Dear Clansfolk,

It never ceases to amaze me how our Scottish forebears emigrated to all four corners of the world, helping to populate and develop places we have never thought likely. In May this year we received an email from Ismael Orlando Aguirre MacLennan, a 25 year old from Lima in Peru, who got our email address from the Clan website. Ismael has a Degree in Biological Sciences from San Marcos National University, Lima with a Major in Cell Biology and Genetics. He is currently living in Clayton, Melbourne and studying for a Master’s Degree in Clinical Embryology at the Monash Institute of Medical Research, Monash University. Ismael is interested in further researching his family tree and making contact with Australian MacLennans to see if there are any connections. At our invitation Ismael attended our Annual General Meeting and Ceilidh on 17th June. We expect to see Ismael again on 25th November, 2007 at our Clan Picnic and Games Gathering in Woodlands Park, Essendon. Please come along and make him feel welcome. Ismael’s grandfather, Donald John MacLennan emigrated from Balallan, Isle of Lewis, to South America in 1914, moving to Peru in 1928 and marrying a Peruvian lassie, Rojas Teodosia. They had two sons and a daughter, Mary MacLennan, who is Ismael’s mother. (See more details later in “Can You Help”)

Our congratulations were sent on your behalf to our Chief’s sister Lorna for her birthday on 17th September. She, Ruairidh, Kirsteen and James are all in good health. (See “News from our Chief”).

News from our Clan MacLennan Association in the USA is that after many years of devoted service as their President, Winton MacLennan has stepped down. We give him our congratulations for a job well done and our best wishes for the future. Their new President is David Jones from Florida, who is the web-master for the USA section of our Clan website. David and his wife Ann intend visiting Australia in

A RED CROSS MEANS you are unfinancial for the year 2006/2007. Please forward back payment/s with your 2007/08 Membership Fee which was due on 1/5/2007.
ANNUAL FEE: $22.00. LIFE MEMBERSHIP: $250.00 plus Voluntary yearly levy of $6.00.
January/February next year. We look forward to meeting them and congratulating David in person.

On a sad note we advise that after nearly 30 years in existence, the New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Association of our Clan MacLennan has been wound-up due to a shortage of active and interested people. We do hope that those of their final membership will be interested in joining either the Grafton or our Association to keep in touch with their own Clan’s news.

Our Annual Meeting and Ceilidh on 17th June at the Roseville Community Centre in Doncaster East was an outstanding success with over 50 members attending plus 20 residents from the Retirement Village. We all enjoyed a most entertaining day in this very warm, large venue with its carpeted and comfortable lounge area, which added relaxation to a great day of Clan fellowship. Our sincere thanks to Bruce and Pat McLennan for again obtaining access to this fine venue. Our thanks also to all who assisted with catering and contributed items for our enjoyment.

During the Ceilidh our 2006 MacLennan Perpetual Piping Trophy winner, Simon Blackshaw Jnr. was presented with the trophy and he then entertained us with some excellent piping. Entertainment during the afternoon was provided by the Celtic and Australian folk music group “Schiehallion”.

This group is comprised of Don Cameron, President of Clan Cameron, his wife Rosemary, Diane and Gary Johnson and Margaret Foster, who all came from New Gisborne and Woodend. The high quality of these fine entertainers enthralled us all.

At our Annual General Meeting, the New Constitution/Rules for Incorporation was unanimously approved and our Treasurer Geoff McLennan was appointed as Public Officer to lodge this with an application for Incorporation of our Association. The following retiring members from Group Two of the Committee were re-elected for three years: Bob McLennan (Vice President), Geoff McLennan (Treasurer) and Mary Cooper, together with two new members Carol Davis and Graeme MacLennan who is the son of our Patron, Olive MacLennan. Thanks for her past services were given to Enid Macfarlane who did not seek re-election.

Membership Fees remain the same for 2007/08 and you are reminded that your fees for that year have been due for payment since 1st May, 2007. We acknowledge with thanks the very generous donation made by member Isabel Anderson from Balnarring, Victoria, of a hand crafted patchwork baby/child’s quilt, beautifully made by her for use in our fund raising efforts.

For all those who were unable to attend, your copy of the Annual Report is enclosed.

Our last Gathering for 2007 will be the Clan Picnic and Games on 25th November, 2007 at Woodlands Park, Essendon (Melway 28, F1), starting with a bring-your-own food and beverages, family barbeque or picnic lunch at 12 noon in these very pleasant parkland surroundings with a children’s playground. Lunch will be followed by a short Special General Meeting of our Association at 2pm to ratify deletion of “Rule 29 Trading” from the draft Constitution/Rules, as required by the Registrar of Incorporated Associations, Consumer Affairs Victoria, prior to approving our Incorporation
on 5th July, 2007, with Incorporation No.A0050372D. This will be followed by some piping and entertaining games. The gathering will finish at 4.30pm with afternoon tea provided by the Committee. This function is a Family Fun Day for all ages, from Grandparents to Grandchildren, so please bring the whole family to join in the spirit of this occasion.

Our first official Gathering in 2008 will be at the Ringwood Highland Gathering and Games on 30th March at Jubilee Park. This is always a great day, so reserve it in your diary now.

As this is our last Newsletter for 2007 we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2008. Meanwhile I look forward to seeing you on 25th November.

Sincerely yours, Max McLennan, President and Chief’s Lieutenant.

NEWS FROM OUR CHIEF

Dear Clansfolk, Once again I sit in the living room looking out across Loch Ness pondering the events of the past few months and trying to recall what I have actually done with my time so that I can report to you. Often, my mind goes blank and I start to question whether I have achieved much or whether I have just been busy being busy!

The changing colours of the leaves on the trees have reinforced the fact that autumn has very much arrived, shattering the hopes of a late summer. No such luck here in Scotland! We have endured a fairly wet summer, one of the wettest on record which has caused me many a day of frustration whilst trying to progress my DIY programme at the house and bothy up on the West Coast. However, the past weekend was pleasant and 3 months of planned painting was crammed into a long weekend which saw the house vastly change colour. I had friends staying with us who were running in the Loch Ness Marathon. As the half way point is very close to the house, I couldn't resist the temptation of taking a short break from painting and watching the runners going past. Feeling rather sorry for the depressed looking runners I went inside and took my bagpipes out of their case. My intention was to play a few tunes and carry on with the painting, however, seeing how much the music was boosting the morale of the runners, I ended up exhausting myself by playing for an hour and a half on and off. By the time I finished the painting and joined my friends in the Dores Inn for supper, it looked like it was me that had run a marathon! Slightly embarrassing was the fact that a film crew covering the event decided to film me piping. Surely some viewers will wonder why a piper chose to wear paint splattered clothing for the occasion!

The summer has been fairly busy. After Luxemburg in May, the next trip was to Halifax, Nova Scotia to pipe at the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo with the TA pipeband, now renamed the Pipes & Drums of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland. We were in Halifax for just over two weeks and played at the tattoo each day for over a week. For the duration of the trip, we were playing the pipes every day, some days for many hours in full military No 1 uniform. By the time we returned to Scotland, I suspect most members of the band would have quite happily sold their full uniform and pipes for not a great sum of money! However, after a few weeks break from the great highland warpipe, I find myself yet again picking them up for a few tunes. The next event of note is a presentation to members of the Battalion by Prince Charles at Birkhall which is adjacent to the Balmoral Estate, Royal Deeside, later this month to those members of the Battalion who served in Iraq earlier this year which includes a number of band members.

Aside from piping, I have been busy with work and continue to gallivant around the Highlands and Islands which I have to confess I rather enjoy. My work is split dealing with private clients who own large rural estates and public utilities such as water and electricity companies. Negotiating the purchase of land for new Water Supply Treatment Works and Sewage Works seems to be the bulk of my work at present along with all the necessary legal agreements for laying the associated pipes. Dull as it must sound, it does take
me to every corner of the highlands and last month I spend a week in the Western Isles putting together agreements and carrying out valuations of new sites. Aside from work, I have over involved myself in Community Council matters and Community Development Fund Committees. I recently took over as Chairman of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Highland Area which has toppled the balance to becoming overly busy. I have therefore decided to step away from a few Committees to give myself more time to concentrate on career, home as well as Clan affairs.

The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs are becoming an increasingly active group and are working towards holding a Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh in the summer of 2009. Further details of the event can be found at www.thegathering2009.com Whilst I have not explored the idea with other Clan MacLennan Associations, it has crossed my mind to have a MacLennan Clan presence at this event and if there is enough interest from Clan members, this event could form part of a MacLennan World Gathering, part of which can be in the Highlands for just the MacLennans followed by combining it with the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh. Perhaps this is something which can be discussed amongst individual Committees in due course. Any feedback at this stage would be appreciated.

Both sisters Kirsteen and Lorna are well. Kirsteen and her husband James live in Fochabers in Morayshire but come through to Dores for a visit every now and again. They are well practiced at holding dinner parties so there is no surprise that they get the rest of us through visiting quite a lot. Lorna recently celebrated her 33rd birthday and had a party at the house in Dores. There was a Mexican theme to the party which resulted in a variety of unusual costumes.

In closing my short message, I wish to thank those of you who are continuing to work to keep the Clan Association active and to those members who continue to support the Clan. Your dedication does not go unnoticed. Kind Regards, Chief Ruairidh

WORLD GATHERING OF OUR CLAN in SCOTLAND, JULY 2009?
from Association President, Max McLennan

As you will see in Chief Ruairidh’s letter, he suggests we could have a World Gathering of our Clan in July 2009, around the time of an International Clans’ Gathering in Edinburgh on 25th and 26th July, 2009 which is being sponsored by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. This sounds like a great idea and to help gauge interest and encourage further planning please advise me as soon as possible if you would like to attend. The last World Gathering of our Clan was in July 2000 so another one is long overdue. To be kept up to date with the Edinburgh International Clans Gathering go to the website mentioned by Chief Ruairidh and register.

NEWS OF CLANSM FOLK BOTH NEAR AND FAR

Welcome to our new Committee member, Carol Davis

Carol’s mother was Jean Passmore McLennan whose forebears were Donald and Mary (nee McKenzie) McLennan who migrated from Ullapool, Ross-shire in 1852. Donald was a builder and they settled in Sale, Victoria.

Carol owns a Business Management Consultancy, working primarily with dentists and their staff and this entails travelling interstate every month to visit clients. She’s an avid reader and does a lot of in-flight reading. Married to Reg, they have three sons and one small grandson. In her spare time, of which there’s not much, Carol likes to dabble in genealogy. She also enjoys browsing in antique shops and has a fledgling blue and white snuff bottle collection.
Some of our members have recently travelled to Scotland and it is good to be able to share their excitement as they visited family and friends there.

**Our Trip to Scotland**  
by Doug McLennan, Mystic Park, Victoria

Well, our long-awaited trip to Scotland finally took place on 4th May, 2007. My wife, Ann-Maree and I arrived in Glasgow and did the sites for four days before heading to Inveraray, Campbelltown, Oban, then north to Loch Ness and onto Kiltarlity where we came across Hamish and Margo MacLennan of Balgate House. Boy! What generous hospitality!! We drank many a wee dram and Margo made sure we indulged in local fare, haggis, black pudding and tattie scones, all yum…many inches gained.

Having been able to procure two bottles of “Tarrango Park”, the delicious light red wine produced in our local area of Mystic Park near Swan Hill in Victoria, we were hoping to have caught up with Chief Ruairidh to help celebrate our 30th Wedding Anniversary. However, due to a lack of communication, we enjoyed it instead with Margo, Hamish and his brother, Alasdair and Joan MacLennan.

We headed off to Ullapool to do our family genealogy, really enjoying the ruggedness of the West Coast, the Isle of Skye and Kyle of Lochalsh. We found more McLennans, Cameron and Janet from Badicaul, north of the Kyle of Lochalsh. I was happy to be pointed in the right direction to the Killilan area at the head of Loch Long where we found the ruins of my great-great-grandfather’s abode. He had been a game keeper on this property.

The locals were very friendly and a great help in heading us in the right direction. Another area of help was the Armidale Centre on the Isle of Skye where we went through the 1842 Census. Folk in those days didn’t have much imagination as names were repeated over and over again. More cemeteries later, we went on to Eilean Donan Castle, yet another McLennan connection so we were in the right area. Amazing castle.

Heading south we did the Fort William-Mallaig train trip, climbed to the top of the Glenfinnan Monument and went to Spean Bridge to see the bronze Commandos’ Memorial. There was only a smattering of snow to be seen on Ben Nevis.

Making our way east to Stirling, a lovely old-world town, we were able to catch up with Fiona (nee MacLennan) and David Downie where we had a great time and found out we were related! It was also a much-needed rest as we had climbed the Wallace Monument, all 246 steps up and back again. However, the view over Stirling from the top of the monument was great. Fiona took us to the Falkirk Wheel which happened to be operating. What a piece of engineering.

Sadly, our month in Scotland passed all too quickly. Just have to save again for a return trip!
Geoff McLennan’s cousin Nancy with her husband Sandy Dickson of Keith, Scotland

Logan Alexander Hawley, Second Grandson for Treasurer Geoff and Marion McLennan

Geoff and Marion McLennan On Tour

On 14 April, 2007 we left Melbourne for five weeks overseas with our main object being to catch up with friends and new-found relatives in Scotland. The flight over stopped briefly at Singapore and Dubai before arriving in Paris.

After ten pleasant days in France spent mainly in Paris and, the excitement of travelling to Avignon by The Very Fast Train, we flew from Charles de Gaulle Airport direct to Aberdeen in the North-East of Scotland. Arriving at peak hour in a strange city, especially with a strange car and very vague directions from the car hire people, made finding our Bed and Breakfast accommodation difficult. We spent the following day looking around the Granite City as on previous trips most of the time in Aberdeen was spent at the Family History Society searching their genealogical records.

Not having seen them for seven years, it was great to spend a most enjoyable day with Jimmy Mac and Sandra MacLennan at their home in Mintlaw. This was followed by a restful interlude of two days staying on a large sheep farm near the market town of Turriff. From there we visited Fraserburgh and many quaint little villages along the Moray Firth coast.

The next stop was the rural hamlet of Grange where we stayed in a beautiful old former Church of Scotland Manse, now a Bed and Breakfast operated by friends of Mary Cooper and we were made most welcome. Whilst there we visited the small nearby town of Keith, the birth place of my Great-Grandfather, James Shepherd McLennan. Our purpose in visiting Keith was to see Nancy and Sandy Dickson. It was only a matter of months ago that I discovered that Nancy was a distant relative as she is descended from my Great-Grandfather’s sister, Isabella. They took us to Banff to meet Nancy’s sister and her family.

It was so good to meet relatives even if quite distant, as except for three cousins in Australia who are McLeod’s through marriage, I have no McLennan relatives.

Our travels then took us to Inverness which brought back memories of the 2000 MacLennan Gathering. We had a lovely meal and evening at the Dores Inn with Chief Ruairidh and his work associate, Dani. Ruairidh is a very busy man around Dores and every one at the Inn knew him. From Inverness we visited Contin and the Black Isle and then headed south to Melrose, Jedburgh, Hawick and Selkirk in the Scottish Borders. In Wales we stayed in the little village of Carrog and enjoyed a steam train journey through the valley to Llangallen. Our journey then took us to the Cotswolds, The Peak area in England and then to Manchester Airport for our flight to Dubai. Here the temperature was 38°C as we explored the spice and gold markets and visited the “Mall of Emirates”, the biggest shopping centre we have ever seen which even included an indoor ski field.

Not long after we arrived home, our second grandson, Logan Alexander Hawley was born on 2 July 2007 to our daughter Sally and her husband Alan. He has settled in well at home with his big brother Connor and is thriving on all the attention.
Vale Gordon Duncan McLennan – 7/12/1925 to 1/7/2007  
By Andrew McLennan 

During August we were informed that Gordon McLennan of Canberra passed away and we have received this copy of the Eulogy given by their son Andrew the day of the funeral. 

“A man of many names, Duncan to his New Zealand family in his youth as his father was also named Gordon; Gordon to his Melbourne mates and colleagues; Mac to the Canberra crew and to his grandchildren, never Grandad and Mac the Knife to those on the end of the razor tongue! He was perhaps most comfortable with Mac and that will be how I refer to him today. 

81 years, 6 months and 24 days is a lot of life to pack into one small tribute and a life admirably utilized it was. Mac was born in Cromwell in Central Otago, New Zealand and being an accelerated scholarship holder at Otago Boys High, matriculated at 15. His early years were spent on the steep streets of Maori Hill, Dunedin in impecunious circumstances but he always retained a great fondness and connection to the area. His favourite recollection of the district is of smelling the gorse and broom flowers on late summer days. 

The Japanese gave Mac an unforgettable 16th birthday present by bombing Pearl Harbour and, like most young men of the time, he was drawn to the War. He joined the Navy at 17 and a half years of age although he always saw himself as a rakish fly-boy but the Air Force wouldn’t take him until he turned 18! He served with the Royal Navy as a signalman, bobbing about in the Atlantic on Corvettes hunting U-Boats and escorting convoys. Few stories of that time were told but our favourite was Mac turning up to serenade the girlfriend in Liverpool, three sheets to the wind, making a complete hash of it, falling asleep on the grass outside her window and waking up frozen to the ground having to extricate himself from the greatcoat to get up! 

He returned to New Zealand just after his 20th birthday in 1945 and one of his abiding memories is of sailing into Wellington to be welcomed by many mirrors flashing from houses on the hills on Oriental Bay and hooters blaring from the ships already tied up. He trained as a general hand and wool classer in the Otago woolstores and moved to Geelong in 1947 to do a textile course at the Gordon Institute of Technology. There he met Kate who was working in the office at the time. A romance blossomed and a protracted affair it was too! They were engaged in 1949 and eventually married in May 1951. 

Mac enrolled in a part-time Commerce degree at Melbourne University in 1951. The recession of 1952 put paid to the wool game and his good mate Bill Trichter got him a job as a base-grade clerk at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), his sole employer over the ensuing 32 years. The madness of a difficult landlady finally drove Kate and Mac to look for a house and Nana, in an uncharacteristically bold move, arranged to buy a house in Heidelberg that the owner hadn’t even thought of selling! Glenard Drive memories of Mac are many. I can still see him sitting on the tractor seats having a beer in the back garden, feel the excitement of moon-gazing with him through the telescope he made, see him in the reflected glow of the legendary Guys Fawkes bonfires in the Reserve, taste the Cornettos served up as a treat after swimming with Mac on Sunday mornings and of great friends and neighbours. 

He landed a job as a Scientific Liaison Officer in London in 1967 and returned to Australia in 1969. My strongest memory of that time was being dragged out of bed by Mac at some appalling hour to watch the moon-landing on television. Mac orchestrated the CSIRO move to Canberra in 1970 and shifted into the last house he would ever own, in Weetangera. I can see him in his favourite chair in the sunny family room after work, with his feet up and a Scotch in his hand. Mac had his own September 11th cataclysm in 1998 with a ruptured aneurysm, an event that would see off most ordinary mortals but only managed to
From proud grandparents, Don and Margaret MacLennan, Rosebud, Victoria  June, 2007

“Grandsons Dylan and Justin, competing in their school sports in Albury, New South Wales, were both finalists in the High Jump, 100 and 800 metres foot races and repeated their success in the same events at another competition a few weeks later. Dylan won the 10 year old section of the 2 kilometre Cross Country event at the Jindeera Golf Course after leading all the way and Justin, in the 8-9 year old event “had a tough race but planned it well and came over the line first”.

SCOTLAND

Sandra MacLennan, Mintlaw “enjoyed every minute” of her 70th birthday on 17th August, 2007 which she celebrated with her family at a lovely dinner at a local hotel.

From Fiona Auld, Paisley, August 2007.

“Busy as usual with my job in Community Learning. Next Spring I’m to marry Fred Dannfield, a team leader in the Road Lighting Department for Local Government”.

Fiona is the daughter of Jimmy Mac and Sandra MacLennan of Mintlaw

Fiona tells us that recently “The Bull Inn” in New Street, Paisley has been used as a location for a film about the Stone of Destiny’s unofficial removal from Westminster and return to Scotland. The Inn was designed in the early 1900s, by architect, W. D. McLennan, a pupil of Charles Rennie McIntosh.

CANADA

From Melanie McLennan, Past President, Clan MacLennan Association, Canada,  July 2007.

“When Andy and I were in Scotland last spring, we photographed digitally all the tombstones that were legible with MacLennan/ McLennan dates on them that we found in four cemeteries right around Kintail, Kyle of Lochalsh and Loch Carron. If anyone is looking for specific stones, we can send them the files”.

From Doug. MacLennan, Vancouver, Canada: 3 July.

…”About our only news here is about our 15 year old grandson, Richard D. MacLennan who lives in Sault St. Marie, Ontario with his parents and sister. He is quite an athlete in speed skating (long track) and running and does the 400m in 49 seconds. His ambitions are for the 2010 Winter Olympics here in British Columbia”.

From Fiona Auld and Fred Dannfield

MAX McLennan comments: “Gordon was the Secretary of the original Canberra Clan MacLennan Association until it ceased to exist in 1991. At that time Gordon and Kate, along with others from Canberra, joined our Melbourne Association. In 1994 Kate and Mac were happy to welcome Chief Ruairidh, Mary and I into their home on our return journey to Melbourne from Toowoomba, Queensland and we have always appreciated their hospitality”.

From Fiona Auld and Fred Dannfield

Fiona Auld and Fred Dannfield

Jimmy and Sandra MacLennan

Jimmy and Sandra MacLennan

Fiona Auld and Fred Dannfield
Melbourne Branch Annual General Meeting and Ceilidh by Patsy McLennan

Roseville Hall, where our Annual General Meeting and Ceilidh was held on 17th June, 2007, is beginning to feel like our second home. The tables were laden with food and a good crowd assembled for lunch, including our entertainers, collectively “Schiehallion” and Simon Blackshaw, our current Piping Trophy winner with his parents, Simon Senior and Jo-Ann. Many travelled long distances to be with us and it was wonderful to again catch up with long-time member Shirley McLennan from Merimbula who attended with her sister, Patricia Wilson.

A short Annual General Meeting followed the luncheon with two new committee members voted in, Graeme MacLennan, son of our Patron Olive and Carol Davis who unfortunately was ill and couldn’t attend. Our new Constitution for Incorporation was unanimously voted for. Isabel Anderson from Balnarring was warmly thanked for the beautiful patchwork quilt she donated as a prize for the raffle to be held at a later date.

Simon began our Ceilidh with a brilliant display on his pipes and included a lively composition of his own. President Max McLennan presented him with the Clan MacLennan trophy and invited him to play again later. “Schiehallion” performed with gusto, led by Don Cameron, President of Clan Cameron Australia, with guitar and accompanied by his wife, Rosemary on bodhran, Diane Johnstone on penny whistle, Gary Johnstone on a novel string bass and Margaret Foster on a lagerphone. A lagerphone is a home-made rhythm and percussion instrument much used in Australian Bush Bands to provide timing for both the band with the melody and the dancers with their steps. It consists of an upright pole with two crosspieces upon which are loosely screwed metal beer bottle tops and the sound is made by striking the lagerphone on the floor whilst at the same time tapping the middle section which makes the bottle tops rattle.

During a short break, Graeme MacLennan took charge of the traditional quiz with chocolate prizes handed out by assistants Ross, Lewis and Jaz McLennan. We enjoyed further piping by Simon before “Schahiehallion” returned to centre stage. After gifts of appreciation were presented to them, door prizes were chosen prior to a sumptuous afternoon tea.

Kirkin’o’the Tartan 1st July, 2007, Scots Church, Melbourne

Tartan Day, 1st July, saw the Clans gathered at The Scots’ Church, Melbourne for their annual Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan service. Patsy and Bob McLennan made ready to file in with the other tartan bearers when mild panic took hold as poor Damien Fletcher from Haileybury College, our piper for the day, desperately tried in vain to raise a few notes from his pipes. As luck happened, a knowledgeable clansman was on hand and managed to fix the problem and the Procession, led by the banner bearers, was able to commence albeit ten minutes late.

After the procession down the aisle, the tartans were laid on the chancel steps and Reverend Douglas Robertson welcomed everyone. We felt for him as he told of a different type of panic he’d experienced when he learned earlier that morning of the failed terrorist attack at Glasgow airport as the plane carrying his wife and son was due to land about the same time. He was greatly relieved to find eventually that all was well and his family were safe.

The Scots’ Church Choir, led by the Director of Music, Mr Douglas Lawrence OAM, sang splendidly as always and they were wished well for their imminent tour of Europe. The Scriptures were read firstly in English by Bill Graham of Clan Graham and “Scots of Victoria” and then in Gaelic by Joan Mitchell-Willis and the Gaelic Choir sang “Amazing Grace” very movingly. The sermon was about belonging in keeping with the clannish nature of the day.

The Church service concluded and the tartans retrieved and paraded out after which the Clans met in the upper hall where Damien played for us as we lunched on our sandwiches and hot drinks.
Scottish Clans and Associations’ Council Luncheon, Sunday 7th October 2007

Members of our Melbourne Branch attended the luncheon in East Ringwood. With us was 94-year old Margaret McKInna who is very supportive of our Association’s functions. A large number of guests from Melbourne’s many Scottish groups enjoyed the traditional Haggis Ceremony and a spirited performance by the Pipes and Drums of Presbyterian Ladies’ College and even had enough energy after the pleasant meal to join in the Scottish Country dancing led by members of the Ringwood Caledonian Society.

STILL TO COME is the feast of cultural events being held as part of SCOTTISH HERITAGE WEEK, in Sydney from 23rd November to 1st December, 2007. Organized by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council of New South Wales, official guests include the Chieftain of Clan Murray, The Rt. Hon. Earl Dunmore and The Rt. Hon. Lord Sempill.

The excitement begins on Saturday, 24th November with an escorted tour highlighting Scottish connections with the historic sites of Parramatta. Guests will travel by ferry from Circular Quay across the harbour and up the Parramatta River. On arrival, they will be piped along Parramatta’s Heritage Walk for a morning tea with the Mayor. This will be followed by an escorted tour to Australia’s oldest building, the Old Government House dating back to 1799 which was the home of two of Australia’s Scottish Governors, John Hunter and Lachlan Macquarie.

The following day being Sunday, a Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan Service will be held in St Stephen’s Church, Sydney followed by a March of the Bands and Tartans at 12 noon along Macquarie Street to Hyde Park where a Scottish Gathering with piping, drumming and highland dancing will take place. For those interested in current affairs, on Monday 26th November, The Rt. Hon. Lord Sempill of Edinburgh will speak on “The Present State of Scotland” at 7.30 pm. in Sydney’s MLC Centre.

Two days later on Wednesday, 28th November, everyone is invited to join Lord Sempill and the other official guests in crossing spectacular Sydney Harbour by ferry to Manly for a reception by the Mayor and entertainment in the forecourt of the Council Chambers by the Manly-Warringah Pipe Band and a display of Scottish Country dancing. If you are not too weary, that evening a Ceilidh will be held at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues’ Club at 7.30 pm. Guests will be entertained by the Australian Gaelic Singers, Neil Morrison telling stories and reciting poetry, Penelope Grace on the fiddle and leading the community singing and a display of Highland dancing. 2007 being the 300th anniversary of the Act of Union of Scotland and England, Malcolm Broun, OAM, QC, will speak on the Act of 1707 at the MLC Centre at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 29th November.

On Friday, 30th November at 6.30 pm there will be an inspection of the Scotland-Australia Cairn in Rawson Place, Mosman. Those of you who attended our Association’s Annual Meeting and Ceilidh in 2005 will be interested to know that our Guest Speaker on that occasion, John Reid, architect, artist and designer of the Australian Tartan, also designed the surrounds, walls, steps and setting to the Cairn which was dedicated on St Andrew’s Day 1988. A ceremonial broadsword is being made in Skye to be presented to Mosman’s Mayor at the St. Andrew’s Day Dinner being held that evening at the Mosman Art Gallery. Before the sword leaves Scotland, in a symbolic gesture it will be touched by Duncan Mathieson to recognize the part he played in collecting the stones for the cairn from all the parishes in Scotland.

Time to bring out your tartan sashes, evening wear kilt and buckled shoes for the official closing function of the Heritage Week on Saturday, 1st December with The Grand Scottish Ball which will commence with a ceremonial procession of Scottish Nobles, Armigers and special guests. For further information go to: www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au or phone: 02-9522 3631 or 02-9361 3810.
Scottish Moderator Visits Melbourne

The new Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, The Right Reverend Sheilagh Kesting visited Scots Church, Melbourne on 25th September, 2007. She is the first female Minister to be appointed to this position which she will hold until May 2008. From a staunch Church of Scotland family in which her father was an Elder and her Grandfather a Minister Reverend Kesting was born and brought up in Stornoway on Lewis. After graduating from Edinburgh University, Reverend Kesting was ordained in Overton, Lanarkshire. Her second charge was in Musselburgh, East Lothian.

Bairnsdale Scottish Dinner

Celebrating their Scottish heritage, a group of enthusiastic Scots and descendants of Scots known as the “Friends of Scotland” held a highly successful Dinner on 7th September, 2007 in Bairnsdale, Gippsland, 280 km east of Melbourne. Many of those present bore Scottish names and were descended from the hundreds of Highlanders who settled in that area from the early 1840s, calling the lush region of hills, plains and coastline, “Caledonia Australis”. After an impressive Haggis Ceremony, the engaging local guest speaker, Anne Macarthur told of her recent trip to Skye and the Shetland Islands. We almost raised the rafters of St Mary’s Hall as, led by four braw lads from Metung we sang many old favourite Scots songs and then, were still able to enthusiastically join in the country dancing until the Piper ran out of breath.

Scottish Country Dance Week in Canberra

A large contingent of Melbourne’s Scottish Country dancing enthusiasts travelled to Canberra for the 32nd Australian Winter School of Dancing which began on 30th September. Participants from every State of Australia as well as England and New Zealand spent a week enhancing their dancing skills to top class music provided by fiddlers Chris Duncan, Kate Scott and Bob McInnes accompanied by pianists Catherine Strutt and Polly Garland. Expert teachers of Scottish Country Dancing included Eric Finley from Scotland, Marjorie McLaughlin from USA, Doug Mills from New Zealand and from Australia – Sandra Carroll, Trish Nicholls, Susie Pugh and Denice Walter. Reminiscing about the warm fellowship of these annual gatherings and the fantastic “after dance” parties each evening, the Melbourne dancers were already planning to be at next year’s Winter School.

Celtic Nations Concert

Celtic interest groups abound in Melbourne and the Celtic Nations Festival Concert held in Moonee Ponds on 14th October, 2007 provided a cultural showcase for them. Scots were well represented by the Melbourne and District Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society’s demonstration team which performed a bracket of jigs, reels and strathspeys; a team from the Victorian Scottish Union with a colourful and energetic display of Highland dancing as well as the Watsonia Returned Services League’s Pipes and Drums wearing the McBeth tartan and playing stirring marches. Irish, Welsh and Breton dancers were on the programme too as were the Cornish chorale group known as the “Fryerstown Fossickers”, the Victoria Welsh Choir and a small group of Irish pipers wearing all-green kilts. The annual Celtic Festival is supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission which seeks to encourage the distinctive heritage of the many diverse ethnic community groups in the State.

Scotch College Melbourne Pipes and Drums’ Dinner

Guests were thrilled to be given the “red carpet treatment” when they arrived at the Scotch College Pipe Band Dinner at “Leonda”, Hawthorn on 16th October. Kilted and tartan-sashed guests couldn’t help but keep in step to the stirring Marches played by the boys in the Band resplendent in their full Scottish regalia.

The dinner was held to launch the book, “The Pipes and Drums of Scotch College Melbourne: a History” and to farewell Ross Campbell, the Band’s Piping Instructor for the past 32 years.
I am an adherent to the old Gaelic proverb which says, “Forget not the men by whence you came” and I agree with Robert Louis Stevenson’s words, “It is the mark of the Scot of all classes that there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead, even to the twentieth generation”.

High on my list of heroes is my Great-great Grandmother, Katherine Stewart who gave birth to my Great Grandfather, John Stewart at sea on 24th June 1852. She then endured the heartbreaking tragedy of losing her husband, Captain John Stewart of Ayr who was washed overboard in a storm. In 1855, the widowed Katherine Stewart married James Downey and they emigrated to Melbourne in October 1856. Katherine then set about producing nineteen Aussies. What a woman, 20 children – one Stewart and 19 Downeys!

Another hero to me is my Great-uncle, Norman Max Pontin whose mother was a MacLennan.

He was my Grandfather’s twin brother and Grandad always said that Uncle Norm was more robust and outgoing than him. Never wanting to be anything but a soldier, Uncle Norm tried at the age of sixteen to enlist for the Boer War but they only wanted horsemen and being a city boy, he wasn’t much of a rider so he did a crash course but alas during his test, he fell off. He then turned to the most appropriate option and enlisted in the Permanent Artillery at Queenscliff, Victoria. During his time at the Queenscliff Battery he was involved in a physical altercation with an officer who had made an offensive remark. In the Army, regardless of anything, striking an officer was unacceptable and Uncle Norm was dishonourably discharged.

For some time he worked at labouring jobs and cane cutting in Queensland. When World War One broke out, true to his spirit, Uncle Norm rushed to enlist but because he had been Dishonourably Discharged, was refused. Some time later when it became clear that more able-bodied men were needed, especially if they had military experience, Uncle Norm was told that if he stated on his Enlistment Form that he had never been in the Army before, he would be accepted. This he did and enlisted in July 1915 being first sent to Egypt where he again got into a bit of strife by punching another Sergeant while in the Sergeants’ Mess and getting himself demoted to Corporal.

Moving on to the battlefields of France, Uncle Norm took part in the battles at Fleur Baix and Pozieres where in 1916 he was shot with the bullet passing within one inch of his heart. On his postcard home, in his typical style, Uncle Norm stated “shot near the heart but a near miss is as good as a mile, eh?” His convalescence gave him the opportunity to visit England and, better still, Scotland.

Sadly, Uncle Norm had only been back with his Unit, the 46th Battalion, 4th Division, First AIF, for about a month when he was killed in the early hours of April 11th, 1917 during the First battle for Bullecourt, France when the 4th Division was almost wiped out in one day. At the time of his death he was a Sergeant but was to be commissioned in the Field. His body was never found.

Uncle Norm was unmarried and my mother remembered him bouncing her on his knee before his departure overseas, when she was six years old. I am in possession of his medals, postcards and photos and carry his medals along with my father’s on Anzac Day. I feel I know him and my heart yearns for him yet.
Not the Real MacKay!
by Malcolm Lobban

The adventurous account of how Roderick MacLennan, born into a farming family of the Mellon Charles branch of the Clan in Wester Ross, Scotland, was kidnapped and pressganged into the Royal Navy, escaped, changed his name, was shipwrecked but eventually rescued and finally settled down as a farmer in Nova Scotia in 1812, if told in full might equal anything scripted in Hollywood.

Annie MacKay (1822-1906) apparently heard her grandfather Roderick MacLennan’s amazing story many times from her father and it is on her written account that John Gibson based his article, “Alexander Ross MacKay – Escape to the New World” which appeared in Clan MacLennan Scotland’s Newsletter No 18 in 1983.

Annie wrote, “My grandfather was born in a Highland village on the north side of Loch Ewe, in the parish of Gairloch, Ross-shire, probably in the year 1778, being the eldest in his father’s family. His father was Donald MacLennan, and his mother was Ann MacKay. She was the grand-daughter of the blind piper of Gairloch [Iain Dall circa 1656-1754], who was a grandson of Lord Reay...

...About the year 1796, Roderick’s mother died and in about a year’s time his father re-married again. About 1798, Roderick MacLennan left his native home and went to the east part of Ross-shire, where he had many relatives. He engaged himself there with a man named William Forbes who was a drover and stayed in his service for about a year and a half...

...In 1803, Roderick was at home in Gairloch and at that time many people were thinking of emigrating. He decided to resist any temptation to sail with them to America and instead went south to Stirlingshire, where he found farm work. That job was followed by a stint on a sloop owned by a Neil Rankin...

...In the spring of 1804, the ship was in Greenock for repairs. Rankin offered him the ship’s papers, which would have protected him from pressgangs which were snatching at every available man. He refused the papers thinking he could do better by going to sea in a merchant ship...

...On May the 9th, 1804, while walking on the quay at Greenock looking for employment on a West Indiaman, a pressgang came and captured him. He was put on board a tender which called at several places to get more men and finally arrived at Plymouth where there was a receiving vessel.”

Roderick was pressed into service with the Royal Navy from 1804 until 1812, during which time he seems to have been guarded closely but during his eight years’ service it appears he made the best of it and even managed to save £88 from his wages and by selling his grog ration. Finally, he managed to escape ship, at which time he immediately changed his surname from MacLennan to that of his mother’s folk, MacKay. He also adopted the Christian name, Alexander, in preference to Roderick.

Eventually he found his way north to Edinburgh then to Glasgow and back once more to Greenock, from where he shipped in a vessel named Duchess of Kent for Mirimachi Bay, New Brunswick, Canada. The ship was owned by another member of the Rankin family and set sail on 28th March 1812 but a few weeks later tragedy struck when the ship went down in ice some miles off the Magdalen Islands. The survivors rowed all day in open boats before two vessels came to their assistance and Roderick alias Alexander was taken aboard one which arrived at Pictou on the 9th of May. He remained in Nova Scotia, working first as a sailor, then around 1818 he bought a farm from a Mrs Pottinger, and three years later he married a lady named Helen Sutherland.

Our MacLennan-cum-MacKay hero’s adventures are referred to again in an article on famous pipers which appeared in the February 1997 edition of ‘The Scots Link’. It is claimed that Roderick MacLennan alias Alexander MacKay was the son of a MacLennan Piper who served in the Black Watch circa 1778 and was wounded in the leg during the infamous mutiny of the Highlanders at Leith in 1779. No Christian name of the Piper is given but he is identified as being a native of Mellon Charles and that he subsequently married a grand-daughter of the ‘Blind Piper of Gairloch’. We are further told that in Nova Scotia, Roderick settled near an uncle named John MacKay who may have been the piper taken on board the ‘Hector’ when she left Loch Broom in 1773 but that’s another story.
Chief Ronald MacLennan in his *History of the MacLennans*, referred to Duncan, one of his own Piping ancestors from the Gairloch branch of the Clan, who was wounded during the Leith Mutiny. This Duncan was the son of Duncan, son of Murdoch MacLennan of Mellon Charles, all of whom were pipers. Duncan, the grandson, was taught piping by Angus MacKay, of Gairloch and later joined “either the renowned Freiceadan Dubh ~ Black Watch or Fraser’s Highlanders” and was at some point wounded “in both ankles” during the aforementioned Leith mutiny incident, later recovering and distinguishing himself at Waterloo. Chief Ronald made no mention of a Roderick MacLennan or Alexander MacKay and his escapades at sea but the reference to a MacLennan piper being wounded in the legs seems to strike a chord with the account published in ‘*The Scots Link*’. 

**NEWS FROM SCOTLAND**

A **National Register of Tartan** is to be set up by the Scottish Government to “protect, promote and preserve one of Scotland’s most iconic and valuable assets”. The Enterprise Minister, Jim Mather stated that “Tartan’s importance to Scotland cannot be overestimated. It is deeply embedded in Scottish culture and is an internationally recognized symbol of Scotland”. The Court of the Lord Lyon and the National Archives of Scotland will play a crucial role in creating and operating a single, official, online register of Scotland’s tartan.

Scotland’s tartan industry comprises a substantial component of the national textiles sector. It is estimated that there are currently some 200 tartan-related enterprises operation in Scotland with perhaps half of these representing kilt makers. Tartan’s overall contribution to Scotland’s GDP is equivalent to approximately 350 million pounds per annum.  
(From “The Scottish Government, News Release, 9/7/2007)

**South Uist Estate Purchase** – David MacLennan, Scottish Natural Heritage Western Isles Area Manager from Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, said that SNH has supported the community purchases of Bhaltois and North Harris and now, at a cost of £4.5m, the 93,000 acre South Uist Estate which includes Eriskay and part of Benbecula. Most of the money is expected to be raised from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Land Fund. However, the community company set up to take over the estate is to launch a world-wide appeal to raise its share of the cost.  
The estate, which is owned by a syndicate, represents almost a quarter of the Western Isles. In 2005, a ballot of the community secured a 70% majority in support of proceeding with the purchase. As well as 850 crofts, the estate includes fish farming operations, quarries and potentially lucrative shooting, mineral and fishing rights.  
(Scottish Natural Heritage Press Release, November 2006)

**Highland Clearances Memorial**

A statue commemorating the achievement and resilience of the many Scots who left the Highlands and Islands during the Highland Clearances has been erected at Helmsdale in Sutherland. The statue was commissioned by the Clearances Centre Limited, a charitable company and was created by sculptor Gerald Laign, based in the Black Isle. The statue shows a family group in bronze. It is ten feet high and stands at the mouth of the Strath of Kildonan. The plaque on the statue’s plinth reads –  

“The Emigrants – commemorates the people of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland who, in the face of great adversity, sought freedom, hope and justice beyond these shores. They and their descendants went forth and explored continents, built great countries and cities and gave their enterprise and culture to the world. This is their legacy. Their voices will echo forever through the empty straths and glens of their homeland”.

**Somebody’s Been Eating My Porridge!**
Sales of porridge and oatmeal have almost doubled in Britain over the last five years and Britons ate 50,000 tonnes of oats last year!
“It’s the oatmeal that counts” says Maria Soep from Kilchrenan on the shores of Loch Awe in the west of Scotland. After a three-way “cook-off”, Maria won the Golden Spurtle in the 2007 World Porridge Making Championship held in Carrbridge, Strathspey on 7th October. She said her secret was a special batch of pinhead oatmeal which she soaked overnight in good water with a little salt.
In 2006 the Golden Spurtle for the World Champion Porridge maker was won by Army Cook, Sergeant Coleen Hayward Macleod who was in charge of making sure porridge was on the daily breakfast menu for the 300-400 troops from 1st Royal Irish Regiment stationed at Fort George near Inverness.
The world’s biggest bowl of porridge was created at Edinburgh Farmers’ Market in September, 2007. It was made from 25 kilos of oatmeal, stirred by a spurtle 1.5 metres long and when cooked, weighed 81.2 kilos. There was enough porridge to fill 2000 bowls.
*From “The Scotsman”, October 2007

**CAN YOU HELP ?**

*On 24th May, 2007 we received the following email which read as follows:*

My name is Ismael Orlando Aguirre MacLennan. I am 25 years old and I am from Lima, Peru. I am grandson of Donald MacLennan and I started searching for my ancestors about three years ago. I already contacted some of them who live in Scotland. Currently I am in Melbourne, Clayton, doing my Masters Degree at Monash University. I just got your email from the Clan MacLennan website and I was surprised to know that some MacLennans live in Melbourne but I am not sure if we are somehow related because I already have my family tree but from the Scottish side.

I would be very grateful if we can contact each other and share information than can help me to further understand my family tree. Kind regards, Ismael.

The following is a brief extract from Ismael’s Family Tree. They were all born on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland.
- Donald MacLennan (b 1800 d 27 May 1866) married Catherine MacKinnon. Their son John M. MacLennan (b 1825 d 9 Dec. 1879) married Margaret MacLennan whose parents were Ronald MacLennan and Ann Morrison. Their son John MacLennan (b 18 July 1858 d 27 May 1951) married Mary Mackay on 24th January, 1885.
They had the following children:
Margaret (b.3.3.1887 d.10.2.1898), Peter (b 20.8.1888 d 11.5.1967), Isabella (b 8.10.1889 d22.9.1958), Joan (b. 14.4.1891 d.30.3.1937), Mary Ann (b 13.12.1892 d.16.6.1981), Donald John (b.5.12.1894 d.15.6.1969) *This is Ismael’s Grandfather*, Donald (b. 27.5.1896 d.1990?), Margaret (b. 30.6.1898 d. 27.2.1991), Kate (b. 6.7.1900 d.23.8.1971), John (b, 12.3.1904 d. 30.7.1986).

If you have any connections, please contact Ismael on email sarkastikal@hotmail.com

**SMILE AWHILE**

A 5 year old was asked where his Grandmother lived. “Oh,” he said, “she lives at the Airport and when we want her, we just go and get her. Then when we’re finished having her visit, we take her back to the Airport”.

**A Comical Look at Ageing**
The nice thing about being senile is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

An elderly woman decided to prepare her Will and told her minister she had a final request, she wanted to be buried at the local Bunnings Hardware Store. “Bunnings?” the minister exclaimed, “why Bunnings?” She replied, “that way I’ll be sure my family visit me each week”!

Remember: you don’t stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing.
DATES TO REMEMBER

(You can always find the most recent Events Calendar on our Website: www.clan.maclennan.com)

OURS:
25 Nov. 2007  Christmas Picnic Gathering, Woodlands Park, Essendon. (Mel. 28 F 1)
30 Mar. 2008  Ringwood Highland Gathering & Games, Jubilee Park. (Mel.49 J10/11)
22 Jun. 2008  AGM&Ceilidh, Roseville Community C’tre, 110 King St.E.Doncaster. (Mel.34B9/10)

OTHERS:
4 Nov. 2007  Combined Scottish Societies Highland Games, Castle Hill, NSW (02-9871 3593)
9-11 Nov.2007  Beechworth Celtic Festival. (0412-521 411)
11-16 Nov.2007  Celtic Pilgrimage Walk, Bright to Beechworth. (03-5728 2835)
24 Nov.-1 Dec 2007  Scottish Heritage Week, Sydney, NSW (02-9522 3631)
1 Dec. 2007  Daylesford Highland Gathering, Victoria Park. (03-5348 7867)
1 Jan. 2008  Maryborough Highland Gathering, Princes Park. (03-5481 1904)
10 Feb. 2008  Berwick Highland Gathering, Arkoona Park Reserve. (03-9703 1161)
7/8 Mar. 2008  NZ Pipe Band Championships, Papakurra, NZ. (03-5243 3347)
16 Mar. 2008  Geelong Highland Gathering, Queens Park. (03-5243 3347)
26 Apr. 2008  Scots’ o’ the Murray Dinner, Rutherglen. (02-6032 8328)

CLAN MacLENNAN GOODS FOR SALE

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<td>Tartan Ties (Wool Blend) (Boy’s $25)</td>
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<td>Tartan Caps (Mens)</td>
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<td>Tartan Evening Sash</td>
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<td>Clan MacLennan Post Card</td>
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<td>Men’s Handkerchief with Crest</td>
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<td>Windcheaters – Grey Marle with Navy Crest</td>
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Books
"The History and Traditions of the MacLennans of Kintail” by Dr Jon McLennan and James McLennan $ 25.00
"In Search of Clan MacLennan” by Malcolm Lobban and James McLennan $ 45.00

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