

# grip fast

THE NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND. (CLANZ)



## DOWN UNDER

Vol. 2, No 13, April, May, June 2005.

### Clan Leslie Society International **International Gathering** **Perth Scotland**

**August 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2005**

#### **Registration. (Please use extra sheets if needed)**

Please complete and send this form with payment to  
Brian Lesslie  
4 Albany Terrace  
Perth PH1 2BD  
Scotland.

Please print your name(s) as it (they) should appear  
on your name tag(s).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note this cost covers the three days.*

No.of adults in party \_\_\_\_\_ x £ 90 = £ \_\_\_\_\_

No.of children under 14yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ x £ 50 = £ \_\_\_\_\_

Total = £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** Closing date for purchase of tickets will  
be 4<sup>th</sup> June 2005 unless otherwise arranged.

**No refunds possible after this date.**

#### **Payment options,**

Cheques in £GB.      Paypal to  
[bless993@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bless993@blueyonder.co.uk) Cash if sent securely.

#### **We are not responsible for cash lost in post**

Setting up a Paypal account is very simple and free. It is the cheapest way to move money.  
Point your browser at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and follow the on screen instructions.

If using Paypal, registration will be accepted by e-mail.

[Please pay the transfer fee at your end as it gives us the full amount.](#)

#### **Menus.**

Please indicate your choices.

##### Menu A

1 x \_\_\_\_\_

2 x \_\_\_\_\_

3 x \_\_\_\_\_

4 x \_\_\_\_\_

5 x \_\_\_\_\_

6 x \_\_\_\_\_

##### Menu B

1 x \_\_\_\_\_

2 x \_\_\_\_\_

3 x \_\_\_\_\_

4 x \_\_\_\_\_

5 x \_\_\_\_\_

6 x \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any other dietary meals required  
(vegetarian. etc). See menu's on page 5.

*Direct any questions to Brian Lesslie, Scotland.*



This Roll of Honour is a bit different to previous inclusions. I was contacted by a Jennie Leslie of the University of Sydney about her great uncle Capt Walter Aland Leslie, who I mentioned in the Clan Leslie Society Website and Jennie has been kind enough to send me information on Capt Walter Aland Leslie, who was one of three Leslie brothers killed in WW1. Walter Aland Leslie, Arthur Leslie and Ronald Douglas Leslie, as well as two cousins James Leslie Merson and David Merson.

Also killed in WW1 was the uncle of the brothers, who was killed at Pozieres on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1916 aged 43 and in his first battle.

Another brother, Norman Leslie was one of two Rhodes Scholars for Queensland in 1905 and the youngest brother, William Stanley Leslie was a long-time Headmaster of Barker College Sydney.

**WALTER ALAND LESLIE** Capt. 7th Battery, 3rd F.A.B.



Capt Walter Aland Leslie (left) with pet dingo.

Born Hamilton, Brisbane 19 August 1887. Educated Brisbane Grammar School. 4 and a half years Australian Field Artillery, commissioned rank. Certificates in Military Engineering. Single. No issue. An accountant and Company Secretary in civilian life.

16 January 1911 commissioned 2nd Lieutenant; 20 August 1914 promoted Lieutenant; 17 September 1914 promoted Captain, 7th Battery, 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, AFA.

Enlisted at the outbreak of war and embarked for overseas service with the First Expeditionary Force on 24 September 1914 per the 'Rangatira'. His brother, Arthur Leslie, was also on board. Egypt, their destination.

Commanded no.2 gun in 7th Battery. Mentioned in divisional orders for conspicuous gallantry for actions on 5th and 6th May when gun was emplaced on Bolton's Ridge and was involved in an artillery duel with a Turkish battery concealed on the slopes beyond the Asmak Dere.

A note appended to the text said that he "would have been recommended for DSO had he lived". Three of his men were recommended for the DCM. Walter took the full blast of the salvo that hit their gun [Honours and Awards (Recommendations: First World War: AWM]. The Recommendation reads, in part, as follows:

"This officer, with Lieut. P.J. Ross, 7th Bty., was in charge of two guns, which it had been necessary to place practically in the fire trenches on the right of our line. On the 5th May the enemy opened a violent cannonade on these guns and this portion of our trenches at very close range, the action lasting from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m., when the enemy was silenced. On the following morning the enemy opened an equally heavy fire. Captain Leslie by his gallant courageous conduct and example encouraged his men to continue to a successful termination the action, the enemy again being forced to cease fire. Just before the action ceased Captain Leslie was severely wounded and died while being removed to the hospital ship."

The action is mentioned in Bean's Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18, 'The Story of Anzac', p.77:

"Captain Leslie and Lieutenant Ross, with two guns' crews of the 7th Battery, though completely exposed in their position in the firing line, gallantly turned their pieces against the hidden position, east of Gaba Tepe, from which the bombardment seemed to be coming, and continued to fire until it ceased; but in the meantime a shell, bursting in the headquarters dugout, had wounded both Rosenthal and Burgess.

Next morning the same guns opened again, shelling Phillips's and Hughes's batteries as well as the whole right of Anzac. The camp of the 3rd Field Ambulance was swept with shrapnel, patients being killed and Colonel Marshall, the second officer on Bridges' medical staff, wounded. In the large southern depot of food-supplies newly-formed near Brighton Beach the shells played havoc, twenty mules being killed and several men hit. The Bolton's Ridge guns again answered this battery, but Leslie and Ross were unable to locate it definitely, and could only search with their shells the concealed slopes beyond the Asmak Dere, where they believed it to be. Leslie was mortally wounded and died during the morning."

Extract from 'The Dardanelles' Story of the Attack told by Gunner Sidney Prior, p.11:

"Captain Leslie, of the 7th battery was killed with a whole shell and died game and brave. I was his trumpeter at my first camp at Tambourine. He was a good fellow and well liked by all the boys."

Extract from a Gunner's letter home:

"The poor old skipper was game to the last and refused to squeak although his wounds must have given him hell. His wrist was almost blown away & he had three or four wounds in the back besides the one in his leg. I was very sorry to hear of his death as I was a great favourite of his & in return I liked him the best of any of our officers. He would often have a yarn with me on the desert or on the march & once on the Cardiganshire we talked together all one afternoon. The battery is a good deal poorer by his loss."

Extract from a Gunner's letter to his mother:

"Yes, dear mother, I can tell you all about poor old Captain Leslie's death. You see we were in action on the top of a ridge engaging a battery of four Turkish guns, and I might say they (shells) came over very thick and often. The shells were falling all round our gun and Capt. Leslie's observing station just outside our gun pit. One or two shells went right through our pit putting our phone out of action. Then a high explosive fell right into the hole containing Capt Leslie and a lookout man a bombardier. The bombardier escaped with only a light peppering of small splinters of the shell, but the poor skipper received the full force of the explosion, shattering his thigh & leg and tearing away a huge piece of flesh from his forearm. Oh dear he was game to the last. He was hit about 9.30 a.m. on the 6th of May and died and was buried at sea from the hospital ship. The last I saw of him was being carried down to the beach after receiving first aid by our Dr. Alex Marks and the Capt was saying "I hope the boys won't think I'm a coward." Why anyone who knew him could not say or think anything like that. You see he was in very great pain. I must say (for I was with him from the start) he was as brave and game a man as ever one may wish to meet. He was so keen & brave that I think at times he was just a little too reckless in exposing himself. I saw him have more than one narrow escape. You see the previous day we had fought single handed a four gun battery & gave as good as we got but my word it was hot work. This was what Capt Leslie, myself & detachment, were mentioned in despatches for. We were all very sorry to lose such a keen officer & comrade as the Capt proved to be, and he will not easily be replaced. We are erecting a large wooden cross in the graveyard behind the ridge where he was killed in memory of Capt Leslie, close by a few more of our old battery."

Extract: From Arthur Leslie to his mother Lily Aland:

"Needless to say I was frightfully cut up on hearing about him, and my thoughts were also with both you & Father in your bereavement, but Mother dear he died doing his duty as an officer, gentleman & soldier of his King & the Empire & although it is hard for the ones who suffer the loss of their children there is that consolation at the very least."

Referring to Turkish infantry and the emplacement of the Australian guns in the front line, Major Hughes of 7th Battery wrote to Ronald Douglas Leslie: "They have made several attempts to smash us & one night they got within 10 yards of the guns."

**WAR GRAVES COMMISSION:** Name: LESLIE, WALTER ALAND Initials: W A Nationality: Australian Rank: Captain Regiment: Australian Field Artillery Unit Text: 7th Bty. 3rd A.F.A. Bde. Date of Death: 06/05/1915 Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead Grave/Memorial Reference: I. I. 1. Cemetery: SHELL GREEN CEMETERY

Walter's grave, however, is a memorial grave erected by the men of his battery. His remains were buried at sea from the hospital ship "Gloucester Castle" somewhere between the Dardanelles and Egypt. He was 27 at the time of his death.

ARTHUR LESLIE No. 2320 T/Sgt. 103rd Howitzer Batt 3rd FAB



Born Hamilton, Brisbane on 3 January 1881. An old boy of the Brisbane Grammar School and member of the school cadets. Employed as station book keeper in Western Queensland for a number of years after leaving school. Enlisted for service in the Boer War but pulled from the ranks by his father on account of his youth. His father's action was said to have caused an estrangement. Enlisted 10 September 1914 at the age of 33. Posted as a gunner with the 3rd FAB Ammunition Column. Later served with the 7th Battery, 3rd FAB, of which his brother Walter commanded a gun until his death in May 1915. Served on the strength of the 4th Battery off Gallipoli Peninsula, though at the time of his death in France was on the strength of the 103rd Howitzer Battery (21st Howitzer Brigade).

Enlisted at the outbreak of war and left Australia for overseas service with the First Expeditionary Force. Embarked for overseas service on 24 September 1914 on board the 'Rangatira'. Sailed for Gallipoli on HMT 'Themistocles' where he remained aboard ship with the horses. He wrote a letter to his mother recounting his impressions and mourning his brother Walter's loss in action on 6 May 1915. Transferred to 2nd Division Artillery on 22 January 1916. Taken on strength of 21st Howitzer Brigade 6 March 1916 and proceeded to join the BEF at Alexandria. Disembarked Marseilles 1 April 1916. Taken on strength of 3rd FAB on 15 May 1916. Was in charge of No. 2 gun, 103rd Howitzer Battery when killed in action. With the exception of two short furloughs in England, he served continuously with his unit until his death on Monday 30 September 1918 during the battle for the Hindenburg Line. He was due to return to Australia on furlough with the Anzacs at the time of his death though it is said that he rejected his initial opportunity to do so. Recorded his experiences in a 1916 and 1917 diary where there are some lively observations dotted amidst the obvious tedium of routine chores and weather checks. He was 33 years and 9 months' old at time of his enlistment on 10 September 1914 and 38 at the time of his death on 30 September 1918. He was then a T/Sergeant.

Extract from letter to Arthur's mother, Martha Elizabeth Leslie, by Corporal Harry Antcliff, 103rd Howitzer Battery (Arthur's friend):

"We had been advancing continuously, pushing back the enemy, from the morning of the 8th Aug when the advance first started. The 30th Sept was the date on which the Australians and the Americans broke through the Hindenburg Line. We were not far from a village called Epehy. The battery commenced firing soon after daylight and almost immediately the enemy retaliated. Arthur was in charge of No. 2 gun and a few minutes after they commenced a shell burst just in rear of the gun killing one chap and wounding Arthur and two other fellows. They were very quickly carried into a dugout and everything possible was done but unfortunately without avail. Arthur was quite conscious but he only lived about five or ten minutes after it happened. I asked the officers if it was possible to get the chaplain of the 6th Brigade Major Edwards who is a member of the Charleville Bush Brotherhood whom Arthur knew personally, but unfortunately it was not possible to get him. Mr Farrow an officer of the 7th battery read the service. Arthur is buried in a small military cemetery near the village of St Emelie near a town called Roisel."

Buried: Ste. Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon, France, II.D.6

#### RONALD DOUGLAS LESLIE, Lieutenant 26th Battalion AIF



Ronald Douglas Leslie Lt

Born 13 January 1891, Brisbane. Insurance clerk. Educated Corinda State School, Brisbane, Qld. A keen sport, fond of rowing and tennis. Married Barbara Clare Brand shortly before embarkation. No issue.

Enlisted 3 July 1915. Commission gazetted 11/11/1915 - 2nd Lieutenant. Embarked for O'seas Service at Brisbane per H.M.A.T.

"Itonus" 30/12/1915. Taken on Strength 7th Reinforcements 26th Bn. 14/3/1916 at Ismailia. Proceeded to join B.E.F. Alexandria 15/3/1916. Disembarked Marseilles 21/3/1916. Temporarily attached to 7th Bde H'qrs, Rue Marle 8/4/1916. Seconded for duty with Trench Mortar bty., France 19/4/1916. To be Lieutenant, France 12/8/1916. Rejoined 26th Battalion from 2nd Div. T.M. Battery, France 18/10/1916. Wounded in Action 5/11/1916 Flers. Died of Wounds 5/11/1916.

Gunshot wound to abdomen while rescuing wounded man from No Man's Land. Cousin, David Merson, tended his wounds and helped to carry him back to an aid post: "The trench was narrow and in a terrible state of mud and it was a very hard matter getting him out. On account of the mud we had to leave the trench and carry him across the open to the dressing station, which was about a mile away. From the time Douglas was hit till we got to the dressing station took about an hour, but he died on the way there. In the mud and rain it was impossible to get him there any sooner. I worked my hardest as you will quite understand for I would have done anything to save Douglas ... I have heard nothing but expressions of regret among the men at Douglas' death. "[Extract: David Merson's letter to Martha Leslie]

#### Extract from Arthur Leslie's 1916 diary:

" This evening Doug was fatally wounded. Died same night. Rained." [Sunday, 5 November 1916]. He was 25.

Buried just S.W. of Flers - Eaucourt l'abbaye rd., 3/4 mile N.N.W. of Flers, 4 1/4 miles N.N.W. of Combles. Body later moved to AIF Burial Ground, Grass Lane, Gueudecourt - II. F. 6

20/1/1917 - Mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch of 13/11/16 for distinguished and gallant services and devotion to duty "In the field" - France. Date of London Gazette: 4 January 1917. Page in London Gazette: 255 ; Date of Commonwealth of Australia Gazette: 29 June 1917. Page in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette: 1393

Citation: "O.C. Z2A Battery, has rendered excellent service, handled his battery with ability, shown great coolness and gallantry under heavy fire, particularly at POZIERES."

#### DAVID MERSON No. 4660 Pte 26th Battalion AIF

Born in Stamford in 1890, Northumberland. Son of Rev. David Merson, D.D. and Jessie Margaret Merson (nee Leslie) from Huntly in Aberdeenshire. Educated at Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. Trained in Life Insurance. Emigrated from England Abt. 1908 aged 18 to farm pineapples at Palmwoods in Queensland. His brother James later joined him.

Enlisted on 30 September 1915 in Brisbane. Embarked for Middle East on 12 April 1916 on RMS "Mooltan" - 12th Reinf., 26th Bn.

On 5 November 1916 was witness to the death of his cousin Lieut. Douglas Leslie at Flers, which he recorded in a moving letter to his aunt.

Wounded in Action 22 March 1917. 6th A.F.Amb. - admitted and transferred to 45th C.C.S. 23 March 1917 - gunshot wound to left arm, shrapnel wound to left wrist. Transferred to ambulance train 25 March 1917. Admitted to 10th General Hospital, Rouen, 26 March 1917. Embarked for England on H.S. "Warilda" 29 March 1917. Admitted to Kitchener war Hospital, Brighton, 29 March 1917.

Embarked for France 20 October 1917 from Southampton. Proceeded to join unit 24 October 1917.

Wounded in Action 16 April 1918 in the vicinity of Dernancourt. Died of Wounds 18 April 1918 at the 20th C.C.S. - shrapnel wound penetrated chest. His death involved something premonitory: On 18 April 1916, six days into Embarkation for Middle East and exactly two years to the day of his death, David wrote a letter to the army naming his aunt, Martha Elizabeth Leslie, as next of kin in place of his brother James who was also on active service. Both his parents were deceased. David left an English fiancee Mary Gillies. He was 28 at the time of his death.

Private David Merson is buried in the Vignacourt British Cemetery, Somme, France, Plot 1, Row B, Grave 9. While recuperating at Wych Cross Hospital in Sussex, David Merson wrote some quite descriptive letters home. As a matter of interest, I thought I would include the following extract from one written to his brother-in-law Athole Murray on 19 April 1917:

"I had enough experience of war crowded into the six months I was at the front to satisfy the biggest glutton under the sun. I was on the Somme all the time, except for a short time at Ypres in October. Any

man who has been in France will always associate the Somme with mud-mud everywhere, cold, sticky & deep. Besides the mud, the heaviest part of the fighting always took place on the Somme. In November I took part in a charge on the German trenches, & we failed because the artillery failed to cut the barbed wire entanglements between our lines & Fritz's. The result was that the battalion I belong to got wiped almost out of existence. I was one of the lucky ones & came through it without a scratch. When you read in the newspapers about our men charging the German trenches & capturing them do you ever realise what the men have to go through who take part in it. The loss of 25% of the strength of a unit in a charge is considered very low while 50% is common & up to 70 & 80% often happens. A charge is preceded by a few minutes intense bombardment in 'No Mans Land' to wipe out any snipers or working parties that might be knocking about & also to prevent the enemy from leaving their trenches to meet us. No one could possibly realise what an intense bombardment is like without seeing one. All the big guns for miles around play onto the spot to be taken & probably 1000 guns are throwing shells into a space of 100 yards as fast as they can fire. High explosive shells bursting, throw up clouds of mud & dirt, shrapnel bursting in the air & pieces flying about everywhere & the whole air is grey with smoke & full of the smell of powder. You cannot distinguish the individual firing of the guns as it is just one loud rumbling noise like thunder, but louder. Then the barrage lifts from No Mans Land on to the enemy's front trenches, so as to prevent the men in the trenches from raising their heads above the parapets. Then the attackers leap out of their trenches with fixed bayonets & carrying their machine guns. Then hell opens up. The enemy guns start to shell No Mans Land for all they are worth, & machine guns rattle out from the enemy's positions. Perhaps the first wave of men only get a few yards & are mown down with machine gun fire, like a scythe going across a field of corn. All go across at a slow trot or walk - the ground is heavy, being all churned up & it is one mass of shell holes which of course have to be avoided. Your mate alongside of you falls forward without a groan - he is dead. Just in front of you a few yards a high explosive shell bursts & you await the end calmly, but not this time & you notice that one man perhaps half a dozen, have disappeared & you know that they are buried & will never be seen again, unless the next shell uncovers their bodies! Then you get within 25 yards of the enemy's trench & the barrage lifts from his front trench on to his support trenches & you rush forward with a wild shout of joy. What living men are left in the enemy's trench are as much demoralised by that shout - the shout of victory - as by the awful bombardment they have just been through. They throw up their hands & cry "Mercy, Kamerad" & you see that awful look of despair & misery on their faces & no matter what oaths you had previously sworn against these men, or what revenge you had promised yourself when you came face to face with them, you feel that now to satisfy those desires would be cowardly, unfair, & unsportsmanlike. You search them for souvenirs then send them back under escort & make them carry wounded back with them. Then the trench is searched for dug-outs which are usually packed with men. You call for them to come out & most of them obey, but if all persuasion fails, you throw one or two bombs down the stairs, for in war unnecessary risks cannot be taken when it is your life or theirs. You hear groans at the bottom of the dug-out & later go down to clear the place of its human debris. All hands set to work to build up the trench, knocked about by their own guns, - to face it about so as to suit their own needs. Then you prepare for the counter attack."

#### JAMES LESLIE MERSON No. 2784 Sgt. 47th Battalion AIF

Born 1883 Stamford, Northumberland. Son of Rev. David Merson, D.D. and Jessie Margaret Leslie. Educated at Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Trained in Fire Insurance. Served 3 years as Sergeant in the Northumberland Fusiliers Volunteer Force. Emigrated to Australia from England at age of 26 (abt. 1910) to farm pineapples at Palmwoods, Queensland, with his brother David, both parents having passed away. Single.

Enlisted AIF at Brisbane on 22 July 1915 at the age of 31 years and 7 months. NOK named as aunt Martha Elizabeth Leslie. Embarked for the Middle east with the 6th Reinforcements, 25th Bn. A.I.F. Transferred to 47th Bn. at Tel-el-Kebir on 9 March 1916. Promoted Sergeant Substantive on 24 May 1916. Proceeded to join B.E.F., Alexandria on 2 June 1916. Embarked on H.M.T. "Caledonia" and disembarked at Marseilles on 9 June 1916. Killed in Action on 31 August 1916 at age of 32. Body never recovered though "previously reported buried in Mouquet Farm Cemetery Dugouts." His death is recorded in Arthur Leslie's 1916 diary: "Heard today that L. Merson had been killed in a trench between Thiepval & Mouquet Farm. Shrapnel splinter in the groin. Died from loss of blood before reaching the Hospital. Buried near Pozieres."

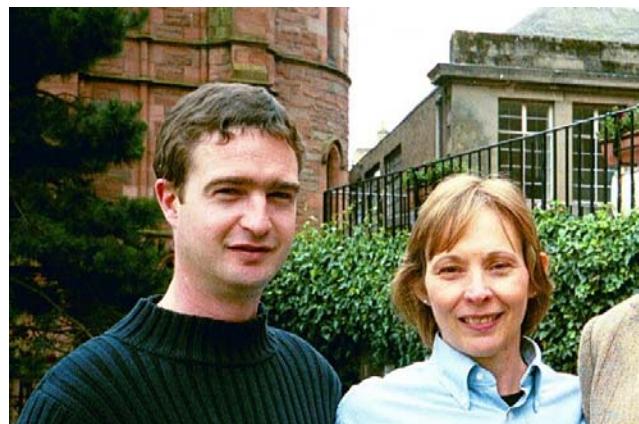
Commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

This article should give you a very good idea of the conditions, which the troops of all the combatants had to contend.

Barrie Leslie

*Thanks to Jennie Leslie of Sydney University for the information on her family.*

#### THE HON ALEXANDER LESLIE.



*The Hon Alexander Leslie and his wife Tina*

The above photograph was taken in July 2001 in Perth Scotland. Alex is the younger son of Ian 21<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rothes. Tina is a member of The Southern Regional Committee for the National Trust of Scotland. They also attend many functions with and on behalf of his father.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW.

#### DECLARATION OF ARBROATH



*Declaration of Arbroath signed in 1320 with Seals attached.*

#### 'Never Bow Beneath the Yoke'

In 1320 eight earls and 31 of the great barons and major clergy of Scotland, among them Andrew Leslie, sent a

letter to Pope John XXII, known as the Declaration of Arbroath. It is a revolutionary assertion by a nation of people of their desire for freedom and the right to choose their own government and is a statement of the leadership of Scotland about their country and its aspirations, and as a political document it ranks in purpose and power of language with the American Declaration of Independence. In ringing Latin prose it sets forth certain claims and affirmations. It asks the Pope to urge the King of England to desist from his designs on their nation, to 'leave us Scots in peace, who live in this poor little Scotland... and covet nothing but our own'. It states the will of the people for independence: 'As long as but a hundred of us remain alive never will we under any condition be brought under English rule'. In language which transcends the centuries it appeals to oppressed people anywhere at any age: 'It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honour that we are fighting, but for freedom-for that alone which no honest man gives up but with life itself'! It states the Scots have the right to be ruled by their own king who signed the letter: 'Yet Robert himself, should he turn aside from the task he has begun, and yield Scotland of us to the English king or his people, we shall cast out as the enemy of us all, as the subverter of our rights and of his own, and we should choose another king to defend our freedom for ... we are minded never a whit to bow beneath the yoke of English dominance'.

*Thanks to Clan Leslie Trust for permission to use the above text from "Grip Fast: The Leslies in History"*

## **Menu B**

**1** Minestrone Soup with Grilled Cheese Croutons

**or**

**2** Prawn and Avocado Platter on a bed of mixed salad leaves with Brandy & Pink Peppercorn Dressing

**3** Roast Topside of Beef served with Horseradish Dumplings in a Rich Mushroom and Onion Jus

**or**

**4** Poached Salmon Fillet on a bed of poached Leek and served with a Fennel and Dill Sauce

**5** Exotic Fresh Fruit Salad with a Vanilla and Mandarin Syrup and topped with Toasted Coconut

**or**

**6** Lemon and Mango Cheesecake with Chantilly Cream.

**Please indicate your choice of meal on the Reservations form.**

**Please use A or B followed by 1 thru 6 of your selection.**

## **International Gathering**

### **Evening Menu**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2005**

#### **Menu A:**

**1** Ham and Lentil soup with Garlic Croutons.

**or**

**2** Rose of Melon with Forest Fruit Coulis and Fresh Strawberries

**3** Roast Topside of Beef in a Red wine and Mushroom Sauce and Yorkshire Pudding

**or**

**4** Breast of Chicken with a Tarragon Sage Stuffing in a Creamy White Wine Sauce with Chervit accompanied by a Chefs choice of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables.

**5** Hot Rhubarb, Apple and Cinnamon Compose with Butter Crunch Topping and Vanilla Custard

**or**

**6** Luxury Chocolate Profiteroles complimented by a Toffee Sauce with a hint of Drambuie.

### **INTINARY FOR THE LESLIE CLAN GATHERING PERTH, SCOTLAND 2005**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

**13.00-16.00** Registration and issue of welcome packs. Small Exhibition of Leslie paperwork and photos. Informal afternoon. (Time for a little shopping).

**19.00** Welcome speech and opening of gathering by Lord Rothes.

**20.00** Getting to know your relations. Cash bar and live music.

**21.00** Buffet served in function room.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August**

**09.30-10.00** Late registrations and issue of welcome packs.

**10.00-15.0** Coach trip to Scone Palace. (Admission prepaid). (Restaurant available).

**19.00-01.00 Dinner with good wine and surprise entertainment. Ceilidh music, dancing and cash bar.**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**12.00-17.00 Perth Highland Games (Admission prepaid). Leslie Tent. (Games are a short walk from hotel 5/10mins).**

**19.00 Evening gathering in function room.**

**20.00 Closing speeches and farewells.**

**21.00 Live Folk music and cash bar.**

**Buffet served in function room.**

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### **SCOTTISH HIGHLAND CATTLE.**

Scottish Highland Cattle are one of the oldest domesticated breeds in the world. Archaeological evidence show the Highland Cattle as far back as the sixth century A.D.

Originally there were two distinct types, the smaller black Kyloe and the larger long haired red cattle. These days there are seven recognised colours, black, red, brindle, yellow, dun, white and silver and the herds are known as folds.

One of the best known folds is the Kinlochroag Fold of Uig, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles, which was set up in the 1990s.



*Highland Cattle of the Kinlochroag Fold.*

How or where the Highland Cattle originated is not known, but Mr Michael Fennell believes that the Highland Cattle are the results of two Asiatic breeds. The Bos Longifrons and the Bos Primigenius. Both breeds originated in the Mongolia area more than 8000 years ago. The Longifrons giving the breed the long horns and the Primigenius breed supplying the long red hair. The Highland Cattle would have been a

significant part of the development of Celtic civilization, supplying meat and milk as well as the hides for covering homes and the hair for yarns.



*Loch Awe Fold Cattle in summer*



*Loch Awe Fold Cattle in winter.*

Highland Cattle are the oldest recognised breed of cattle in the world, with the breed first being registered by "The Highland Cattle Society" whose first herd book dates from 1884.

The following article is by courtesy of the Australia Highland Cattle Society, which was established in Melbourne in 1988 and the society became an incorporated body in 1990 and by 2002 had a membership of 230 and over 5000 cattle registered.

### **THE HISTORY OF HIGHLAND CATTLE IN AUSTRALIA.**

Highland cattle were imported into Australia by various Scottish migrants in the middle of the Nineteenth Century.

Chieftain Areneas Ronaldson MacDonell of Glengarry, Scotland, for example, landed at Port Albert, Victoria, in 1841 with his clan to set up a system of farming at Greenmount, on the Tarra River, near the present day town of Yarram. It is claimed that they drove their Highland cattle to Greenmount preceded by a piper.

Samuel Amess, who made a fortune in the Victorian goldfields and became Mayor of

Melbourne in 1869, kept a small fold of black highland cattle on Churchill Island. This island is now owned by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Vic), which has re-established a fold of Highland cattle.

Sir William McGregor imported animals to his property "Ard Choille" on Mount Macedon, Victoria. Some of these animals were shown at the Melbourne Show in the 1880's a fold of Highland cattle was re-established at "Ard Choille" by Tim and Helen Cottrew.

It is believed that other cattle were imported in the late 1800's into Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania but, as no new blood was introduced, the breed died out.

Recent history started in 1954 when two unrelated in-calf cows from Barbreck Fold and Islay Fold and an unrelated bull from Achnacloich Fold were imported into South Australia by Mr. A.J.R. Wood. In the 1960 Mr. Wood sold his fold to Mr. Bob Hawks of Currawong, South Australia. The fold, at that time consisted of seven cows, four heifers and two bulls.

In the ensuing years, a handful of animals were sold to South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria, including those purchased by Mr. Sydney Smith of Berwick, Victoria and Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Blackwell of Lenswood, South Australia.

There were Highlanders in the Melbourne Zoo from the early 60's and two heifers in Cudlee Creek Wildlife Park South Australia in 1966. Due to a severe drought in South Australia in 1971, Bob Hawks had to relinquish his fold which was purchased by Mr. Jack Brown of Warrnambool, Victoria.

Many good specimens of Highland cattle remain from the original 1950's imports, thanks to the dedication of those early breeders. Many of the progeny of these animals have been inspected by the Society Inspectors Mr. Ray Starritt, Mr. Brian Alford, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald and the late Mr. Andy Sproat and approved for inclusion in the herd book as A and B grade animals.

In 1973 Allister and Davina Stewart (Ardvorlich) of Terang, Victoria, suggested to the Scottish Milk Marketing Board (SMMB) that semen he collected from a Highland Bull for

export to Australia and New Zealand. The SMMB, in conjunction with the Highland Cattle Society of the U.K., then collected semen from Callum of Pollock, which became the foundation bull for the Stewarts' breeding up program. Starting with Jersey females each generation of heifers was inseminated with semen from a new bull.



*"Highland Cattle", Glen Sheil, Ross.  
By Hurt Louis Bosworth*

Artificial breeding has been the major tool in the development of Highland cattle in this country. No fewer than 20,000 straws of semen from outstanding sires have been collected overseas for use in Australia.

In 1975 Mr. and Mrs. John Reid (Trelissick) of Christchurch, New Zealand, imported three cows and one bull into New Zealand. From these, in 1979 a heifer was sold to Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Blackwell, and a heifer and a bull were sold to Mr. and Mrs. K Von Bira (Macquarie), Ross, Tasmania. During the latter half of the 1970's other breeders in Australia and New Zealand started their own folds using the semen that was then available. Among the first of these in 1977 were Mr. Bob Mackay (Durness) of Scone, N.S.W. With the use of Robert the Bruce, a bull purchased from Sydney Smith, and later, artificial insemination, his fold was bred up from red Shorthorn females. Mrs Faye Taylor (Laurella Downs) of Woodville, N.S.W. also based her fold on progeny of the 1950's Highland imports.

Jim and Wendy Black (Glengarry) of Yarram, Victoria, established a fold based predominantly on Shorthorn females and in 1983 purchased the bull, Corrie McNair and four females from Jack Brown. During the 1980's interest in Highland cattle blossomed, aided by newspaper stories,

T.V. coverage and the showing of Highland cattle at various events. Mr. David Miller (Strathbogie) of Nagambie, Victoria, imported two bulls and a cow from Scotland, five females from Canada and five females from the U.S.A.

Alan Hamilton (Hamilton) of Tocumwal, N.S.W. imported two heifers from Scotland, and Jim and Wendy Black imported one heifer from Scotland and four females and one bull from New Zealand. At the same time imported semen from various bulls, mainly Scottish, was used widely in Australia. Bulls in order of arrival in Australia were.



*"Highland Cattle By the Sea"*  
By William Smellie Watson 1872

The advent of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the U.K. in 1988 saw the imposition of stringent quarantine restrictions by the Australian Government. Imports of live cattle and genetic material from the U.K. were banned. Imports of the offspring of animals exported from the U.K. after 1982 were also banned.

No history of the development of the Highland cattle in Australia would be complete without mentioning the use of embryo transfer as a breeding tool. David Miner of Nagambie, Victoria, was the first to make extensive use of this technology in Australia. Since 1986 it has been used by a variety of people with varying degrees of success.

On the 7th of May 1988 some 60 people gathered at a public meeting in Melbourne organised by Allister and Davina Stewart to form the Australian Highland Cattle Society. The Society became an incorporated body in 1990. By 2002 membership had risen to 230, with over 5000 registrations of Highland cattle.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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