



## FROM THE CHIEFTAIN

It has been a busy time since the last newsletter. I have attended Tartan Day in Brisbane, where I shared a tent with our Patron, Kathleen Moore. It was a wonderful day, with lots of Scottish stalls, Pipe Bands, Highland Dancers, Scottish Country Dancers, Fiddle Orchestra, Scottish Terriers and of course, beautiful singing by Kathleen.



At this point, I would like to say that if you have not heard our Patron sing, you have missed out on a real treat.

You may look her up on the internet by googling "Kathleen Procter-Moore". She has several CDs available, and her repertoire of classical, Celtic and modern songs is truly wonderful.

A week after Tartan Day, my wife, Colleen, and I once again joined Kathleen at "Scotland in the Park", another wonderful day, held at Greenbank, a suburb of Logan City. We had several visitors to the Clan Leslie tent, and took part in the banner parade.



Colleen and I were privileged, in August, to attend a concert in a private garden at Tamborine Mountain, with beautiful views of the Gold Coast. Here we were entertained by Kathleen and another singer, Liza Beamish, who are known as "Duo Diva". This was an experience we will never forget.

In August the Annual General Meeting of Darling Downs Branch, Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) was held. At this meeting I was

honoured when the members voted me the privileges of "Urramach Buill" (Honoured Member), which is the equivalent of Life Membership.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our recently retired Commissioner, Barrie Leslie has been recognised for his many years of tireless work on behalf of the Society and the Clan. The Celtic Council of Australia has seen fit to award Barrie with a Celtic Honour of "Duine Uasail". He will be presented with this at their Annual Dinner later this year. As well as this, Barrie has had the "Bartholomew Award" bestowed on him by the Clan Leslie Society International.

On behalf of all of our members, I would like to congratulate Barrie on the receipt of these well-deserved recognitions.

Date Claimer: I would like all society members to mark their calendars for the weekend of 15-16 October 2016. We are trying to organise a Clan Gathering on this weekend at Warwick. Our intention is to have visits and tours to places associated with Patrick Leslie and his brothers as the focal points of the gathering. There will be more information coming out to advise you of the progress of this project. We are hoping to be able to put it together as an all inclusive package.

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**Malcolm Leslie** Chieftain

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## 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

**Barrie Leslie –  
a thank you letter from Chief Ian**

Dear Barrie

It seems extraordinary that when we met in 2001 you had just become the Leslie Commissioner Down Under. I clearly remember spending an interesting and fun day in Perth, with Roger from London. At the time I was only just beginning to take an interest in ‘things Leslie.’

Indeed, ever since I started to take a proper interest in our family history and started talking to my father about it, you have always been Commissioner. He always spoke about his dealings with you with the greatest respect.

You have been the mainstay of the Clan Leslie Society Down Under and have done so much for the society that it would take many newsletters to even begin to describe it. Of course, the best example of your work is the newsletter itself, and is testament to the many, many hours that you dedicated to its production.

During your tenure the ‘fashion’ for things Scottish has been waning and yet you stuck to your guns and kept the enthusiasm alive. Within the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs we are aware of this and are planning to encourage more Chiefs to visit Games in the region. Miranda and I have the beginnings of a plan to visit, although this is still very much on the drawing board.

I hope you enjoy the Quaich we sent you as a small token of our gratitude. It is from the whole ‘Leslie Clan.’ I thought it was fitting that it is hallmarked in Edinburgh and made in the year that my father was born, 1932.

Barrie, thank you, from all of us, for all your extraordinary work and I hope that you enjoy your ‘retirement.’

With very best wishes from us all.

Alexander Leslie  
Chief of Clan Leslie

**CAPTAIN WILLIAM LESLIE**

By Angela Middleton

The archives and memories of one of Harbour Cone’s early residents, William Leslie, have been used to study the ways in which the components of the Harbour Cone archaeological landscape were integrated. There were two Leslie households at Harbour Cone, one belonging to Captain William Leslie (senior), the other to his son of the same name. The youngest

William Leslie (the third of the same name) was the grandson of Captain William Leslie (senior), who received a Crown Grant for land on the south side of the cone in the 1860s, where he lived until 1908 (Figure 6).



William Leslie’s home in 1913

In many ways the households the youngest William Leslie describe from his childhood days, represent typical Otago Peninsula farmsteads of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. William Leslie, born on his father’s farm in 1888, grew upon the eastern slopes of Harbour Cone and recorded his memoirs of the area in the late 1960s (Leslie n.d.-a, n.d.-b). The sites associated with the Leslie families and William Leslie’s narrative provided perhaps the best insight into the settler archaeological landscape at Harbour Cone, where roads, stone boundary walls, homesteads and farmsteads demonstrate on the ground the social networks that tied a small, isolated community together. The community William Leslie grew up in consisted principally of small family dairy holdings, many still defined by dry stone boundary walls. Captain Leslie’s land in Section 47 Block II Otago Peninsula Survey district consisted of 42 acres (17 ha), south-facing land that was so steep and got so little sun it ‘could hardly be called dairying land’ (Leslie n.d.-a).



Harbour Cone from Portobello

The northern boundary wall for Section 47, running along the upper slope of Harbour Cone, once had a post and rail fence built above it; drilled totara posts still stand proud of the stone. The site of Captain William Leslie’s farmstead sits below Highcliff Road on a terrace surrounded by a stand of pine trees, where the Harbour Cone Cheese

Factory opened on 5 November 1877. This was formed by a consortium of local farmers not registered as a company 'on account of the cost, money being scarce in those days' (Leslie n.d.-a). Land for the factory was leased from Leslie and a wooden building 14 feet x 24 feet (4.2 metres x 7.3 metres) was erected (Knight 1979:60; Leslie n.d.a.). Most of the cheese was sold to a Dunedin retailer for around 7 pence per pound, a good price in those days' (Leslie n.d.-a). The cheese maker, Edmund Ward, lived on another small holding further along Highcliff Road, where flagstone flooring, a stone cow byre and dry-stone walling still remain inside a macrocarpa windbreak (Higham 1986; Knight 1979). Edmund Ward was paid a weekly wage of £2 at the cheese factory, but his instructor received £5, while a woman assistant was engaged at the rate of 6/- per week (Leslie n.d.-a). However, the factory was not long-lived; it was burnt down on 14 October 1881 during a severe bush fire, driven by a north-westerly gale (Knight 1979:62). Many other households were affected or destroyed by the fire, and the cheese factory was not rebuilt.

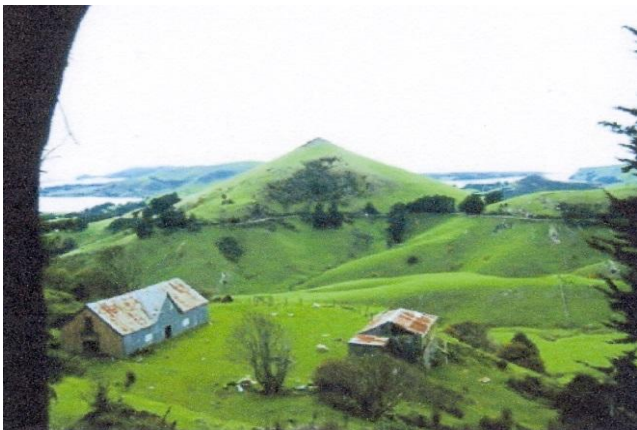


Taieri & Peninsular Milk Company

William Leslie remembered seeing the burnt-out piles of the factory as a child, and the cheese press stored in his father's house. When the factory burnt down at the beginning of summer the cows were in full milk and the farmers (or their wives), with no other choice, 'turned to butter, made on the farm' as the only possible source of income (Leslie n.d.-a). Captain William Leslie's son (the second William Leslie) built his house on 10 acres (4 ha) of land on the north-eastern slopes of Harbour Cone, a distance of perhaps a kilometer from his father's house, and formed a 'sledge track' by pick and shovel across his father's land to reach it. Timber, iron and bricks were sledge to the house site. The track was so steep that only a sledge could be used on it; the only 'wheeled' vehicles used were a wheelbarrow and later, a bicycle (Leslie n.d.a). Today, parts of the track are still marked by old totara posts, drilled to run wire through them. The second Leslie homestead was

warm and sunny, compared with William's grandfather's steep, south-facing land that was very cold in winter. Archaeological evidence of the house site today consists of an area of paved flooring under a macrocarpa tree and other structural remains under a second large macrocarpa. The house the youngest William Leslie grew up in, started as two rooms, each with a double brick chimney. There was a dairy, as 'butter making was the sole means of making a living'; next to this a good washhouse with a built-in enamelled boiler ... next to that was another room which housed a lot of odds and ends, even a chaff cutter turned by hand' and beyond this, on the 'sunny-side', a glass house with grape vines. The 'cooking arrangements' consisted of a large metal oven, with a fire lit on top or sometimes underneath it. A 'gantry affair' (or a 'fire crane') about 4 feet (1.2 metres) high, with hooks of various sizes over the fireplace also allowed for cooking in pots or on a girdle (Leslie n.d.-a). To make butter, the milk, warm from the cow, was poured into wide shallow galvanised iron pans, about 30 inches (76cm) in diameter set on purpose built shelves, '9 or 10 needed for about 12 cows'. After standing for about 12 hours, the cream was skimmed off with a metal skimmer and tipped into a 'glazed earthenware vessel and allowed to stand until sour enough for churning' (Leslie n.d.-a). Skim milk was used on the table, and I can well remember liking it too' (Leslie n.d.-a), and also used to rear calves and pigs. The butter churn had beaters inside, 'turned by a handle on the outside, it was a man's job'. After about 20 minutes churning, the butterfat in the cream separated from the buttermilk, and the butter was taken out, salted and worked - put through wooden rollers or worked with butter pats, then put into a 1 pound (450 g) mould with a swan impressed on it. The butter was then taken into Dunedin to be sold; one of Leslie's (n.d.-a) earliest memories was 'of my mother passing up a basket of butter to my father on horseback, bareback no saddle.' Family accounts record the prices butter made in the Dunedin markets. While prices could be as high as 1/- per pound, at other times it was only half this. It was a subsistence economy, with perhaps 12 cows, a flock of hens and a few pigs kept, some of which would be sold to the butcher when large enough, and gardens producing other food for the family; 'making a living from 50 or 60 acres [20 or 24 ha] was hard enough, but 10 or 12 [4 or 5 ha] (Leslie n.d.-a). However, in the family accounts for the beginning of 1892, sales of butter ceased and in its place appeared '622 Galls [2800 l] Milk' (Leslie

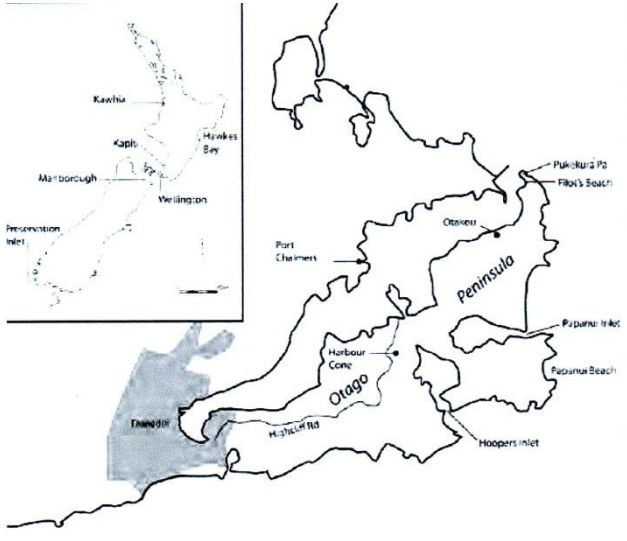
n.d.-a). This marked the opening of the Sandymount creamery on Sandymount Road, perhaps 5 km from the second Leslie homestead. This creamery was one of several operated by the Taieri and Peninsula Milk Company, where the milk was separated into cream and skim milk. Farmers took a share of skim milk back to the farm to feed pigs, while the cream was taken into a central factory in Dunedin where the milk company produced butter. The daily visit to the creamery must have been a focal point for interaction in the community (Figure 7), as well as taking a large amount of time out of the day, when transport was slow and sometimes difficult: On my father's farm on Harbour Cone the milk for the creamery had to be sledged over the shoulder of Harbour Cone from the North East side to the South West [sic], a distance getting on to half a mile [800 m], the horse was then yoked into a spring cart and the milk then taken another 2 to 3 miles [3 to 5 km] to the Sandymount Creamery, suppliers had to wait their turn to unload the milk etc then wait again to get their share of skimmed milk and return home the same way. (Leslie n.d.a) In the late nineteenth century four dairy factories were working on the Peninsula, the 'hey-day ... of small farm pastoral activity' (Knight 1979:96; see also West 2009). When the Sandymount creamery was operating at its peak, there were 30 dairy farms in the area, but by the close of this period only six remained as sheep farming gradually replaced the dairy herds. By 1967 when Leslie (n.d.-a) recorded his memoirs there were 'at least 13 sites on and around Harbour Cone where there was at one time a house, the house belonging to a farm, today not one left, the land is now grouped into a much larger farm or farms carrying sheep.



Harbour Cone

At Sandymount, other remnants of the community infrastructure can be found within a short distance of the concrete foundations of the creamery –the site of the school (opened in 1873), the post office (the site also marking the remains of

a large cow byre, stable and homestead), a limestone-crushing plant, remains of three impressive stone lime kilns (the first built in 1865) and an associated tramway (Middleton 2008). From Highcliff Road, and from the sledge track that runs around the base of Harbour Cone to the second Leslie homestead, a complex network of old roads and stone walls can be seen. One of the roads leads to the site of an old gold mine (beyond the Dunedin City Council's purchase boundary), a late nineteenth-century venture that brought few returns and was quickly abandoned. Another well-formed stone-revetted and walled road leads to a stone enclosure and the stone ruins of another homestead, the home of one of those involved in the early cheese-making venture. Not far from the first Leslie homestead and the site of the cheese factory the most complete stone ruins can be found in a complex of hedgerows, paths, stone walls, a cow byre and a formed stone-lined road leading over a knoll around the northern slopes of Harbour Cone. This was once the home and forge of the local blacksmith, the structures built in the 1870s out of an inferior local stone quarried from a nearby source. Below this house-site a bridle path now used as a walking track runs in a direct line downhill to Broad Bay. This path appears on the 1863 survey plan (Figure 4), drawn as a straight line with no consideration for the steep topography. Its continuation can still be seen running across the landscape as a feature, but long incorporated into farmland. The first roads were also drawn up without consideration of the topography they passed through and were subsequently so unsuitable that they were closed and the land transferred to surrounding land owners. In the valley between Harbour Cone to the north and Peggy's Hill at the south, the remains of other homesteads can be found, along with solid stonewalls marking the 1863 cadastral boundaries. At one of these sites lived the local midwife, 'Mrs. Arnott,' whose husband was William Larnach's stone mason. Twelve-year-old William Leslie was sent to fetch the midwife at 2 am on a morning in July 1900 and two hours later his mother gave birth to twins, only one of whom survived. There were no doctors to attend births – the nearest was across the harbour at Port Chalmers.



**Otago Peninsular & Harbour Cone.**

An old formed track, marked by a single gnarled totara post, leads to the homestead site of stone foundations and chimney remains, inside a stand of macrocarpa trees. These trees are common settler homestead site markers. The two Leslie family farms were humble subsistence economies, with money scarce. Above the site of the Arnott house, on the shoulder of Peggy's Hill, the ruins of a grander series of farm buildings overlook the sites of the modest homesteads. This farm stead, once accessed through an arched entranceway, consisted of a cow byre, stable, barn, and dairy, and along with the farm manager's house, formed William Larnach's model farm (Figure 8). While Larnach's castle now forms a focal point on the peninsula,.



"Maybe your pet would stop screaming if you didn't squeeze him so hard."

**Commissioner** Malcolm W Leslie D.Ua. 61-7-4635-8358  
**Clan Leslie** 117/303 Spring Street, Kearney's Spring,  
**Aust & NZ** Qld. 4350. Aust [malncol@icr.com.au](mailto:malncol@icr.com.au)

**Chieftain CLANZ** Malcolm W Leslie.D.Ua 61-7-4635-8358  
 117 / 303 Spring St Kearney's Spring  
 Qld.4350 Aust. [malncol@icr.com.au](mailto:malncol@icr.com.au)

**Patron of CLANZ** Ms Kathleen Moore  
[kathleenceltic@hotmail.com](mailto:kathleenceltic@hotmail.com) / [www.kathleenprocter-moore.com](http://www.kathleenprocter-moore.com)

**Secretary** Malcolm W Leslie 61-7-4635-8358  
**Membership** see above

**Treasurer [acting]** Elaine M Wood 61-2-9498-5068  
 41 Kooloona Cres West Pymble

NSW 2073. Aust [elawood@ozemail.com.au](mailto:elawood@ozemail.com.au)

**Newsletter** newsletter editor or committee required

**Webmaster & IT Manager** John O'Driscoll 61-3-5253 1254  
 71Dandarriga Drive. Clifton Springs. Vic. Aust  
[john@johnodriscoll.com.au](mailto:john@johnodriscoll.com.au)

**New Zealand Representative** William (Bill) Leslie 64-9-431-2251  
 Valima Farm 226 Settlement Road  
 R.D. 2 Kaiwaka 0573 New Zealand  
[gripfastleslie@gmail.com](mailto:gripfastleslie@gmail.com)

**Queensland Representative** Malcolm W Leslie 61-7-4635- 8358  
 See Chieftain above.

**South Australia Representative** Audry M Fry 61-8-8331-9688  
 37 Ormond Grove, Toorak Gardens,  
 South Australia 5065. Australia.

**Victoria Representative** To be advised.

**West Australia Representative** Terry Keith Leslie 61-8-8956-7646  
 Ngaanyatjarra Lands School. Blackstone Campus  
 P.M.B. 99 via Alice Springs 0872. NT [tezzles\\_50@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tezzles_50@yahoo.com.au)

**WEBSITE for CLANZ.** <http://www.clanleslie.org>

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**CHIEF OF CLAN LESLIE** The Hon Alexander John Leslie  
 8 Buckingham Terrace. Edinburgh. EH4 3AA. Scotland  
[alex.leslie@btinternet.com](mailto:alex.leslie@btinternet.com)

**Clan Leslie Society International**

**Chieftain** Thomas (Tom) Leslie Huxtable, 118 S. Coach  
 House Rd. Wichita. KS 67235. USA. [tshux@cox.net](mailto:tshux@cox.net)

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