

# grip fast

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



## DOWN UNDER

Vol. 5 No 1, Jan Feb March 2010

### A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Well, another year is almost over and I am trying to get this newsletter out before Christmas, so that you can all enjoy it before you get too busy with your Christmas celebrations. I am enclosing the CLANZ membership renewal notice and hope that you can see you way to **renew your membership before Christmas**. I will send out the renewal with the newsletter to those members who get their newsletter by post and I shall send out an email to those members who get their newsletter by email. This renewal does not apply to people who otherwise receive this newsletter.

I trust that you all have managed to find more information on your family history and have not come to that dreaded "closed door". It happens to all of us at some stage and that is one of the reasons for the Internet sites that I post in the newsletter from time to time and hopefully they will open that "closed door".

I still need some **help to run "CLANZ"**. I could also do with a "Treasurer". Not that we have lots of money to look after, but it would be one less thing for me to do.

If any of our members have weddings or illness that they would like me to mention in the newsletter, send the information in and I shall publish it in the newsletter. Remember that we are all one large family and are cousins to some degree, if only we could all find the link.

The CLANZ website, [www.clanleslie.org](http://www.clanleslie.org) has been a great success and has created a great deal of interest with enquiries from all around the world. Not many new members unfortunately, but it shows what interest there is in Clan Leslie.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe and Prosperous New Year.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.



### ROBERT MILLER LESLIE PRIVATE. 7591 A.I.F.

Robert Miller Leslie was born in Bright, Victoria on the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1895. The son of George Thomas Leslie and the grandson of Robert Clark Leslie, who emigrated from Scotland in 1854. He was a shipping clerk and was unmarried when WWI broke out and became a despatch Rider with the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion A.I.F.



Robert Miller Leslie. Private. 7591 A.I.F.

He was aged 23 when he was killed at Villers-Bretonneux on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1918.

Roberts father, George Thomas Leslie was also born in Bright, Victoria and was a warden at Fremantle Prison in Western Australia.

His grandfather Robert Clark Leslie married Elizabeth Brown in Melbourne in 1856, then moved to Bright, although at that time Bright did not exist but was a collection of gold workings getting underway, at what was known at that time as Morses Creek. They lived in a tent town on a hillside above the diggings. When land was later surveyed and sold in 1888, both Robert and his son George bought parcels of land. Robert and Elizabeth became business people. They operated a carting business between Bright and Wangaratta, a "Fancy Goods and Stationery Store" and tourist accommodation (part of which today is the "Cosy Kangaroo" café in Gaven Street Bright) and a flower and fruit orchard shop.

*Many thanks to Kenneth Leslie of Mindarie WA for this information on his Great Uncle, Robert Miller Leslie.*

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### VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MEMORIAL

On the 22 July 1938, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, with the Australian Deputy Prime Minister, Earle Page and the French President Monsieur Lebrun unveiled the Australian War Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.



*King George VI opening the Villers-Brettonneux Australian National Memorial 22 July 1938*

Part of King George's speech was " *On this monument is an inscription telling us and others, who will visit this hill in the years to come, that it perpetuates the memory of the Australian Imperial Force in France and Flanders and of 11,000 of them who fell in France and have no known grave*"



*The Australian National Memorial  
Villers-Brettonneux, France.*

Inscribed on the Memorial at Villers-Brettonneux are the following names of eight Leslie's

Leslie, Private Alfred John	D. 29 July 1916
Leslie, LtII Charles Austin	D. 12 May 1917
Leslie, L/Sgt Charles William	D. 3 May 1917
Leslie, Cpt Francis Aylwin	D. 11 April 1917
Leslie, Private George	D. 27 April 1918
Leslie, Private Robert John	D. 27 Oct 1916
Leslie, Private Robert Miller	D. 24 April 1918
Leslie, Private W	D. 29 Oct 1917

***LEST WE FORGET***

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

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### IRISH BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES INDEX – ONLINE.

The Family Search online database is a wonderful source of information, but just be aware that you cannot take everything as "gospel". Sorry about the pun.

There are now more than 23 million birth, deaths and marriage records on line at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). These records cover protestant birth, deaths and marriages between 1864 to 1958 and other denominational births, deaths and marriages from 1864 to 1958 and the records for Northern Ireland up to 1959.

This extensive resource with national coverage for Ireland will be extremely welcome for those researching family in Ireland. You can access these records by going to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and from the drop down menu select "Search Records" and then select "Record Search Pilot".

If you wish to order a BMD certificate for all Ireland before 1921 write to the General Register Office of the Republic of Ireland, Joyce House, 8 – 11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2, Eire. Their website is [www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie) or if you wish to order a Northern Ireland Certificate from 1922 onwards, contact the General Register office of Northern Ireland, Oxford House, 49 / 55 Chichester Street, Belfast BT 4HL Northern Ireland or their website [www.groni.gov.uk](http://www.groni.gov.uk)

Remember try and double check any information which you get off the web. Good Luck.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

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## ROYAL & ANCIENT GOLF CLUB

In May 2009 I made an enquiry to the Royal & Ancient Golf Club about two Leslie's who were part of the establishment of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. One was the Hon Thomas Leslie, 3<sup>rd</sup> son of the John 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rothes and his younger brother the Hon James Leslie of Milndeans.



Royal & Ancient Golf Club House. Circa 1920

I received the following reply from Jennifer Morton, Museum & Heritage Curator of the British Golf Museum, Fife.

*Thank you for your email of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009. I must apologise for the extreme delay in responding to you, we have developed a substantial backlog due to an ever increasing demand for this service.*

*The history of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews began on May 14 1754, when 22 noblemen and gentlemen of Fife, presented a Silver Club to be played for annually over the Links of St Andrews. The winner became Captain for the year. The Society of St Andrews Golfers, as the Club was originally known, soon evolved from*

*this competition, meeting regularly to take part in the “healthful exercise of golf, usually followed by a dinner.*

*Our knowledge of the Club comes from two minute books from the time. These tell us that the twenty two contributors were “admirers of golf and had the interest and prosperity of St Andrews at heart”; their names include three categories – the noblemen to give status to the challenge, those whose concern was the economic well-being of the city and those with an interest in the sport. The first category, the noblemen, included two Earls, three younger sons of Earls, an army General and a distinguished member of parliament. One of these men included the Honourable Thomas Leslie who never played in the Challenge for the Club, but who was one of the major public figures. He was the Member of Parliament for Perth and the third son of the Earl of Rothes, being appointed Equerry to the Prince of Wales in 1742. It seems probable that his younger brother the Honourable James Leslie, who was Sheriff Depute of Fife and Solicitor of the Exchequer, will have had more influence in shaping the regulations for the Silver Club, as he had been Captain of the Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh in 1748 and had at the age of seventeen won the University of St Andrews Silver Arrow, the University sponsored archery competition.*

*I do hope that the above information is of interest to you and provides a bit more background about your ancestors and I apologise once more for the delay in responding to you.*

Kind regards.

Jennifer Morton

Museum & Heritage Assistant Curator

The British Golf Museum

St Andrews

Fife.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.

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## CEUD MILE FAILTE \*

To our new members.

Terry Keith Leslie.

Australind. WA.

Sheryl Joy Sharp (*rejoining*) Shepparton. Victoria.

Graham Keith Smith.

Pukekohe. NZ

\* 100,000 welcomes!

## WORLD WAR 1, VETERAN.

**Corporal Roy John Leslie.**  
New Zealand Field Artillery. 2/577

On previous searches for Leslie Australian and New Zealand casualties of WW1, the above veteran has slipped through the cracks, because he did not die in the field but on a hospital ship en route to New Zealand.

Corp Roy John Leslie was born in Hawera Taranaki NZ the son of David Kirkwood Anderson Leslie and Rose Ann Leslie of Lynton Ave Onehunga Auckland New Zealand. He embarked on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1914 at Wellington.



*The grave of Corp Roy John Leslie at Papeete Tahiti.*

Corp Roy Leslie was returning to New Zealand on the Hospital ship NZHS Maheno when he died of his wounds on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1917, aged 23, at Papeete Tahiti and was buried at the Tiperui Communal Cemetery Papeete Tahiti Society Islands.

The Governor of Tahiti provided a burial plot and expressed his intention of erecting a suitable monument. The English Consul wrote to the NZ government asking it to provide a brass plate with the name and inscription.

*Many thanks to Bill Leslie of Kaiwaka New Zealand. for drawing my attention to the death of Corp Roy Leslie in Papeete Tahiti.*

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR CLAN CHIEF

Into double figures

It does not seem 10 years ago that we all celebrated the new millennium. We watched Sydney started the show with the most amazing firework display, and gazed as millions and millions of dollars literally went up in smoke, city by city, across the world. And we loved it. Since then much has happened – some good, some great, some bad.

The good for me is that there are still the people who keep the flag flying for the Clan Leslie Society and I am incredibly grateful to Barrie Leslie for his patience and spirit and hope that the Clan Leslie Society 'Down Under' keeps going and thriving. The great for me was the Gathering in Edinburgh this year – one moment stands out as I glanced back down the Royal Mile and witnessed the spectacle of the sea of Scottish humanity that flowed up the hill in their thousands – single camera click of memory that will probably stay with me for the rest of my life. Better almost than that was the positive feeling and constructive atmosphere that came from the Clan Convention the day before the Gathering. I will write more about that as concrete ideas develop.

The bad for me was obviously the death of my father but I am encouraged that the ideas that he had to bring Leslies around the world together are being continued. I am happy that the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs have said that as far as they are concerned I am the Clan Chief – which means that I can better support the Commissioners and Representatives in different parts of the world – especially in Australia and New Zealand.

So – here we are, on the brink of double figures and I wonder what we will look back on in 10 years time as the milestones of the decade.

For the moment let us look forward. I am excited about the next few years and I hope you are.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alex Leslie  
Clan Chief

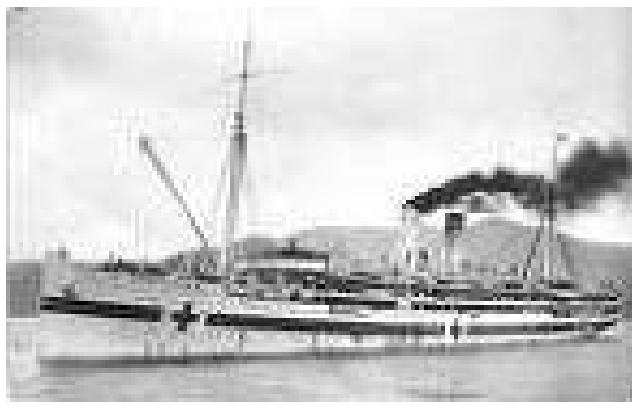
## SS MAHENO.

The SS Maheno was built at the shipyard of William Denny & Brothers, of Dumbarton, near Glasgow who was a major shareholder in the Union Steam Ship Company and built almost all the new ships for the company for almost 30 years. The 5,282 ton Maheno was a forerunner in the use of marine turbine engines and made a speed of 17.25 knots on her trials.



*Fitting out the SS Maheno in 1905 at Dumbarton.*

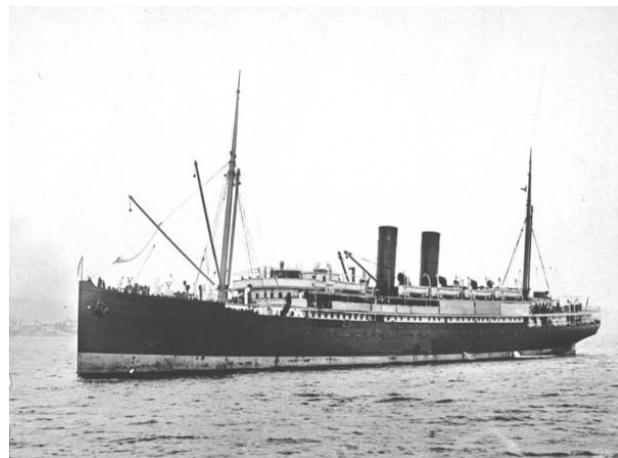
The SS Maheno was designed as a luxury passenger ship for the trans Tasman crossing from New Zealand to Australia, but in WW1, she was converted to the hospital ship NZHS Maheno with a medical staff of 7 medical officers, 59 other ranks, 10 nurses with a capacity of 340 wounded. In July 1915 the NZHS Maheno departed for Gallipoli, Turkey where it embarked the wounded.



*NZHS Maheno in 1915*

In September 1917 the NZHS Maheno was returning to New Zealand, via the Panama Canal, which was not yet officially opened and stopped at Papeete Samoa, where Corporal Roy John Leslie of the New Zealand Artillery, died and was buried with full military honours at the Tiperui Communal Cemetery in a gravesite provide by the

Governor of Samoa. The NZHS Maheno then continued its journey to Auckland New Zealand where it discharged its cargo of wounded soldiers.



*The SS Maheno as a passenger liner.*

After WW1 had ended the SS Maheno was converted back to a passenger liner and resumed the crossing of the Tasman Sea until 1935 when she was declared outdated and was tied up at Melbourne. In June 1935 she was being towed from Melbourne to Japan for stripping as scrap metal, when she was caught in an unseasonal cyclone and broke her towline and on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1935 she became wrecked on Fraser Island Queensland, where she remains today.



*The wreck of the SS Maheno.*

During WW11 the wreck was used by the RAAF as target practice and today over three decks are buried under sand and it is not permitted to climb aboard the wreck. A sad end for a fine ship.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW,*

## A NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR CLAN LESLIE IN VICTORIA.

I am happy to announce that Sheryl Sharp, one of the original members of Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand has consented to represent us in Victoria. Sheryl has given me the following information on herself.



*Sheryl Sharp.*

I was born in a small Victorian town to Lorna (nee Leslie) and Reg Barwick. I was educated at Strathmerton primary school and later at Cobram High School. Most of my single life was spent at Strathmerton, a small town, not far from the mighty Murray River.

I am a mother of three grown up children, two of whom are married and one still at home and a beautiful granddaughter.

My working life was spent as a clerk for a freight company and later the manager of our Shepparton depot. I loved communication with our customers and meeting new prospective customers, something that I have missed over the last twelve and a bit years, after giving up work to look after my father and my sick husband.

My interest over that time and still is. The research of my dear mothers family. My greatest wish is to one day travel to Scotland and visit the home of my ancestors. I am really looking forward to getting out and about at some of the Scottish Gatherings and meeting and chatting with people with the same interest in their ancestors and also gaining more knowledge of our Leslie Clan.

I would like to add a big thank you to Barrie Leslie for allowing me this wonderful opportunity.

Sheryl Sharp. Victoria

## THANK YOU.

I would like to thank Sheryl Sharp from Victoria and Graham Leslie from Queensland for volunteering to assist me in spreading the word about Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand in Victoria and Queensland.

Australia and New Zealand is such a large area, it is impossible for one person to get to all areas and if anyone in South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT and New Zealand would like to volunteer to act as a Representative, please contact me. At the moment I am arranging for four Clan Leslie Banners and posters to be made, so that our representatives in other States can at least show the "flag". I will also assist in any way that I can, whether it be financial or knowledge.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## ANNUAL FEES ARE NOW DUE.

Please take note that the Annual Fees are now due and attached to this newsletter is an Invoice Statement and how to pay whether by cheque or Direct Debit, or New Zealand to Ruth Leslie and it would be appreciated if you could make the payment now, before you get caught up in the Christmas rush.

Fees are **\$25-00** per annum for Australia **\$29-00 NZ** for New Zealand with a NZ cheque to Ruth Leslie, which will save all those bank fees. Sorry about the discrepancy in fees but the cost of postage to New Zealand is now so high as well as the difference in the exchange rate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of CLANZ for their support during the year and look forward to a happy and productive 2010 to all.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## CORRECTION

I would like to advise readers that in the October, November and December, Grip Fast Down Under 2003, there was an article on the Menin Gate, during WW1. This article was an abbreviation of an article by **Tom Morgan** and his name should have been shown at the end of the article, instead it was not. The whole article can be seen at; [www.fylde.demon.co.uk/menin.htm](http://www.fylde.demon.co.uk/menin.htm)

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## NEW LESLIE BANNERS.

I have had three more Clan Leslie Banners made for distribution to our Representatives in other States. They cost \$70.00 each to get printed and I then had to buy gold fringe, gold braid and finials for the top and side bars. I then bought extendable aluminium paint roller poles and painted them gold.



*The three new Leslie Banners.*

All in all the total cost was \$535.19, but when compared with sewn banners, The cost of the three vinyl banners was approx the cost of one sewn banner, which makes them quite cheap and they will stand up to wet weather better than cloth ones.

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## THE STANDING STONES GLEN INNES N.S.W.

The Australian Standing Stones project was an ambitious project by a dedicated group of people who wanted to mark the celtic heritage of Glen Innes.

Glen Innes is in northern New South Wales and is 620km north of Sydney on the New England Highway or a four hour drive from Brisbane. In Glen Innes they take their celtic roots very seriously and have been awarded the Honoured Celtic City, by the Celtic Council of Australia.

Each year, during the first weekend of May, this year 2010, the dates are 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010, Glen Innes celebrates its celtic heritage at the annual Australian Celtic Festival, drawing clans, bands and dancers and celts from all around Australia, as well as from overseas.

The Standing Stones is a circle of 24 stones, representing the 24 hours of each day as well as the summer and winter solstice, with four Cardinal stones, marking true, north, south, east and west.

Another formation represents the Ionic Cross, symbol of the early Christian church, which is still used on Roman Catholic Churches, today.

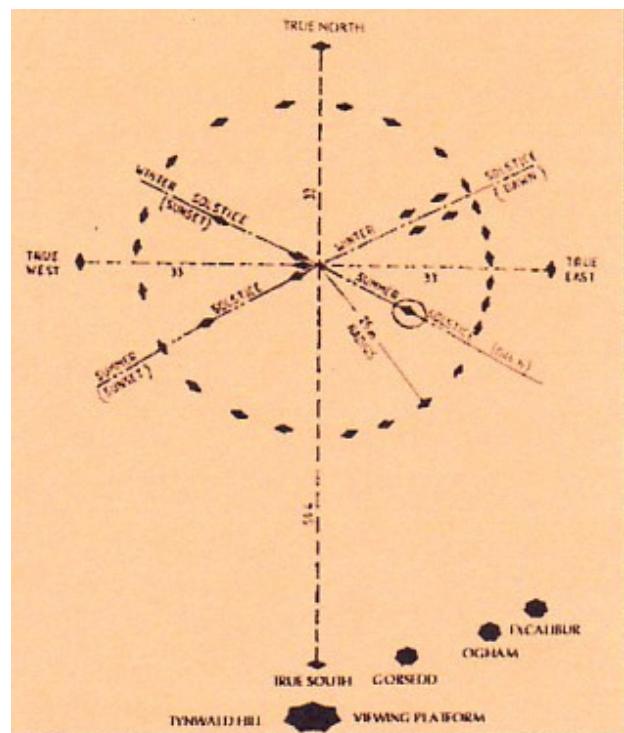


*A misty view of the Standing Stones.*

There are three stones in the centre of the array. The Northern Stone, the Gaelic Stone, represents the Gaelic speaking celts from Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

The southern most stone, the Bryonic Stone, represents the Bryonic speaking celts from Wales, Cornwall and Brittany and the gold coloured middle stone, the Australian Stone, represents the Australian Stone, representing all Australians.

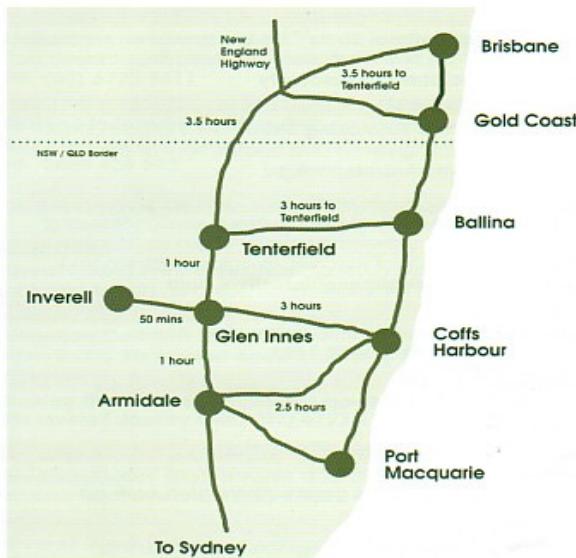
Outside the main array there are several distinctive stones; The Gorsedd Stone for the Cornish and the Welsh and the Ogham Stone for the Irish.



*The map of the Standing Stones.*

The Ogham Stone has an inscription carved in Ogham, the oldest known writing, that is known to

have been used by the celts. It translates as GLEANN MAQI AONGUSA, the Glen of the Sons of Angus, or simply "Glen Innes"



*location of Glen Innes.*

The monument was opened by the Governor of New South Wales, Admiral Peter Sinclair on the 1st of February 1992 as Australia's National Monument to the Celts. You can look at the festivals website at

[www.australiancelticfestival.com](http://www.australiancelticfestival.com) or the Glen Innes tourist site at [www.GlenInnesTourism.com](http://www.GlenInnesTourism.com)

Archibald Boyd, brother of Ben Boyd of whaling fame was the first man to take up land in what is now known as the Glen Innes district in 1838. In the mid 1840s the squatters in New South Wales called for a meeting in Sydney, and sent a deputation to Governor Gipps stating that as they only had a 12 month lease over their properties, it was not economical to place lasting improvements on the land. Governor Gipps could not, or would not give a longer occupation on the land as Australia was still run from England. Archibald Boyd, a qualified barrister, was sent to England where he obtained the right for the squatters of New South Wales to make a pre-emptive purchase of approximately 250 acres of land at £1 an acre on their properties, therefore making their properties freehold. The depression of the 1840s ruined Archibald Boyd and he left Australia.

*Thanks to Ron Leslie of Pennant Hills NSW for the information for the above story.*

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS AND PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL FEES EARLY**

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**WEBSITE for CLANZ.** <http://www.clanleslie.org>

**Previous issues of Grip Fast Down Under:-**  
[www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm)

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