

On McLeod Hill, McLaren Vale; Stefan, Alex, John Davidson-Kelly, Romma Clements, toasting Raasay pioneers.



EDITOR'S ELICITATION

Some of the following ideas support thoughts expressed by Chief Donald in the Clan Magazine, and also run a similar course to conversations with JDK.

Perhaps it is not surprising we found commonality in our themes, so somewhere in all our words there may be some sense.

The busy and interesting year is almost behind us

and we are able to reflect on the wonderful visits from our clan cousins John & Joan from USA, Chief Donald and Heather from Tassie, and John D-K (ACMS President) & Romma from Scotland. They each brought an enthusiasm for kinship and a pleasure for new faces and places.

What stood out for me was the encouragement given by our Clan leaders, who, having a grasp of broad issues, saw merit in the dynamics of our local 'family'.

It was with a shock and sadness to read of the demise of Halifax, and Cape Breton, as Canadian regional Clan Societies. These were the centres of the western Scottish migration. There are concerns within the National Society of Canada and for the ACMS as expressed by President John Davidson-Kelly.

It reminds us that we exist by a tenuous thread of social or traditional attachment, and it is vital that this remains alive and active in a complimentary way.

No matter how strongly we feel about our heritage, it is the expressed and enacted bond between us as clansmen which make our Societies work.

May we continue to encourage in good ways this Christmas and for the New Year.

A Clan Blessing

To our jolly President,
The committee, eminent;
and helpers on any day;
to members who just say "G'day";
"May your feet be tough
and stockings full of other stuff.
May your bellies wobble with laughter,
and ne'er be stinted ever after."

In keeping with that theme, let us gift wrap our gratitude and pride this year for Sophie and Emma Stokes who enchanted us with their grace and talents.

We are moved to vault our praises to Vaughan for passionate piping and soul food.

Finally with gusto, carols for Colin, the clansman with a sense of spirit of place and whose fiddle is a 'time machine', able to transport listeners.

You all made it an exceptional year. Thank you.

Now, is the failing of 2 Canadian groups a concern to us ?

Let us not abide in apathy and indifference, to go our own way. I believe it is a step to the breakdown of social structure. I don't mean it to read as if civilization rests on the shoulders of Clan MacLeod Societies, but after families, the diversity of community organisations is the media in which Society is rooted and develops its strengths, character and qualities.

Think that in our lifetime, pillars of society, (however far from perfect), were the noble institutions of Education, Church, Public 'SERVICE', and even the Media. They had high standards and propriety; and people of respected achievement were the ones awarded prominence as 'role models', or civic leaders.

In recent years we have been led by commercialism, celebrity and mammon, such that I don't care to hear another "day's Finance Report", or watch Australia's Top Ego, (or Idiot) Our 'Pillars' have been significantly remodeled by social and political forces such that they can now barely hold up a headline let alone a AAA credit rating.

What we yield won't necessarily be recovered. We must thwart the process of disintegration of our structure.

It has been evident through fires and floods that a community spirit is alive in Oz, and we hope we don't have to 'celebrate' that too often; but it is the local and individual areas of life where friends and the familiar organisations meet our needs. To use an analogy "Stay in touch and feel good".

- Alex