



FROM THE CHIEFTAIN

It is with some trepidation that I write this piece for our newsletter. This will be the first time that I will be putting the newsletter together, and I know that I am taking over from a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable man in Barrie. It is a very hard act to follow, but I will do my best, and I apologise that it is a very short issue.

I know that the thoughts and good wishes of every member are with Barrie, and that we all hope that he can return to good health as soon as possible.

It can now be announced that our Chief has seen fit to do me the honour of appointing me as Barrie's successor.



THE HONOURABLE ALEXANDER LESLIE
CHIEF OF CLAN LESLIE

20th May 2015

Mal Leslie
CLANZ

Dear Mal

Please accept this letter as confirmation that I would be very glad if you would officially take over as my Commissioner in Australia and New Zealand and I look forward to working with you over the coming years.

Many thanks

Best wishes

Alexander Leslie
Chief of Clan Leslie

8 BUCKINGHAM TERRACE, EDINBURGH, EH4 3AA, SCOTLAND

I have accepted this appointment and will strive to be a worthy representative of the Chief.

We have a need to try to have more Leslies join our Society and to become more active in promoting the Clan in Australia and New Zealand. If you have any thoughts on how to promote us,

please contact myself or your State representative with your ideas.

Our Patron, Kathleen Moore is dedicated to assisting as much as she can, and together we will be promoting the Society and Clan at "International Tartan Day" in Brisbane on 11th July and again at "Scotland in the Park" in Logan City on 19th July. If any of you can attend either of these events, come and make yourselves known to us.

I fully intend to be present at the Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes in 2016, and would like to meet any Clan members who can make it to that event.

There are many Scottish events held throughout Australia and New Zealand, and if we could have Society members representing us at even half of them, we would soon spread the word about our great Clan.

Malcolm Leslie. D.Ua Chieftain. CLANZ.

SITUATIONS VACANT

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

- Editor, Grip Fast Down Under
- Membership Secretary
- Representative Victoria
- Representative New South Wales

The position of Treasurer has been filled on a temporary basis for some time, so a volunteer to take this job would also be welcome.

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

HERALDRY

Many people speak of "My family's Coat of Arms", and this is incorrect. Coats of Arms are a personal achievement, being granted to one person, not to a family.

Most personal Coats of Arms consist of a shield, helmet, crest and motto. Supporters, the figures or beasts standing on either side of the shield, are only granted to particular groups of people, including clan chiefs, peers, and senior knights in orders of chivalry.

In Scotland, an achievement of Arms can only come from the Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, and no-one may assume the right to a Coat of Arms.

Our Clan Crest which is, by rights, the Chief's, may only be worn by clan members when surrounded by a "Strap and Buckle". The heraldic crest of Clan Leslie is a demi-griffin.

The griffin is a mythical creature, with the head, wings and talons of an eagle and the body and hind legs of a lion. It is thus composed of the most royal of the birds and the beasts.

The griffin was thought to find and guard mines of gold and hidden treasures. It is a distinctive feature of the griffin is that it has ears, which are large and stand up from its head.

This is the only feature that differentiates a griffin's head from an eagle's. In heraldry, the griffin can be found in all sorts of positions but a female griffin's wings are never closed.

A male griffin, for some reason, does not have wings' instead it is adorned with spikes at various points on its body and the male griffin is seldom found.

In the middle ages hybrids such as this one were assumed to be possible and to actually exist, just as a mule, which is a cross between a horse and a donkey. Mules were known to not be able to reproduce though, so it seemed logical that a hybrid like a griffin would not be able to either. This explained why griffins were so rare and hardly ever seen.

The plant badge of the clan is Rue. *Ruta graveolens* — commonly known as rue, common rue or herb-of-grace — is a species of *Ruta* grown as a herb.

The bitter taste of its leaves led to rue being associated with the (etymologically unrelated) verb rue "to regret". Rue is well known for its symbolic meaning of regret and it has sometimes been called "herb-of-grace" in literary works.



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