



The Gunn Gazette



Clan Gunn Society of New Zealand Inc.

Clan Gunn at Auckland games

by Mairi Gunn



Yours truly in welcoming mode while Christine Wilson and nephew Darryl set up the food!

When I used to attend the Auckland Games with my parents many years ago, there was always a Clan Gunn tent, or rather a campervan as I recall, where we would find Dianne Gunn and other society stalwarts. This time, Christine Wilson enthusiastically reinstated the Clan Gunn presence among the other clan tents. With help of her extended whanau, we set up two gazebos replete with the requisite banners, literature, including a copy of the Mark Rugg Gunn clan Gunn history book and various Neil Gunn novels, flanked by a copy of the Declaration of Arbroath and a beautiful vase of thistles. We had hoped to raffle the stunning brooch given to us for this purpose by Brian Nagel. We were, however, advised against this by the organizers who hoped that cash donations would instead go to support the Games. Christine, undeterred, decided to give visitors to the Gunn tent free food and drink - Irn Bru and cupcakes with Scottish flag icing, Orkney oatcakes with salmon and even books and comics as giveaways. She organized free raffles with various prizes to the delight of those experiencing Gunn hospitality for the first time.

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COSCA brightens gloomy outlook



Storm clouds over the troubled Homecoming 2014 event *Bannockburn Live* are lifting due to the efforts of two interested organizations. COSCA (Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, USA) and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs in discussion with *VisitScotland* have created a Clan Day at Bannockburn. They secured dedicated access to the fabulous new Bannockburn Visitor's Center free of charge on Monday 30th June for Clans attending Bannockburn Live. These plans go some way to offset major cutbacks to the original event, which many international visitors had already booked to attend.

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Editorial

I appreciate the positive comments received from CGSNZ members as I start my second year as editor of the *Gunn Gazette*. It's good to be able to feature local members' life stories as well as 'bigger picture' news and events in this February 2014 edition. I was particularly touched in these days of instant messages and email to receive a handwritten letter and article from Helen Gunn in Christchurch. Helen's article on PX is further confirmation that writing is indeed in the Gunn genes! I'm not sure if our President's foray into DNA testing could prove anything there, but I have all the evidence I need right here in front of me. Keep sending me those stories!

Along with local news and regional reports, we have an article written specially for the *Gazette* by Douglas McAdam, chief executive of *Scottish Land & Estates*. I contacted Douglas to ask if the organization is active on social media sites so I could present a balanced view on the Land Reform agenda that Scotland is currently working through. It's easy to follow the trail of high profile reform campaigners like Andy Wightman and Alistair McIntosh. They are active on Twitter, write regular blog posts and generally try to engage with as wide an audience as possible. Douglas said '*we tend to find such blogs not a very good medium for open fact based discussion and debate. Hence our involvement is limited.*' He also very generously offered to provide an article for the *Gazette* on the 'evidence and fact-based perspective' that his organization uses to represent their members' interests. I told him that our wee local rag would hardly help his message reach the masses, but he generously gave not only his own time, but instructed his PR Company to send me the feature on P11. I hope readers find it informative.

A piece of sad news is that the lovely 80 year old craftswoman kilt maker Annie Littlejohn featured in the August 2013 edition passed away shortly after the *Gazette* was published. *Annie's Story* remains our taonga now she is no longer with us. I'm sure you will all join me to send our deepest sympathies to Sandy, who must be very lonely without his treasured wife.

COSCA brightens gloomy outlook (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Stirling is going to be an unusually busy place on the last weekend in June, despite the scaling back of a major Homecoming 2014 event. The problem plagued *Bannockburn Live* battle re-enactment has been cut from three to two days on 28th and 29th, to avoid a clash with *Pipefest* on 27th, the *Armed Forces National Day* on 28th and an exclusive, private programme of activity to engage clans and their families on 30th. A peculiar example of fiscal logic from *VisitScotland* claims the shorter event with longer opening hours offers better value for money so ticket prices will remain the same. The publicity machine promises a spectacular event to mark 700 years since the Battle of Bannockburn (1314) and 100 years since the start of the First World War (1914). Clanranald, who are famous for working on Hollywood blockbusters such as *Gladiator*, *Robin Hood* and *Thor2*, will choreograph a large-scale re-enactment on the Bannockburn battlefield. The set will have encampments to evoke the preparations for battle in medieval times, a Clan and Family Village with 40 clans from Scotland, UK and overseas, and a Food & Drink Village, presumably in more contemporary Scottish style. It remains to be seen if Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs Convener Sir Malcolm McGregor's prediction that this 'watered down plan' will be a worthy successor to the financially stricken but hugely popular 2009 International Gathering. For members of Clan Gunn who witnessed the connection between our clan and a hapu of Ngati Awa through the whanau of John Mahiti Wilson, that will always be a hard act to follow.



President's Patter

A belated *Happy New Year* to all Clan members. May it be a prosperous one for all.

I know that I am repeating myself from previous issues but I would sincerely like to express my condolences to all who have lost a family member or close friend over the past six months and to our Clan Society in general on the loss of any of its members. I would also like to extend the wish to all those that are currently ill, injured or in hospital that they make a speedy recovery back to full health.

We in Dunedin have a new member with the chance of another one joining us in the near future. I believe Auckland and Christchurch have new members too, but I have yet to confirm this with Kathy Sauer our Membership Secretary. Kathy has been performing this service under difficult circumstances with ongoing health issues with both herself and her husband John who had to step down from the Vice-Presidency due to a serious heart condition. They are also trying to cope with the ongoing issues with their house, which was seriously damaged by the earthquake. I believe that they will have to move shortly to temporary accommodation in order for the earthquake people to effect extensive repairs on their house. I wish them all good fortune in the future and hope that 2014 will be a much better year for them.



I would like to offer my congratulations to my wife, Sheila, who was voted in at the last AGM as Vice-President. Seems like she's going to keep an even closer eye on my activities.

Rich Gunn of the North American Clan Gunn Society has just taken up the President's duties for the fourth time so heartiest congratulations to him. He says he and Linda, his wife, intend to visit us again in the near future so we look forward to seeing them again. No doubt many of you that missed their first visit to us will get the chance to meet them on their second bite of the cherry. They told us that their visit here the first time was the best holiday they had ever had bar none and they just couldn't wait to come over again. We'll try and give them a good CGSNZ welcome again when they arrive.

Last but not least I am in the process of having my DNA done in America. If anybody is interested in having theirs done then Abb Gunn our international Clan Gunn genealogist in America recommended the following website at: www.familytreedna.com.

They seem to be very efficient. I received my DNA kit within five days of paying my fee. Fees vary according to what you require and you will get all this information from the website. The kit contains two wee glass files with what looks like two wee tooth brushes (the bristles are plastic) and printed info on what to do. Quite simple really. You take one of the wee tooth brushes and swab the inside of the left cheek and eject the brush from the handle into the glass file which contains a liquid and which presumably preserves the result. Repeat the process for the right cheek, bag the results with a return bag that is included in the package you first receive and send it off. The address is already printed on the return bag. Easy.

Dunedin member Bruce Stevenson is currently in the Antarctic as an engineer. He took his Highland gear down there with him and is filling in any blank time learning to play the bagpipes. We are hoping that he will have a story or two to include in our Clan Gunn Gazette in due course.

Yours aye,
Todd Wall (President)
CGSNZ



COSCA Survey

Hosting a significant international gathering is a complex task. The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) together with its global associates are conducting a fact-finding exercise on interest in a future gathering of the international Scottish community to be held in Scotland. The survey does not constitute a formal plan at this time. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Click the link below to complete the survey and let your voice be heard. Complete The ICG Survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/COSCA-ICG>

Email any questions or comments to ICG@COSCA.net.

MINUTES OF THE 25TH AGM

CLAN GUNN SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
Held at 24 Beresford Street, Kaikorai, Dunedin.
Sunday 3rd November 2013.

The President Todd Wall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT.

Todd and Sheila Wall, Joyce Shield, Bonnie Flynn, Joy Hunter, Graham Patterson, Bryan Fitzgerald, Heather Stephens Joan and Bill Cuthbertson, Wilson Daniel, Margaret Campbell, Jan Wyllie, Marie Gunn.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ian and Lexie Gunn, John and Kathy Sauer, Tom and Shirley Campbell, Neil and Vicky Gunn, Chris and Sue Gunn, Christine Wilson, Bill Jamieson, Julie and Ray Ferguson, Beatrice Kenrick, Gerald and Valerie Wilson, Graham and Sandra Frazer, Bruce Stevenson, Marilyn Simonsen, Margaret Stevenson, Sue Patterson, Isabel and Peter Patterson.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting were accepted as a true and correct record.

CHIEFSHIP.

Todd Wall explained the present position with regard to the Chiefship of Clan Gunn. The Petition to hold a Family Convention was refused by the Lord Lyon *in hoc statu*; that is to say, as it stands. The Petition could be presented again in future, perhaps in altered form. The Lord Lyon continues to investigate further genealogical evidence with regard to several possible lines of descent of the Chiefly line.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Todd then read his annual report. He welcomed the new members as well as informing members of our new Newsletter Editor, Cathy Gunn and encouraged members to submit articles of interest to Cathy. Todd noted that there were regular gatherings of Clan members in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin and expressed the hope that members in other large centres could be encouraged to gather together. It was moved, seconded and agreed that the report be received.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Members were provided with copies of the Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Statement as well as our Treasurer, Ian Gunn's Report. It was noted that:

- Operating costs were up 11% on the past year due to increases in postage and newsletter copying.
- General expenses are down on last year
- Income from subscriptions is down following the decision to reduce the cost of subscriptions.
- In spite of lower subscription income an overall surplus for the year of \$282 has been achieved.

Once again members expressed their gratitude to Ian for his professional and clear explanations and reports.

It was moved seconded and agreed that:

- Subscription levels should remain the same i.e. Single \$18 Couple \$25 and Family \$30
- The sum of 75 pounds sterling should be sent to Clan Gunn Heritage Centre at Latheron, Caithness
- The President and Secretary should Review the accounts for the coming year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Todd Wall explained to members that according to our Constitution an election of officers must take place every two years. At this point a letter from John Sauer was read tendering his resignation as Vice-President owing to health issues. Todd expressed the gratitude of all members to John for his enthusiastic support of all Clan matters and for the many years both he and his wife Kathy has attended the Annual General Meetings. Appreciation was also expressed to Stuart Gunn of Hastings who is stepping down this year from his position on the Council. Stuart has been a member of Council for a great many years and has done a sterling effort to raise the profile of Clan Gunn in the Hawkes Bay area. The Secretary was asked to write in this manner to both John and Stuart. For each of the positions of elected officers and members of Council the following members were elected after an appropriate motion having been moved, seconded and agreed:

Officers.

Todd Wall (Dunedin) – President
Sheila Wall (Dunedin) – Vice-President
Ian Gunn – (Auckland) Treasurer
Marie Gunn – (Christchurch) Secretary
Val Donald – (Christchurch) Past President

Council Members:

Kathy Sauer (Christchurch)
Bonnie Flynn (Dunedin)
Joyce Shield (Dunedin)
Julie Ferguson (Dunedin)
Christine Wilson (Auckland)
Neil Gunn (Auckland)

There are also three appointed positions within the Clan as follows:

Newsletter Editor – Cathy Gunn (Auckland)
Membership Secretary – Kathy Sauer (Christchurch)
Clan Genealogist – Daniela Blair (Christchurch)

GENERAL BUSINESS

- (1) Members were urged to support the Clan Gunn DNA programme. It was agreed that the information regarding this programme should be included in the next Newsletter.
- (2) There is an urgent need for a new Webmaster for the Clan Gunn New Zealand website. Members were asked to consider this carefully.
- (3) Members were enthusiastic in their praise for the quality of the Newsletters being produced by Cathy Gunn. Members were asked to continue sending Cathy articles for publication.
- (4) The next Annual General Meeting of the Clan will be held on Sunday 2nd November 2014.

The meeting closed at 11.30 am
Marie Gunn, Secretary

Hawkes Bay Easter Highland Games

Games Secretary: *Gaye Reid, 12C Tomoana Road, Hastings. Phone 06 8788390*

Clan participation and display arrangements, 2014: Last Call for expressions of interest!

Clans intending to participate in the 2014 Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games MUST confirm their interest by March 14 at the latest. Free Clan programme advertisement for those attending MUST be forwarded to Karen.Mortensen@xtra.co.nz by this same date to be included in the programme.

The Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games Committee wish to again invite your Clan to share in our 63rd Highland Games, Easter Saturday, 19th. and Sunday, 20th April 2014, at Lindisfarne College, Pakowhai Road, Hastings (near Stortford Lodge).

We again extend an invitation to all to take up space at the Games to promote your Clan, its history and heritage (no charge). The space arrangements will be the same as in previous years. Attendance for one day only is acceptable.

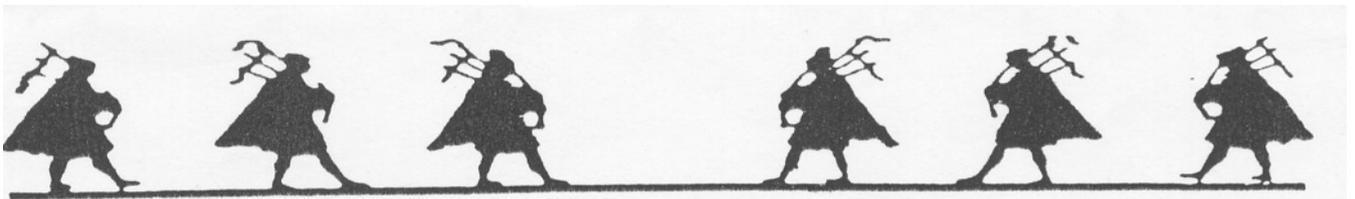
We would also appreciate your promotion of this weekend to your members through your Newsletters or correspondence, especially to those who reside in Hawke's Bay. An early promotion may also be of interest to others perhaps visiting Hawke's Bay over the Easter holiday weekend?

On behalf of the Games Committee, I look forward to your positive response. Your members' presence at our Games will help present a continued Scottish atmosphere at our annual Easter Gathering and for the district communities in attendance. Your publicity for the games in any Newsletters would also be appreciated.

For any further advice or clarification please contact me at the address below.

Les Hewett

LES. HEWETT, Chief Commissioner, Clan Johnston/e N.Z.
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Phone 06 8435709; e-mail: ljhewett@ihug.co.nz

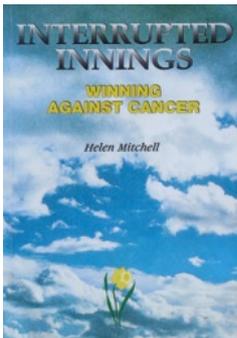




Another writer in the gene pool

I was interested in Dianne Gunn Giles' article, *Is writing in the Gunn genes?* (August 2013 Gunn Gazette).

My mother Nellie Gunn was a most prolific letter writer with the most elegant writing that never deteriorated even though she had severe arthritis in her hands. I have inherited the writing gene from her, but not her exquisite handwriting, as I'm always in too much of a hurry! However, I write letters regularly which are always gratefully received, of my doings and that of my family, grand children and great grand children.



In 1993 I wrote a book, *Interrupted Innings*, to relate the saga of my 18 year old son Hamish's terrible illness and eventual recovery. Hamish was finally discharged, as he hoped, in time for his 21st birthday. After making a good recovery, he suffered facial shingles, as

a result of treatment. That complaint and pain eclipsed everything he had suffered previously. I wrote the book to encourage young people having to undergo extreme treatment, to know there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hamish went on to train as a pilot, lecture cadets and has two lovely little daughters. The book is available at Fendalton Library, and was once on sale in the hospital bookshop. Many readers have found it a very inspiring story.

Looking back over a copy of the tribute my eldest son Warwick gave me at the party to celebrate the occasion of my 80th birthday, he said, *'my mother is a committed letter writer and correspondent, which in this day and age is almost a dying art form.'*

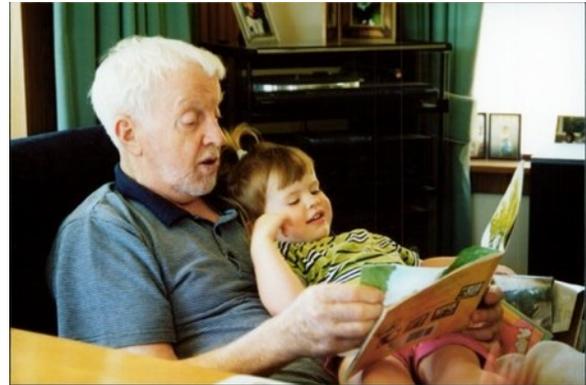
I am so incensed at the talk of cutting the postal services – I simply cannot begin to visualize life without the mailing of cards and letters. Nothing can replace the written word of love, care and encouragement, especially to the aged and infirm. I feel greatly blessed that apparently I have inherited the Gunn's 'writing gene.'

Helen Gunn
Caithness Cottage, Christchurch

Megan's Grandpa

My 13 year old granddaughter's class were asked recently to write a paragraph on someone for whom they felt respect. Megan decided to write about her beloved Grandpa, the late John Murray Gunn (7.11.1932 – 19.12.2010). This is what she wrote:

I respect my Grandpa because he always helped me when I needed it. He always had time for me. For example, we made up characters with silly names and made up games. He was always supportive, encouraging and loving. He was very respectful. Even when he was ill he turned up to events such as swimming sports and athletics to cheer me on. He was very creative whilst making games and especially with wood. He won prizes and had pieces put in exhibits for carving and furniture.



When Megan was younger they also spent many happy hours enjoying stories as this photograph shows.

Marie Gunn
Christchurch

Christchurch happenings

We have had two very pleasant gatherings over the past few months. In September 16 Canterbury members gathered at the home of Tom and Shirley Campbell for a delicious luncheon. The afternoon was spent catching up on discussing a whole range of subjects; as always discussions of family history and Caithness were to the fore. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Ann and David Paul as new members. Our warm thanks go to Tom and Shirley for their kind hospitality. I must mention our young 97 year old Dick Rawstron. Dick published a thoroughly researched book about

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the Whataroa Gunns some years ago. But he had not finished with his writing! Dick told us he had just finished writing and publishing yet another book, this time of the early history of the medical doctors in the Manawatu area. Well done Dick, keep it up!

In November 26 members met for a Christmas luncheon at a local restaurant. We then passed a long lazy afternoon at my home for more interesting discussions. We look forward to more Gunn gatherings in 2014.

Marie Gunn

Dunedin Report

A Dunedin Clan Gathering was held on Sunday 8th September at 24 Beresford Street, Dunedin with Bonny Flynn as our ever efficient hostess. Everybody turned up dressed for spring in a suitable hat and outfit commencing with the letter “B” for the occasion. There were some very creative designs. This was to be the last meeting for Jessie Nelson who died soon after with a massive heart attack at home. She was 87. She will be sorely missed, as she was a Clan stalwart and attended very nearly all the Gatherings we held.

It was also the last meeting for Bruce Stevenson and Joy Hunter. Bruce went down to the Antarctic to work for a year, which has now been extended to two years I believe. Joy in the meantime has left to work in Australia on a farm in the outback, inland from Brisbane. We sincerely hope they will send a few stories of their life to the Gunn Gazette. They also will be sorely missed.

3rd November 2013

This was the month for the AGM, which went very well despite the fact that only one member outside of Dunedin attended. We were 15 in total. On the Saturday we all had lunch at Bonny’s house after which we took a trip down the Otago Peninsula visiting the China house which is chock full of all sorts of China for sale and the Happy Hens outfit. We arrived at our friends crib for afternoon tea, which was a somewhat sumptuous affair after which some of the Clan members visited the Albatross Colony at Taieroa Head. It was then back to the crib to enjoy a potluck dinner. We have heard that DOC have now fenced off Pilots Beach and charge a pretty hefty entrance fee to watch the wee blue penguins come ashore to take up residence in

the burrows for the night. It was once a free sight where you could sit on the beach and watch the penguins walk round you as they headed up the hill. Such is progress. It turned to be a great days outing.

29th November 2013

This was the date for the Dunedin Clan Christmas Dinner. Eight guests from other Scottish outfits were invited and 19 Dunedin Clan members attended. It was held at Jaytees Golf Course clubroom near Mosgiel. It was a great night commencing with a Haggis ceremony addressed by Bryan Fitzgerald who took over from Viggo Nielsen who was killed in a car crash earlier in the year. It was the first time he had performed the ceremony and made a good fist of it for which he received the appreciative applause of the assembled Clan and guests. The evening was also marked with the appearance of Santa (Joyce Shield) and Mrs Claus (Sheila Wall), dressed for the occasion and dishing out Christmas Pressies. Music was provided by Sylvia on the piano and Ray on the Bagpipes. It was a great evening.

Yours aye,
Todd Wall

Auckland Clan Gathering

Sunday 15th Dec 2013, 4–7pm at ‘Zarahemla’



December had not much begun when our family was delighted with the delivery of three wonderful parcels of Christmas gifts from loved ones in Pitlochry, Perthshire in Scotland. Pitlochry is a very picturesque, old spa town at the foot of the Cairngorms. It attracts many visitors right throughout the year. We enjoyed two weeks there in early October and will return again just as soon as we can.

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Amongst the gifts was a CD of a collection of 15 songs performed by the Corries, Scottish folk singers. I quickly became very fond of the tunes and often listen to them as I cook in the kitchen. Some of them replay themselves over and over in my head, long after I've moved on to do other tasks. One song is called *Scotland will Flourish* and the words reflect old values... *let us be known for our kind hospitality*, they sing. As I listened I reminisced and savoured again some of the many moments when I had enjoyed such generosity. For me, that's the sweetness of life - friendly fellowship, flavoursome food and fun. And that's what our early Christmas 'do' was all about. It was great and we hope to do it again soon.

Christine E. Bowker Wilson



PS Any clansfolk visiting Auckland are very welcome to stay in *Rosy* our authentic Gypsy wagon. She has a double bed with a new orthopedic mattress. Toilet, bathroom, kitchen and laundry facilities are in our main dwelling.

38th Auckland Highland Games

November 2013

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The 2013 games coincided with the Clan MacLeod World Gathering, so we were treated to the sound of the Clan MacLeod of Australasia, Bendigo Pipe Band and the presence of the international clan hierarchy and membership. Local secretary, Cathie Macleod, also convened the Auckland Gaelic Society, so we were once again blessed with the opportunity to hear the language of our forefathers and mothers at the opening ceremony. Auckland City Councilor Dr Cathy Casey, spoke of her delight at being made a patron of the Auckland Highland Games Association. We were all very

pleased to meet those who have just begun the journey of reconnection and the sharing of family stories and discoveries. Maybe we'll see you there next time!!



Christine Wilson holds the Clan Gunn banner at the opening ceremony of the Auckland Highland Games. Can you spot Antony in his Jimmy hat and Neil and Vicky Gunn in the background?

Moran taing agus gur math a theid leibh. Many thanks and all the best.

Mairi Gunn

Scottish Migration Survey

A University of Edinburgh PhD researcher has approached CGSNZ seeking support for a Scottish Government funded and Universities of Edinburgh and Otago supervised research project into the Scottish diaspora or migrants to New Zealand and Hong Kong. I'm sure some of our members will be happy to assist with this project, which involves an online survey that is available until 31st March 2014. Follow this link to complete the survey.

<https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/scotsinnz>

The survey will provide the basis of a doctoral thesis on modern Scottish migration from the mid-nineteenth century to today. The study compares two different Scottish migrant groups; the predominantly settler migrants of New Zealand and the largely temporary migrants to Hong Kong. The goal is to identify any differences or similarities in the perceptions and use of Scottish ethnic identity (or Scottish-ness) within these groups. The initial data derived from this questionnaire will help to identify perceptions and constructions of identity.

CONTINUES OVERLEAF

The intention is then to select a sample of around 30 respondents for in-depth, life-story interviews.

Importantly such projects have in the past tended to focus on those that are well engaged with their Scottish identity. The large numbers of those who are less engaged are often ignored. If at all possible we would encourage you to circulate the survey link as widely as possible and particularly to family members and friends of Scottish descent who are not members of Scottish interest or associational groups. In this year when Scotland goes to the polls on the issue of nationhood it is important that whatever the outcome, the parent country continues to be concerned and interested in its diaspora and we would encourage you to support this worthwhile survey. The researcher's name is Iain Watson. Iain hails from the Scottish Borders and holds a Masters degree in Diaspora and Migration History from the University of Edinburgh, where he is also employed as a tutor for Modern Scottish History, Scottish History since 1914 and Economic History. He has strong family ties to New Zealand where his daughter is currently an undergraduate at the Auckland University of Technology. Iain has also worked in New Zealand as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in New Zealand. More detail about Iain and his affiliations can be found at; <http://edinburgh.academia.edu/IainWatson/CurriculumVitae> and/or http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/centres/scdt/graduate_studies.htm.

Kind regards and best wishes for the New Year,
Iain Watson

World wide web of Scottish genes

In August of last year I received an interesting letter from Rob Bruce-Barron who lives in Manitoba, Canada. He informed me of a very special gathering about to take place: the Churchill 1813-2013 Bicentennial Celebrations. You may be wondering what possible connection we in Clan Gunn New Zealand could have with some celebrations on the other side of the world. To quote Rob's letter, these celebrations commemorate the arrival in Churchill of the Selkirk Settlers, who were unceremoniously dumped off at Sloop's Cove due to typhus outbreaks on the ship. Humidity,

black flies, mosquitoes, hunger and lack of adequate shelter, clothing and food, combined with many settlers being disabled by typhus plus the additional shock of landing on a totally unexpected shore instead of York Factory must have presented the settlers with a desperate situation. The settlers must surely have been wondering by this stage if conditions in this new land might even be worse than the conditions they had left behind.

Most of the settlers came from the north of Scotland, from Kildonan Strath. The settlers came in four groups landing in the years 1812-15. These years represent one phase of the notorious Highland Clearances. Several Gunn and Sutherland families were among the settlers. Five Gunn families survived the harsh winter and subsequently trekked in the sub Arctic Spring of 1814 approximately 140 miles on snowshoes to York Factory.

In his letter Rob asked if I would like to send greetings to these celebrations from Clan Gunn New Zealand. This is the content of the greetings I sent, and which were subsequently read at the ceremony: *It is my pleasure and privilege to send greetings to the Bicentenary Selkirk Celebrations at Churchill from Clan Gunn Society of New Zealand. We may be many miles apart but the same blood runs through our veins; we cherish the same heritage; we remember with love and respect those who have gone before us, those who have suffered great hardship but left abiding memories of splendid achievements. Our forbears have been an inspiration to us all and a wonderful example for us to follow. I wish you all well in your celebrations. Blessings and warm regards from us all.*

Marie Gunn.

Isobel Findlay: A life well lived

29.3.1920 – 4.9.2013

In September we said a sad farewell to Isobel, a member of CGSNZ for many years. Isobel was the daughter of Davey Gunn of Hollyford and South Westland fame and Ethel Gunn of Oamaru and elder sister to Dorothy Parlane and Murray Gunn. She was bright and entertaining, with an exceptional memory into her nineties. She excelled at tennis in her youth playing many representative games for her Club and county. We will miss her cheerful presence. Marie Gunn

Does Scotland need land reform?

By Douglas McAdam, Chief Executive, Scottish Land & Estates

This article was submitted for the Gazette in response to questions about a two-part special feature by Professor Jim Hunter published in the Scottish Field Magazine in September 2013. Prof Hunter's article claimed that landowners in Scotland avoid tax and make inappropriate use of subsidies. Other sources state that land is often owned by trusts registered overseas, so no tax is paid on any profits made, that many directors and trustees do not live in Scotland, and that any employment provided on estates is mainly seasonal, poorly paid and of little real economic benefit to local communities. I appreciate Douglas and Scottish Land & Estates' PR Company taking the time and effort to present their perspective for a small local publication on the other side of the world. For anyone interested in reading Prof Hunter's article, it is reproduced almost verbatim on Andy Wightman's website at <http://www.andywightman.com/?p=3029>. A member of Scottish Land & Estates reply is at <http://www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk/>

This is a highly contentious issue. An editor's job is to present a balanced view. I'm happy to publish any opinion piece that readers might like to submit.

Scotland's political future will be the subject of huge interest from domestic and international audiences during 2014, with this September's independence referendum a momentous occasion in shaping the nation's future. The referendum debate is gaining momentum with every passing day across Scotland but it is not the only subject that is provoking intense and heated discussion.

Attempts to explore land reform measures remain near the top of the political agenda for the Scottish Government. Moreover, it is an issue that other parties also wish to pursue with varying degrees of radicalism.

This presents a challenge to private landowners who, despite their significant social, economic and environmental contribution to rural Scotland, are often unfairly portrayed as being remote from the concerns and aspirations of the communities they are part of.

A group entitled the Land Reform Review Group (LRRG) was created by the Scottish Government to look at the subject but when, following a detailed and thorough evidence gathering process, the

group's interim report did not result in a call for the dismantling of landed estates and the enforced sale of property against an owner's wishes, there was a backlash from more radical activists.

For Scottish Land & Estates, the membership body for landowners across the country, the challenge is to have our positive message for the future heard despite hostility in the media from ardent land reformists.

Scotland's private landowners are proud of their stewardship of our historic buildings and landscapes and now have a clear vision for the future of rural Scotland. That is to help build and sustain a healthy economy where private and community enterprises can flourish in harmony. Our members, of which there are several thousand across Scotland, believe this is the most productive way forward and would welcome the creation of a progressive political and legislative environment where this approach is encouraged.

The vast majority of landowners and managers in Scotland wish to generate inward investment and make the most of land by creating jobs and encouraging business development that will allow their estate or landholding to thrive and support the fragile rural communities they dwell within. Estates businesses are quite complex businesses integrating primary industries such as farming and forestry with new businesses such as renewable energy, specialist tourism, commercial offices and property development.

One argument leveled against landowners as part of the land reform agenda is the system of subsidies and tax utilized by these businesses. However, the system that is in place is the one that has been created by successive governments and decision makers to encourage positive, sustainable land stewardship, and typically represent payments in return for public goods. Such public goods are generally defined by government policy and cover such areas as supporting agricultural production, planting forestry, promoting biodiversity, diversifying rural businesses and again such payments are not limited to just large estates and landowners, but are also paid to others actively working the land such as smaller farmers and tenant farmers.

Making this case and ensuring that the voice of those who actually live and work in the countryside – with expert knowledge on these businesses and what they provide – is heard is challenging.

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A favourite catchphrase stated triumphantly is that 'half of this country is owned by fewer than 500 people'. Try telling that to the many thousands of small landowners, farmers and other property owners across rural Scotland. A more accurate figure is that all the privately owned land in rural Scotland is owned by tens of thousands of people, mostly Scots. In reality, in terms of property ownership, there are 2.2 million households in Scotland and nearly 70% of them are owned. In rural Scotland, there are at least 1500 people who own and manage more than 1,000 acres and many tens of thousands more who own land in varying sizes less than that, including most owner-occupied farming businesses down to single figure acres and everything in between. Together they own and work a vast area of the country, running to many millions of acres.

A mature, modern debate on land reform should be about the use of the land and the desired outcomes, before land ownership. Historic arguments around events such as the Highland clearances are often mooted in an attempt to rally those with a peripheral knowledge of the subject into demonizing modern day landowners for all perceived historic ills. How can such arguments be relevant today when applied to someone who has quite legally purchased their farm or estate in 2014, 1914 or indeed earlier than that? It is worth noting that those on the radical side of the land reform debate have a very specific agenda and that is one of fundamental enforced land and wealth re-distribution. This real radical agenda is now becoming much clearer and as it does so, it is perhaps not surprising that these more radical land reformists show little interest in recognizing the positive contribution made by landowners and estates in modern Scotland, or indeed in engaging in dialogue with landowners to focus on the real needs of rural Scotland.

There are, of course, large scale private landowners as there are in most other developed countries, including our often compared Scandinavian neighbours. But does big mean bad? It's an argument that does not stand up to scrutiny. Large Scottish estates are regularly commended for the contribution they make to communities and rural economies in terms of agricultural production, provision of affordable housing, conservation and biodiversity management, renewable energy, environmental stewardship and commercial enterprises, let alone the major input they have to Scotland's tourism offering. The sporting estate activities that land reformers try to stereotype is worth £350 million to the Scottish economy and forms part of a land management sector that

generates well in excess of £1 billion worth of business in Scotland each year. The land management sector has a hugely positive impact on rural Scotland and our fragile communities and the assertion that this country is somewhat hindered by or peculiar in its landownership patterns is wildly untrue and not substantiated by evidence.

Much can be and is being done to support and involve rural communities without them having to actually own the land through purchase. Our argument remains that stewardship - rather than ownership - is what fundamentally matters to get rural land use right.

Whilst landowners are often characterized as opposing any form of change, we do not oppose community right to buy. Many of our members are disappointed, however, that the Land Reform Review Group, in its initial work, appeared to focus almost exclusively on this issue rather than exploring many other areas of policy improvement, e.g. effective community planning, affordable housing and better local decision-making processes. We support a wide variety of community involvement and ownership models and also the principle of extending the existing community right to buy provisions to urban areas. However our position remains that the sale of an asset should be on the basis of willing seller, willing buyer, and we would not support any form of enforced asset transfer. Respect of such fundamental property rights is a firm foundation of our modern society and economy.

We and our members continue to look to the LRRG to formulate ideas that support communities and landowners in crystallizing opportunities for sustainable development while at the same time rejecting ideas which would impact adversely on private ownership and investment to the detriment of those communities affected – such as an absolute right to buy, or in other words a forced sale on an unwilling seller.

There are many ways in which communities can secure a greater say in the use of land, without necessarily owning it. We have provided many examples of partnership working between estates and communities, and are delighted that identifying good practice will be a key part of the LRRG's phase two work, as well as identifying what does not work well. We welcome the current mixed pattern of land ownership in Scotland, indeed this is firmly reflected in our membership where we have landowners of all sizes and types represented.

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However neither we nor our members believe the best policies are in place for our rural areas and we have made extensive comment around how we believe these can be improved. However, we will not run from real debate and we continue to put our weight behind the measures that will truly work for rural Scotland. That is why we hope that there will eventually be more recognition for the very positive role that landowners play in Scotland and that collaboration - rather than confrontation – will be sought.

As noted at the start of the article, readers are encouraged to send in their own views on this complex and long fermenting issue. Jim Hunter could be approached for permission for his own article to be reproduced in the Gazette if readers are interested to read more about the views that Doug is challenging. Ed



Second battle of Culloden 2014

This message is reproduced so CGSNZ members can consider adding their names to a petition against a housing development on a historic battle site in Scotland. Scotland has so much space for residential developments, as well as a Government that claims to be committed to preserving its unique heritage and promoting tourism. So the logic of building houses on a historic site that attracts thousands of visitors every year is far from obvious.

From: Les Hewett [mailto:ljhewett@ihug.co.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 February 2014 9:03 a.m.
To: haggis@ihug.co.nz
Subject: The 2nd Battle of Culloden – 2014

Hello, and greetings from Inverness, capital of the Highlands of Scotland, to all Scots, their descendants and anyone else interested in preserving our history. This is not a begging letter, or any form of spam, but I would be grateful for a few minutes of your time to read and consider the attached information, after which you might be motivated enough to offer your assistance by putting your name, and any suitable comments, to the petition at <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/alex-salmond-stop-the-proposed-development-of-homes-to-be-built-within-400-metres-of-culloden-battlefield>
(Another way to access the petition is to go to www.change.org and search for 'Culloden')

Most people of Scottish blood will be familiar with the Battle of Culloden in 1746, one of the most pivotal moments in Scottish history. After this disastrous battle the clan system was destroyed, wearing tartan was banned (as was the playing of bagpipes), and events put into motion, which resulted in the depopulation of the Highlands in favour of sheep. The Highland Clearances, as they are now known, resulted in a large diaspora of Scots to all parts of the world. The battle site has been reasonably well preserved and recent findings have resulted in archaeological findings indicating the fighting, and killing, extended over a much wider area than generally accepted. The National Trust for Scotland (NTS, and no, I don't work for them) has gradually improved access to the site, including a carefully sited Visitor Centre, which also has a public access astronomical observatory on its periphery. The latter is a charitable, not for profit, amenity, which offers free public viewings and outreach activities to schools and other organizations. The battle site has been restored to as close to its original state (in 1746) as possible.

Now, to get to the point of this plea. A development company submitted a planning application to build 16 houses (originally 32) on a 'brown field' site, 400 metres from the battle site. Highland Council overwhelmingly rejected the application after consulting with the NTS. The developers appealed to the Scottish Government in Edinburgh, who have overturned this decision and given permission for the development to go ahead. They consulted Historic Scotland, so there appears to be a touch of turf wars between them and the NTS.

You may know that the Scottish Government have the Scottish National Party in the majority, a party who purport to be the voice of Scotland and who allegedly are big on our history and heritage. Perhaps so, but with the exception of when there's money involved. There is still time to affect their decision as representations can be submitted up to 28th March, hence my request for signatures to the above petition. It needs a minimum of 7,500 signatures (*there were nearly 8,700 by the time this Gazette went to press - Ed*) and is currently on track but the more the merrier. It is heartening to see signatures and comments on the petition website from Canada, the US and even a few from Oz. I would think the Scottish Nationalists might be swayed by international condemnation.

You may think 16 houses is not a lot, but brown field sites surround the battlefield. Allowing this development would set a precedent.

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Currently, there are very few buildings around the battlefield site and this is to be encouraged as it lends itself to the serenity of such a sad place. Secondly, as previously mentioned, archaeological finds indicate fighting over a much wider area than generally accepted and we could end up with houses desecrating what is actually a giant war grave. Thirdly, an explosion of houses around the site would lead to a huge increase in vehicular traffic and light pollution would inevitably follow, badly affecting the observatory's usefulness and denying many the joys of a clear sky (when we get them). Thank you for your time in reading this and I hope your hackles are sufficiently raised to spread the message to kith and kin, and anyone else. If you require any further info, feel free to write. Many thanks again, and best wishes.

Andy Ferguson
Inverness Highlands of Scotland

Meeting the Gunns

Until August 2013 I had never met my cousins, 2 or 3 times removed - I am not certain how many! Alix and Liz grew up in New Zealand. I grew up in England, before moving to Australia 40 years ago. However, even though my sister, Caroline Quayle, lived in New Zealand during the late 1970's, I had never visited NZ until 2013.

I met Alix and Liz's parents, Max and Chisne Gunn, a few times when they flew to England for the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament. Max was an enthusiastic tennis player and thoroughly enjoyed Wimbledon. The couple visited my family in Surrey and I recall that my parents looked forward to their visits. I also remember these visits fondly, even though I was then a teenager! Over the years I have heard snippets of information about my relatives, the Gunns, so it was with anticipation that the day arrived when I found myself at our prearranged meeting place in Auckland.

I had no plans to travel overseas in 2013, until my oldest daughter, Kylie Payman, moved with her family from Melbourne to Vancouver, in Canada. It's quite a story, which I won't go into here, but we, Kylie's family and I, found ourselves in Whangarei during August 2013. So I set about finding out where Alix and Liz were, because I had no information to hand as to where they lived. Kylie went online and found the Clan Gunn website for New Zealand. There appear to be Clan Gunns all over the World! With the help of Cathy Gunn and others I found details for the two women and rang Alix. Hence the meeting in Auckland.

To back track a bit, I did travel through various countries until I married, and settled in Alice Springs in 1978. The travelling ceased then for two decades, whilst bringing up four children, one son and three daughters! I had no real interest at that time in finding out about my family. Since the children have flown the coop and my wife dying in 1998, I have more time and have become more interested in finding out about family. My mother, Joy, was a fund of family information, but sadly she is no longer with us. She certainly corresponded with Max and Chisne Gunn over the years and would no doubt have plenty to relate about them. My father, Colin Richardson, was a cousin of Max Gunn and I understand that they met for the first time during World War II. How or where I have no knowledge.

So it was a great moment when I met with Alix and Liz. For me a very poignant meeting to say the least, because as far as I know, I have no other close relatives, apart from in-laws in the Antipodes. My sister lived in Australia and New Zealand, before returning to England and settling down to have her own family.

There is something about family, or Clan, that means, to me, when we meet, it is as if we already know each other somehow. I felt this way with Alix and Liz, and none of us really know very much about each other at all. We spent several hours together and there was much to talk about. I felt really uplifted by the experience and I am hopeful that I will stay in contact with them from now on.

I was so impressed with the North Island of NZ, the people who are welcoming, the landscape, the animals, the long white clouds and the weather! I want to return again. In fact since then people I have met, who have been to NZ, tell me the same thing, they love it! So what excuse have I got for not making it across the Tasman from Melbourne where I live? Absolutely none!

I have taken this opportunity to write an article for the Newsletter, because my visiting New Zealand and my Gunn relatives, was the start of a journey of several months, amongst other countries to England, to visit relatives and find out more about my mother and father's ancestors. A journey I am still on as I write this. I hope that this has been of interest to the readers of the Clan Gunn Gazette in New Zealand.

Nigel Richardson,
Australia

Chieftainship update Nov 2013

Thanks to the efforts of Rich Gunn - once more elected as President of the Clan Gunn Society of North America and Commissioner for the United States - the Petition asking the Lord Lyon to call a Family Convention with the aim of appointing Iain A Gunn of Banniskirk as Chief - has been signed by Alexander Nicholls Gunn II who is, according to the Family Tree prepared by Hugh Peskett, Heir Male to the Gunn Chiefship.

It was hoped that the addition of Alexander's signature might enable the Lord Lyon to allow the Petition to be reactivated on the grounds that there were no other valid claims and that Alexander is senior to Alastair.

The claim for Michael Gunn's line is currently unproven because 1) Lyon is not convinced that the Robert Gunn who married Michael's ancestress Ann Whear is the same Robert Gun who was the son of George Gun in Dalfridh, and 2) Alastair J Gunn, son of Jack Alexander Gunn in Australia, has objected to the Family Convention on two counts, a) he does not consider that we require a Hereditary Chief and has made no claim himself and, b) he believes there may be evidence of a better Chiefly line.

I understand that Lyon cannot proceed further unless or until Michael's claim is either proved, disproved or withdrawn. Alastair's objections cannot formally be considered until his evidence (which I believe he has yet to finalize) is presented as part of a formally lodged Petition. Lyon is unwilling to make any final rulings so long as these matters are outstanding.

This is unfortunate in two ways. First, we will not achieve closure on our Chiefship in the short term and secondly, the present Lyon is to retire shortly. Lyon Sellar is the acknowledged expert on Highland families and has unrivalled knowledge of what is involved. His successor is not yet known.

It seems, therefore, that our wish for a Chief is stymied for the time being and we will have to hope that the appointment of a new Commander (by a Family Convention or Derbhfine when Iain is no longer around) will not be contested, and that the Clan's loyalties and kinship, which Iain has done so much to foster, will not be divided.

James M A Gunn
20th November 2013

Hans Dalton murder trial update

A prison inmate accused of murdering Hans Dalton in a Samoan prison cell has been found not guilty. The presiding judge overruled a panel of assessors to reach the verdict.

Gazette readers may remember the tragic story of Christine Wilson's son Hans, 28, being taken to Samoa's Tafaigata Prison on Christmas Day 2012 when he became unwell. He was found dead there the following day. The death was initially treated as suicide, despite all evidence being stacked against this claim.

Jonathan Patrick Crichton, 22, of American Samoa, also in the prison at the time of Hans's death was put on trial in the Supreme Court in Mulinu'u, Apia, over Hans' death, but found not guilty by Justice Lesa Rapi Va'ai. After the verdict was read, Crichton hugged Dalton's mother Christine Wilson and his brother and nephew from Auckland. *'Thank God it has ended and I feel strengthened by the court's decision,'* Crichton said.



Christine Wilson, mother of Hans Dalton, addresses Samoa Consul-General Faolotoi Reupena Pogi (left) in Auckland

Justice Lesa was expected to give formal reasons for why he overruled the assessors' verdict. The difficult journey to justice for Hans' family continues. After the trial, a family member was quoted as saying: *'I thank the honourable judge for the right decision.'* Our support and sincere sympathies continue to go out to Christine and all her whanau.



Photo gallery



Joy Hunter and Margaret Stevenson, Dunedin



Bruce Stevenson prior to departure for Antarctica



Christmas Haggis ceremony, Dunedin



Sloop's Cove Bicentennial, Canada (story p9)



Christchurch Burns song prizewinner Meghan Dunn