



Hi! Fellow clansfolks. Well this is a tale of Leslie's in a far off land; of course how far off it is depends on your starting point. Well this tale starts in Brisbane when I boarded the flight to Bangkok and stowed my carry-on luggage in the overhead lockers and settle back ready for that massive surge of energy



George Leslie from the jet engines as they power us down the runway, and into the great blue yonder. Well here we are four hours later and we are still over Australia, a fact not often recognised by many people is the size of this great country of ours, after all the total flight time to Bangkok is only nine hours. Well the flight continues on and we are fed and watered thanks to Thai Airways. Now the purpose of this flight was to meet our fellow clansman Simon Leslie, I had contacted Simon while checking the records of some of our overseas members. As many of you may be aware Simon's father was the clan society's foundation patron, the Rev Ken Leslie Sixth Bishop of Bathurst. Sadly the Rev Ken is no longer with us, but his legacy is still with us in the book written by Simon about his father's life "The Bishop who Walked" the title alludes to the fact that Rev Ken walked from Dubbo to Bathurst to raise funds for the completion of the Bathurst Cathedral (the book is available from our commissioner Barrie Leslie). Well we have landed, cleared customs and immigration and set off to find exit 2. This airport is quite large and after walking for what seemed an eternity I found exit 2 and located Simon's driver, who was to pick me up and take me to my hotel in Bangkok. Simon is the Headmaster/CEO of "The New International School of Thailand" or NIST as is locally referred to. Simon's job would be almost impossible without the allocation of a car and driver as parking anywhere in Bangkok is at a premium, more about the traffic conditions later. My hotel was near the Asoke BTS train station and

my balcony overlooked an extremely busy intersection which fascinated me as there was always traffic passing through. There was also an area for motorbike taxis, which are very popular with the locals as they certainly are an efficient way to get through the traffic. While watching all this I noticed that the girls taking a ride on these bikes, rode side-saddle and only the driver was required to wear a helmet. As I was later advised work place health and safety has a low priority in Thailand. On the Friday afternoon I was picked up and taken to Simon and Joy's house where they were hosting a party of approx. 130 people, these were all teachers and ancillary staff from the school, the purpose being to allow staff to meet



Simon & Joy Leslie, Thailand

and mix on an informal basis, as August is the start of the northern hemisphere academic year. I was able to meet a large number of the staff some new that term and some who had followed and stayed with Simon over many years, and who had the highest regard for him both as a friend and professionally. Joy also works at another school as an administrator. Believe me folks, that drivers and housekeepers sound fine I can assure you that they are benefits that are well and truly earned. Both Simon and Joy have been in and out of Thailand over the last 15 years and really enjoy the lifestyle. On Saturday I was shown around the school and it was most impressive with all the latest equipment, the major problem for the school is growth, some

of the buildings are already five stories high and the only options are to keep going higher. There are some 1500 students to be picked up at the end of the day with cars lining up and down the soi's (side streets). I had heard of the Chatachuk markets so it was arranged that we would go there on Sunday this is a huge market patronised by local Thai's as well as tourists, they are so large that they are divided into areas relative to the type of merchandise that is sold there, eg. There are sections for women's clothing, menswear, footwear and almost anything else you can think of. Well having spent a few thousand Baht (sounds good but not much in value) we were ready to move on. We went out country to a motor museum where we saw all sorts of vehicles in all states of repair, many being refurbished, unusually while attracting a large number of people there was no admission charge. After another good night's rest at Simon and Joy's I was driven to the Ekamai bus station where I caught the bus to Pattaya to spend the next five days of my holiday. The cost of this journey was 124 baht which is approx. 3.80 AUD for a two hour trip in an air conditioned coach.



NIST School Building Thailand

When I suggested that they should round it off to 125 baht Joy rightly pointed out that to the Thai people 1 baht made a big difference (the baht is further divided into 100 satangs) not commonly used in the tourist areas. Pattaya is certainly the sex tourist area of Thailand. I did not get around as much as I would have liked as my hip was playing up so I couldn't. Don't get me wrong there are certainly plenty of family friendly areas in Thailand, you can go for a trip out to some of the islands in the Gulf of Thailand, and there is also parasailing and jet skis for hire. The sex aspect of Pattaya is certainly there but contrary to the belief of some people it is not in your face, the girls do wait to be approached, it's just that innocent curiosity might be presumed to be an approach.

After five days I returned to Bangkok for my final five days during which time I went to Pantip Markets, which is a large multi storey building with a few hundred retailers all selling IT products. The following day I went on a river cruise, which I found interesting as some of the dwellings really are on the river. The next day I went to The Jim Thompson House, an American architect who revitalized the silk industry and who eventually disappeared in the Cameron Mountains without trace. The final day of my trip was taken up with a trip to a famous Buddhist Temple where coach loads of people come to pray to Buddha and finally to the airport for my midnight flight back to Australia. As I write this my bags are packed for a return to Thailand, this time to explore the rural lifestyle, which I will report to you on my return.

George Leslie Jnr, Cornubia, Queensland.

HI TO ALL MEMBERS OF CLANZ

I have received an email from George Leslie, that unfortunately, owing to ill health and family matters he is no longer able to act as Chieftain/Convener of CLANZ. I sent out an email to all members of CLANZ, who have an email address advising of the fact and asking for a volunteer to take over as Chieftain/Convener of CLANZ, but have since found out that my ISP stopped the email after it had gone to 25 members, but they did not bother to inform me. I had previously asked and was told that they allowed 50 people to be on an email and any more than that was treated as spam. Malcolm Wallace Leslie from Kearney's Spring in Queensland had offered to take over as Chieftain/Convener of CLANZ and I have sent him a Letter of Appointment, and I show his profile below and I thank him very much for taking some of the pressure off me.

***Barrie Leslie, Commissioner Clan Leslie
Australia and New Zealand.***

Kristiansund site of Leslie fishing industry in Norway 1803



MALCOLM WALLACE LESLIE.

It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be asked by Commissioner Barrie Leslie to fill the role of Chieftain of Clan Leslie Australia and New Zealand. I have been involved in Scottish activities for many years, being extremely proud of my heritage, as



Malcolm (Mal) Leslie a lineal descendant of the Irish branch of the clan. In 1976 my wife and I joined the Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Burns Club, and are still members of the Society, although not as active as we once were. I served on the committee for many years as a committee member, Treasurer, Vice-President, President, Deputy Chieftain and Chieftain. During these years we became interested in Scottish Country Dancing, and practiced this form of Scottish culture for over 20 years. One of our greatest thrills was to be part of the opening ceremony of the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane.

In 1991 the Governing Body of the Society of St Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Ltd. asked if a Branch could be formed on the Darling Downs, and I was asked to be part of the Steering Committee. After several months of hard work, the Branch was officially formed on 1st November 1991, and I was elected as Secretary. Since then I have served on the Management Committee in the roles of Secretary, Treasurer (a position I still hold), Vice-President and President. In 2010 I was appointed as Patron of the Branch, and I continue to serve in this capacity.

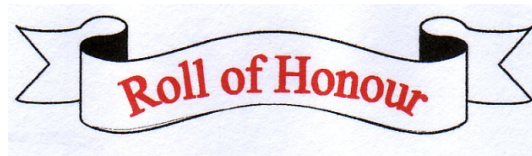
On a more personal basis, I have been married to Colleen for 39 years, and we have two sons, Gavin and Kenneth, who are both Primary School teachers. Gavin was a journalist, who rose to become Editor of the Warwick Daily News before deciding to switch to teaching. He is married to Rachel and they have three lovely daughters, Imogen, Stella and Adele. Kenneth is married to Daena and they have a son, Colin and a daughter, Fern. Although earning a living as a teacher, Ken is also an artist and has his own blog discussing contemporary art.

Colleen and I met when we were both leaders in the Scouting Movement. We were both deeply involved in Scouting for many years. In more recent times, since the late 80s, we have been involved as members of Lions Clubs International.

For our efforts, both Colleen and I have been presented with Melvin Jones Fellowships.

Three years ago, we decided to move to an "Over 55s Lifestyle Village" where we now happily reside. However, as neither of us has learned to say "No", we are now Secretary and Treasurer of the Homeowner's Association. You have to keep busy!

Malcolm Leslie, Kearney's Spring Qld



CAMERON LESLIE. MNNZM

BORN 17 JANUARY 1990 WHANGAREI. NZ.



Cameron with the Gold Medal he won at the London Paralympics 2012

I am happy to be able to feature Cameron Leslie again, after he smashed his own Paralympic 150m individual medley world record, at the London Paralympics, earlier this year.

Cameron is the grandson of Patrick Perekara who was born at Okahukura, Kaipara on the 14th October 1912 and was unofficially adopted by Mrs Mary Edith Leslie of Kaiwaka and enlisted under the name of Leslie when he joined the 2nd NZEF in 1940 and named her as his next of kin.

Congratulations to Cameron and I hope that he continues to enjoy success in whatever sport that he chooses to participate in.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

The Wedding of Sulyn and Matthew Leslie.

21 September 2012

For the good part of my early adulthood I had dreamed of getting married in the Clan Leslie tartan. I had worn a Scottish national kilt to other weddings and now on this occasion I had the opportunity to wear the Leslie tartan to my own wedding.

Sulyn and I married on the 21st September, 2012, at St Leonard's Catholic Church, Naremburn (Sydney).

The day began rather overcast and slightly wet as the groomsmen and I had breakfast at a friend's home in Baulkham Hills. We got dressed in our kilts, bundled into the car and headed to the church where I would soon meet my wife-to-be.



Sulyn & Matthew at Newcastle

It was still overcast when we arrived at the church; only when our photographer stepped out of her car did the clouds evaporate and rays of sun light beam down upon on us. I have to say, if you are going to employ a photographer it is a good idea to employ one who can bring good weather.

As the photographer took the pre-ceremony photos of the groomsmen, my family and myself, the bagpiper Robert Pearce OAM filled the air with joy as he played well loved Scottish tunes; one of our guests wrote to tell us how the memory of the pipes moved her to tears.

At 1:55pm we ushered the guest inside the church and waited for Sulyn and the bridesmaids to arrive. Now I must note that Sulyn did arrive on time but the ceremony started late because a number of our guests were running late.

I was not nervous or anxious or even afraid. On the contrary, I was peaceful and calm; I had been looking forward to this event and now it had finally arrived. The musicians started the entrance song- 'Set Me As A Seal' by Catholic song writer Matt Maher. The bridesmaids entered and walked to their place and then as anticipated my bride entered the church- she was stunning!

The rather jovial and 'full of life' priest- Fr Daniel Benedetti MGL greeted everyone and made all feel very welcome. The ceremony began with Scripture readings from Genesis, Ephesians and The Gospel of John. The Homily was inspiring, as my thesis advisor- Fr Brendan Purcell unpacked five ways in which human love transforms into divine love. Here is a summary of what he said: "being the first to love, serving, making yourselves one with each other, starting again to love, having the presence of Jesus among you, keep turning the ordinary everyday love of your marriage into the extraordinary of the eternal Love of God".

Sulyn and I stated our intention to marry and to raise children in the Church. We then recited our covenant to each other and sealed it with a kiss. The ceremony moved into intercessory prayers, the celebration of the Eucharist, and signing of the registry. Then at the end of the ceremony Robert Pearce piped us out to 'Chief of the North'.

One additional memory that stands out from the ceremony is a prayer we had sung for us: Litany of the Saints. As Su and I stood at the altar before making our vows, we, the priests and whole congregation, sung the litany. You might have heard this sung at a solemn event, such as a priest's ordination, but you don't often hear it at a wedding. We decided to change history and placed it in our ceremony.

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After such a moving ceremony the bridal party went to Bradley’s Head where we had our wedding photos. Unfortunately I cannot release any of these photos to you (due to a copyright policy) but you can look at them on face book:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151488779452004.585174.413910627003&type=3>

We hopped into the limo and headed off to our reception venue: The Grand Pittwater- North Ryde RSL. I cannot recommend them more highly- the service, food and atmosphere was superb and the price reasonable. We had a fabulous night. Over dinner we listened to a string trio and friends of ours sung a duet. After dinner we heard speeches from our fathers, best man and chief bridesmaid who expressed love and encouragement for us in our newly formed marriage.

My father invited the Leslie ladies to charge their glasses and welcome Sulyn into the family. Sulyn was very moved by this warm welcome.

Leslies, we have a new member to the clan: Sulyn Leslie

Matthew & Sulyn Leslie, Rosehill, NSW

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES, PAYABLE 1 JAN 2013.

Hi all,

The annual membership dues were payable on the **1st January 2013.**

If you have not yet paid them, it would be appreciated you could remit them to Mal Leslie for Australia and Ruth Leslie for New Zealand.

The addresses can be found on the last pages of this newsletter. We need your membership to help us collect and store all the information that we can find on Clan Leslie and its septs in Australia and New Zealand.

You can also pay by Direct Debit to our Bank Account, Westpac Bank. Sydney Office. Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand, Account number BSB 032-000, Account 306938

If you have any stories about Leslie’s that we could put into the newsletter, please do not hesitate to let us know, or if you have some information that we could research, again let us know.

A LESLIE FAMILY FROM RUSSIA



Olga, with her husband, sister and son.

I would like to inform you that the Leslie Memorial Plaque was officially installed on the 21st December 2012 in the city of Smolensk Russia, on the house in Gertson Street Smolensk. Before the Soviets took power in 1917, the street was named, LESLIE Street (passage) and the street

is situated in the centre of Smolensk, near the Smolensk Wall.

It took me approximately one year to gather signatures from different Moscow and Smolensk organizations, among which were the Society of Descendants of the Patriotic War of 1812 (Napoleonic). Historical and Genealogical Societies of Moscow and Borodino panorama and many others, also many historians and regional ethnographers of Moscow and Smolensk signed the petition. This petition was first accepted by the Department of Culture in Smolensk and then the Leadership and Deputies, where the Deputies voted unanimously to accept the petition.



The Plaque on the wall.

The Memorial Plaque was installed by the city of Smolensk with city funds. The event was held at 11-00am and it was very cold (-25 degrees). There were people from the Ministry of Culture, representatives of libraries and historians. There was the priest of the Church of Kapirevshchina (it is the place where some Leslies had estates before the revolution of 1917, 70 kilometres from Smolensk and there was my sister Irine, my husband Alexander, my son Nikolay and myself I am very happy and I know that this event is the most main event of my life.



Priest Vasily and myself.

On the Plaque it is written:-

This Street
Before 1917 y
Bearing the name
Of the Smolensk family Leslie
Who made a great contribution to the
Glorification of the Fatherland.

Olga, Moscow, Russia.

THE LESLIE'S OF DUNLUGAS

The Leslie's of Dunlugas, Banffshire are descended from George Leslie, 1st Laird of Burdsbank, who was the second son of Robert Leslie 1st Laird of Findrassie and he was a son of George Leslie, 4th Earl of Rothes, although this story is only concerned with the Leslie's of Dunlugas, which was sold out of the family in 1877, to Sir Robert Abercromby.

Patrick Leslie of Melrose, which is just a few miles from Banff, married about 1708 Margaret Ramsay and their second son George, born 5 March 1714, formed a partnership with John Ramsay and William Gordon, went to Kristiansund in Norway, about 1744 and established a new form of curing fish and they became very wealthy. George Leslie died in Kristiansund, 15 June 1751 and left his share of the business to his son, William Leslie of Dunlugas and when he died in 1811 it is said that he left his share of the business to his niece Sarah Leslie, but the only Sarah Leslie that I can find, is his sister Sarah Leslie born 23 May 1740, in Banffshire. I cannot find any Sarah born to any of Williams brothers. Sarah Leslie married Hans Gron in Norway about 1783 and to inherit the estate in Norway and Banffshire of William Leslie, he had to change his name to Leslie.



***William Leslie of Dunlugas.
By Martin 1782***

When any of the family of Leslie of Dunlugas from Kristiansund died, they were buried in the Leslie Mausoleum at Alvah in Banffshire



***Leslie of Dunlugas Mausoleum in Alvah
Photo courtesy Stanley Bruce, Banff.***

Sarah and Hans and one son, Hans Georg Hansen Leslie, born 29 September 1785 at Kristiansund, but he spent much of his time at Dunlugas in Banffshire.



***Alvah Kirk. Banffshire
Photo courtesy Stanley Bruce. Banff***



***Hans Gron (Leslie)
Abt 1733 - 1802***

Sarah's son Hans George Hansen Leslie had married in 1819 Mary Ramsay daughter of John Ramsay of Barra Bourtie and in the next generation we find that Hans George Leslie was educated at the Banff Academy and was an unmarried Lieutenant in the Honourable East India Company and outlived all his siblings and when he died on the 14 Nov 1877 his will stipulated that Dunlugas had to be sold and named as his heiress his 1st cousin Ada Elizabeth Ramsay, 3rd daughter of James Ramsey of Bushey House Herefordshire. I have found that Ada Elizabeth Ramsey was born at Belhelvie Banffshire, to a James Ramsey and Maria Duff. (daughter of General Duff?)

Dunlugas was sold in 1877 to Sir Robert Abercromby of Forglen for £60,000.



The Leslie carving on the Leslie of Dunlugas Mausoleum at Alvah.

Photo courtesy of Stanley Bruce, Banff

LESLIE PRESBYTERIAN ORPHANAGE

The Leslie Presbyterian Orphanage at Remuera, in Auckland was opened in 1911, after a bequest was made by an Auckland baker from Parnell, named James Baker who died in Auckland on the 15th November 1888. The orphanage was later transferred to the New Zealand Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.



DINING ROOM.—LESLIE PRESBYTERIAN ORPHANAGE, AUCKLAND, N.Z.

The Dining Room at the Leslie Presbyterian Orphanage, abt 1913.

Duck's Creek bridge was built approx. 1915 to give children at the Local orphanage easy access to the newly opened Meadowbank School. The bridge can be accessed at the bottom of Waiaatarua Road over to MacPherson Street.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.

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Previous issues of Grip Fast Down Under:-

Soon will be able to be viewed on our website. Meanwhile go to
www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm

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