend the Clan Gathering in Hawick, Scotland to represent the Australian Turnbull's. The gathering which was held over the weekend of May 22-24 was an outstanding success, and started with a Ceilidh held on the Friday night with over a hundred members attending. As well as my wife Shirley and myself we had two other members from Australia, Miss J Phillips from Wollongong and Mr Alex Turnbull from Melbourne. Our clan secretary from USA, Mrs Dottie Turnbull Berk, along with her husband Bill was also in attendance as well as a few others from USA and Canada.

The following day a talk on the ancient background of the Turnbull's was given by Dr Michael Robson, the curator of the Hawick Museum, where he described details of the ancient Turnbull homelands before the visitors went on a tour of the area in the afternoon. We were able to record on tape details of both the talk by Dr Robson and the bus tour. If any members are here in Sydney at any time they would be very welcome to hear them.

On the Saturday night a grand dinner was held in the Crown Hotel ballroom in Hawick and was again attended by in excess of 100 members. After the dinner the evening was taken up by the many excellent speeches, especially the main speech "To the Turnbulls" which was given by Dr Bill Cameron of Hawick. The following morning a memorial sermon was given at the Bedrule Church by the Rev Harry Dodds which was much appreciated by all who attended.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Our membership here in Australia is gradually increasing and we now have in excess of 170 members. We were planning to advise the New Zealand Turnbull's from here regarding the Clan Association, however this project is now being done by our H Q in Scotland and I take this opportunity of thanking one of our few NZ members at this stage, Mrs Patricia Turnbull of Invercargill, for the valued assistance she has given by compiling a list of the Turnbull's in New Zealand for us. These lists are now at HQ in Scotland and it is hoped that news of the clan will be going out to that country in the near future.

Some of our members have commented on the reason for our membership fees being \$8-00 yearly and why half of this fee is sent to our HQ in Scotland. I think the following extract from a letter I recently received from our clan secretary in Chicago USA may answer their comments for me:

U. S. postage is going up and I had to beat the raise, especially with so many to send out. Those not sending in dues will be dropped from our mailing list, printing and postage is too costly, we can't afford to carry them, nor is it fair to the members who do pay. I hate to lose them after all the work we went to getting in touch with them but every family has their deadbeats and those who are not "joiners" and those who are just not interested. The Americans like lots of communication, they feel John does not send out enough Newsletters, so I have a time trying to tell them that the dues pay for more than Newsletters. There is the production of the Tartan, ties etc. You would think that business men would instinctively know this. With the U.S. we have to pay to sponsor the tents at the Games, pay for the tents, tables, seats, etc. to be set up, all of it a costly proposition.. If I can, I will try to throw in an extra Newsletter this year. Getting 3-4 out a year is a big effort. I have begged them to send in stuff for publication and each issue I am scrounging the Highlander and other Scottish bits and pieces that have come in the mail to put out something I think they will enjoy reading. Most of our members are a few generations removed from Scotland, most of the heritage has been diluted out, so they do seem to enjoy any article on heritage or customs, that is a great help.

I feel the above extract exactly explains our problems both here and in the USA. As well as the production costs mentioned in the above extract we must also consider the costs in spreading the word to the other countries such as New Zealand where there are as many Turnbull's as here in Australia. This all has to be paid from our membership fees and the little revenue we receive from our souvenir items, tartans etc.

#### OBITUARY

It is with regret we have to report the passing of one of our NSW members, Mrs Jean Sylvia Berryman nee Leonard, of Trundle NSW. Jean passed away on July 29, 1981 aged 52 years and had been a clan member for some eighteen months, being one of the first to join our Australian branch. Jean's passing comes as a personal loss to myself as she was a close descendent of my own branch of the Turnbull clan, with many relatives at present being members of the clan. I am sure they will join me in expressing our deepest sympathy for her immediate family.

It is with regret we also have to report the passing of another member of the Turnbull clan, Mr Douglas Murdoch of Bombala NSW who passed away on August 4, 1981 aged 75 years. Although not a member of the Clan Association Doug was another member of our own branch of the Turnbull's, and will be remembered by many who attended our family reunion at Bombala in February 1979.

The Scottish Clans Council.

The clans council is an organisation which has been set up to help the different clan societies and associations in their activities and has now been going for some 3-4 years. The Turnbull Clan has been represented on the council now for approx. twelve months. Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the notes of the last meeting. If any member would like to attend one of the future meetings please let me know, the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd November in the Captains Room, Cahills Dutch Village Restaurant, Park Regis Building, Park St, Sydney at 5.30 p.m.

Scottish Australian Heritage Council.

This council was founded in Sydney on June 18, 1981, and is progressing rapidly. Enclosed also is a copy of its aims and objectives.

Scottish Week 1981.

Commencing with the raising of the Clans and Church Services on the weekend of November 22nd and running to the following Sunday the 29th. The tentative program at the moment is: Tuesday Pipe Bands in Martin Place. Wednesday Randwick Races and Scots Ball. Thursday Ceilidh. Friday Combined Scottish Societies, St Andrews Dinner. Saturday Campelltown Highland Gathering. Sunday Church Services, Domain Picnic, March to Opera House, and Open Air Concert.

Genealogy.

At the present moment we are endeavouring to compile as much information as possible on the different branches of the Clan into a Clan Register which will be indexed and cross referenced. Enclosed is a copy of a "Birth Brief" which indicates some of the details required. For those members who have not sent details of their family trees could you please fill in this form and return it to us so we can continue this project. At the moment we have begun this task of card indexing details which have already been submitted and have in excess of three hundred names already with many more still to record, and this would only be the tip of the iceberg. By submitting details for our register it will help those who are tracing their family origins and also help in compiling a record of the Turnbull families in Australia.

# SCOTTISH CLANS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Notes of Meeting No. 10 18/8/81

Clans Represented: Representatives of the following clans were welcomed to the meeting: Murray (Alf Murray), Gordon (Gordon Mallett and Albert Owen), Macfie (MacPhee) (Sandy and Norah McPhee), MacLennan (Bill and Gwen MacLennan), Donald (Nan McDonald), Campbell (Alex Campbell and John Dillon), Macneil (Mrs Margaret Westacott), Forsyth (Malcolm Forsyth). Mrs Beryl Nisbett of Clan Murray and Mr Geoffrey Ferrow of Clan Ross were welcomed as visitors.

Apologies: Apologies were received from the following: Peter Alexander, Jim Turnbull, Jack MacGillivray, Jock MacDougall, Bill and Dot Tyrrell, Maclaren Reid.

No. 9 Notes. Notes of meeting No. 9 were referred to for business arising.

Clan MacAlister: A message from Peter Alexander was to the effect that he had received approval from the Lord Lyon to form a Clan MacAlister group here. So far, a world candidate for clan chief has not been found.

Clan Macfie (MacPhee): Sandy McPhee reported official appointment by the Lord Lyon of a Commander of Clan Macfie, Dr E. McPhee of Canada, after a gap of 358 years. The meeting expressed sincere congratulations to Clan Macfie, which is now no longer a 'broken' clan, and is recognized by the Crown.

Clan Murray: Notice was given of a Clan Murray gathering in Taree on October long-weekend. Mrs Beryl Nisbett kindly agreed to convey a message of goodwill from the Council.

Clan MacLennan: Notice was also given of the Clan MacLennan annual gathering to be held in Canberra, 21st November.

Clan Macneil: We were advised that the Clan Macneil Annual Dancing Championships would be at St Joseph's Church Hall, Enfield, on 5th and 6th September.

Clan Forsyth: Malcolm Forsyth reported that 25 Australian Forsyths attended a highly successful gathering at Ethie Castle in Scotland.

Clan Donald: Nan McDonald said that a recent international Clan Donald tour took in visits to the various Clan Donald territories, where the group was welcomed by the respective Branch Chiefs. The annual Bannockburn Dinner in Sydney went well, and a Highland Night was scheduled for 18th September.

Farquharson Chief: Beryl Nisbett read a letter of goodwill to all Scottish organizations from Chief of Clan Farquharson.

Clan Gordon: Gordon Mallett reported a first-rate Gordon gathering in Scotland, where he met with the Earl of Aboyne, and stayed at the Clan castle. Gordon also spoke with Lord Elgin, and City Dignitaries at functions in Edinburgh. Warm congratulations were extended to Gordon by the meeting on his having been elected to the Council of Clan Gordon.

S.C.C. Letterhead: A proposed S.C.C. letterhead design was tabled by John Dillon, and the meeting decided that it could be submitted to Lord Elgin for approval or otherwise. The motto 'United We Prosper' was included. There was some discussion on the subject, but agreement was reached that 'prosper' was appropriate in view of the dictionary definition - 'to be successful'; 'to flourish'.

S.C.C. Status: It was also decided to seek Lord Elgin's approval and/or advice regarding acceptance of the S.C.C. as the official combined clans organizational reference group in Australia. A letter was to be sent to him by John Dillon, stating briefly our objectives and development, and requesting his advice as Chairman of the Standing Council of Scottish Clan Chiefs.

Scottish Australian Heritage Council. Geoffrey Ferrow reported on development of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. This is a new, combined group, whose immediate function is to organize a Scottish Week around St Andrew's Day. The S.C.C. is well represented on the Council. Full details of activities will be promulgated, but of major interest for us is the Clan March on Sunday, 29th November. All clans are urged to be prepared to participate. Full details at our next meeting. Please alert as many of your clansfolk as possible. Route: Sydney Domain to Opera House - where there will be an open-air Scottish concert. March starts at 1 p.m. Family picnic beforehand, if desired. Clan name placards will be provided, but 'extra' banners and flags welcomed. There will be approx. 14 pipe bands.

Scottish Week - S.C.C. Publicity: Details of the S.C.C. are to be prepared for publication in the Scottish Week souvenir programme. Some 30,000 will be on sale at \$1.00 a copy.

S.C.C. Formalization: Following intentions expressed previously, the meeting formalized proceedings by voting to adopt the name (subject to Lord Elgin's approval) of Scottish Clans Council of Australia. Also, the following office-bearers were elected: President - Mr John F. Campbell Dillon; Vice-President - Mr W.F.F. MacLennan; Secretary - Mrs Gwen MacLennan; Treasurer - Mr A. Murray.

Finances: Receipts of \$38 brought funds up to \$58.20, from which 'Notes' expenses (John Dillon) of \$8.86 were deducted, leaving a credit balance of \$49.34.

Members were thanked for attending, and the meeting closed at 8.15.

#### NEXT MEETING

Captain's Room, Cahill's Dutch Village Restaurant, Park Regis Building, Park Street, Sydney. Tuesday, 3rd November. Dining (in Captain's Room) from 5.30 p.m. if desired. Business 6.30 p.m.

Important developments are taking place - please ensure your clan is represented.

*John Dillon*  
President

198 Bay Road, Arcadia, 2159  
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THE SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

OBJECTIVES

The Aims and Purposes of The Scottish Australian Heritage Council are:

Firstly, to foster within the Commonwealth of Australia that heritage brought to these shores by the Scottish people and nurtured to this day by Australians of Scottish descent - the heritage of Scotland, the culture, the language, the literature and the music;

Secondly, to strengthen that heritage:

- by organising, sponsoring and financing such activities as:
  - \* cultural exchanges between Scotland and Australia;
  - \* exchange programmes for apprentices and students;
  - \* a Scholarship for Australians of Scottish descent at The College of Piping;
- and by addressing to the several Governments of this Country calls for:
  - \* the removal of tariff duties on Scottish national dress and woven tartan materials;
  - \* the recognition of the bagpipes as a musical instrument for the purposes of school examinations;

Thirdly, in furtherance of the foregoing and to strengthen the bonds of kinship among and between Scots and those of Scottish descent within and beyond this Country, specifically, to organise:

- \* In 1981 and annually thereafter, a Sydney Scottish Week, the principal feature of which shall be the March;
- \* In 1982 a meeting in Melbourne of officers from all Clan and Scottish Societies in Australia to prepare and organise to hold in Australia the following events:
  - \* In 1983 an All-Australia Gathering of the Clans;
  - \* In 1985 a Southern Hemisphere Gathering of the Clans;
  - \* In 1988 a World-wide Gathering of the Clans as the Scottish contribution to the Bi-centennial Celebrations of the Founding of our Nation;

and thereafter such activities as may then to The Council seem meet and right in furtherance of the general aims of The Council;

Fourthly, to assist Clan associations, Scottish societies, Scottish dancing groups and pipe bands, especially in the instruction and promotion of pipe music, the Gaelic language and Scottish dancing;

And Fifthly, to raise and disburse funds for the furtherance and attainment of these Objectives.



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## \*SOUVENIR PRICE LIST\*

November 1981

Item No	Description	Quantity	Price	Total
A-1	Teaspoon		4-40 *	
A-3	Leather Key Ring		3-75 *	
A-4	Tankard Whiskey Measure		7-00 *	
A-5	Double End " "		7-00 *	
A-6	Paper Knife		4-25 *	
A-7	Bottle Opener(Key Ring)		2-25 *	
A-8	Wall Plaque(Coat of Arms)		51-50*	
A-9	Stickpin/Lapel badge		1-20 *	
S-1	Booklet "I saved the King"		3-00 *	
S-2	Hunting Tartan Cloth (Green)		15-00 p.mtr	
S-3	Dress " " (Red)		15-00 " "	
S-4	Hunting Tartan Tie		8-30 *	
S-5	Dress " "		8-30 *	
S-6	Crest Motif Tie		9-50 *	
S-7	Silver Brooch (Small)			
S-8	" " (Large)			
S-9	Turnbull Scotch Whiskey		16-50	
S-10	Clan Map		4-00	

All prices marked with an asterisk(\*) include postage.

We have available 2 only Mens Braemar Cardigans in Maroon colour with the "Turnbull" crest embroidered on them. These are in sizes 44/115 & 46/117 and will be sold on a first come basis at \$60-00 each AS we have only 10 metres each of the Hunting and Dress Tartans these will also be on a first come basis.