

GRIP FAST DOWN UNDER



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

Vol. 9 No 6, July-September 2018



Another year half gone!

I don't know about the rest of you, but to me, time seems to be speeding up. The old saying, "When you are young, the days pass quickly, but time drags, and as you age the days drag, but time flies", is very true.

Colleen and I recently had a trip to western NSW as we had not been in that area before. We were really shocked to see how severe the drought is, and feel very sorry for the people on the land. Australia is truly a "Land of floods and drought".

Apart from that, our trip was great, and we had a wonderful time visiting country towns and exploring this great land we live in. I met relatives I had never met before and learned about my Mother's side of our family. This part of the family is also of Scots descent, being Turnbulls, who hale from the border regions.

If any of you ever get the chance to visit Bourke, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge or other parts of the outback, do so, it is an experience not to be missed.

Now, to another subject. In the last couple of issues, I have asked "Where are we going?". Sadly, I have had no response to this question. With this issue you will find a survey form (back page), which I would like every member to complete and return. As your Commissioner and Chieftain, I am responsible to our Chief, to keep him informed of the "State of the Nation" with our society. **Please let me know your thoughts!**

Until next time,
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Malcolm Leslie, Commissioner/Chieftain

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ARTICLES

I would be **greatly** pleased if members could send me articles or reports of events they have attended, or any news of interest, so I could include them to make our newsletter more newsworthy.

It is a difficult job to put out a regular issue if there is no news to go in it.

Send articles to: malncol@icr.com.au.

From Chief Alex

The Highland Games in Salt Lake City

There are a couple of things I never knew about Salt Lake City.

The first is that you are now allowed to drink in Utah (in fact the queue for the beer tent was around the block at 10.00 a.m.) and the second is that the inhabitants are the largest consumers of lime jello in the country – and therefore probably the world.

One thing I suspected was that we would have a warm welcome at the Games there. And that was confirmed very quickly. Although the Games are comparatively small for the US, with around 10,000 visitors, the welcome was as good, if not better, as many Games that Miranda and I have attended over the years.

The weather was also warm, too warm for kilts and the rest of the kit that goes with it, on the first day reaching 38 degrees. Luckily the second day was a lot cooler and we were able to walk around the tents and watch the caber throwing and sheaf tossing. We even had our photo taken with one of the owls in the Harry Potter films – not, sadly Hedwig himself.

It was fun and it was a great opportunity to catch up with some old friends and meet some new ones.

Some interesting decisions were made during the Leslie business meeting on the Saturday morning.

One was that the next Gathering should – if possible – be in Scotland, in 2020.

It is 25 years (if you can believe it) since the last proper Leslie Gathering in Aberdeenshire, at Leslie Castle.

And we are thinking that we should hold it on the weekend of the Aboyne Games, which is the biggest and best known Highland Games in Scotland itself.

So, Saturday 8th August 2020.

And 2020 is the 700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, one of history's defining documents.

I will obviously keep you up to date with how we are getting on with venues and accommodation and other logistics.

But it is worth putting the date in the diary now – it would be great if some (or all) of our Leslie cousins from Australasia could come and visit. We promise to make it fun.

Alex Leslie

5th July 2018

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SITUATIONS VACANT

The following situations are vacant and we need enthusiastic Society members to volunteer to take them on:

Editor, Grip Fast Down Under

Membership Secretary

Representative Victoria

If anyone can see their way clear to make any of these positions their own, please contact the Commissioner/Chieftain

ROB LESSLIE'S WORLDVIEW

The following article appeared in the "Science Donor Newsletter" produced by the Australian National University. We thank them for their permission to reproduce the article, and we thank Russell Leslie for drawing attention to it.

Dr Rob Lesslie: Transforming a legacy into a reality



When friends, family and colleagues talk about Dr Rob Lesslie, one word keeps coming up: worldview.

It was sharing Rob's worldview which his wife, Lynne Alexander, says drew her to him when they were studying together at Adelaide University.

It's her father's worldview which Rob's daughter Ellen says she recognises in her natural resources management courses at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at ANU, where Rob also completed his PhD.

And it was Rob's worldview, his friend colleague Richard Thackway says, which moved people to contribute chapters to the book *Land Use in Australia: Past, Present and Future*, dedicated to Rob, and which Richard edited and recently launched at ANU.

"It was that we have a responsibility to steward and look after the land in which we live," Richard explains, "And to point out, as politely as possible, that people create the mess they live in and they can fix it."

Rob was one of Australia's leading geographers and natural resource scientists, and his career made a significant impact on natural resource management spanning government, education and the private sector.

With Richard, his colleague of 20 years, Rob created an influential framework which described the modification of Australia's natural landscape over time. It demonstrated that environmental degradation is rarely a lost cause; instead, the landscape can respond to regenerative management systems.

"If you take a bulldozer and bowl down a bunch of trees, that's not the end of the story," Richard explains, "We showed that if you cease to use your bulldozers and ploughs and cattle and sheep, the environment will come back."

"It may take a long time, it may not go back to what it was originally, but it can go back to something which approximates it and then people can get multiple benefits from the ecosystem goods and services."

"Rob's was quite a level-headed outlook which said: "We need our Corn Flakes, our steaks and our milk, but we also need places of reflection and solitude."

"From a boy he was drawn to investigate the natural world," Lynne says. "Even at school he went off on trips into the bush and was fascinated by maps. It formed the foundation of his imagination."

Richard says some of his fondest memories of Rob come from the grown-up version of these adventures.

"We always said we wanted to do a trip through inland Australia," Richard remembers. "He bought himself a new car and was very proud of

it and wanted to try it out. We drove out through western NSW into South Australia and into Victoria and drank lots of red wine and argued about how the world would, and should, change as a result of our thinking. It was lovely.”

The next year, Richard and Rob were back in Canberra and kayaking on Lake Burley Griffin. As they were climbing ashore Rob mentioned that he had a stomach cramp.

“Regrettably it was more than that, and within a year he had died from cancer.”

Richard has spent the four years since then promoting Rob’s worldview, now his legacy, and trying to keep that conversation in the car continuing. Along with editing *Land Use in Australia*, he is a Visiting Fellow at ANU, hoping to inform future generations of scientists.

His family has done the same, with the establishment of the Leslie Endowment. Through grants to ANU research students, the Endowment has supported research into issues including evidence-based ecological management in protected areas, conserving native flora in agricultural landscapes, and a study of Eucalyptus coolabah on the Diamantina River system in South Australia. “It’s fantastic that his and our views are being perpetuated by encouraging people to do further study,” Lynne says. “It’s the best memorial to him there could possibly be.”

“He’d be smiling up there now knowing that other people are being encouraged to take up his research and his line of view.”

Lynne says she isn’t always positive that governments will follow Rob’s lead in looking after the land we live in. “But I’m hopeful that young people will form the push to change it,” she says.

Right on cue, her daughter Ellen adds: “I am optimistic”.

And with her father’s worldview, and the world in her hands, it’s easy to feel the same.

LESLIE PARK—WARWICK

Leslie Park is a Park Reserve of just over 4.05ha in Warwick on the Darling Downs. Located within the central business district, it is bounded by Fitzroy, Guy, Albert and Palmerin Streets. The park comprises a number of significant elements, including lawns crossed with pathways, mature trees, croquet lawns (1906), lawn bowls lawns (1909), the Warwick War Memorial (1923), and War Memorial Gates (1925), the Leslie

Centenary Memorial Gates (1941) and the Morgan Memorial (1911).

HISTORY—Leslie Park is one half of a recreation reserve allocated during the first survey of the town in 1849. While the northern section has now been largely built upon, the southern section remains a public park. It was named Leslie Park in 1901, honouring the Leslie brothers, Patrick, George and Walter who established Queensland’s earliest pastoral runs in 1840. The northern section, once called Cunningham Park after explorer Allan Cunningham, is now occupied by the Warwick State High School, the Senior Citizens Centre, and the Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centre.

The town name of Warwick was gazetted in May 1847, replacing ‘Canning Downs’, as a place where Petty Sessions were appointed to be held. According to the memoirs of George’s wife, Emmeline, George and Patrick chose the town’s name from a novel by Edward Bulmer Lytton, ‘The Last of the Barons’, written in 1843.

The Village of Warwick was surveyed by Colonial Surveyor James Bennett in 1849. The survey included a large recreation reserve comprising two town blocks bounded by Fitzroy, Guy, Victoria and Palmerin Streets. The Warwick Town Square was formally gazetted as a 20 acre (8ha) Reserve for Public Recreation, in December 1855. In May 1861, the 5 square mile (1295ha) town reserve was proclaimed the Municipality of Warwick.

In 1867, the reserve squares in Warwick were divided in two with the opening of Albert Street through the centre. While it was re-gazetted by the Queensland Government in 1869 as one Reserve Square, the sections became known as the Southern and Northern Squares. They were fenced by the Municipal Council, with gates at each corner, and ornamental trees and shrubs were planted.

Walter Hill, Curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, reported on the parks’ progress in 1876, and suggested future development. This involved the installation of pathways.

The Warwick City Council became trustee of the squares in 1888, and in 1901, the Northern Square became ‘Cunningham Park’ and the Southern Square was renamed ‘Leslie Park’.

Gradually, over the years, the needs of the Council changed, and Cunningham Park was used for housing the buildings now located in that area. Leslie Park was retained as a public park and is still used for markets, festivals and other civic events.

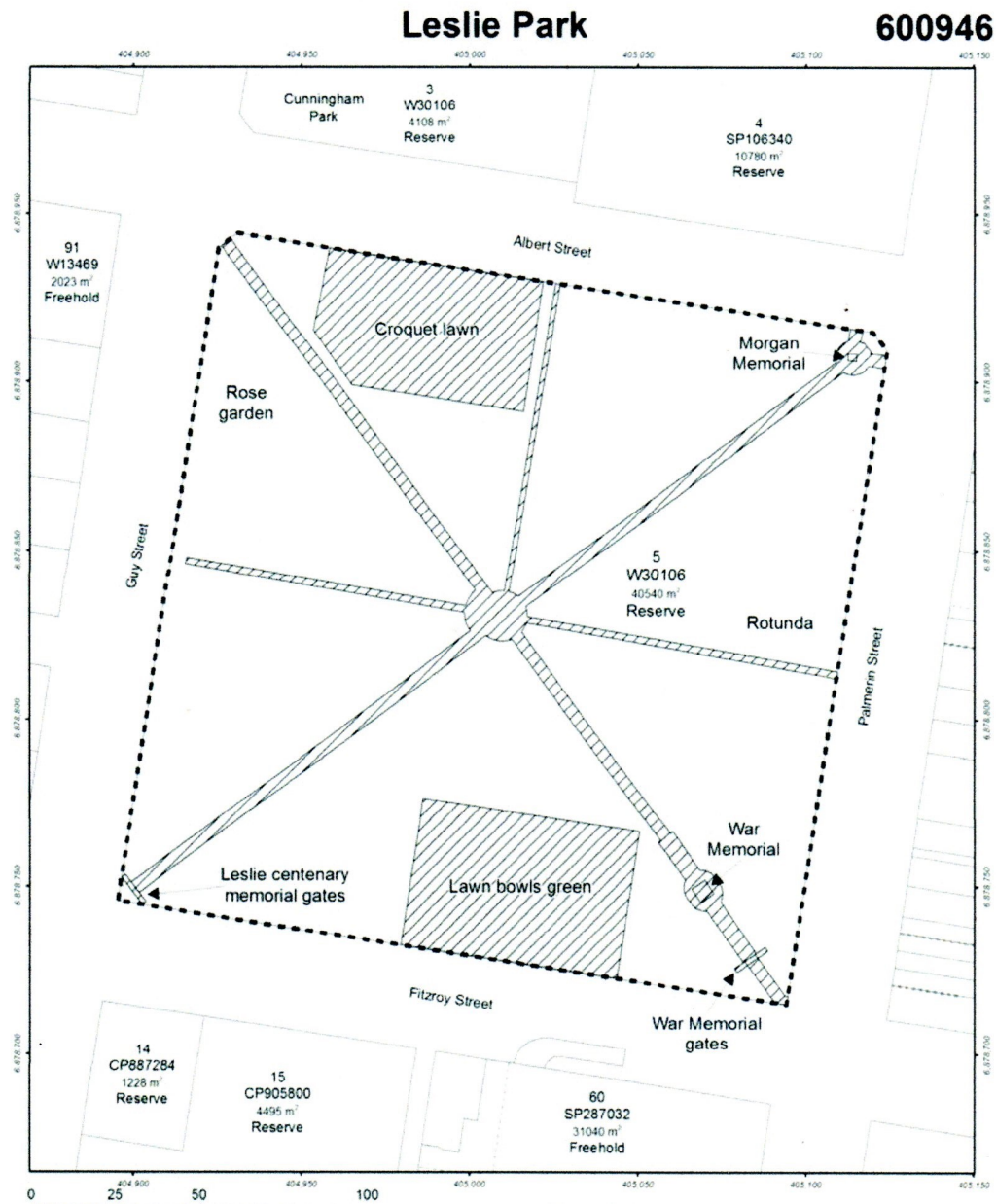


Figure 10: View within Leslie Park



Figure 7: Leslie Memorial Gates

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Note: We also have a group page on Facebook

Previous issues of Grip Fast Down Under:-

Can be viewed on our website. You can also see
them on, [www.electricscotland.com/familytree/
newsletters/leslie/index.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm)

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SUBMITTING OR USING ARTICLES IN GRIP FAST DOWN UNDER

Submitting articles to Grip Fast Down Under

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SURVEY

Over the last several months in “Grip Fast Down Under”, the question has been asked “Where are we going?”. Unfortunately, none of the Society members have expressed a view.

The Chief, Alexander Leslie, has indicated that amalgamation with Clan Leslie Society International is a possibility to ensure the viability of our continued existence.

The decision as to whether we continue as a separate entity, or as a Branch of CLSI is really, up to the membership.

Therefore, I ask that each of you will take the time to complete the form below, and return it to me by the **31st August 2018**.

I will then correlate the replies and forward the results to Chief Alex.

Any member not replying will be listed in the “Will accept the Chief’s Decision” column.

Malcolm Leslie

Commissioner

CLANZ

[illegible]

To Commissioner

CLANZ

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My wishes regarding CLANZ are: (Please tick the required option)

- I would prefer CLANZ to continue in its current form.
- I think CLANZ should become a Branch of CLSI.
- I think CLANZ should finish and all members be offered membership in CLSI.
- Other (Outline your suggestion below)
- I have no preference and will accept the Chief's decision.

Name _____ Signature _____