

## A NEW FEATURE

In this issue of Grip Fast Down Under, we are starting a new feature, called "Roll of Honour". This is to honour Australian and New Zealand Leslie's who have been killed or wounded in war. If a member of your family has been killed or wounded please let me know. I would require a clear photograph, not a photocopy, and information that I could form a story around.



**Flight Sergeant Colin Richard Leslie 42821**  
601 Squadron., Royal New Zealand Air Force  
Born 1<sup>st</sup> October 1922 Died 25<sup>th</sup> September 1944,  
Son of William Day Leslie and Minnie Ethel Nisbet,  
of Taupaki, Auckland, New Zealand.

The Malta Memorial is situated in the area of Floriana and is easily identified by the Golden Eagle which surmounts the column. It stands outside the main entrance to Valletta.

The Memorial takes the form of a column, 15 metres high, of travertine marble from Tivoli in the Sabine Hills near Rome, incised with a light reticulated pattern and surmounted by a gilded

bronze eagle two metres high. The column stands on a circular base around which the names are commemorated on bronze panels. A bronze panel at the base of the column itself bears the following inscription: OVER THESE AND NEIGHBOURING LANDS AND SEAS THE AIRMEN WHOSE NAMES ARE RECORDED HERE FELL IN RAID OR SORTIE AND HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE. MALTA GIBRALTAR MEDITERRANEAN ADRIATIC TUNISIA SICILY ITALY YUGOSLAVIA AUSTRIA PROPOSM INSULA TENAX TENACES VIROS COMMEMORAT. The Latin epigram may be rendered in English: AN ISLAND RESOLUTE OF PURPOSE REMEMBERS RESOLUTE MEN.

The Malta Memorial, built on a site generously provided by the Government of Malta, commemorates those who lost their lives whilst serving with the Commonwealth Air Forces flying from bases in Austria, Italy, Sicily, islands of the Adriatic and Mediterranean, Malta, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, West Africa, Yugoslavia and Gibraltar, and who have no known grave. The bravery of the people of the island of Malta between the years 1940 - 1942 was honoured with the unique award of the George Cross.

Born at Frankton Hamilton, NZ on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1922 to Minnie Ethel & William Day Leslie (Jnr). He was the youngest of 7 children. In 1924 the family of 5 girls & 2 boys moved to Parau, West Auckland. After 1 year, the NZ Government purchased the property. On 31<sup>st</sup> December 1925, the family moved to Taupaki, North West Auckland. Colin went to Taupaki School, then on to Mt Albert Grammar, where he studied for two years. After this time Colin decided to join the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF).

As Colin had already left school, he was required to undertake further studies such as learning morse code.

On completion of these studies he was accepted into the RNZAF and stationed at Tairei in the South Island where he undertook further training prior to being sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS). Whilst in Canada it is believed Colin trained as a Spitfire fighter pilot. On completion of his EATS training he was transferred to England and posted to 601 Squadron, RNZAF. His final posting was on the island of Malta, his final mission was over Italy where his aircraft crashed into the sea off Fano, Italy. Neither Colin nor his aircraft has ever been recovered. His name appears on the Roll of Honour at Auckland Museum, Wanaka, Taupaki and Malta.

Colin Richard Leslie's sacrifice is commemorated in the Malta Memorial, Malta. His name can be located on Panel 17, Column 2. The Malta Memorial commemorates those members of the Commonwealth Air Forces who lost their lives and have no known graves.

*Thanks to Lavina Jones of Nth Auckland for the photograph and information about her uncle.*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## **BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING**

The Bundanoon "is Brigadoon" Highland Gathering is taking place at Bundanoon, in the New South Wales Southern Highlands on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2002.

I would recommend that all Clan Leslie Society members who can do so, get there. It is a wonderful day and you can see all sorts of things Scottish and meet all sorts of interesting characters. I will be there to open a Scottish Clan "tent", not that I am saying that I am interesting, but it really is a day, not to be missed. You cannot get lost, as when you get close to Bundanoon, there are plenty of signs to keep you on the straight and narrow. I will be at Bundanoon in a private capacity.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW*

## **HERITAGE TRAIN TO BUNDANOON**

An absolutely fabulous way of getting to the Bundanoon Highland Gathering, is to go there by the Heritage 3801 Steam Train.

It leaves the Country platforms at Sydney's Central Station at approx 7-20am on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. It stops to pick up passengers at Kingsgrove, Glenfield and Campbelltown railway stations and then on to Bundanoon,

returning about 4-20pm and arriving at Central Station about 7-30pm.



3801 Steam Locomotive

Bookings are an absolute necessity and can be booked by ringing:- 1300-65-3801.

Prices are \$90-00 for adults and \$75-00 for children and Senior citizens, which includes entry to the Games venue

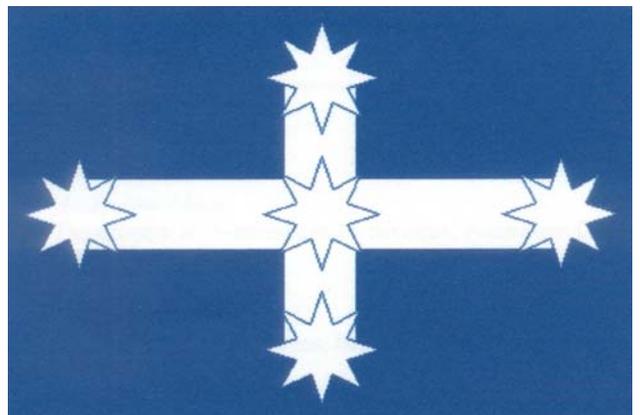
There is a website for further information or online bookings, [ [www.3801limited.com.au](http://www.3801limited.com.au) ]

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## **THE EUREKA STOCKADE**

As most Australians will know, the battle of the Eureka Stockade took place at Ballarat Victoria, at daybreak on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1854.

It arose in part by the Victorian Government increasing the license fee for gold mining, but was also being used by "foreign" anarchists who were determined to achieve "parliamentary democracy". There was also a well armed group of Californians and Canadians led by a Captain Henry Ross, and the design of a dark blue background with a white cross is said to have been influenced by the Province of Quebec flag.



The Eureka Flag

The constellation of the Southern Cross is supposed to have been the inspiration for the Eureka flag and has been used by both sides of Australian politics. It has been said that Captain Henry Ross was shot 10 minutes or so after being captured by soldiers from the 40<sup>th</sup>

Regiment under Gold Commissioner Robert Rede, who later officiated as Sheriff during the hanging of Ned Kelly at Melbourne jail in 1880. The **Leslie** interest in the Eureka rebellion, is that a **Robert Leslie** was arrested between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 1854 at Ballarat and held for the Police Court hearings under Mr Sturt, Mr Smith and Mr Webster. The public were strictly prohibited from entering the Courthouse. I can find no record of this Robert Leslie having been born in Australia. Therefore the presumption is that he was born in Scotland or Ireland. There is no record at all of what happened to Robert Leslie and I am wondering whether he could be the Robert Leslie, for whom Clan Leslie Society member Elaine Wood is searching.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon NSW.*

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAND

There was a James Leslie, aged 42 of County Down Ireland, who was sentenced on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1843 to transportation to Australia for seven years for larceny. He was detained at Kilmainham Goal at Dublin on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1843 while waiting for a ship. ref TR 5, page 42

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A Robert Leslie, no other details, was sentenced to transportation to Australia on the 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 1844. He was imprisoned at Dublin while waiting for a ship to Australia. ref CRF 11845 Misc 2

Maybe this is the Robert Leslie who was arrested at the Eureka Stockade.

These and other records can be found at:- [www.nationalarchives.ie/onlineSearch.html](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/onlineSearch.html)

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

### CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

Australians and New Zealanders will be interested in knowing that while a Lieutenant in the British Navy, James Cook was sailing the treacherous waters of the Saint Lawrence River, charting the river upstream and downstream of Quebec to enable General James Wolfe to finally achieve his goal of capturing Quebec, even though he died on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1759, knowing that victory was assured. After Quebec

was taken, James Cook then surveyed the waters around Newfoundland to mark out the British zones of fishing.



Portrait of Captain James Cook RN circa 1778 held in the Mariners Museum, Newport, VA.

In the course of Captain James Cook's third voyage of exploration in the Pacific, he called into Nootka Sound, Canada, in March 1778 and spent one month in which his officers made many discoveries and illustrations of their finds. The Vancouver Island landscape was of great interest to the explorers who made many Journals about the area and the natives. It was from here that James Cook left for Hawaii, then called The Sandwich Islands, and met his eventual death.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

### RETENTION OF MEMBERS' DUES

I am pleased to advise that the Council of Clan Leslie Society have authorised the Australian & New Zealand Branch to retain 35% of the members' annual dues, instead of 25% as previously allowed. We have been asking for the last two years, that we be allowed to retain 50% of our members' dues. I am of the opinion that this is too little, too late. Responses to the survey sent to all **56** Australian & New Zealand members indicate that they wish the Australian & New Zealand Branch of Clan Leslie Society to separate from Clan Leslie Society and that it be a stand alone society. The responses were:-

- 48** " become a separate society"
- 6** " no reply"

1 " remain a Branch of CLS"

1 " left address"

I shall keep you informed of developments.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## ANZAC DAY 2002

On the countdown to Anzac Day, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2002 it is timely to remember the sacrifices that our Australian and New Zealand fighting forces have made over the last one hundred and fifty years. We must remember that in the two great wars, the First World War 1914 to 1918 and the Second World War 1939 to 1945, most participants were volunteers who offered, and often gave, their lives for their country to give us the freedom that we now take for granted.

On Anzac Day it gives me great pleasure to note, as I march with the New Zealand troops, that there are a great number of young people watching and applauding, and as the New Zealand contingent approaches, many shout their appreciation. "Good on you Kiwis". The Anzac Spirit is alive and well. If any members are attending the Sydney march, or are watching it on television, I shall be in the front row and may be carrying the New Zealand flag.

A special thought.

*"A man is not dead until he is forgotten".*

*author unknown*

## LEST WE FORGET

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW*

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### FOR THE IRISH LESLIE'S

#### The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland [PRONI] has a website at:-

[www.proni.nics.gov.uk](http://www.proni.nics.gov.uk)

The site offers extensive information for genealogists, including descriptions of the major categories of record and about two dozen leaflets on various aspects of Irish genealogical research. Links to all these aids are provided at:-

[www.proni.nics.gov.uk/records/records.htm](http://www.proni.nics.gov.uk/records/records.htm)

being the Records Held page. The "Introductions to The Major Collections" page at:-

[www.proni.nics.gov.uk/records/listing.htm](http://www.proni.nics.gov.uk/records/listing.htm) links

to descriptions of the main collections of private papers held by PRONI. There is also an FAQ at

[www.proni.nics.gov.uk/question/question.htm](http://www.proni.nics.gov.uk/question/question.htm)

The site does not offer a full on-line catalogue, but has four on-line indexes of use to genealogists:

1. The Geographical Index [for locating any administrative geographical name, with Ordnance Survey Map reference number].
2. The Prominent Person Index.
3. The Presbyterian Church Index.
4. The Church of Ireland Index.

The last two cover only those records which have been microfilmed by PRONI. There are plans to add other church records, school records and pre-1858 wills.

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#### National Archives of Ireland

The National Archives of Ireland web site at:- [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie) has no on-line catalogue, but there are several on-line databases of interest to genealogists.

- 1 Ordinance Survey Parishes Index.
- 2 Ireland-Australia Transportation.\
- 3 National School Roll Books and Register

All these can be accessed from:-

[www.nationalarchives.ie/onlineSearch.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/onlineSearch.htm)

There is a collection of guides to various aspects of Irish Genealogy at:-

[www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy.html](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy.html)

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#### The Irish Times.

"The Irish Times", Irish ancestors site has an excellent range of introductory material relating to Ireland at:-

[www.scripts.Ireland.com/ancestor/browse/index.htm](http://www.scripts.Ireland.com/ancestor/browse/index.htm)

including information on the counties and emigration, and good pages on the various Irish genealogical records.

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#### Irish Telephone Numbers.

If you want to find any United Kingdom phone number go to:-

[www.bt.com/directory-enquiries/dq\\_home.jsp](http://www.bt.com/directory-enquiries/dq_home.jsp)  
and this will give you an address, postcode and phone number.

If you want to go directly to the relevant Irish page, go to:-

[www.dir.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Ireland/Reference/](http://www.dir.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Ireland/Reference/)

and this will provide links to various reference resources, including phone books.

*Extracts from "The Genealogical Internet" by Peter Christian. ISBN 1 903365 16 3*

*Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW*

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## KING EDWARD I & ROTHES

The photograph below shows what Rothes, which was the seat of the Earls of Rothes, now Chief of Clan Leslie looked like in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 1296, when Edward I marched from Elgin to Rothes to stay at "Rothayes" he would have been marching through the "Kings Forest" which besides its famous black oaks, was rich in fir trees, which also covered the hills such as Ben Aigen and the hills on the southern side of the River Spey, where my ancestor, George Leslie 1<sup>st</sup> Laird of Aikenway, son of George, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rothes, had his castle, which commanded any passage up or down the River Spey.



The Plain or Haugh of Rothes where the army of Edward I camped 29<sup>th</sup> July 1296. Village at centre left.

While Edward I was being entertained in the Castle of Rothes, his army of one thousand men and horses, camped on the "Haugh" or plains of

Roths, between the Castle and the River Spey. The village of Roths did not exist at that time. Edward I needed his army while he progressed around Scotland, as he was forcing the Scottish nobles to swear "fealty" to him. He had just come from Aberdeen, where on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1296, amongst others, he have received fealty from Sir Norman de Leslie, Dominus Ejusdem, who was then summoned to attend the parliament, held at Berwick, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1296. He then appointed in 1305, Sir Norman de Leslie, Sheriff of his home county, Aberdeen.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## SCOTTISH WILLS FROM THE 1700s

This is really a site to remember. When it is completely set up later in 2002, it will have free access to almost half a million "testaments" from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to 1875. At the moment you can go to the site:-

[www.scan.org.uk/aboutus.WillsMicrosite/willsindex.htm](http://www.scan.org.uk/aboutus.WillsMicrosite/willsindex.htm)

and learn how to become familiar with the wording of wills and find out what exactly you will be able to find in the wills. It will tell you how people lived, how they conducted their affairs, what their homes were like, even what they were wearing.

If you cannot read Scottish writing, go to the "Scottish Handwriting" pages and learn how to read wills. It will also tell you the difference between, "Testament testamantar" and "Testament dative", in fact all you ever wanted to know about Scottish wills.

The wills of course tell you about your ancestors station in life. The higher his station the more complex and more information on how he disposed of his property and of course when he died and his children.

I am hopeful that I can find out about my 8 times Great Grandfather James Leslie of Bruckles, who died in the Garioch sometime after the Poll tax of 1696.

The Public Record Office [PRO] has three leaflets relating to wills.

Wills before 1858:-

[www.catalogue.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/ri2302.htm](http://www.catalogue.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/ri2302.htm)

Wills & Death Duty records after 1858:-

[www.catalogue.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/ri2301.htm](http://www.catalogue.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/ri2301.htm)

Will, Probate Records:-

[www.catalogue.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/ri2241.htm](http://www.catalogue.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/ri2241.htm)

Probate records after 1858 are under the jurisdiction of the Probate Service, whose online leaflet at:-

[www.courtservice.gov.uk/fandl/prob\\_guidance.htm](http://www.courtservice.gov.uk/fandl/prob_guidance.htm) gives details on how to obtain copies of wills after 1858.

Good luck with your hunting, but remember that the site is not up and running until later in 2002, but you can access the site now, to learn how to find and read wills and understand what a large part they played in Scottish life.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

## RUSSELL LESSLIE'S RESIGNATION

I am disappointed to report that on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2002, Russell Lesslie notified the Chieftain of Clan Leslie Society, Karen Leslie, that he was resigning as an Honorary member of Clan Leslie Society. This was a direct result of lack of action by Clan Leslie Society of items that we had been raising with them. The main item of concern was that Clan Leslie Society was neither an incorporated society, or held Public Liability insurance to protect the personal assets of its members.

This also has the possibility of a flow on effect to our Australian & New Zealand members. I have had legal advice that although this is a very remote possibility it could happen. The costs of any person from North America mounting a legal action against Aust & NZ members would be astronomical and very unlikely, but we felt that Clan Leslie Society should be covered for this. We in Australia & New Zealand have put notices in Grip Fast Down Under, that no member should hold themselves to be representing Clan Leslie Society at any outside event. We are looking at either becoming a Pty company or an incorporated society, thus limiting any liability to the Society assets.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

## ARTICLES REQUIRED

Grip Fast Down Under is looking for articles and stories of interest to members. Please send your contributions by mail or email to: [lesliejb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lesliejb@ozemail.com.au). If sending photos, please use JPEG format at 360dpi, if written, please supply as a Microsoft Word or Word Pad format.

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**Treasurer** treasurer required  
**Newsletter** newsletter editor or committee required

**Chief of Clan Leslie** **Ian, Earl of Rothes**  
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