



## CLANZ WEBSITE

I am happy to be able to report that we now have our website up and running. The address is <http://www.clanleslie.org> This will be a work in progress and I would be happy to hear from our members on their thoughts on the content and any improvements that they think might improve the website of Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2003

Membership fees of \$25-00AU, are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003. The members who receive their newsletters **by post** will have an invoice included with the newsletter. Members who receive their newsletter by **e-mail**, will be sent an invoice separately by post. I would ask that members renew their membership when they receive the invoice and save us the cost of having to send out reminders. Members who receive their copy of the newsletter **by post**, can look at the colour copy of the newsletter by going to:-

[www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm)

If you currently receive your newsletter **by post**, but would like to receive it by **e-mail**, you will need 64mg of ram and a reasonable printer. You will be able to try to download it from the above address to see if you can receive it. It will take about 10 to 15 minutes to download.

New Zealand members can send a New Zealand cheque for \$29.00NZ to Mrs J A Burcher, 9 / 86 Bentley Ave, Glenfield, Auckland 1310. This service will be available until the **31<sup>st</sup> January 2003**, when Jillian will forward the membership dues received to me. This will save our New Zealand members, the heavy cost of bank fees and charges. If you have any queries on any of the above, please contact me.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW*



**Pte Charles George Smith M.M.**



*Pte Charles George Smith. M.M. No 2752. 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion.A.I.F.*

Charles Smith was the grandson of John and Ann Leslie who were married in Ireland and arrived in Australia in 1852.

He enlisted in the A.I.F. 27<sup>th</sup> May 1915 when he was aged 16 years and nine months and was posted to the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion and then posted to Egypt on the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 1915. He remained fighting in Egypt until the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916 when he was transferred to France on the "Arcadian", arriving in Marseilles 12<sup>th</sup> June 1916.

He fought in battles at Rouen, Etaples and at Mouquet Farm where he was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery in the Field on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He was wounded in the field and admitted to Haire Hospital, then

transferred for further treatment to the Field Hospital on the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 1916.

He needed further treatment and was transferred to England, on the Hospital ship "Wandilla" and was hospitalised in England until he was discharged from the army, due to his wounds, on the 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 1917 and returned to Australia.

Approximately 12 months before the outbreak of War in 1939, Charles joined the peacetime Militia and was called into full time service when War was declared in 1939.

### **Captain Charles George Smith**



*Captain Charles George Smith*

Until the end of the war in 1945 Capt Smith was placed at the Concord Repatriation Hospital in Concord Sydney, supervising electrical operations. The Concord Repatriation Hospital at Concord was established for Australian war wounded personnel who had been repatriated to Australia for further treatment.

*Thanks to Audrey Fry of South Australia for the above information on her father.*

*Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW*

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## **NEW SITE TO LOOK AT**

Here is a new website for you to look at. Hamish Clark who acts in the TV show "Monarch of the Glen" has been promoting the website in Australia and New Zealand.

[www.ancestralscotland.com](http://www.ancestralscotland.com)

Many thanks to:-

*Ruth Leslie Mangere  
Auckland NZ.*

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## **A DARWIN STORY ABOUT The Right Reverend Ken Leslie**

On the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1942 at the HQ of 17 Australian Field Ambulance there was grave concerns for a reconnaissance party that had been due to return by 1400 hours.

Lt Col Reginald George Worcester ED despatched a search party to find the missing patrol. At 1920 hours the missing truck was located 28 miles from camp.

The driver Cpl FW Knorr had suffered fractures of six cervical vertebrae. Cpl Knorr was conscious but in no pain. He was paralysed from the shoulders down and was immediately evacuated to 119 Aust Gen Hospital.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1942 Cpl Knorr died and was laid to rest at 1100 hours on the 21<sup>st</sup> September at Adelaide River with Full Military Honours. The funeral service being conducted by the Army Chaplain the Reverend Ken Leslie.

*Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW*

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## **SCALLOPS MANUKAU**

First if you are lucky enough to live in Auckland, go out onto the Manukau Harbour mudbanks and either pick up or dredge for scallops, observing the limit that you are allowed to collect and before the season finishes on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. If not go to the nearest fish shop and find the best looking scallops that you can. Make sure that the muscle is clean and the roe a bright orange.

Dip the scallops into a beaten egg, which has been seasoned with salt and pepper.

Next roll the scallops in breadcrumbs and put into a moderately hot, deep fryer with enough vegetable or peanut oil to cover the scallops. Cook for about two minutes or until the scallops

are a golden brown and then eat with whatever dressing or salad takes your fancy. Magnificent, and I do speak from personal experience.

*Barrie Leslie Gordon, NSW.*

## THE MARITIME LESSLIE'S PT 2

In June 1812 as master of the brig ACTIVE, Captain Robert sailed from Port Jackson, for the Derwent and New Zealand, with a Mr Gordon as a passenger. This Mr Gordon is thought to be Charles Gordon, who was then 21 years of age and had arrived in Australia in 1804. Charles Gordon's daughter, Hepzibah, was later to marry Robert's nephew William. Charles Gordon and his first wife were to be two of the first 12 persons forming the Rev Samuel Marsden's first missionary settlement in the Bay of Islands New Zealand. The ACTIVE was purchased by the Rev Marsden, with the intention of servicing the settlement.

Later in 1812 Robert, still as master, the ACTIVE was recorded as whaling in Frederick Henry Bay near Hobart only a few miles from where Abel Tasman first landed on Australian soil. The year 1812 is only 24 years after Australia was first settled and five years before the settlement extended further than 50 miles westward over the Blue Mountain. Unfortunately, it was only a year later that Captain Robert Lesslie B 1768 was murdered by natives at the island of Otahete, now called Tahiti.

Captain Robert's younger brother William B 1771, then assumed control of the business. He had married a Dunbar girl Elizabeth Wallace and they had 5 children all born in Dunbar. Wallace continues as a family name to this day and William continued to operate within reach of the Dunbar base and home.

Their children were,

ROBERT      LESLIE

Born 21<sup>st</sup> April 1807

JAMES      LESLIE

Born 3rd December 1809

Died 21<sup>st</sup> April 1830

WILLIAM    LESSLIE

Born 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1812

THOMAS    LESSLIE

Born 17<sup>th</sup> June 1817

ELIZABETH LESSLIE

Born 15<sup>th</sup> May 1819

Apart from Captain Robert B 1807 the surviving children became progenitors of most of the Australian double S, Lesslie's.

Captain Robert B 1807, was master of the STAR and like his uncle, he spent much of his time at sea far from home. In 1833 and 1835, he was in Valparaiso Chile, and in 1836 as master of the SUCCESS he arrived in Sydney from Western Australia, via Melbourne and in 1837 handed the ship over to his brother, Captain William Leslie. He continued to operate in Australian, New Zealand and Javanese waters until May 1840.

Robert certainly developed a maritime interest in Australia, which passed down through his family.

After the death of his parents, Captain William B 1768 and Elizabeth Wallace, the Dunbar establishment apparently passed to Robert and his heirs. His family ultimately sold out and moved to London where they became involved in the foundation of the Orient Line, now part of the P&O Line. This interest was retained for many years. One Robert John Lesslie died at the age of 93 still working in the management of the Orient Line. He held a number of important posts in Australian shipping circles. His son William Douglas Lesslie also in the Orient Line recognised the non continuance of their male line and arranged for the family bible to be sent via an Orient Line ship to the Australian branch of the family where it remains today.



*Elizabeth Wallace; wife of Capt William Lesslie born 1771*

Many members of the family of Captain William Lesslie and Elizabeth Wallace, individually

developed an interest in Australia and subsequently migrated to Australia.

Elizabeth B 1819 the only daughter married a Robert Nisbet and moved to Sydney. They had no children.

Thomas B 1817 who married Sarah Gowan Foster stayed in England as a tide surveyor at the Port of London and this family, except for one branch now in Norfolk England and one in Canada generally moved to Australia, to ultimately locate at Kenthurst NSW, Eumungerie NSW, Dubbo NSW, Penrith NSW and Springwood NSW.

Captain William B 1812, the other son, arrived in Australia as master of the sloop /cutter VANSITTART, a ship of 80 tons, in time to celebrate his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1836. As was the custom in those days he had travelled from Cowes London, via Hobart. Later that year he carried goods and passengers between Hobart, Sydney, Spencer Gulf and Nepean Bay, now Kangaroo Island, South Australia's first settlement prior to the founding of Adelaide in January 1837

He travelled to Port Phillip, {now Melbourne} then only one year old. On two voyages he carried J. Gellibrand an associate of John Batman who founded Melbourne. In January 1837 Captain William Lesslie relinquished command of the VANSITTART and then took command of the SUCCESS from a Captain James Leslie {relationship unknown} who, had previously taken command of the SUCCESS from William's brother Robert, Captain Robert Lesslie B 1807. Captain William Lesslie's, elder brother had command of a number of ships and through to October 1836, he had command of the SUCCESS.

Captain William went on to take command of a number of other ships. He was wrecked in one of them, the FALCON, in the Bay of Plenty New



*Capt William Lesslie B 1812*

Zealand. He ultimately purchased his own ship the PEDLAR and traded between Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong until it was wrecked at the southern end of Bondi Beach.

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Captain Lesslie's earlier command

Australia, then under a different master, was sold to the Van Dieman's Land Government and was attached to Port Arthur, the notorious convict settlement for search and rescue work. Later in 1842 it was seconded to HMS BEAGLE {Charles Darwin's old ship} to be used for surveying Australia's coastline. An island near Tasmania in Bass Strait was named after her.

How William Lesslie and his wife, Hepzibah Gordon met is uncertain, but it could have happened when William's uncle Robert and Hepzibah's father Charles, previously sailed to New Zealand in the ACTIVE. After their marriage on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1842, the family resided in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, initially in Surry Hills and later in Double Bay on an estate purchased by Charles Gordon, at the original sale of land by the government when Double Bay was opened up. On their marriage day an oak tree was planted and years later a table and chair were made from its wood. Today Russell Lesslie holds the chair, received under a family bequest and the Hardie family holds the table.

Some of the Double Bay property was rented to the Guilfoyles, where they ran a nursery. They were responsible for being the first importers of a large number of plants and establishing several botanical gardens.

Captain William Lesslie, died in 1855 at the early age of 43, leaving his wife to bring up a young family, Mary Elizabeth then 12 years of age, William Charles then 8 years of age and Anna Maria then 5 years of age.

Mary Elizabeth grew up to marry Robert Hardie founder of the Estate Agents Hardie and Gorman and Anna Maria never married and remained in the family home in Double Bay till she died.

William Charles Lesslie, the only son was friendly with the Guilfoyles and attended the St Marks parish school in adjacent Darling Point. When he grew up he entered the world of commerce. Under these family circumstances and without his seafaring father's influence, it is reasonable that he leaned towards an occupation on the land.

After many generations of master mariners, originating in Scotland, the family's long association with the sea and ship's, ultimately came to an end in colonial Australia.

*Russell Lesslie. Killara. NSW*



## THE REV SAMUEL MARSDEN

The brig “Active”, was purchased by the Reverend Samuel Marsden, in March 1814, from Captain Robert Lesslie, while it was laid up in Sydney, after a voyage from India. It was said to be about 110 tons and the purchase price was £1,400, which Samuel Marsden paid from his own resources, to enable him to supply the missionaries in New Zealand with supplies, as there was no other reliable means of getting supplies to New Zealand.

The “Active” made a preliminary voyage to the Bay of Islands under the command of Capt Dillon, arriving in June 1814 with two missionaries, Thomas Kendall and William Hall on board.

Before making its historic second voyage, Marsden had the brig inspected and certified as to its suitability, as it was intended to use the “Active” as a trading and passenger vessel for the Missionary settlement and general trading to make the vessel pay its way.

The original document is now held by the University of Otago New Zealand and stated the vessel ‘was well adapted for the purpose of taking missionaries from Port Jackson to New Zealand and will with occasional repairs, caulking etc, last many years to carry on communication between this place and the proposed settlement in the Bay of Islands’. The document was dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1814 and was signed by Richard Brooks, agent for the underwriters, Lloyds of London, E Bunker, master of the Seringpatum and Thomas Hansen, master of the “Active”.

When the “Active” left Port Jackson on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1814 with Thomas Hansen as Master, it also carried five members of the Captain’s family amongst the total of 35 people on board. These five were:-

Mrs Hannah Hansen, wife of Captain Hansen.

Thomas Hansen, son of Capt Hansen, unmarried

Mrs Hannah King, The Captains daughter and wife of

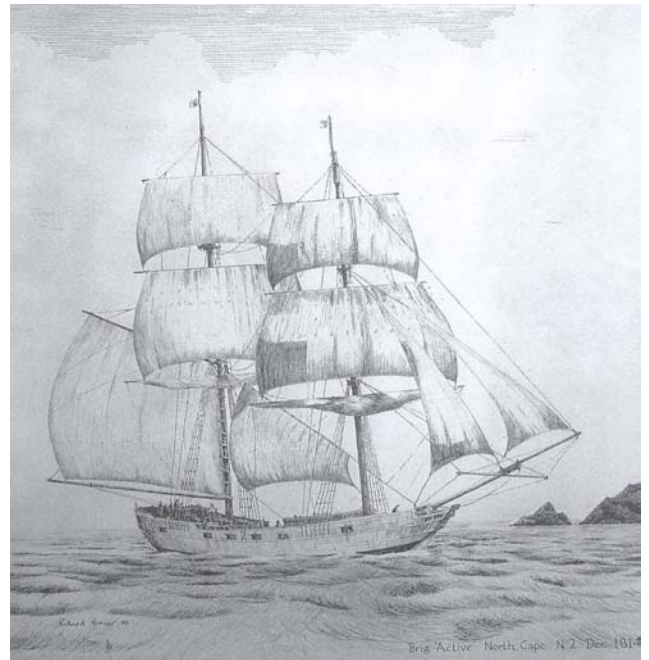
John King, The Captains missionary son in law

Philip Hansen King, the Hansen’s 15 month old grandson.

The “Active” also carried what was described as ‘a Noahs ark’, consisting of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry, and cats and dogs, intended for the mission settlement.

By Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1814, the “Active” was within sight of the New Zealand coast and during Saturday, it lay at anchor off North Cape for the

whole day, whilst Marsden made arrangements to contact the local Maori tribes and also to obtain fresh supplies for both passengers and the animals on board who needed fresh grass.



*The “Active” North Cape NZ 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1814  
drawing supplied by Lavina “Tuppy” Jones. Waimauku NZ*

As the “Active” proceeded down the East Coast of New Zealand, Marsden went ashore at the Cavalli Islands and again on the nearby mainland. Finally at 3-00pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the “Active” reached its destination and dropped anchor in the cove opposite Rangihoua, the home of the local Maori Chief Ruatara and while surrounded by canoes, the “Active’s” great guns were fired as a salute to Ruatara and his people.

During his two month visit, Marsden preached the first Christmas Day service to be held on New Zealand soil. Hannah King gave birth to the first European child to be born in New Zealand and on the same day in February 1815, Marsden performed the first baptism in New Zealand and also executed the first Deed of Land Sale with the Maori people.

The “Active” returned to NSW on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1815 and Captain Hansen continued as Master until 1817, when he and his wife returned to Sydney.

Marsden kept the “Active” until 1825 when he sold it to a Sydney merchant. The new owner put the “Active” on the Sydney-Calcutta trade, but after the second voyage, it was found to be unseaworthy, and broken up in India.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## SCOTTISH DOCUMENTS

From 6<sup>th</sup> November 2002, it is now possible to search through the indexes of the following Courts for more than 355,000 names at absolutely no cost, although copies of the documents you find will unfortunately cost a fee.

The following Court records are now available at <http://www.scottishdocuments@scan.org.uk>

St Andrews Commissary Court Testaments.  
1549-1823  
Aberdeen Commissary Court Testaments.  
1657-1823  
Aberdeen Sheriff Court Inventories and Wills  
1824-1875 [complete]  
Alloa Sheriff Court Inventories and Wills  
1824-1875 [complete]  
Ayr Sheriff Ct Inventories & Testamentary Deeds  
1824-1875 [complete]  
Dumfries Commissary Court Testaments  
1624-1742 [new]  
Edinburgh Commissary Court Testaments  
1567-1688 & 1725-1746  
Edinburgh Sheriff Court Inventories and Wills  
1808-1875 [complete]  
Glasgow Commissary Court Testaments  
1547-1614 & 1757-1823  
Glasgow Sheriff Court Inventories  
1804-1875 [complete]  
Glasgow Sheriff Court Settlements  
1817-1865 [new]  
Moray Commissary Court Testaments  
1684-1814 [new]  
Peebles Commissary Court Testaments  
1681-1699 & 1785-1814 [new]

Good luck with your searching. I found several of my direct ancestors records, which enabled me to fill in the year of their death, without buying the certificate.

*Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.*

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## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

I am saddened to report that CLANZ member, **Bernard Francis Leslie** of Alphington Victoria, suffered a massive stroke in March of this year and died 18<sup>th</sup> September 2002. He is dearly missed by his family and members of Clanz who had met him.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## LESLIE'S WITH WEBBED FEET!!!

Well not quite. I have in the back of my mind a story that I heard years ago, that some Leslie families had a web of skin between some of their toes.

When I went over to New Zealand in October I wanted to get more information on the Leslie's of Kaeo and the Leslie's of Kaiwaka, both in North Auckland.

William Day Leslie from County Kerry in Ireland, who arrived on the "Mary Shepherd" in the Bay of Islands, 25 Oct 1865 was the Patriach of the Kaeo Leslie's and William Leslie from Westing in the Shetland Islands Scotland who arrived in New Zealand on the "Maori" in 1859, was the Patriach of the Kaiwaka Leslie's.

Now these families are from different branches of the Leslie family yet members of both of these families have a web of skin between the second and third toes. It would be interesting to know where their links to the Leslie family in Scotland diverge. More than likely in the mid 1600s, under "The Plantation Scheme", whereby farmers from Scottish families were given land in Ireland and thereby the Ulster Scots sprang. I would also suspect that they are descended from the Balquhain Leslies.

I will not mention the names of the descendants who have this distinguishing feature, maybe they will write an article for our newsletter, but it would seem to be a genetic feature passed down through the female line.

If any members of CLANZ have any information on this genetic feature, or know of any other Leslie families who have the web between the toes, I would be most interested to hear from them.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon.NSW.*

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## NORTH EAST SCOTLAND GENEALOGY

Readers might find this site to be of interest. There are such items as the graveyards of North East Scotland and other information, which just might help to find some ancestors:-

<http://www.abdn66.freemove.co.uk/index.html>

Another site worth looking at is:-

<http://www.brebner.com>

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## NEW ZEALAND TRIP

I would like to apologize to CLANZ members further south in New Zealand. I would have liked to have got down to see you, but maybe next time I am over in New Zealand.

As I said in a previous article, I wanted to find out more information on the Kaero and Kaiwaka Leslie's, and even a small country like New Zealand takes time to get around.

I called in to see Lavina "Tuppy" Jones on my way up north. She is descended from William Day Leslie and she was kind enough to give me a copy of the drawing of the Brig "Active" that was sold by Captain Lesslie to the Rev Samuel Marsden.



*Lavina "Tuppy" Jones and Barrie Leslie with the drawing of the "Active" in the background.*

The sons of William Day Leslie, Lavina's great uncles, cut down the mighty Kauri trees for The Auckland Timber Company and also cut and milled the Kauri for the timber to build the Leslie homestead and also the timber for All Saints Anglican Church at Kaero, which even to this day is maintained by the Leslie family.



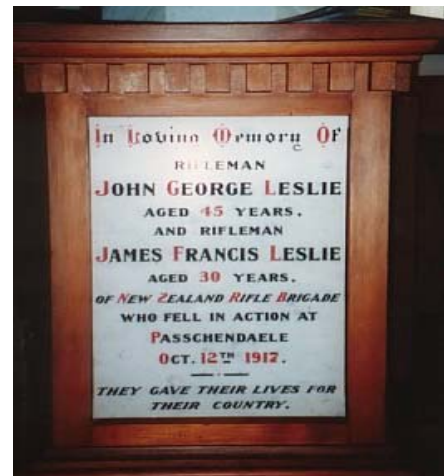
*All Saints Anglican Church, Kaero North Auckland NZ.*

John McGee of Kaero, a cousin of "Tuppy" was kind enough to show me around Kaero and open the church for me and also took me up to Greens Road to the Bramley family Cemetery and showed me the Headstone of William Day Leslie,



*Plaque on the outside of All Saints Church at Kaero.*

Inside the Church is a lot of memorabilia devoted to the Leslie's, not least the marble plaque remembering two sons of William Day Leslie who were killed in the Great War 1914-1918.



*Memorial to John and James Leslie, both killed at Passchendaele 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917*

Just to give some indication at how close the families were who lived around the Bay of Islands.

William Day Leslie married Cecelia Stephenson 31<sup>st</sup> May 1872 at "Woodside" the home of William Murray at Taraire. Cecelia's younger sister then married John Bramley, son of William Bramley the Kaero schoolmaster, then Cecelia's



half sister from England came out to New Zealand and married William Bramley. Finally William Murray at whose house William Day Leslie and Cecelia Stephenson had married in 1872, married William Day Leslie's sister, Mary Ann Leslie in Auckland in 1866, where he had a butcher shop on the corner of Queen and Wellesley Streets. William Murray was a member of the Scottish family Murray of Mastrick.



*Another son of William Day Leslie, Henry Leslie with his horse outside the Old Saddlery in the 1880s*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon.NSW*

## ONE FOR THE ROGUES GALLERY

So that CLANZ members will know who they are sending their money to, I give you a photograph of Jillian Burcher and myself at Birkenhead Auckland. Jillian is a GG Grand daughter of Patrick Leslie who rediscovered and settled the Darling Downs in Queensland and then started a farm called "Wartle", just south of Hamilton.



*Jillian Burcher of Glenfield Auckland and Barrie Leslie*

## GRIP FAST: THE LESLIES IN HISTORY

by Alexander Leslie Klieforth.

This book is a must for all Clan Leslie members and order forms can be requested from Barrie Leslie. In time we hope to avail ourselves of the offer from The Earl of Rothes, to hold a small stock on consignment.

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### Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand

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**Aust & NZ** NSW. 2072. [lesliejb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lesliejb@ozemail.com.au)

**Convenor CLANZ** J. Barrie Leslie as above

**Patron of CLANZ** Rt Rev Kenneth Leslie OBE. BA. Th. Schol.  
 6<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Bathurst.

**Secretary** Secretary required

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**Chief of Clan Leslie** Ian, 21<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rothes  
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