



The Gunn Gazette



Clan Gunn Society of New Zealand Inc.

Eight Kiwis at Pleasanton Games

February 2013



Friday August 31st saw eight kiwis with hosts Richie and Linda Gunn heading towards Pleasanton along the San Francisco Highway in a convoy of camper van and 4x4 with trailer. The day was quite a bit cooler than we had had in the previous week so cardies were in evidence. We arrived at the Pleasanton games venue and made our way to the place reserved for the American Clan Gunn to pitch their tent and stall. The venue was huge and we were greeted by a hive of activity with people milling around putting up tents and getting stalls ready for the next day.

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Lyon Court declines petition

Edinburgh, 19 November 2012. The Petition dated 17th December 2011 seeking the convening of a Family Convention to recognize a Chief of Clan Gunn and proposing that the current Commander be now recognized as Chief of the Name and Arms of Gunn is refused *in hoc statu*.

(Signed) David Sellar
Lyon

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Beatrice Kenrick turns 90!



Beatrice, a loyal and active member of the Dunedin Clan Gunn branch celebrated her 90th birthday on 29th January 2013.

What's Inside?

Clan Gathering in Caithness

PAGES 16 and 17

Marie Gunn and Christine Wilson share precious personal memories of the 2012 International Gathering in Orkney and Caithness. Ted Gunn from Canada located family graves at the scenic Thurso River-side site of Dirlot Castle variously occupied by Gunns, McKays and Sutherlands prior to 1660.

The story of the clearances was brought home at the ruined village of Badbea north of Helmsdale. Gunns and Sutherlands had to eke out a living outside a stone wall they were paid a pittance to build to keep sheep in and people out! Onsite information told of children and animals tethered to withstand howling winds on the treacherous cliff edge.

The Halkirk Games added local flavour to the visitor experience, as well as a healthy dose of Highland hospitality! These were just a few events from a fantastic itinerary put together by John and Sarah Gunn. 'A good time was had by all', as they say!



From the Pleasanton Games website

PAGE 15

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Scottish Gathering and Games are the largest in the U.S. and, in some years, the largest in the world. It is not unusual to have more than 25 pipe bands, plus hundreds of athletes, dancers and other participants.

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco was founded in 1866, a year after the end of the Civil War. Its inaugural Scottish Gathering and Games, a family picnic with athletic contests, was held in a field at 12th and Market Streets in San Francisco on Thanksgiving Day 1866.

This puts them five years ahead of the Waipu Caledonian Society New Year Games, which began in 1871. No tall poppies here, but the Society's website says that the International Highland Games Association rated the local event the best of its kind in the world!



Waipu Pageant - another extravaganza

The 142nd Waipu Games on January 1st this year were followed by the Grand Pageant on 11th and 12th. An engaging pantomime-style performance by a cast of hundreds tracked the migration by the Reverend Norman McLeod and his flock from the Scottish highlands to New Zealand via Nova Scotia. The event, with Dame Fiona Kidman narrating part of the story, attracted more than 4,000 people over two balmy summer evenings. The organizers plan to stage a Pageant every ten years.

New Editor for Gazette

Auckland based CGS member Cathy Gunn volunteered to take on the role of newsletter editor after Sue Gunn resigned late last year. Cathy arrived in New Zealand from Scotland in 1995 with 7 year old Calum and a one year contract at the University of Auckland. The position became permanent, and like many temporary visitors, the family opted to stay and enjoy the NZ lifestyle.

Cathy has been on the fringes of CGS activities in both hemispheres, and welcomes local and international connections from Clan networks. She brings 20 years experience of academic writing and a background in business journalism to the role, as well as personal interest in historical research and commitment to community values.

The *Gunn Gazette* will continue to be published twice a year in February and August, with (flexible) copy deadlines on 15th January and 15th July respectively. Members are invited to send ideas, articles, news items, photos, event notices, adverts, reviews or requests at any time (as far ahead of deadlines as possible please!).

Contact Cathy by email cathygunn@xtra.co.nz mail at 2/2B Grove Road, Narrow Neck, Auckland 0624, or Phone 021 173 0538.

Comments and suggestions for future issues of the *Gazette* are invited. This is your Society and your newsletter, so please feel free to contribute and say what you want from the publication. Cathy's aims as editor are to strengthen local and international clan connections to make the most of our global networks and to foster a sense of community and common interest.



Editorial

Welcome to the first 2013 edition of the *Gunn Gazette*, which I hope you'll find informative and entertaining. The article at left explains a bit about who I am and how you can contact me. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our *contributors*, and say more about my aims as editor of the CGS-NZ newsletter.

First, I'd like to support connections between members in New Zealand and abroad. A recent meeting of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs agreed that wide and inclusive networks are a priority. The articles on pages 9-10, and the website at <http://www.clanchiefs.org/> tell more of the story.

A second aim echoes that of COSCA, (US Council of Scottish Clans and Associations) to boost membership, particularly among young people. The *Gazette's* first contribution to the latter aim is 16 year old Brigid Gunn McCree's column *View from the Brig* on page 14.

A COSCA seminar *From Scotland To Stone Mountain 2012: Chiefs And Clans Connecting To Sustain Our Common Future* is outlined on page 10 in a collection of articles on the topical issue of a Chief for Clan Gunn. Audio recordings are online at <http://www.cosca.net/>

On 27th February, along with 50+ others from around the world, I attended an online seminar run by the same organization. Discussion of how to grow and maintain clan membership was followed by *Introduction to Scottish Heraldry* from the Chairman of The Royal Society of Armigers. The contrast of ancient tradition and modern technology was stark! A recording of the seminar and presentation notes are also available on COSCA's website.

I can summarize these events for members who are not 'internet enabled' but encourage you all to ask a friend who is, or call in to your local Library for help to visit the websites for lots more information that is well worth exploring!

President's Patter



Once more I would like to express my sincere condolences to all who have lost a family member or close friend over the past six months and to our Clan Society on the loss of any of its members. I would particularly like to express my sorrow to

Christine Wilson and her family on the loss of Christine's son Hans in Samoa over the Christmas period. It was a horrific loss and my heart goes out to them all.



At the International Clan Gunn Gathering in Scotland we ended up with 12 members attending, not 16 as first thought. Nine of us met on the Orkney Islands with another three joining us at Thurso in Caithness. It was a lovely Gathering of which more later in the Newsletter. On the last day I was hospitalised with a suspected heart attack. Fortunately it wasn't, and I was discharged three days later, having had an infection in the membrane around the heart very quickly cleared up by the medical staff at the hospital and some antibiotics, lots of them. During this period I was unable to attend the formal Dinner to end the International Gathering at which I was supposed to read a speech. Fortunately Bruce Stevenson volunteered to read it for me and apparently did very well. Thank you very much Bruce for stepping up to the plate. The speech can be read elsewhere in this *Gazette*.

Rich Gunn, Commissioner for North America, was a constant companion during this time and escorted Sheila, my wife, to and from the Hospital each day until I was released into their care to spend a few days with Iain and Bunty at their house until I had recovered enough to continue my holiday with Sheila, Rich and Linda. Fortunately this didn't disrupt our holiday much at all. Thank you to all those who wished me well during this time. We toured Scotland for about a week before heading over to California to stay with Rich and Linda.

Just before the Pleasanton Games, we were joined by six other Kiwis, Joyce Shield and Bonny Flynn followed later by Bruce Stevenson, Joy Hunter, Margaret Stevenson and Marie Gunn. Rich and Linda managed to kindly put us all up during the rest of our stay in America so a great big THANK YOU to them. However, after seven and a half weeks away it was great to get back home again.



The Derbhfine or 'Family Convention' which I mentioned in the last issue of the *Gazette* has been put on hold until the Lyon court has investigated claims by those opposed to Commander Iain Gunn of Banniskirk being raised to the position of Chief.

I would like to thank Sue Gunn for all the effort she put in as Editor of the *Gunn Gazette* over the past couple of years, and Cathy Gunn for volunteering to take on the job of Editor from February 2013. Please support her and the Clan by sending articles in for the *Gazette*. I wish Sue and Cathy all the very best for the future.

Finally, I would like to wish all Clan Gunn members a Happy and prosperous New Year for 2013.

Yours Aye

Todd Wall

The Clan Overseas

Address to the 17th International Clan Gathering
by Todd Wall (delivered in his behalf by Bruce Stevenson)

Commander, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Kia Ora ... Good Evening. Here we are again at a Clan Gunn International Gathering, some of us for the first time.

We are all from different countries with different customs, religions, political persuasions and views, and in some cases, countries like my own, which are officially multi lingual, hence you may have heard different languages spoken at the Gathering, including some unofficial ones. So why are we here? It is because of a common bond, by blood, by marriage or by association to a Clan ... Clan Gunn to be precise. We share this in common with other overseas people belonging to other Clans as well. It is the Clan that draws us together, like a family that draws its members together for isn't 'Clan' another word for family? Probably most of us here tonight are not Scottish by birth but we are Scottish by descent and there is a strong feeling of pride in belonging to this Clan and to Scotland because of it, despite the love, or lack of it, for the country that we may have been born to.

We New Zealanders were to have among our number here tonight a man who brought our Clan and his Tribe together in a ceremony attended by our Commander, Iain Gunn and his wife Bunty, together with the Presidents and wives, piper and Society members from the USA, the UK and New Zealand. He is Pouroto Ngaropo, Chief of a Sub Tribe of the Ngati Awa. The ceremony we attended was to form a bond between our Clan and his Tribe inviting all members of Clan Gunn worldwide to share in the unique experience of belonging to a Maori Marae or Meeting Place and thanks to him, during this ceremony four of us were honoured as Kaumatua and given a Tewha-Tewha as a gift for the occasion. I think I am right when I explain that a Kaumatua is an honoured elder and the Tewha-Tewha is like a long handled wooden axe, similar to a Scottish Lochaber axe, with an adornment of feathers that Chiefs used, not only as a staff of office but as an instrument in battle to direct their warriors to a part of the battleground that needed their attention. The Marae is in Whakatane on the Bay of Plenty, situated in the North Island of New Zealand where you can stay, observing Maori protocol if you do so. Pouroto himself is descended from Clan Gunn and is a member of our Society. It was his intention to attend this Gathering but unfortunately and due to circumstances beyond his control he is unable to be with us here tonight. So here we have a family of diverse peoples, languages and cultures sharing a strong bond of friendship through the brotherhood and sisterhood of Clan Gunn and now, the Ngati Awa.

It is to Clan Gunn I now turn my attention. It is a Clan that is epitomized by its guts, determination and courage in the face of adversity as history has recorded in the numerous battles that they have fought, often against overwhelming odds, and the hardships they have faced. Now is such a time when we need those same qualities not only from the Scottish Society but all the overseas Societies in the battle to stop falling memberships and obtain new members. If it wasn't for the dedication of our Commander, Iain Gunn of Banniskirk, working tirelessly for the Clan for over 40 years, where would we be? Would we be here tonight celebrating our 17th International Gathering? Who knows? What we do know is that Iain, ably assisted by Bunty his wife, is the man who has pulled the strings together during all this time through his leadership to keep us together, as a family and as a Clan.

I would like now to propose a toast, so please charge your glasses ladies and gentlemen and be up-standing. To Clan Gunn Overseas and its Commander!

Thank you.

Commanders, Chiefs and Clan Societies

The petition to appoint a Chief of Clan Gunn has been a talking point for more than a year now. People have asked for more information on a subject they have been asked to vote on, but some know little about. This series of articles will hopefully shed some light on the matter. Anyone interested or better informed is invited to submit relevant articles for future editions of the *Gazette*.

Chieftainship Update (by Ted Gunn, Canada)

As reported earlier, a Petition dated December 2011 was submitted to The Lyon Court asking for a Family Convention to be held for the purpose of appointing Iain Gunn of Banniskirk, the current Commander, as Chief of Clan Gunn. At the July 2012 AGM of CGSUK in Halkirk, Caithness, the Chiefship issue was explained and discussed for a short time but nothing more was resolved – see the “**Letter from the President**” the summer 2012 edition of *The Gunn Salute* newsletter, Vol. 1, Issue 2. It is posted on the official website of the Society. www.clangunn.us

More recently, the Lord Lyon stated that the petition has been refused *in ad hoc statu*, meaning ‘for the time being’. The letter advising of this decision is copied below. His reason – ‘*there has been an unexpected and significant flow of genealogical information sent to the Court of the Lord Lyon from which it has become evident that there are in all probability clear and provable lines of descent senior to that of the present Commander*’

James M. A. Gunn, a representative of the CGSUK group that initiated the Petition, advised the signatories of the Lord Lyon’s decision. He says, ‘*this is no surprise since a Convention would only be called if the Chiefly line was lost and our Petition was made in anticipation of that event.*’ He also says, ‘*it may be possible to renew our Petition, perhaps amended, in due course. Meantime we must await his findings and continue to support our energetic and successful Commander.*’

Here is a copy of the letter announcing the Lyon Court’s decision. For more details, see <http://www.lyon-court.com> & <http://clangunn1.blogspot.co.uk/>

***Court of the Lord Lyon Interlocutor of the
Lord Lyon King of Arms in the Petition of
ROBERT E. GUNN, COLONEL JAMES M. A. GUNN
AND MEMBERS OF CLAN GUNN SOCIETIES
17 December 2011***

Note refuse

Following the posting on 10th January 2012 on this website of a Notice of Intent to hold a Family Convention on the lines requested in the above Petition there has been an unexpected and significant flow of genealogical information sent to the Court of the Lord Lyon from which it has become evident that there are in all probability clear and proveable lines of descent senior to that of the present Commander. That research continues, but in the meantime it seemed only right to refuse the Petition *in hoc statu*, that is to say, as it stands. That does not mean that the Petition cannot be presented again in future, perhaps in altered form. It certainly does not indicate any lack of confidence in the present energetic and successful Commander.

(Signed) David Sellar
Lyon

Clan Gunn Then and Now: A Complicated Story

The process of finding and appointing a Chief is complex, as the Lord Lyon who is bound by a few hundred years of tradition, and Alistair Gunn who seems to have endless enthusiasm for tracking down descendants of the various Gunn bloodlines, are only too aware. In an attempt to increase my own limited understanding, and for the benefit of *Gazette* readers who may feel equally poorly informed, I scouted around a few published sources to get a sense of the story. Here is what I found

The history of our Clan is complicated and not always well recorded, so it is no surprise that the search for a direct descendant of a chiefly line is ongoing. This extract from *History of the Clan Gunn* by Mark Rugg Gunn (2007) hints at the problem in a scan of five centuries from the 15-1900s.

It will be noted that descent is claimed from Gun, the grandson of Sweyn, so that it can fairly be said that the Gunns are a junior branch of the Swansons. To my mind, there is no doubt about this on the evidence of the Sagas; the Reverend Alexander Gunn was of the same opinion and was the first to expound it. No one bearing the proud name of Gunn need be the slightest bit ashamed of Sweyn; he was a most worthy progenitor of any race, and one of the most colourful, powerful and possibly nefarious of the Saga characters. It is still a matter of surprise to me that, with the evidence so clearly set forth for anyone who cares to study it, that the origins of the Clan Gunn should have remained in doubt for so long.

With the ending of the Sagas we move to the dark ages when even the main line of descent is in doubt. Perhaps the most important feature of this period is that the Gunns became Highlanders. Snaekoll and others were Norsemen speaking Norn and looking to Norway for authority. Their descendants reappear in history as Gaelic speakers, clad in the Highland garb, and probably indistinguishable from their Celtic neighbours.

Move to the time of the Crouner and we come under the influence of Sir Robert Gordon whose story I have followed. My own view is that his account of the Battle of St Tears, both as regards site and date, is substantially correct, though there are other variants, some of which I have cited. It was more than 300 years before these events were written down – excluding those recorded by Sir Robert Gordon – and it is only to be expected that time and tradition had altered and embellished the story.

The story of the Clan Gunn may be said to end with the evictions, which as far as Gunn lands were concerned, were completed in 1819. The time after this has to do with Gunns rather than Clan Gunn, and particularly the exploits of various members in different parts of the world. By the beginning of the 19th century, the Clan was a less definite entity than it had been a century earlier. A considerable amount of intermarriage had taken place and fates and fortunes cannot be separated from others living in the same district.

Add to this the different recorded versions of major events and the truth is at best obscure. The Earl of Caithness commented at the Stone Mountain Seminar referred to on page 10 that ‘*Sinclairs and Gunns don't have the romance of fighting at Culloden - we were about to send people down when we heard the news, turned around and went home.*’ Mark Rugg Gunn tells a different story, ‘*the Prince's army had joined to the Farquharsons a few of Clan Gunn, and on the Government side, the Earl of Loudon had among his 1,840 men, 120 Gunns under their Chief MacHamish. It is possible that Gunns with Jacobite sympathies joined the Prince's army fighting under the banner of Clan Chattan.*’ With sources as old and varied as they are, the truth of these matters may never be known.

Where it All Began

History is the forerunner of current events. This article sent in by Mairi Gunn, who along with her late father George was a founding member of CGS New Zealand, includes the text of a letter that led to formation of the Scottish Clan Gunn Society in 1821. Mairi writes:

Mark Rugg Gunn's book *History of the Clan Gunn* was kindly gifted to me by Rich Gunn immediate past president of the Clan Gunn Society of North America. It relates the terrible events of the Clearances and the subsequent intention of the survivors to bring the disinherited clansfolk together by forming a clan Gunn society. What an historic document this is, which communicates clearly and poignantly their desire to gather for mutual support. Their letter was addressed to the 'official chief of the Gunns' [p236].

*To George Gunn Esquire,
Factor for the Marquis of Stafford, Assynt
Thurso, 3rd September, 1821*

Mr. Gunn, Dear Sir,

Our intention of writing to you and giving you this trouble is that our name was near to be buried in oblivion, and that in former times there was gaining the world by strength of arm, but now people must fall upon better method for providing for future accidents and distress. Therefore our intention (as proposed by some of our best men) was to form ourselves into a society by which we should come to know the strength of our number. There are none to be admitted but those that can spell Gunn to their name. By several circumstances and owing to the way that Sutherland was flitted (cleared) we have most of this clan in this country, except a few in the army. We expect to muster about 200 men to form the society, who will, it is proposed, wear the clan tartan at the yearly meeting.

The time of commencing thought to be most convenient is at or about Martinmas, when we will look upon it as the greatest satisfaction that could be bestowed on us at the time, to have your presence as presiding at the meeting. It would also encourage the poor dispersed to gather from every corner, which they are very keen upon, so far as we have heard from them. We are to be looking for your opinion, and also if you are to attend, by course of post, when we shall know better what time we should meet together. We are at every exertion to gather names, but we do not intend to go further until we hear from you, so we must wait to have your letter to show to them to encourage them. No doubt we are strangers to you, but not altogether without relationship, which would be kept very affectionately by our forefathers. We remain, with best wishes to you.

*Your obedient servants
Donald Gunn (Braehour)
Alexander Gunn, Merchant, Thurso.*

Did the Earth Move for Scotland? The Clan Convention of 2009

The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

<http://www.clanchiefs.org/article/did-the-earth-move-for-scotland/>



The Aim of the Convention in fostering Scottish identity and creating links between domestic and overseas Scotland was effectively pursued. Specific objectives were achieved in that items for future action were identified (rather than resolved).

The Agenda Now

- Individually and collectively, Chiefs should be welcoming, inclusive and available.
- The Standing Council (SC) should be proactive in coordinating international links. Europe should not be forgotten.
- The SC should lead a campaign to win the hearts and minds of Scotland to appreciation of the worldwide Scottish community, and to see the clan system as a link to it.
- The SC should provide a mediation service for clan and inter-clan disputes.
- The SC should advocate better support for ‘Clan Tourism’, largely by liaising with *Visit Scotland*. There is an argument for investment in the promotion of clan tourism and for building up ‘packages’ for individual clans. Better tourist and travel information is need for this market.
- Then SC should advocate a stronger presence for Scottish history in the education system, and in particular, awareness of the clan system and of sources available for family history.
- The SC advocates engagement with the clan system by national young people’s organizations.

Management

Whatever tasks are undertaken by the SC, the Council must remain aware of the fragility of its position in connecting contemporary multi-ethnic Scotland with an overseas Scots community interested principally in kinship.

- The SC must seek to be more ‘inclusive’. This involves a deliberate change in attitude, to represent the clan system rather than the exclusive interests of chiefs. It also means reviewing membership of the Council and the process of participation in its affairs.

The SC needs to develop committee structures and policy that will enable it to:

- Represent Scotland and the clan system to Scotland worldwide;
- Represent worldwide Scotland to the institutions and people of contemporary Scotland;
- Develop and maintain an effective ‘hub’ website, and communicate with the Scottish community at home and abroad;
- Fulfill a role of advocacy to Government, the tourist industry, the education system, and others;
- Consider the administrative and budgetary demands of implementing a significant programme.

Reproduced with permission from The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs Three Feathers Newsletter

Advancing the Agenda—a Seminar at Stone Mountain

<http://www.clan chiefs.org/category/article/>

As a follow up to the 2009 Convention, and to continue discussions with constituents throughout the world, Clan Chiefs took part in a seminar at the Stone Mountain Highland Games on 19th October 2012. The agenda for the day included discussions on the following topics:

- Authenticity and inclusivity - how to sustain important clan traditions and encourage inclusivity?
- Clans and families without chiefs - how can COSCA and SCSC help?
- Connecting Chiefs and Clans - how the Standing Council can engage more with the diaspora?
- Economic contribution of clans to the economy of Scotland.

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, those unable to attend can access audio recordings of the seminar on the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations website at <http://www.cosca.net/>

Whether technophobe or technophile, there is a lot to be said for that technology. While compiling this newsletter, I have attended talks by people in the USA, watched online videos made in Scotland and learned about great new ways to connect to clan members and like minded others - all from my home office in Auckland. For those with Internet access, I recommend the Scottish social network KILTR www.kiltr.com/ and the video introduction to My Clan Online at <http://myclanonline.com/>

More than Kilts and Castles

The Scottish North American Leadership Institute is one excellent example of how Clans and Scottish interest societies have moved into the 21st century. As the Chicago Scots website explains, the annual Leadership Institute:

‘...is an opportunity for those of us in the Scottish-North American community to share views, values, experiences and best practices. The Conference aims to raise awareness of Scotland and Scottish culture; to develop a better understanding of the roles, objectives and operations of the various government, academic, non-profit and private sector organizations that operate in the Scottish-North American community and to identify opportunities to enhance communication and collaboration within the community.’

The aims of broadening participation and developing leadership capacity in the younger generation are tangible results of this kind initiative, which is generously supported by various individuals and organizations. The Chicago Scots also run a charity called *The Scottish Home*:

‘a small, private community that provides both assisted living and nursing care services in a peaceful, quiet setting nestled on five wooded acres. Ours is the world’s only Scottish Society that owns and operates a nursing home.’

Achievements like this are surely a tangible reflection of the intentions laid out nearly two centuries before in the letter to George Gunn, Factor for the Marquis of Stafford, signed by Donald and Alexander Gunn. They are also excellent examples of what people with a sense of commitment to community and common purpose can achieve. Clan Societies can be anything from social clubs to agents of social and economic development. They are certainly still proving their relevance in the current age. It is all our responsibility to make sure they continue to grow and flourish.

2014 and Beyond

The recent announcement that plans for a 2014 Gathering in Stirling of similar scale and style to the successful 2009 Edinburgh event came as a disappointment to many. Overseas Clan and Scottish Interest Societies had started putting plans in place to attend before the plug was pulled by local organizers in Scotland. Financial difficulties arising from the 2009 event, which left a large amount of debt outstanding when the final accounts were reconciled, may be a contributing factor. Hosting such a large scale event in the smaller city of Stirling was also going to be a challenge. The following article reproduced with permission from Three Feathers Newsletter of November 2012 explains the situation.

Homecoming Goes Grass Roots

The recent announcement that Homecoming 2014 will be a 'grassroots' year has been welcomed by the Standing Council. Logistical difficulties around Stirling contributed to the decision to put central support into a range of specific and local events. Details are still being finalized, but we do know that various Highland Games will benefit from the decision. We also know that the anniversary of Bannockburn will be a major focus. There will be reenactments of the battle on 28th and 30th June, played out by a cast of over 200. A new Visitor Centre on the site will be open to view. It is also possible the weekend could be extended to accommodate a clan village but this is yet to be confirmed.

There was acknowledgement that something very different from the Gathering of 2009 was needed and this local approach will provide more benefit than simply staging another Gathering. 'We are fully supportive of this news' said Malcolm MacGregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, 'this provides greater flexibility for Clans to tailor reunions to their own needs in their own regions. We would all have appreciated an earlier decision but believe that this is the best approach.' The Executive will decide whether to host a Clan Convention around the Bannockburn weekend soon.

Three Feathers Newsletter of November 2012

The Independence Question

The other major event in Scotland's calendar for 2014 is the independence referendum. There are, of course, plenty of discussions and as many different opinions on the matter. Some see the whole affair as a nostalgia trip back to Bannockburn and Culloden, while others put forward solid economic, political and cultural arguments on either side of the debate. The important thing at this stage is not whether opinions are for or against independence, but achieving broad participation in the debate. Voter turn out in Scotland is typically low, with many people believing their vote won't make a difference or their opinion be heard. On a matter of such national importance, it is encouraging to see many campaigns aiming to get people involved. Needless to say, there are also political party moves afoot to influence voter opinion, and these come with the usual bias. For those who like to see matters from a range of perspectives, it was discouraging to read that not a single newspaper in Scotland is promoting the case in favour. However, there are plenty blogs, web and social media sites pushing the debate from every conceivable angle.

A couple of online sources explain the issues and process around the referendum that will take place on a date to be confirmed around October 2014. A BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13326310> provides a brief and user friendly account of the background and who will be eligible to vote. Sadly but understandably, this does not include people born in Scotland but living overseas. However, it does include people born elsewhere, but currently resident in Scotland for three or more years. The question and answer section on the site shows what issues people consider important.

A Guardian article by Kevin McKenna, a staunch Scottish Labour man with no trace of nationalism is reported to have astounded Holyrood, social media – and even Alex Salmond!

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2013/jan/26/kevin-mckenna-scottish-independence>

Dunedin Report

September 2012

Our third Gathering for the year happened two weeks after we arrived home from nearly eight weeks away in Scotland and America. Fourteen members attended a Scottish/American Gunn theme lunch at Bonny Flynn's house. It was a great success where everyone got to hear about the various adventures of Bruce Stevenson, Joy Hunter, Margaret Stevenson, Bonny Flynn, Joyce Shield, Sheila Wall and Todd Wall. The pot luck meal and the company were great. There were lots of questions and answers and everybody thoroughly enjoyed the Gathering. Bonny, Joyce, Margaret Stevenson and Sheila are to be commended on turning out a seriously good lunch. Bruce provided a show of photo's for us all showing certain aspects of the Scottish/American holiday.

3rd & 4th November 2012

The AGM weekend on November 3rd and 4th in Dunedin went very well indeed. With 16 members taking part, we commenced at 11.30 a.m. with lunch at Bonny's house. After lunch we all took off in cars to visit Rockbourne House, which has lots of low priced costume jewelry and fashion accessories. Opportunities were taken by the women to purchase good Christmas and Birthday presents as well as some for themselves. They had a ball.

We moved on from there to Shirley and Don Parson's house at St Leonard's on the Port Chalmers road to visit their lovely garden and have afternoon tea. There was a small charge for this but everyone was happy to pay it. A couple of us got lost trying to find the place, which caused a considerable amount of mirth and useless advice but it was all good fun. After that visit we made our way back to Bonny's house again where we had Dinner provided by the Dunedin members, which was an organized pot luck one.

The AGM commenced on Sunday at 10.00 a.m. with members taking their places, some with cups of tea or coffee. The meeting went well and the results may be seen in the minutes, a copy of which are included in this Gazette.

After a good lunch provided by the St Barnabus catering team everybody wished each other well and with hugs and laughter we all went our various ways once more.

A big thank you to Sandra Fraser (Greymouth), Kathy and John Sauer and Marie Gunn (all from ChCh) for making the effort to come to Dunedin for the AGM. Well done folks.

9th November 2012

Our annual Christmas Dinner was held on Friday 9th November at JayTee's Golf Club on the Taieri plain. It was attended by 22 Clan Gunn members and five invited Clan Donald members.

The Dinner commenced with a Haggis Ceremony and Viggo Nielsen giving the Address to the Haggis. Todd welcomed the Clan Donald guests who were split among the Clan Gunn members and during the dinner crackers were pulled, presents were distributed and dubious dances were performed by some of the braver souls among us. It was a great evening and we have already booked the venue for next year.

Todd Wall

Auckland Report

Although Auckland members haven't established a schedule of regular meetings or annual events, there were a number of occasions to get together during 2012. Excellent food and hospitality at Christine Wilson's house are becoming a common theme. The following report from Valerie Gunn describes one unplanned gathering and a fascinating turn of events.

Dennis Gunn 1895 – 1920

I first heard of Dennis Gunn when I was working at the Mt Eden Post Office in 1954. The cleaner was working in the office when someone called me by my full name of Valerie Gunn. To my astonishment the cleaner rushed over to me and started raving to me about a member of my family who had killed her boss in the Ponsonby Post Office where she worked as a young woman.

I was astonished and asked my Father about it when I went home, and was told to say that he was from the Irish Gunn's and we were Scots. I was puzzled as to why the difference. The cleaner glared at me the next morning but calmed down when I told her what my Father had said.

Many years later, when my eldest son was doing his training for the NZ Police, after several years as an A.C.C and MOT traffic officer, he took me through the Police museum. The first thing I saw was the book on the ACC traffic dept, and then he showed me the armoury collection (a number of them loaned by a friend of his) when out of the corner of my eye, I saw a hangman's noose. I realized straight away why it was there, and sure enough it was the rope that had hung Dennis Gunn. But the thing that caught my eye was a photograph of Dennis. My son came up to me and asked what was the matter. I just pointed to the photo and said look. We both agreed there was a strong resemblance to a photo of my Dad that I had. The exhibit in the museum was because Dennis was the first person to be convicted by fingerprint identification.

A few weeks later I watched an Eptaph program on the story of Dennis. The program concluded that Dennis was not the murderer but an accomplice in the robbery of the Post Office, and had merely disposed of the gun. The guilty one was a brother-in-law who had a reputation for violence.

More surprises were to come, as last year I received an email from Nicole O'Connor Gunn, asking me where I fitted in to her family. It came to light that we shared a Great Grandfather. Nicole, her family and Father visited us in October 2012 and we all met in the Ponsonby Post Office. This was an amazing event, as it appears that Dennis and my Father Norman Raymond Gunn 1907 - 1972 were cousins, and I met many cousins that I didn't know I had.

The other event that was strange was that Dennis is buried in Waikumete Cemetery not Mount Eden Prison, which was the usual resting place of murderers.

Nicole and her Family visited the graveside along with others of our clan, unfortunately I was unable to be with them. So suddenly I have many new cousins, even one living just up the road from me. Before they left we had a farewell gathering at Christine Wilson's home in Royal Oak. Special thanks to Christine and Cathy Gunn who were also at the meeting as representatives of our clan.

Valerie Gunn
Panacea, Auckland

View from the Brig



My name is Brigid Jean Gunn McCree. I was born in New Zealand in 1997, with bright red hair. My mother's father, George Gunn, was born in Scotland in 1917 and came to New Zealand in 1939. I'm also descended from Scottish Settlers (Allans), who arrived in Nelson in 1842. That's only a fraction of my mother's side.

On my father's side, there are Sinclairs, and the mysterious McCrees (who I don't really have a great knowledge of). As you can probably tell, Scottish blood runs thick through my veins. At the age of five, I took to Highland Dancing. To this day I can still remember proudly dancing a jig for one of my kindergarten teachers while she sang 'The Wee Cooper of Fife' (the only lyrics I can remember are 'Nickety nackety noo, noo, noo').

My mum, Mairi Gunn, went to Scotland half way through last year, to bury my grandfather's ashes in his father's grave. She brought back some beautiful photographs and stories of the people and the place. She manages to keep some of those people in her life. Not only the people, but also a little of the place, like a reminder of who we are.

Although I've never been there, Scotland has always seemed like home. I miss a land I have never seen. In my mind's eye, there are grey clouds brimming with rain and purple heather swaying in the cold wind, perhaps a small pub, with the warm glow of a fire, loud music and

laughter emanating from the day's customers. I want so much to join in, and perhaps dance the same jig as I did for my kindergarten teacher (although maybe to a different tune).

My dance teacher, Mrs. Lees was skilled at tattooing the dance steps onto her pupils' brains. She was an incredible woman: seventy years old and could still do the splits. She could be compared to one of those ridiculously strict ballet teachers from the old days, only Scottish and therefore a heck of a lot more tough on her students. Still, she knew how to make us stand up straight, stamp our little jig shoes loudly and proudly in perfect time to the music. 'Pull those little rumps in, or I'll chop them off and have them for dinner!' That seemed to be her most favoured saying to scare us into standing straight.

She was a strong Scottish woman, who held her head high, and was respected by anyone and everyone who met her. My time with her taught me a lot about home, and the people there. She taught me to be strong, respectful and to have good posture: three incredibly under-valued traits in our modern world. Above all she taught me about our culture, as Scots.

My Scottish heritage is something I am very proud of. When people get confused over the spelling of my name, I delight in telling that it's a Scottish name. Or when people remark on my hair colour, or my affinity for tartan (regardless of whose clan it belongs to). Scotland is a part of me. No matter where I am, or who I'm with. I love my highland roots and nothing can take them away from me.



My neighbour banged on my door at 2.30 this morning. Can you believe that? Knocking on the door at that hour of the morning. Luckily I was still up practicing my bagpipes!

Eight Kiwis at Pleasanton Games

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We all did our best to help Richie and Linda put their tent in order but I suspect we may have been more of a hindrance than help as we were all craning our necks to see what was going on all around us. The Gunn site was as ready as it could be prior to the day so with tummy's rumbling we headed for somewhere to eat before we made our way to the Hotel where we were staying.

After arriving at the Hotel and getting everyone registered we made for our rooms and a bit of socializing either over a cup of tea or a wee dram or two, or three for Todd and Bruce, before turning in for the night.

The first day of the games turned out warm and sunny progressing to very hot and sunny. With Bruce as our designated driver and tums full once again we headed to the games. Nothing could have prepared us for the sight we were greeted with, walking into the venue with mouths open and lots of "wows" we made our way through a cacophony of sound that surrounded us, bag pipes being tuned, practicing marching bands, Scottish music played on fiddles, banjos, piano accordions you name it, it was all there, hundreds of people walking about in various Scottish attire from old to modern day dress, and the aroma of different foods being cooked, each one mingling with its neighbour. Even though we had only just finished our breakfast ones tum reached out to sample some of the delights on offer.

Todd our illustrious President was one of three VIPs for the Games. The games have been held for 147 years and in all that time Todd was the first President ever to be invited to be a VIP, only Chiefs of a Clan have had that privilege. Todd joined with the other two VIPs who were Christopher Kennedy, Chief of Clan Kennedy (Scottish) North America and the Chief of Clan Cian (Irish) North America.

The clock struck 12, and the clans began to march into the stadium for the march past and salute.

Each Clan was called in and announced. When it was Clan Gunn's turn the seven Kiwis joined with their American Clan family and we began the march. What an emotional experience, there we were the seven of us representing New Zealand. Bruce carried our flag and the rest of us were waving our individual silver fern flags. The Kiwis were personally welcomed and we cheered our wee hearts out with tears in our eyes as we represented New Zealand and there taking the salute with the two Chiefs was our very own President who was the eighth Kiwi. I must say that as his wife I felt very proud of him, he represented each of us there and each of you in NZ with dignity and honour. With over 150 thousand people attending the games it was awesome to be a part of it all.

In between Todd's official duties and swanning around in a vintage Rolls Royce, Clydesdale horse and dray and the occasional golf buggy, we did manage to see quite a lot of the activities and peruse the wares of the various stalls. We particularly enjoyed the enactment of parts of Scottish history. The costumes were very authentic and beautifully made.

We all met up with Brian and Nancy Nagle, they own a foundry where they make some beautiful pieces of work. They kindly donated three pieces of jewelry for us to raise funds for the NZ branch of Clan Gunn. So far we have raised \$450.00. We all met Brian and Nancy when they came over to NZ in 2011 to be part of the ceremony with the Ngati Awa tribe in Whakatane.

As we all walked through the various activities people would stop us and say 'Hi, welcome and enjoy your stay. I feel I can honestly say that Clan Gunn NZ has been very much put on the map.

The day finally drew to an end and with aching feet and in need of a cool shower we made our way to the stands to find our seats to watch the march of the massed pipe bands, and for Taps (the lowering of the flags).

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Eight Kiwis at Pleasanton Games

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The American Marine band had also taken part in the activities during the day. The pipe bands stopped playing and there was a hush over the stadium and grounds and then you heard the Marine band playing in the distance, they slowly emerged from a tunnel on the track, it made the hairs stand up on the back of your neck, three of the Marines, flag bearer and escort, broke away and marched to the podium to lower the flag.

Everyone was still, that's when I saw Todd standing with the Marine Officer ready to take the salute. What? Why? How? was going through my mind, It transpired that the Marine Officer, wearing a Gurkha Kukri (close quarter fighting weapon) upon finding out that Todd had served for five years with the British Gurkha's in Malaya and had his Army Gurkha badge on his hat invited him to take the salute with him. The haunting tune of Taps always gets to me but more so seeing Todd standing there with Marine Major Brooks Wilson taking the salute as the American Flag was lowered; my tears flowed like a river. A perfect ending to an awesome day and that was only day ONE.

Sheila Wall

A Caithness Journey

In July of last year I had the privilege and pleasure of joining members of Clan Gunn from around the world at the International Gathering in Caithness. Although I had visited Caithness on a number of previous occasions this was my first experience of an International Gathering. It was extremely well organized and run thanks to the efforts of John and Sarah Gunn.

The places we visited; the meals we shared; the warmth and friendliness of the people; the various talks which were given were all so memorable! By the end of the week my head and my heart were overflowing with memories of a very special time. However for me two things stand out. When I think of the Ceilidhs it brings a smile to my face. The liveliness of the music and the laughter as we `let our hair down` was a joy to see and experience. For a few hours we let go of our inhibitions and found ourselves whirling around, tripping the light fantastic and generally having a wonderful time. The fact that we didn't always know which way to go just added to the general hilarity. I must also mention (and compliment) the young people who entertained us – they were indeed talented.

The other highlight was the journey along Kildonan Strath. An informative talk on the history of the Strath and the Clearances had been given to us the previous day, which was extremely helpful. We were also fortunate to have a guide with us on the coach as we travelled through the Strath. We stopped several times for further explanations. I had for some years been working on the history of my husband's family including that of his Grandmother Elizabeth Murray. I had known for some time that the Mur-rays had lived in Kildonan and had evidence of their move to Ramscaigs in 1813 or 1814 during the Clearances. However I had been unable to locate the exact place where they lived. Imagine my delight when our guide was able to point me to the very area where the Murrays had lived and I now have a beautiful photograph of their land – two ruined cottages and several acres of bright green amongst the browns of the surrounding hills. What precious memories.

Marie Gunn

Write it on your heart

(Submitted after the deadline for the August 2012 Gazette)

by

Christine Bowker Wilson

Write it on your Heart that the ones you Love are Life's most precious Gifts!

The stories of our lives often include journeys... many kinds of journeys – maybe physical journeys by foot or in road vehicles or on boats across the sea. Or maybe we speed through and above the clouds in those giant metal birds. But there are also journeys of another kind – spiritual journeys – journeys of the Heart. Our journey in July 2012 to Scotland included all of these. We, the four of us, travelled far myself together with our friend Mairi, my son Antony and my grandson Jamahn.

On Saturday 21st July after a long drive north and a ferry crossing to Orkney we gathered with fellow Clan Gunn members at the Ayre Hotel in Kirkwall to begin that nine day adventure. And what an adventure it was! Thank you again to all of you who were involved in the planning and organization to ensure an interesting time was had by all. Meeting Clan members from various spots around our World was a great opportunity to learn more about each other. I am fascinated by people from all walks of life.

In 2009 when the Kawe Mate was performed in Edinburgh for my husband, John Mahiti Wilson, who passed in September 2008, we were not able to travel north to Caithness. So this was our first chance to visit the Heritage Centre where his photo is displayed together with the canoe paddle that embodies its own message. For us this was a significant occasion. We feel it important to express gratitude and to honour our Creator, the Land, the Ancestors and all People. So we needed to do all of these.

Mairi began to sing as I pulled my feather Korowai(cloak) around me, a symbol of the embrace and protection of our Ancestors. As we made our way through the gate across the graveyard towards the door, I chanted an ancient Karanga... Hoki wairua mai. E nga tipuna o te Po – a call across the passages of time, women to women, asking the Ancestors to come forward through the Veil.

We carried a box, skillfully fashioned from the strong woods of the forest, containing the sacred Pounamu, a form of Nephrite Jade found in Aotearoa:New Zealand, which is recognized around the World as a peace and healing stone. This was for Iain and Bunty in recognition of their long service and efforts to ensure that the Clan had a focal point of their heritage in Caithness. The top of the lid of the box had been artistically carved into a weaving pattern. This, together with the pieces of Pounamu of varied shapes, sizes and shades inside the box remind us of profound principles.

The stones are both receptacles and guardians of ancient Wisdom. They symbolically represent all the diverse kinds of people who make up the Clan all carrying their own ancient wisdom within. Our Earth in her mysterious, magical and mischievous ways is weaving us together. What marvelous opportunities arise from this! I look forward in anticipation to our ongoing responses.

He aha te mea nui o te Ao? He Tangata! He Tangata! He Tangata!

What is the most important thing in the World? Tis People! Tis People! Tis People!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Arohanui..Shalom

Christine Bowker Wilson

MINUTES OF THE 24TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF CLAN GUNN SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
Held at 24 Beresford Street, Kaikorai, Dunedin
On Sunday 28th October 2012.

The President Todd Wall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT. Todd and Sheila Wall, John and Kathy Sauer, Joyce Shield, Bonnie Flynn, Sandra Fraser, Wilson Daniel, Graeme Patterson, Margaret Campbell, Bill and Joan Cuthbertson, Jessie Nelson, Viggo Nielsen, Joy Hunter, Bruce Stevenson, Marie Gunn.

APOLOGIES

Ian and Lexie Gunn, Stuart and Liz Gunn, Dianne and Len Giles, Barrie and Susan Greenwood, Jan and Tony Rawstron, Jacob Gunn, Richard Rawstron, Chris and Susan Gunn. Bryan Fitzgerald, Graeme Frazer, Isabel and Peter Patterson, Susan Patterson, Marilyn Simonsen, Jan Wyllie, Beatrice Kenrick, Bill Jamison, Julie Ferguson, Margaret Stevenson, Christine Wilson, Gerald and Valerie Wilson.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting were accepted as a true and correct record with one alteration, that the name of Murray Gunn be added to those present.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Todd Wall read his Report highlighting the year's events and also welcoming new members. Todd reported on the visit in November of the previous year by Clan Gunn members from New Zealand, England, Scotland and America to Whakatane to take part in a special ceremony whereby Clan Gunn members worldwide were welcomed to the Iramoko Marae by the Ngati Awa tribe. This was a memorable occasion for all who were able to attend. Todd also informed members of the visit by several Clan Members from New Zealand to the Clan Gunn Gathering in Caithness Scotland in July and also the visit to California to attend the Pleasanton Games in September. We were all left with some wonderful memories of our visits to the UK and America and grateful to all who had hosted and welcomed us.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Copies of the signed and reviewed Treasurer's Report, Income and Expenditure Statement and the Balance Sheet were distributed to members. Once again members expressed their gratitude to our Treasurer Ian Gunn for the clear presentation of the financial information. It was moved, seconded and agreed that the Secretary write to the Treasurer expressing this gratitude.

After some discussion with regard to our annual donation to the Clan Gunn Heritage Centre at Latheron it was moved, seconded and agreed that the sum of 75 pounds sterling should be paid to the Heritage Centre.

It was then moved, seconded and agreed that the subscription should remain the same as last year and the President and Secretary be appointed as reviewers for the annual accounts.

After some discussion it was moved, seconded and agreed that the Clan should purchase a copy of 'The Gunns of Whataroa' written by Richard Rawstron for the Clan Library.

Marie Gunn explained the formation of the Friends of Kildonan Kirk by Mrs Bunty Gunn of Lybster, Caithness. Members' subscriptions of 5 pounds will go towards the general upkeep of Kildonan Kirk in Kildonan Strath, this being the spiritual home of Gunns worldwide. It was moved, seconded and agreed that the sum of 5 pounds be sent to Mrs Bunty Gunn as our Clan's subscription. Individual members were also encouraged to join.

GENERAL BUSINESS

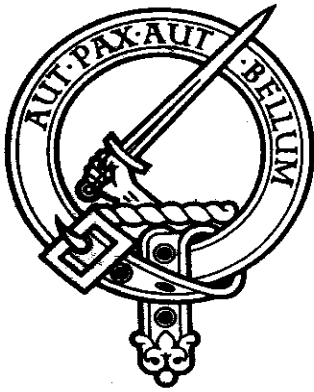
Venue for the 2013 Annual General Meeting. It was agreed that this should be held on Sunday 3rd November 2013 at 24 Beresford Street, Kaikorai, Dunedin.

Newsletter. A letter was read from Susan Gunn the Editor of our Newsletter expressing her wish to step down from this role as from 2013. The President expressed the appreciation of all members in describing the work which had been done by Susan over several years. The Secretary was asked to write in this vein to Susan. The need for a new Editor will be communicated to members.

Chiefship. The issue of Chiefship in general and the Family Convention in particular were discussed and explained both by the President and Secretary. Various e mails were read to members. After considerable discussion it was moved, seconded and agreed that the Secretary send the following motion to the Lord Lyon:

'At the duly constituted Annual General Meeting of Clan Gunn Society of New Zealand meeting in Dunedin on Sunday 28th October 2012, it was unanimously agreed that we emphatically support the Derbhfine or Family Convention presented to the Lord Lyon seeking the right to install Commander Iain Gunn of Banniskirk as Chief of Clan Gunn worldwide. Our Commander has demonstrated exemplary leadership over a period of many years. He has our full support, our hearty recommendation and our warm regards.'

The meeting closed at 11.15 am.



CLAN GUNN SOCIETY of NEW ZEALAND

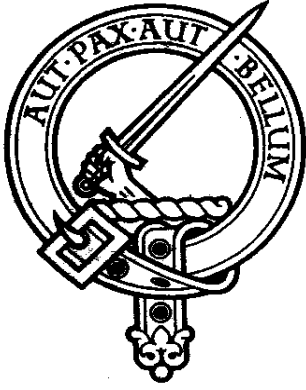
PO Box 17-368,
Greenlane,
AUCKLAND 1546

Ph: (09) 579 2327
Fax: (09) 579 2324

TREASURER'S REPORT to AGM 2012

- (a) The income stream from subscriptions is down some 16% on last year due to a number of non-renewals of membership following last year's increase in new members.
- (b) Operating costs are down some 18% on the past year.
- (c) Last year's donation to the Clan Gunn Heritage Centre covered two years due to a missed payment for 2009/2010. This year's amount of \$97.77 covers £50 for the 2011/2012 year.
- (d) The Hospitality item for 2010/2011 covered the USA president's visit, while the overseas Visitors Gathering for 2011/2012 covered the BBQ Gathering in Auckland for overseas guests prior to travel to Whakatane for the Marae ceremonies.
- (e) The Clan presented a juniper tree and a special plaque during the Marae ceremonies in Whakatane.
- (f) The Waipu Games advertisements covered two years due to an oversight resulting in non-payment for the 2011 New Year 's Day programme.

Ian W Gunn, Treasurer
8 October 2012



CLAN GUNN SOCIETY of NEW ZEALAND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2012
CASH MOVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR

	Cheque A/C	Savings A/C	Total
Balance 1/04/11	\$1137.32	\$1566.91	\$2704.23
Plus Receipts	3327.75	-----	3327.75
Plus Interest	12.79	15.79	28.58
	- 4477.86	- 1582.70	- 6060.56
Less Payments	3165.30	-----	3165.30
Less Bank Fees	32.50	-----	32.50
	- 3197.80		- 3197.80
Balance at 31/03/12	\$1280.06	\$1582.70	\$2862.76

CURRENT ASSETS	This Year	Last Year
<u>National Bank</u>		
³⁵ / ₁₇ Cheque Account	1280.06	1137.32
³⁵ / ₁₇ Savings Plan	1582.70	1566.91
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2862.76	\$2704.23
<u>Represented By</u>		
³⁵ / ₁₇ Accumulated Funds (2010/2011 financial year)	2704.23	3349.81
³⁵ / ₁₇ Surplus (2011/2012 financial year)	158.53	-645.58
	\$2862.76	\$2704.23

Compiled By:

 Ian W. Gunn, Treasurer

8 October 2012

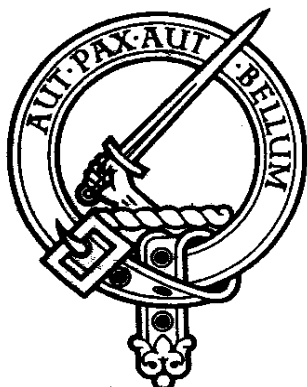
Reviewed By:

 Todd Wall, President

October 2012

 Marie Gunn, Secretary

October 2012



CLAN GUNN SOCIETY of NEW ZEALAND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2012

INCOME	This Year	Last Year
Subscriptions	1572.50	1870.01
Donations	200.00	26.00
Bank Interest (Cheque A/C)	12.79	15.48
Bank Interest (Savings A/C)	15.79	15.59
Income – AGM Camp	1555.25	----
TOTAL INCOME	\$3356.33	\$1927.08
EXPENDITURE	This Year	Last Year
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		
Postage	287.69	290.78
Stationery	----	118.47
Photocopying	429.70	481.25
Bank Charges (Cheque A/C)	32.50	18.00
	- 749.89	- 908.50
<u>General Expenses</u>		
Clan Gunn Heritage Trust (Donation-£50)	97.77	214.55
Advertising	----	572.20
Clan AGM Camp (catering)	950.00	----
Clan AGM venue fees	570.00	----
Clan AGM fees refund Burns	80.00	----
Society donation Canterbury	50.00	----
Scottish Heritage Floral	----	10.00
Tributes	----	427.10
Web-site fees	----	78.34
Hospitality/Overseas Visitors Gathering	359.24	263.97
Life Membership Presentation	64.00	98.00
Marae Plaque Presentation	140.00	----
Marae Juniper Tree	33.40	----
Waipu Games Advertisements	103.50	----
	- 2447.91	- 1664.16
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$3197.80	\$2572.66
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	\$158.53	-\$645.58

Compiled By:

Ian W. Gunn, Treasurer

8 October 2012

Obituaries

Samoa death under investigation

Members may have heard of the terrible tragedy that struck Auckland CGS coordinator Christine Wilson on a family trip to Samoa at Christmas. Christine's 38 year old son Hans Christopher Dalton died in police custody there on Boxing Day. An initial report that Hans had committed suicide was not accepted by the family. A 21 year old man, also in custody at the time, has since been charged with Hans' murder.



Hans Dalton in a favourite place - the garden

Samoa police have not been communicating with Christine, so it is hard for her to stay informed of developments. She was told by a Samoan journalist that the officers on duty at the time Hans died were to be suspended and charged with failure in their duty of care. Official confirmation has yet to be received.

What has become absolutely clear in the wake of this tragedy is that mental health care facilities in Samoa are totally inadequate. Hans was taken to hospital in a distressed state after failing to maintain his usual medication during the cyclone, and given a form of treatment that only made matters worse. The hospital has no safe place for agitated patients, so it is normal procedure to send them to prison, where staff are unqualified to deal with mental health issues. Whatever happened in the prison that night, there can be no doubt that Hans died a tragic and violent death as visible injuries and an autopsy confirmed. The NZ Coroner is investigating.

Viggo Neilsen



Viggo with Mayor of Dunedin Peter Chin

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Viggo was killed in a collision with a timber truck on State Highway 1 south of Dunedin on Monday 25th January 2013. Viggo was a loyal and active member of the Dunedin Clan Gunn branch for many years. He was elected to the position of Clan Bard because of his love of poetry and Robbie Burns. He always took the role of addressing the Haggis very seriously and only missed attending a Clan function once, due to hospitalization.

Our thoughts are with his daughter and grandson on this tragic occasion. He will be sorely missed by his Clan and many clubs he was involved with in Dunedin.

Rest in Peace Viggo

Photo Gallery



Serious business - Dunedin



AGM accessories - Dunedin



Carrying the Flag, Pleasanton, CA



VIP, Pleasanton, CA



The Gunn singers: Clyth Hall Ceilidh



Re-enactment, Pleasanton, CA