

From Clan MacLeod Society South Australia Newsletter May 2011

EDITOR'S ENLIGHTENMENT

Recently, I had some thought about what it means to be a member of our Clan Society, compared with our own membership of other clubs or associations. They are all focussed around specific activities, and most have a secondary social facet to the Club's purpose.

On the other hand, our Clan MacLeod Society was established primarily a social group, but our commonality was distant, and diluted by time and circumstance. At that time, 50 years ago, society needed occasions for entertaining, discourse, and friendship, and scottish Societies handsomely fulfilled that purpose.

In the next years came Television and Pop Culture, and that changed everything.

Now, our purpose is primarily still the same, operating around a social programme which socialises relatively few members, and there are many good reasons for that, such as regional living, commitments, age, etc. We have some strong aspects which support Scottish Highland traditions.

However, through our website, newsletter, and the clan magazine, the Clan MacLeod Society is developing another purpose; that of connection and sense of belonging.

Membership of a body usually provides privileges and exclusiveness; and also there are elements of privacy and respect exercised at the discretion of the management committee, or its officers and by fellow members. These are positions of trust.

The publications are essentially exclusive to our membership. Our material is circulated mainly to members and there is generally a common respect for personal information presented in it. This demonstrates a mutual responsibility, which although not generally expressed, is a bonding quality of modern membership.

Further, as Editor, I may express content or views which are to be understood in our local context of language, background, personality, culture etc. by people who are accustomed (I hope) to me and my expression. I try to write for our own folk.

There was a suggestion of putting all National & regional newsletters on the internet for 'sharing', but with reference to earlier comments, I fear we would lose the benefits of what makes our membership, and yield our information up to any form of treatment or interpretation. -Alex