



JUNE
1983

Dear Clansfolk,

The three Clansmen, John Nicoll, Winston Nicholl and Mal Nicholson who will be our team in the City to Surf Race have started training for the BIG DAY, Sunday 8th August.

Counsellor John Nicoll, his wife Penny and his sister Grace joined some of us at the Orkney and Shetland Social Evening last Saturday night, where Mr. Narputsingh from AIR INDIA drew the winning ticket in the "Trip for Two to U.K." raffle organised by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. The winner was Mr. D. Hunter of Bondi who will be flying to Scotland in August. I would like to thank Bruce and Beryl Clifford, Suzanne, Valerie and Diane Nicholl and Milton Samios for selling tickets for the raffle. Under arrangements with the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, 50% of the proceeds from ticket sales goes to the sellers Association - our Clan Association is now \$250 richer.

BANKSTOWN SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION BALL on Friday, 19th August at the Cabramatta Civic Hall, Railway Street, Cabramatta. The tickets are \$12.50 each which includes dinner, guests are asked to bring their own refreshments. The seven debutantes escorted by members of the local Pipe Band will be presented to a Senior Army Officer. Penny and John Nicoll and Grace Given are forming Clan Nicail tables so contact them on 701682 or 6447134.

THE DAY OF THE TARTAN - 1st JULY. Every Scot around the world is asked to wear a "touch of tartan" on 1st July. We are celebrating the repeal of the Prohibition and Proscription of the Highland Dress Act in 1782. For Clan members who would like a description of the Nicolson Dress tartan, the following is the pattern as described in 1876 by Mr. J. G. MacKay, the famous authority on tartans.

Nicolson of Scorrybreac Tartan :

1/8in. Azure, 3/4in. Black, 1/4in. Red, 1 3/4in. Green, 1in. Red, 1/4in. Green, 1 in. Red, 1/4in. Black, 1 in. Red, 1/4in. Green, 1 in. Red, 1 5/8in. Green, 1/4in. Red, 3/4in. Black, 1/8in. Azure, 7/8in. Black, 1 in. Red, 1/4in. Green, 1 in. Red, 1/4in. Black, 1 in. Red, 1/4in. Green, 1 in. Red, 7/8in. Black, 1/8in. Azure, 3/4in. Black, 1/4in. Red, 1 5/8 in. Green and so on.

W: - Commander James Nicolson's V.C.

A report in The Times, Thursday, April 28, 1983 said, "The only Victoria Cross awarded to a Battle of Britain pilot was bought for £110,000 (Sterling) for the R.A.F. Battle of Britain Museum at Hendon, north London.

The V.C., awarded to Wing Commander James Nicolson, was sold with its associate group of medals. The highest price previously paid for a V.C. group was £32,000.

The R.A.F. Museum had offered the Nicolson family £50,000 for the medal group before the sale, in the hope that they would settle for a private deal. "We turned it down because we wanted the publicity generated by the auction to draw attention to the plight of Second World War widows", Mr. James Nicolson, the son of Wing Commander Nicolson said.

Mr. Nicolson said that he and his mother feel passionately about the Government's inattention to this special category of war widows. Because their husbands did not survive to pay adequate national insurance stamps, they receive no state pension until the age of 80.

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The Chief corresponds regularly with Mr. Sean Keane, who used to work at Dublin Castle and the London College of Genealogy translating ancient Gaelic manuscripts. The Chief recently asked him for his opinion on the correct translation for "Sgorr-a-bhreac".

Mr. Keane says that "Sgorr-a-bhreac" is the warcry of the Clan (the middle "a" is a vocative particle;) "Clanna MacNicail ! Scorr a bhreac ! Scorr a bhreac !" the Chief would have cried to us in days gone by. The place name is Sgorra Bhreac. Sgorra (or Scorra) is a noun meaning a peak, it is a very old term and aspirates its adjective "breac" turning