



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

I am very sorry to report that our dearly beloved Patron, the Rt Rev Kenneth Leslie. OBE. BA. Th Schol. The 6th Bishop of Bathurst died on the 6th January 2010.



Bishop Earnest Kenneth Leslie. O.B.E.

*Born 14 May 1911, Hitchins, England
Died 6 January 2010. Bathurst. NSW. Australia.*

Captain DX894 Padre A.I.F.

Ken was the Army Padre at Darwin, Northern Territory during the Japanese bombing and buried several men, mainly wharf labourers on Darwin beaches, immediately after the bombing. He also went to Papua New Guinea in 1944 and was based at Lae, but also trekked the Kokoda Trail, giving comfort and Services, wherever they were needed. The last time that I saw Bishop Ken Leslie was in August 2009 and we had a good old talk about his time in Darwin and Papua New Guinea.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

His Master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things: I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21)

Ken Leslie was born on May 14th 1911 in Hitchin, 30 miles from London. His father was the curate at the local church and his mother was a well respected, larger than life character. Ken's father was soon away to the First World War and Ken saw little of him in these early years. Once the war started, Ken remembered well the cavalymen training on horses at the gallop, thrusting their lances towards the ground and picking up tent pegs, to improve their accuracy, in the park near their home. He remembered the huge Zeppelins flying overhead then dropping their bombs.

In 1922 when Ken was 11, the family (including his younger brother Douglas and older sister Joyce) migrated to Australia and there they remained. They started their antipodean lives in Maryborough, Victoria. Their holidays were spent in the bush, riding their push bikes and trailing a wagon towed by a draft horse and spending their nights under the stars or in tents. His love of woodwork was established in Maryborough.

At the beginning of 1923, Ken won a scholarship to Trinity Grammar School in Kew, Melbourne and in 1928 he was Dux of the school. In 1929, he was the recipient of the Perry Residential Scholarship to Trinity College at Melbourne University where he completed his Bachelor of Arts and followed with a further two years study of theology. Ken rowed for both Trinity Grammar School and Trinity College and was in the first university crew, which won the intercollegiate cup in 1932 and 1933.

Following his ordination and a brief spell as Assistant Curate at St Linus Merlynstone, Melbourne, in March 1937 Ken set off on a great journey into the unknown. He left his new (and only) love, Bel Wilson behind, making a commitment to return in three years time. He drove to a very isolated and primitive mining town

in the Northern Territory to establish the parish of Tennant Creek, while living in a tin shed. During the next ten years, he was to become the parish priest of Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin and most of them twice.



Ken Leslie as a young Parish Priest Jan 1937.

In June 1941, Ken and Bel were reunited and married in the Church of the Ascension, Alice Springs. Later during a second posting to Alice Springs, Ken and Bel founded, in 1946, the St Mary's Hostel for aboriginal children in Alice Springs. This still thrives today and in 1996 Ken (accompanied by his son Michael) was invited to return to the Hostel, to commemorate the 50 years since its founding. At this time, a new adjunct facility was opened within the township and named in his honour.

Bel was his gem, his flower, his rose, his life within and outside the Church, his one special precious gift. He adored her and loved her dearly. After his retirement, he gave himself wholly to Bel. They had many happy years until she became ill. During her illness, Bel taught Ken to cook cakes, bread and biscuits and make jam and he dutifully kept the "house" as she would have kept it" after she was gone.

His great solace is that at long last he is once again reunited with Bel, in the presence of their Lord. In 1994 (as he had done in 1937, when he drove off to the Northern Territory for their three year separation) he again promised a reunion with her and now they are together and complete again.

Ken served in World War II as an Army Chaplain. He was in Darwin during the Japanese bombing raids and walked the Kokoda Track, looking after the troops in those Northern jungles. Bel pregnant with twins, had been evacuated to Melbourne. A

few months later, Ken took a week's leave to travel to Melbourne to see his new sons, Michael and David. Soon after, David died. After the war, Bel and Michael and Ken were reunited in Alice Springs.



Bel and Ken Leslie in 1943.

Ken and Bel's second child Kathryn was born in September 1945.

In 1947, the family moved to Morpeth, near Newcastle in New South Wales, so ending ten wonderful years in Australia's far north. Both Ken and Bel's contributions in difficult circumstances in this pioneering period of Australia's northern history, cannot be underestimated. In Morpeth, Ken was appointed as Vice Warden of St Johns Theological College.

Following the birth of their third child, Simon, the family went to Timbertop in North East Victoria where Ken enjoyed six years as the founding Chaplain of the unique outdoor campus of Geelong Grammar School. Here he rekindled his love of the Australian bush and was instrumental in the design and construction of a most beautiful Chapel.

In February 1959, Ken was enthroned as the 6th Bishop of Bathurst and thus followed 22 defining years of ministry to the people of Central and Western NSW. A few years earlier, he had been invited to consider returning to the north as the Bishop of Carpentaria.

In the Diocese, he was a true shepherd to his flock and not least of all to his clergy, to whom he would travel, at the drop of a hat, many hundreds of miles to see them if they were sick or in trouble. He travelled 60,000 kilometres a year to gatherings and to meet his people with pastoral visits.

For many years, Ken was an examiner for the Australian College of Theology, in the Old Testament, and was on the Council of that College for many years as well. He played a great part in the restoration of the relationship between the Bathurst Diocese and the Sydney Diocese and asked Marcus Loane, the then Archbishop of Sydney to visit the Diocese of Bathurst. From this visit came a long and lasting friendship between the two men.



The Laying of the foundation stone of Bathurst Cathedral with The Archbishop of Canterbury The Most Reverend Michael Ramsey and Mrs Ramsey 14 March 1965

Ken promoted and modelled ecumenical relationships and inaugurated the Diocesan Media Council with its creative initiatives in the use of the media. He presided over the Centenary Celebrations of the Diocese in 1970, commenced the construction of the new All Saints Cathedral and contributed toward the funding of this project by making his historic walk from Dubbo to Bathurst. He then presided over the dedication and opening of the new cathedral in 1971. On the 3rd June 1972, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth conferred upon Ken the award of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to religion.

He loved to walk. He walked with and for God. He was an active man, hiking, cycling, motor biking and rowing with success. Ken was determined whenever determination was required. *The Walk* was a clear example of this. Once his mind was made up, nothing would stop him.

He loved to sing – even though he was completely tone deaf. That did not matter to him. He would simply plough on regardless. People would politely continue to sing in Church, yet were totally distracted by his singing. So, as you sing the hymns, whether you can hit the note or not, he would want you to sing with great gusto and without a care in the world and simply be oblivious to those around you.

Ken had a wonderful long term memory and in particular a wonderful store of poetry, learnt during his schooling years.



Ken and Bel Leslie in 1983. courtesy Michael Leslie

As a Bishop, he was an inspiring person more so through word and deed and example rather than any dynamic acclaim or pomp. He simply wanted to convey and preserve what he believed was true and right. Generally he was a conformist; he preferred the status quo but could and would take a stand when needed. He left a lasting impression based upon humility, tolerance, love and discipline with those he met. He was never compulsive about anything. His dignity, his self reliance, his love of the bush were hallmarks of his character.



The parting Blessing 1985, courtesy Peter Counsell

Ken retired as Bishop of Bathurst when he reached the age of 70 years in 1981.

On 2nd February 2009, Ken celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his Consecration as a Bishop. Ken felt heartened and uplifted in that so many of the diocesan family gathered to share in his service of celebration in All Saints Cathedral Bathurst.

As a character he was a likeable and always friendly person. He had a great constitution. He enjoyed wonderful health apart from a few mechanical “fixes”, and he did not know what a headache was. In more recent times, his eyesight and hearing were a handicap to him but he never complained about his situation and always said that “there were worse things in life than that and besides one can always learn to live with anything” His amazing sense of positiveness was very inspirational to those around him. He enjoyed walking and rarely missed a day without a walk, however short it may be. He always said that he didn’t have much else but he did have a good pair of legs.

He took great pride in outliving everyone he knew; most he referred to as “that young lad” or “that young girl”, in regard to anyone younger than he. His two best mates from his university years, Ken Sillcock and Rolf Baldwin tried hard to keep up – he “saw off” Rolf at age 95. Ken Sillcock lives in Melbourne and is aged 98.

In more recent years, he depended greatly on the regular visits of Michael, Annette and Kathryn and Chris and the less regular visits from afar of Simon and Joy, along with various visits of his grandchildren and their children. He is survived by his 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Ken’s unswerving faith in God showed through his discipline to spend much of his time each day in prayer and until recently he continued to pray his “Daily Office” morning and evening, as a priestly duty from the day he was ordained. In latter years, he said that he has enjoyed having more time to pray for people.



Ken Leslie with Barrie Leslie August 2009.

His commitment to pray daily for family and friends was an inspiration to many.

He endeared himself to the residents of Ilumba Gardens Retirement Village, always concerned and caring of the other residents and to the staff as well. On visits to the Village, there was nothing from the staff but praise for him. With his failing eyesight, his talking books from Vision Australia and the local library became his lifeline along with his love of poetry.

One of kens favourite poems was a poem written by Robert Browning. He would see it as a fitting read today.

“Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be,

The last of life, for which the first was made;

Our times are in Gods hands

Who saith “A whole I planned –

Youth shows but half.

Trust God, see all, nor be afraid”.

Ken was a good and faithful servant of God. He was a father and grandfather to his family and Father-in-God to us all.

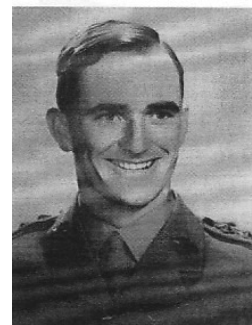
Vale Ken Leslie.

Many thanks to Simon Leslie for the above tribute to his father and I consider myself fortunate to have known such a humble, yet inspiring man.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.



COLONEL DOUGLAS ROBERT LESLIE 2/9 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL



*Col Douglas Robert Leslie
VX 39117. 2/9 Australian General Hospital*

Douglas was born on the 23rd February 1914 at Hitchin in England and he was the younger brother of The Rt Rev Ken Leslie OBE and had a distinguished career in North Africa, the Middle East the Pacific and finally Papua New Guinea where he served on the Kokoda Trail with Dr Alan Watson, a dental surgeon from Narrabeen Sydney. Douglas Robert Leslie (Colonel), A.M., E.D., M.I.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., F.A.C.S., Honorary Surgeon, Royal Melbourne Hospital, 1948-1976; Consulting Surgeon since 1976; Consulting General Surgeon, Australian Army Headquarters (Colonel) 1959-1976; Surgeon to H.M. The Queen 1967-1977; Acting Senior Lecturer in Anatomy and Surgery, Trinity College, Melbourne University 1948-1952; Examiner in Surgery 1952; Member, Board of Management, Royal Melbourne Hospital since 1963; Member, Board of Management, Cancer Institute since 1968; Member, Foreign Practitioners Qualifications Committee since 1969; Member, Court of Examiners, R.A.C.S. since 1962; Member, Council, R.A.C.S. since 1976; Vice President 1977; finally A.I.F. WWII 1940-1945. *Douglas Robert Leslie, born 23 Feb 1914, Hichins England, died 6th November 1994, Melbourne Vic.*

Many thanks to Simon Leslie & Dr John Leslie of Melbourne for the above information.

CLAN LESLIE DNA PROJECT.

I am pleased to see that there are now 23 people who have taken the DNA test for the Clan Leslie DNA Project. Unfortunately only 17 of them are listed on the results page and even less on the Patriachs page.

I have taken the 67 marker test and I have one match with another person who has taken the 37 marker test and there are only three differences in the markers, which makes him a very close match to me. I have still not been able to identify where our ancestor is but it must be close.

We need more male Leslie's to participate in the Clan Leslie DNA Project. This will enable our Clan descendants in several generations to be able to look back and check on various families. Go to www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/leslie/results and see what has happened so far. It is disappointing to see how many people from other clans are participating in the DNA Project and how few are participating in the Clan Leslie DNA Project. *(See the next story)*

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

THE CELTIC CURSE.

The Celtic Curse is a mutation of DNA that occurred about 50 generations ago in what is now known as Ireland. It is thought that one person developed a mutation to over absorb iron, which in the diet of the time was almost completely lacking, which of course was a good thing, then.

It then spread to Scandinavia, England and Scotland and with the migration from those countries to the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand, it is now well established in those countries.

It is now called Hereditary haemochromatosis and is a disease that causes the body to absorb and store iron and can cause serious health problems. It is caused by genetic mutations and is mainly caused by a defect in a gene called *HFE* and the two most common are called *C282Y* and *H63D*.

The most important defect is *C282Y*. In people who inherit *C282Y* from both parents the body absorbs too much iron. Mutations are passed from parents to children and are recessive, which means that the disease only occurs when a copy of the mutation is passed from each of the parents. If only one parent has the mutation, the child is then a carrier and will not develop the disease. Carriers can store the extra iron but rarely suffer the organ damage that a person who has received the two mutations does.

The health symptoms in males, does not develop until after the age of 30 and with females, usually after menopause. Symptoms relate to the organs that are overloaded with iron and can include heart problems, arrhythmia, arthritis, liver disease, diabetes, thyroid deficiency, impotence and adrenal gland problems as well as other problems. The usual treatment is for a blood letting. It is estimated that the incidence in people of Northern European extraction is as high as 1 in 10.

The answer is to get tested for Hereditary haemochromatosis and take your doctors advice.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

BUNDANOON IS BRIGADOON.

The 33rd Bundanoon Highland Gathering is to be held on Saturday 17th April 2010 at Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. I hope to see you at Bundanoon, where we will have a Clan Leslie Stall and as much Clan Leslie information that I can bring with me.

Information is available from the website;
www.highlandsnsw.com.au/brigadoon
Admission prices are as follows;

Adults \$18.00
Child \$ 5.00
Family \$40.00 – prices have not yet been
confirmed, or you can contact the Southern
Highlands Information Centre on 1300 657 559
for free Accommodation Booking Service and
Pre-Purchase of Admission Tickets.



There will be over 130 stalls with all sorts of
Scottish fare and items.
Please come and see the show and meet me at the
Clan Leslie tent.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

CHARLES ROBERT LESLIE

Further to my story in the April May June 2009
CLANZ newsletter about the above painter;



Charles Robert Leslie, self portrait 1814
Courtesy National Portrait Gallery

I would like to advise that one of his best
paintings “The Admonishment of Beatrice Cenci”,



The Admonishment of Beatrice Cenci, 1853

is to be auctioned on the 22nd April 2010 at
Bonhams New Bond Galleries, London. The sale
no is 17820. I will try and establish the sale price.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

SCOTTISH DOOCOTS OR DOVECOTES.

Scottish Doocots form a prominent part of many
of Scotland's landed estates and as early as the
15th century, laws were passed relating to
“dowcots” and other facilities that all Lords and
Lairds were required to build for the “benefit” to
the community. In 1617 however, another statute
was passed, restricting the building of doocots to
owners of land which produced enough grain,
within 2 miles of the doocot, to ensure that the
pigeons fed on their owners grain and not their
neighbours.

Pigeons supplied a very valuable source of meat
all year round, until the start of the 18th century
when the 9th Earl of Rothes, (died 1722), among
others learnt how to grow turnips, which enabled
farmers to feed their cattle over the winter and
slowly the doocots were dispensed with.

Prior to the 18th century, doocots were a standard
feature of Scottish life and doocots were built in a
variety of forms, pentagonal, hexagonal,
cylindrical and octagonal and even two story.

Early records show that the first Scottish doocots
date from the 16th century, although they date
much earlier in England, ranging from bee-hived

shapes, circular and tapering towards the top of the doocot.

Kininvie
Doo-cot

Built
mid-late
18th C.

Grid Ref
NJ319440



*The Doo-cot at Kininvie House, Baff.
Courtesy of Stanley Bruce.*

Most Scottish doocots were built from local stone and housed between 500 and two thousand pigeons and access for the pigeons was usually through louvered vents. Doo-cots also needed protection from rats getting into the doocot and eating the eggs.



Kininvie House 1907



Kininvie House, today.

The doocot at Kininvie house was built in the mid to late 18th century and as can be seen from the photograph, is quite a substantial building. With the availability of the turnip, to feed the cattle, the pigeon fell out of favour and the doocots became empty, however it is considered unlucky to demolish a doocot and a family member was likely to die within the year, which was a great incentive, not to demolish the doocot and therefore quite a few still remain.

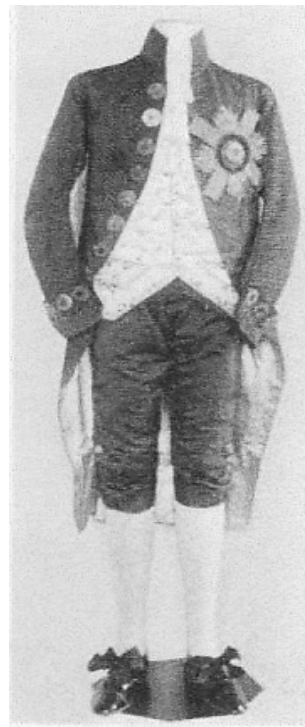
Stanley Bruce, Chairman of the Banffshire Maritime and Heritage Association has written an article about doocots and the Banffshire area in general, which can be seen at;

www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk click on **links** and go to Granny's cottage and see what Banffshire has to offer. You will not be disappointed.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

THE HON JOHN WAYLAND LESLIE.

The Hon John Wayland Leslie, was the younger son of Norman Evelyn Leslie the 19th Earl of Rothes and his wife Noel Lucy Martha Edwardes, of the "Titanic" fame. He was born in Devon England on the 16th December 1909 and died in Farnham Surrey England in 1991.



In 1936 he purchased "Kininvie House" in Dufftown Banff, Scotland. The Leslie's of Kininvie were a cadet of the Family of Rothes. He sold the property in 1945 and dispersed various items to museums in Scotland. One of these items was the Court costume of the 9th Earl of Rothes, which he presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in Queen St Edinburgh as well as an Evening Robe of the Countess of Rothes C 1675.

Court Costume of the 9th Earl

The donation was described by the National Museum of Antiquities as such:

"The Hon J. Wayland Leslie of Kininvie has donated a lay figure wearing the costume of the 9th Earl of Rothes, including his Thistle Star – a very attractive as well as a very valuable example of a noble's dress in the early eighteenth century – and an exquisite evening robe of a Countess of the latter half of the same century, together with a glass case to contain them.



*An illustration of John 6th Earl of Rothes 1625.
Born abt 1597 Fife Scotland
Buried 23 Aug 1641, Richmond on Thames England.*

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

If you have forgotten to renew your membership of CLANZ please send it in to me. I still need assistance to run Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand. I have been running it now for 11 years and with my state of health, I need help. Many thanks to Sheryl Sharp of Victoria and George Leslie of Queensland for becoming Representers of CLANZ.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

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www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm

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