



# "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)**

### **President**

*Mr. Sydney Finlay*

### **Vice President/Editor**

*Mr. Bruce Finlay*

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

*Mrs. Brenda Finlay*

### **Committee Members**

*Mrs. Pauline Finlay*

*Mr. Stuart Finlayson*

*Mrs. Jane Marland*

*Mr. John Tate*

*Mr. Peter Tranter*

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### **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 Clan Members,**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**Another year has passed and I hope you have enjoyed a year of achievement, satisfaction and peace, both personally and for your family. As we approach another year may we wish our hopes come to fruition, particularly in the areas of health and goodwill to all our fellow human beings!**

**On the Association scene we have certainly had some exciting moments. It only seems like yesterday, that we were celebrating the dedication of the Farquharson Memorial Stone at Glen Innes! I personally look forward to our next visit to Glen Innes to gaze once again upon this stone for a quiet moment.**

**Our recent Annual Meeting left me feeling optimistic for the future of our Association. There seems to be a renewed interest in many people to know more about their forebears. Like most things in life, we have to know something about our past to understand what to do in the future!**

**Your Committee is encouraged to look to further centres in NSW to spread the word. And we are always ready to listen to our Members' views on how we can do this.**

**I look forward to meeting up with you sometime, somewhere during the year ahead proudly wearing the great 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.**

**MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND NSW COMMISSIONER**

High Commissioner Beryl and Commissioner Stan wish President Syd (New South Wales) and President Charles (Victoria), their Committees and Members a joyous Christmas with a healthy and prosperous New Year.

We have been greatly blessed with our Stone, chosen by our Chief, forever in the Wall of History at Glen Innes.

Our prayers have been answered. We thank each and everyone of you for inspiration, fellowship, caring and for honouring our Chief and Clan. We are an Australian Clan Family proud of our traditions.

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**NEW MEMBERS**

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

**Lindsay and Carrie SPARKES** of Bligh Park; and **Ross and Roslyn WOOD & Family** of Springwood.

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**About Town and Other Places  
Places and Events since last time**

**WARRINGAH SCOTTISH SOCIETY'S  
Annual Dinner Dance - 6<sup>th</sup> August 2005**

Your reporters skied all day 5<sup>th</sup>, and drove most of 6<sup>th</sup> back to Sydney, so they were somewhat leg-weary arriving at the Dinner Dance at 8.00pm. Nonetheless it was a lively, well attended dance night with three course meal. There were well over 100 people there, and Lesley Bowers and her team of workers excelled themselves with elaborate table decorations, and tasty nibbles.

Guests were entertained by the Gaelic Singers and the Manly Warringah Pipe Band. The dancing was willing from the start, accompanied by live music. The first dance bracket included the Gypsy Tap, Dashing White Sergeant and Mazhuna, followed by the main course of dinner, Roast Lamb and Chicken. When that had settled there was La Bomba, Strip the Willow, the Chief's March, and the Pride of Aaron.

The Weaver's Song was performed by the Gaelic Singers. After dessert, came the Quadrille and the Gay Gordons. An excellent dance night came to a close with the Barn Dance and Swing Waltz, and the Gaelic Singers' powerful rendition of *Flower of Scotland*, followed by a brief sing-along and Auld Lang Syne.

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**POSTCARD FROM JESMOND NSW  
Peter Tranter's Surprise 70<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Helen Tranter reports the occasion of the recent celebration of Committeeman Peter Tranter's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, when he thought he was going to a simple

BBQ at daughter Hilary's and son-in-law Jeff's place. They contrived to send him on a trivial errand. On his re-arrival the street was parked out and there was in swing a full-blown Scottish celebration, Piper and all. Surprise dish of the night was a very large Haggis that turned out to be a dessert!

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**COMBINED SCOTTISH SOCIETIES  
Gathering – Castle Hill - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

The day dawned cold, gloomy and mist enshrouded. And then came the rain – on the coast it bucketed down most of the morning. Pauline and Bruce decided to stay home! The day is more fully reported in John Tate's *Sticks 'n Bag* later in this issue. Poor Castle Hill RSL Pipe Band couldn't avoid the rain as they were competing that day, and they got thoroughly soaked for their trouble!

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**CFAA (NSW Branch) ANNUAL MEETING  
Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

The Clan Farquharson Association Australia (NSW Branch) Annual Meeting was held at 11.00am 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at Pauline and Bruce Finlay's home in suburban Cromer. Apologies were received from Committeeman Stuart Finlayson, due to his ill health, and several Members who sent proxies.

The Minutes of the previous AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2004 were read by President Syd Finlay and accepted.

High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett read the Letter of Greetings from the Clan Chief, Captain Alwyne Compton Farquharson MC, of Invercauld:

*"Greetings. And my very best wishes to you all. We may not be the largest of Clans in members, but the spirit which binds us together in friendship and goodwill and the pride of our traditions is Second to None! Kinship binds us together in the fellowship of our Clan, widespread across the world though we be. Thus it is a pleasure to keep close contact with you, and to receive news of your ongoing activities. An even greater pleasure is to have an opportunity of meeting you personally, as happens on occasion with those of you who should chance to visit the UK.*

*"Meantime Good Luck to all, may you continue to prosper and flourish – and my best wishes for a successful meeting and for the forthcoming year –*

*"Alwyne Compton Farquharson of Invercauld  
Chief of Clan Farquharson 28 Oct. 2005."*

Beryl also relayed Greetings of NSW Commissioner, Stan Hardy and President of the Victorian Branch, Chas Wakefield-Lyon. Beryl reported on a very busy calendar in 2004-2005; she congratulated the NSW Branch on a successful year and thanked Committee members for their efforts.

President Syd Finlay reported on the principal activities of the year and the highlight of the unveiling of the Farquharson Memorial Stone at Glen Innes in May. He commented on the sustained progress of the branch, and, though the issue of public liability remained, he foreshadowed further extension of the branch's activities to other centres in NSW.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet and reported a net credit balance at Bank at the end of the trading year 30 June 2005 of \$614.78. Major expenditure items were the printing of the Newsletter, membership fees for various organizations, costs associated with attendance at regional gatherings and advertising. The last of these items was generously offset by a handsome donation from the High Commissioner, which the President acknowledged.

There were no Notices of Motion for consideration by the Meeting. All Committee members had indicated a willingness to stand again, and as there were no other nominees, President Syd declared them duly re-appointed.

The Meeting was closed at 12.45pm, and all those who were able to stay enjoyed a sausage sizzle and exchange of old yarns with the Finlays of Cromer.

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**SCOTTISH WEEK – MANLY DAY OUT**  
**St Andrew's Day**  
**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

The Mayor of Manly, Dr Peter MacDonald, resplendent in his Mayoral chains, presided over a brief ceremony in the Courtyard before the Council Chambers in the Corso, Manly on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Dr MacDonald who is an ex-pat Scot and former local MP, gave the welcoming address on behalf of the local Community and Scottish fraternity to special guests who were escorted from the Ferry wharf by a division of the Manly Warringah Pipe Band. Guests included overseas visitors, notably Carrick Pursuivant of Arms, Lyon Clerk and Keeper of Records, Elizabeth Roads, MVO, and New Zealand's Queen of the Heather, Paula Payn. They were accompanied by the President of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, Dr Frank Davidson, other distinguished members of the Council, and former Deputy President Sir William Broun of Colstoun, Chief of the Name and Arms of Broun of Colstoun.

Despite the threat of rain the visitors and locals were entertained by performances from the Manly Warringah Pipe Band and the Sydney University Scottish Dancers. A Mayoral reception in the Council Chambers was followed by light refreshments. Instrumental in re-establishing the Manly Visit in 2004, formerly a traditional Scottish Week event, has been Rex Harding of Warringah Scottish who also served as MC for the occasion.

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**SCOTTISH WEEK - CITY KIRKIN' O' TARTAN**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

The Scottish Week City Kirkin' o' the Tartan service was held at the St Stephens Uniting Church, Macquarie Street Sydney at 10.00am. In attendance were High Commissioner Beryl Hardy Nisbett and Banner-bearer Stuart Finlayson, Piper Ross Finlayson, Syd Finlay and Lindsay Sparkes from the Clan Association.

The service was conducted by the new presiding Minister of the Church, the Rev Dr Matthew Jack. In his Kirkin' sermon the Rev Jack had some interesting and admonitory words to say about divisiveness, which, regrettably, appears to be an element of today's society – including those of Scots origin.

As always, the combination of Church Organ and Pipes (played by Bill Campbell) carried powerfully and emotively a nostalgic message for the Scottish congregation members.

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**SCOTTISH WEEK - PARADE & GATHERING**  
**HYDE PARK – SYDNEY**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

The parade of Pipe Bands and representatives of the Scottish Clans and communities in New South Wales commenced smoothly from Martin Place just after midday. Marchers proceeded south along Macquarie Street, crossing College Street, and into Hyde Park towards the Archibald Fountain reaching the Gathering point in the Park close to St James Station. Clan Farquharson followed directly behind Northern Suburbs Pipe Band who were wearing the Wallace, with pipers and drummers from the Presbyterian Ladies College at Pymble.

It was a lovely early summer day, and the Massed Bands performed with rare precision. Soon, the Farquharson table under the Scottish Heritage Council's Clans' marquee was abuzz with visitors. We were especially pleased to see Len and Andrea Farquharson and family from Bonnells Bay and new members Ross Wood from Springwood, who is a traditional Scottish fiddler (performing on the day with Chris Duncan and the Sydney Scottish Fiddlers), and Lindsay Sparkes from Bligh Park, whose family (Findlays) hails originally from Greymouth New Zealand.

During the day we had the pleasure of meeting Chieftain of the Day the Lady Kirstie (Cairistiona) Sagers, Chieftain of Clan Graham in Australia, and Carrick Pursuivant of Arms and Lyon Clerk, Elizabeth Roads. We also met again many old acquaintances from the various Clan and district Scottish Associations.

The Gathering marked the end of Scottish Week in Sydney for 2005. Scottish heritage in NSW is very much alive and recognized in our capital city.

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

*In our previous issue we published the second excerpt of a first-hand account of the Farquharson UK Gathering, which dealt with the 2004 Annual Meeting, Ceilidh and visit to Braemar. This final excerpt continues and concludes the tour of the Finzean Estate.*

– Editor

**“Long Cairn:** Time did not permit us to visit this cairn located in the woods to the west of where we were standing, however, Angus told us about it. It ‘is perhaps the oldest and largest man-made structure on the Estate and is one of the best preserved Long Cairns in the Grampian Region’ (p 2 *Finzean Estate 2004* prepared by Andrew Farquharson August 2004). It ‘is a large Cairn with a [very roughly] triangular base and cone. There is no doubt of it’s being an artificial structure, as the stones are of different qualities, and some of them show, by a comparison, that they have been carried up hill for a considerable distance. The ground is also cleared of small stones in the vicinity of the cairn. The base on the south end measures about 80 feet, on the north end by about 29 feet; the west side measures 88 feet, and the east side 100 feet. The depth in the center is about 16 feet. For what purpose or by whom it was reared there is now no information, and no ancient vestiges of any kind have been found in its vicinity that might cast light on the period of its erection; but it is very likely that it had been raised in memory of some great warrior or person of distinction whose remains had been laid there. South-east from this, on the same ridge, is another cairn made up of smaller materials; but as many of the stone have been carted away, nothing is known of its former dimensions.’ (p 90 *An Account of the Parish of Birse* by Robert Dinnie, Birse Community Trust, 1999).

‘These Neolithic people did, however, leave a conspicuous monument of their presence in Birse – the “long cairn” on the hill immediately west of the Corsedarder War Memorial. Little is known about the purpose of this prominently located and massive pile of stone. The Cairn was robbed of stones for road building in the early nineteenth century, so that by 1842 it was “much beneath its original size”. However, the Corsedarder long cairn has never been excavated.....Several other examples exist in the North-East, though, and the evidence suggests that they were usually used as burial sites. Over and above this they were potentially religious centers of Neolithic communities and also used for ceremonies or meetings. The present cairn at Corsedarder is approximately triangular in shape. The sides are between 60 and 90 feet in length and the remnant pile of stones left must still contain about 1,000 tons of stone.’ (p 82 *History in Birse*, Vols 1-4 by Robin Callander, Birse Community Trust, 2000.)

**“Finzean Church:** This church was established by Francis Farquharson, Laird of Finzean, in 1863. ‘Finzean Church became a quoad-sacra in 1903.

Facing south, it has no windows in the north wall, but in the south wall are four windows bearing the Finzean Farquharson crest and the inscription “In Memoriam Majoram”. These and two windows in the west gable are of coloured glass, while in the east gable are two beautiful windows in stained glass depicting biblical scenes and commemorating members of the Farquharson family.’ (*A History of Finzean*, Finzean Community Association 2002, reproducing an earlier account published in 1967.) The church contains memorial plaques to the Right Honourable Robert Farquharson MD, LLD, born 1836, died 1918, and Joseph Farquharson Esq RA, DL, JP, born 1846, died 1935.

“Prior to lunch we also visited the Finzean School wood, where children had planted trees. It was interesting to note that the school population had increased recently due to the efforts by the local community to encourage more homeowners in the district.

**“Birse Community Hall:** We had a delicious lunch with wine, served by the Farquharsons of Finzean, at this superb community facility. The hall was decorated with material similar to the Farquharson tartan. This gave all an opportunity to meet other people, as well as learn about the Birse Community Trust. It was also a great photo opportunity.

**“Finzean Wood Mills:** We then boarded the bus again to visit these unique places on the River Feugh. These watermills are largely unaltered since they were built about 200 years ago. The wood-turning mill and the bucket mill were donated to the Birse Community Trust by the Farquharson family to ensure their secure future. ‘Water power has been used at five sites on the Feugh to generate electricity with the most extensive scheme being associated with the Birse Castle. Other sites included the Bucket Mill, Sawmill, Eleanor Cottage, and the Mill of Clinter. Electricity is still generated at the Sawmill to provide lighting in the Turning Mill.’

‘Three individually unique 19<sup>th</sup> century water-powered wood-working mills still survive on Finzean: the Sawmill and Turning Mill, which form a single integrated mill complex, and the Bucket Mill. These mills are the only ones of their kind to survive anywhere in Scotland. Their individual importance is all the greater because they have survived as a group within a mile of each other on the Feugh, and are still within their native pinewood setting. However, what is especially outstanding about the mills, is that they are still operating and producing traditional wood products.’

‘The Sawmill complex involves two Grade A listed water mills, the Sawmill and the Turning Mill, both dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The mills are now fully operational following BCT’s major restoration of the Sawmill, but further work is ongoing. BCT cuts timber from the Commony pinewoods at the Sawmill for use on BCT projects. BCT has also supplied timber from the mill for the new Scottish Parliament.’ (BCT web-site: [www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk).)

“Most of those present received a spurtle (piece of turned wood with a stylized thistle at the top, used for stirring porridge), from David Duncan, the 4<sup>th</sup> generation Duncan to work in the mills. Unfortunately his son is not interested in carrying on the tradition. Sawdust from the sawmill was used to fire a more than 100 year old kiln for drying the timber. The kiln is no longer used.

‘Traditionally, herring bungs and brush heads were amongst the products made at the mill. Nowadays the main products are spurtles and other domestic utensils including tattie mashers and rolling pins.’ (BCT web-site: [www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk).) Wooden golf club handles were also made in former times. These were later encased with metal.

“The Bucket Mill is [also] a Grade A listed water mill and ‘dates from the 1850’s and is unique in Britain for its specialized machinery for manufacturing wooden buckets.’ Native pine is used from nearby woods, which is also inhabited by Scottish Crossbills and Capercaillies – rare birds. This mill was operated by three generations of the Brown family (connected to John Brown,...companion [to Queen Victoria in the latter part of her reign]. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century buckets from this mill were [supplied to] the Royal Navy.

“After we finished looking at these fascinating mills many of us walked about a mile back to the bus along the River Feugh through the dappled shade of Birch trees. We enjoyed this walk very much, as did ‘Beau’, Stuart Farquharson’s lovely black and white sheep dog. This outing concluded with the picturesque drive back to Aboyne.

“**[In search of family history]:** As our son Gede had just arrived in the area we decided to retrace some of our steps of the previous Friday. So we drove back to the Birse/Finzean area. We searched for the Long Cairn without success. Near the Finzean homestead I photographed the magnificent copper Beech tree. And remember I mentioned a beautiful cottage garden I had viewed from the bus – well I knocked on the door of the cottage, and Mrs Sadie Littlejohn invited us in to meet her daughter, Mrs Maureen McClellan who was visiting from Aberdeen. Lovely people! Mrs Littlejohn lived alone, and was very proud of her garden. She showed us photographs taken early in Spring when the roses were out – they were very beautiful. Scottish TV had been recently and filmed the garden for a garden programme, which I think must be similar to the ABC Garden Show we have in Australia. She had a wonderful variety of flowers in the garden, and among them were strawberries and a variety of vegetables. She was also growing seedlings ready for Winter planting.

“We moved on to the general store in Finzean where I bought some books on the area’s history. The forest of Birse and beyond was our next destination on the recommendation of the storekeeper. The Birch trees were beautiful. After getting through the forest we stopped near the Forest Kirk. The country opened out into sweeping hills covered with mauve

heather and bracken. I did not realize at the time that we passed by Auchabrack, where Coutts families lived in the past – maybe even our own family, who knows? We then proceeded through Banchory to Crathies Castle, a National Trust for Scotland property, which was excellently maintained]. Superb medieval furnishings, and magnificent gardens with yew topiary etc.

“The next significant stop was the ancient Tomnaverie Stone Circle, overlooking the Westercoull Mill near Tarland. This site has been cared for by the Cromar History Group since 1995. ‘Excavations during 2000 by a team from Reading University showed that not only were there four distinct phases in its construction, but also that the final configuration of the circle had been planned into the first stone-built stage, even though the total construction effort must have spanned several generations.’ (Cromar History Group Newsletter No 7, December 2000).

“I had also wanted to visit Westercoull House, because this house had been owned by a Coutts family, but I was unable to contact the residents. Anyway time was running out! However, I did find Sheila and Charlie Ross not far away. Sheila participates in the Cromar History Group and is well versed in local history. I gave her a copy of our Coutts family history as far as we have it, and hoped that she may be able to find contacts there to see if we can get more information. It was quite late by the time we left Sheila and made our way back to Braemar and then headed South to Glasgow. It was an exciting drive down Glen Clunie and Glen Shee.

“**Conclusion:** It was an exciting few days! I would love to go again, see more of the area, meet more people and [see more] places and learn more of our forbears.

“**NOTE:** If any reader has any information about any Coutts family in Australia who came from the North-east of Scotland I would be glad to hear from them. I may be even [able] to help them if they are searching for their family history.”

*We continue to express our wish 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.*

*As a result of our encouragement there has come into our hands a most interesting documentation of the history of the Finzean Farquharsons, which we hope to publish next issue as a sequel to the description over the last 2 issues of the Finzean Estate. Editor*

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**THE HUNTLY ARMS HOTEL ABOYNE  
Deeside, Scotland**

*As the site of the 2004 Clan Farquharson UK Annual Meeting, and an unmistakable landmark at Aboyne on the road to Balmoral and Braemar, we thought it appropriate to record this brief history prepared by the present Proprietors, the Ward Family.*

“In 1432 a fortified wooden coaching inn was built by the Marquess of Huntley on the same site which now serves the Huntly Arms Hotel. This makes this particular hotel arguably the oldest continuously occupied coaching inn in Scotland, which has stood on the same spot for more than 500 years. The inn was built to provide protection, refreshment, rest and change of horses for riders and carriages on the route from the east coast, Aberdeen and Stonehaven, to Braemar and beyond.

“Around 1700 the old wooden construction was replaced by a stone building enclosing a cobbled courtyard, which can still be seen today. The buildings and widows looked inwards to afford maximum security against marauding robbers and knaves. One entrance was from the River Dee, which was forded just below the bridge – later built – visible to the south of the hotel. Another entrance was through the protecting wall to the north, which can still be seen in outline although long since bricked up. This approach was protected by a guard with a blunderbuss, from an aperture above the arched entrance.

“History was never far from the Huntley Arms. In 1715 during the first Jacobite uprising it is recorded that the Earl of Mar rested and conferred here on his way to raise the Standard at Braemar. The rebellion was doomed and it was not until 1745 when Bonnie Prince Charlie returned to Scotland that Jacobite voices were raised once again in the Huntly Arms Tavern.

“Between 1700 and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, many changes were made to the shape of the buildings of the Huntley Arms. The then Marquess of Huntley (note the change of spelling through the ages) took a personal interest in the development and commercial activities of the ‘inn at Aboyne’, but in the early 1800s left the management more and more in the hands of Alexander Sanderson who added the Baronial Hall section – the current function room with bedrooms on two floors – to serve as his private quarters. This is the southern wing, which protrudes into the garden.

“It was around this time in 1850, that the Marquess of Huntley after having accrued considerable gambling debts, asked Alexander Sanderson to pay off his debts for him and agreed to compensate Sanderson by giving him the Huntley Arms Inn. This incredible folly is commemorated by the gazebo, or garden-house, in the garden of the hotel which still sho[w]s the four suits of ‘hearts, diamonds, spades and clubs’ in its roof tiles. Four flowerbeds shaped in the suits are no longer to be seen but the current proprietors hope to restore these in the near future. During this period, the hotel became known as The Huntly Arms, the ‘e’ having been dropped. This may have been due to the Marquess changing the spelling of his name.

“Queen Victoria often rested at the Hotel on her way to Balmoral. She had her own private dining room in the area now occupied by the rest rooms at the top of the stairs. The gentlemen retired to the smoking-

room after dinner (the old bathroom and cupboard area) where they no doubt discussed the fishing and hunting prospects of the season over a glass of port or whisky.

“In 1950, the Dinnie stained-glass window was commissioned in Glasgow and four specialists worked on commemorating one of the greatest Scottish sportsmen, Donald Dinnie, born on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1837 in Balnacraig, Aboyne. He won more than 11,000 prizes at Highland games and other athletic meetings all over the world. This fine work of art can still be admired in our Dinnie Lounge Bar.

“By 1950 the hotel had passed into the hands of Allied Hotels who, urged on by Gamic Clarke, once a booty-boy in their Gloucester Hotel in Aberdeen, added the Deeside wing. However, over the years the premises faded from their former glory into a state of extreme disrepair and it was Gamic Clarke’s son, also called Gamic, who finally sold the hotel (greatly to his father’s chagrin) to enable the new Allied hotel in Ayr to be roofed and completed. This was in 1969 and the new owner, Brendan Burns, an hotelier from Banchory faced an uphill struggle to repair and restore ‘the old lady of Aboyne’.

“In 1969, Brendan and his family realized that a massive injection of capital would be necessary to do justice to the Hotel’s reputation and decided to let a new generation of hoteliers grapple with the problem and wrestle with the Banks. A London partnership grasped the nettle for three years but despaired as the deep recession of the 1990s destroyed their particular vision for the Huntly Arms.

“Then in 1992 the Gunn and Ward families – under the name of Euroscot – picked up the baton and assumed responsibility for returning the Huntly Arms to its premier position in Aboyne. The coffee shop was re-opened, the sauna rebuilt and new bedrooms with en-suite facilities added. All rooms now boast colour televisions, coffee making facilities and comfortable furnishings. Modern restrooms were added for functions and the grillroom confidently promoted for excellent food in relaxed and informal surroundings. Gradually standards are being raised and the ‘old lady of Aboyne’ is lifting her head once more to proudly gaze down Royal Deeside and welcome, 500 years on, the thirsty and weary traveler as she has always done. We are glad to extend that welcome to you as you share her atmosphere and history. We are aware that in doing so we are but custodians of a long tradition and that long after we are gone *THE HUNTLY ARMS HOTEL* will continue to serve Royal Deeside.”

*(Present Proprietor – year 2000 – the WARD family.)*

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**STICKS ‘N BAG**

Welcome back to the column about Pipe Band work. This issue, the focus is on Bagpipes. Before I begin, let me tell you a little about the Combined

Scottish Societies' 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Highland Gathering at Castle Hill Showground on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

The day started out exactly as the Weatherman predicted – raining! Darn, we don't have Inverness Capes! Oh well, we'll get a bit wet. A bit wet indeed! We got soaked to the skin. We arrived ready to practice for a bit and be sure that uniforms were all OK. It wasn't raining heavily at the time, but got steadily worse. The Gathering organisers had moved Stalls and Clan Tents into areas that were sheltered as best as they could. Considering that it had rained most of the night before, they did very well. Bands had some areas to practice in, and we found an area under an awning. In dire circumstances you make do with what you can find. We were to play firstly at 9:48 am and it was raining steadily at the time, so we got very wet. The Pipers had trouble playing as fingers slip on Chanters and the Drummers had trouble playing as fingers slip on sticks when wet. The judges abandoned the Drill component as it was just plain impossible for anyone to get anything right in the rain.

When we went out to play the second time, we were walking down to the gate and it simply teemed! We resolutely marched out onto the oval at 10:24 am, and I heard Bruce Menzies (Compere of the day) compliment us on our dedication and tenacity in going out in the pouring rain with no raincoats. (Why am I so specific about the times? In competition, bands have to be "on the line" at exact times, or we simply run out of time for the competition). I can't remember ever playing in rain as heavy and we tried so hard to give a good performance, but I think the rain destroyed any chance we had of impressing the judges. By the time we started to play, we were soaked to the skin. Sock tabs turned our once white spats pink as the dye ran down and our shoes slogged as we walked. My drum even had water inside and I had to take it apart to dry it out. To those people who watched us from under umbrellas – thank you for the cheering and applause. It was appreciated. I heard comments like "This is what it's like for many weeks in Scotland", and "Remember that the World Championships have had lots of rain". I, for one, am glad we don't get too many weekends with rain like last Sunday! I'm also glad it wasn't cold, as it could have meant many sick people this week. At least we got rain, so the gardens will stay alive for a bit longer! We didn't win our grade, but we didn't come last either!!

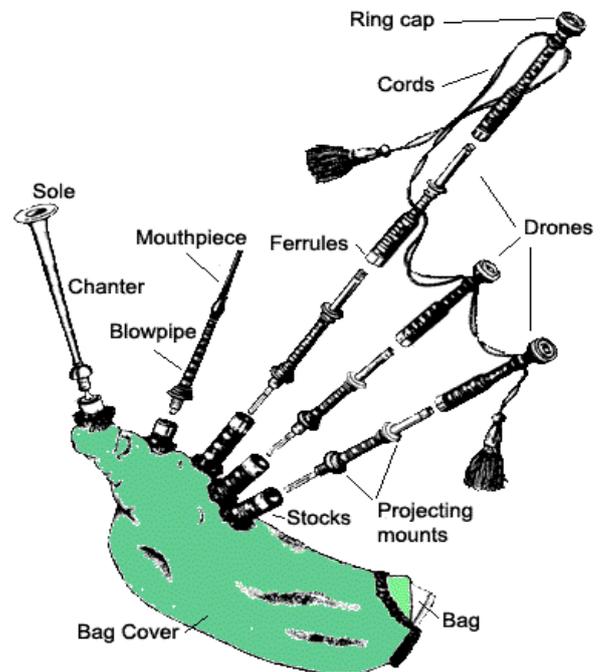
It was disappointing to have had so many weeks of good weather only to have the Gathering ruined by rain. To the Combined Scottish Societies, thank you and good luck for next year.

Now to the topic of the column – Bagpipes.

It has been said that Bagpipes originated in Egypt. There is much evidence to support this claim. However, I note with interest that there are over 30 different kinds of Bagpipes. They seem to have been part of the musical history of many European

countries for centuries. Not all survive now, as many of them fell into disuse and other instruments seem to have taken over. The Scottish Great Highland Bagpipe and the Irish Uilleann pipes appear to be the most popular, with the Scottish Great Highland Bagpipes being known all over the world. This is due to a cunning plan by the Scots to take over the world (only joking). In reality, the Scots have taken the 'pipes everywhere they went, and many other countries now know and love the sound of the 'pipes.

Many Bagpipes only have nine or ten notes and thus there is a problem with sharps and flats. Most Bagpipes are locked into a single musical pitch or Key. The Great Highland Bagpipe started out in the Key of A. It's been raised in pitch over recent years to B flat to allow the Bagpipes to be played in the company of Military Brass Bands. The Great Highland Bagpipes have nine notes playable on the Chanter and they also have two Tenor Drones for extra volume and one Bass Drone. They are the loudest of all Bagpipes and this may well have contributed to their spread throughout the world by Scottish, English and Irish emigrants to many countries. Perhaps they simply drowned out all the other Bagpipes!! (Only joking. Can't seem to help myself. What do you expect from a drummer?)



The picture here shows a set of Great Highland Bagpipes. In the next issue, I will start to explain each of the parts. This picture is reproduced by permission of Celticfire Limited, (based in the U.S of A.) who have a large range of Pipes and other musical instruments. Their Website is <http://www.celticfire.com> if you are interested.

Remember, if you have or know of a set of Bagpipes stored away that you or someone else used to play and will never play again, please dig them out and offer them via this column to a Pipe Band. Not just my band, any Pipe Band. Bagpipes

deserve to be heard, not left stored away, half forgotten in some dusty cupboard, roof, or garage. Bands will pay for the pipes, so keep a look out, please!

Pipe Bands relish the chance to rejuvenate old pipes and honour the historical aspect of those who owned them and where they were played. Maybe even in some battles. Who knows?

John Tate  
Drum Sergeant,  
Castle Hill R.S.L. Pipe Band.  
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**POSTCARD FROM FARQUHARSON  
TERRITORY  
Part 1 ABERDEEN TO BALLATER**

*(The Editor has asked me to write a brief description of my impressions of our journey through Farquharson territory during our recent road tour through England, Scotland and Wales. This is a tourist's impression, and because of constrictions of time and space, we had to miss many things we knew about, and, in any case, we were even more likely to miss those we didn't know about. Nonetheless, I hope it will encourage and interest those of our Members who may plan a similar journey.)*

On the decidedly cool, windy, but fine morning of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2005, our journey to Farquharson territory began in Inverness. This was not so much because Inverness is traditionally Farquharson territory – in fact it is not – but because, nearby, at Culloden moor, one of the last great, but tragic events of the Clan's history was played out on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1746. Working our way through a maze of suburban streets to Culloden without a decent map was a bit of a roller-coaster, but it did not prepare us for the emotional roller-coaster that we experienced at the battlefield.

The video display at the visitor centre, perhaps correctly, presents the great dilemma we still sense as Scottish descendants. On the one hand there is great pride, loyalty, and longing for the kingdom that was lost. On the other, when we view the battlefield itself and the ground chosen for battle by the would-be king who did not even speak the language of his supporters, there is despair and even anger at the lives seemingly thrown away for a doomed cause. Out on the battlefield, seeing the Clan Memorial stones in the area of the Well of the Dead, where many Clansmen fell, you cannot help but choke-up with emotion. Then realising that, on the advice Bonnie Prince Charlie had chosen to listen to, *the Scots had actually positioned themselves to charge up-hill through a tangle of undergrowth to engage on boggy ground*, you cannot help feeling angry. Walking on to the battle positions of the Clans, your chest swells with pride on coming across the sign “Fhionnlaigh” (Farquharson) right at the centre of the battle-line!

Many Farquharsons fell at Culloden. The Chief's nephew Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie, who led the Farquharsons, was captured and condemned to

be executed, but was later reprieved. Another family member, Charles Farquharson, was forced to take refuge in a cave at Craig Cluny above Invercauld. “Colonel” Anne Mackintosh, who was a Farquharson and had raised the Mackintosh force that fought at Culloden, was imprisoned but later released into her husband Aeneas's custody. (Aeneas held a commission in the Government army but did not fight at Culloden.)

Leaving the sadness of Culloden in the late morning we soon found the A96 to Nairn, and Aberdeen on the east coast of Scotland some 110 miles away. Though not by any means a major motorway, the A96 was a very busy stretch of road. Aberdeen is a city of 190,000 souls and is an important seaport for fishing and link to the North Sea oilfields. The road follows the southern shore of the Moray Firth, glimpses of which we could see from time to time, and then turns inland south-east after Elgin, passing through Keith, Inverurie and Kintore. We had an unwelcome brush with danger when overtaken through an un-laned roundabout by a black Audi doing around 100mph – apparently driven by a car salesman trying to impress his client! The countryside here is mainly mixed farming with some pockets of light industry. Closer to Aberdeen traffic density increased and finally we came to a stretch of dual highway.

We chose not to go into Aberdeen city centre, as time was marching on, so we cut down via the North Anderson Drive to link up with the A93. Elevated parts of The Anderson Drive afforded us some views over parts of the city, which appeared from the suburban outskirts to be a quite modern and bustling centre. The A93 heads into Farquharson territory coming inland and west from Aberdeen, following the course of the Dee River.

The road to Ballater and Royal Deeside is very clearly marked and starts off as a well maintained and busy double-laned road which goes out through what appear to be affluent suburbs with gracious stone houses, beautifully landscaped, and regional shopping centres. There appears to be a regular bus service out from Aberdeen and we came through this area as buses were emptying out school children on their way home from school.

As the road got further from Aberdeen proper, it continued through more open rolling countryside with row upon row of hedges separating green regular fields, and the occasional neatly painted homestead. Typically, the road, from this point a one-lane-each-way affair, with very little in the way of shoulder, was overhung by large and probably ancient deciduous native trees forming a shady avenue. From time to time you could get a glimpse of the fast flowing River Dee and the occasional dry-fly fisherman presumably hoping to catch trout for dinner. The land is predominantly farmland and in the warm afternoon sun made for pleasant, almost mesmeric driving, as the little Ford Focus purred along in 5th.

Along the road about 17 miles from Aberdeen we came to a sign pointing off to the right to Crathies Castle and decided to visit. The Castle is managed by the National Trust. As we are members the attendants made us feel very welcome. The Castle seems to have some architectural similarity to Glamis Castle and, indeed, old Balmoral Castle and Braemar Castle. It stands on a large, beautiful, grassed area and has spectacular gardens. These gardens we were recommended to visit and even though we are not particularly good gardeners we decided that we should visit them first.

What a good decision! The gardens were divided up into several different garden “rooms” such as formal, oriental garden etc and have a magnificent topiary area. We took lots of photos in particular to inspire our Bundanoon relatives who are topiary enthusiasts. At the far end was a quite prominent and peculiarly shaped brick and slate-roofed garden house, no doubt a pleasant place for casual sojourn for luncheon and entertainment on just such a warm sunny summer’s afternoon.

We spent a lot more time than we had anticipated in the gardens – it was already late so we decided not to tour the castle itself (it had closed) but to continue our drive to Ballater where we had booked accommodation. We passed through Banchory not far from the Bridge of Feugh, which borders the Finzean Estate, and headed for Aboyne, some 10 or 15 miles away. As before the road, overshadowed by large trees on either side, passes through rolling countryside with glimpses of the Dee to the south. One of the glimpses off to the south in this stretch revealed close to the road an apparently abandoned railway siding, in which stood a long neglected couple of railway carriages obviously at one time magnificently decorated and furnished. Afterwards, when we got to Ballater we could not help wondering if, in a former life, they had borne some particular VIP guests.

Arriving in Aboyne you cannot miss the Huntly Arms Hotel where the Clan Farquharson UK held their 2004 AGM. We took a few photographs of this handsome stone building, which is well maintained, and judging by the parked-out parking-lot, well patronized.

Back on the road we drove through fairly flat farming countryside close to the river through Dinnet and Cambus o’May to Ballater, a further ten miles. We had noticed that the hills on both sides of the road, which at first were some distance away, were now a lot closer, quite precipitate and clothed in fir and larch. To both the north and the south of Ballater there are quite steep and rugged hills overlooking the town, which seems to sit in a narrowing river valley. We learned later from the Chief that one of these hills to the north is the course for one of the trials of strength and athleticism at the Ballater Games, the Hill Race.

The main road runs through the town’s shopping centre, passes close to the old Railway Station,

over a bridge and heads out to Braemar. On this road we passed a sign “Invercauld Road”. A little further on we came to the turn-off to Old Line Road and soon we were able to unload our baggage and refresh ourselves at our very comfortable lodgings in the Woodside B&B run by Andrew Brown & his very helpful wife.

When we had settled in, about 7.00pm, which is, of course, early in the long northern dusk, we drove back to town to explore and find a place to eat. It had become quite windy and dusty in town. After a Tennents or two in the Balmoral Inn Hotel close to the Old Railway Station we discovered that the hotel restaurant was closed. Never mind! We soon found another interesting little pub on the southern side of town – the Alexandra Hotel, which had some palatable dishes with a traditional touch - Roast Chicken with Haggis stuffing, tatties rostit and champit washed down with a couple of glasses of Oz red. And so, we duly returned to Woodside and enjoyed a sound night’s sleep in our very comfy digs. In the morning we had a lively and enjoyable breakfast with other guests, and after going over some of the tourist attractions in town continued our journey through Farquharson territory, right to its edge at the Spittal of Glenshee and the Devil’s Elbow! – the subject of continuation next issue.

*Pauline Finlay.*

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**FUTURE EVENTS 2006**

<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005</b>	<b>Eastwood &amp; Campsie Scottish HOGMANAY – Don Moore Hall North Rocks Road, NTH ROCKS Call B Weaver 9871-3593 to book</b>
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2006</b>	<b>Warringah Scottish Society BURNS SUPPER – Masonic Hall Pittwater Road, COLLAROY BCH Call L Bowers 9981-1673 to book</b>
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2006</b>	<b>BUNDANOON IS BRIGADOON Bundanoon Village SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS NSW</b>

**TO HIRE SCOTTISH DRESS ETC, Contact:**

**Mrs Janet Maxwell  
“Scottish Hire Hoose”  
2 Gibbons Street  
DUNDAS NSW 2117**

**Telephone: (02) 9630-1263**

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**ARTICLES FOR – “CAIRN NA CUIMHNE”**

**Contact: Bruce Finlay**

**Telephone/Fax: (02) 9982-6229**

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**Left... The Culloden Battlefield Main Memorial Cairn – commemorating the fallen Highlanders for posterity.**

**Right... The historic Huntly Arms Hotel at Aboyne – the venue for the Clan Farquharson UK 2004 Annual Meeting.**

**Below Left... Scottish Week – Hyde Park Sydney – President Syd Finlay with Members Len Farquharson, Bruce Finlay, Lindsay Sparkes, and Ross Wood.**

*(Photograph very kindly supplied on short notice by Andrea Farquharson.)*

**Below Right... Committeeman Peter Tranter on his 70<sup>th</sup> with his personal Piper Ian Innes.**

