

THE SOUTHERN CROSS THE JOURNAL OF CLAN MHICNEACAIL IN THE ANTIPODES

CHIEF: Iain MhicNeacail of MhicNeacail and Scorrybreac.

BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING.



Sometimes life gives you the opportunity of being involved in something extra special - our Clan International Gathering was one of those events. It was so very rewarding for those of us who were there and perhaps the best way to tell you about it all is to report it chronologically.

Friday, 27th August saw the invasion of Brisbane's Park Royal and Regency Parkview Motels by members of our Clan from as far afield as Canada and the United States of America, and from Tasmania our own Apple Isle and so many places in between, including New Zealand, Victoria, New South Wales and, of course, Queensland itself.

The distance travelled by some of our members within Australia was highlighted when a member from Townsville pointed out they had travelled further to get to Brisbane than our members from Victoria! Yes, we live in a big country.

Many members attended the Society of St. Andrews of Scotland (Queensland) Dinner Dance and reported of the grand night that was had by all.

Saturday, 28th August: The first of our Clan activities was the International Meeting at the Park Royal. Scorrybreac must have felt

proud as he looked about and saw so many clansfolk present as he officially opened the meeting.

Dr. Peter Nicoll, President of the Moreton Branch of the Clan paid tribute to his hard working committee and welcomed the many visitors to Brisbane.

Our Tanist, John Nicolson, spoke of the future of our Clan, with particular emphasis on our youthful members. There is a time when peer group pressure and pride in your heritage are at odds and we empathise with this. However, seeing so many caring, wise and understanding "oldies" at the International Gathering will have given many of our younger kin much pride in their heritage and already they will be giving their parents a nudge for a kilt or skirt in our tartan.

It was a particularly interesting meeting which met all the objectives desired including a most interesting talk on Heraldry by Merry Jane McMichael, Editor of "Scorrybreac", the USA Clan newsletter, Merry Jane is an expert in this field, and her talk was most enlightening. Merry Jane kindly presented me with a copy of her book of "Amorials and Ordinaries of Arms, Crests and Motto for the Name and Septs of MacNi" which can be borrowed on request.

Harry Nicholson of Ohio, who is National Games Commissioner for the USA spoke of his approach to various Tent Convenors and of the kit he, and his lovely wife Margaret had created. It must be said their skills are to be envied and these kits include beautiful banners they have made for all (yes all 50!) States are a remarkable achievement. Needless to say, their efforts are proving most successful. Harry's generosity in presenting us with a Tent Convenors Manual to be loaned to the Australian counterparts is much appreciated.

Morning Tea was punctuated with many "Oh, you're....". For years many of our members have heard about, written to, or telephoned other clan members and it was really great to put faces to so many names.

Both Scorrybreac as Chairman, and Dr. Murray Nicolson as Secretary of the Clan Trust Committee, answered the many questions put to them concerning our land on Ben Chracaig. We take pleasure in advising that our heritage is in good hands with Scorrybreac and Murray so much to the fore, and with the fine work being done by our Clan Members on Skye.

Our hearts went out to Bob Nicol when he had to advise the meeting of contingency plans if the weather continued to be inclement (it did!).

After the meeting, many visitors enjoyed their bus trip to the Woolshed where we enjoyed a tremendous Barbecue Lunch, and wool shearing demonstration (after viewing several varieties of sheep). Bob Nicol had taken the opportunity en route to the Woolshed to tell of life on a sheep station, so by the end of the day we felt well steeped in one of Australia's greatest primary industry.



The official table, Chieftain Murray & Scorrybreac.

The afternoon gave most of us an opportunity to relax and get ready for the evening's Ceilidh - except for the Trustees who had much to discuss.

The Ceilidh can certainly be described as a huge success. It was here that all the hard work behind the scenes was most apparent to those of us who have tried organising functions. Imagine if you will a hall beautifully presented with the Chief's standard. This standard was commissioned by brothers Burke, Harman and John Nicholson of Atlanta, USA from Dr. Barden in Scotland. The standard is 12 feet long and is most impressive. It was mounted behind the official table. All the tables were decorated with delightful bowls of native flowers which gave infinite pleasure to the Aussies and our overseas visitors alike.



Harry Nicholson, Ohio, U.S.A.

On entering the hall, every lady was presented with a charming spray of Cooktown orchids which made us all feel just that extra bit special.

Our menfolk sporting their tartan, be it in their kilts, or their ties; the ladies wearing sashes and everywhere that special feeling of kinship, of belonging.

The night began with our Chief being escorted into the hall by three pipers - by tradition only a Chief can have three pipers - followed by his personal household and senior Clan Officials. With pride his Clan called "Hail to the Chief".

The Address to the Haggis by Penny Nicoll heralded a superb supper which was enjoyed by all. The whisky, provided by the committee, added that something special whether it was poured over the haggis or savoured as a dram.



TOASTING THE HAGGIS

Graham Nicoll Qld., Penny Nicoll NSW, Piper John McNicol Qld.

MC John Nicoll was delighted with the responsiveness of the company and the dances were well received. They danced so many dances, including the Eightsome Reel, Strip the Willow (twice!) and learned the Canadian Barn Dance, courtesy of Murray and Barbara Nicolson (USA)..It was great to see young and old joining together in the grand tradition of a true ceilidh.

Entertainment by Pipers John McNicol, Rev.Archie McNicol and his wife Heather, and their son, Andrew on the side drum was a highlight of the night.

Singing by Ron McNicol of Viewbank, Victoria and community singing led by John Nicoll added to the evenings fun. John's presentation of the rather cheeky poem "Kirk Soiree" was also well received.

Too soon the night was over and as we clasped hands and sang "Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot" we knew we would not forget our fellow guests of the night.

Sunday, 29th August saw most of us at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for the Morning Service where a warm welcome was extended to our Chief, our Clan Chaplain, Rev. Archie MacNicol and members of our Clan. There is something special seeing our Clan Flags and Banners being brought into a Church knowing that for so many years, following the Highland Clearances, it was treason to show the tartan.

Our Pipers, John and Heather, again did us proud and we thank them for adding their special touch to the day.

Our Chief read the Lesson (Psalm 121, Matthew Chap. 7 verses 1 - 14) and our Chaplain gave a most interesting Sermon "The Mount Everest of Ethics".

There were two other special touches to this service - the members of the congregation had put slips of our tartan into the Order of Service, a gesture much appreciated by us all and then we were treated to a superb morning tea. And what a morning tea it was!



Banner bearing party at the Kirking.
Graham Nicoll Qld., Harry Nicholson U.S.A., Jack Nicholson N.Z.,
Dr. Peter Nicoll Qld., Bob Nicol Qld.

To Rev. Andrew Gardiner and the members of his Congregation we extend a very special thank you - your kindness and thoughtfulness added greatly to our International Gathering.

After that sumptuous morning tea it was time to head to the Park Royal to collect our picnic lunches. Regrettably the weather had been inclement long enough to make it too wet underfoot for us to enjoy our picnic in the beautiful Botanic Gardens so Bob Nicol's contingency plan "E" was to use a room at the Park Royal.

It was a tremendous picnic! We gossiped, we talked, we laughed, we chatted, we swapped addresses, took photos, and gossiped and talked some more.

To most of us, the weekend was drawing to a close too quickly and it was good to relax among friends. Slowly, reluctantly, we took our farewells of one another. We had come together semi-strangers and departed with that special feeling and certainty of true kinship.

We returned to our respective accommodation, except the members of the Trust Committee who continued with their meeting! (No rest for the wicked??)

Some members had to depart for their homes, but those of us lucky enough to stay just that bit longer enjoyed home hospitality that could not be faulted.

I cannot speak highly enough of the Moreton Branch International Gathering Committee - they worked so hard, with a will. We most certainly enjoyed the results of their hard work. To them we extend our sincere thanks; you created a climate that allowed us to enjoy a truly grand weekend. There must have been moments when you felt so overwhelmed with what you had taken on, so weary from all that you had to do. To you all, congratulations, you were superb hosts and grand company. On behalf of all your visitors

THANK YOU.

Other memories of the weekend:

Bob Nicol's frequent glances at the sky! - Your contingency plans worked wonderfully well, Bob.

Len Stanley's search for wattle blossom! The wattle did add that something special to the floral displays Len.

John Nicoll practising the words of "I'm the Safest of the Family" when he discovered he had left his kilt in Sydney! Remarkable what can be done in the middle - yes middle - of the night by Wards Couriers and a co-operative daughter (thank you Sheona)! (The kilt arrived by Wards Couriers from Sydney at 5 pm on the Saturday afternoon).

The firm intention of Penny Nicoll, Secretary of NSW, that Victoria will host the next Australian International Gathering - she's not too keen to try to equal Brisbane's high standards.



Home hospitality at The Stanleys.

L/R Robyn Nicol, Len Stanley, Penny Nicoll, Harold Coates,
Megan Stanley, Andrew (Drew) Stanley and Florie Nichol.
(The hands cutting the cake belong to Bronwyn Stanley).



Trustee John Nicoll presents THE CHEQUE to Scorrybreac.



Scorrybreac and Pam entering St. Paul's Church.
The pipers are Heather MacNicol and John McNicol.

LADY NICOLSON - HIGHLIGHTS OF AN INTERESTING AND REWARDING LIFE.

Judith Hewitt, a retired journalist and cousin to Scorrybreac, interviewed Lady Nicolson at her home in Guildford, Surrey, England.

Dorothie Nicolson went to Skye for the first time in 1933, driving from London with her husband in clouds of dust on the unmade roads in an old Rover ("four wheels and a rubber band"). She remembers, in particular, the thrilling experience of driving through Glencoe and then the last leg of the journey that took them through Fort William and on, through a magnificent Highland landscape to Mallaig and thence, by ferry, to Armadale whence they motored on to Braes near Portree. She remembers that it was difficult to find somewhere to stay on the way up as, in those days, there were very few hotels in the Highlands and none of the welcoming B & B's that are everywhere today.

On their arrival in Skye they stayed at the house that her husband had previously bought for his parents. The well known cleric and author, Norman Maclean, had been born in and had owned this house when, as Chaplain to Queen Victoria, he used to travel to Balmoral to preach to her.

For many a summer John and Dorothie and their two children spent their holidays at Braes. The house was eventually purchased and renovated by the son-in-law and daughter of Sorley MacLean, Scotland's greatest living poet. In 1933, there was no electricity "...just candles and oil lamps and tap water from a well." They used to go fishing from a boat, first rowing and then later with an outboard. Fishing from 9pm to 1am, (when it was still light) they caught so many fish that they had to give them away to the neighbours because there was no fridge to keep them in.

Dorothie had met her husband-to-be in March in 1931. Her mother had some friends coming to tea one Sunday and they rang to ask if they could bring



Lady Nicolson & Cheiftain Burke Nicholson.
1989 Clan Ceilidh in Skye.

a young doctor from Skye who was in London for a short time. So, he came and they talked and they looked at one another and a month later, he asked her to the theatre. They were engaged in May and married in September. A daughter, Ann, was born in 1934 and a son, Iain, in 1941.

Dorothie's father, Henry Cowell, was in the wool trade and, in 1920 the family moved to Melbourne for three years where they made many friends including the Rev. John Johnstone who was in charge of the Scots Church in Collins Street and, formerly, Moderator of the Church of Scotland (his great grandchildren visited her recently). There were other Australian friends she made in London, too - namely the members of the all conquering Australian Test team of 1930. Dorothie, herself, started playing cricket in 1916 at boarding school and has never lost her interest in the game, attending as many test matches as possible "in the Australian stand". Even now, in her 90th year, she sits up into the wee sma' hours watching the cricket.

Dorothie first made contact with Scorrybreac in 1984 when an article appeared in "The Times" concerning the latter's response to Lord Carnock's claim to chiefship of the Hebridean Clan. She promptly wrote a letter expressing her loyalty and support to Scorrybreac and a firm and enduring friendship with him and with Pam ensued. She was last in Skye for the Clan's International Gathering and ceilidh in 1989 where she stayed with her nephew Neil Nicolson of Portree. On their most recent visit to the U.K. in 1992, Scorrybreac and Pam lunched with her at the residence of her daughter, Ann Townend, and later, made another trip to Guildford to see her.

Dorothie keeps in touch with her friends and relations on Skye, ringing them every so often. She remarked, with a twinkle in her eye, that not so long ago, her granddaughter Emma stayed with Skye relatives and had to borrow gloves and a hat in order to go to church and listen to a two hour sermon. She loves Skye for its memories, for its beauty and for its people and she says that her grand-daughter Lucy Townend who is getting married next year, hopes to live there. Lucy and her fiancé have fallen in love with the island.

Dorothie's late husband, Sir John Nicolson, an eminent surgeon, in charge of Manor House Hospital, North London, was knighted for her services to medicine - services that included outstanding work on medical problems brought about by industrial conditions up and down the country. Born at Gedintailor in Skye and educated at Portree High School, he was about to proceed to Glasgow University to read medicine when

World War I broke out. He immediately joined the Territorials and survived four years of trench warfare, earning the Military Medal and a Commission in the field. After the war, he resumed his studies and in 1924, graduated in medicine from Glasgow University.

Dorothie showed me a cutting from a Glasgow paper reporting, in September 1962, a Skye Week meeting there chaired by Sir John, "...a native Skyeman from Braes, who spoke in such friendly Gaelic." During his speech, Sir John said that it was sad and pitiful to see the empty houses and crofts on Skye and the youth population dwindling. He said that chalets, motels and extra accommodation would put Skye's holiday revenue on a business-like basis. At a dinner before the meeting, Sir John, who has been a noted player in his day, said that shinty* was one of the best games in the world if played properly.

Dorothie has six grandchildren, two of whom live at Sale in Victoria where their father, Dr. Iain Nicolson has a busy practice. James the elder boy, presently at Scotch College, Melbourne, has recently distinguished himself by being selected to attend this year's International Science School held annually at the University of Sydney for outstanding science students in Year 11 to 12 range. 130 students from the UK, USA, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia will be attending and James is one of the Victorian contingent of 10. John, James's younger brother is an equestrian of high standard and will be competing at the Royal Show in Melbourne this year.

*"Shinty (or Camanachd). Ancient game of the Scottish Highlands, intermediate between hurling and hockey. The field of play varies from 250 yards to 140 yards in length and 100 to 70 yards in width. The goals, termed hails, are 12 feet wide and 10 feet in height, backed by a netting. A goal is scored by the ball being hit between the hails and passing into the netting. There are 12 players on a side, distributed over the field much in the manner of a hockey team. The ball, consisting of a cork core, bound with worsted and covered in leather sewn with course seams, is about 2 inches in diameter and weighs between 3 and 4 ounces. The caman or club for striking the ball is a stick with a triangular head. A game occupies one hour and a half, with five minutes' interval at half-time. The controlling body is the Camanachd Association, and the game is, in actual fact, the local Scottish form of hockey." Encyclopedia of Sports Games and Pastimes, C1936.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK.

Dear Kinsfolk,

It was grand to meet so many members of the Clan at the very successful Clan Gathering in Brisbane last August. Thank you all from Heather and myself for your friendship.

As this is the last journal before Christmas I want to take this opportunity to send Christmas Greetings from the Clan at the Manse to all Clan members wherever you are. May Christmas be a time of deep joy and gladness in the celebration of the coming of the Saviour into the world.

Once a peasant came to a Palace looking for the King. On arrival he found the gate open and no guard in sight, so in he walked. He found the front door of the Palace open and there was none to challenge his entry. He wandered from room to room, marvelling at the beauty within - priceless paintings, the luxurious carpets, and the glittering chandeliers. Here was luxury he had never before experienced. Finally he reached the back door and went out. He had been right through the Palace.

He had seen every room. He had been overwhelmed by all he had seen, but for all that, he had not seen the King.

Many will have similar experience this Christmas period. They will go right through the Holy Season admiring the glitter and glamour, the carols and the customs, but they will not meet the King. In fact, this season for them will be little different from other times of the year. They will participate in the social round of parties and celebrations, but will be unaware of the One who spoke, and still speaks, through the stable of Bethlehem to all men.

"Yes, Lord, we greet You, born for our salvation;
Jesus, to You be glory given!
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

Yours in kinship,

Archie MacNicol.



BIRTHDAY CALLS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our kinsfolk who celebrate their birthdays this quarter.

December: Joyce Nicoll; Mary
Nicolson; Bobbie Wallis*, Scott
Sinclair*; Judith Nicol*, Rosina
Henderson*; Sybil Hewson*, Angus
McDonald*; Leila Nicol*, Lesley Way*;
Eileen Nicholson; Bob Nicol; Robert
Nicholson; Sheona Nicoll; David
Nicol; Dorothy Nicholson; Pamela
Nicol; Bill Nichol.

January: Penny Nicoll; Beryl
Clifford*, Erling Nicol*; Beth Bell;
David Nicholson; George Nicol;
Kerry Nicolson*, Ronald McNicol*;
Beatrice McNicol; Kath

Nicolson; Kenneth Nicol; Tracey
Nicol; Maxine Sheldrick*, Rick
Dillon*; Roy Shallcross; Jenni
Nicolson; John McNicol; Robbie
McNicol; Ruth Nicol; Bruce Clifford;
Luke Nicolson; Thelma Ashton;

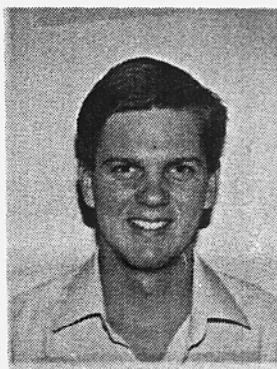
February: Adam Nicolson*, Arthur
Newman*; Chloe* and Saadi* Allan;
Grace Given*, Ailsa Webb*, Bradley
McNicol*; Benjamin Nicholson*, Peter
Nicholson*; Jennifer Nicol*, Audrey
Nicholson*; Andrew Stanley; Barbara
Roche; Lisa Dillon.

Hope you all have an extra special day!

* = Birthday Twins.

If your birthday has not been recorded and you wish it recorded please contact Mrs. Penny Nicoll, 2 Cameron Avenue, Bass Hill, 2197 so that our records can be adjusted. If you are coy about your actual age, your birthdate will be quite suffice.

HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY, ANDREW.



Andrew Rhydwyn John Stanley, born in Brisbane 3rd February, 1973 is the only son of Len Stanley and his lovely wife Bronwyn who is a direct descendant of George Nicol who arrived in Australia from Banff, Scotland on the SS Alfred on 13th January, 1839 and settled at Campbelltown in New South Wales.

Andrew attended Kenmore South Primary School and then the Anglican Church Grammar School, Brisbane, matriculating in 1989. He completed his Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of Queensland and is at present doing his Honours Degree in Molecular Microbiology at the Sir Albert Sakzewski Virus Research Laboratory in Brisbane from which he hopes to graduate in June 1994.

Andrew has a keen interest in music and plays the piano, clarinet and saxophone.

He plays competition indoor and warehouse cricket, and touch football. He enjoys playing social golf and tennis.

Andrew turns twenty-one on the 3rd February, 1994 and will be celebrating at a small party with his family and close fiends. He has a sister Megan, 19, who with his parents Bronwyn and Len and Grandparents Kit and Harold Coates of Lithgow, NSW, are all Clan Members.

NEWS FROM VICTORIA.

Once again it is Newsletter time. How time flies! The Victorian Branch held its Annual and General Meeting. Among those who attended were David and Genny Nicoll and David's mother Marjorie (a really grand old lady) who came from Texas USA. They were touring parts of Australia before going to the International Gathering in Brisbane.

Two other Victorians, Ron and Joan McNicol attended the Gathering as well as Beth and I. It was a very interesting and also exhausting weekend. After attending a Dinner Dance on Friday night, Clan History/Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning, some people also went on a tour of the Australian Woolshed in the afternoon.

At night there was the Ceilidh; Sunday morning the Kirkin' of the Tartan at St. Pauls Presbyterian Church. There was supposed to be a picnic in the gardens opposite the Park Royal Hotel, but due to rain a

room in the Park Royal Hotel was used for a picnic lunch. Sunday night was Home Hospitality where Clan Members were hosted at various homes in Brisbane.

I stayed for more than a week in Brisbane with my eldest son John and family before coming home. Beth went onto Cairns for three weeks where she stayed with a friend.

REMINDER: Clan Members, another reminder of St. Andrews Day Scottish Remembrance Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 28th November at 1.45 pm. followed by afternoon tea and a display of Highland and Country Dancing at Army Depot Australian Army Band (Melbourne) Albert Road, Drive, South Melbourne.

Yours in kinship,

Thelma Ashton.

(Victorian Secretary)



Thelma Ashton & Beth Bell at Brisbane Gathering.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

This year has been very profitable with the running of the raffle for the Tapestry, that was worked by our member Dorothy Gavin, with other small raffles and functions.

Some of our members attended the following functions which had been arranged by the Council of Clans - they were their Annual Dinner at Green Acres Golf Club, Kew; two performances of the Trak Theatre;

the Kirkin' of the Tartan at Scots Church, Melbourne; St. Andrews Remembrance Day at the Shrine. We had a tent at the Ringwood Highland Gathering, there were nay people visited us, but we did not get any new members. We would like to be able to have our tent at other Highland Gatherings, but if we did so we would need more members to help with it, as our committee members cannot be available all the time as they have family to attend to as well. I wish to thank Thelma who has always been there to help me get the Newsletters out. I wish to express

my sincere thanks to the following: Thelma our Secretary, Peter our Treasurer who has done a mammoth job setting up and keeping the books, my Committee Members Reuban and Linda Bain, Arthur and Elizabeth Newman and Allan and Norma McNicol. They have always been willing to help whenever possible. Thanks to the members who helped in other ways such as selling raffle tickets and helping at other times. It has made my job much easier to know that I can call on you when needed. I appreciate it very much.

TREASURER'S REPORT - 1992/93:

Well, Members and Committee, due to your loyal support of this Clan in the form of Memberships, donations and raffles we are in the position of being financial after a few years of hard work. There were times when we wondered if the Clan was worth going on with, but now it has all been worth it.

I must thank Beth and Mick Bell (I only wish Mick was still with us to see the result) as many times they gave financial help to keep the Clan

going. So Members with your support this Clan should go from strength to strength. The good news is that at 31st May when our books were closed our Bank Statement showed a balance of \$455.46. Last year our Bank Balance showed \$339.99, but this was a false balance when you consider that \$250.00 had to be withdrawn this year for the Clan Tree Donations from Isle of Skye, so really we started with a balance of \$89.99. This year was a great effort by all.

CONGRATULATIONS to newly appointed Commissioner.

It is with pleasure we extend Clan congratulations to Isabella Hutcheon, President of the Hamilton, New Zealand, Branch of our Clan on her appointment as Commissioner of the North Island of New Zealand.

Following the passing of Commissioner Harry Nicoll in August of this year, Scorrybreac was anxious to appoint a worthy successor. He took the opportunity of the International Gathering, Brisbane, to invite Isabella to fulfil the position.

Isabella has been a most active member of the Hamilton Branch since its inception, holding various positions. She is a charming lady whose enthusiasm for the Clan and Clan members, is contagious.

Congratulations, Isabella - our Clan is in good hands with you as Commissioner of the North Island.



Commissioner Isabella Hutcheon (left)
with N.Z. member Elva Nicol.

BEN CHRACAIG TREE APPEAL.

The following is the final list of Australian/New Zealand donors and/or the inscriptions as requested to appear on the plaque at the reforestation site.

Please check carefully the wording of your inscription and advise promptly if in error.

AUSTRALIA.

Iain MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac.
Pamela Nicolson.
Scorrybreac Ygr and Jenni Nicolson.
In memory of John Robert Nicolson and his daughter
Jessie Wigan of Tasmania, son & granddaughter of
John Norman Marshall Nicolson, 19th Chief Scorrybreac.
Mac and Maree Nicolson.
John and Robin Allen.
Rick and Lisa Dillon.
New South Wales Branch, Clan MacNicol.
In memory of Janet Cameron Nicoll.
Grace Nicoll Given.
Counsellor John and Penny Nicoll.
Sheona and Ian Nicoll.
May Nicoll Trench.
MacIntosh Nixon, Oaklands, N.S.W.
Angus Nicolson.
Ross and Jessie Nicol,
"Frae the Roots tae a' the Airts".
Chief's Piper Bill Macnicol.
Chief's Piper Rob and Jocelyn Nicol.
Elizabeth (Betty) Nicol & the late David Nicol.
Bob and Meg Nicol.
Bruce, Roslyn, Kerrie and Jennifer Nicol.
Victoria Branch, Clan MacNicol.
Samual Nicolson born Kilmuir C1810
died 1896 Victoria.
In memory of Malcolm Nicolson, born Torrin,
Strath, Skye 1840, died Bridgewater-on-Loddon,
Victoria, 26.3.1883, aged 43 years.
James Ronald McNicol.
In memory of our Grandfather Angus Nicholson
late of Torrumberry near Echuca, Victoria.
Moreton (Qld) Branch, Clan MacNicol.
Dr. Peter and Dorothy Nicoll, Queensland.
Robbie McNicol (22.1.92) from Granpa.
Family of Henry (Harry) Nichols, 1901 - 1984.
Bronwyn Stanley in memory of Daisy Jane Nicol.
Bronwyn Stanley in memory of Francis John Winchester.
Peter D. Morrison.
In memory of Robert Nicol 4.6.1911 to 2.3.1993.
Counsellor Peter R. Nicol.
Capricornia (Qld) Branch, Clan MacNicol.
Tasmania Branch, Clan MacNicol.
Alison and D. A. Green.
Ewen and Betty Nichols.
South Australia Branch, Clan MacNicol.
Barbara Nicholson Bray.
West Australia Branch, Clan MacNicol.

NEW ZEALAND.

Commissioner Jack and Eileen Nicholson.
Whakatane Branch Clan MacNicol.
Hamilton Branch Clan MacNicol.

BEN CHRACAIG TREE APPEAL.

The Ben Chracaig Tree Appeal has now concluded. I would like to thank all donors from the Australian and New Zealand branches for their generous support in this appeal. Our target at the outset was for \$2000.00. We raised \$2115.00 which, I feel, was a great effort. The addition of a previously subscribed "Skye Fund" of \$105.00 brought the total to \$2220.00.

With a little bit of bank interest and a small mark up from the "Newsletter Account" \$A2264.96 was converted into 989.00 and this cheque was presented to Scurrybreac at the Brisbane Ceilidh.

The American donations realised \$USA7000.00 so it can be seen that the Appeal has been very successful. It is to be hoped that the Scottish Forestry Commission will add to this fund and therefore begin the reforestation of our land with the oaks, hazels and hollies that the Nicolson land once supported.

Thank you,

John Nicoll,

Australian Trustee, Urras Clann MhicNeacail.

URRAS CLANN MHICNEACAIL.

As part of the Brisbane gathering, the trustees of Urras Clann MhicNeacail met. This is the Trust that was formed in 1988 to be responsible for the Clan lands on the Isle of Skye. The Trustees include:-

Scurrybreac (Chairman) & J. Nicoll, Australia.
H. Burke Nicholson II & A. Murray Nicolson, USA.
J. A. Nicolson, C. Nicolson, & R. Samios, Skye.
A. MacNeacail, England.

Scurrybreac, John Nicoll and Murray Nicolson were present, others voted by proxy. The following decisions were made:-

1. Adoption with minor changes of the Bye Laws published in "The Southern Cross" in July 1992.

2. Under the new Bye Laws, election of two new trustees to three year terms, Murdo Nicolson of Portree and C.B. Harman Nicolson of Atlanta, GA, USA. Both of these clansmen have contributed substantially to the projects of Urras Clann MhicNeacail.

3. Donations of \$USA7000 and \$A2200 were being given to the Trust by the North American and Australasian/New Zealand branches respectively, specifically for the Scurrybreac Woodlands project.

4. The new owners of the Coolin Hills Hotel would be using it privately and we might be able to acquire the boathouse adjacent to the Clan's lands as a storage shed and shelter. We agreed to explore the possibilities, either as a gift or a purchase.

5. The Joint Management Agreement with the Skye and Lochalsh District Council had now been signed. This gives the Council responsibility for daily maintenance and policing of the land, in return for continued public access.

6. The meeting passed Votes of Thanks to Mr. John Gillis for his dedicated work on getting the Bye Laws written, and the the Skye Management Committee (Jan Nicolson, Chairman) for their continuing fine work on the care and improvement of the land.

Murray Nicolson,
Secretary, Urras Clann MhicNeacail.

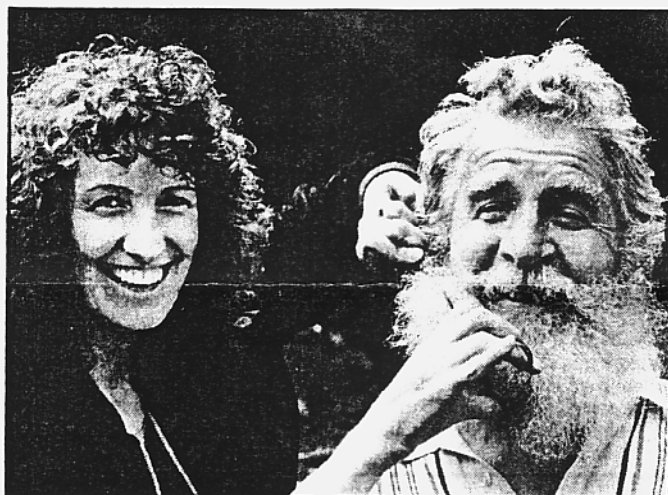
News from the Isle of Skye

from the West Highland Free Press

WEST HIGHLAND FREE PRESS, FRIDAY, 25 JUNE 1993

NEWS

Any clan members who have visited the Isle of Skye will most likely have met our most hirsute member - Murdo Nicolson who braved swarms of midges in the summer of 1989 to build the cairn on Ben Chracraig, and more recently built "Murdo's Well" on the path below the cairn - a wishing well covered with a stout iron grille so that all but the skinniest local urchins cannot reach the treasure below. Well it seems Murdo has made the ultimate sacrifice - donating his beard (for now) in the cause of charity.



Before and after . . . Portree man Murdo Nicolson ended a 30-year tradition during the Skye Week street fayre when he had his beard shaved off by hairdresser Katherine Forsyth — raising around £4,000 towards the fund for a new Church of Scotland hall.

Jan Nicolson is the Chairman of the Skye Management Committee, and is an entrepreneurial local businessman. Because of his skill in setting up new local ventures, Jan was appointed Chairman of an organization called Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise, which helps finance new start-ups on the island. Here he is clearly getting over the idea of starting young with girls from the local Portree High School.

One of Jan's jobs for us was publishing the notice below - the 200 ton rockfall has now been cleared and the path reopened.

SCORRYBREAC PATH

Urras Clann Mhicneacail hereby give notice that with immediate effect due to an unstable rock face the above path will be closed for public access at a point 200m East of the Cracraig River until further notice.

JA Nicolson
Trustee



Pay-day . . . Portree High School's successful Young Enterprise Company recently received their trophy and a voucher as winners of the Highland Region section of the scheme. The trophy was handed over by Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise chairman Jan Nicolson, and the voucher by Royal Bank branch manager John Hamilton. The company, Spors an Eilean — which produced a Gaelic nursery rhyme book and cassette — now goes forward to the Scottish finals next month.

Jan Nicolson congratulated the girls on their success in the face of a number of difficulties. "They started from a fairly weak position and I had my doubts at the outset," he admitted. "But they took the necessary steps to turn it round and make it work. The product was ambitious but clever, and that helped them overcome the difficulties experienced by schools in rural areas when everything is centred in Inverness."

The members of the company are (back row) Katie Macdonald and Ruth Campbell, with (front) Kate Pearce, Carol MacLaughlan, Margaret MacKenzie and Susie Algie.

(FP 98/A)

KIWI CONNECTIONS:

When talking with Kath Nicolson whilst visiting her recently, I was fascinated to hear of her husband's family background. I persuaded her to write the following. It would be grand if our Kiwi kinsfolk can trace a connection with this lovely lady and her family.

My husband Angus Nicolson, was born in Auckland in 1908. The eldest son of Angus (Guss) and May Nicolson having two sisters and three brothers.

Angus Nicolson Snr., was born in Auckland in 1861, accidentally killed in 1934. Son of Angus Nicolson who was the son of Norman Nicolson, who had migrated from Scorrybreck Skye. It is rumoured he was the second white child born in Auckland. As far as I could trace there were three other brothers, Norman, Jack, Hector and two daughters. The Nicolson family on my husband's side were mostly shipwrights.



Angus Nicolson with great nephew.
January 1982.

My husband, Angus, came to settle in Sydney in 1934 and we married in 1942, living at Manly for forty years before returning to Hyams Beach in 1971, where he passed away in 1985 aged 77 years. All brothers and sisters have passed away also. Nephews and nieces still live in Auckland, Hamilton and Canterbury, New Zealand. There are descendants of either Jack, Hector or Norman living in the North Shore North Island although all contact has been lost with these relations.

CLAN GENEALOGY.

Among matters discussed at the Clan International Gathering, Brisbane, was Clan Genealogy with several members expressing interest in participating in such a project. Commissioner Murray Nicolson, USA, agreed to try to establish a regular communication between North America and Australia. (We have just been notified that Murray is now in contact with Moreton Branch Secretary, Mr. Robert Nicol by e-mail).

We are looking forward to the time when our Clan Genealogy is up and running, so it is with delight we report that it is now taking its first steps with the establishment, in America, of a New Genealogy Board formed to handle issues of genealogy.

David L. McNicol, of University Park, Maryland, has been appointed Chairperson. "With the growing need to establish standards and guidelines for an increasing membership, in terms of genealogical issues, we simply had to establish such a board", said Commissioner Murray Nicolson. David is charged with organizing the board and dealing with those issues. In 10th August, 1993 a conference call was arranged and held at which a number of items and preliminary business plans were discussed. This board hopes to grow and service the needs of all clan members.

Our need, here in Australia, is to establish a Clan Genealogist. Ideally such a person would have access to a 386 or 486 IBM compatible computer with a reasonable sized hard disk, printer and modem. If you are such a person and would like a challenge, please contact the editor of this journal, (address on back page).

WELCOME TO THE CLAN.

A warm welcome to our Clan to new members Ron and Vera Nicol, Harold and Kit Coates, Kenneth and Beverley Nicol, and Molly and Bill Nichol. We trust that you will gain comradeship and enjoyment from your membership.

SYDNEY SCOTTISH WEEK, 28th November to 6th December.

Sunday: 28th November:

- *10.15am Kirkin' o' the Tartan, St. Benedict's Church, 104 Broadway (Cnr. of Abercrombie Street) Chippendale.
- *12 noon Picnic, Hyde Park South (look for your Clan name and tartan banner!)
- *1.30 pm Traditional March of the Tartans leaves from Hyde Park South, near The Pool of Remembrance for Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour - free concert.

Monday 29th November to Friday 4th December: 12 noon, Musical and Cultural events in the Martin Place Amphitheatre.

Friday, 3rd December: Grand Scottish Ball, The Roundhouse, Uni of NSW (\$75pp).

Saturday, 4th December:

- *1pm Holroyd Council Garden Party, Central Gardens, Merrylands Road, Merrylands.
- *7.30pm Western Suburbs Ceilidh, (see below)

Sunday, 5th December:

8.30 onwards - Highland Gathering and Games, Rawson Park, Mosman.

CEILIDH'S:

Mosman - 7.15pm Mosman Services Club (phone 969.2888)

Cronulla - 7.30pm Southern Suburbs Celtic Concert, Gunnamatta Pk, (phone David Campbell 523-6877 b.h.)

*Bankstown - 7.30pm The Western Ceilidh, Bankstown Scottish Hall (phone Moyna Scotland 644.4647)

Members of your Clan will definitely be present at functions marked with an asterisk, *.

Please note:- There will be no official attendance by Clan MacNicol at the Highland Gathering and Games at Rawson Park, this year.

Other functions, too numerous to detail in this newsletter, will occur during Sydney Scottish Week, if you wish further details please phone 232.2473

Items for including in the newsletter should be forwarded to:-

Mrs. Penny Nicoll
2 Cameron Avenue
Bass Hill, NSW, 2197

The deadline for the February 1994 newsletter is 31st January 1994.

Your editors Penny and John Nicoll wish all our members a very happy time over the coming festive season. Thank you for your support over the years.
