



# “CAIRN-NA-CUIMHNE!”

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## **Clan Chief**

*Capt. Alwyne Compton Farquharson MC, of  
Invercauld*

## **Australian High Commissioner**

*Mrs. Beryl Hardy Nisbett, JP*

## **N.S.W. Commissioner**

*Mr. Stanley Hardy*

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## **Clan Farquharson Association Australia (N.S.W. Branch)**

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### **Mail**

*P O Box 414  
BUNDANOON NSW 2578*

### **Annual Membership**

*Fee: \$15.00*

*Classes of Membership: Individual,  
Family (2 Adults + Children under 18 years or  
who are dependent), and  
Interested Non-Farquharson (Associate)*

*Application forms are available from the  
Secretary via the above address.*

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## **The President's Message**

**Dear Fellow Farquharsons,**

***I trust you all had a happy and healthful Festive Season and Hogmanay, and with sleeves rolled up you have plunged into the endeavours and adventures of a brand new year. 2005 certainly started with a bang for many of us who were fortunate enough to get to the Edinburgh Tattoo in Sydney. What a wonderful spectacle!***

***The next wave of busy, but exciting events for Farquharsons in 2005 are almost ready to start. Brenda and I are currently performing the tasks of Stalls Coordinators for the “Bundanoon is Brigadoon” Highland Gathering to be held on Saturday 9 April 2005. Of course, the Clan will be involved on the day, taking part in the Street Parade and having an information stall in the Clan area. Why not call in? We would very much appreciate having a chat and meeting other members of your family!***

***Then the big event at Glen Innes, the Farquharson Stone Dedication in the Wall of Memory on Sunday 1 May. This is going to be an emotional time as well as a time of celebration for ALL Farquharsons, Septs and Families! In the true meaning of “Cairn-na-Cuimhne”, let us all gather and recognise this significant symbol now in Australia. It may be small, but it delivers a tremendously spiritual link for us with our ancestral past.***

***We expect also to be at some of the other events listed on page 7. Look forward to seeing you sometime, somewhere wearing the magnificent Farquharson Tartan!***

**Syd Finlay**

***PS: Enclosed are renewal forms for Members whose memberships have recently expired or will expire in the next couple of months. Please use the form, as this will avoid unnecessary expense and follow-up by the Secretary-Treasurer.***

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to new members of the Association:

**Douglas and Caryl Finlayson of GARRAN ACT.**

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### **About Town and Other Places**

*Places and Events since last time*

### **EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO**

**A Salute to Australia**

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005**

A long awaited and very special event in the Australian Scottish calendar, and just the second time the Tattoo has appeared outside Scotland in its proud 55 year history. And what a lead-up in the preceding week – everyone on absolute tenterhooks with the weather – heat-wave conditions, severe electrical storms and torrential rain in Sydney, floods in Melbourne, snow in the alps!

Then on the Thursday it fined up, the Aussie Stadium dried out, and although it was humid, it was a lot cooler than the preceding days. It remained fine for the whole of the rest of the pageant.

A large group of Farquharsons and friends, 34 in all, turned out with great anticipation on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and received the greetings of our High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett read out by the announcer before the commencement of the evening's proceedings. What a breath-taking arena had been created for this event! The backdrop was a wonderfully realistic recreation of the castle wall, right up to the third rampart of the actual Edinburgh Castle, replete with flags, cannons, lighted braziers, and bridge over the moat.

Proceedings commenced with a traditional Aboriginal Welcoming Ceremony with Didgeridoo played by Matthew Doyle, and Fanfare – "*Salute to Australia*" - performed by the Band of the Royal Marines, Scotland. And then, the moment everyone had been waiting for, amid a cloud of "mist", there emerged over the bridge and from both sides of the Castle, the massed Pipes and Drums consisting of Bands from Scotland, Nepal (the Gurkhas) and Australia, to the tune "*Scotland the Brave*". In all there were eight Scottish Bands, and seven Australian Bands, including several highly regarded bands from interstate. Highlighted by flood- and spot-lighting, the bands gave a polished performance, with outstandingly executed formation and counter-marching. The repertoire included many old favourites, "*Lord Lovat's Lament*", "*Bonnie Lass of Fyvie*", "*Skye Boat Song*", and "*Scots Wha Hae*", as well as a few surprises, "*Itchy Fingers*" and "*The Road to Gundagai*".

There followed a most innovative musical and formation marching performance by the New Zealand Army (Brass) Band. Apart from several pop tunes including "*Tie Me Kangaroo Down*" and movie soundtracks such as "*Backdraft*", they worked in

"*Pokarekare*" and even the "*Haka*", marching off to "*Seventy-Six Trombones*".

The Queen's RAF Colour Squadron performed a flawless drill routine and precision marching display accompanied by the RAF Central Band and Pipes and Drums to the tunes "*The Dambusters March*", "*633 Squadron*" and "*Killaloo*". It was really quite an amazing performance by the 100 or so armed men of the Squadron that included 300 complicated drill sequences without one word of command.

Contemporary Highland Dance was performed by contingents of over 200 Australian dancers, OzScot Highland Dancers – Australia and members of the Edinburgh Tattoo Company of Dancers. The ceremonial unit of HM the King's Guard Norway provided a stunning musical, marching and drill display – perhaps not noticed by all in the flurry of this display was the accidental dislodgement of one guardsman's elaborately plumed headwear.

This was followed by a skilled display of horsemanship by the NSW Mounted Police accompanied by the NSW Police Band, and Pipes and Drums playing traditional Australian tunes including "*The Man from Snowy River*", "*Clancy's Tune*" and "*The Chase*". The Swiss Top Secret Drum Corps gave an extraordinary display of drumming skills and precision marching.

The Bands of the British Armed Forces marched on to give stirring renditions of several old favourites, "*Soldiers of the Queen*", "*Life on the Ocean Wave*", "*Aces High*" and "*The Army, The Navy and The Air Force*". They were joined by the Australian Military and Police Bands, the King's Guard Norway Band and New Zealand Army Band in accompanying the Tattoo Choir and soloist Allegra Giagu in "*I Still Call Australia Home*," "*Waltzing Matilda*" and "*Land of Hope and Glory*".

The Massed Pipes and Drums marched on to "*Bonnie Lass of Fyvie*" and "*The Star of Robbie Burns*". They then proceeded to give moving renditions of "*Hector the Hero*" and "*I Am Australian*".

The Grand Finale saw all the Bands, Choristers, Soloist and all participants, joined by the audience, in singing "*Bonnie Dundee*", the National Anthems, "*Auld Lang Syne*" and the "*Evening Hymn – Prelude and Sunset*". The Lone Piper, high on the Castle ramparts, piped "*Mist Over the Mountains*".

And suddenly it was all over. A tremendous, emotional, tumultuous and awe-inspiring evening was at an end!

Almost an anti-climax, the various Bands and military contingents, ever immaculate in their marching skills, trooped off to "*Scotland the Brave*", and "*We're No' Awa' Tae Bide Awa' "*", disappearing over the drawbridge and into the mist to the strains of the "*Black Bear*".

It was left for us to wend our way home and wonder if it really did happen – and to stare quizzically at the mysterious little electric wand they gave each of us,

as though by turning it on we could conjure up once again those magical and magnificent scenes of pomp and splendour!

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**BURNS CABARET NIGHT**  
**Warringah Scottish Society**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2005**

Warringah Scottish Society held its Burns Cabaret Night at Collaroy in the midst of the Edinburgh Tattoo. Notwithstanding all that, they had a good roll-up especially from other Societies. Here we met some long-standing friends and we were especially glad to see Jock McConnell back on his feet after a period of illness.

The evening's first "call" included many old favourites. It was a decided and welcome change of pace from the previous evening's frenetic events. We were entertained also by the Gaelic Singers whose wonderful harmonizing and mastery of an ancient tongue always is a source of admiration, and the Manly Warringah Pipe Band. On this occasion the Band contingent was ably led by the Pipe Sergeant in the absence of Drum Major Barry Nicholas. The band gave a capable and disciplined performance. Notably absent were the band's two accomplished Highland dancers, no doubt on duty with the OzScot Dancers at the Tattoo.

Leading off into the evening's second bracket of dance numbers were the *Canadian Three Step* and *Swing Waltz*. Pretty soon, too, dancers were enthusiastically into the *Strip the Willow* and *Barley Bhru*, followed by the *Gay Gordons*.

Supper brought us to the main theme of the evening, Robert Burns' Birthday. David Bowers piped in the Haggis followed by Sword-bearer, Sid Bowers. The address to the Haggis was delivered by Mrs Pamela Bain. After the traditional Toast, members and guests enjoyed a generous helping of a very good Haggis.

The evening's proceedings were wound-up by a final bracket of old favourites, including the *St Bernard Waltz*, *Mareta*, and the progressives, *Pride of Erin* and the *Barn Dance*.

All in all, an enjoyable night and welcome relaxation.

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**NEWS FROM GLEN INNES**  
**1<sup>st</sup> February 2005**

As reported in the Glen Innes Examiner on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005, the Australian High Commissioner for Clan Farquharson, Mrs Beryl Hardy Nisbett journeyed to Glen Innes in mid-January with CFAA (NSW Branch) President Syd Finlay, and Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Finlay, to deliver the Farquharson Memorial Stone to the Glen Innes Standing Stones Management Board. The stone will now be prepared for placement, which will be done

without the need for it to be cut. This has greatly pleased us and our Clan Chief in Scotland.

While at Glen Innes Beryl, Brenda and Syd took the opportunity to visit the town's History House Museum and view memorabilia of the Innes family, Beryl's forebears, who were pioneering settlers in the area, and for whom the town was named.

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**FARQUHARSON CLAN GATHERING 2004**  
**Deeside, Scotland**  
**12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2004**

*In our previous issue we had occasion to refer briefly to this event in detailing our High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett's journeys in Scotland in bringing back the Farquharson Memorial Stone. We are fortunate in now having obtained through Beryl's good offices a first-hand account of the Farquharson UK Gathering from Mr Neville Kelly of Hawthorn Vic, which he has kindly given permission for us to publish. It is also a helpful travel guide for the area. Because of its length and detail the article will be published over two issues.*

*The first excerpt deals substantially with the Finzean Estate. For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with details of the Farquharson Clan history, the Farquharsons of Finzean are a major Cadet branch of the Clan.*

– Editor

**"Introduction:** When Rondhi (my wife) and I were planning our trip to Glasgow and other parts of the UK and to Paris starting on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2004, I had been discussing with my cousin Rosalie Coutts places to visit connected to our Great Great Grandfather, George Coutts. Rosalie had been to Scotland twice before and had visited various sites of interest. She gave me various web-sites of interest, including that of The Clan Farquharson UK, the main feature being the Gathering to commence on the 12<sup>th</sup> August with the Ballater Highland Games. I could not believe our luck and immediately decided to attend.

**"Arrival:** We arrived in Glasgow at about lunchtime on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August. The next morning we took the bus to Aberdeen via Perth – an interesting trip as the bus detoured through many villages en route to collect and put down passengers. We were so impressed with the hanging baskets everywhere, and even the brilliant cerise/mauve of the 'willow herb' on the roadsides. Aberdeen impressed us with its cleanliness, fine buildings and monuments, and beautiful gardens. We decided to have lunch there rather than getting on another bus straight away for Aboyne. This had the benefit of giving us a break, a chance to see a bit more of the city, and of course have a delightful lunch in a superb tea room (Victoria Restaurant) above a very tasteful jewellery and gift shop 'Jamieson & Carry'. The disadvantage of this stop was that it made us later getting to Aboyne and not leaving enough time to go to the Ballater Games.

**"Aboyne:** It was a beautiful drive from Aberdeen to Aboyne along the Dee Valley. The bus stop was near the Aboyne village green and the Huntly Arms

Hotel (focal point for much of the Clan Gathering). However, we had booked at a B & B, 'Chesterton House', which turned out to be close to 1 mile from the bus stop. It felt like 100 miles when carrying two suitcases!! After getting organized there we walked around the village, and later met Gordon Farquharson, President of the Society. I was anxious to check on plans for the following day and arrange transport as our son, Gede, could not drive up from Glasgow until the Saturday. This was no trouble for Gordon, as it turned out others also required transport. There were plenty of offers and we went with Gordon's sister, Hilary and her daughter Zoe from Sussex, who were great hosts. Gordon also informed us that there were two other Australians present, Beryl Hardy Nisbett from Sydney, and Andrew Farquharson's partner, from Adelaide originally, but now living near London. And much to my surprise I learned that there was a Farquharson Clan Society in NSW and also Victoria!

**"Finzean:** On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August we met at the Huntly Arms Hotel before proceeding by car to the Birse Community Centre Hall. About 50 Clan members then boarded a bus for the 'Finzean' homestead. The weather was overcast and a bit bleak! Gordon declared that he had identified two Farquharson traits, viz. the hate of being late; and the dislike of having wet feet! The scenery from Aboyne to 'Finzean' was very beautiful. Along the narrow road leading to 'Finzean' I spotted a small cottage with a magnificent garden (more about this later), and superb stately, specimen trees in the fields, one being a huge copper beech in the centre of one field. As we arrived at 'Finzean' there was a light misty 'rain'. The large, but not huge home, was well protected by established trees and looked out onto emerald fields, and heather and bracken covered hills beyond.

"Donald Farquharson, looking resplendent in a Farquharson kilt, greeted us at the front door. The house had been re-built after a fire in 1954. It was superbly done with soft colours inside, a few choice antiques and select paintings, 'tartan' curtains and seat covers – all very tasteful and comfortable. The ladies of the family served tea and coffee in beautiful bone china crockery decorated with thistles as we entered the Hall. There was a lovely bowl of pentstemons and other summer flowers in the vestibule, and a large vase of buddleias in the Hall – a large room with huge exposed beams, a big stone fireplace at one end, a 'gallery' at the other end, and looking out on to the West garden opposite the entrance we used. 'Finzean' shortbread was served here. I caught glimpses of the Farquharson children – beautiful boys of about 6-8 years of age running about in their kilts – they looked great!

**"The Farquharsons of Finzean:** Gordon Farquharson introduced Donald Farquharson and his father Angus Farquharson OBE. Donald spoke first, and soon handed over to his father (he took on the Farquharson name on marrying Alison Farquharson – daughter of William Marshall Farquharson-Lang

CBE, the 14<sup>th</sup> Laird – as there were no more males to carry on the name in that family). Angus then described the long and complex history of that family, saying that the last reunion at 'Finzean' was 300 years ago! And he hoped it would not be another 300 years before the next one. He said his children, Donald, Andrew and Jean (Mrs Haslam) were the 16<sup>th</sup> generation of Farquharsons since 1579, and now own the Estate of almost 3,200 hectares. Jean also owns part of the Estate called aster Clune. He stated that 'Finzean' is said to mean 'The Fair Place'. Angus said that a lot was lost in the Fire – Estate records among the loss.

" 'Finzean' House stands near the top of the valley, in the angle of the hills, exposed to the South, and sheltered from the North. It is embellished around with various kinds of trees, some of them aged and of large dimensions. On this property are growing a good many firs and other kinds of wood. The Farquharsons purchase 'Finzean' about 250 years ago, and were proprietors of Tilliegarmont, on this Estate previous to that time. The principal part of the present mansion-house appears, from the date on a stone taken out of the walls when repaired in 1850, to have been built in 1686; and on another stone built into the North wing is the date 1747, with the initials of Francis Farquharson, Esq.

"In 1850, the [then] present proprietor, Francis Farquharson, Esq., repaired the whole house, which has contributed much both to the beauty of its appearance and its stability. The garden is still on the good old plan – adjoining the house. A hedge of hollyhock runs along the South side, and also on both sides of the approach to the entry door. The hedge for its dimensions and beauty has few equals, if any, in Scotland. (*This hedge is about 200 years old and Angus told us that one of his predecessors is said to have walked along the top of the hedge, after a night of revelry, for a wager!!*) In this garden is a dial of white marble, bearing the date 1760, with the quaint motto, 'Go about your Business' – warning the onlooker that time is precious, and ought not to be misspent. (pp 89,90 *An Account of The Parish of Birse*, by Robert Dinnie, Birse Community Trust, 1999).

**"Farming:** The rain stopped and after Angus finished speaking we stood on the emerald-green grass near a magnificent oak tree overlooking the verdant fields and Andrew described the current-day farming pursuits of the family.

'The total area today extends to just under 3,200 hectares, half of which is grouse ground. The land is managed as an integrated family business with an interest in conservation and the preservation of a viable community. There are approximately 800 hectares of arable ground and extensive hill grazings...there is a suckler herd of 160 cows...876 hectares of Spring barley aimed for the malting market are grown, and about 5 hectares of turnips for Winter cattle feed. Sheep graze the stubble during the Winter. All Winter keep grown on the farm, is usually sufficient to feed a total headage of about 450

cattle at peak times. Because of the climate, cattle have to be fed 7 months of the year, before being turned out to grass in May. Several of the Finzean farming families are long-standing tenants with a history going back over 200 years on the Estate.’ (p 2 *Finzean Estate 2004* prepared by Andrew Farquharson August 2004).

“**Corsedarder:** Following Andrew’s talk we boarded the bus and went to the highest point on the public road through Birse – Corsedarder, ‘location of the parish’s War Memorial (*much to my interest it had the name of Archie Coutts, who died in the Second World War, inscribed on it*) and the ancient Dardanus Standing Stone’. BCT (Birse Community Trust) also erected a new standing stone on the site and organized for a special ceremony on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 to dedicate it as the

Birse Millennium Stone

‘an enduring symbol of the community’s gratitude for and remembrance of the past and of its hopes and dreams for the future’. (Birse Community Trust website [www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk)).

‘When the road was shifted to this place some time ago, this stone was broken in two parts by the workmen; but by the orders of the late Archibald Farquharson, Esq., it was clasped with iron and set up again in its former position – as it now stands. Here, it is said that King Dardanus was slain by his subjects in the year 81, and this stone was set up to mark the spot where he fell...But as to his being slain at this spot we only have tradition to depend upon. However it appears quite probable from these large cairns in the neighbourhood, and numbers of tumuli close by, that a battle of some importance had been fought here at some remote period, when this stone had been erected in memory of the chief actors who had fallen in the engagement.’ (pp 90-91 *An Account of The Parish of Birse*, by Robert Dinnie, Birse Community Trust, 1999).

“After we alighted from the bus Angus told us about the site, and introduced Alistair Ross, who played an air on the bagpipes that he had composed for the family. We walked into a field nearby, which overlooked the beautiful River Feugh valley and most of the Finzean Estate. Andrew and Angus continued to talk about the property, forestry and wildlife.

“**Forestry:** ‘The Estate suffered on account of the compulsory wartime fellings and fellings to meet Estate Duty before the war, but over 520 hectares have now been replanted to restore the forest cover. It is mostly stocked with the Scots Pine of Glen Tanar origin. Additional natural woodland has been encouraged and a further 215 hectares represents the most Easterly genuine ancient native pinewood in Scotland. Part of this interesting area was felled during the war and has reseeded naturally and spread along the base of Peter Hill. There are many other small mixed woodlands on the Estate, which are managed for amenity, shelter and game protection. The total new area now managed for woodland is around 800 hectares although not all is

as yet fully stocked.’ (p 1 *Finzean Estate 2004* prepared by Andrew Farquharson August 2004).

“**Wildlife:** ‘...the grouse ground was first let nearly 180 years ago, one of the first in Scotland. In its best years it has produced over 1,100 brace (2,200 birds). On the low ground there is a mixed stock of wild pheasants, partridges, duck, and an additional 1,000 pheasants are reared. Sadly partridges have almost died out due mainly to predators and changes in farming practices. Both red and roe deer are resident in the woods and on the hill. Because of the rich variety of habitat and the work done by the keeper in controlling predators such as foxes and crows, along with extensive Winter feeding, there is a rich spin-off for many other forms of wildlife. About 120 species of birds have been recorded on the Estate, including the Golden Eagle, Scottish Crossbill, the Capercaillie and other rare species. Finzean is the natural home of the otter, wildcat (*in fact the sporran worn by Angus was made from the pelt of this cat – its eyes were quite haunting!*) and red squirrel.’ (p 2 *Finzean Estate 2004* prepared by Andrew Farquharson August 2004).”

**(Continued next issue, when we look further at the topography and community of Finzean and attend the Farquharson UK AGM.)**

*We would be most interested to hear from any members or others of snippets of their family history or travel or other experiences that talk about their Scottish background, if they would like to see them published.*

- Editor

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**LAND LAW REFORM IN SCOTLAND**

28 November 2004 was an important date in Land Law reform in Scotland. This was the date appointed for the commencement of the *Feudal Tenure etc (Scotland) Act 2000*, finally ending almost 900 years of the application of a feudal system of land tenure in Scotland introduced by King David 1, who reigned from 1124 to 1153.

Although many of the features of feudalism, such as tenure based military service, hereditary jurisdictions and territorial peerage have long since disappeared, feudalism remains immensely important in understanding Scottish history. It is deeply embedded in the Scottish language, religion, laws, customs and institutions.

Readers may recall two articles on this subject several issues ago in 2002, soon after the original Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament. It was observed at the time that 80% of landholdings in Scotland were in the hands of just 1,500 people, many of whom were absentee and foreign owners. At the same time a hostile taxation environment was effectively leading to the dispossession of many landholders, and a growing incapacity, and loss of the resources and skills necessary to manage the estates.

The Bill, which was being debated in 2002, carried some quite controversial provisions, including, for

example compulsory provisions for sale to crofter tenants along with farming and fishing rights. The *Scottish Banner* in August 2002 reported the opposition of some landowners summed-up by Mohammed Al Fayed, who having purchased Balnagown Castle and invested millions in building up a viable tourist and fishing undertaking based on sound eco-management, was unhappy with potential exploitation of that investment by others. In this he was supported by his crofters who would not individually have been able to undertake the same investment in infrastructure. On the other hand, a number of the Lairds had anticipated the Bill's provisions and had already secured the interests of their tenants by private grants or sale, in one instance supported by the Scottish Land Fund. Clearly, an appropriate balance in reform was necessary.

This all seems very strange to us in Australia where we have for so long known only a Crown and freehold "Torrens Title" system. We will be watching the outcome with much interest.

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**STICKS 'N BAG**

This issue, the focus is on Tenor Drummers.

Let's be clear here, the Tenor Drummers are the members of the band that everyone wants to watch. Why? It seems that the Tenor Drummers are the members of the band that attract attention somehow!

How do they do that? They seem to have the ability to get their sticks flying around in all directions and yet they still keep the sticks moving in time to the beat. That magical twirling is a classy bit of work that gives the audience something to look at while the band plays. The twirling is actually called "Flourishing".

Let's face it; Pipers standing in a circle looking like they are about to burst a valve while they play their pipes is not always a pretty sight! Equally, Snare Drummers looking like they have either the worries of the world on their shoulders or just looking around vacantly while they play is not a good look either (that's just our method of concentration).

Tenor Drummers aren't just there to give the audience something to look at. They can make a big contribution to the overall sound of the band. Tenor Drummers have a separate and distinct setting that they play and they actually augment the sound of the band by accenting different notes played by the pipers. They can also play "off the beat" to give a variation to the feeling of the tune played. This means that the Tenor Drummer must be capable of playing "inside" the beat and making notes that are not normally noticed by the audience stand out in a different way.

Now, what about all that fancy flourishing of the sticks? Well, the flourishing is certainly for show.

The flourishes are very "wristy" in that they involve much wrist movement to get the desired effect. Tenor Drummers come up with the most interesting flourishes or, should I say combinations of flourishes. There are, however, many different types of flourishes. I don't pretend to know them all. I don't even pretend to know any of them. Let me just mention a few flourishes. There's the windmill, butterfly, cartwheel, inward spin, flat figure 8 spin and split the feather. The important thing to note about all these flourishes is that if there are two or more Tenor Drummers in a band, they should always do the same flourishes at the same time. If they don't, then it just doesn't look right. Sometimes, however, there's a reason for the Tenor Drummers to flourish differently. There may be a drummer who is actually playing a different part or, perhaps the Tenor Drummer is actually playing an Alto Drum. In this case, the sound of the drum is slightly higher in pitch than the Tenor Drum. This is not all that common as most bands have enough difficulty getting enough players. The bands that have an Alto Drummer can usually be found in the higher grades, although there are always exceptions to the rule.

How long does it take to learn to play the Tenor Drum? This depends on a number of things. The age of the person, their physical ability, their natural rhythm and their desire to practice are a few. If the learner is really keen, then it can take a little as six months. The hardest part for the budding Tenor Drummer is learning to march with the drum swinging around and still be able to get the sticks to hit the drum. I've seen many bruised knees on new and even experienced Tenor Drummers because the drum itself is so light that it tends to get blown around a bit by any small puff of breeze. A number of years ago, Tenor Drummers never actually let their sticks touch the drum; it was all show. Common sense prevailed and they are now very valuable members of a Pipe Band.

If you got to see the "Edinburgh Tattoo A Salute to Australia" a few weeks ago, you would have seen all the Tenor Drummers flourishing the same way. This is because there are some standard sets of flourishes that all Tenor Drummers learn. These are called "Massed Band Flourishes". This means that all Tenor Drummers should be able to play as one group even though they are from many different bands. I hope you enjoyed the Tattoo as much as I did.

So, when you see those wonderful Tenor Drummers out on parade or in a competition, keep in mind that they work really hard for the pleasure you get in watching them flourish those "dish mops" around.

*John Tate  
Drum Sergeant,  
Castle Hill R.S.L. Pipe Band.*

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**FUTURE EVENTS**

**DEDICATION OF THE CLAN FARQUHARSON MEMORIAL STONE AT GLEN INNES WALL OF MEMORY**  
**Sunday, 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2005**  
 (To follow Kirkin' o' the Tartan, which is at 12 noon)

Members, their friends and all Farquharsons are urged to make every effort to get to this special occasion.

Following the Dedication Ceremony all are invited to attend HIGH COMMISSIONER'S LUNCHEON AND TEA at the Anglican Church Hall in Meade Street near the corner of West Avenue, four blocks west of the New England Highway. You may bring your own refreshment beverages to the Luncheon and Tea if you wish.

President Syd Finlay needs to have an early idea of numbers for the Luncheon and Tea so he can make the necessary arrangements. So please contact him if you are planning to be there.

Any persons wishing to obtain further information should contact:

*Mr Syd Finlay*

President Clan Farquharson Association  
 Australia (NSW Branch)  
 Telephone: 02 4883-6703

*Mr Bruce Finlay*

Clan Farquharson Association Australia  
 (NSW Branch)  
 Telephone: 02 9982-6229

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MEMBERS WHO HAVE THE NEED TO HIRE SCOTTISH DRESS ETC, *should contact:*

Mrs Janet Maxwell  
 "Scottish Hire Hoose"  
 2 Gibbons Street  
 DUNDAS NSW 2117

Telephone: (02) 9630-1263

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**2005 EVENTS**

Friday 25, Saturday 26 March 2005	MACLEAN GATHERING Maclean NSW
Saturday 9 April 2005	BUNDANOON IS BRIGADOON Bundanoon, NSW
Sunday 3 April 2005	RINGWOOD HIGHLAND GATHERING Ringwood, VIC
Monday 25 April 2005	SCOTTISH ACT of REMEMBRANCE Martin Place, Sydney
Friday 29, Saturday 30 April, Sunday 1 May 2005	GLEN INNES CELTIC FESTIVAL Dedication Of The Clan Farquharson Memorial Stone Glen Innes, NSW
Saturday 18 June 2005	LANE COVE TARTAN DAY
Friday 1 July 2005	TARTAN DAY SYDNEY Lunchtime Civic Reception Martin Place Sydney
Saturday 3 July 2005	ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES Jefferson Park Aberdeen

**NEWSFLASH FROM BUNDANOON**

Dinner & Entertainment on  
 Brigadoon Night

We are very disappointed to have to announce some unwelcome news from Bundanoon.

Previously, we have been able to invite Members to join a Farquharson table at the Bundanoon Holiday Resort Motel on Brigadoon Night for traditional dinner and to see Chris Duncan perform.

Unfortunately, the motel has changed hands. Apart from losing Members' bookings, the new owners will be offering only a buffet meal at a 50% hike in cost (before drinks)!! So, we are SORRY, THERE WILL BE NO FARQUHARSON TABLE AT THE MOTEL THIS YEAR!

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**CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTICLES BY MEMBERS – "CAIRN NA CUIMHNE"**

*If you have something of historical or topical interest, contact:*

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**The Brilliant spectacle of the Massed Bands marching across the drawbridge from the Castle and onto the arena at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Sydney, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2005.**



**The band behind and second to the left of the Leader of the Parade is the Australian Defence Forces Federation Pipes and Drums wearing the Australian Tartan.**



**The cottage in Alloway, Dumfries Shire where Robert Burns was born on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1759, said to be the scene of the first Burns Supper in 1801.**



**Stone Bearers at Glen Innes – January 2005. Syd and Brenda Finlay with High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett, meet Historical Society President Lex Ritchie.**

**Members of Clan Farquharson UK assembled before the walls of Braemar Castle – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2004 – on the occasion of a visit during their 2004 Annual Meeting and Gathering.**

