
grip fast



DOWN UNDER

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

Vol. 2, No 12, Jan, Feb, March 2005.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE EARL OF ROTHES.

Barrie,

May I ask you to pass on Christmas Greetings to all your members in Australia and New Zealand, through your Grip Fast Down Under newsletter.

At a time of year when we think of family and friends, it seems appropriate also to remember our Leslie kinsfolk wherever they may be throughout the world, so I send my best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

LESLIE CLAN GATHERING 12TH, 13TH, 14TH AUGUST 2005.

PERTH SCOTLAND

The Perth Highland Games will take place on Sunday 14th August 2005. This gives us the opportunity to have a three day event and make the most of your holiday.

The Gathering will be held in the **Isle of Skye** hotel in Perth Scotland.

The Hotel is giving us the same room rate in 2005 as in 2004. The cost per room is £45 per day. **This includes breakfast.**

The Hotel has 50 rooms, so book early. Some rooms have more than two beds.

Bookings can be done by ph 0044 870 234 0500 or by email to sales@isleofskypeperth.co.uk please quote Clan Leslie and **inform us after your booking is confirmed.**

Brian and Petra Lesslie
bless993@blueyonder.co.uk



COLONEL DOUGLAS ROBERT LESLIE 2/9 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL



CONTINUED.

Following World War II, Douglas went to England and in 1946 he obtained the FRCS in London. He had already obtained the FRACS in 1944. After his return to Australia, he was appointed to the honorary surgical staff at the Alfred, Prince Henry's and the Royal Melbourne Hospitals, but workloads forced him to drop all his public hospital appointments, except the Royal Melbourne Hospitals, where he served in numerous capacities for many

years. He was later appointed, Consultant General Surgeon to the Royal Women's Hospital. He also ran a very busy private practice, initially widely spread throughout the metropolitan area. But in later years, largely confined to the Freemason's Hospital. His former student and outpatient surgeon, Scottie MacLeish tells about his work and achievements at the Royal Melbourne and also at the College.

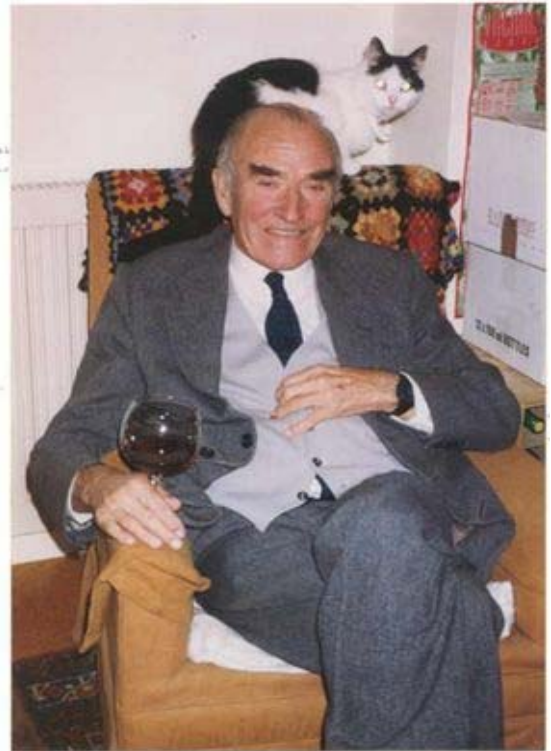


Douglas & wife, Margaret going to see Queen Elizabeth II, as Queens House Surgeon

Douglas was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1974, "for exceptional services to the Australian Army, particularly in the field of Military Medicine". He was appointed Honorary Surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen in 1967. He remained a member of many other bodies, including the Australian Resuscitation Council, of which he had been Chairman and was elected to the Roll of Honour early in 1994, the Australian Association of Surgeons, the International Society of Surgery, the Pan Pacific Surgical Society, the Anti Cancer Council and various Hospital Boards. He had been an examiner of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, a University examiner in both surgery and anatomy, a fellow of the Australian Medical Association and was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and also of the American College of Surgeons.

Following his retirement from the Visiting Surgical Staff at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1974, he continued in Private Practice, and was still consulting, though no longer operating at the time of his death in 1994. His wife Margaret, suffered a stroke in 1980, which

devastated Douglas and she eventually died in 1986, after suffering a further series of strokes. These years took a lot out of Douglas, but some years later he struck up a lasting friendship with Dr Erina Batt, who remained a great comfort to him.



Douglas Leslie in the 1980s with friend

In 1993 he developed anaemia and was found to have a myelodysplastic syndrome, which required regular blood transfusions, which gradually sapped his strength. Douglas finally suffered a mesenteric thrombosis on Sunday 6th November 1994, had an urgent laparotomy and died peacefully, surrounded by his family in the Intensive Care Unit at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne the following evening.

His brother, the Rt Rev Ken Leslie, 6th Bishop of Bathurst and Patron of Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand, delivered the Eulogy at a family service on the 11th November 1994. *(a copy of the eulogy is available)*

Many thanks to Dr John Leslie of Melbourne for the above information on his father.

**TRIBUTE TO CAPT D. R. LESLIE.
2/4TH FIELD AMBULANCE.**

**By
Sgt "DEACON" KELLY
2/33RD BATTALION
1943.**

"ARMY DOCTOR"

In a steaming, teaming clearing
On the virgin jungle rim
Stands a little spot of mercy
In the midst of human sin
It's a tiny Red Cross Hospital
A place of ease and rest,
Where the mark of man's bestiality
By God is recompensed.

All around in pungent forests
Slaughter foul and cracking guns
Take their toll of human bodies
'Neath the reeking scorching sun.
Down a winding bush-girt pathway
Ankle deep in clinging mud
Come the victims of the battle
Helpless, aimless, spilling blood.

In a tent on marshy richness
By a stream that's cool and pure
Rich endowed with healing magic
Is the hand of the Army surgeon
Waiting patiently and calm
A blessing to the wounded
To the sick a healing balm.

From a hundred thankful homesteads
In a sunny beach bound land
Grateful hearts will turn toward him
Of the sure and learned hand
Prayers of gratitude will reach him
In the peaceful years to come
A tribute to his staunchness
In a job so nobly done

IMPORTANT:- CAN YOU HELP.

Several months ago, one of the members of CLANZ lent me a video called:-

KOKODA WAR DIARY 1942 – 1943
The Recollections and Photographs of
Dr Alan Watson A.M.

I made of copy of this video, but somehow the audio did not record. Would the member lend it to me again as Capt Douglas Leslie is included in the video and I would like to archive it.

If you can help please let me know.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW.

LESLIE HOUSE FIFE. SCOTLAND

Leslie in Fife was originally called "Fythkill" and Norman de Lesly obtained a grant of land there in 1282. Sir George Leslie of Rothes, who married a niece of the King, Elizabeth Hay, was granted the Barony of Fythkill in 1396 for a annual rent of a pair of gloves.

John the 7th Earl of Rothes and 1st Duke of Rothes built the first great palace at Leslie about 1670, part of which is the present Leslie House.



*John 7th Earl of Rothes and 1st Duke of Rothes
Courtesy Clan Leslie Charitable Trust*

Leslie House was burnt to the ground on Christmas Day 1763, apart from the west quarter of the house, the Rothes family lost “every convenience, magnificence and luxury” apart from a few pieces of furniture and some paintings.



The only known print of Leslie House before the fire of 1763. Courtesy Clan Leslie Trust

The 10th Earl had to sell the Barony of Ballinbreich to finance the rebuilding of Leslie House, which is reputed to have been designed by Sir William Bruce of Kinross and the Earl died there in 1767 soon after its completion.



*Leslie House Fife by Laporte.
Courtesy Clan Leslie Charitable Trust*

Leslie House was sold to Sir Robert Spencer-Nairn in 1919 and he later gifted it to the Church of Scotland and it was used as a retirement home for the elderly until the Church of Scotland decided to sell the house, earlier in 2004.

On the 14th January 2004, the Leslie House 21 Group presented a petition to the Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament drawing attention to the national crisis associated with the funding for the care of the elderly, which is leading to the closure of more and more care homes throughout Scotland.

The Leslie House petition was well received by the Committee who agreed to write to the Scottish Executive seeking its comments on the Leslie House 21 Groups petition. As they say, we will all be old one day (*hopefully*) and may need residential care, but don't wait until you are old to do something, that will be too late. Do something now.



Leslie House today.

The agents selling Leslie House, Rettie & Co 1 India Street Edinburgh call Leslie House:-
“ a sprawling mansion designed on the scale of Holyrood Palace which will take a king's ransom –and some imagination- to restore.

As the agent reports:- A historic home with lots of land. Would 37 bedrooms and 26 acres be big enough for you?.

The buyer of Leslie House near Glenrothes Fife, will need bags of energy to carry out the work it needs, and a lot of cash to match.

Clearly there are some property enthusiasts who think they have both. The category A-listed mansion, built to rival the Palace of Holyrood, was put on the market on the 29th June without an asking price. Since then, Rettie & Co, the estate agency handling the sale, have carried out over 30 viewings. Surprisingly, given the size and condition of the property, many of the potential buyers have expressed the intention of restoring it as a family home.

“At 30,000 sq ft it is pretty large by any stretch of the imagination”, says William Scarlett of Rettie & Co. “The most likely route is that residential developers will buy it but we have also had several individuals look at it for a single house, including an American client”.

The Earl of Rothes is hoping that somehow, part of Leslie House may be able to become a home for the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

THE KINGS OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS

An article in “The Scotsman” newspaper has drawn attention to the proposed forced merger of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers with the Royal Scots, under a plan drawn up by the Council of Scottish Colonels.



*Lady Alice Christabel Montague Douglas Scott,
Duchess of Gloucester
Late Colonel-in-Chief K.O.S.B.*

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, aunt of Queen Elizabeth II, who died on Friday 29th October who had been the Colonel-in-Chief of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers for more than 60 years, was bitterly opposed to the merger and only weeks before her death at the age of 102 found the strength to send a message of encouragement to those fighting against the amalgamation.

To join “The Scotsman’s” campaign against the amalgamation, log onto:-

www.thescotman.co.uk/regiments and help fight this latest attempt at amalgamation.

In a message to the KOSB’s Regimental Headquarters, last month, Alistair Wood, the late Princess’s private secretary, passed on her deep unease about the proposed merger.

The Kings Own Scottish Borderers, or as it was also known. The Earl of Leven’s, or Edinburgh Regiment was initially formed 19th March 1689.



Crest of the K.O.S.B. Regiment

On the 5th Jan 1887 it became known as the Kings Own Scottish Borders Regiment when it was reorganised as the County regiment of Berwickshire, Dumfries-shire, Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire.

During the Great War (1914-1918) it had many battle honours, including Gallipoli, Mons, Ypres, Loos, Somme, Arras, Gaza as well as many others not mentioned.

During World War II its battle honours included amongst others, Dunkirk, Caen, Arnhem, Rhine, Bremen, Ngakyedauk Pass, Imphal and the Irrawaddy and later it had service in Korea and the Gulf War.

A special mention should be made of one of the Regiments early Colonels who was General John Leslie 10th Earl of Rothes.

The Regiments Motto is:-

Nisi dominus frustra; In veritatem religionis confido; Nec aspera terrent.

“IN THIS SIGN CONQUER”

Just to remind Australians, it is also allied with The Royal Queensland Regiment.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW 2072.

ABERDEEN ANGUS STEAK

For those who want a special treat, may I recommend the following:-

Aberdeen Angus Steak

Ingredients:

four x 4 – 6oz (125 –175gr) fillet steak.

1 ½ oz (40gr) butter.

2 tbsp oil. (olive or vegetable)

1oz (25gr) medium oatmeal.

1 small onion, finely chopped.

8 fl oz (250ml) red wine.

3 tbsp thickened cream

salt and pepper to taste.

finally but not least: 2 tbsp good scotch whisky.

Melt the butter in a large frying pan and cook the oatmeal slowly till it has browned, slightly. Remove this from the pan. Put in a tbsp of oil and add onions and cook until they are also lightly browned. Remove and put into a warm place, with the oatmeal. Add another tbsp of oil and fry the steak on BOTH sides until cooked. Remove from the stove and put into a warm place.

To finish the dish, add the red wine and scrape around the frying pan to mix with the pan juices. Simmer gently for a few minutes to reduce and concentrate the flavour. Add the cream, onions and oatmeal. Season and adjust the consistency, to taste, with a little more red wine, if necessary.

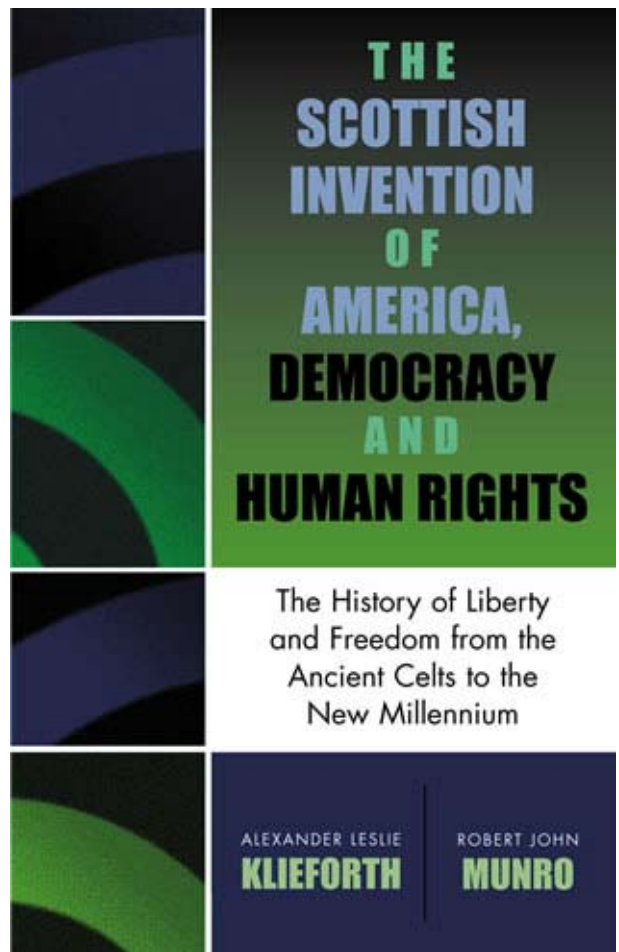
Return the steaks to the frying pan. Pour over the whisky and flame. Serve immediately.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW 2072.

THE SCOTTISH INVENTION OF AMERICA, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

This is the new book that has been published by University Press of America, for Alexander Leslie Klieforth (the founder of Clan Leslie Society of America) and Robert John Munro.

It traces the history of liberty from 1300BC to 2004AD. The book traces the history of the philosophy and fight for freedom from the ancient celts to the creation of America.



It asserts the roots of liberty that originated in the radical political thoughts of the ancient celts,

the Scots struggle for freedom, John Duns Scotus and the Declaration of Arbroath (1320) which influenced Locke and the English Whig theorists as well as the Founding fathers of America, particularly Jefferson, Madison, Wilson and Witherspoon.

Alexander Leslie Klieforth argues that the Arbroath Declaration (1320) and its philosophy was the intellectual foundation of the American revolution and the Declaration of Independence (1776). Thus the work is a revolutionary alternative to the traditional Anglocentric view that freedom, democracy and human rights descended only from John Locke and England in the 1600s.

Alexander Leslie Klieforth received his B.A. and LL.D. degrees from St Norbert College in Wisconsin USA., his M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, advanced study at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and Louvain, Belgium and doctoral work at George Washington University, Washington DC USA. As a professional American diplomat, he was stationed in Washington D.C., Europe, Asia and Latin America and also on special assignment in the Middle East and Africa.

He also wrote "Grip Fast The Leslie's in History", which is available for purchase from Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand.

The Scottish Invention of America, Democracy and Human Rights,

A History of Liberty and Freedom from the Ancient Celts to the new Millenium
ISBN 0-7618-2791-9 9th March 2004

is available from:-

University Press of America Inc

Cost \$52-00us

www.univpress.com

LANE COVE TARTAN DAY

The next Lane Cove Tartan Day is set for 18th June 2005. Lane Cove is a northern suburb of Sydney and all costs and insurance is covered by the Lane Cove Council.

Please mark it in your diary as it is an excellent Gathering and so handy to Sydney.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW

SCOTTISH DOCUMENTS

If you have searched for wills and other documents from www.scottishdocuments.com please be aware that from early in 2005 that department will be combining with the National Archives of Scotland, General Register Office for Scotland and the Court of the Lord Lyon to provide a one stop shop for scottish records.

They will be based around General Register House and New Register House buildings in Edinburgh.

Early in 2005 the Scottish Wills index and image ordering service will transfer from ScottishDocuments.com to the Scottish Peoples website at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

You will be able to continue to search the index of Scottish Wills 1500 – 1901 and use the research tools free of charge. The benefits of the new site will be its improved availability and ease of navigation, together with access to the records of the other partners.

In simple terms, the ScotlandsPeople website will begin delivery of the online Scottish Wills service at some point in 2005. The precise handover date is not yet set, but it is expected to be sometime between January and April 2005. The two sites will work in parallel for a while but at some point in 2005 the ScottishDocuments site will stop working or it may be used to provide some other service.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon.NSW.

GATHERING AT CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUNDS 31ST OCTOBER 2004

Well The 135th Annual Combined Scottish Societies of NSW Inc Scottish Gathering at the Castle Hill Showgrounds has come and gone.



Tossing the Braemar Caber

If you were not there you missed a wonderful day. It was a beautiful sunny day, but not too hot. We have Public Liability insurance through the Combined Scottish Societies, which enables us to have a representation at six Gathering each year. So let us get into it and try and recruit some more members.



Barrie Leslie with the CLANZ tent.

If you can help with setting up a tent in your area, please let me know and I will give you all the help that I can.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon NSW.

ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS REQUIRED.

We need articles and photographs for a "Roll of Honour" feature. Surely if you look at your family you must have someone who achieved something, either in the workplace or leisure, who we could feature in an article.

It is not hard to write an article and with practice, who knows you might get to enjoy it and want to volunteer to help me produce the newsletter.

If you cannot do that why not try and recruit some more members. It is a matter of ringing up people by the name of Leslie or the Leslie septs who are in your phone book and talking to them.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon.NSW.

WANT TO LEARN SCOTTISH DANCING.

Regular classes for beginners. No experience or scottish clothing required, just soft shoes. All areas close to Sydney. Ring Keith on 02 9712 2918 for the class nearest to you. Don't be shy have a go, you never know where it will lead.

Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand

Commissioner **James Barrie Leslie** 61-2-9418-2262
Clan Leslie Society 43 Rosedale Road. Gordon.
Aust & NZ NSW. 2072. Aust lesliejb@ozemail.com.au

Convenor CLANZ **J. Barrie Leslie** as above

Patron of CLANZ **Rt Rev Kenneth Leslie OBE. BA. Th. Schol.**
6th Bishop of Bathurst.

Secretary **Malcolm W Leslie** 61-7-4635-8358
Membership 1 Mannuem Crt. Toowoomba.
Queensland. 4350. Aust. leslies@icr.com.au

Treasurer [acting] **Elaine M Wood** 61-2-9498-5068
41 Kooloona Cres West Pymble
NSW 2073. Aust elawood@ozemail.com.au

Newsletter newsletter editor or committee required

Webmaster & I T Manager **Andrew C Leslie** 61-2-9958-6284
10 Rosewall Street. Willoughby
NSW 2068. Aust aleslie@amalgamated.com.au

New Zealand Representative **Jillian A Burcher** 64-9-444-9734
9/86 Bentley Ave Glenfield. Auckland. NZ
ckerry@xtra.co.nz

Queensland Representative **Selwyn J Leslie** 61-7-4630-7023
32 Gowrie-Tilgonda Road. Gowrie Junction
Qld 4352. Aust selwyn.leslie@bigpond.com

South Australia Representative **Audry M Fry** 61-8-8331-9688
37 Ormond Grove, Toorak Gardens,
South Australia 5065. Australia.

Victoria Representative **Lea Hess** 61-3-9740-9960
10 Rigby Place. Sunbury.
Victoria 3429. Australia hess@melbpc.org.au

West Australia Representative **Margaret A Pearce** 61-8-9880-7022
P. O. Box. 52. Hyden.
Western Australia. 6359.

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

Chief of Clan Leslie **Ian, 21st Earl of Rothes**
Tanglewood, W. Tytherley, Nr.
Salisbury, U.K. SP5 1LX

Clan Leslie Society International

Chieftain **Edmund J Leslie** 402-359-4107
25837 Blondo Waterloo
2003-2004 NE. 68069 USA email:- eleslie@direcway.com

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