



# Clan Maclean International Association

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# International BattleAxe



Volume 2 Issue 3. Editorial  
Marcus & Donald MacLean



Six years ago Marcus had the vision of a colour magazine for all Macleans. Each year since then he has cajoled advertisers and communicated with clansfolk from a dozen Clan Maclean Associations around the world. Donald has assembled what he gathered into the annual Clan Maclean Magazine for members of CMA Scotland. We have now completed our journey at the helm of the magazine.

These yearly magazines, which many of you will have seen, are very much what we envisaged as a 'world CMA magazine'. Opinions on the desirability of creating such a magazine remain divided, though plainly we have all, contributors and editors alike, shown that we can cooperate to get it done. We believe that objections will be overcome, and that an International Clan Maclean Magazine will come into being before long.

For three years we have collected the contributions of the international CMAs in the form of the BattleAxe. Donald will be supporting Marcus in his continuing role as BattleAxe editor. ☞

Marcus <[marcus@maclean.id.au](mailto:marcus@maclean.id.au)>

Donald <[dmaclean@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dmaclean@bigpond.net.au)>

CLAN MACLEAN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

# 2012

## The Centenary of the Great Gathering at Duart in 1912

Monday 18th to Sunday 24th June 2012

The 2012 Clan Gathering on Mull will mark the Centenary of the Great Gathering at Duart in 1912 which was held to celebrate the return of the castle to Maclean ownership.

The Programme will include: Visits to Iona and Coll; a Clan Congress; a Clan Heritage event, a Ceilidh; a Grand Gathering at Duart Castle on Saturday 23rd June; a Clan Dance; and Kirking of the Tartan on Sunday morning.

### Registration

Book online at <[www.maclean.org](http://www.maclean.org)> from late summer 2010; or contact the Gathering Secretary, Mrs Vera MacLean, 2 Fullerton Drive, Seamill, Ayrshire KA23 9HT, UK.

**Accommodation is limited. Book Early!**

Craignure Tourist Information Centre, Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA65 6AY. Tel: +44 8452 255121;

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## 2010

### Clan Maclean Association AGM

The Clan Maclean Association Annual General Meeting will be held in a new venue; the **Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew**, near Glasgow Airport, at **4pm on Saturday 6th November 2010**. Members of the Clan Maclean Association worldwide are welcome to attend.

### Clan Maclean Scottish Gathering

The Annual Gathering will be held on **Saturday 6th November 2010** in the **Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew**, near Glasgow Airport. This is a family run hotel which has good parking, a leisure centre and swimming pool. Tickets will cost £36 per adult, and £18 per child aged 8 to 15 years inclusive.

The Hotel has offered the Clan special accommodation rates of £75 for a double room and £60 for a single room, this includes breakfast and the use of the extensive leisure club. When booking accommodation please use the Group Code MAC 0610. The Hotel is very accessible by road (Exit 27 on M8), by rail (Paisley, Gilmour Street) and by air (Glasgow Airport).

#### *Applications for tickets should be sent to:*

Lt Col Donald MacLean, 2 Fullerton Drive, Seamill, Ayrshire KA23 9HT, UK. Tel: +44(0) 1294 823240  
Email: <col.damclean@btinternet.com>.

### The Tobermory, Isle of Mull Games

The Annual Isle of Mull Games, known to many as 'The Maclean Gammes' will be held in Tobermory on **Thursday 22nd July 2010**.



### Malcolm Fitzroy (Mac) MacLean

Secretary of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust.

Mac MacLean was taken ill recently, and died peacefully at his home in Solihull, near Birmingham on 19th April 2010.

Mac became the secretary of the Trust at its start in 1996, and has served under three chairmen, travelling long distances to attend Council meetings, and corresponding by email with the trustees round the world. He has also been secretary of the Friends of the Trust, keeping in contact with all the members, who have all appreciated his friendly letters. Our sympathy goes to Pat, and to Mac's family.



From left: Mac MacLean with Trust members, Sir Lachlan Maclean, The Very Rev. Allan Maclean and Dr James McLean in 2000.

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## From Duart

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern, Bt., CVO, DL. Twenty-eighth chief of Clan Gillean

Dear Members of the Clan. As I write this note to you all who are scattered around the world, I find it hard to think that my Father died 20 years ago this February. What a lot has happened in the last two decades since I became your Chief. In those 20 years trips to America, Canada and Australia have given me the opportunity to meet many of you in your own countries. 2009 was no different with my second visit to the Clan Maclean Atlantic (Canada) Association for a day's Symposium on Alexander MacLean Sinclair, which was partially funded by the Heritage Trust. As well as the Symposium I had the pleasure to unveil a magnificent Cairn that had been built close to St. Francis Xavier University as a memorial to the founding Fathers of the Clan who had immigrated to the Atlantic Provinces. This November I'm going to Australia and New Zealand. It looks as if it will be a busy four weeks and I am really looking forward to renewing friendships and visiting New Zealand for the first time.



I cannot let 2009 pass without commenting on the Homecoming, which took place in July. Many of you knew my view about the Homecoming events that were being held in Edinburgh last July. I attended, with several members of the Clan, the Congress that was held in the Scottish Parliament to discuss the way that Chiefs and their Clans should operate in the 21st Century. It became very clear that the role of the Chief was perceived very differently in the United States than it was in both Scotland and other parts of the world. It was an interesting day with plenty of discussion, but it was spoilt by a fire alarm in the middle of the afternoon, which brought the Conference to a fairly rapid close and left us with plenty to think about. Those who attended the Gathering on the Saturday had an excellent time and the Maclean contingent marching up the Royal Mile to the Esplanade numbered over 50. No one had been told that the family who were being portrayed at the Gala on the Esplanade was a Maclean Family who had emigrated. There seems to be confusion about another Gathering being held. The organisers of the 2009 event have posted a loss of £500,000 and I think there will be reluctance for someone else to pick up that cost.

At Duart our summer was saved by Europeans coming to visit the Castle. We had significantly fewer visitors from Canada and the United States, but the Homecoming brought us a bus load of

McTavish's, and a bus load of McDuff's who visited Duart on their way to Iona. It was not an easy summer for anyone in the tourist trade in Scotland and it was not helped by a fairly wet August for those visiting Mull, although we did have a better summer than Skye where it rained consistently for 50 days. At Duart we had a number of Ceilidh's in the Tearoom, which were without a doubt the most successful of our new events programmes. We were lucky that Calum Maclean (a very well known local accordionist) played at all the Ceilidh's and we had some excellent singing from a number of local artists. Many of the visitors learned how to dance the Gay Gordons, the St Bernards Waltz and Strip the Willow. They were very happy family events, which we are going to continue in 2010.

My family continue to flourish although my Mother has been bothered with one of her hips. Cosimo my eldest Grandson is now ten and the youngest Archie is two years old. All I can say is they continue to grow and I am very lucky that they all come and stay at Duart during the Summer which is one of the few times that my family manage to have a holiday together. I don't see as much of them all as I would like to but I realise that it is not easy for the young to get to Mull, when they have children in school and they are working in the South.



The Chief and Elizabeth, Lady Maclean

As I write to you in February it is only five weeks until the Castle opens again for another summer. That hardly seems possible after the snow we have had since Christmas. I think we still have more than they had for the Winter Olympics in Whistler. If you are visiting the Castle do please ask if I am there, as I always enjoy meeting members of the Clan. If my standard's flying from the flagpole then I will be somewhere at Duart if it is not then I

will be away. I also always seem to mention the Isle of Mull Games held in Tobermory on the 22nd July. The Clan has a tent at these Games and I plan to be there this summer, so if you are in Mull on holiday over that period do come and see us. The Games are very local and it is an excellent day out for all the family.

Have a very good 2010 and my very best wishes to you all.

# The Heritage Trust

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern ~ Chairman

As Chairman of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust I am delighted to report on the Trusts progress over the last 12 months. For the Heritage Trust to carry out its task it needs funds. The funding has come from two sources; Members of the Clan who are Friends of the Heritage Trust and from the various Associations. The Trust has been particularly lucky over the last 12 months in receiving a donation of £500 from the London Association and a further £500 from Clan Gillean. This has significantly boosted our funds and all the Trustees are enormously grateful for those Members of the Clan who continue to be Friends. Over the year the Trust moved from making a deficit of £348 in 2008 to making a surplus of £2,500 in 2009.

The Heritage Trust has purchased some Maclean of Pennycross Papers, which are being held in the Mull Museum in Tobermory. Allan Maclean has also produced a list of the books that it is felt should be held in the Library again at the Mull Museum. This list is available on [www.maclean.org](http://www.maclean.org). The Trustees feel that it is important that the Trust's library at the Mull Museum should be increased and I hope this will happen this year.

The Trustees are very grateful for various additional donations that have been made to the Fund within the Heritage Trust that was set up in memory of Mary, my wife. *The Book of Stories* is virtually completed and I hope it will be published in the second half of this year. The Trust has also made the first payment to one of the children's choirs attending the Mull Mod. This was a donation of £50 to Rockfield Primary School in Oban to enable them to attend the Mod in Mull. The Trust is committed to pay £50 a year for the next 10 years. These projects are just the sort of initiatives that Mary would have wanted to be encouraged and I again must thank Fiona Maclean of Ardgour for all her help with these developments.

At the end of 2009 Professor Ephraim Maclean resigned as a Trustee having completed his six years. I would like to thank him for all the help and support he gave to the Trust. The Trustees were all delighted when Judge Sandra McLean from California agreed to replace Ephraim Maclean. The Trustees are all very conscious that other than the Cairn at Ticonderoga no other projects have been completed in the United States. If you have ideas, please let us know.

Finally I would encourage those of you who are interested in your Clan to become Friends of the Maclean Heritage Trust. Your donations really do help to make all these projects work. Each year the Friends receive a benefit; in 2008 this was a framed miniature portrait of Brigadier General Allan Maclean, which included some notes on the General. In 2009 it was the cartoon of my Great Grandfather Sir Fitzroy, again with some notes included. As a Trust we are working towards a major project on Mull for the Centenary Gathering in 2012. The Heritage Trust is in good shape and I would like to thank the Trustees for all the voluntary work they do to make the Trust work. ☺



**Above:** The Chief hands the Pennycross Papers to Jean Whittaker of the Mull Museum watched over by Fiona Maclean of Ardgour. **Below:** The plaque unveiled at Sydney University to the memory of Dr Archibald Lang McLean.

In the last year the Trust continued to make progress by completing some projects and developing others. In May as Chairman of the Heritage Trust I visited Canada to attend the Symposium on Rev Alexander MacLean Sinclair. The Symposium was held at St Francis Xavier University to celebrate his life and the contributions that he made to the Scottish Community in Nova Scotia. He was a prolific author and poet in Gaelic but was best known to Macleans as the author of *The History of the Clan Maclean* that he published in 1899. This Symposium was a new initiative for the Heritage Trust but fell well within our objective of education. Over 70 people attended the Symposium, a number were Maclean's but many were Canadians with interest in Celtic studies. The enthusiasm was significant and a very interesting day was held at the University. The Heritage Trust helped to fund this event. Also in the last year the Trust has purchased the copyright of several pipe tunes that Colonel Donald felt were important to publish in Maclean Music. This issue of copyright has been holding up the publication of the book for which the Heritage Trust is committed to pay half of the costs. The plaque in memory of Dr Archibald Lang McLean at the University of Sydney was unveiled in the summer. It is a long way for the Heritage Trust to monitor projects such as this and the Trustees are very grateful to Brian MacLean who is a current Trustee of the Heritage Trust, and Colin Sproule for the help they gave.



# Dr Archibald Lang McLean. 1885~1922

by Brian McLean

Archie McLean was born in Balmain, Sydney, on March 27 1885. He was the grandson of Scottish migrants from Balmaha on the east side of Loch Lomond. From his early youth he gave promise of unusual achievements. At the age of twelve years he passed his Junior examination and at fifteen and a half he matriculated from the Fort Street High School. In due course he entered the University of Sydney and spent three years amplifying his general education. In 1906 he secured a place in the honours list for the degree of Bachelor of Arts. By this time he had revealed unusual talent as a writer. He then entered the medical school, graduated in 1910 and the following year registered his surgical degree.

Soon after graduation his application for the position of Resident Medical Officer at the Lewisham Hospital was favourably received. After six months he was appointed to a resident position at the Coast Hospital, Little Bay. Then after a couple of months he was asked by Dr (later Sir) Douglas Mawson to join his expedition to Antarctica. He signed for one year and became Chief Medical Officer and Bacteriologist for the famous expedition. The expedition party sailed from Hobart on Saturday 2 November 1911 on the SY Aurora for Commonwealth Bay, via Macquarie Island, and arrived there on 7 January 1912.

When Mawson was lost the following spring, and the Aurora was due to convey the party back to Australia, Archie agreed to join the small party to stay behind to search for him. During the second winter, Archie nursed Mawson back to health and helped with writing Mawson's book, *The Home of the Blizzard*. So it was February 1914 before the remainder of the party returned to Australia, landing at Adelaide. He had collected

much material and made many valuable observations which had to be studied and worked into shape. Mawson suggested that he should journey to England to proceed with the scientific work and finish writing and editing *The Home of the Blizzard*. He arrived in England in May 1914 and for the next few months concentrated his energy on his task.

And then came the cloud that darkened the world for the next four and a quarter years. Archie McLean did not hesitate in offering



Clockwise from left: Regimental Medical Officer Dr/Captain Archibald L. McLean, 17th Battalion AIF. McLean aboard the SY Aurora en route to Antarctica. Mawson's Hut at Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay.




his services. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was first attached to the Ninth Division of the Eighth Black Watch. In May 1915, he went to France and served in the 13th General Hospital and later gained his laurels with the 30th Casualty Clearing Station. A vivid description of the work performed in those days was published in *The Medical Journal Of Australia* in March 1917 and a second the following month. Even when dealing with the horrors of war, his descriptive work was fascinating and irresistible. About this time (21st. April 1915) he married Miss Eva Maude Yates of Acton, London. Toward the end of 1916 he was invalided with appendicitis. After he recovered he obtained his discharge and worked at the Royal Herbert Hospital at Woolwich.

In February 1917, he returned to Australia, war worn and considerably aged, but still with the irrepressible enthusiasm so characteristic of the man. He was determined to continue the bacteriological and biological studies of his material collected during the Antarctic expedition and obtained a position at Gladesville Hospital for the Insane to facilitate this work.

About this time he read a paper on the bacteriology of Antarctica before a meeting of the N.S.W. Branch of the British Medical Association. The room was crowded and he held his audience in rapt attention, spell bound by his story and the magnetism of his personality. Everyone knew Archie McLean and everyone loved him. It was his first and only appearance before a large gathering of his colleagues in Australia, and revealed him to be a man of accomplishment in the world of sciences. He recognised that, notwithstanding the vast amount of important work to be completed, his proper place was at the front, and he therefore applied for a commission in the Australian Army Medical Corps. His gazettal is dated September 21, 1917. Before he went on active duty he submitted his thesis in pathology and was rewarded with first class honours in the degree of Doctor of Medicine, the University Medal and the Ethel Talbot Memorial Prize.

In France he was first attached to the 2nd Australian General Hospital then transferred to the 5th Field Ambulance before transferring to the Seventeenth Battalion of Australian Infantry as Regimental Medical Officer. Early in 1918 he was 'gassed' but did not leave the line. In September 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Later he was Mentioned in Despatches by General Sir Douglas Haig. In November 1918, he was again severely gassed and was invalided to England. The trauma inflicted to his lungs was considerable and sealed his doom. He recovered to a considerable extent within a few months and was appointed as Assistant Collator of medical records, Australian War Records Section, in Horseferry Road, London.

In July 1919, he sailed for Australia with his wife and once again landed in New South Wales. His friends saw him as an altered man, a victim of a cruel fate. His lungs had been invaded by tubercle bacilli which ultimately caused his death. His health improved slightly while in a private sanatorium at Leura and during this time his book *Bacteriological and Other Researches* was published by the NSW Government Printer. A review of his book appeared in *The Medical Journal Of Australia*, January 10, 1920.

In November 1921 he was admitted to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and died in May 1922. He was interred in the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery where there is an impressive family monument. 



**Acknowledgements:** Dr Lise Mellor: Research Manager, History Projects & Publications, Faculty of Medicine, Sydney University. Mr Colin McLean Sproule: Past President Clan Maclean Association in NSW, (for the use of his extensive research material). Shirley Wood: Australian Red Cross. Allan Curry: 5th Field Ambulance Association. Ron Heather: Gore Hill Cemetery Trust. John Baker: (Public School background and Abbotsford Presbyterian Church information). **Sources:** Extracts from *The Medical Journal of Australia*, June 3rd 1922. Dr McLean's obituary. Photo of Dr/Captain McLean RMO 17th Battalion AIF with permission.

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# Elizabeth Torrie

A Tribute by Iain Thornber

The poet and philosopher, John Donne, reminded us that any man's death diminishes us; the sudden and unexpected death of Elizabeth Torrie on the 28th of December 2009, diminishes us all no matter how little we knew her.

One of five gifted sisters, Elizabeth, 'Libby' to her family and friends, was among the last of the old school of Highland ladies who have no equal for grace and charm. Although ever kind and helpful she had a resolve of steel and would not be readily deflected from what she believed to be her duty or allow others to forget theirs.

Libby, the youngest of five daughters, was born at Ardgour House in 1927 to Colonel Alexander Maclean, 16th Chieftain of Ardgour, senior marshal of the Great Gathering of Macleans at Duart Castle on the 24th of August 1912, and the Honourable Muriel Burns, younger daughter of the 3rd Baron Inverclyde whose grandfather founded the Cunard shipping line. Some of the proudest blood in Scotland flowed in her veins, and she cherished from infancy the honourable traditions interwoven with her heritage yet she cared not a jot for pomp or class.

Libby grew up at Ardgour along with her mother and sisters, her father having died when she was only three years of age. Between days spent with a governess in the Ardgour House schoolroom, she explored the area and made lifelong friendships with everyone on the estate. She learnt to fish for salmon in the Gour and the Scaddle and to stalk deer on the surrounding hills. She had her own rifle and many a stag fell to her shooting skills. Later she attended Oxenfoord Castle School, near Edinburgh, and Queensgate School in London where she lived very happily in Knightsbridge with her maternal grandmother, Lady Inverclyde. When her elder sisters left home for war service, Libby enrolled

at St Andrews University where she read history, captained the Scottish lacrosse and netball teams and ran the Conservative Club.

At St Andrews she met Ronald Torrie, an Irishman, who had come out of the Royal Artillery to complete his divinity degree begun before the outset of war. Romance blossomed and their marriage which followed was one of complete happiness.

Ronald's calling took them and their five children, Robin, Philippa, Catriona, Hamish and Sarah to Gibraltar, Islay and finally Moray. But it was to Ardgour they always returned several times a year to be with Libby's elder sister Catriona, who succeeded her father at Ardgour, and later as tenants of Sallachan House when their son Robin Maclean of Ardgour inherited the estate and title on his aunt's death.

In every generation there are one or two people who are a kind of magnet round which different groups of friends and relations cohere. They usually stand a little aside from the ordinary course of life, and, being free from personal or professional ambitions, have leisure for the profession of friendship. Such a one was Libby Torrie. She was proud to be part of Clan Maclean and seldom missed a Gathering at

Duart. She loved people and parties and always saw the best in everyone and in everything. It is not difficult to imagine that if she had the misfortune to be aboard a sinking ship she would say how clear and clean the water was.

In remembering this remarkable lady we do not, in the words of the poet Donne, have to send out to ask for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for us.

Dear Libby, may you rest in peace and rise in Glory. ☞



Elizabeth Torrie at Loch Morlich in Moray.

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# The Homecoming ~ 2009

A Personal View of the Gathering, Highland Games and Pageant by Dr. Elizabeth Jenner-McLean

The Gathering 2009 which took place in Edinburgh over the weekend of July 23rd–25th, was the main event in Scotland's Year of Homecoming organised to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. It was generally considered to have been a huge success despite misgivings in the run up to the event. It was organised by Lord Sempill, promoted by Alex Salmond, First Minister and declared officially open by HRH Prince Charles, The Duke of Rothesay. When walking around the grounds in Holyrood Park with his wife, the Duke reportedly expressed surprise at the number of Clansfolk who had come from all over the world; said to be 47,000.

Arthur's Seat served not only as the background to this unique occasion, but also played a part, albeit passive. Spectators sat on it; athletes ran up, around and down it in the Nairn's Oatcake Hill Race and banners were draped across it by protestors against London rule who made their views known in Gaelic and English. Below in Holyrood Park, banners and eagles' feathers were flying everywhere to signal the presence of 124 Chiefs as well as a multitude of chieftains and gentlemen of the Clans.

The Clan Village was the focal point for visitors wishing to make contact with their cousins. The Maclean tent, ably staffed by Terry, Rosemary and her grandson Nick and overseen by Colonel Donald and Vera, received some 170 visitors. These included a black American from the USA wishing to trace his roots. There was a large genealogy area to help him do this and Allan of Dochgarroch pointed him in the right direction. Elizabeth from Canada, who was on honeymoon and on her way to Mull, won a 14 year old Oban malt in the raffle on the first day.

Whisky featured heavily at the Gathering; the Talisker tent was invariably full to overflowing. Here one could 'nose' (and drink) three whiskies of choice for a fiver. Charlie, Keeper of the Quaich (soon to be Master of the Quaich) was on hand to help those who imbibed to appreciate the finer sensory pleasures of smell and taste resulting from sampling a 'wee dram'. I found a liking for a 10 year old Dalwhinnie and was interested to learn where this was located on the map.

Charlie also delivered a talk on whisky and promoted signed copies of his latest book 'Whiskypedia', which had a very favourable

review in the July edition of Scots magazine. His talk was well attended and supported by several Macleans.

In contrast, in the Jacobite Tent, The 'Loyal Men' (including a Maclean) dressed and armed as at Culloden with the Bonnie Prince Charlie emblem on their bonnets, invited my husband Alan (President of Clan Maclean Association, France) to drink to the health of the 'King over the water'. This Jacobite custom involves passing the glass of whisky over a bowl of water to toast the King exiled in France.

The Flavour of Scotland Kiosks offered some of Scotland's finest produce such as oysters, smoked venison, Arran cheeses and Mackies ice cream, which could be sampled prior to purchase. I bought Walkers Ecclefechan tarts and shortbreads only to find that the carrier bag also contained two packets of Duchy of Cornwall biscuits. Hmm!

The Arts and Crafts Centre was a wonderful showcase for Scotland's finest including paintings by Sheila MacLean (not Charlie's wife), sporrans by Kate Macpherson made from all sorts of animals and birds, real antler Sgian Dubhs, and clan crest silver by Roddy Young.

The Highland Dancing Championship, which took place in a neighbouring tent, attracted 400 competitors aged 4–20 years old. Dances included the Highland Fling, Irish Jig and Hornpipe. A mother of one of the girls confirmed my impression that the pursuit of this hobby was all consuming in terms of time and financial outlay.

The Highland Games took place in the main arena where big men with bulging biceps threw, tossed, pulled and putt various heavy objects. The event of Clach Cuid Fir or 'manhood stones' was won by Lewis MacLean who succeeded in lifting stones of increasing weight and placing them on a barrel in the fastest time.

On the second day a colourful ceremony was held in the Main Arena to install the herald Finlaggan Pursuivant. (continued)

**Top:** Charlie Maclean, The Keeper of the Quaich, demonstrates how to down a dram at his packed lecture on whisky. **Centre:** Charlie signs copies of Whiskypedia for his rapturous audience. **Below:** The Clan Gathering in Holyrood Park.



In the Auditorium, Elizabeth Roads MVO, Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records delivered a couple of talks on Scottish Heraldry. Elsewhere, stories were told, songs were sung and music played including a performance by Dougie MacLean. There was indeed something for everyone.



The Clan Pageant 'Aisling's Children: Tales of The Homecoming' was the centrepiece of the Gathering. Performed on the Castle's esplanade, it began with the company weaving a pastel coloured tartan plaid from paint powder. The lead role of Aisling Maclean (Aisling means 'vision') was played by Kirstin MacLean who was also Assistant Director. Starting with The Declaration of Arbroath on April 6th 1320, she narrated the long and

complicated history of Scotland through the eyes of six generations of Maclean family members: soothsayer, singer, warrior, crofter, prospector and a present day farmer from Australia. The choice of our Clan name was a great but gratifying surprise. Members of Clan Maclean present felt immensely honoured.

Special effects were achieved through clever use of sound and lighting and a supporting cast of 200 actors, dancers and musicians. Robert The Bruce emerged from the Castle archway silhouetted against purple light. The era of James, Earl of Douglas ended in a chilling mass death scene at The Battle of Otterburn 1388. Enactments of other bloody events included The Battle of Flodden 1513, Culloden 1746 and Flanders 1917. The significance of the colour of Aisling's red dress was not lost on us.

The Clearances which began in 1760, reached a peak in 1850 and ended in 1886, were portrayed by the intolerable sea voyages to America, Canada and Australia. The forced displacement of so many Highlanders to these countries probably explains why it is that Clansfolk from overseas appeared to know so much more about their heritage than many indigenous Scots with whom I spoke. It also explains why so many returned to Scotland to participate in The Gathering.

The Clan Parade up The Royal Mile enabled 8,000 Clansfolk to get to the Castle in time for the pageant. Mustering of the Clans in alphabetical order began at 1900h and the last group arrived at the esplanade at 21.45h. It was quite a military operation. The 50 or so Macleans were led by Alan of France who proudly carried the Clan banner with great dignity and panache alongside Nicolas of Pennycross and me. The Macleans 'marched' behind the Maclaines of Lochbuie who were led by their Chief, Lorne



Maclaine of Lochbuie and his Tanist, son Angus Maclaine, Younger of Lochbuie. They in turn were preceded by the Red Rose of Lochbuie Pipe Band from The Netherlands.

The procession was halted by police on several occasions as it snaked its way up to the Castle, to allow traffic to traverse the Royal Mile which was closed temporarily. It was thronged with 20,000 onlookers. They clambered up steps, stood on top of any available rubbish bin, and leant out of windows draped in tartan to get a better view. Many clapped and cheered enthusiastically as we passed by including Sir David Steel who waved to Nicolas. Macleans shouted 'Another for Hector' and punched the air. Asian tourists wearing paper face masks (in the mistaken belief that they offer protection against Swine 'Flu') looked slightly puzzled by what was happening but continued to take pictures feverishly. It was odd being part of a tourist attraction instead of a tourist!

The cost of a 'silver passport', which included admission to Holyrood Park on both days, and the pageant on the esplanade of the Castle was £95. In my opinion, this unique experience, although expensive, was worth every penny. Others however, were astonished by the daily £15 admission fee to the Park. Indeed, one lady with whom I chatted said 'This is the most commercial Highland Games I have ever been to.' 'Does that bother you?' I asked. 'No, not really' she replied 'I only came from a mile away and I was invited here as a guest, but I think the overseas visitors must be feeling short changed'. Perhaps the organisers will have the foresight to conduct a post Gathering satisfaction survey, especially as there is already talk of another in four years time.

From top: Robin and Fiona Maclean of Ardgour. (l-r) Colonel Donald MacLean, Alan and Charlie. The Priestville Guest House Dinner; (l-r) Col. Donald, Marjorie MacLean, Alan, Vera MacLean. Elizabeth and Col. Donald.

There can be no doubt however, as to the value of the tourism generated by The Gathering 2009, especially during a period of economic recession. It also enhanced Scottish nationalism and clan spirit. Lord Sempill certainly deserves a feather in his cap for his vision in organizing such an event and it would be surprising if Alex Salmond did not gain political recognition for supporting the event.

Our Homecoming began in Ardgour where Alan and I received wonderful hospitality from Robin and Fiona. We then attended the Isle of Mull Games in Tobermory (held by many to be 'the friendliest and largest ever'), before driving



down to Edinburgh. Our stay there ended with a gathering of ten Macleans and four Macdonalds at a dinner party provided for us by Colin and Catriona (Trina) Warwick (née Macdonald), the owners of Priestville Guest House where Alan and I stayed. We were delighted that Ian (President of CMIA) and his wife Marjorie from Nova Scotia were able to take time out of their busy schedule to participate in the evening and that Hugo and Barbara Rankine were there from Spain. It was a fitting end to a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable visit to Scotland. Indeed, I was as proud to be a part of The Gathering as I am to be the newest Life Member of CMA Scotland. ☺

# The Homecoming ~ 2009

‘Many a mickle makes a muckle’ by Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross

It was clearly right to honour the memory of Robert Burns by celebrating the 250th anniversary of his birth with a major programme of events in Scotland. This was also a good opportunity to boost tourism to Scotland and may have given a useful contra-cyclical stimulus to the Scottish economy in a recession year.

There may also have been a political sub-text behind the Scottish Government’s high profile support for the Edinburgh Gathering, namely to maximize a sense of pride in Scotland’s special identity, culture and history, ahead of the planned SNP Referendum on Independence which Alex Salmond has pledged to hold.

Clan Maclean attitudes to the Edinburgh Gathering were complex. The leadership of the Clan wanted to ensure that as important a clan as ours was properly represented in Edinburgh with a tent to welcome clansmen and women from around the world, but at same time it was important not to divert attention and resources from our own ‘opportunity of a lifetime’, the Centenary Gathering at Duart in 2012. Moreover, thinking back to more distant Maclean history, the connotation of visits to Edinburgh was not always happy: summonsed by the Privy Council for so-called misbehaviour with political and judicial odds stacked against us, only to be fined or dispossessed of lands and assets rightfully ours. So the Clan’s presence at the Edinburgh Gathering can best be described as measured.

On the other hand, Clan Maclean came in strength to the Clan Convention at the Edinburgh Parliament on Friday 24th July, the day before the Gathering. This was the first ever gathering of Chiefs, Chieftains and other clan leaders to be convened at the Scottish Parliament and was organized by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs on the invitation of the Parliament. Limited space meant that there was only room for Chiefs, Clan Commanders and a few leading clan representatives. The aim was to discuss the Role of the Clan in the 21st Century, against the background of globalisation and the communications revolution. We were led by Sir Lachlan, and our participants included Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch and Ian Maclean, President of CMIA.

Registration at the Parliament’s front desk took longer for the highlanders than for many of the distinguished but



smaller lowland families, who called themselves clans, as no one had thought to put more resources at the desk where ‘Macs’ had to check in. The long queue was the location for a very productive mini-gathering, as we all more or less quietly waited our turn.

What was left of the morning after the delays in registration and finding seats was devoted to speeches, by far the best of which was not by one of the senior politicians or academics present but by Donald Maclaren of Maclaren, retired Ambassador to Georgia, who spelt out with wit and humour the challenges of serving as a Chief in the 21st Century. (continued)



**Top:** Nicolas Maclean in the Scottish Parliament. **Centre:** The Clan Tent, holding the banner with Alan, Rosemary and Nick MacLean. Visitors to the tent, (l-r) with Alan and Elizabeth are Terry MacLean and Dr Iain Morrison, Chief of Clan Morrison, Ian and Marjorie MacLean. With Ian and Marjorie are Barbara and Hugo Rankine. **Below:** Alan with the Jacobites.



## ‘Many a mickle makes a muckle’ (continued)

After lunch at the Parliament we were divided into Working Groups, each equipped with a Chairman from the Standing Council and a Rapporteur. We now detected the organisers’ master plan, which was to restrict the access of each set of clan representatives to a single Working Group. So whereas Clan Maclean would have been able to make an impact on discussions



in at least four Working Groups, and therefore on the Convention’s broader conclusions on Youth & Education, Relations between Clan Associations, and the Uses of Technology, the Maclean team with their pink plastic badges were all corralled into the Tourism Room.

Clan Maclean, led by our Chief with his wealth of experience at Duart, naturally contributed significantly to the discussions on how to maximize the benefits of Tourism, and minimise its downside. The Rapporteur has promised to highlight the Group’s conclusions and to report back in due course.

Some unruly Chieftain must have tried to make a break for less regimentation but chosen the wrong route to walk on the wild side. The Parliament’s alarms went off, and the next hour was spent in polite queues in narrow corridors, patiently heading for the exit with a sense of relief that this was not a real fire alarm, let alone a massacre of mamelukes, or a misguided attempt by central authority to enforce the Statutes of Iona. Eventually the queues led out to the purlieus of the Parliament building, where the highlanders were able to show their mettle, for while many lowlanders began to complain of hanging around in the pouring rain, Clan Maclean and others just shrugged off ‘a wee sea mist’ and carried on chatting.

After the all clear was sounded, we returned to a final plenary sessions. Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch made a brief speech about the best way forward for the clans, as did I, which made the Macleans the only clan with two contributors to the debate. All in all, it was a very worthwhile day and quite an historic occasion. Many wise words were said, ranging from the development of a clan’s organisational structure and education packs in schools

on Scottish and clan history to the value of more cooperation between clans and ideas for better use of the Internet, where we are already in the lead. It will be for the Standing Council to coordinate the follow-up. The website of the SCSC is [www.clanchiefs.org](http://www.clanchiefs.org).

The rain had cleared up completely by Saturday, and the weather for the first day of the Edinburgh Gathering was ideal. The registration system for entry to Holyrood Park was similar to the previous day’s at the Parliament. The queue was most sociable, but very slow-moving, and as a result many people in it who had arrived in good time missed the opening ceremonies, including the speech by HRH The Duke of Rothesay. Incidentally, the reason why Prince Charles used that title as Patron of the Gathering rather than his title, ‘Lord of the Isles’, was to avoid stirring any sensitive memories from 1493, when King James IV seized the title from the Chief of Clan Donald and ended the independent existence of the Lordship of the Isles. The Chiefs of Duart and Lochbuie had been among the principal members of the Council of the Isles, which had governed the Lordship.



**Above:** Scott and Rebakah MacLean from Salem, USA carry the MACLEAN sign as clansfolk gather for the March to the Castle. **Below:** Macleans, climb the Royal Mile.

The Clan Maclean tent was well located, with a colourful, interesting display, and seemed to be busy with visitors whenever I looked in. On a suitably medieval plan, if not fighting shoulder to shoulder then at least back to back, our tent was back to back with the Maclaîne

of Lochbuie tent, where some of our shared history was also displayed, as well as examples of the more recent separate identity. Friendly calls were made between the two tents, and many visitors expressed an interest in our future events, not only in Scotland but wherever a Maclean Association is active, including in cyberspace. Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch’s expertise in genealogy was hugely appreciated, and Charlie’s talk on whisky produced a packed Talisker tent and many questions.

With the first hint of the gloaming, visitors streamed out of Holyrood Park. Alan, Elizabeth and I helped Terry and Rosemary to close up the Maclean tent for the night. Alan armed himself with the large Clan Maclean banner. According to the rules laid down for the Gathering only holders of Gold or Silver Passports had the right to join the Parade of the Clans up the Royal Mile and to get tickets for the Pageant.

Outside the Holyrood Park Alan, Elizabeth and I came across around 200 white laminated signs with wooden handles and on each the name of a clan in large black capital letters. They were laid out in alphabetical order. We claimed the MACLEAN sign and went to a grassy knoll not far from a large contingent of Maclaines of Lochbuie, who were to head North-West after Edinburgh to their own gathering on Mull. I held up the MACLEAN sign, with Alan and Elizabeth taking turns to hold the banner aloft. Quite soon another Maclean approached us and asked about the plan,



**Above:** Lorne Maclaine, Chief of the Clan Maclaine of Lochbuie – A separate Clan with a shared history. **Right:** Members of the Red Rose of Lochbuie Pipe Band. **Below:** Macleans arrive at the top of the Royal Mile, ready for the Pageant



then more. By the time the parade marshals were calling on us to form up, around fifty Macleans had joined us. They came from all over the world and spanned the generations. It was heart-warming to see the clan spirit in action so spontaneously, each member of our contingent displaying some Maclean tartan or at least imbued with Maclean elan vital.


After much animated conversation and blind dates, we were almost disappointed when the Red Rose of Lochbuie band struck up a march. The Chief of Clan Maclaren ceded his regiment's alphabetical place between the two Maclean regiments, and we set out in good order. Alan carried the banner throughout, flanked by Elizabeth and me, and with a succession of Macleans, including some very young and plucky ones, taking it in turn to carry the

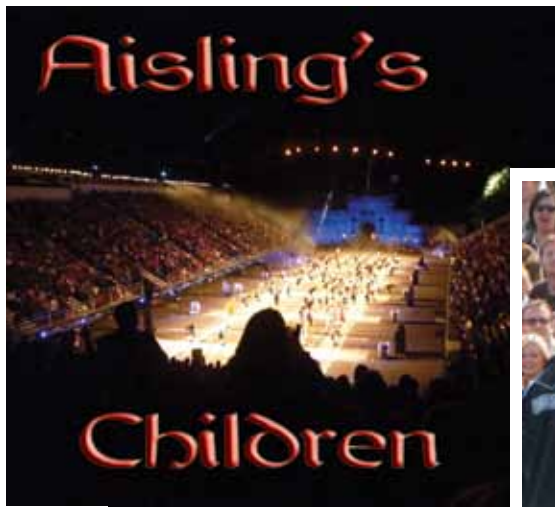
MACLEAN sign as high as possible as we marched. Some of our regiment had military experience, which helped us to keep in step, and from the first five minutes when we marched slowly past Holyrood Palace, we had a sense of taking part in history. Once we entered the Royal Mile, the enthusiasm of the crowds was remarkable, with spectators packed tightly on the pavements and regular shouts from among them of 'I'm a Maclean too!' Looking up to the windows, most were full of smiling faces or people waving and cheering. As the only Maclean Chieftain present, I felt it appropriate to respond to the crowd by leading our regiment in an occasional war-cry. 'Another for Hector!' was the most popular. At the top of the Royal Mile, just before dispersing to our seats on the Castle Esplanade, I led our loyal Clanspeople in a final cry of 'Three Cheers for the Clan Maclean'. The crowd seemed to cheer the clan three times, as loudly as we did!

In small clusters around the parade-ground, facing the historic façade of Edinburgh Castle and with the lights of Leith and boats on the Firth of Forth twinkling to the right below us, we opened our programmes for the Pageant and were astonished to find that the theme through which Scotland's history since 1320 was to be told would be narrated by six mythical representatives of Clan Maclean from Skye. It would have warmed the cockles of Sorley's heart. No one had thought to alert us to the choice of Maclean at the centre of the Pageant. I can only hope that traditions of clan rivalry and feuding are well in the past. It made a fitting climax to a memorable day.



Unfortunately, the economics of the Gathering have proved less successful than the event itself. About £300,000 of costs incurred by the organising company were written off, but many private sector suppliers and creditors continue to complain bitterly about a similar total of losses incurred after the organizing company went into receivership in January 2010.

On the positive side of the balance sheet it is said that the Homecoming as a whole brought an additional £10 million to the Scottish economy, and the Gathering will long be remembered as a landmark for Scotland, if not quite the largest gathering in Edinburgh of Chiefs, Chieftains and Clanspeople since George IV's visit in 1822, as some of the hyperbole had claimed. The Gathering did seem to encourage a greater sense of solidarity between the various clan organisations, and it will be all to the good if the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs follows up on some of the innovative ideas from the grass-roots and builds on foundations laid in July 2009. 



Homecoming 2009 ~ Clan Gathering



**Top right and left:** Massed Pipes and Drums in the finale to the Pageant on the Castle Esplanade. **Top centre and pictures down the left:** Macleans were surprised, though immensely honoured, to learn that 700 years of Scottish history was to be related in the tale of Aisling's Children. Seven generations of Macleans from the Isle of Skye, culminating in Australian sheep farmer, Colin Maclean. **Elsewhere:** The hefting of the Stones of Manhood and the hurling of the hammer among other pomp and pageantry at the Highland Games at Holyrood Park.

# CLAN MACLEAN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Ian MacLean ~ President

At the last Gathering the Chief suggested that we needed to have a hard look at how we could best assist Clan Maclean Associations to recruit and maintain a vital membership base — particularly, but not exclusively, with younger people — using the web as a key element. Such a process would clearly include the web based Association. Sir Lachlan further suggested that the perceived competition for membership, given free access to the web based information, had to be addressed. This must be done in a positive way that helps us all serve those interested in their Maclean heritage and culture most effectively. The White report, which resulted from this challenge, was reviewed by CMIA, and suggestions were passed on to Sir Lachlan. He has reviewed these ideas, and had the opportunity to have a brief discussion about the report, and the way forward with Alasdair White, who chaired the original committee.



Ian MacLean and the Chief at the Plenary Session in the Scottish Parliament

The Chief has now asked me to follow up these suggestions. I have asked St Francis Xavier, Celtic Studies Department to try and find a student who (as a research project) would be interested in working with us to try and answer some of the questions posed by Sir Lachlan. Should this be successful, we would ask that person to work with a Project Management Board made up of representatives of all our Associations. I have asked your Presidents to each nominate a person who would be interested in assisting us with this project. They would finalize the scope of the project, clarify the intent, oversee the development of the questionnaires, and receive the resulting report. It also made sense to me that Alasdair as the primary author of the original report should Chair this group, and he has agreed to do so. We hope to have a report, which can be officially delivered to Sir Lachlan and the Clan Congress at the next Gathering.

The current co-editors of both the *Battleaxe* and the *CMA Scotland Association Magazine* had suggested that a glossy Maclean magazine, similar to that currently produced by *CMA Scotland*, should be produced annually by CMIA. While there was a great deal of support for this idea, there were also many questions about how it would be financed, if CMIA had the ability to do such a project, whether enough advertisers could be found for two magazines and so forth. After considerable discussion, it was decided that I should approach *CMA Scotland* to see if we could not more clearly support their very good magazine.

As your President I had the opportunity to attend the Maclean Games last summer at Tobermory — a marvelous and unique experience, highly recommended! — and I had the welcome opportunity to sit in on a *CMA Scotland* meeting.

I also attended the Gathering in Edinburgh. This widely publicized event was a massive undertaking, and certainly was the biggest Games, ever held in Scotland. I have not been to any of the really big Games either in Ontario or in the USA, so it may not have been the biggest celebration of things Scottish ever, but if not it had to be close. The setting was terrific. It was located in the heart of Edinburgh at Holyrood Park, with the backdrop of Arthur's Seat. As we would all appreciate the Clan Village was seen as the heart of the Gathering. In fact there were approximately 120 clan, or family, tents. This wording was carefully chosen as many of us see the only true clans as those based in the highlands. I have to single out two of the presenters: one, our own Charlie Maclean was the presenting expert on Scotch whisky, and one of the special performers was Dougie

MacLean. If you haven't heard of him he is one of Scotland's pre-eminent songwriters, and I am sure you have heard of the song *Caledonia*, a song he wrote, sang, and made famous. Dougie sought out, and visited the Maclean tent, and suggested that he might just go to the next Maclean Gathering — and perform if asked! He clearly is a proud Maclean and showed us pictures of his ancestor's home croft on Mull.

Less famous perhaps (yet, at least) but an equally proud MacLean, was Mike McLean from Ontario. Mike is the Head Coach of the York University football team. That status however was dwarfed by his Maclean tattoos. Made me feel like a piker! One shoulder is covered in a wonderfully artistic interpretation of Duart Castle, and also the Tower crest. Clearly he loves his Macleanery! There were many more, but I do have to mention a Californian Mclean, Barbara Moebius, who's ancestors came from St John, New Brunswick. It really is all about the people.

Speaking of which, it was great to associate with Allan Maclean of France and his wife Elizabeth, Colonel Donald and Vera Maclean of Scotland, and I do want to give special mention to the tent manager for *CMA Scotland*, Terry MacLean, his wife Rosemary and grandson Nicky. They were marvelous!

I had not really expected a lot from the Gathering, but have to say I was pleasantly surprised. It was impressive to see so much tartan, hear so many accents, and see how proud people are of their heritage. I was also dubious about having a 'clan' event in Edinburgh, since we clansfolk (at least those from the highland clans) were not particularly welcome in the capital for many centuries. It seems that now we clansfolk are the symbols of all that is good about Scotland. Further we did meet a lot of Scottish Macleans, who live in the lowlands and had never been to Duart or Mull. Many seem to have been inspired to learn more about their heritage, and hopefully to join the Scottish Association, and attend a real Gathering of Macleans in 2012! It was an event that I am happy to have attended, but I still wouldn't trade it for a Maclean Gathering on Mull.

Speaking of which I do hope that many of you make the effort to attend the next Maclean Gathering. You will find some details elsewhere in the magazine, but I am assured that it will be the best ever, given the fact that it will be the centenary of the rebuilding of Duart Castle. Remember the events will span at least five days, so don't miss any of it, especially the opportunity to mingle with Macleans from around the world. ☺



# Notes From Scotland

Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch ~ President CMA

Last year was very memorable for the Highland Clans, not least for the Clan Maclean.

One very busy week in July involved the Clan Council on Mull, the Tobermory Games (referred to by some as 'the Maclean Games'), the Chiefs' Conference at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, followed for two days by the Clan Tent at the Gathering also in Edinburgh, the March up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle, where the Macleans were the featured clan of the Pageant; and a Maclean Dinner the following night, arranged by Alan and Elizabeth Maclean.

Apart from the logistics of getting everyone and everything to the right place at the right time, a great deal of hard work was involved, not least by Terry and Rosemary MacLean, who gave an excellent welcome to all who came to the tents at Tobermory and Edinburgh. Not everyone was able to get to everything, but every event was very well supported by your clan council.

For my part, I was sorry to miss the Tobermory Games, the March and the dinner, but my own family arrangements compounded everything, as the weekend coincided with my son Hector's 18th birthday, which we celebrated in Edinburgh and the following day at Glen Urquhart. Added to this I am at present Chairman of the Clan Chattan Association, and was therefore also involved in their tent at Holyrood.

The Holyrood Gathering and the Chief's Conference (at which no fewer than eight Macleans attended) are covered very fully elsewhere in this magazine by Nicolas of Pennycross and Elizabeth from France.

The week before had been the Inverness Games, at which there is a tented clan village, where up to 30 clans have a stall. It is great fun and very colourful, but unfortunately never attracts many visitors. Not surprisingly it has been cancelled for 2010 and one wonders if it will ever be revived. The week after Edinburgh, I was back on Mull for another clan event; the baptisms at St Kilda's, Lochbuie, of Gregor and Natalie, two of the children of Angus MacLaine of Lochbuie younger. The church was packed and the children behaved impeccably.

However, from my own point of view, the main clan event of the year was undoubtedly the 400th anniversary of the Great Clan Chattan Band of Union of 1609. The Clan Chattan is a confederacy of independent clans, which includes Mackintoshes, Macphersons, Macgillivrays, Macbains, Farquharsons, 'Macleans of the North' and others, and is sometimes termed 'the only super clan'. Based in the Central Highlands, its constituency varied from century to century and was usually defined by the signing of Bands of Union, of which that of 1609 was the most all encompassing. My ancestor Charles Maclean of Urquhart Castle joined in 1390, and Alexander Maclean of Dochgarroch signed in 1609.


Today people tend to think of 'clan names' rather than confederacies, but 2009 was a golden opportunity to remind ourselves of the old ties of friendship. We wanted the celebrations to be forward looking, as well as commemorative. A cairn was unveiled near where the 30 chiefs and clansmen had signed in 1609, we marched through the streets of Inverness, and we gathered at the Eden Court, the Highland Opera House beside the River Ness, for a ceremonial signing of a new Band of Union. Six chiefs, and 300 clansfolk signed, witnessed by among others the Provost of the City of Inverness and the Lord Lyon King of Arms; and a further 1000 people signed over the internet. Brigadier John Macfarlane, who acted for the Macleans at Torloisk in 2007, was seanachie, reading out the chief's patronymics and the names of all present as they stepped forward to sign, as well as declaiming suitable poetry.

I was especially pleased that Ian Maclean from Nova Scotia, President of CMIA, whose family are of the Clan Chattan, carried my banner, other Macleans were there too, and many more Macleans have signed over the internet. The Macleans are a small but vital part of the Clan Chattan!

As is now usual, the Maclean AGM was held prior to our November Annual Gathering and Robin of Ardgour retired after his five years as President. He was warmly thanked for his leadership of the Association, and his commitment to all the

functions. We were all desperately sorry to hear that he had been taken ill during the winter. We wish him, and Fiona, all the best in his time of recuperation.

This year, 2010, we are moving the venue of our Annual Gathering to Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, from the Normandy Hotel, which has been our home for so many years. This year was a particularly happy occasion, and we were delighted that several of the younger members of the clan gave performances after dinner, which enhanced the family atmosphere that is such a feature of our Gatherings.

Our thoughts have already begun to turn to 2012, the Centenary of the Great Gathering at Duart in 1912. Many ideas have been suggested towards making this an occasion never to be forgotten, and we are confident that numbers will surpass previous records. 



Allan with Jimmy Gray, the Provost of the City of Inverness, at the Clan Chattan celebrations in Inverness. **Below:** Allan's sons, Hector and Lochie, at the Maclean memorial stone at Culloden, during the Clan Chattan visit



# London Letter

Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross ~ President

At the annual meeting of the association at the Caledonian Club in Halkin Street, Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross was elected President. Nicolas pledged to build on Nigel Allington's firm foundations but also to innovate in a variety of ways, which should eventually allow us to reach out to more Macleans and Septs in England.

Six new members had joined in the previous 12 months, but the death of Dr John McLean OBE on 29th June 2009 at the age of 84 was noted with great regret. He had been a staunch supporter both of the London Association and of the Clan as a whole. His generous contribution to the Inverkeithing Cairn was still remembered, as was his regular attendance at London events, sometimes accompanied by two generations of his family. Links to three obituaries had been placed on the London page of [www.macleans.org](http://www.macleans.org). Dr. John McLean had been a pioneering and innovative dentist and had served as the President of the British Dental Association.



Composite: Guests at the Caledonian Club Dinner.  
Below: The wedding of Mark the Younger of Pennycross and Dr Ayesha Nathoo.

Finally, the meeting noted with pleasure that Mark Maclean, Younger of

Pennycross, had married Dr. Ayesha Nathoo, whom he had brought to the Clan Gathering on Mull and to the last Burns Supper. The wedding had taken place in the chapel at King's College, Cambridge, and the reception at Caius, while their honeymoon had included a stay at Park House, Pennycross, welcomed by traditional Mull weather and Neil MacCallum piping Ayesha over the threshold to the tune of "Macleans of Pennycross".

The meeting was followed by a very well-attended dinner at the Club, with the Chief and our Patron, Elizabeth, Lady Maclean, as the guests of honour. It was appreciated that some members had come from far afield, such as the Bamptons from Birmingham and the Whites from Belgium. In his address the Chief commented on the Homecoming events earlier in the year and mentioned how much he had enjoyed welcoming many Macleans and Septs at Duart. He also asked all present to mark the dates 18th to 25th June 2012 in their diaries for the historic celebration on Mull of the restoration of Duart Castle one hundred years earlier.

On 19th February 2010 the Association held its annual Burns Supper, again at the Caledonian Club. For the first time we experimented with combining our efforts with another Argyllshire clan, the Macdougalls, who joined us with a contingent of 13, led by John McDougall, the Head of the Clan in London. Other guests included Colonel Branko Milovanovic, the Serbian Defence

Attache, and his wife, Bratislava, who are rebuilding links with Clan Maclean first started during the Second World War when Sir Fitzroy Maclean was parachuted in to Yugoslavia as Churchill's envoy to Marshal Tito.

Instead of the Selkirk Grace, the new President tried the Pennycross Grace, which Robert Burns as a former excise-man had clearly felt it inappropriate to inaugurate himself:

*"Some hae drink, but canna think,  
While some there are that want it,  
But we hae drink, and we can think!  
So may the Lord be thankit. Amen"*

The evening ended with the traditional musical entertainment and some innovation. Roderick McFadyen, our piper, played a medley of Scottish tunes with gusto, and Andrew Maclean sang a hauntingly beautiful ballad acapella to a tune he had composed especially for the evening, "The War-song of the Macleans". The words translated from Gaelic two hundred years ago by

Sir Walter Scott and sent to Andrew by Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch. After that we enjoyed David Dunham playing his melodeon and his friend Jamie Arber his guitar, though when a technical hitch stopped them from playing, John McDougall saved the day, when he appealed for any Macdougalls and Macleans to step forward and lead the rest of us in the Skye Boat Song and Loch Lomond.

Some of the ideas under consideration by the London Association include inviting a variety of distinguished speakers from Clan Maclean, from Septs such as the Pattens, Rankins and Beatons, and from still further afield. The Very Reverend Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, President of Clan Maclean in Scotland, has accepted our invitation to speak about Duart centenary plans and clan history at the autumn dinner in 2011. Plans are also under way to involve younger Macleans, and they themselves are taking the lead in this, as will be reported on next time. A trip to the battlefield of Waterloo one 18th June, the anniversary of the battle, has been mooted, guided by local expert Alasdair White, which the French Association would naturally be welcome to join. Regarding music, attempts will be made to invite a clarsach player to the 2011 Burns Night, as well as maintaining the involvement of all those who have made our previous Burns Suppers such a success. ☺



# CMA France

Chevalier Alan RM McLean ~ President

**A Celtic Soirée:** Our activities this year started in February when 16 Macleans met up with 22 Mackenzies for a joint soirée at The Carr's, an Irish Pub in the 1st arrondissement in Paris. We were particularly pleased to meet two new recruits, Andrew and his wife Jacqueline McClean who joined us for drinks. The ambience grew increasingly lively throughout the evening which ended with some of us having a sing song with the resident pianist.

**Ecosse v. France:** The following day, Valentines' Day, ten of us made the bi-annual visit to the Stade de France to support Scotland v France in the Six Nations Rugby Match. As predicted, France won (but not by much) and Andrew won the sweepstake bet on the final score. Afterwards, we found our way back to Les Verdiers, the restaurant where we had gathered for lunch beforehand, to warm ourselves up with mulled wine and chocolat chaud.

**A Picnic in the Bois de Boulogne:** On May 1st a few Macleans and their friends celebrated Labour Day (also known as Muguet Day because of the tradition of men giving their sweethearts a posy of Lillies of the Valley) with members of the Caledonian Society of France. About 150 folk gathered for a picnic lunch and Scottish dancing in the pretty setting of Shakespeare's Garden in the Bois de Boulogne. Unlike last year, when the annual event had to be cancelled due to rain, the sun shone and a great time was had by all.

**Two Weddings:** During the picnic, we were particularly thrilled to hear the news of the engagement of our Clan Secretary, Elodie Masson-Maclean to Grégory Caffier. They subsequently tied the knot on 19th December in Paris on a crisp snowy sunny day, surrounded by their family and

friends from France, Scotland, England, Switzerland and Canada. Greg is lance-sergeant in the Paris fire-brigade which is a unit of the French Army. His colleagues came to form a guard of honour as the happy couple came out of the Mairie (town hall). Although Greg is a member of Clan Mackenzie, Elodie will continue to wear the Maclean tartan.

Her brother, Edouard also got married this year to Julie Percheron on 6th July at Castle Menzies, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. Family and friends from France, Scotland, Canada, Ireland and Switzerland attended. Their wedding ceremony ended with the traditional 'tying the knot' ritual and was followed by the reception and a lively ceilidh which thrilled all their guests. It was a beautiful Scottish wedding and Julie is now an official member of Clan Maclean.

**Tobermory Highland Games:** On July 23rd, Alan and Elizabeth, Brigitte, Alistair and Alexandre ventured over the water to watch and indeed, participate in, the Tobermory Highland Games. Alan entered for the 100 metre race but found himself running by mistake in the 200 metre race! Fortunately, resuscitation was not needed, but there were a few anxious onlookers, including Robin and Fiona of Ardgour.

That evening, The Mishnish was heaving with competitors and visitors alike who sang along with The Shenanigans—'I would walk 500 miles just to be with you'. The Games were generally held to be the friendliest ever and well worth the journey.

**The Homecoming, 2009:** From the Highlands to the Lowlands, Macleans from France also went to The Homecoming in Edinburgh, July 25th and 26th. We were pleased to make many new contacts including the representative for the newly formed European branch for the Macdonald clans. Memories of this wonderful event will stay with us for a very long time.

**A Christmas Ceilidh:** Our year of Clan activities ended with us participating in a Charity Ceilidh in Paris organized by the Caledonian Society of France. It was held in aid of the Marie Curie Foundation (Scotland) and the event raised a grand total of £3,490.00. A good cause and a good event.

We wish our cousins worldwide health and happiness for 2010. ☺



Above: Alan completes the 200 metres race.  
Left: Edouard and Julie Masson-Maclean.  
Below (l-r): Elodie and Grégory Caffier. The Macleans at the Rugby on the steps of the Stade de France. Picnic (l-r), Alistair, Brigitte, Elizabeth, Alan, Julie and Elodie.



# New Zealand

Noel Robinson ~ CMANZ Clan Publicist

Undoubtedly the highlight of recent months has been the Waipu Highland Games held yearly on New Year's Day. The first Games were held in January 1871, and this year was the 139th. The Clan McLean was proud to be chosen as the host clan for these games and to be involved in a wide range of activity besides our regular tent and display in the 'Avenue of the Clans'. President Ian McLean took the salute in the Clan's march and our Patron, former Governor General of New Zealand, Dame Cath Tizard (herself a Maclean) was special guest and opened the Games. In addition she kindly participated in our now very popular event 'Tartan in the Park' fun fashion show that attracted many entrants and a very enthusiastic audience.

The Clan has been very active at many of the Highland Games in New Zealand during the summer. From Auckland to Waipu, to Turakina, and then Paeroa. We have also assisted our associates in the Otahuhu & Districts Pipe Band — yes, they proudly wear the Maclean of Duart tartan — in the conduct of the Auckland Provincial Pipe Band Championships.

The CMANZ membership has not grown as fast this past year but we have a number of initiatives in place to expand, and we are looking forward with great anticipation to the visit of Sir Lachlan our Clan Chief, who will make his first visit to New Zealand in November.

Our Tartan in the Park event is now also held at the Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo. It is presented there as a 'build-up' to the Tattoo and is popular with the large numbers as they assemble for the evening event.

In addition to the collection of Dr Mervin McLean's articles which we published as *A Boat of Our Ain*, another of our members, John McLean, has just released *Sailors and Settlers*, which tells of the migration of the boatloads of Highland Scots who settled in New Zealand after travelling first to Nova Scotia and thence to New Zealand in the 1850s, led by Rev. Norman McLeod (see page 30).

The Clan Maclean Association of New Zealand greets our cousins around the world, and if any of you plan to visit New Zealand, do make contact with us. ☺



**Above:** Ian McLean takes the salute with chief of the Waipu Caledonian Society Bain McGregor, his wife and his personal banner. **Right & below:** Former Governor General, Dame Cath Tizard opens the Waipu Games, then presents a prize while Noel Robinson looks on.



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# Sir Donald McLean. KCMG. 1820–1877

Noel Robinson ~ CMANZ Clan Publicist

It is arguable that no other single person played as significant a part in mid nineteenth century New Zealand history as McLean. There were other figures, Governors, politicians, soldiers, iwi and hapu leaders, missionaries, and others whose actions and arguments shaped that history. But none had such an ongoing influence in that period, between the 1840s and the 1870s when European colonial control was being asserted, tested and extended. McLean was right at the heart of all that.”

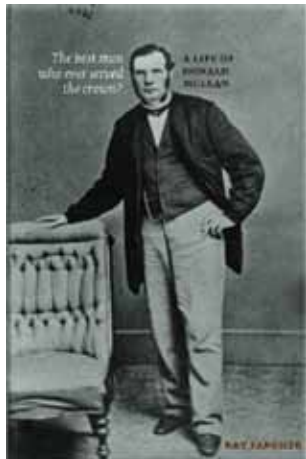
So wrote the Curator of the Alexander Turnbull Library, part of New Zealand’s National Library, in support of a massive project the Library was undertaking in digitizing the shelves of Donald McLean papers.

Donald McLean was born on the Hebridean Island of Tiree on 27th October 1820, the son of John McLean of Kilmaluag, and of Margrette, nee McColl. When Donald was still a child his father died and the boy was brought up by his mother’s people, the McColls, his grandfather being a Presbyterian clergyman. A well grounded but frugal upbringing awakened ambition for which, as so often in the Highlands, emigration was the only opportunity. And so, with a cousin, he arrived in Sydney, Australia in April 1839. He spent some time in New South Wales, but crossed to New Zealand in 1840 as an agent for the timber trading firm, Abercrombie and Company, later working the Hauraki Gulf near Auckland. He quickly saw that a knowledge of Maori and understanding of the Maori culture would be an invaluable qualification for success. Of commanding physique, adaptable, discreet and even cautious, but of inflexible perseverance and determination, he soon acquired an excellent working knowledge of the language. In 1843 he came to the notice of the Colonial Secretary, on whose recommendation McLean was appointed by Governor Fitzroy to a position in the office of Protector of the Aborigines and was shortly thereafter transferred south to New Plymouth as a Subprotector.

McLean was now gaining a reputation, both with the Maori and the government administration, with his skills resulting in many land dealings to the satisfaction of all parties. In 1845 the Protectors Office was abolished and his title was changed to Inspector of Armed Police, however his skill in land dealings was always to the fore. On 28th August 1851 he married Susan Douglas Strang, daughter of the Registrar of the Wellington Court and a lowland Scot. In December 1852 their son Douglas was born. In 1853 McLean was appointed Chief Land Purchase Commissioner and later when the offices of Native Secretary and Chief Land Purchase Commissioner were amalgamated, it was McLean who was appointed.

McLean resigned the post in May 1861 following a critical attack of rheumatic fever.

He then purchased land in the Hawkes Bay area, was elected Superintendent of the Hawkes Bay Province in 1863 and March 1866 was elected to the House of Representatives. He was appointed Government Agent on the East Coast in 1868 following




Sir Donald’s grave is on Napier Hill and overlooks Napier’s international sports arena, ‘McLean Park’.



the abolition of Provincial Government. In 1869 he was appointed Native Minister and Minister of Colonial Defence and held the post of Native Minister under various Ministries, until shortly before his death. Donald McLean was knighted in 1874 and resigned his ministerial office in December 1876. An influenza attack threw further strain on his weakened heart and he died in Napier on 5th January 1877, just 56 years of age. It is said that he never had a holiday and never revisited his native land!

He was laid to rest in Napier Cemetery his grave marked by a large grey granite Celtic Cross with the simple words ‘In memory of Sir Donald Maclean KCMG. Born at Kilmaluag, Tiree, Scotland on 25th October 1820. Died at Napier New Zealand on 5th January 1877.’

There are many records of his life and work. Most notable are books by James Cowan *Sir Donald MacLean*, 1940, and *The Best Man Who Ever Served The Crown* by Roy Fargher. 



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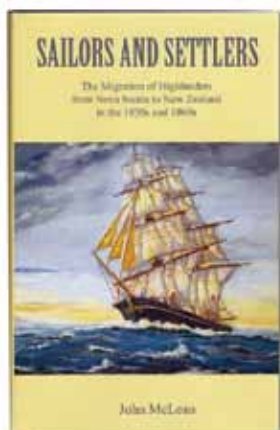
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# 'Sailors and Settlers'

By the Author ~ John McLean

This hardback edition of *Sailors and Settlers* (444 pages including 24 of photographs) was launched on New Years Day 2010 at the Highland Games at Waipu. It tells the story of the migration of the people from the Western Highlands and Islands to Nova Scotia in the early nineteenth century and their pioneering efforts in the forests of Cape Breton Island. Then, after a generation, they took to the sea again and sailed in six ships to New Zealand where they set up farms and shipbuilding yards at Waipu and elsewhere. The author also tells of another seven ships that sailed at that time in the 1850s and 1860s, bringing settlers to New Zealand from other parts of British North America, mainly from Prince Edward Island.



have" for anyone with an interest in the remarkable story of the Highlanders' migration to Waipu.'

Copies are available from John McLean, 46a Waru Street, Khandallah, Wellington, New Zealand for NZ\$60 plus postage. For further details please write to John's email address: <jnmc190@hotmail.com>

This is the first book on the famous migration to list all the passengers (including children). The second half of the book deals with the passengers individually and tells how they fared in the new land. There is also extensive coverage of the intermarriage between various families.

The book has been described by Mrs Betty Powell, the genealogist at the Waipu Museum, as follows 'It is the most definitive book on the Nova Scotians written to date'; whilst Andrew Matheson, in a review for the Clan Matheson magazine, described it as a 'fresh and scholarly account ... *Sailors and Settlers* is a "must



# CLAN MACLEAN ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA INC.

Rewa Feenaghty ~ Editor

With the forthcoming visit by the Chief in November, President Gordon is very anxious for it to be known that if any Macleans are visiting Melbourne on the weekend of 13th and 14th of November they are most welcome to attend our activities. He has been contacting Macleans via the Internet and by phone and moving in the Scottish circles of Melbourne to promote our Clan. Gordon McLean, Grahame Gartside and Lachlan McLean have been manning a Maclean Tent at the various Highland Gatherings, where our tent has been prominent and well visited.

Each year CMA Australia has two main functions—our Chief's Birthday Banquet in May and our AGM in November. Last year we had great fun at both, as you can see from the photos.

Our May Banquet was very well attended. We went to the James Squire Brewhouse in Melbourne's Docklands. A number of Macleans whom Gordon had contacted through Maclean Net attended, as did Marcus and Brooke MacLean from NSW.

On the first Sunday in July each year a Kirkin' o' the Tartan is held at Scots Church, Melbourne, and once again Rewa Feenaghty represented the Clan and presented our Tartan. It is a great atmosphere but some of these Scotsmen can be a bit bossy, you know!!

Our AGM in November was held at Maryborough, a substantial country town in the former gold mining area of central Victoria. As always we made a weekend of it, with a lot of us staying in the same motel and dining together on the Saturday night. This year Gordon presented Marcelle Maclean, our former Secretary, with a beautiful bunch of flowers. Marcelle would be known to many people, both in Australia and internationally, as she has been the lynch-pin of CMAA for many years.

Linda McLean, wife of Senior Vice President Ian, is our new Secretary. At the AGM we also welcomed two new Regional Representatives, Wendy McLean from Queensland and Claire MacLean from Melbourne. All three ladies have led highly successful, busy lives.

In September Rewa organized a film afternoon get-together of Macleans from her local area in the hope of fostering greater camaraderie in the lead up to the Chief's visit. She hopes to hold more of them this year and would love to hear from anyone interested in coming. 📷

**Photos below:** 1. Hazel McLean Shiells and her grandson Simon Chandler with Lachlan McLean at the Maclean Tent at the Daylesford Highland Gathering. 2. Jean Allsep, co-founder of CMAA with the late Ross Roper, at the Banquet with Rewa Feenaghty, Fran and Andy McLean and John and Joanne McLean. 3. Our Council for 2010.

**Standing:** John Paton, Ken McLean, Lachlan McLean, Rewa Feenaghty, Edwin Maclean, Marigold Maclean, Jean Paton, Jean Allsep, Grahame Gartside. **Seated:** Ian McLean, Gordon McLean and Linda McLean. 4. Claire, our new Southern Metropolitan Regional Representative, with Alan MacLean, Rewa Feenaghty, Janet McLean, Rachael Meadows and Hazel Shiells at the film afternoon.



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# New South Wales

Les McLean ~ President



'Brigadoon' ~ The April 2010 Bundanoon Highland Gathering. **Above:** Massed Pipes and Drums bring the afternoon to an end.  
**Below:** NSW Committee members, Marcus MacLean, Eleanore Reichel, Ian and Norma McLean, Dianna and Les McLean.

The past twelve months has been strongly influenced by the news that Sir Lachlan will visit Australia in November 2010. This exciting news has spread far and wide, and the encouraging response from our members has contributed to the development of a very strong working management committee, which has established a great program for the Chief's visit. It encourages all Macleans and its Septs, whether members or not to attend the planned functions to meet and greet the Chief. The Chief's visit coincides with our 25th anniversary of the inauguration of Clan Maclean in New South Wales, which will make the year of 2010 a very special year.

The planning and expenses that we have committed for the Chief's visit could not have been achieved without the extraordinary support of our sponsors *Northern Highland Travel*, *Snap Printing Wetherill Park* and *St Kilda Retail*, who have contributed greatly to our Association with advertising in the Newsletter, and subsidising



the cost of any involvement in the preparation of the Chief's visit.

The committee approved a new constitution during the year, which should ensure ongoing consistency as new committee members are appointed in the future. Working enthusiastically together, our team should ensure our ongoing success.

Membership has improved slightly since the last report. However there has been a renewed interest by potential members and we anticipate a substantial increase of membership in 2010. The Clan has continued to attend the various Gatherings in the State of NSW during the year, as we find that this is the main source of obtaining new members.

On behalf of our committee and members we extend our Greetings to all our friends of the Maclean Clans and wish them a prosperous 2010 and every success into the future. ☒

## War Relic Returned After Decades

by Jim Gainsford (from *The St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*)

A rare World War I Victory Medal awarded to an Australian soldier killed in battle in 1917 has been returned to his descendants at Kirrawee after being lost for decades.

Private TA (Teddy) McLean, 20, of the 3rd Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force was awarded the Victory Medal posthumously after he was killed in battle on the Western Front in France. Private McLean enlisted with his brothers, Clarence and Claud, in 1915.

His Victory Medal was found for sale on eBay in 2005 by Ross St Claire, of Newcastle, a member of Family and Friends of the First AIF (FFFAIF Inc). Ross contacted his friend, Alan Kitchen of Blakehurst, who is treasurer of the group. Alan told him, "Both Private Teddy McLean and my uncle, Thomas Henry Kitchen, fought in the same unit when they were attacked in an enemy raid on March, 1917, near the village of Bapaume on the Western Front." Private Kitchen was killed in action and buried where he fell, while Private McLean was wounded and died the next day. He is buried at Dernancourt Cemetery.

"We decided to buy the medal and then search for Private McLean's family," Mr Kitchen said, not realising it would be the start of a five-year hunt. He advertised in mainstream newspapers and the RSL journal, *Reveille*,

without success. Then someone suggested he try the website, Lost Medals Australia <[www.lostmedalsaustralia.com](http://www.lostmedalsaustralia.com)> which is run on a voluntary basis by army personnel.

Three years later, Private McLean's descendants were found. Mr Kitchen last week returned the medal to Private McLean's great-nephew, David Irysh of Kirrawee.

Private McLean's brothers survived the war and made it home safely but the family's sadness did not end there.

"Claud disappeared as soon as he got back to Australia," Mr Irysh said. "I think the war took its toll on him. He walked out of the house one day and was never seen again. Clarence suffered from shell shock and died in 1930. Their sister Alice was my great-grandmother. I was the only one left to remember them. Their photos are always on display but finding the Victory Medal is like the icing on the cake."

Military service is a tradition in the Irysh family. Mr Irysh's father, David Wesley Irysh, served in World War II and Vietnam and Mr Irysh was in the Army Reserve. "Every Anzac Day and Remembrance Day I stand to attention," he said. "As far as I know I'm the only one left alive to remember them. I believe they never die as long as they are remembered." ☒



**Above:** David Irysh & Ross Kitchen.  
**Below:** Private Teddy McLean





# Western Australia

Kaye MacLean ~ Editor

Our main news for this edition of the Battleaxe is that we invited our Chief to visit Western Australia and we are delighted to announce that Sir Lachlan has kindly accepted our invitation and set aside a month in November, 2010, to visit Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and New Zealand as well. Western Australia's President, Peter MacLean, is honoured and privileged to be the coordinator for the visit. We are all very excited and CMA Australia, CMA Western Australia, CMA New South Wales and CMA New Zealand have now organised a full programme in their state and north island



picnic in Kings Park; Kirking of the Tartan; Armadale Highland Gathering and our Christmas Gathering and Annual General Meeting at the home of Lyn Brodrigg.

One of the highlights on our social calendar in the past 12 months was the presentation by Morag Lowe on the 'Life and Times of Sorley Maclean'. Morag, who owns a real estate business in Karratha in Western Australia was a neighbour of Sorley growing up in Rasaay, off the Isle of Skye and knew him extremely well. We were very grateful that Morag took the time to do this wonderful presentation to our Clan, many invited guests from other Clans and the Gaelic Speaking Group. She spoke about Sorley's background, growing up in Rasaay to a crofting family, speaking only Gaelic and yet being fluent not only in English, but also Latin, Greek and French by the age of 14 or 15.

She explained the social influences at the time, his poetry and the importance in a Gaelic, Scottish and European literary context. We distributed his poem 'Hallaig' in both English and Gaelic and she related her talk back to his words in the poem all through the presentation. It was a fascinating evening and gave us all a renewed sense of identity and pride in our heritage.



**Top:** Bronze bust of Gaelic Poet Sorley Maclean. **Above:** Kaye MacLean and Morag Lowe at the Presentation of the Life and Times of Sorley Maclean. **Left:** Combined Clans Picnic at Kings Park. **Centre:** Clan Barbecue Breakfast at Matilda Bay. **Below:** Annie McComick, Alex Cumming and Ian McCormick at the Kirking of the Tartan Luncheon.



of New Zealand to enable the Chief to meet as many Macleans as possible, which is his stated wish.

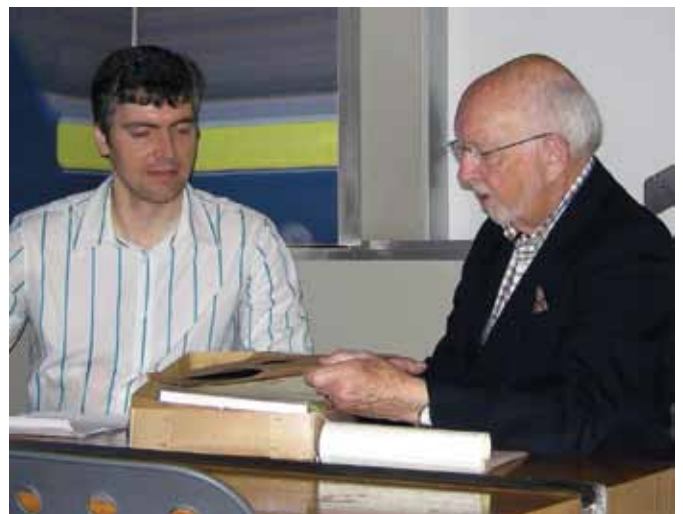
Many of you will now know that President Peter had a quadruple by-pass heart operation in June, 2009 and then spent a long time recovering. He was very unlucky to have a further artery blockage on the other side and had a moderate heart attack, when commencing his fitness programme at the gym, nine days before Christmas. This, of course, threw us all into a tizz, especially as the family was gathering at our home for Christmas. When Peter recovered, all of our family were very grateful for the care and attention he received and felt blessed that he was spared once again. We know God must have further work for him.

He is now back at work and feeling much better and sworn off gyms for life! He has undertaken a programme to regain his fitness with a physiotherapist and will be looking to do more passive exercise in the future.

During the year, we participated in the following: a breakfast picnic at Matilda Bay on the banks of the Swan River; Combined Clans



## Gift of TV artefacts for Science Museum



At London's Science Museum in late 2009, curator Iain Baird, grandson of the Scottish inventor of television John Logie Baird, received from Donald H. MacLean the unique collection of early TV artefacts which the retired BBC Producer has donated to the museum. Above he is showing Iain the world's first video recording, a 78rpm disc of 1935, precursor of today's DVDs.

# 200th Anniversary ~ Governor Lachlan Macquarie of NSW

by Marcus MacLean

This year it is the 200th anniversary of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's 12 year tenure as the 5th Governor of the colony of New South Wales. He was sworn in as Governor on 1st January 1810.

Macquarie was born to a tenant farming family on the island of Ulva in the Inner Hebrides, on 31st January 1761. His mother, Margaret was the sister of Murdoch MacLaine, Chieftain of Lochbuie. At 14 he left his family to join the Army. He served in North America during the American War of Independence, and then in Jamaica, India and Egypt.

In 1793 he married Jane, the youngest daughter of Thomas Jarvis, Chief Justice and Member of Council of Antigua, but she died childless of tuberculosis at Macao, in 1796.

Macquarie was promoted lieutenant colonel in 1805, and on 3rd November 1807 married his distant cousin Elizabeth Henrietta Campbell, of Airds.

In April 1809 Macquarie was appointed Governor of New South Wales in Australia, taking over from William Bligh (of Bounty fame). Governor Lachlan Macquarie made an outstanding and extensive contribution to the growth of the state of New South Wales and his many legacies endure. He is widely recognised as being responsible for transforming the new colony from a penal settlement to a flourishing society. This was ultimately achieved through his visionary leadership, strength of character and principles of egalitarianism. Macquarie is regarded by many as being the originator of the quintessential Australian value of the 'fair-go'.



Above: Governor Lachlan Macquarie.  
Below: His tomb on the Isle of Mull.



During his governorship, Macquarie instigated hundreds of public works programs leading to the introduction of churches, schools, hospitals, roads, banks, newspapers, agricultural developments, racing and sporting carnivals, architects and surveyors, festivals and celebrations and charitable institutions along with many other ventures. He truly established a solid infrastructure and foundation for an economically independent civilization.

Complaints to England resulted in the dispatch of English judge John Thomas Bigge to inquire into the affairs of the colony. Bigge's report was critical of Macquarie, in particular his spending on public works. In 1819 after two unsuccessful attempts to resign he was finally allowed to terminate his term as Governor in 1821 and return home to defend the charges made against him.

After settling on his estate, Jarvisfield on the Isle of Mull, Scotland, he set about defending himself against claims

in Bigge's report that he had abused his office while in New South Wales. He died in London on the 1st July 1824, aged 63.

The National Trust of Australia administers his grave on Mull. He is remembered in many place names, including Macquarie Street, Sydney, Lake Macquarie, Macquarie Harbour in Tasmania, the Antarctic dependency of Macquarie Island and Sydney's Macquarie University. Named for his wife Elizabeth are Campbelltown, Elizabeth Bay and Mrs Macquarie's Chair (a popular headland reserve jutting into Sydney Harbour).


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# THREE GENERATIONS

## The Rise and Fall of A Great Maclean Fortune

by Ella Harsin

### 1 Making A Fortune Washington McLean (1816–1890)

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Washington McLean was a self-educated charismatic man of ambition. McLean was married to Mary Lewis Darneal (c.1828–not known). They raised three children, two daughters Mary and Amelia (later called Mildred), and a son, John Roll McLean.

In 1848, the year his son was born he purchased the successful Cincinnati Enquirer newspaper. McLean's business and political fortunes waxed and waned during the uncertain Civil War times. McLean was neither a journalist nor a publisher, yet after the war, the newspaper grew rapidly in strength which ultimately brought him huge financial success. He was widely recognized for his business acumen,

During his years in Cincinnati, Washington McLean became prominent in the Democratic Party. Washington McLean became a household name in both Ohio and Washington, D.C.

His influence was great in two U.S. Presidential Conventions in which the nominees Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan made their successful bids as 14th and 15th Presidents, respectively.

McLean became known as 'The Warwick of the Democratic Party', presumably in reference to the 15th century English Earl of Warwick, noted statesman and military leader known as 'The Kingmaker'. While always politically savvy, he never became a candidate for political office, although McLean was later listed in family genealogy lists as 'The Honorable'.

McLean retired from the newspaper business in about 1881. He appointed his son John Roll as manager of the paper. Subsequently, Washington and Mary moved to Washington, D.C. but kept their official address in Cincinnati. He continued the political activity he loved in D.C. as well as investing in many successful real estate deals. McLean built and owned the fashionable Hotel Normandie, and acquired the former Sickles Mansion, which he remodeled as their home.

Washington McLean died at age 74 in his home, with family around him. He left an impressive fortune and memories of a widely admired man. McLean was laid to rest in his hometown at Cincinnati, Ohio's Spring Grove Cemetery.

### 2 Life At The Top John Roll McLean (1848–1916)

John Roll McLean was the only son and youngest child of famed newspaper owner and influential Democrat, Washington McLean and his wife Mary Lewis Darneal. Along with two older sisters, he was reared in the luxury of his famous and influential parents' newspaper fortune in Cincinnati, Ohio.

John was destined at an early age to be publisher of the family's Cincinnati Enquirer, although his original desire was for a legal

career. After graduating from Harvard University, he took a position at the Enquirer and on his own, undertook learning the business from the ground up. When his father Washington McLean retired, in 1881, John became at age 33, the publisher of the strongly Democratic newspaper. Upon his father's death in 1890 he assumed sole ownership and the paper's readership grew from 16,000 to 90,000 under his leadership. He seems to have inherited his father's Midas Touch as his fortune continued to build.

As a good businessman of varied interests, John was a one time investment partner in both the Cincinnati Red Stockings major league ball club, and the Cincinnati Outlaw Reds.

John met and married the prominent Emily Beale (dates unknown) and they planned for their son Edward Beale, born in 1889, to someday carry on with the newspaper legacy.

John's political interests followed his father's, and he became a popular Democrat. The Party chose him as candidate for several political races; McLean received the party's nomination for the U.S. Senate in 1885, and he ran for Ohio Governor in 1889, though he did not succeed in either race. He remained very active within the Party over his career.

The Party proposed his name as one of several possible candidates for consideration at the 1896 Presidential Democratic convention as their candidate, but he did not succeed to the final ballot. He never served in a political office, though his influence was always strong within the party.

McLean was always interested in new enterprises. He joined with Senator Stephen Elkins to build the Great Falls and Old Dominion Railroad. It was an interurban trolley line operating in Northern Virginia. The town of McLean, VA, which sprang up around the railroad, is named in honor of John Roll McLean's successful effort.

John's publishing achievements prompted him to add The Washington Post newspaper to the family fortunes. He acquired controlling interest in the popular newspaper in 1905 and began preparing his sixteen-year-old son to continue the family publishing tradition. John McLean succeeded in boosting the paper's readership, and further increased the profits through advertising. But, over time, there were warning signs that all was not well with his style of management. John's zeal as a loyal Democrat unwisely led him to heavily slant the paper's news content along

party lines. The Post's credibility was seriously damaged and its influence floundered as readership began to fall away.

John McLean was never able to reverse the downhill spiral of this once great newspaper. At the time of John's death in 1916 at age 68, the Post's very existence seemed doomed. Edward inherited the paper from his father. It would be up to Edward to try to save the paper from extinction. (continued)



John Roll McLean

### 3 The Demolition of A Fortune

Edward Beale McLean (1889–1941)  
Evalyn Walsh McLean (1886–1947)

Edward, the only child of John Roll and Emily Truxton Beale, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and reared in the lap of luxury provided by his grandfather and father's newspaper publishing and real estate fortunes. His mother was a popular socialite and famed party hostess among the Washington DC elite. She was the inspiration for the character Virginia Dare in the 1880 comic fiction *Democracy: an American Novel*. Famous political and influential people were frequent guests in their home. Edward, often called Ned, was on a first name basis with many celebrities while growing up.

When his father purchased the *Washington Post* in 1905, sixteen year-old Edward was brought into the newspaper business where he was groomed to take over when his father retired. But Edward was not really a businessman. He was mainly interested in the fun parts of life and had a hard time settling into the work ethic of his father and grandfather. He was prominent among playboy types, and began drinking heavily. In 1908, at age nineteen, he met and married flamboyant Evalyn Walsh, twenty-two, despite the protests of her parents Thomas and Carrie Reed Walsh. Tom was a poor Irish immigrant who amassed fabulous wealth in mining gold and silver. Evalyn was the sole heiress to the fortune. The McLeans eloped on a European honeymoon, taking \$200,000 in 'pin money', a gift from both parents, for expenses. Half way through their three month trip, the money was gone and they could not pay their Parisian hotel bill. The parents quickly wired the money; they were happy the couple had not done anything drastic, such as trying to buy the hotel! The feisty Evalyn was quoted as saying at that time, "I cabled my father and he sent me fresh credit and his love. Then I went to Cartiers. That's the way I always get into trouble when I have some money in my hands". This event was just the first of their lifelong spending sprees.

Evalyn loved precious gems, the bigger the better, and she wore them daily. Pierre Cartier, the famed French jeweler, had sold Evalyn a number of gems, such as the 95 carat diamond, Star of the East for \$123,000 in 1910. While on holiday in Paris in 1911, Evalyn and Ned were visited by Cartier, who brought an unusual gem, the 45.5 carat, supposedly cursed, 'Hope Diamond'. Evalyn had once admired the beautiful stone 'at the throat of the Sultan's favorite in a harem in Turkey'. Cartier acquired it after he heard of the woman's death by stabbing, during the recent Turkish rebellion. In his sales pitch, Cartier focused on the curse, knowing that Evalyn believed that bad luck for others was good luck to her. Knowing Evalyn's extravagant taste in jewels, on a whim, Ned bought the gem for her, at a cost of \$180,000. Evalyn wore the gem almost daily, and was reportedly reluctant to take it off even for a medical treatment.

The next decade of the McLean marriage was at first carefree but began its decline soon after. Edward and Evalyn had four children; Vincent Walsh, Edward Beale Jr., John Roll II, and Emily Washington (who later changed her name to Evalyn

Walsh McLean). They enjoyed raising their children, traveling, vacationing at their country estate known as Friendship. Ned invested in a racing stable. His horse Toro won the Kentucky Derby in 1928 and placed second and third in two other major races that year. Evalyn became a world renowned hostess whose lavish parties were filled with influential people. One of the more frivolous soirees was a birthday party for their dog, at which the dog wore the Hope diamond on its diamond chain around his neck for the entire day.

The couple's frivolous spending continually accelerated. Neither person understood basic money management. John McLean died



Clockwise from left: The Star of the East  
Edward and Evalyn McLean. The Hope  
Diamond. Evalyn McLean. Security for the  
Hope at the Smithsonian.

in 1916 and Ned received ownership of the *Post*. He continued throwing money at the *Washington Post* despite its decline in circulation because of its Democratic bias. The McLeans were close friends of Florence and Warren Harding. McLean and Harding were cronies in newspaper businesses. Harding, a Republican, owned the popular *Ohio, Marion Daily Star*. Ned, in support of Harding's 1920 presidential bid, changed the paper's political slant to Republican. That

astonishing move only furthered the paper's losses. Harding won the election and became the 29th American President.

The McLeans' fortunes dwindled over the next decade. Evalyn was squandering her inheritance, and Ned was trying to keep the *Post* afloat. The 1929 market crash certainly didn't help. Evalyn pawned the Hope diamond several times over the years in order to pay bills. The couple grew far apart. Their marriage was rife with infidelities. Evalyn shopped on, oblivious to her serious financial crises. She was the darling of Paris, where she was apt to 'buy up the town' amid haute couture seasons.

The couple divorced in 1929, although the decree was not recognized because it took place illegally in Lithuania. Edward was living publicly with married Rose Douras, the sister of Hollywood film star Marion Davies (who was living with William Randolph Hearst, newspaper syndicate baron).

Evalyn returned to her childhood home, the 60 room grandiose Walsh Mansion. Edward eventually became Rose's common law husband. McLean was Trustee of the Post and he often brought his paramour to the meetings with him. The subscribers reacted strongly to his flagrant actions. Christian businesses and churches refused to continue advertising in the Post.



When the paper was about to go into receivership, Edward tried to make a deal with Hearst and another publisher to sell the paper for \$3,000,000. Mrs. McLean got word of this and brought suit against the action, in order to preserve the Post for her children. Before the judge could make his decision, Ned withdrew his offer to sell. Finally, in 1933, a public bankruptcy auction was held on the front steps of the Post. It was sold for \$825,000, to Eugene Meyers, a financier who saved it from oblivion. The Washington Post is active today, thanks to its chance of salvage in 1933. Edward McLean's life continued its debilitation due to his binge drinking and his psychiatric problems. Eventually he was confined to a private mental institution in Baltimore, where he died in 1941, at age 52.

The McLeans had suffered the death of 9 year old Vincent in a traffic accident. Later at age 25, their daughter Evalyn (Emily) died of an overdose of sleeping pills. The couple's constant partying had resulted in substance abuse — Evalyn's addiction to morphine and Edward's alcoholism — and Ned's death at an early age. A reporter asked Ms. McLean if she believed in the curse of the Hope Diamond. Her answer was philosophical. "What tragedies have befallen me might have occurred had I never seen or touched the Hope Diamond. My observations have persuaded me that tragedies, for anyone who lives, are not escapable."

Evalyn lived six years after Ned's death. She continued partying and travelling. She was liked by many for her spunk, while they shook their heads at her rash spending.

The couple's notoriety was immortalized in one verse of Anything Goes, Cole Porter's title song in the 1939 smash Broadway musical.

*When Missus Ned McLean (God bless her)  
Can get Russian Reds to 'yes' her,  
Then I suppose,  
Anything goes.*

This referred to Evalyn McLean's trip to Communist Russia. A news photographer aboard a liner returning from Europe spotted Mrs. McLean on deck and asked about her trip. Evalyn was wearing The Hope Diamond necklace, four diamond bracelets on each arm, and a handful of solitaire rings. She wore a diamond-chained handbag and carried a diamond-studded cigarette case.

"I've just been to Russia, to give Moscow a thrill. I wore the Hope Diamond in Moscow, because it had once belonged to Catherine the Great and it had not been back since it had escaped her." She wanted to observe the peoples' reactions, knowing it would irritate them. "A Soviet Courier in Moscow begged me not to wear my jewels. I told him I would not only wear them,

but Soviet Russia would accept my wearing them. ... Hereafter, when a girl visits Russia, she can wear her jewels. There can be no surprise after me." Asked about bad luck that seems to follow the diamond, she said, "Well, it has never brought me bad luck. I think I am charmed in that respect. But I have a friend on the ship, Carinthia. He held it in his pocket for about two hours, and now I understand he is lying at death's door."

The incorrigible, incomparable Evalyn Walsh McLean was as unstoppable as Molly Brown. She lived her life flamboyantly, without a financial care or obvious regret. She and her husband Edward had utterly demolished two of the world's great fortunes totalling over \$100,000,000, which would amount in today's money in the billions of dollars. They each died bankrupt. What a way to go!

Evalyn died of pneumonia in 1947 at age 60. She is buried in Washington D.C. Harry Winston, Inc. of New York purchased all her gems at the bankruptcy estate sale. The seven major stones represented a total weight of 194.3 carats, including the Hope and the Star of the East, as well as a 31 carat diamond now called the McLean Diamond. In 1958, Harry Winston, Inc donated the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. In 1996 it was removed from its setting, weighed and reclassified at 45.52 carats. It is on display in all its splendor in the Department of Mineral Sciences. The Hope Diamond and the entire Minerals exhibit are well worth a visit. 📷



# Clan Gillean USA

Bob McLean ~ President



## Macleans on the Mountain

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games took place on July 9-12, 2009 at Linville, North Carolina. There was rain every day at the games, but that did not dampen the spirits of Clan Gillean. The pages of the visitor logs filled rapidly as Macleans from around the world signed in at the tent. Old friends and curious newcomers filled the tent. Marching in the Tartan Parade on Sunday were 46 clansmen and clanswomen. Well over a hundred people with some claim to Maclean heritage visited during the four day event. Many others with questions about Scotland and Scottish heritage were asking questions and reading the many books available. All Macleans were invited to a barbeque at the home of Gary and Cindi

McClain. Gary's sister Diane Sweat and her husband Larry were there to lend a helping hand. Great food, great friends and beautiful scenery. What more could anyone ask for?

Caitlin McLean, the Clan's talented Highland dancer walked off the stage with a second runner up trophy. This was excellent considering the quality of the competition. Many dancers from across the country were competing due to the scheduling of National Championships in Nashville the following weekend.



Cameron Gabriel, a great young piper, took home a third place trophy in the Piobaireachd competition. Cameron brought his pipes to the barbeque and entertained the crowd. He also stood outside the clan tent on Sunday and played for all of the clan and passers by.



**Top:** Macleans at Grandfather Mountain. **Centre:** Betsy McLean, Clan Gillean Clanswoman of the Year for 2009. **Below:** Alexandria's snowy Xmas walk. **Left from top: 1.** Office bearers at the Tartan Parade at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, Georgia. **2.** The Clan tent. **3.** Rev. Patrick Maclean, Lyn Hicks, Marla McLean Baswell, Shawn Baswell.

# Clan Maclean International Gathering 2012 Isle of Mull, Scotland



The Clan Gathering takes place in June 2012 on Mull. It is the 100th anniversary of Duart Castle being restored and a very special gathering is being planned.

**MCLEANSOTLAND** are a Scottish tour company offering - self drive and driver guided tours, coach tours, groups and individuals. Everything is taken care of before you leave home, even your accommodation, ferries and transport are pre booked. Why not add on more days to see the real Scotland before or after The Gathering.

*Join many other MacLeans for the  
100th Anniversary Gathering.*

**MCLEANSOTLAND** offer fully packaged tours of Scotland all year round. They book accommodation, transport, ferries everything you need for a memorable vacation to the homeland! Any number of people, any number of nights. Add to your trip by staying overnight in a castle! Here's what is said about them "You made this a very special trip for us. There was attention to every detail and it showed throughout our trip. Your hospitality is unmatched! You are not just a travel agency to us, we consider you family and good friends. Count us in for 2012!"  
Mark & Julie Lane, 2007 Gathering Tour.

**Who better to work with than another McLean?**

*Official Travel Agents for Clan Gillean USA*



Above; Liz Gillespie, Jim McLean (Chiefs piper) and Paul McLean



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# Pacific Northwest USA

Jim McClean ~ President

**Heritage Project** ~ This year the Pacific Northwest Clan Maclean Association is planning a Heritage Search project to involve many of our members and friends. We are asking for them to search and find 'Maclean' (of any spelling) roads, streets, alleys, buildings, parks, lakes and perhaps more with our name. Once we have a good list we will endeavor to find out whom, why and histories of these places. This will give us a better sense of who the pioneer Macleans were in our Association's area, and provide interesting stories for our newsletters. We know of some place names where we travel for games, but believe there must be more.

**Spring Event** ~ For several years we have had a Spring Tea in both Oregon and Washington. The last two years have shown us that the Washington tea has run its course. So on April 17th Saturday, the Clan is hosting a 'Spring Brunch Outing' at *Cabela's World Formost Outfitters*. The facility is huge and has something for anyone who, hunts, fishes, camps, or does anything outdoors. They also offer a repair service. The first time I was there I took special note of the sign that asked everyone to 'check' their guns before entering. They have a good-sized meeting room and an interesting eatery, with an exotic menu — ostrich burgers anyone?

**2009 News** ~ We started last year in April with a 'Tartan Day' Festival in Albany, OR. We were next represented in Eugene, in May, followed by the Bellingham Games, in Ferndale, WA in June. Bellingham is as close as we got to Canada this year and many of our members came down to visit. Now in full swing for the summer, our next June event was at the Tacoma Highland Games, in Graham, WA. Local and loyal members represented us at games in Spokane, WA, and on Whidby Island, WA.



In August we set up the tent in Winston, OR for the Douglas County Highland Games. This is where Clan Maclean hosts a parking lot Sing Along for the Clan Tent Cavaliers, (clan tent workers for all the clans at the games). The event includes a 'wee dram', and was provided by Clan Hall. A very special bottle! It was a limited bottling of 12 year-old Speyside bottled by Adelphi for the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs meeting and available only at the Great 2009 Gathering at Holyrood Park in Scotland. We finished the game circuit in September at the Kelso Highland Games, in Kelso, WA.

We concluded last year's outdoor events with our annual picnic in Auburn, WA. In November, clan members attend Heather Balls, St. Andrew dinners in both states, and then Burn's Suppers to welcome in 2010.

**Great Honor** ~ On Labor Day weekend Pat and I traveled down to Pleasanton, CA. to the Caledonian Club of San Francisco's 144th Highland Games. This is the largest highland game on the West Coast. Pat was the Honored Clan Guest. She was representing the Portland Highland Games of OR. but of course wore Maclean tartan on Sat. and her family Buchanan tartan on Sun. One of her tasks was to welcome the some 80 Clans, during the parade of clans at the opening ceremonies. The weather was unusually cooler than the normal 100 degrees. In her welcome speech she took credit for bringing the Oregon cool weather to the games. She also had the privilege of judging the Clan tents, and to meet and greet the Chieftain of the games. She took great pride in representing the Macleans in such an honor.



Above: Association President Jim Winston. Clansfolk at Mt Vernon. **Left & top:** Tossing cabers at the 2009 MacLean Fall Picnic. **Right:** Macleans at the Parade at Portland. **Below from left:** MacLeans at Mount Vernon. Dick McLean tosses cabers for lunch. The Parade at Winston.





# Atlantic (Canada)

Murray MacLean ~ President

The idea for the principal project for our 30th Anniversary started in the spring of 2008 when we decided to build a cairn in Antigonish, Nova Scotia where the weekend symposium would take place.

We had two great evenings. Friday night was an informal night where everyone had the opportunity to socialize and meet new and old friends. It also was an opportunity to meet and speak to Sir Lachlan, and time for great finger food and a few refreshments.

Saturday included seven sessions on Alexander Maclean Sinclair. The lectures began from his early years, the Bard, his Macleanery, his character and teaching skills. The afternoon sessions concluded with an introduction to the Maclean Sinclair Collection and the unveiling of collection additions.

Saturday evening was a more formal affair, conducted by Fiona Maclean of Antigonish, chairperson of the event.

This successful night began with a banquet which consisted of a fantastic meal and great fellowship. Many dignitaries offered their best wishes, including Sir Lachlan Maclean; Nelson Ferguson, from the North British Society (The Scots); Tom Wallace from the Federation of Scottish Clans; the president of Clan Chisholm; Angus MacIsaac, the MLA for the area; and Danny Gillis the



significance. I think the gathering of the stones made the Cairn feel as though it was part of each and everyone of us.

What a stirring sight we must have presented, as we marched from the University Chapel to Cairn Park, led by Pipe Major Karen MacLean, the first female Pipe Major in Canada's reserve force (1st Battalion N.S. Highlanders), following the flag bearers



**Above:** The Maclean Cairn in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. **Centre from left:** Fiona Maclean, 30th Anniversary Chairperson with Murray MacLean, President of Clan Maclean Atlantic. The Chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean presented with a collage by Ian MacLean. **The Chief unveils the Cairn. Below:** The March to Cairn Park led by Pipe Major Karen MacLean.


President of the Antigonish Highland Society. We received many more congratulatory letters from various Maclean organizations and individuals, but in particular, special greeting from our patron, Malcolm Maclean, Younger, of Duart and Morvern. Following the banquet, a Ceilidh was held. The evening's entertainment included dancers, singers, and some great fiddle and piano music.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of a collage to Sir Lachlan as chairman of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, donated by Dr Steve MacLean, two-time Canadian astronaut and current president of the Canadian Space Agency — yet another historical Maclean. The collage includes a Canadian flag taken by Dr MacLean into space.

Sunday was the highlight of the weekend, starting with a church service and Kirkin 'o' the Tartan at the University Chapel. This service was followed by the unveiling of the Maclean cairn.

As the idea of building of Cairn began to take shape, we decided to make it more personal and ask our members to gather stones. Macleans of all spellings, and from septs and branches of the clan, were asked to find stones representing their family, or from where they lived, or where their ancestors had settled. Stones started arriving from around the Atlantic Provinces; Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Many stones were accompanied by letters explaining their

carrying various provincial flags, the Scottish flag and our own Clan Maclean flag. The unveiling and christening was done by our Chief, Sir Lachlan.

The cairn itself is impressive, the top fashioned to depict the battlements at Duart Castle. The two crests, the tower and the battleaxe, are prominently placed, and there are two dedication plaques commemorating Macleans of Atlantic Canada, one in Gaelic and the other in English. It was exciting to see clan members searching for the stones they had donated. 



# Book Reviews



Photo by Charlie Bibby ~ Financial Times

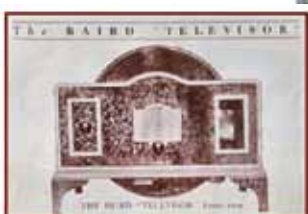
<http://www.the-life-of.me>

Donald H. MacLean's blog, by Rory MacLean

A couple of centuries after my forefathers left the Highlands for Canada, I retraced their journey back to the UK. To help me find my feet in London I joined the Clan Maclean Association, hoping to find new friends through my oldest family. At the gathering a kindly Scot took me under his wing, introduced me to other guests and teased out the links between us until I felt myself to be part of the clan. He hardly said a word about himself. He didn't mention that he had co-founded the London branch and designed the Clan's new international structure. Only much later did I learn that my likeable host, Donald Hugh MacLean, had helped to shape modern British popular culture. His energy and vision had influenced the music I listened to, the television I watched and even the way I would work in the future.

Born in 1926, Donald MacLean inherited an instinct for public taste from his father, the Rowntree director who created 'Kit Kat' and 'Black Magic'. Donald's early passion for wireless, and an encounter with the visionary Lord Reith, led him to join the BBC. He became the Corporation's youngest producer, crafting radio programmes which were listened to by as many as one in three Scots. London snatched the rising star, who spent his first working day in the capital directing a broadcast while his wife and their West Highland Terrier sat in the lobby with their suitcases, waiting for him to finish so they could resume their hunt for lodgings that would accept a dog.

In the 1950s Donald initiated ground-breaking television and radio series (including the enduring 'Come Dancing', now repackaged as the hit 'Strictly Come Dancing') and was appointed Head of Popular Music. He defined the remit of Radios 1 and 2, advocated for a responsible measure of popular music and settled arguments between the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. Then after 29 years he left the BBC to join EMI, Britain's biggest entertainment corporation. His role was to create new-media businesses. He championed the VHS video-recording system, predicted the coming of the CD/DVD, divided his time between London and Hollywood — until his wife fell terminally ill. As he nursed her at home through her last years, he pioneered remote working and online communication with one of the first Apple II computers.



**“Communication: My Job, My Hobby”**

Over the years Donald also advised prime ministers and government on the information industries, lead the revision of Copyright Law to encompass video films and then computer software, replaced the censorship of films with the classification process and in his spare time created the first MacleanNet website.

A passion to communicate lies at the heart of Donald's life and work. Time and again he challenged himself to use each generation of new media effectively, advancing from radio to television and video, into software and onto the internet. For the past year, at the age of 83, he has focused his energy on the creation of an innovative, personal biog-blog, <[www.the-life-of.me](http://www.the-life-of.me)>.

These days most blogs are commercial, selling widgets, holiday destinations or celebrity gossip. But a literary blog is a different endeavour. It's a crafted, digital age essay with theme and moral as well as a beginning, middle and end. It's an intimate form of communication where life's fleeting moments are caught on the wing then suspended in the electronic ether forever (or until the server crashes). The best bloggers write about subjects which move them, their approach is personal but not self-indulgent, aiming for humility and humour, voicing opinion.

Donald's <[www.the-life-of.me](http://www.the-life-of.me)> is among the most engaging bio-blogs on the web, tracing the story of his life and two careers, foreseeing change and staying ahead of it, in broadcasting and in business in the United States and Britain.



Clockwise from top: The Age-18 film classification. The Beatles at the Albert Hall in 1963. The Apple II computer. The Suez invasion in 1956. The Radio One DJs. The Baird Televisor.


<http://www.the-life-of.me> (continued)

It's rich in fascinating details and delicious anecdotes recalling, for example, his first sight of a Baird television set, his carnal initiation (at the age of four) under the shrubbery and tutelage of 'a very can-do' six-year-old girl, his 'borrowing' of an aeroplane to deliver news reports during the 1956 Suez invasion, the BBC meeting where he alone was aware of the significance of the lyrics of 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds', even his love of cars (Donald has owned 36 of them from an Austin 10 to a Rolls Royce which once served as a hen house on a Yorkshire farm). Across his virtual pages parade the Beatles' manager Brian Epstein, BBC presenters John Peel and Kenny Everett and posts on miniaturisation, censorship and the preciousness of memories.

Among Donald's most poignant and provoking observations, first made back in 1976, is that "new media can enrich us ... but if we exploit new technology without regard for the creative consequences they'll impoverish us — we shall wake up one morning to find we have only amateur music and movies". Thanks to the ease with which 'content' can be copied from

the internet, and shared with friends, the world's creative economy is being undermined. Nowadays twenty music tracks are downloaded illegally for every one that is bought on line. It's a similar story for films and books. As Donald points out, if no one pays a copyright fee then an author or musician cannot afford to create another work with the inevitable consequence — the demise of professional creativity. He writes "We are not preparing ourselves for a world in which the only music and movies would be created by amateurs."

"Communication: my job, my hobby", Donald wrote from his home in the Chilterns with Ann his second wife at his side. "I love the blog medium", he told me. "Retaining control. Being able to tinker continuously (I don't, but ... ) The instant and worldwide stage. Absence of interference. Ease of researching and writing. Instant feedback." Like his life itself, Donald's blog is wise, provoking, honest and cheeky.

"Lord Reith once said that by accepting challenges beyond the ordinary I might enjoy extraordinary fulfilment", recalled Donald. "I believe I do ... and I have." 

### A Review of Rory MacLean's Books by Donald H. MacLean

The book I previously described to you was Lord Patten's masterly *What Next?* This year I commend to you the works of another clansman, a Canadian whose closer focus also ranges widely across the contemporary world. Rory MacLean's seven books, including UK best-sellers *Stalin's Nose* and *Under the Dragon*, have challenged and invigorated travel writing and, as writer John Fowles nicely put it, "marvelously explain why literature still lives". Rory has written and presented over 50 programmes for BBC radio and worked on movies with David Bowie, Marlene Dietrich and Ken Russell. Resident for many years in Britain, he now lives with his family in Berlin. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an active member of English PEN. During his research journeys, he walked through the newly opened Berlin Wall, met Burmese heroine Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon and after the destruction of New York's World Trade Center he interviewed Pashtun elders at the Kacha Garhi refugee camp. On Crete he hand-built and flew — once! — an antique aeroplane based on Santos Dumont's classic 1907 Demoiselle. He even lived at the Girls' Cottage at Duart for two

damp and chilly winters while writing his book about Scotland, Canada and immigration *The Oatmeal Ark*. I think you will see why these books have won awards from the Canada Council and the Arts Council of Britain, were shortlisted for the Thomas Cook Travel Book Prize and nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary award.



Above: Rory in India.  
Below: On the Island of Crete.



Rory says that Berlin has a strange, rough magic like nowhere else in the world. His weekly descriptions of the city and its people are entertainingly shared with us every Thursday on <http://blog.goethe.de/meet-the-germans>. Do read them. (His wife Katrin is 'Mrs Cat' and his young son 'Maus'.) His website is [www.rorymaclean.com](http://www.rorymaclean.com).

#### Rory MacLean's Books: ~

*Stalin's Nose: Across the Face of Europe*, 1992. *The Oatmeal Ark: From the Scottish Isles to a Promised Land*, 1997. *Under the Dragon: A Journey Through Burma*, 1998. *Next Exit Magic Kingdom: Florida Accidentally*, 2000. *Falling for Icarus: A Journey Among the Cretans*, 2004. *Magic Bus: On the Hippie Trail from Istanbul to India*, 2006. *Missing Lives: (with photographer Nick Danziger)*, 2010. 