

## MACLEOD WEEK IN SUMMARY

Talisker Mine Historic walk and Cape Jervis pub lunch was cancelled .

The Keswick Barracks Museum Tour drew a comfortable sized group of 10 which enjoyed a pretty amazing display of story-telling memorabilia and knowledgeable commentary from our guide. It was so informative and interesting, that the time allocated wasn't nearly enough and we over-ran the Mess Lunch period. That too, was deemed good stuff, so it was a great day.

Meanwhile yours truly was meeting Chief Donald and Heather at the airport, enjoying alfresco lunch on Hutt St. and a sightseeing drive around the city, Mt. Lofty and highlighting some city properties owned by his Raasay forebear. (Note: The 21a site of Maryatville High School was owned by Loudoun MacLeod circa 1860.) ■

The MacLeod Pioneers & McLaren Vale Wine Tour drew another group of 10, which fits nicely into a cellar door tasting room. Commencing in the City with some scene setting in the new Colony in 1838 with local history notes. Then we headed south to the Vale.

On Chalk Hill, McLaren Vale we viewed some of the land originally granted to James MacLeod, now occupied by Wineries; The Olive Grove, Lloyd Bros., Tapestry, D'Arenberg, Alpha Box & Dice, Maxwell's, Chalk Hill, and the town oval & show area. From there we went on to Hugo wines for tasting, and then to Gemtree Vineyards where the MacLeods' farm "Rona" was pioneered. Vaughan brought his bagpipes.

It was a wonderful experience for the Chief to be tasting the Gemtree wine off that land, and walking on the soil tilled by his ancestors. The bagpipes heralded the return of MacLeods to Rona farm at the foot of McLeod Hill, 172 years from the first. I think everyone was thrilled by the poignancy of the moment.

*Clan Torquille Chief's family trail;  
To mark the occasion - a bit of oration.  
Toasts were spoken, and Gemtree seals broken,  
As the skirl of the pipes filled the vale.*

The beef cattle in the paddock were very excited by it, as about a dozen came to the fence to see what the occasion was. Charles said it was because they were Scottish:- Belted Galloway.

In our party was Jenny Hunt of Nalang Station, who, as a historian, and being intimately connected to the story, was also enjoying the experience of this local chapter.

We had a picnic platter lunch at Wirra Wirra Winery, then on to Hardy's wines and the Horseshoe Inn at Noarlunga, before concluding with the MacLeods' graveside reunion in the City. ■

The Home Ceilidh Friday night was at Graham & Pat's at Glenelg, where we brought along casserole meals and sweets to share. It was a very genial evening and another informal opportunity to meet and welcome Donald and Heather to our Clan in SA. It was elevated to a concert as we were wonderfully entertained with songs from a soulful Sophie Stokes; the rare encounter with stirring and sensitive Scottish fiddle by Colin MacLeod and the thrilling power and pride of the pipes with Vaughan Cooke.

Thank you to those folk who enriched our evening and made our welcome to our Chief so memorable. 4 Videos of some of the action is online You Tube "Clan MacLeod House Ceilidh.

Piping Competition on Saturday evening at the Port Adelaide Caledonian Soc. hall, run by the RU Brown Piobaireachd Soc. and co-sponsored by Clan MacLeod and Port Cales, featured Sub Intermediate entrants in Strathspeys & Reels; March tunes, and the Open Classification. Numbers were down from other years as a couple of Pipe Bands were engaged at the Tattoo and another festival. However the judge's opinion was that the quality was high and this was appreciated by the audience. The MacLeod trophy "Spirit of Borreraig" went to Lewis Heyward, now a 2-time awardee.

A special acknowledgement to Brent Tidswell whose accomplished Open performance was an example of how good piping, and pipe tunes, can get. It is wonderful to hear top class soloists and these appearances are appreciated.

Sunday Clan MacLeod Celebration Luncheon was at our favoured venue where the seats are comfortable and the food is more-so. A good attendance of 70 people filled the Adelaide room, and in the number were several people from other Clans and Scot Societies; and our Clansmen, and friends; with a special recognition of Charles Cooke from NSW.

Our Ceremonial Piper, P.M. Phil Wyld preceded Clan President Trevor & Pauline; then accompanied Chief Torquil Donald & Heather, with banner bearer Vaughan Cooke and '*An ghille mhor*' Stefan Kosak.

The course of the function was punctuated by entertainment as we had welcome song "Caledonia" from Emma Stokes, who later danced a fling, Violin from Colin MacLeod, piping from Vaughan Cooke, Phil Wild piped in '*canfill yer belly-morh*' Bill Hain and the Haggis. Trevor did the Ode to the Haggis, Chief Donald was the main speaker, and was presented with a silver & opal 'Lewis' badge, Alex proposed the Toast, :- all to the respectful silence induced by eating. ■ **Alex**