



DOWN UNDER

Well it is great news to inform you that Clan Leslie Society has now officially set up in Australia.

So this is the first newsletter of the Clan Leslie Society, Australia and New Zealand Branch.

What is this Clan Leslie Society you may well ask, and we have to tell you that it is an international society of those bearing the Leslie name, with its multitude of spellings and those who are derived from the Leslie family. Other family names with close association to the Leslie:- Abernethy, Bartholomew, Carnie, Lang and More who are septs of Clan Leslie are also welcome to join.

The hereditary Chief of Clan Leslie is Ian Lionel Malcolm Leslie, 21st Earl of Rothes, Lord Rothes and Baron of Ballenbreich, who was born in 1932. His family home was Leslie House in Fife, Scotland and after serving in the Royal Navy, he spent time in London, in publishing and currently he and his wife Marigold, live on a farm in Salisbury in the south of England.

In the late 1970s the Hon Alec Leslie Klieforth, an American diplomat, who is descended from the Russian branch of the Leslie family, conferred with Lord Rothes, with a view to forming a Leslie association, in order to promote the broader interests of the Leslie Clan. At that time, as there seemed to be a

greater interest in these matters in the USA, than elsewhere, probably because more Leslies now live overseas than in Scotland. The meeting of these two concerned Leslies resulted in Lord Rothes officially commissioning Alec Klieforth, to proceed with forming the now international Clan Leslie Society. This was formally documented under Lord Rothes authority on 27th April 1978.

In his appointment, Lord Rothes stipulated four main objectives.

[1] Social activities to promote and extend kinship among members.

[2] Collecting, collating and recording items of historical interest.

[3] Creating and maintaining a Roll of Clan Members, and Genealogical information.

[4] Establishing when possible, "Clan Houses" where these activities may be concentrated.

We owe a great deal to the enthusiasm and foresight of these two men, because today, twenty-one years later, the international Clan Leslie Society has hundreds of members all over the world, from Scotland, England, Canada, USA and some in Australia and New Zealand.

We hope to increase the Australasian membership dramatically and hope you will join us.

Russell Lesslie, Killara, NSW

INTERESTED ?

If you have an interest in your Leslie family roots and you should, all you have to do is complete the official international application form and forward it with your Australian cheque, in Australian dollars to the Australian address shown on the application form.

What do you get for your money?

First you will get a feeling of pride in your own family. Then you will receive an Australian receipt, followed by an official international membership certificate from overseas.

You can then expect to receive the “**Griffin**”, the annual international booklet, containing facts and history of the Leslie clan, its establishments and personalities.

“**Grip Fast**” the bi-monthly international newsletter covering clan news, activities etc.

“**Grip Fast Down Under**” the quarterly Australasian newsletter featuring local items of interest, local history, personalities, meetings, discussions etc.

In addition you have the opportunity to place details of your family tree within official Leslie records and perhaps with some assistance, research your ancestral past. With a bit of luck, you might trace your pedigree back to the 1060s. Some of us have.

Well give us an Aussie fair go, fill out the application form, send the covering cheque and participate for your family's sake and future.

HOW MANY LESLIE'S ARE THERE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

For practical purposes in establishing the Clan Leslie Society in Australia, we initially propose to contact a small number of Leslies, living within close proximity in Sydney so that we can build up an active nucleus from which we can expand. That is not to say that Leslies from the four corners of Australia and New Zealand are not free to join immediately. In fact we would welcome them.

A project such as this activates the mind to consider where and how many Leslies now live in Australia and New Zealand. In due course we may well have the answer.

Sydney, our largest city, recently gained its four millionth resident. When Australia's population is analysed, there is a very heavy concentration of nine million residents on the eastern seaboard, of nearly two million in Brisbane, Sydney four million and Melbourne three million. Compare that to Perth in the far west of the country, with one million and projected to take another 25 years to reach the second million. Adelaide halfway to the west is still under one million and not expected to reach two million for a long time. Despite the fact that Sydney is a large city, it is still small compared to Tokyo-Yokohama, the world's largest city that boasts a population of twenty seven million.

LESLIE CASTLE UP FOR SALE

If you have about one and a half million \$A dollars you may consider buying **Leslie Castle** situated a little west of Aberdeen in Scotland.



Leslie Castle Aberdeenshire

It is fully renovated; in fact David Leslie and his wife Leslie have rebuilt it as close to the original plans as possible. Some years back, David, an architect from Aberdeen, looking for a project, came across the ruins of the historic Leslie Castle and there and then decided that this was it.

The Castle has assumed great prominence in both past and recent times and Davis and his wife have given great service to the Leslie clan by rebuilding the Castle and using it to promote Clan Leslie affairs.

Today the Castle again stands aloof over picturesque undulating green countryside and ready to make a wonderful family residence. A Baronial title goes with the property as the ownership of this historic land incorporates a title, handed down by the King of Scotland.

If you have aspirations as to title and distinctive ownership. Baron David Leslie and Baroness Leslie would be pleased to talk to you.

Please note:

The officers are listed below. Addressing requests to the GF editor will only delay your getting a response!

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