



## FESTIVE GREETINGS FROM THE CHIEFTAIN.



As we approach the butt-end of another year, I take this opportunity to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and I hope that you can all look forward to a

prosperous and happy 2015.

Please spare a thought for our Commissioner Barrie, who carries on efficiently with his duties, despite his health problems. Our Society would be very much the poorer without him and I am sure we all hope that the New Year is a much better one for him.

Christmas Day was not celebrated a great deal in Scotland, following the Reformation. In these days it is again treated as a special day, but in the early days of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, shops did not close for the day, nor was there any public notice taken of it. Of course, it is now a public holiday and regarded as a very special day.

New Year's Day, on the other hand was and is regarded as a very great day all over Scotland. This includes the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> December, which is known as Hogmanay. Not only is the New Year welcomed in, but "First Footing" is widespread. For this, many families do not go to bed, but spend the time from midnight onwards calling and visiting friends. There they meet other friends doing the same thing.

For some days before Hogmanay, housewives will have been busy, baking special food such as black bun, shortbread and other Scottish delicacies. Many a toast will be drunk to the New Year and to friends and everyone will enjoy the baked items. Sometimes small gifts, known as ne'erday gifts will be exchanged.

It is still considered lucky if a dark haired man is the first to cross the threshold after midnight. The "First Footer" often gives the householder a drink,

some food and a piece of coal, to ensure that the home will have food, drink and heat in the coming year. A fair haired woman as a "First Footer" is considered unlucky.

For a long time in the Highlands, some households held the "Old New Year". This was on the 12<sup>th</sup> January, the date on which New Year would have fallen if the calendar had not been changed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However you celebrate the festive season, I hope that you have a wonderful time with family and friends. Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

**Malcolm Leslie. D.Ua Chieftain**

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**Private James Alexander Leslie.**

**Number 1444. NZEF.**

**14<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. Auckland Infantry Reg.**

**Born:- 12 July 1898. Hawera New Zealand.**

**Died:- 16 November 1916. France.**

**Buried:- Estaires Communal Cemetery France.**

James Alexander Leslie was the younger son of David Kirkwood. Anderson Leslie and his wife Rose Ann Leslie, nee Carmichael of Lynton Avenue Onehunga Auckland New Zealand. He

was educated Auckland Grammar School. They renamed their house in Lynton Avenue "Tahiti" in remembrance of their son, Roy who is buried there James was the younger brother of Corp Roy John Leslie who died at Papeete Tahiti while returning to New Zealand, on the Transport ship "Maheno" and is buried at Papeete.



*Corp Roy John Leslie  
Died of Wounds on Hospital Ship Maheno  
5<sup>th</sup> September 1917 at Papeete.Tahiti.*

## **PATRICK LESLIE OF NEWSTEAD HOUSE. BRISBANE.**

In 2001 I gave a talk Newstead House, in Brisbane which was the home of Patrick Leslie who re-discovered the Darling Downs and in his final years went to New Zealand. This is the brochure that I made for the talk.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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# **PATRICK LESLIE THE NEW ZEALAND YEARS**

presented by

**James Barrie Leslie, of The  
Aikenway Family.**

43 Rosedale Road. Gordon. NSW. 2072

Phone 02 9418-2262

e-mail:- [lesliejb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lesliejb@ozemail.com.au)

**Newstead House. Brisbane.  
Queensland. 26<sup>th</sup> August 2001.**



*Grave of Corp Roy John Leslie. Papeete Tahiti.*

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon. My name is Barrie Leslie.

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today. Patrick Leslie was my 4<sup>th</sup> cousin, four times removed. I was born in Tauranga in New Zealand, approximately one hour's drive from "Wartle" and my Great Grandfather, Dr Alexander James Leslie visited Patrick at "Wartle". You can see why I have a great interest in Patrick's story. Also, I am the Commissioner for Clan Leslie in Australia and New Zealand.

This story actually starts when Patrick left Australia in 1854 with his family, to return to Britain, leaving Catherine's brother to manage the Darling Downs stations. Patrick seems to have had

no intention of returning to the Darling Downs, as he returned to Sydney in mid 1855 with the intention of finalising his Australian affairs, which he finally achieved in October 1858.



*Newstead House Breakfast Creek,  
built in 1846, as it was in 1914*

It is reasonably certain that Patrick would have stayed in Britain except for the conduct of his son, William Norman, born at Vineyard Parramatta NSW on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1841. Norman joined the 53<sup>rd</sup> Shropshire Regiment as an Ensign, which cost Patrick four hundred and fifty pounds, then on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1863 he became a Lieutenant, which would have cost Patrick a lot more money. Norman met Emma Lacon Harvey in 1864 and they were married on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1864 at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square London. Norman was a very good looking man but had acquired very expensive habits, the cost of which Patrick was forced to meet. Norman continued to live beyond his means, and when his first child, William Leonard, was born at Leamington, England, nothing changed. Patrick, with help from friends and family got Norman, a job as the Adjutant of the Aberdeenshire Volunteers with a salary of three hundred pounds per year. Norman's second child, Ethel Maude was born at Banchory, Aberdeenshire on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1867. Norman had reverted to his old habits, and was engaging in an affair with a Miss Fanny New. Finally he was declared bankrupt in 1867. Norman was bundled off to an agricultural college. After the birth of his third child, Marsaile Kathleen, born 18<sup>th</sup> June 1868, Patrick became aware that Norman had not been applying himself to his studies.

This was the final straw for Patrick; he had no money left and when Patrick and Catherine (Kate) decided that they would go to New Zealand for a fresh start, they had to borrow enough money from the Scottish Loan Society to get there and become established.

The whole family Patrick, Kate, Norman, Emma and the three children left Gravesend on the Shaw Saville & Albion Line's "Siam" on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1868. They took with them a maid, Miss Elizabeth Methven, whom the children called Meffie and the children's nurse, Miss Sarah Jones.

They arrived in Auckland on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1868, armed with introductions to Governor Sir George Bowen, formerly the first Governor of Queensland after its separation from New South Wales in December 1859. In May 1869 Queen Victoria's second son, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, visited Auckland. During his visit, Patrick and Kate attended a Levee at Government House in Auckland, as well as a ball on the 24<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday.

It was not long before Patrick became involved in the life of the colony. Gold had been discovered at Thames just south of Auckland and Patrick applied for, and was granted, a lease of two acres of quartz reefing near Thames. It is not known if he actually commenced mining operations.

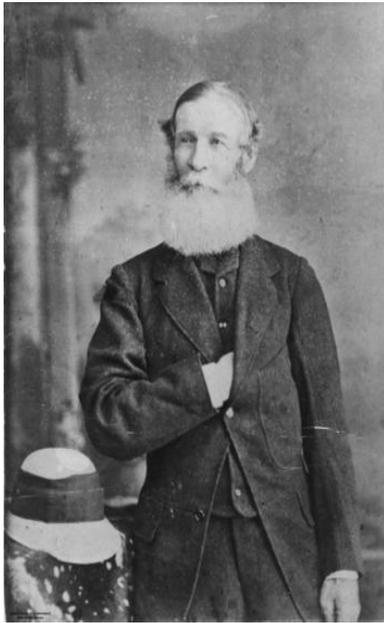
The Second Maori Land War had just finished in the late 1860s and there was still much unrest because of the New Zealand Government's decision to confiscate 500,000 acres of land in the Waikato. This was ostensibly to punish the Maori for not being co-operative, but was in reality just a land grab to grant land to settlers and ex soldiers.

Patrick bought several parcels of land, his first being 70 acres for a price of twenty five pounds on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1869, and also on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1869 he bought the first parcel of land that was to become "Wartle", named after the family lands in Aberdeenshire. Patrick's move to "Wartle" was a great gamble, but he seemed to maintain good terms with his Maori neighbours, and there was no trouble. Patrick's final purchase of land was to bring "Wartle" to a total of 1544 acres. Patrick was gazetted a Justice of the Peace in November of 1869, a fact that will be seen to be a decided advantage later.

Wartle is six kilometres south east of Hamilton on the Matangi Road. In the 1860s, Tamahere stretched further east to where Matangi now stands, and Patrick was regarded as the Father of Tamahere. The Matangi Road runs along the north boundary of "Wartle", but the road did not exist in Patrick's time. The present owners have now

reinstated the original name of “Wartle”, and it is to be seen on a large sign at the entrance on the Matangi Road.

When Patrick and Kate first arrived in Hamilton, a small cottage was erected on the estate, until the



**Patrick Leslie May 1877  
R H Bartlett Studios,  
Auckland NZ.**

main homestead could be built. The homestead [Lot 54] was built from Kahikatea, a white pine growing on the estate, but unfortunately, it did not stand up to attack by wood eating borer.

There were fourteen rooms, [excluding the kitchen, scullery, storerooms and offices] and there was a coach house, harness room, accommodation for fourteen horses and

a hay loft. The farm buildings consisted of four cottages, dairy, stable, hay room, seed room, cart and implement sheds.

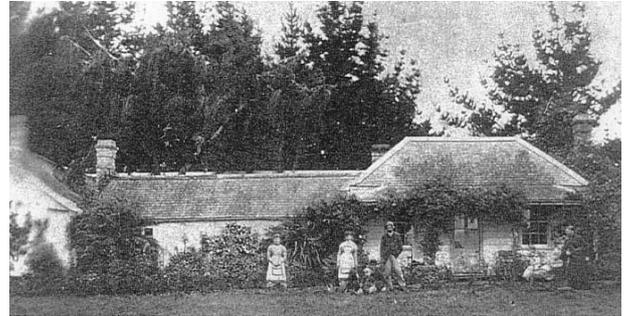
The grounds were extensive, with gardens, lawns and shrubbery containing a selection of imported, as well as native, plants and shrubs. Some of the trees are still there to this day and are up to thirty metres in height. There are exotics such as Atlas and Himalayan Cedars, Elegans Japonica, Mediterranean Cypress, Magnolia Grandiflora and Lombardy Poplars, and nine are listed in the book “Historic & Notable Trees of New Zealand”.

The land was fenced into twenty eight paddocks, was well watered and planted in clover and English grasses. There was also an extensive orchard and, of course, a vineyard. In the gully behind the old homestead site, self sown grapes are still growing wild to this day.

The homestead staff were Meffie, Sarah, a gardener whose wife was the cook, and a ploughman. Patrick also employed, on a casual basis, Maori from the adjoining Pa (village), and found them to be excellent and reliable workers, particularly at haymaking time.

Access to “Wartle” was originally through Pickering Road, off the now State Highway One, but this added another seven miles to the trip to Hamilton. The distance to Hamilton was halved when Patrick’s neighbour, Charles Ewen, granted

Patrick a right of way over the Mangaone Stream; Patrick called for tenders to build a bridge across the stream. This was in what is known as Leslie’s Gully on the road from Hamilton to Cambridge, immediately before the northern end of the Tamahere Straight. The gully formed part of the southern boundary of “Wartle”.



**Wartle Homestead in 1881**

On a map believed to have been drawn up by Captain Newell about 1875, two houses are shown with the name Leslie alongside. It is possible that the smaller of the houses was occupied by Norman and his wife Emma. The map showing “Wartle” was marked Capt Leslie; obviously the person who drew up the map was under the impression that the property belonged to Norman, or Norman had let it be thought that he owned the property.

In March 1873, Patrick called for tenders for clearing and ploughing sixty or seventy acres. His tender document was straight to the point. “No one need tender, who is not prepared to perform the work thoroughly well, and to such a good price will be paid”.

Patrick was very active in local affairs and in November 1870, he was invited by his friend, Donald McLean, Minister for Native Affairs, to stand for parliament. His reply shows that this was not the first attempt to get him to stand for public office: “I have your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> and am extremely flattered by the good opinion you so keep of my capability, which I fear you very much overate. It is however impossible for me to stand for the representation of Waikato as asked by many of my friends. My private pursuits demand my whole time and energies. If anything could have tempted me to join for Waikato, it would have been that I could have given my support to the present Ministry whose measures are so well and wisely conceived and I most sincerely trust may meet with the support of a very large portion of the members of our new parliament, indeed I look upon the present Government as a fixture as long as they choose to remain such. No one will have a

*chance here unless he is a supporter of the Government”.*

McLean tried again twelve months later to persuade Patrick to change his mind, but Patrick again declined the invitation. In January 1876, it was Patrick who headed a petition to Frederick Whitaker asking him to stand for Waikato for Central Government. Whitaker accepted and later became Premier of New Zealand.

Patrick and Kate were very politically minded, intensely supporting the conservative people who were in power at the time. As soon as he heard anything that was contrary to the Government's interests, he wrote or telegraphed Donald McLean for a confirmation or a denial to pass along the local grapevine, so keeping the Government's popularity from being tarnished. McLean's policies and work for the Maori was totally supported by Patrick.

Patrick had brought with him from England a stud of Lincoln sheep, but in 1873 he lost his last imported ram. He had 85 ewes in lamb, so all was not lost; and he also had four pure bred rams born the previous year. Patrick's sheep were much sought after for breeding purposes and won many prizes in the Agricultural Shows in the district.

With regard to the very strict quarantine regulations now in place in Australia and New Zealand, a letter that Patrick wrote to Donald McLean, Minister for Native Affairs, on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1876 is very interesting:- *“I am most delighted to see your motion for a committee re diseased cattle. It is very much wanted, I hear from home that there is a perfect panic about foot and mouth disease and curiously enough, before I knew you had made your motion, I had written to Whitaker to ask him to try and move in the matter, and sent him an extract from a home agricultural paper showing the fearful invasion it was committing at home. On seeing your Motion and that Cox was one of the Committee, I wrote to him to get the extract from Whitaker and show it to you, as it might be useful in showing the real state of the thing at home. It is perfect suicide for New Zealand to continue to import stock and for the most part sick stock, for not one animal out of six is worth breeding from. The only people who profit are the importers who buy cheap and nasty at home and get fools to buy here simply because the animals are imported. If most of them were put up as colonial bred they would not fetch as many shillings, as they now do pounds. I do trust New Zealand manages to escape the disease before regulations are put in place.*

As you can see, Patrick was very forthright and did not suffer fools lightly.

Patrick and Kate continued to suffer problems with their son William Norman or Norman as he was known. In December 1869, Emma and Norman went to Auckland from Hamilton late in December 1872 to await the birth of their fourth child, a daughter, Aline Ella and stayed at Mrs Murphy's nursing home in Symonds Street, Auckland. Norman was once again in debt, so deeply that the aide-de-camp to the Governor warned Emma that Norman should not accompany her back to Hamilton, as Norman's creditors would “get him”. Sarah Jones, the children's nurse left to get married, and a young girl, Maggie Russell was engaged. Norman took to visiting Hamilton and returning home drunk, or not returning for a week or more. Emma noticed that various pieces of her jewellery were missing, and some items were found in Norman's pockets. Their fifth child, Leila Isobel Guilda Agatha was born in Mrs Murphy's nursing home on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1873 and when Emma returned to “Wartle”, it was apparent that Maggie Russell was expecting a child; shortly after, Norman drove her to another residence to give birth to his daughter.

Mr H Norris, a Hamilton lawyer and historian confirmed these events and said that an elderly resident whom he interviewed in 1950 confirmed the story. Maggie Russell brought a paternity claim against Norman. As a Justice of the Peace, who often sat on the Bench, Patrick heard the case in the lounge room at “Wartle”, and found in Norman's favour. As a matter of interest, there is a family in Queensland who claim descent from the daughter of Norman and Maggie Russell, but that is another story.

This was too much for Norman's wife Emma, and she left him to return to Bath in England with her youngest daughter Leila, leaving the elder children with Patrick and Kate. After Norman's death, she was married on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1880 to Arthur Raby, British Consul in Riga Latvia, and until her second husband died, she contributed to the annuities which had to be paid on the loan that Patrick took out to finance the move to New Zealand.

Norman died suddenly at “Wartle” on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1876. The death certificate states the cause of death as:- “Disease of the Brain – Cerebral Paralysis”. From Patrick's description in a letter to Donald McLean it could have been an aneurysm or brain tumour.

In July 1867, Norman had become a member of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Scotland. His funeral, three days after his death, was with full Masonic

honours. Nearly three hundred people, along with one hundred horsemen from "Wartle", formed the procession to the Masonic block at Hamilton East Cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev W Calder from St Peters Church, Hamilton. Forty Lodge members in full regalia met the procession at the gate of "Wartle" and led the procession for the three miles to the Hamilton East Cemetery. The ashes of Norman's eldest daughter Ethel, who died as a result of a car accident in 1948, are also encased in Norman's grave.

Patrick had recurring health problems, shown in a letter by Robert Fergusson writing on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1875:- *"I went to Mr Leslie's today and was very sorry to find him unwell, in his bed suffering from an attack of liver complaint"*. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Patrick wrote, *"I am glad to say I have today got out of my bedroom"*.

In the Waikato Times on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1880, the following appeared:- *The fruit tournament, as we may perhaps call it, between Cambridge and Hamilton is being still prolonged, new champions having come forward for the latter district, while Tamahere puts in an appearance in the person of Mr Patrick Leslie, of Wartle, with a fine show of apples, grown on his estate, now on exhibition in the window of Mr Le Quesney of East Hamilton. There is a splendid collection of fruit of both eating and cooking varieties, and amongst them is a "Tower of Glamis", weighing 13 ounces.*

Patrick and Kate must have decided that as they now had responsibility for four young grandchildren, it would be prudent to move to Sydney where they would have family support if anything went wrong. "Wartle" was put up for sale in 1880, but by then it had reduced in acreage and it was not a good time to sell because of the world wide depression. The following appeared in the Waikato Times on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1881. *"Mr Patrick Leslie has sold about 800 acres of his estate at Tamahere, including the beautiful homestead, Wartle, to Mr J J Barugh, a gentleman newly arrived in the colony.*

Some of the land was not sold until 1885, and sad to say the homestead lasted only forty years as Kahikatea is very prone to attack by borer. The third owners of the estate, the Oliver family, built a new home, and then in 1913 the homestead was burnt, as it was in a very dangerous condition. Had Patrick and Kate remained at "Wartle" a bit longer they could have become involved in the shipping of frozen mutton to England which began in 1882, as it was, they sold "Wartle" for about

eight pounds an acre. Current value is approximately NZ\$30,000 per acre.

**ADVERTISEMENT IN THE NZ HERALD  
31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 1879**

**G E O R G E E. C L A R K,**  
**STOCK AND STATION AGENT,**  
**THE GROVE,**  
**NEAR CAMBRIDGE, WAIKATO.**

**FOR SALE—  
WARTLE ESTATE.**

This magnificent property (situated in the Cambridge Riding, County Waikato, distant 3½ miles from the flourishing district of Hamilton) consists of 1000 Acres of Rich Dry Land, all laid down with Clovers and English Grasses; securely fenced, and subdivided into 28 convenient enclosures, and thoroughly well watered.

There is a fine Bush of Natural Timber; also, a large amount of Planting has been done on the Estate.

The House is commodious, containing 14 Rooms (exclusive of Kitchen and Scullery, Store-rooms and Out-offices), is very complete and in thorough repair, with Coach-house, Harness-room, Stables, Hay Loft, &c.

The surrounding Grounds, which are extensive and in complete order, comprise: Garden, Lawn, and Shrubbery, most tastefully laid out, and containing a very rare collection of Choice Plants and Shrubs.

The Orchard is well stocked with young and healthy Fruit Trees just coming into bearing; also, a thriving Vineyard.

The Farm Buildings consist of Four Cottages (for workmen), Dairy, Stable, Hay-room, Seed-room, Cart and Implement Sheds, &c., &c.

Further particulars on application to

**GEORGE E. CLARK,**  
**Land Agent.**

They left Hamilton in early April 1881. The girls stayed at Teed Street Parnell in Auckland. Leonard sailed ahead of the family on the "Ringarooma" on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1881 to start the new term at The Kings School Parramatta, where his great-uncle George Macarthur was headmaster. Patrick, Kate, Ethel, Mabel and Aline followed on 3<sup>rd</sup> May on the "Rotorua". Two of the staff at "Wartle", Meffie and Ben Young must have followed later; although they are not on the passenger list, they did join the Leslies in Sydney.

The Leslies settled into a sandstone house called "Wrentmore" at Milson's Point, North Sydney and after a short illness, he died there on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1881. He was buried at St Thomas's Church Cemetery at Crows Nest, Sydney. Kate died at William Street, Double Bay, Sydney, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1894 and was buried the following day in the same grave as Patrick. The cause of her

death was given as "Paralysis"; she had suffered from back pain for most of her life

They were not to rest in peace: in the 1950s, the Warringah Expressway was built through the graveyard. Patrick's headstone was moved to a central position and the cemetery was made into the West Street Rest Park.

However that is not the end of the story. On the night of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2000 the headstone of Patrick and Kate's grave was vandalised, along with twenty other headstones and crosses at the West Street Rest Park at North Sydney. North Sydney Council have repaired the damage at a cost of \$23,941.50. Hopefully Patrick and Kate may now rest in peace.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## FOLLOW UP TO PREVIOUS ARTICLE ON CLAN LESLIE TANK.

This information has come to light since my previous articles on Clan Leslie Tank C19.

TANK CREWS C19 to C24

Commander:- Capt Archie Holford Walker.

C19 Clan Leslie (No 705 Male) Lead tank with C20 and C22, in support of attack by 6 Div near Martinpuich. Stub axle damaged on route from Chimpanzee Valley to start point and did not take part in the action; ASC crew moved forward and refitted the steering wheels from Murphy's tank.



*Clan Leslie Tank C19*

Whilst this was underway, Archie returned to the Chimpanzee Valley base and sought fuel for

Henriques' vehicle, which was delivered forward by his brother, the Coy Commander.

**Capt (Bruce) Archie Holford-Walker.** Was born in 1893 at Hartley Witney, Hampshire, the third son of Brig Edgar Holford-Walker (late RA) and his wife Maria. Commissioned into 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn KSLI as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt; he deployed to France in Feb 1915 and served with KSLI, he was wounded during the battle of St Julian. He married Nea Grimshaw on 17 July 1918 at Guildford. He remained a Regular Officer in the RTC and retired to Hampshire where he died on the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1951.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

It would be appreciated if members of CLANZ could send their annual subscription when you receive this newsletter:- The fees are.

**AUSTRALIA:- \$25-00AU** sent to Mr M W Leslie, 117/303 Spring St, Kearney's Spring, Queensland 4350. **Cheque payable to Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand.**

**NEW ZEALAND:- \$29-00NZ** sent to Mr William (Bill) Leslie, Valima Farm 226 Settlement Road RD. 2. Kaiwaka. NZ. 0573. **Cheque made payable to W. Leslie.**

**Direct payments** can be made to our Westpac Bank Account, **Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand. BSB 032-000. Account 30-6938**

Your early payment will be much appreciated as it enables us to locate and record the activities of the Leslie Clan in the Antipodes. There is a separate invoice sent with this newsletter. Please make sure that you quote your name or your Post Code. Thank you.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.*

## MY HEALTH PROBLEMS

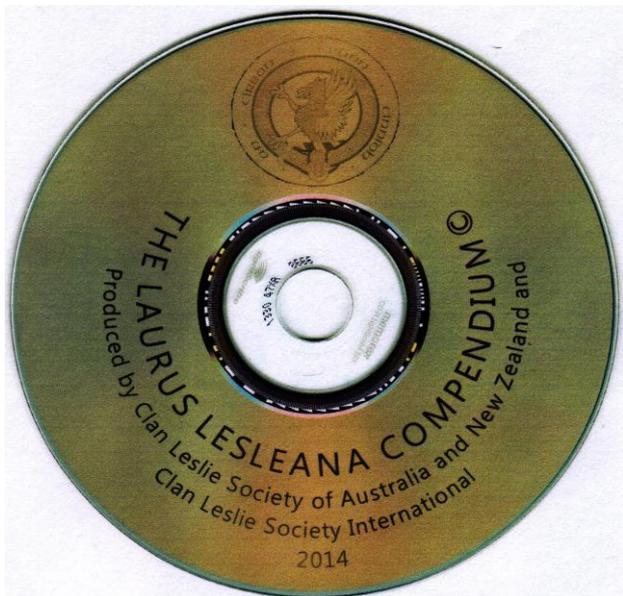
I am afraid that I have to advise that on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 I have to go and see an orthopaedic surgeon about what can be done about my knees and whether I will have to get them rebuilt. If so I would presume that it will be

sometime in the New Year as I am lucky that the costs of the operation will be borne by the New Zealand Veterans Affairs Department. I really need someone to assist me with preparation of this newsletter as I do not know how much longer I can continue to do it myself.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## THE LAURUS LESLEANA COMPENDIUM.

This work is comprised of the original Laurus Lesleana Explicata, in Latin, an English translation, an English index and corrections to the original Laurus Lesleana Explicata extracted from the book, Historical Records of the Family of Leslie, by Col Charles Joseph Leslie, 26<sup>th</sup> Baron of Balquhain and a collection of notes from the copy of the Laurus at Warthill House in Aberdeenshire. This compendium was made by Tim Leslie the historian of Clan Leslie Society International and Barrie Leslie of Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand.



This compendium can be purchased from Linda Flowers of Clan Leslie Society International on [lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net) and can be purchased through Paypal on the email [lflowers1954@yahoo.com](mailto:lflowers1954@yahoo.com) for \$10-00US including postage. If you cannot pay through Paypal contact Linda on her email address.

I recommend this compendium as it is the earliest written history on the Leslie family and the only English translation that I know about.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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