

The Three Feathers



News and views from the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

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In Memoriam

Elizabeth Rose of Kilravock
1924 – 2012

Lord Reay (Mackay)
1937 – 2013

James Macnab of Macnab
1926 – 2013

Lord Forbes
1918 – 2013

Lord Burton
1924 – 2013

Ellice McDonald Jnr
1913 - 2013

The Flodden Service

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Plans are now well advanced for The Flodden Service, to be held in St Giles Cathedral on Monday 9th September this year. Invitations have now been sent. If, for some reason, you have not received one, please let us know.

In aid of the charities, Erskine and Combat Stress, we have already had donations stretching into the thousands of pounds and look forward to updating you at the AGM in July. Thank you, if you have already made a donation.

Having two sponsors for the Reception in the Signet Library after the service means that all donations will go directly to the charities. We thank [Bonhams](#) and [EdF](#) for their support.

The Service will include:

“Flowers of the Forest”
sung by Isla St. Clair

An Address on The Battle of Flodden
Alistair Moffat, author and historian

Lessons read by

Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank, GCB, LVO, OBE, DL
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

The Brass Quintet of the Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Pipe Major
David Waterton-Anderson KSG

We are grateful to **Maxwell Flowers** and **the New Club** for their support.

If you have returned your form, we look forward to seeing you there.

New Zealand's Scottish Gene

Dr Cathy Gunn, Edinburgh and Auckland

#

First impressions of my adopted home were of similar natural beauty, but otherwise a world apart from Scotland. The climate was a good deal warmer, the plant life more tropical, and most houses on a single level with timber walls and an iron roof. No tenements here!

It wasn't long before the strength of New Zealand's Scottish connections began to emerge. Walking past a popular beachfront wedding venue one day, I spotted a tall, handsome Maori man in full highland dress. A sight for sore eyes indeed – and I had to ask! He was a McDonald, honoring family tradition by getting married in his grandfather's formal attire. His Maori connection was obvious, although the depths of those cultural traditions remain unknown to many New Zealanders.

The next surprise was the Auckland City Christmas Parade. Along with colourful floats carrying jolly men in red suits, elves and ruddy nosed reindeer, marched more pipe bands than I had ever seen in one place. The connection between Santa Claus and pipe bands escaped me, and those poor folk were marching in woollen kilts, jackets and bonnets in the height of New Zealand summer! It didn't make sense, but it still tugged on my heartstrings, as the sound of the pipes always has and always will.

My next encounter with New Zealand's 'Scottish gene' was at the Waipu Highland Games. This small north island town is where Reverend Norman McLeod landed his flock after the clearances. They moved from Ullapool to Nova Scotia and Australia before settling in New Zealand in 1854. The New Years Day Games have run for 142 years, and often host international championships. Like so many Scottish events, there are mutton pies, tattie scones and 'your other national drink' to

sustain the crowds. The serious business is followed by a lively ceilidh, and a wee dram or two.

The Waipu Games are just one of many events held annually around the country to celebrate the Scottish heritage of citizens of various ethnic blends and origins. Scottish music and dance, Burns Suppers, Kirkin o' the Tartan, Gaelic and Clan Societies are part of the vernacular for a small but significant number of New Zealanders. A Scottish accent is a great conversation starter and often leads to stories of a granny or granddad that sounded like they walked out of Glasgow yesterday after 63 years away! Apart from areas of general discontent around the legacy of colonization, which many Scots can understand, I have often received a special welcome because I am Scottish.

Many old, familiar cultural traditions are alive and well in my adopted country. Some are echoes from the point of migration. Hence the phrase 'more Scottish than the Scots' for a diaspora that maintains traditions long since changed in the homeland. Others are a lovely fusion of immigrant and indigenous cultures, reflected, for example, by the music trio *Pacific Curls*, 'an inimitable combination of Pacifica, Maori and Celtic influences, with taonga puoro (traditional Maori instruments) and Scottish fiddle'; or weaver Roka Ngarimu-Cameron 'combining traditional indigenous methods with European technologies, showing the similarities between Maori cloaks and Scottish kilts.' In a different vein, a ceremony at the Gathering in Edinburgh 2009 to honour the late [Squadron Leader John Mahiti Wilson](#) noted similarities between Scottish Clan and Maori Tribe (Iwi). One of NZ's first WWII Maori fighter pilots, and a high profile lawyer in civilian life, John Mahiti Wilson was of Scottish and Maori descent. So whether the elements are traditional and 'pure' or modern infusions, the 'Scottish gene' really has become a core part of New Zealand culture.

Advancing the Agenda – the Seminar at Stone Mountain

As a follow up to the 2009 Convention, and as a continuation of discussions with constituents throughout the world, Chiefs took part in a seminar at the Stone Mountain Highland Games.

The date was: 19th October 2012

The panelists were:

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor,
Chief of Clan Gregor

The Earl of Caithness,
Chief of Clan Sinclair

Donald MacLaren of MacLaren,
Chief of Clan MacLaren

Dr. John Ruairidh Morrison of Ruchdi,
Chief of Clan Morrison

John Robert McInnes, President,
International Association of
Clan MacInnes

Susan McIntosh, President,
Council of Scottish Clans and Associations

Guests included:

Dr. Alan Bain, President,
American Scottish Foundation

Robin Naysmith, Scottish Government
Counsellor for North America

Richard Swanson, President,
Stone Mountain Highland Games

The agenda was:

Authenticity and Inclusivity: How can we sustain important clan traditions whilst encouraging inclusivity?

Clans and Families without Chiefs: How can COSCA and SCSC help?

Connecting Chiefs and Clans: How can the Standing Council engage more with the Diaspora?

Economic contribution of clans to the economy of Scotland.

There was a problem with the live broadcast, but a recording of the event can be found here.

<https://soundcloud.com/coscasound>

2014 and All That!

In April this year, the SCSC was asked to submit its views on the 2014 issue.

Here is an extract of the summary submitted by the Executive and presented by Sir Malcolm MacGregor – and you can find the whole document and those submitted by other organisations [by clicking here](#):

“Chiefs and Heads of Families have arranged Clan Gatherings for their Diaspora for many years. These events bring much-needed tourism and economic benefits, not only to businesses in the Clan heartlands, but also to Scotland as a whole. This is repeat business that could, and should, be exploited more fully.

Although not run by the SCSC, the 2009 International Gathering of the Clans was a watershed for Scottish Clan Tourism. If the brand was built on successfully, numbers attending in future could be considerably higher. However if a future Gathering is to fulfill its potential, the private sector creditors from 2009 must be reimbursed their losses.

The SCSC was not involved in the arrangements, but was asked for, and provided, advice to Stirling Council on The International Gathering 2014, or Clans 2014. Its cancellation was a huge disappointment, both nationally and internationally.

There are no other centralised clan events being marketed in place of the International Clan Gathering as part of Homecoming 2014. There are individual clan gatherings at a local level, but these are being promoted and marketed by Clan Associations at different times of the year around Scotland and not on any strategic level.

The vast majority of the Diaspora who attend these events cannot afford to take the time off, or make an expensive visit to Scotland more than occasionally. They tend to arrange these visits to coincide with Clan activities, and short notice of major changes of plan has a disproportionately negative effect.

The SCSC does not have the professional competence to comment on marketing and promotional issues to do with the re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn 2014. It does, however, have a wide-ranging knowledge of the Diaspora.

The SCSC is of the opinion that it is now too late to plan any other events around Bannockburn 2014 to attract the US Diaspora. Time is too short. Overseas clansfolk need at least two years' lead-time, but preferably longer.

The role of the SCSC in Bannockburn has yet to be fully determined, as there has only been one general meeting and, to date, no meetings of the steering group. The SCSC believes that Bannockburn will be successful for the home market, but the event as it stands may not be large enough to bring the same numbers of the Diaspora to Scotland as occurred in 2009. Nor should it, as the site is too small to hold that number.

The SCSC believes there would be an economic benefit in mounting large, centralised International Clan Gatherings in the future, but they will need very careful consideration. They should be run by the private sector, with the SCSC in an advisory role, and with the full support of central and local government and the public sector."

Convenor Sir Malcolm MacGregor is representing the SCSC at the Grandfather Mountain Clan Caucus on 11th July. He will also be attending the Games, where Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss is Chief.

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP FOR CHIEFS WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT THE SCSC.

FOR USE WITHIN SCOTLAND

- + The SCSC is actively engaged in representing the Chiefs and is an accessible point of contact for all Scots.
- + Chiefs and their Clan Societies provide many of those 40 million overseas "Scots" with authentic information about their Clan their family history.
- + The Chiefs play a significant role in today's Scotland in attracting thousands of Scots living in other parts of the UK or abroad back to Scotland every year.
- + Such visitors benefit the economy by spending some £4 million p.a. throughout Scotland, keeping local people in employment and local firms in business.
- + The Chiefs bring inward investment to Scotland for Clan and Heritage projects.
- + On the issue of independence, there are differences of opinion amongst the Chiefs and therefore the SCSC itself is not in a position to comment.

FOR USE OUTSIDE SCOTLAND

- + The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs actively represents the Chiefs and their Clan Societies and is an authoritative contact point for overseas Scots.
- + The SCSC website has an e-mail address for enquiries. A list of clan events in Scotland and an authentic way of tracing one's clan are to be added.
- + The SCSC works with the Government and tourist agencies to enhance the experience of those visiting Scotland and seeks to see an improvement in the quality of information, products and events offered.
- + The SCSC is in contact with National Trust for Scotland about the re-enactment of Bannockburn to coincide with the 700th anniversary of the Battle.
- + The SCSC is keen to receive comments on how it and the Chiefs can assist Scottish organisations and communities abroad more effectively.
- + On the question of Scottish independence, there are differences of opinion amongst the Chiefs so the SCSC is not in a position to comment.