
grip fast

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



DOWN UNDER

Vol. 4 No 12, Oct Nov Dec 2009

VALE.

Jillian Ada Burcher

13 October 1933 - 21 July 2009

It was with great sadness that I heard that Jillian passed away on the 21st July 2009. Jillian was a founding member of CLANZ and she will be sadly missed. Jillian was descended from Patrick Leslie (her 2 times Great Grandfather) who with his two brothers settled the Darling Downs, in what was at that time New South Wales. Jillian was immensely proud of her Leslie heritage and wrote many articles about it.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.



Jillian Ada Burcher, Auckland, New Zealand -
13 October 1933 to 21 July 2009.

Jillian was born in Auckland, New Zealand and despite a love of travel within New Zealand and internationally (Australia, England, Scotland, Singapore, Canada, USA and Russia) she never lived anywhere but on Auckland's North Shore.

Jillian's love of country was evidenced in one of the pieces of music she had requested be played at her funeral - the hymn, *I Vow to Thee My Country*.

One of the highlights of Jillian's life was a trip that took on pilgrimage status, to Aberdeen to visit Leslie Castle and stay at the Warthill Estate as the guests of its current owners Sebastian and Candy Leslie.

Despite being plagued by health issues the last 20 years of their life, she took them head-on with quite remarkable pragmatism and stoicism. She refused to allow physical frailty, loss of mobility and decreased confidence to get in the way of whatever projects she had 'on the go'. She would simply adapt, acquire another bit of equipment, be it a magnifying glass or an electric motor scooter and get on with it.

Various hobbies, interests and pursuits came and went as she conquered them, became bored with them and then moved onto the next challenge. One constant however was her fascination with her Leslie heritage. Research into the family connections thoroughly absorbed her and helped to quench an insatiable thirst for all matters historical, irrespective of her particular interest in the Leslies. Her research culminated in the limited run publication in 1998 of a beautiful hardcover book entitled "The Leslie Family in the Antipodes". The book opens with a quote from Roman statesman and orator, Cicero, "*Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worst of human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors*",

The Foreward to Jillian's book reads as follows:

Since I was in my teenage years I have been aware of an affinity with one of my maternal great-great-grandfather's, Patrick Leslie. My

curiosity got the better of me and I decided I should know more about this patriarch. So began my hunt which has been 25 years long and a fascinating exercise. There is no doubt in my mind that when a person ceases to exist in life they live on in both those left behind and those who are still to come. The scientists call it genes, but I feel it is much more than that - something intangible.

When writing this history I had constantly to remind myself that most of the events I was looking at took place more than 100 years ago. I very quickly discovered that it was no good jumping to conclusions or sitting in judgment. Frequently I was wrong.

In such a family as the Leslies, it is not possible to look at just one person because they all played such a large part in each other's lives. It was the people I discovered who fascinated me - not dates; but rather, what motivated them and what they were like. The material for this type of personal story was available only as far back as Patrick's parents and that is where this account begins.

Patrick was the first of the Leslies to arrive in Australia, followed four years later by two brothers, Walter and George. Later still their sister, Katharine who arrived as a bride, and was the only one of the four to stay there for the rest of her life.

In keeping with the way life can take some very sharp turns, the reasons for my good fortune to be born in New Zealand evolved. As this account is the fruit of my own curiosity, I have confined it to my own line of descent although, other branches of the family have an interest in it to. I descend from Patrick, through his son Norman and through Norman's third daughter, Aline. My mother was also Aline, the first Aline's eldest daughter.

This is as far as I can take the Leslie story; it will be for my sons and grandchildren to write the next chapters.

Jillian is survived by her two sons, Richard Leslie Burcher, Tauranga, New Zealand and Christopher Kerry Burcher, Auckland New Zealand"

*Many thanks to Richard Burcher.
Tauranga, New Zealand.*



In this issue of Grip Fast Down Under, I have listed those known **LESLIE** casualties in the Great War from 1914 to 1918. If you have any information on any of these casualties, please let me know. If you would like further information please contact me.

Name	Rank	Date Killed	Cemetery
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AUSTRALIAN

Arthur	Cpl	30/09/1918	Ste Emilie
Arthur George	Sgt	29/07/1917	Dickebusch
Alex Henry	Lt	20/09/1917	Ypres Menin
Alfred John	Pvt	29/07/1916	Villers Breto
Austin Swain	Pvt	04/09/1918	Heath Cemet
Albert Victor	Pvt	02/09/1918	Peronne
Clifton	L/Cp	30/10/1916	Bernafay
Charles Austin	2Lt	12/05/1917	Villers Breto
Charles William	LSgt	03/05/1917	Villers Breto
Edward	Pvt	10/05/1915	Courtneys
Francis Aylwin	Capt	11/04/1917	Villers Breto
George	Pvt	27/04/1918	Villers Breto
James Freeman	Cpl	20/07/1917	Kandahar
James Gordon	LCpl	09/10/1917	Ypres Menin
Lawrence	Pvt	12/10/1917	Ypres Menin
Lawrence Bolton	Cpl	25/04/1918	Villers Breto
Ronald Douglas	Lt	05/11/1916	Flers
Robert John	Pvt	27/10/1916	Villers Breto
Robert Miller	Pvt	24/04/1918	Villers Breto
Samuel	Pvt	09.02/1917	Contalmaison
Valentine	Pvt	06/08/1915	Shrapnel Val
W.A.	Pvt	29/10/1917	Villers Breto
Walter Aland	Cpt	06/05/1915	Shell Green*
William Leichardt	Lt	22/08/1915	Lone Pine
Walter Leonard	Pvt	01/10/1917	Ypres Menin

NEW ZEALAND.

George Harper	Tpr	21.07/1918	Marfaux
James	Pvt	12/10/1917	Tyne Cot
James Alexander	Pvt	16/11/1916	Estaires
James Francis	Rifle	12/10/1917	Tyne Cot
John George	Rifle	12/10/1917	Tyne Cot
James Quinlan	Pvt	04/10/1917	Nine Elms
John William	Pvt	02/07/1916	Cite Bonjean
Kenneth Gordon	Rifle	27/06/1916	Netley
Norman James	Tpr	27/08/1915	Hill 60
Roy John	Cpl	05/09/1917	Tiperui
Thomas	Rifle	12/08/1917	Prowse Pt
William Frederick	LCpl	04/02/1918	Polygon W

FROM THE 2009 GATHERING

I received this photograph from CLANZ member Dr Robert Cameron of Leura NSW, who also happens to be the High Commissioner for Clan Cameron Australia.



On the left is Bob Cameron with the Acting Chief of Clan Leslie the Hon Alex Leslie at the 2009 Edinburgh Gathering.

Many thanks to Bob for sending me the photograph.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

NEW QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVE.

I am very happy to report that CLANZ now has a Representative acting for us in Queensland and I show below a photograph of him and a short article about him

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.

George Presly Leslie 14/06/1940---- Current

Born at Ferryhill place and brought up in The Hardgate Aberdeen. I still have strong memories of the bombing raids, the blackout blinds, coal shortages and food rationing in general. In 1950 the family (Father, Mother and my younger brother Eric) migrated to Australia.

My parents bought and sold mixed businesses and as such my schooling included Roseville Primary, North Sydney Boys Technical High, Sydney Boys Technical High Homebush Boys High and Perth Boys High WA.



George Presly Leslie.

At the Spittal of Glenshiels of his way to the Braemar Gathering in 2005

My first job was in a Woolworths store, this was the old-fashioned counter style variety store, as Woolworths had not become involved in food at that stage. The family then returned to the East and settled in the Parramatta area and I was apprenticed to Bob Carson a butcher in Parramatta. I then followed a career in sales and marketing until the early nineties changing over to transport and operating my own refrigerated van and prime mover and travelled anywhere from Cairns to Perth. This was sold and I now drive for other transport companies, mainly local Brisbane work. My immediate goal is to retire next year and visit my surviving relations, also the Edinburgh Tattoo and the Braemar Highland Gathering again.

George Presly Leslie.

REPORT FROM GEORGE LESLIE, CLANZ REPRESENTATIVE IN QUEENSLAND

On Sunday 23rd August I attended a meeting of the Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland and presented my credentials as the CLANZ Representative for Queensland the result being that Clan Leslie is now represented on the Congress. In the absence of the President the meeting was chaired by the Immediate Past President Mr. David Austin of Clan Keith. Mrs Suzanne Lambkin of Clan Donald spoke of her recent trip to Scotland for the Home-Coming and of the atmosphere and pride in marching up the Royal Mile with all the various Clan Banners on show. Mrs Lambkin also had photographs of the

occasion, which I may be able to include in a future report. The major item to be discussed was the continued planning and work in progress status of the Congress' future web site, this is being built by a Ms Shaw the daughter of the Clan Douglas Representative, an IT consultant. While the site offers Clan Leslie additional exposure there will be a section that as Clan Representative I will be able to log on and update. There will also be an area for the statement of Clan objective and aims, Clan septs details of how to join our Clan and a behind the scenes E-mail portal which will require a special log on to be used. There was also discussion on next years Kirkin o' the Tartan and it was felt that the format of using the same church every year as it is in Sydney and Melbourne. The plan is to continue using St Pauls Presbyterian Church in Spring Hill. While we are looking at an event to be held next June I would ask all Leslie's and septs of the Clan that are within reasonable travel time to consider attending. While at the recent Kirkin' I met a couple from Melbourne who had seen the event advertised on a Brisbane bus and while they had Scottish ancestry they had not followed it up, but attending this event had been enjoyable and had awoken their interest. Just remember a good reason for all of this is to record our history for those who follow. Don't let the stories be lost forever. Guid health

*George P Leslie
Qld Representative*

ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP CLANZ?

We need Representatives in all States and Territories of Australia and New Zealand, to build up our Society. If you are willing to emulate what George Leslie is doing for us in Queensland, please contact me. It is not hard work, especially if it is spread amongst several people and I have been doing it all for ten years now, so stand up and be counted.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW

THE GATHERING EDINBURGH

By: Sean Cairney

After much planning by both organisers and attendees The Gathering took place over the last weekend of July in Edinburgh, and The Gathering



Sean Cairney at the Gathering.

certainly lived up to its name as nearly 50,000 people did just that making the event an incredible success for organisers, Homecoming Scotland and the city of Edinburgh.

People from around the world gathered in Edinburgh for the world's largest clan meeting and Highland Games with some 20,000 lining the streets of the Royal Mile as 8,000 people took part in the Clan Parade on the Saturday evening.

The Scottish Banner was at the event all weekend and met readers from all over the world in what was a very busy weekend, which saw Holyrood Park transformed into the world's largest Highland Games attended by more than 130 clans and families drawn from 35 countries. Events included Heavy events championships, genealogy research, whisky tasting, pipe bands (including a Pipe Idol competition), Scottish author talks, a very big and busy Clan village, and music from Scottish greats such as Dougie MacLean, Capercaillie, Battlefield Band and the very popular Red Hot Chilli Pipers.

The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay met Clan representatives and participants, before the Duke (wearing a kilt in the ancient hunting Stewart tartan) officially opened The Gathering 2009. The Duke, as The Prince of Wales is known in Scotland, said; "Thankfully in 2009 the lives of Clan Chiefs and their clansmen, both in Scotland and abroad, are somewhat less blood-soaked and unhappy than those experienced by thousands of their ancestors."

In addition to all the events taking place at Holyrood Park over two days, was the spectacular Clan march that took place on the gorgeous Scottish summer evening up the Royal Mile with Clan chiefs leading Scots from around the world watched by more than 20,000 people lining the parade route. This was followed by the world premiere of Aisling's Children: Tales of the Homecoming, which portrayed the story of Scotland's history.

Lord Sempill, Co-director of The Gathering said: "This has exceeded my wildest expectations. There has been a great sense of occasion with everyone enjoying themselves." He and his team certainly deserve the recognition they get for putting on such a world class event and making so many proud to celebrate their Scottish links, his team even managed to arrange for a brilliant blue summers day for the main events taking place on the Saturday.

The event has been such a success (and boost to the Scottish economy) plans are already being considered for another event to take place, one year as a possible fit would be 2014 which is both The 700th anniversary of Bannockburn (The Battle of Bannockburn took place in Stirling on June 24th, 1314 as the English attempted to invade Scotland, and is seen as one of the most important battles fought on British soil) and also the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The Games will see athletes and their supporters from all over the Commonwealth converge on Glasgow and a Scottish cultural event to take in pre or post Games would be a perfect fit.

Many events also took place around The Gathering such as a variety of Clan functions, dinners and receptions, a Scottish Diaspora Forum held at Scottish Parliament and more. Many attendees were also taking in all Scotland has to offer from the Scottish Borders to the Highlands and islands, also a range of other events such as The Edinburgh Tattoo, World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Clan Fortnight in Aberdeen, and a variety of highland games and Homecoming events across the country, generating millions of pounds for the Scotland's economy.

Clan Leslie had a tent and I did manage to visit on a couple of occasions and in attendance throughout the weekend was The Chief of the Clan Leslie, the Honourable Alexander Leslie. The entire Clan village was busy throughout the weekend with people from all over the world celebrating their roots and history.

The Gathering was one of the key Homecoming events for 2009 (with Homecoming events still taking place to the end of November this year) and certainly did Scotland proud. The feeling of goodwill, friendship and Scottish pride at The Gathering was evident by all involved and now is the time to build on such a positive experience both back in Scotland and at home so we can all continue to celebrate our heritage and roots.

Sean Cairney
The Scottish Banner.
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CLAN LESLIE DNA PROJECT

Please visit www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/leslie to check on the Leslies who have taken the DNA test which will help future generations of Leslies and please participate in the program and take the test. This project is of the utmost importance for future generations.

BRITISH MARK 1 TANKS. WW1

In the October, November, December 2004 issue of Grip Fast Down Under, I featured a story on a World War One tank, called Clan Leslie. There is now a book issued by David Fletcher of the Bovington Tank Museum and printed by Osprey Publishing www.ospreypublishing.com

In this issue I have a print of Clan Leslie on its way to the front, 15 September 1915. Notice the steering wheel at the rear turned for steering. The other illustration is the camouflage scheme used for Mark 1 tanks.



Mark 1 Tank C19 "Clan Leslie"



The original camouflage for Mark 1 Tanks

Unfortunately the tank on display is not the original Clan Leslie tank, but a mockup.

Courtesy David Fletcher Bovington Tank Museum

MACLEAN.

CLARENCE RIVER NSW.

The tartan connection is not hard to find in MacLean (The Scottish Town in Australia). It seems to be a toss up between MacLean and Glen Innes. Many of the street posts in MacLean carry a reproduction of Clan tartans.

I have to thank CLANZ member Ron Leslie of Pennant Hills NSW for bringing this to my attention and I quote from the brochure issued by The MacLean Scottish Town Association.

THE MACLEAN TARTAN POLES PROJECT.

The MacLean Scottish Town Association is a voluntary community-based publicly elected

organisation, which was founded in 1986 to promote the Scottish Heritage and cultural identity of MacLean and district.



The Clan Leslie pole is number 239, situated up the hill on Clarence Street, with the Clarence River in the background.

There have been many achievements made by the hard-working committee over the intervening years, including both permanent fixtures and cultural events – but all contributing to the cultural improvement and betterment of the town. The most visibly evident and successful of our projects has been the painting of tartan designs on power poles through the town's main thoroughfares. The idea was launched back in 2000 when it was decided by the committee to paint "half a dozen" poles in the CBD with tartan designs to coincide with the arrival of the Olympic Torch, which was to be conveyed through the town at the time. The relevant approvals were obtained to carry out the work in readiness for the Torch procession through town and the poles were painted. However the designs attracted so much favourable comment that the committee decided to add further poles, especially following considerable public demand which then followed for "family tartans" to be painted.



Map of MacLean and District with MacLean far left.

Hence the painting was carried on through the main street of town and was extended from there, so that today we have an avenue of tartan poles right through town from Harwood Bridge, to the southern approach to town at Ferry Park. Many poles have also been painted in streets in and around the CBD and in Wharf and Union Streets.

The committee has now painted over 200 poles (including a number in the Townsend, Gulmarrad and Ilarwill areas) and due to the workload on our voluntary members, has now decided to “call it a day” at that number. We will now concentrate on repainting and repairing existing poles as they become damaged or faded, to ensure that their appearance is maintained.

We are sure that you will appreciate the wonderful display of colour and variety that exists with these poles in your travels through our lovely town. It is also important to acknowledge that all of the tartan designs on our poles, (since the very first pole) have been painted by our resident artist, Linda El Mir, who has contributed so much to our town’s visual environment.

MACLEAN – THE SCOTTISH TOWN IN AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION INC.



CLANZ Member Ron Leslie who contributed the material for this story. Many thanks Ron.

ANZAC BRIDGE COMMEMORATION SERVICE. SYDNEY NSW.

On Sunday 19th April 2009 a Commemoration Service was held at the statue of the New Zealand soldier on the ANZAC Bridge, opposite the statue of the Australia digger, to remember the sacrifices, which our soldiers have made.

The New Zealand Consul General Ms Sarah Craig, was there and was accompanied by members of the Australian and New Zealand Defence Forces.

Also there were New Zealand ex service veterans attending and I was “The Master of Ceremonies” and sang the New Zealand National Anthem, first in Maori and then in (pakeha) English, as well as the Australian National Anthem.



Barrie Leslie announcing Squadron Leader David Winkelman RNZAF (ret)

Unfortunately because of the inclement weather we had to hold the service underneath the ANZAC Bridge and the noise was rather disturbing. I wore my grandfathers World War One medals as a mark of respect and remembrance.



The New Zealand Soldier Statue on the ANZAC Bridge, there is a small vial of sand from the Gallipoli Beach underneath the Statue.

BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING

The 33rd Bundanoon Highland Gathering is on Saturday 17th April 2010. Please make arrangements to be there, as it is one of the largest Highland Gatherings in Australia, if not the largest. The day will begin with a Street Parade from the town at 9-30am and continue all day long with various entertainments in the main arena.

Admission will be, adults \$18-00, Aged Pension Concession \$15-00, children \$5-00 & family, tow adults and accompanying children \$40-00.

The Heritage Express, Southern Aurora will depart from Central Station, ring bookings on 02 9379 1031 and the Federal City Express departs from Canberra. Bookings ring 02 6284 2790.

The day will end at 4-30pm but there will be a "Ceilidh" at the Soldiers Memorial Hall in Railway Parade Bundanoon. For bookings ring 02 4883 60334 AH from January 2010.

www.highlandsnsw.com.au/brigadoon

Scotland's People has released pre 1855 Church of Scotland death and burial records on its website at www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk Unlike England and Wales, Scottish Ministers were not required to keep burial or death records registers, although many did. Some of the entries in the collection are direct records of burials with in the parish, whilst many others provide evidence of death in the payment, which is recorded in the Kirk Session minutes for the hire of a black shroud called a "mort cloth" from the minister.

OTHER WEBSITES.

www.nas.gov.uk is the National Archives of Scotland and holds Scottish Government Records, including the Sheriff's Court, which also deals with adoptions.

www.scan.org.uk is the Scottish Archives Network and has digital records of certain records from NAS and other Scottish archives, including the Highlands and Islands Emigration Society passenger lists and the Medical Officer of Health reports. As well as this you can access all the records in 52 of Scotland's major research archives

www.nls.uk is the National Library of Scotland website which has a fully searchable catalogue. The library contains a vast collection of maps, music manuscripts and foreign collections.

Good Luck. Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

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Previous issues of Grip Fast Down Under:-
www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm

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