

BACK TO BORDERTOWN

‘NALANG’ HEADSTONE REDEDICATION

Weekend 28 October 2006

John Macleod 18th Raasay and Elizabeth seemed to be having a good time, they were always beaming with face breaking smiles. They were organizers and hosts for the weekend, since it was all about restoring part of his family’s heritage and no doubt delighted with the attendance from Tassie, Vic and S.A. Included with the attendees were Chief Torquil Donald of the Lewes, wife Heather and son James.

Special guests Henric MacLeod and Fiona Caro (n. MacLeod) unveiled the restored headstone of John Macleod 13th of Raasay (d. 6/6/60) and a plaque for his brother Frank’s wife, Alice MacLeod (n. Fenton) (d.16/1/67) a pioneer woman of the Tatiara District and also died on Nalang. The headstone and plaque are relocated in the house paddock about 200 metres from the original grave. There were about 40 folk out at ‘Nalang’ also including others of Raasay family, Vic. President Rod & Heather MacLeod, Warnambool piper Tim McLeod and family. After a Nalang tour and history lesson by Jenny Hunt, we travelled nearby to Clayton Farm, for afternoon tea; a fascinating museum of restored buildings and machinery. Chief Donald, and engineer, was excited as a lad in a lolly shop as he led his son to the wonders of old junk. For those who recall the cartoon art of “Jollife’s outback”, the old stables and shearing shed here are a wonder.



Clayton Farm thatch shed, red gum posts and trough

The evening dinner at Duke’s Motor Inn was a great night of impromptu and entertaining fun. It commenced with the piping in of the Chiefs, with banners. Chief John gave a welcome and Alex took the baton as MC. The fun included more creative schemes/scams, building on the “rent-a-Chief” theme, from John and Rod; song from the 3 tenners (\$10 ea is their rate) Bill, Allan & Trev. and an Almond alchemic anecdote by Allan; some jokes & funeral theme poetry of Lawson and Robert Service by Alex; Tim piped; Trevor & co. demonstrated Scottish weaponry, and Chief Donald closed thanking everyone, and kept on smiling. Cheers to everyone for turning up to a great weekend.

Back :Rob Miller, Trev Powell, Alex McLeod, Front: Chief Donald of the Lewes, Chief John of Raasay.

