



# International BattleAxe



Volume 1 Issue 8

News of the worldwide Clan Maclean

April 2005

## From Duart

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

Dear members of the Clan,

It seems amazing that another year has rushed by! Although it is only the middle of February the snowdrops are nearly over and the daffodils are almost out. Global warming seems to have arrived in Scotland.

In spite of the terrible Tsunami disaster after Christmas and the continuation of the troubles in the Middle East and Iraq, 2004 had some exciting news for my family. Fergus was born in September, a second son to Malcolm and Anna. He is a dear little boy - Grandfathers would say that wouldn't they - but it's true. Then in December Alexandra announced her engagement to Colin Allan, which led to much celebration over the Christmas and New Year holiday. We are thrilled and they are planning to get married in April this year.

This summer both our dogs died. They were quite old (Bonnie once featured on the front of BattleAxe looking up to Duart). We have replaced them both with Bella, a West Highland Terrier, and Flora, a black Pekinese. Both are puppies and it is nice that we will have "The Resident Dogs" back at Duart this summer.

Many of you came from all over the world to Duart last summer, including some Macleans from Sweden who could trace their family back to Count Maclean who lived in Sweden in the 18th century. Maclean families from Iceland, Israel and Chile confirmed that Macleans have settled in all parts of the world.

A number of Macleans were married at Duart last summer. In fact all our weddings in 2004 and those that are booked for 2005 are for members of the Clan. Those of you who use the internet may have seen some of the photographs - they were very happy events.

We still have problems with damp at Duart, and at this time of year the castle is cold and many of the walls are wet inside as well as out. Rainfall is usually 95" - 105" per annum but this last year it has been 118" (over 30" in January alone). Much of the rain is blown against the castle by gales so it is perhaps not surprising that it leaks.

Last winter we also had the problem of wild Mink in the castle - rather smelly! They seem to be very curious animals - they explored everywhere. They are also vicious and have killed many of the ground-nesting birds who lived around the point at Duart.

2005 is the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Maclean website. The foresight of Donald MacLean who was responsible for starting it and developing it so that there are over 2,800 members today is truly remarkable. [www.maclean.org](http://www.maclean.org) was one of the first clan websites and since then many other clans have followed our lead. That is not a new experience - they have been doing that for generations!



*The Chief leads the Royal Company of Archers (Her Majesty's bodyguard in Scotland) at the opening of the new Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. Oct. '04.*

This year several new Presidents have been elected throughout the world - I congratulate you on your new appointments and thank those who have handed-over for all their hard work and dedication to our Clan over many years. Without them Associations would wither away.

I must apologize to Clan Maclean Atlantic as last year I wrote about visiting the Maritime States. As any of you who live in Canada know I should have talked about the Atlantic Provinces.

I look forward to welcoming anyone who visits Duart this summer. Remember we will also be at the Tobermory Games in July.

My best wishes to you all,

*Lachlan Maclean  
of Duart & Morvern.*

# CLAN MACLEAN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

*Lieutenant Colonel Donald MacLean MBE, JP.*

It has been a fairly quiet year but I can report on the following:

- a. We now have agreement from all the worldwide Clan Maclean Associations for a Clan Maclean International Association **Constitution**. This broad-brush constitution will bind us all together more formally.
- b. In line with the new Constitution, we held our first **Annual General Meeting** by Internet. It was a rather long drawn out affair but I'm sure it will become much slicker in the future.
- c. CMA Quebec, unfortunately, has ceased to exist and CMA Ontario is in crisis. This is a worrying trend but we have reasons to hope that at least the Ontario Association will be rejuvenated.
- d. **MacleanNet** and the **Website** have been in existence now for ten years. It was Donald H's inspiration and foresight that set this up and put the Clan Maclean Association in the enviable position of being 'well ahead of the game' in relation to all other Clan associations. He is still very involved running the Website and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude. Nowadays, Alasdair White is to be congratulated on running the MacleanNet Association as its President enthusiastically and also Rhona, in New Zealand deserves a special mention for her tireless efforts in welcoming all new applicants to MacleanNet.

The International Battle-Axe continues to play a key part in ensuring that all the Associations, and individuals within these Associations, are kept in touch with each other. Once again we are very grateful to the Editors, Donald H. MacLean and Mary Hoff, for producing a good quality newsletter and always on time.

I will be standing down this summer as President CMIA after three years in the job. It has been most enjoyable and I know that my successor will ensure that the Organisation continues to flourish.

*Donald*  
*President, CMIA*

## MACLEAN-NET

This year has seen the continued growth of MacleanNet - over 2,800 subscribers now, many of whom join the forums, whose range of subjects is extensive. The "ALL" (general blethers) list attracts forceful debate but has been dominated by US-centric news and views for some time - it could do with some new blood from the rest of the world to provide wider perspectives.

The History list has been quiet although it too attracts strong views and there has been much debate over the attitude of the Scottish Executive to the restoration of historic buildings in Scotland and the preservation of the Scottish heritage in general.

The Genealogical DataBase run by Tim Maclaine continues to grow and MacleanNetters make good use of this extensive resource that has been developed for the whole clan.

Finally, our website flourishes as the main source of information about the clan. It will be ten years old this year and that makes MacleanNet such a unique resource for the Clan. We are hoping to celebrate in a suitable manner.

As always, we are indebted to our VPs, Kenny Mclean and Bob Forsman Jnr, who supply us with the technology support

*Alasdair White, President.*

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# Notes from Scotland

*Captain Marcus MacLean*

Last year, in my first report for the Battleaxe, I said that my intention was to concentrate on domestic issues. I was very pleased by the undoubted success of our new Edinburgh event - this was a drinks party, attended by many Macleans not normally seen at our Glasgow events. The setting was the 'New Club', which has spectacular views over Prince's Street and the castle. We plan to hold this annually (See panel): Other events are in the pipeline.



*Sandy & Fiona of Ardgour at the CMA Edinburgh Party*

We had a good turnout for the Mull Games at Tobermory, which included Macleans from as far away as Vancouver.

It was a windy but dry day, and we had many visitors to our tent. Mike and Michelle's drawing competition for children was a huge hit, with many of the entries ending up on the official Tobermory website. Once again, the Chief hosted a full meeting of Council at Duart Castle the next day, with Mary providing an excellent lunch. Our annual Gathering was held after our AGM at the Normandy hotel near Glasgow again.



*Allan of Dochgarroch with visitors from Vancouver at Tobermory*

This year our numbers were up to about 85: Guests included Clan Gillean president Kirk Lane and his wife Anne, Vice President Judge Claude Hicks, London President Nigel Alington, and Eliluyah Maclean from Israel. We are returning to the Normandy this autumn (see panel). Finally, Robin and Fiona of Ardgour and I were honoured to be guests at the France CMA Gathering in Paris, organised by their President Alan - a great evening, which preceded Scotland's narrow defeat at the hands of the French at rugby.

Thanks to Donald H MacLean and our hosts, we now have our own section of the official Clan website ([www.macleans.org/orig.htm](http://www.macleans.org/orig.htm)). It has a fair collection of photos and information already. Shortly we will be adding a section dedicated to the 2007 International Gathering on Mull ([www.macleans.org/2007.htm](http://www.macleans.org/2007.htm)).

In addition to providing all the information needed, it will include a secure 'online' booking facility. We hope that most of our bookings will be made 'online', but will continue to accept traditional paper bookings. Mull has been extremely busy recently due to the filming of a children's television series 'Balamory', which has resulted in a large influx of young visitors. As a consequence I cannot overstate the importance of booking accommodation early for 2007 - naturally early booking of our events would help us to make this the most successful Gathering yet.

*Marcus*

President, C.M.A.

## 2005 Clan Maclean Scottish Gathering

The Gathering will be held in the Normandy Hotel, by Glasgow Airport, on **Saturday 5th November 2005** and the tickets will cost £30 each.

The Normandy Hotel has offered the Clan accommodation at £25 per person bed and breakfast. There are excellent travel connections by road (M8), rail (Paisley - Gilmour Street) or air (Glasgow).

*Application for tickets should be sent to*  
Lt Col Donald MacLean, 2 Fullerton Drive, Seamill,  
Ayrshire KA23 9HT, UK. Tel: +44(0)1.294.823.240

## Events in Scotland in 2005

- May 12** *Edinburgh.* CMA Edinburgh Party.
- July 21** *Tobermory.* Mull Highland Games.
- August 6** *Glasgow.* World Pipe Band Championships.
- August 21** *Edinburgh.* Pipefest 05 (Massed pipe bands)
- October 7 - 15** *Stornoway.* Royal National Mod.
- November 5** *Glasgow* Clan Maclean Scotland Gathering.

These events are included in the worldwide schedule maintained at [www.macleans.org/gatherin.htm](http://www.macleans.org/gatherin.htm)

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA



While 2004 was a relatively quiet year for Clan Maclean in Western Australia, we did conduct a very successful Sunday Luncheon for members, family and friends. As usual, the Haggis was addressed in traditional manner and later enjoyed with tatties and neeps. Other entertainment was provided by a group of Highland dancers followed by our regular mini-band of four pipers and three drummers.

We proudly displayed our 'Virtue Mine Honour' banner as we participated in the annual march and Kirkin' O' the

Tartan service held in the chapel of the Air Force Association Memorial Estate. While in November, we erected our small tent at the Armadale Highland Gathering to provide information and promote Clan Maclean Association.

The *State of Western Australia*, which has grown from humble beginnings as the *Swan River Colony* in 1829, celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2004. The contribution of the Western Australian Maritime Museum to the celebrations was to erect *Welcome Walls* beside the entrance to the Museum, in Fremantle harbour.

The *Welcome Walls* consist of 152 stainless steel panels, forming several walls, and mounted on black granite flooring from the Kimberley region in the north of Western Australia. On each panel are etched the names of immigrants arriving in Australia through the port of Fremantle, with the ship's name and year of arrival. People may register themselves, or their forebears, and when the project was first advertised, 8000 names were recorded in seven weeks. In order to be able to officially open the project in the Anniversary year, a limit to the number of names was set initially, although registrations are still being received and a second stage will open in 2006.

In Museum opening hours, a staff member is on hand in the museum entrance foyer, to provide assis-

tance in locating names. Visitors are also able to access the historical 'Passages' database, on one of three computerised terminals in the same area, to do their own search. When registering names, provision was made to record, in approximately 50 words, family information such as where the family settled and extra family names. This information can also be accessed from the terminals. Eventually, passenger lists compiled by *The Western Australian Genealogical Society* will be included on the database.

Western Australia did not benefit from the shiploads of Scottish emigrants who left the Highlands and Islands in the 1800s, as did the east coast of Australia. However, Fremantle was where immigrants from many countries disembarked and where most had the first sight of their new homeland. The harbour is located at the entrance to the *Swan River* and the Maritime Museum is located at the seaward end, in a conspicuous position for ships arriving at the port.

Although the Colony was founded in 1829, ships were then unable to enter the river because of a rock bar across the entrance. It was not until 1892 that a decision was made to build Fremantle Harbour, which officially opened in 1897. The decade in which Fremantle Harbour was developed is significantly remembered for two remarkable men – a politician and an engineer. John Forrest (later Lord) was Western Australia's first Premier and the first native-born Australian to be raised to the peerage. Though born at Bunbury, Western Australia, his father was a Scot from Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, and had settled in the Colony in 1842. Forrest encouraged an Irish born Engineer, Charles Yelverton O'Connor, to come to Western Australia, in 1891. He was a brilliant engineer who planned and supervised the construction of the new harbour amongst other notable achievements.

Brian McLean.  
Editor.



Tom Johnston addresses the haggis at Clan Maclean Luncheon.  
Photo: Doug McLean

## Is your Screensaver a Lifesaver?

An increasing number of Clansmen are donating their computer's idle time to medical research. A Clan Maclean Team was registered in January to participate in the Cancer Research project of Oxford University, whose Chancellor is Clansman Lord Patten. If you use a pc or laptop with Windows please try to join the team - information is at [www.maclean.org/ss.htm](http://www.maclean.org/ss.htm)

# CLAN GILLEAN USA

2004 was quite a varied and eventful year for Clan Gillean USA:

In the spring of the year, we were notified of the passing of our former CGUSA President Max McLean. As we all know, Max had been an instrumental representative of Macleans throughout the years, and he will be truly missed.

At the same time, we wished South Carolina Convener Gertrude McLain Dodson and Kentucky Convener Dean McClain a special thank you. Both Gertrude and Dean were extremely active in Maclean functions and this year both retired as conveners. Gertrude and Dean both gave the Macleans all in their efforts, and although they will be missed in



Alabama Convener Paul Franklin; r., and Vice President Claude Hicks performing at our Grandfather Mountain ceilidh

those positions, we are grateful that they will now be able to relax while enjoying future Maclean events with us.

We welcome member Paul Franklin in his new position as Convener for the State of Alabama. We are excited to see Paul in this position. Not only is he an accomplished musician and photographer with a great sense of humor, but he is allowing us to expand into a State that has been inactive for a



Caitlin McLean

number of years. Thanks, Paul for helping us to grow.

Macleans in America now have renewed excitement in the form of a petite little girl named Caitlin McLean. Caitlin, daughter



Diana, Caitlin and Les McLean

of Les and Diana McLean of Delaware, started dancing lessons in the fall of 2003, and began competing in the spring of 2004. Amazingly, Caitlin has won almost every competition she has entered. She is now working her way toward premier international competition. Congratulations, Caitlin!

This year the Macleans have continued to show outstanding form at our Highland Games and Clan Gatherings. In April, we won the "Best Clan Tent" competition at The Loch Norman Highland Games in Huntersville, North Carolina. Then in May, we won the second place in Electric Scotland's Best and Most Creative Tent Award at the Culloden, Georgia Highland Games. Then in September, we won the "Bonniest Clan Tent" award at the ClanJamfry in Memphis, Tennessee. Combined with the 2003 Best Tent awards at Historic Bethabara Park in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and at the Flora MacDonald Highland Games in Red Springs, North Carolina, we are making quite a name for ourselves...

In October, we held our Annual General Meeting at Stone Mountain, Georgia, where we voted our past Treasurer, David McLane, of Texas, to the position of Director of Region 2 for a five year term. We also at that time named Ephraim McLean of Georgia to act as our Representative for the Maclean Heritage Trust.

Now we are preparing for the year 2005, when, on the first day of October, we will be the Honored Clan at the Tennessee Highland Games near Nashville, Tennessee. We plan to convene our Annual General Meeting on that date, too, so plan to join us!

Betsy McLean

"In Edinburgh's High School, the son of the laird would sit alongside the shopkeeper's son. Both would compete to be "top of the form"; or - if they had grander ambitions - "dux" of the school."  
T.C. Smout (U. of St Andrews)

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST, USA

## PNW FUND RAISING SCHEME

**G**reetings from the Pacific Northwest Branch. We had a fabulous, productive and fun-filled 2004. We are certain CMA Secretary Hamish shared at least some of our frivolity! We added two new events last year to our already active schedule. We had a Washington Spring Tea and a picnic at the end of the summer. Our family picnic included children's athletic games, Dog parade, door prizes and of course great food.

We anticipate a quality 2005 with perhaps more activities available than the clan may be able to attend.

This year I would like to share a Fund Raising success story and suggestion. I do this with some concern, as I like to keep my Fund Raising secrets secret. I ask that you keep this within the MacLean Clan and not share with other clans. Our Fund Raising endeavor is for our **Tuesley Trust**, which is our association's scholarship fund to enable young Macleans to visit Scotland.

Some time ago I put together a generic hand-out for the visitors to our games, teas, social events, Burn's Supper, Tartan Days, etc. Our hand-out includes a current comment about Scotland, some modest history, and a comment about the St. Andrews Flag vs. the Rampant Lyon Flag. We of course add a Thistle story, together with my opinion of who may have settled the Scotland of old. We then provide a suggested reading list and on the reverse, we share a good list of Scottish terms and definitions.

Here comes the scheme! All of the many events we attend have one or more vendors of "stuff" Scottish, Gaelic, and Irish, etc. We negotiate with the vendors and select one, and only one to have their name on our generic hand out as a resource. This is the vendor's name, ad-

## GLASGOW HIGHLAND CLUB

Formed in 1882 to nurture the distinctive dress and culture of Highland life, this club has long included Macleans in its membership and has now elected Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart as its Chief. Recent predecessors in this role include the Dukes of Atholl and Argyll.

The club has earned a reputation for encouraging the playing of bagpipes - especially through its Schools Competition held every March, and the club's pipe band, formed in 1898, meets weekly.

Among the grandest Highland occasions of the year in Glasgow are the club's annual "At Home" and its "House Dinners" held in the Glasgow Art Club.

The club's dress code has always been "rough kilts", as the Victorians termed their Highland daywear, and the club's general informality fosters the ceilidh atmosphere.

*Lt Col Donald Maclean MBE JP*

dress, phone number, fax, and E-Mail (five lines max). Our thought is to share generic handout with anyone we are able to speak with. Being somewhat outgoing we hand out a lot of them for free.

We of course change vendor names on the handout by games and location. Thus this is an advertisement for the vendor and a local resource for that area. Why do we do this? We charge each vendor a reasonable fee in the form of a merchandise donation to the clan. Our Board members also provide some interesting items. We then auction these items at our Annual General Meeting. It provides some real down to earth clan member competition and fun in the bidding and in turn increases our Tuesley Trust. It also breaks up the business part of the meeting.

A favor please. As I am sure each of our fellow associations have a good Fund Raising story, please share. If anyone would like a copy of my generic hand-out, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Clan MacLean PNW, 9275 SW Cutter PL. Beaverton, Or. 97008-7706 USA.

**Jim McClean**, President.

# HERITAGE TRUST

The Clan Maclean Heritage Trust is the Clan Maclean's own charity [Charity Number SC024481] whose purpose is to further interest in the history of the Clan Maclean particularly among the clan. Its charter allows the Trust to do this by preserving relics and buildings of the past for future generations, and by enabling people to know more about the clan, its history, culture and genealogy.

The Trust is sponsored by the **Friends of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust**, so if you have an interest in the clan and its history, this is the group that you should join! Apart from contributing to the funds which enable so many projects to be undertaken, the Friends also receive historical items that would not otherwise be available.

In 2002 the Friends each received a limited edition copy of the 1493 Maclaine of Lochbuie charter, which the Trust owns. In 2003, the Friends received a copy of the extremely rare, and valuable, 'Spy' cartoon of the Kaid, Sir Harry Maclean, along with a short biographical appreciation. It is interesting that the popular Scottish publication, *The Scots Magazine*, had a very good biography of the Kaid in its December 2004 issue, and I have replied in a letter about the Trust's ownership of so many of the Kaid's relics [thanks to Locker Madden], which was printed in the February 2005 issue.

In 2004, the Friends each received a special edition coloured copy of the armorial hatchment to **Brigadier General Francis McLean**, who died in 1781. An armorial hatchment was a large painted representation of the coat of arms of a distinguished person. With a black painted edge, the hatchment was usually placed above the front door of the deceased person's house for a year, before being moved to the local church [where they often disintegrated through neglect]. Although hatchments were quite usual in England, they are very rare in Scotland, and even more so overseas, and this one is thought to be the only Maclean hatchment in existence. Does anyone know of another?

Francis McLean was military governor of Nova Scotia and his hatchment hangs in St Paul's Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia, where I saw it in 1988. More recently, its condition was causing some concern and the Church had a report prepared on its possible conservation. The Church authorities did not see much prospect of the Canadian authorities valuing the hatchment enough to make a grant for its conservation. On learning of this, the Trustees of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust immediately offered to pay the whole costs, or to pay any balance owing, if funding from local Maclean

and other sources did not meet the whole. In the event, after the CMA Atlantic had contributed generously, the CMHT made up the balance of 60% of the total costs.

The CMHT's support showed that the project was of international interest. This has helped to encourage other funding sources for the repair of the other hatchments in this unique collection.

The CMHT was also able to help research the design of the Maclean Coat of Arms, and show that the General was using this version of the Coat of Arms on a bookplate for his library, while he was serving in the Portuguese forces, 1762-78. His bookplate has the words 'Sene Gnal Maclean' underneath, which stands for *Senore Generale Maclean*. The **Friends of CMHT** each received a copy of the bookplate, along with a full account of the General's career.

If this sort of project is of interest to you, then you should help to finance it by becoming a Friend, or sending a donation. An Application Form [with credit card facility] is on the website, or you can write direct to the Secretary of the Trust: Malcolm MacLean, 5 Wharton Avenue, Damsonwood, Solihull, England B92 9LY.

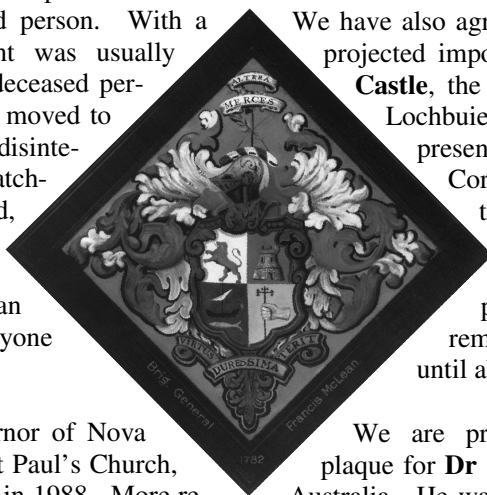
The various **projects for 2005** include, among many, further work on the new revised edition of *The Music of the Clan Maclean*, a collection of piping tunes, old and new. This should be ready, with a historical overview of the Maclean piping tradition and the Rankins, by 2007.

We have also agreed to assist to a significant sum the projected important work of consolidation of **Moy Castle**, the ancestral castle of the Maclaines of Lochbuie. The work is being arranged by the present owner of the Lochbuie estate, Mr Corbett, and involves making sure that the building does not collapse, but does not include any element of restoration. The building was probably begun in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, remaining home of the Lochbuie family until about 1760.

We are preparing a suitable commemorative plaque for **Dr John Angus McLean** in Melbourne, Australia. He was the first person to undertake a successful person to person blood transfusion.

We hope to commemorate **Hector Maclean, Ballygrant, Islay**, the great oral linguist who translated and collected stories from all over the Western Isles for Campbell of Islay and the Duke of Argyll.

*Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, Chairman*



# Atlantic (Canada)

Happy Birthday to Us!! Twenty five years ago, our Association was born at a Gathering of Macleans at Bosidale and Washabuckt, Nova Scotia. Over 500 Macleans from across Canada, from the United States and from Scotland were present. Notables included the famous Scottish gaelic poet, Sorley Maclean from Skye, and the Honourable Angus MacLean, Premier of P.E.I. Participants from Nova Scotia included James K MacLean from Pictou, and Donald F MacLean of Halifax, who have both been, and remain stalwart supporters of our Association.

Prior to the gathering, Detta Maclean, the long time secretary of Clan Maclean (Scotland) had found George F Maclean, and Mary MacLean Gillis ( both who became Presidents of our Association), in a Gaelic choir which was touring Scotland. George ended the Gathering with a proposal to form the Association. These two events led to the founding of the Atlantic Branch of the Clan Maclean Association in the fall of 1979. Today we are known as Clan MacLean Atlantic.

A number of projects have come to fruition this year. We finally have Past Presidents pins, (thanks to Marigold MacLean from Australia) and at our AGM, Jim Jr. made presentations to his dad, James K, who was a President twice!, and to George who accepted for his brother Ronald MacLean. Hopefully the three remaining Past Presidents, namely Louise MacLean, Cathy MacLean Fowler, and Rev Bob MacLean will be present at our next meeting to receive their pins.

Another step forward was obtaining a new tent. Our existing tent has served us well, but is heavy, and difficult to erect. This along with the fact that we are attending more Scottish Events, and sometimes have had difficulties in getting the tent to the right place, led us to the decision to obtain a second. At the same time we decided to try and increase the "drawing power" of our tent. Jim and Pat McClean from the Pacific North West (USA) were able to give us a lot of much appreciated material and suggestions. Clearly this world wide family concept works!



James K. ("Jim") MacLean, Hinda MacLean, Marjorie & Ian Maclean

We had two most interesting presentations at our meetings this year. Michael Linkletter, who is currently completing his PhD in Celtic Studies at Harvard University, while also teaching part time at St Francis Xavier University, (Celtic Studies) gave us a verbal rendition of his doctoral thesis, "Alexander Maclean Sinclair, - A Gaelic Man of Letters." Mac and Rosemary Maclsac of Maclsac Kiltmakers, did a great job telling us "All you ever wanted to know about tartan, but were afraid to ask"! It was great for the women in particular to find out about tartan options other than a kilt.



Mac MacIsaac, Helen Lyle, Rosemary MacIsaac

Mac and Rosemary answered all our questions. Helen Lyle, in her dress Duart tartan outfit - jacket, skirt, bonnet, and even shoes, - wowed all. She tells me that she also has the complete outfit in green Maclean hunting tartan, - both passed on by a proud Maclean relative from New York.

Our CD's continue to sell well, and our New Brunswick V.P., Doug McLean is working diligently away at our next one, the Alasdair Maclean Sinclair book *The Clan Gillean*. It will contain never before "published" notes from the author, thanks to his two grandsons, and the perseverance and deciphering skills of David Robertson. Also Maclean cousins worldwide have sent along "corrections", that they have identified. These, too, will be included.

The other "in progress" project is a Maclean Flag/Banner. We have a tentative design which will include two crests, - the Battleaxe and the Tower in gold, on a green background, with a border of Maclean hunting tartan. We have a graphic de-

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

signer who is currently putting these ideas in a form that is acceptable to the flag maker. To make the project feasible, we will probably have to order approximately fifty flags. There has been some interest from outside our Association already expressed, and if others are interested please contact me at [immaclean@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:immaclean@ns.sympatico.ca)

Finally a plea for help. As an Association we are attempting to gather genealogy information. We have a person who has agreed to be the custodian, but we are having difficulty in getting anything from our members. Many of us have some facts, or family history, but usually not in a very organized form. Can any of you give us some hints? Perhaps some simple tools that would assist us and our members, in putting the family tree down in an understandable and simple form? Computer programs are very intimidating for many of us, and we don't want to lose valuable information. I hope that some of you have some suggestions that might help

If so please either contact me, or Margaret MacLean at [mjmaclean@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:mjmaclean@ns.sympatico.ca)

Sl'ainte, Ian Maclean

## Massed Pipes for Cancer Care

In 1953 3,500 pipers and drummers marched through Edinburgh to raise money for the Marie Curie Cancer Care fund, setting a world record.

In 2000 the event was repeated and the record was again broken by 8,800 participants.

The 2005 event will consist of between 12,000 and 20,000 - it will be held on 21st August in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh. *Maclean pipers will be welcome.*

[www.pipefest.com](http://www.pipefest.com)

## New paperback from best-selling Maclean author

"Falling for Icarus" by Rory Maclean  
is published by Penguin in April 2005

"It is never difficult to distinguish between a Scotsman with a grievance and a ray of sunshine."  
*P.G. Wodehouse*

# CLAN MACLEAN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 2007

*The Clan Maclean Association is organising an International Gathering on Mull  
from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007*

The outline programme will include: **Visits to Clan Lands** on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June; a **Clan Congress** (am) and a **Ceilidh Concert** in the evening Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June; the **Main Gathering at Duart Castle** 11am until 4pm and the **Grand Dance** in the evening 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

A **Reception Centre** will be set up in the Aros Hall in Tobermory and will be open throughout the Gathering. Co-located there will be the **MacleanNet Centre** and **Genealogy Unit**, the **Heritage Trust** stand, the Clan Association **Shop**, and a **Coffee Room**.

### Booking of Accommodation:

It is anticipated that there will be a heavy demand for accommodation on Mull during the Gathering. It is up to those attending to make their own arrangements and this can be done by contacting:

**Craignure Tourist Information Centre** – Isle of Mull, Argyll PA65 6AX.  
**Tel: 01680 812377; Fax: 01680 812497; Email: [info@mull.visitscotland.com](mailto:info@mull.visitscotland.com)**  
(the web site is at: [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)).

### Registration for the Gathering.

It is planned to have an online Registration system available by this summer (2005). Those who cannot or do not wish to use the online system should complete the printed Registration Form and send it to the Gathering Secretary, *Mrs Vera MacLean, 2 Fullerton Drive, Seamill, Ayrshire KA23 9HT, UK.*

# New South Wales

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at Revesby Workers Club. There were eleven members and two guests present, with four apologies. The results of the election of office bearers were concluded with several changes to the executive committee. Les McLean was elected President and the outgoing President Mr Colin McLean Sproule was congratulated for his dedication and service to the Clan as the longest serving President in the 20 years since the inaugural meeting in 1985. Both Colin and his wife Norma have contributed enormous energy to support of the Clan over the years and the committee thanked them for their commitment and for their continued support.

The Executive Committee now Comprises: President, Les McLean; Vice Presidents, Ian McLean and Dianna McLean; Secretary, Colin Sproule; Treasurer – After 6 years as treasurer Norma McLean did not stand for re-election but has volunteered to serve until a replacement is found.

We were delighted and honoured to have as guests, Sandra L. Schweitzer, President, Clan Maclean of California, USA and her husband and Newsletter Editor Douglas Keister. The couple were on an Australian holiday

with three days in Sydney before moving on to Melbourne and then Cairns. We thank them both for taking a day out of their brief Sydney visit to be with us. Following the AGM and General Meeting Sandy gave us an impromptu, but very succinct talk regarding the Californian Branch of Clan Maclean. This was followed by a photo opportunity with Doug showing us some of his skills in this - his professional field.



Members & guests after their Annual General Meeting in November:

*Standing L-R: Ian McLean, Les McLean, Sandy McLean Schweitzer, Ken Taylor, Norma McLean, Eleanore Reichel, Gaye Taylor, Colin Sproule, Norma Sproule, Elaine Robertson.*  
*Front Row: Doug Keister, Dianna McLean, Lola Moate*

*Photo by Doug Keister*

The group and guests had an informal lunch in the River Restaurant of the Club.

One of our members, Elaine Robertson from Hamlyn Terrace on the Central Coast travelled for three hours on public transport to be with us. Elaine joined the Clan at the Toukley Gathering of the Clans in 2003, she also came to visit our information stall at Toukley in 2004. Thank you Elaine for a great effort.

Following lunch our guests and some of the members accepted Les & Dianna McLean's invitation to join them at their home at Illawong for afternoon tea. It was a pleasant and interesting afternoon.

Our Flag & Banner bearers, Grahame and Barbara McLean are staying in that role; the newsletter will continue to be produced by Janet Sproule, Norma & Colin Sproule.

## FRANCE

Clan Maclean Association France has been a little more active over recent months. The young branch held its first annual general meeting in December when its initial council was confirmed by election with the exception of the honorary secretary who is now Elodie Masson, daughter of our member Rhona née Maclean.



On 4th February we held a Gathering which was attended by 36 Clansfolk and friends, which included members of the Mackenzie Clan in France. (The only clan associations here are Macleod, Mackenzie and ourselves). We were honoured by the presence of Captain Marcus MacLean, by Robin and Fiona Maclean of Ardgour and the President of Clan Mackenzie France.

The evening was a great success as evidenced by the numerous letters received afterwards. We had a very fine piper, a Breton who came in Royal Stuart tartan, standing in for Joe McLean our official piper and a Mackenzie danced to his piping. The Gathering was

*(Continued on page 12)*

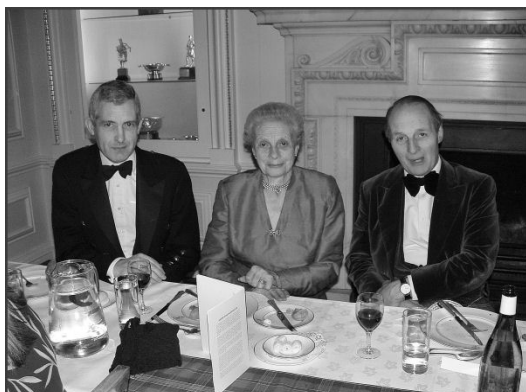
# London Letter

2004 saw Presidential elections on both sides of the Atlantic. In London a vacancy had been created when Peter Maclean, who had been our President, retired with his new wife to Eleuthera in the Bahamas (just in time to meet Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne in rapid succession. Nothing was heard from him for some months but news of a Burns supper in Nassau has recently surfaced. The formation of a Clan Maclean Association of the Bahamas cannot be far off.)

Mary Wilson, who had been our Secretary for many years and who was due to succeed Peter as President, had previously announced her intention of going to live in Australia. Although her departure was subsequently postponed, she felt that she could not continue as an office-bearer and so a vacancy for the position of Secretary also arose. Mary has given most generously of her time and unflagging enthusiasm to London over many years and we are enormously grateful to her.

At our Association's annual meeting, held at the Caledonian Club in London on 22 October 2004, Nigel Alington, whose mother was a Maclean of Ardgour, was elected President. Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross was elected Vice-President and Nick Hart, who was already the Treasurer, kindly agreed to take on the additional responsibilities of being the Secretary.

The meeting was followed by a dinner at the Club, attended by Elizabeth, Lady Maclean as the guest of honour.



*President Nigel, Elizabeth Lady Maclean and the Chief.*

On 4 February 2005 the Association held its annual Burns Supper, again at the Caledonian Club. This was attended by the Chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean of Morvern and Duart, and Lady Maclean, as well as his mother Elizabeth, Lady Maclean. The Chairman of the Caledonian Club, Mr George Gillon, was also a guest.

The Selkirk Grace was said by the Vice-President of the London Association, Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross. The address to the haggis was delivered with great gusto by David Dunham, who also entertained the guests later with tunes played on an accordion. The toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns was proposed by the President of the London Association, Nigel Alington. His speech focussed on the relevance today of Burns' advocacy of the brotherhood of man, a theme which was also the subject of the inaugural Robert Burns Memorial Lecture given in Washington DC last year by, rather remarkably, the UN Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan. A toast to the ladies was proposed by Hamish McLean and Lorna Denham responded.

The Chief gave us the recent news of his family, most notably the engagement of his youngest daughter Alexandra to Colin Allan. A card sending the good wishes of the London Association to the couple was signed by all guests and presented to the Chief.

The Chief on behalf of the Association also made a presentation to Mary Wilson, in recognition of her tremendous work for the Association over nearly 20 years, first as Secretary and latterly as Vice-President.

A most enjoyable evening ended with a medley of tunes from our piper, Roderick McFadyen, including the tune which he had composed especially for Elizabeth, Lady Maclean, to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the London Association, of which she has been a stalwart supporter.

On a separate note, we urge all Macleans to keep an eye on the London page in the Maclean website, where we give advance notice of the events that we arrange. If any clansfolk are due to pass through London at the time, they would be very welcome to attend one of our dinners. Even if your visit to London does not coincide with a dinner, do get in touch – our contact details are on the website.



*Lady Maclean and George Gillon*

*(Both photos by David Dunham)*

# New Zealand

Greetings to our Clan Maclean Cousins worldwide, from New Zealand in the South Pacific. It is only when we really study our history and genealogy that we realise just what an impact the Scots made in the settlement and development of this small country. We are pleased to say that Macleans and their descendants are still making a significant contribution to our country and our society.



*Our oldest & youngest members at the family picnic*

The Clan Maclean Association of New Zealand is small, but growing steadily as we make contact with those whose heritage is linked to the Clan, but above all we wish to create an organisation where the New Zealand contribution of our clansmen is

identified, as well as link our members to Clan membership world wide.

In the past year we have a new President, Alasdair MacLean, who takes over the fine work done over many years by Katrine McLean, who remains an integral part of our Executive Committee.

We have increased our mobility to attend Highland Games and other Gatherings, with the acquisition of a secure and very functional trailer, enabling us to readily transport our displays and other equipment.

We have a new look newsletter for our members "The Gillean Call" and we are planning our own website

shortly. We continue to be involved in Games and Gatherings and these are a useful means of making contact with new members and greeting existing members. Our most recent event in the Auckland area was a family beachside barbeque and picnic and members who attended were unanimous that this should be an annual event. Attending that event was our oldest member, Connie Dickinson at 104 years of age. Connie is descended from original Waipu settlers, who travelled from Nova Scotia during the 1850's in a classic migration of six home built ships led by Rev Norman McLeod.

We have also featured in our research our own Duart House, in the small town of Havelock North, which was built for Allan McLean in 1882. He was an early landowner and farmer in the area and today Duart House is a community facility managed by a local trust.

Activity during our summer months involved visiting many Highland Games and our Committee Members willingly commit themselves to the task of manning our displays and meeting and greeting the public. If you would like to contact the Clan Maclean of New Zealand for any reason, our Secretary Mrs Frances Bell, 23 Winscombe Road, Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand or you can contact our Newsletter Editor Noel Robinson ([noel@sportsmanagement.co.nz](mailto:noel@sportsmanagement.co.nz))



*New President Alasdair MacLean*

The Clan Maclean Association of New Zealand sends its sincere condolences to the family and cousins world wide regarding the recent passing of Lady Veronica Maclean.

*Noel.*

*(Continued from page 10)*

followed by the Scotland v France rugby match when Alan was able to march 16 kilted Clansfolk to the stadium, which must have helped Scotland, since we almost won the match!



As one may imagine, France has few Macleans, but it is encouraging to see that our branch now has a good core of enthusiastic Clansfolk, which bodes well for the future. This is important for the Clan in general as Alan McLean illustrated in his toast to Macleans at the Gathering:

"We are the custodians of a great heritage, that of a family, a tribe, that has lived as a clan through centuries to this day. This has been possible due to the bond there is between us all, the pride in our roots, in our history, in the achievements of those before us, in our NAME."

*Alan R.M. McLean.* President.

# CLAN MACLEAN ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA INC.

Greetings to all from Clan Maclean Association in Australia. The Year 2004 saw a new President, Doug Maclean, elected by our members with Jean Whimp's term coming to an end in November at our AGM. Members and council joined to thank Jean for her efforts as President and as a member of the association over many years and looked forward to her continued involvement.



*Guest speaker Allan McLean with Senior Vice President Graham Gartside at the AGM Dinner*

The November AGM was held at Harcourt in Central Victoria, a renowned apple growing area. The weekend activity involved members attending an evening function on the Saturday followed by the AGM and lunch on the Sunday. We were fortunate to have a local orchardist, Allan McLean, and his family attend the evening session with Allan being the guest speaker. Allan has developed a new apple variety, Crimson Snow, which he is currently marketing both locally and internationally. The talk was both informative and enjoyed by all with Allan also showing photographs of the family business from a bygone era. (Members got to sample the Crimson Snow!)

The expansion of the AGM to include a dinner on the evening prior to the AGM is gaining popularity. The evening meal was well attended with fellowship between friends and clansmen being the focus. The opportunity for members and friends to view the photographic records of the association and computer based genealogy records continues to provide a major focus prior to and after the AGM on the Sunday.

A change in 2004 has been the linking of the NSW and CMAA Archives under the guardianship of our archivists Edwin and Marigold Maclean. The transfer of the information that has been gathered over the years by Colin Sproule, Ian McLean and their team has complemented the current CMAA archives and can now be accessed by members of both associations.



*Edwin Maclean, Archivist, assisting a visitor*



*Clan members enjoying a moment between wineries*

Our Annual Chief's Banquet was held in Tanunda, in the renowned wine growing area of the Barossa Valley in South Australia. Sixty five members and friends attended the evening with many travelling from as far afield as Eastern Victoria, Melbourne and Canberra and involving round trips of over 1,800 kilometres (approximately 1,130 miles). For those who were able to arrive on Friday a very noisy and enjoyable tour of local wineries was organised. The tour provided a great opportunity for members to get to know each other while enjoying a sample of the various wines produced in the Barossa Valley.

Included in the formality of the Chief's Banquet was the "Address to the Haggis" conducted by Sam Cunningham from Adelaide. Sam, who is a well known Australian tenor, also provided a rendition of Scottish songs that delighted all. The morning after the banquet a large number of members attended the "Kirkin O' the Tartan" at the Tanunda Uniting Church, where the Rev Ian Giles had gone to great lengths to arrange a service which was relevant to the theme.

The year 2004 also saw the awarding of the Young Achievers Award to Catherine Frances Hill from Tasmania. Catherine received the award based on her excellence in academic and sporting endeavours. This year has also seen the CMAA Newsletter emailed in colour to members. The utilising of new technologies, where appropriate, has provided the value of colour photographs with cost savings associated with reduced printing and mailing costs.

The Chief's Birthday Banquet in 2005 will be held at the Malvern Valley Golf Club and will bring back memories to many of the time enjoyed with Sir Lachlan Maclean during his Melbourne stay, while visiting Australia in November 1997.



*Addressing of the Haggis by Sam Cunningham supported by Rewa Feenaghty*

# California / Nevada

2004 has been an exciting year for Clan MacLean California/Nevada. We have a new president, Sandra McLean Schweitzer, who replaced Duncan MacLean who stepped down after years of faithful and tireless service. Duncan will remain active as a board member at large. We also have reorganized our board and amended our bylaws to allow more participation by members.

We completely redesigned the newsletter, the Gillean Gazette, to an all color format that should better serve our members. We will also be experimenting with more on-line communications via email and a website. Our goal for 2005 is to attract more members and better serve our current members.

In 2004 we participated in a number of Scottish Games and held some of our own activities, including a trip to California's famed Napa Valley wine region where we sampled wines from the brand new MacLean Winery located in the town of Napa. The winery, under the supervision of master wine maker Craig Maclean, produces Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc wines.



*Outgoing President Duncan MacLean presents Roberta McClean Weeks a plaque honoring her for years of faithful service*

Last year, during the San Francisco Caledonian Club Games, Roberta McClean Weeks was presented with a special plaque acknowledging her years of hard work on behalf of Clan MacLean and Duncan MacLean was presented with a plaque and an art glass Polar Bear from Orient & Flume glass in appreciation of his work as President. In 2005 we have already committed to attending at least eight Scottish Games and are in the process of designing a new and improved MacLean banner.

In November 2005 our new President, Sandra McLean Schweitzer and her husband, Doug Keister (the editor for the new newsletter) went to Australia and met with representatives of Clan MacLean in Sydney and Melbourne.



*Members of Clan Maclean California/ Nevada proudly carry the banner at the Pleasanton Games*



*New President Sandra McLean Schweitzer and her daughter Laura at the Maclean tent at the Pleasanton Games*

Members of Clan MacLean California/Nevada are already making plans to attend the next gathering set on the Isle of Mull in June 2007.

Here are five of the games where we'll be putting up the MacLean Tent:

Feb 19-20th Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA  
<http://www.queenmary.com/html/scottish.php4>

April 16-17 Las Vegas, NV Games  
<http://www.lasvegascelticsociety.org/>

May 14-15 Livermore Games  
<http://www.livermoregames.com/>

June 25-26 San Diego Games  
<http://www.sdhhighlandgames.org/>

Sept 2-4 Pleasanton Games <http://www.caledonian.org/>

"The Scottish Executive announced plans to allow men to marry their former mothers-in-law, by revising centuries-old legislation ... women will also be permitted to marry ex-fathers-in-law. It's not clear how many Scots want to pursue such unions. The ban remains in force in England and Wales."  
*TIME 21/02/05*

# Clan Maclean International Association

## Chief

Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart and Morvern, Bt, CVO, DL.  
Arngask House, Glenfarg, Perthshire PH2 9QA.

## Chieftains

Robin MacLean of Ardgour, Salachan House, Ardgour, Fort William PH33 7AB.  
The Very Rev Allan MacLean of Dochgarroch, 5 North Charlotte St, Edinburgh EH2 4HR.  
Sir Charles MacLean of Dunconnel Bt., Strachur House, Strachur, Argyll PA27 8BX.  
Nicolas MacLean of Pennycross CMG, 30 Malwood Road, London SW12 8EN.  
Richard Compton MacLean of Torloisk, Torloisk House, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA74 6NH.

## President

Lieutenant Colonel Donald MacLean MBE, JP.  
2 Fullerton Drive, Seamill KA23 9HT, UK

## Council as at April 2005

### *President Clan Maclean Association*

Captain Marcus MacLean, 10 Princes Gardens, Glasgow G12 9HR.

### *President, Clan Maclean Association of London*

Nigel Alington, 6 Cresswell Gardens, London SW5 0BJ, UK

### *President Clan Gillean USA*

Owen Kirk Lane, 742 Lakewood Drive, Jefferson, TN 37760, USA

### *President, Clan Maclean Association of California & Nevada*

Sandra McLean Schweitzer, PO Box 514, Chico, California 95927, USA

### *President, Clan Maclean Association, Pacific NW, USA*

Jim McClean, 9275 SW Cutter Pl, Beaverton, OR 97008-7706 USA

### *President, Clan Maclean Association, Atlantic (Canada)*

Ian MacLean, 72 Purdy Lane, RR # 2, Amherst, NS, B4H 3X9, Canada

### *President, Clan Maclean Association of Ontario*

Frank MacLean, 231 Kemano Road, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 4Z1, Canada

### *President, Clan Maclean Association in Australia*

Doug Maclean, 615 Grasmere Rd, Grasmere, VIC 3281, Australia

### *President, Clan Maclean Association (Western Australia)*

Margo Henshaw, 1/15 Jugan Street, Glendalough, WA 6016, Australia

### *President, Clan Maclean Association in New South Wales*

Les McLean, 53 Sylvan Ridge Road, Illawong, NSW 2234, Australia

### *President, Clan Maclean Association of New Zealand*

Alasdair Maclean, 4 Quibray Place, Howick, Auckland 1705, New Zealand

### *President, Clan Maclean Association of France*

Alan R M McLean, BP 319, 13177 Marseille cedex 20, France

### *President, MacleanNet*

Alasdair White, Weemstraat 10, Hoeilaart B-1560, Belgium

## Veronica, Lady Maclean of Dunconnel

1920-2005

Veronica Maclean was born into a famous Highland Clan, the Frasers of Lovat, of which her father was the Chief, and for which she retained the greatest of affection. Of her many interests in life, things Highland and clannish were always important.

Widowed at a young age, Veronica married the dashing hero and Member of Parliament, Fitzroy Maclean in 1946. Ten years later, they fulfilled their dream of returning to live in the Highlands, when they bought the Strachur estate in Argyll, with its magnificent house, village and hotel, the Creggans Inn. At the same time Fitzroy was elected as Member for Bute and North Ayrshire.

In marrying Fitzroy, Veronica married into the Maclean family, which for her included finding accommodation at Strachur for 'Aunt Ros' and 'Cousin Marg'. She also married into the Maclean Clan, and in 1953 Fitzroy was elected President of the London Branch, and later of the whole Association. For over fifty years, Veronica was tireless in attending gatherings and ceilidhs. Who will ever forget her enthusiasm in helping to arrange the Gathering in 1986 for the then Chief's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary [including pruning road-side rhododendrons for the flower displays in the Craignure Hall], or her joy at attending the Grandfather Mountain Games? Even more important was the ready welcome and hospitality that she gave to all Macleans who made their way to Strachur.

Veronica, however, should not be remembered as second fiddle to Fitzroy, for she was a great person in her own right. Well-read and thoughtful, she was an internationally respected cook, who wrote the famous *Lady Maclean's Cookbook*, and an author on various diverse subjects. Her autobiography, *Past Forgetting*, tells her story, but with much left out, as the first version had to be cut by two thirds; there must be another two volumes waiting to be published. We can thus look forward to knowing even more about this great clanswoman.

AMM

## Editorial

As always we thank the Editors of all the Maclean Associations around the world for their contributions to this 8th edition of our joint Newsletter.

Last year we appealed for more photographs of Clan events—we think that this issue bears the evidence of your excellent response? Many thanks.

May we remind you that once a BattleAxe edition is two years old it becomes available to everyone online at [www.maclean.org/iba-archive.htm](http://www.maclean.org/iba-archive.htm)—an annual record of this worldwide family which will hopefully be a resource of increasing future value.

Incidentally, for next year's edition, God Willing, Mary will take over from Donald the primary editing, after which, for our 10th and subsequent editions, he will retire and Mary will hold the reins, solo.

Yours aye,

*Mary* (Los Angeles)

*Donald* (London)

**EDITORS:** Mary McLean Hoff, Los Angeles ([mairinic@comcast.com](mailto:mairinic@comcast.com))  
Donald Hugh MacLean, London ([donald@maclean.org](mailto:donald@maclean.org))

The MacLean  
web site is:  
[www.maclean.org](http://www.maclean.org)

## Visiting Mull

Duart Castle is open to visitors from May to mid-October - its website is at [www.duartcastle.com](http://www.duartcastle.com) and there is news of events at Duart at [www.duartnews.com](http://www.duartnews.com).

General information about the Hebridean island of Mull, and details for anyone planning a visit to the island are available at [www.maclean.org/mull.htm](http://www.maclean.org/mull.htm).

"... the question remains why this small peripheral country, unblest by great natural resources, should have produced such a wealth of clever, constructive, and, above all, effective thinkers, inventors and governors."

(From a feature on  
*Scotland in the Financial Times, Feb 05*)



Clan Maclean ...  
together ...  
worldwide