



May 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- 4th to 7th May 2023 **Australian Celtic Festival Glen Innes, NSW**
 - Friday 5th May 2023 6pm **Clan Sutherland Group Dinner** Railway Hotel Glen Innes
 - Saturday 6th May 2023 **Clan Commissioners' Dinner** with CSSA **40th Anniversary** at The Highland Restaurant Glen Innes 6:30pm, Hosted by SAHC
 - Sunday 7th May 2023 Unveiling of **the Celtic Family Wall Installation** Glen Innes
- 22nd May 2023 7pm Committee Meeting via Zoom (contact Michelle if you wish to attend)
- 27th to 28th May 2023 the Gathering Ipswich QLD (note: no representative will be present)
- 27th May 2023 Berry Celtic Festival Berry, NSW Australia

Thank you Marie Hodgkinson

For many years our newsletter has been compiled by Marie Hodgkinson who has also had the role of Secretary, Treasurer, Genealogist and Historian over the many years she has been a member of Clan Sutherland Society in Australia. Marie took the Clan from a struggling small group of less than 10 people up to the 80+ members we have today.

Marie recently submitted her resignation from Newsletter editor and passes the Historian role to Nathan Rantall. She is by no means leaving us any time soon. Marie still fully intends to continue her role as Genealogist and attend as many events she can.

With this, the committee has come together to honour Marie & Bill with the recognition they deserve. Without Mary and her many years of selfless and dedicated work, the Clan would not have survived. As such, it was mutually agreed to bestow upon Marie and Bill Hodgkinson the honour of Life Membership. This was accepted humbly by Marie and the committee made it official at the AGM on the 17th April 2023.



Thank you, Marie, for all you have done and continue to do. It has always been greatly appreciated. Marie will be presented with her life membership officially in a small gathering in Glen Innes in May.

Michelle Williams, Secretary

Your committee for 2023

As of the AGM on the 17th of April 2023, the following members were voted in as elected members on our committee.

- ❖ President - Philip F Sutherland
- ❖ Vice President - Duncan Sutherland
- ❖ Secretary - Michelle Williams
- ❖ Treasurer - James Sutherland
- ❖ Public Officer - Helen Sutherland
- ❖ Membership Secretary - Mona Black
- ❖ Genealogist – Marie Hodgkinson
- ❖ Historian - Nathan Rantall

Our representatives are as follows:

- ❖ New South Wales: Duncan Sutherland.
- ❖ Australian Capital Territory: Sharon Kontista
- ❖ Victoria: Nathan Rantall
- ❖ Queensland: Michelle Williams
- ❖ CSS Scotland: Mona Black

If you wish to represent us in any events, the more the merrier! Please come forward! You don't have to commit to being at every event or every year. Just be willing to try is all we ask.

Profile of Your Committee

Each month I will add a profile of a committee member for you to get to know them better. First for you is Commissioner **Graeme Sutherland**

Graeme was born in Aberdeen, where his father, Sinclair Stewart Sutherland, attended university and commenced his medical career. His mother (nee Strachan latterly Livingstone) was born at Distillery House, Glenlivet, where her grandfather was previously the distillery manager. For the most part, Graeme was brought up in and around Glasgow, leaving to work in England at the age of 22 to further his career in hotels and hospitality. Graeme arrived in Australia in 2000, contracted to operate catering and hospitality at several Olympic venues, fell in love with Australia, and has been there since.



Married to Sue, Graeme has a daughter and a growing number of grandkids, completed his MBA (Executive) in 2016 and is an avid golfer and appreciator of fine wine and whisky.

Graeme is a past Vice-President and President of the Clan Sutherland Society of Australia, and now has the honour of being the first Australian Commissioner of CSSA. He has carried out the role of Chieftain at the 'Clans on the Coast Celtic Festival' on two occasions. Has been known to sing a tune or two at any festival (namely Bundanoon) he attends, and he describes meeting Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland in London 2019 as an honour and a privilege.

New member welcome

Sue Frolchenko heard about Clan Sutherland through her cousin. Wanting to learn more about Clan Sutherland and her heritage, she was eager to join us. Also finding herself while not aware of the Gathering in Scotland, she will be in Inverness, Scotland while it is held and will be joining us! I look forward to meeting you, Sue. You are very welcome!

Vale Shona Kontista

It's with sadness I must forward you news of the passing Sharon and John's beloved Shona. She was 14 years old and was a constant companion for Sharon and John at many events with spectators loving to see her with her little kilt (as seen in picture to the left) as she proudly marched in parades with her Mummy & Daddy. I am sure she will be missed and many upcoming events that she would normally attend.



Membership Fees

Just a friendly reminder, if you haven't already, membership fees were due 1st April. However, we are happy to receive them any time. Please contact me (Michelle) if you have any difficulties.

I have had a few enquiries regarding paying by cheque. Yes, we continue to accept cheques as we have done in the past. Please mail them to Po Box 1166, Park Ridge, QLD, 4125 and I will have them deposited as soon as possible.

Clan Sutherland Australia Lapel Pins still available!

These superb lapel pins are still in stock. The Custom Lapel Pin have a safety pin and measure 22mm x 30mm x 1.5mm, with a laser engraved wildcat in the centre.

If you would like to purchase a pin for you or a loved one for \$10 (including postage), These can be added to your membership fee payments.



Please contact Michelle Williams (Secretary) for how to order.

genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com

Request for newsletter items

Do you have something interesting your fellow Clan Members might like to read about? Or perhaps there's a topic you would like us to research and include. Send your ideas and additions for the newsletter to Michelle Williams at genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com

Request for historical photos or documents of Clan Sutherland

Like the family trees, our Clan history is of vital importance. If you have any photos of any events you have attended whether recent or of some time ago, or old documents (receipts or other paperwork) please forward us a copy. We accept them via email or USB stick in the mail, or if you have the hard copy photos and don't have the facilities to scan them, we can do that for you too. Our Member Barbara Axelsen has scanned many of our historical documents for us previously and is happy to provide this service again. Please send them to me via email at genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com or Please mail them to Po Box 1166, Park Ridge, QLD, 4125 and I will have them scanned as soon as possible. (We are more than happy to return hard copies to the owners!)

Request for family trees by our Genealogist

As many of you are aware, we are not a genealogical society. However, we do collect family history from our members for a few reasons. The first is to determine the Sutherland heritage or Sept to Clan Sutherland as we invite you to join us. For most this is not difficult given the surname Sutherland is easily identified. In my case, the Sutherland name is a few generations back and lies with my ancestors who came to Australia in 1854. So it was in the research I had done prior to joining the Clan, I was able to identify my Sutherland heritage and request to join. The other reason is to hold on to this information on your behalf for future generations. We have a lot of family trees of members who have passed, and others that are still with us that may be useful in your search. Lastly, we can connect you with others that may share your ancestry. This can be the most exciting part of genealogy research.

If you have not provided our genealogist with your family tree, please reconsider and email them either to me at genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com or directly to Marie Hodgkinson at mandbhodgkinson@gmail.com. If you feel you do not have much to go by, don't be put off. Marie is very resourceful and knowledgeable and can find almost anything! This is a free service we offer to as part of your membership and we hope you take advantage of it.

Calling Volunteers!!

Anyone in the NSW area of Berry, **we need you!**

David Sutherland will be attending the Berry Celtic Festival in Berry on the 27th of May 2023 with our Clan tent. However, he is unable to join in on representing our Clan in the street parade. He will also need help erecting and taking down the clan tent. It is my hope that someone can come down to Berry and do the street parade for him. The parade starts at 9.30am on the corner of Queen and Prince Alfred Streets and will be shown by attendants where to line up between the pipe bands, in front of Apex Park.

If this is something you can do, or you can help with the set up and set down, please get in touch!

Clan Sutherland Society in Australia's 40th Anniversary in Australian Celtic Festival Glen Innes

Just an update on plans for our anniversary. You can see in the upcoming events the dates for the **Clan Sutherland Group Dinner** Railway Hotel will be Friday 5th May at 6pm. This is where we will bestow the life membership on Marie and Bill Hodgkinson. Please RSVP asap so we can ensure there is room for all.

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council have just released there booking form for the **Clan Commissioners' Dinner** on the Saturday 6th May 2023 at 6:30 for 7:00pm start at The Highland Restaurant, Hosted by SAHC Glen Innes, NSW. As part of this dinner the SAHC will be Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Clan Sutherland Society in Australia. One of the Guest Speakers will be Graeme Sutherland, our commissioner which will follow the Clan Roll-Call and Toast to all Clans & Families. The cost is \$70 per person and attendance must be confirmed by filling out the booking form and returning it along with payment before the 27th April. I know you get this newsletter too late to make a decision but if you wish to attend, I would highly recommend contacting Nea MacCulloch CyC, Deputy President and Honorary Treasurer of Scottish Australian Heritage Council to enquiry regarding vacancies. You can email her at treasurer@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au or neam@outlook.com.au.

Lastly, while participating in as much of the festival as possible, Sunday 7th May 2023 we will be unveiling our **40th Anniversary** installation to the **Celtic Family Wall** Glen Innes, NSW

Across The Ditch

Clan Sutherland in New Zealand is planning a Get-Together 6&7 May 2023 at Zealandia in Wellington. The information is below. Australian members with New Zealand contacts, who might be interested, please let them know. clansuthnz@gmail.com is the email address to write to for more information, or to confirm attendance.

Sans peur

Mona Sutherland Black (membership secretary)

Clan Sutherland Society in New Zealand contact information

C/- Malcolm K Sutherland. +64 (0) 21 638 459. New Plymouth. clansuthnz@gmail.com

Registration form can be found here [202301 CSSS-NZ Gathering Pre-registration Form, mks.pdf](#) which is to be forwarded to Malcolm.

WELCOME TO -



'Fostering tradition, kinship, clanship and friendship.'

COME TO OUR GATHERING THIS YEAR -



Kids Programme



Ecosanctuary Experience



Ceilidh Concert

WHEN

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2023

WHERE

Zealandia, the world's first fully fenced urban ecosanctuary, and family function centre, 53 Waiapu Road, Karori, Wellington 6012.

ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

There's more. Much, much more. Join us, gather together at Zealandia in Wellington on the 6th of May 2023 for a family festival celebrating the past, present and future of our diverse peoples enjoying life in the wonders of beautiful New Zealand / Aotearoa.



Great Food and Refreshments!



Social Events!



Renewed Friendships!



New Friendships!



Music and Dance!

We plan an interactive meet and greet with a range of enjoyable activities for the young, and the young at heart. The programme will include a welcome, introductions, remembrance, meals, meetings, kids supervised playtime activities, family Zealandia experiences and attractions, easy socialising, Ceilidh concert and more. Join us!

Authorised by Malcolm K Sutherland, Chair, New Zealand Branch, 202301

AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES, ALL FAMILY AND ALL FRIENDS OF OUR CLAN IN NEW ZEALAND

REGISTER

It's so easy! Be in early, do it now. Simply email clansuthnz@gmail.com with details of your name, email address, postal address, phone number, number of; children 12 years and under, and adults 13 years and over, attending.

WELCOME ALL

If you are not a 'Sutherland' and/or a current member of the clan society, though have an interest in the clan, you are very welcome to join us.

You don't need to whakapapa to Sutherland, we welcome all family, friends and connected / extended family who have an interest in, and a sense of goodwill towards, the Clan Society.

ABOUT CLAN SUTHERLAND IN NEW ZEALAND



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International gathering in Scotland 8th to 11th June 2023

One of our guest speakers at the AGM on the 17th April was Mark Sutherland-Fisher. He happily provided us an updated on the organisation of the events that will be held throughout the weekend.

He noted around 70 people will be in attendance for the some or all of the activities planned. The organising is just about ready to go, and they are just organising menus and other finer points like name badges.

- ❖ Thursday afternoon we begin with the registration and drinks reception in Dunrobin Castle. Hoping to have family representatives Seaforth Highlanders Museum at Fort George who gave us so much assistance in tracing the family story and living relatives of Daniel Sutherland, one of the clansmen killed in WWI and remembered at the Clans Days and Ypres Commemoration Ceremony which you read about in an earlier edition of SPT.
- ❖ Friday follows the theme of Ordinary/Extraordinary Sutherland's (These are the crofters and fishermen, tenants, tradesmen and Tacksmen who bore the name Sutherland.) on a coach trip to Kilphead & Kildonan where the highland clearances were carried out and where the lost branches of the Sutherland family were from. Then up to Caithness where the remains of a little village called Bagbea is located perched over a cliff. Mark noted, many Sutherlands immigrated to New Zealand, America, Australia and other locations from these areas. We will then stop at Mackay's hotel in Wick for lunch. After lunch we will proceed to Latheron Old parish kirk (featuring the Clan Gunn Museum). This is where many attendees' ancestors were laid to rest. Thereafter we will be returning to Golspie and other pick-up/drop-off points in good time to enable people to get ready for the dinner in the evening. The main dinner of the gathering will be held at the Royal Marine Hotel in Brora and attendees are encouraged to wear tartan to this event.
- ❖ Saturday morning, we will be holding the Clan Sutherland Society Scotland's AGM by coffee break and then Genealogy talk and Gaelic session until lunchtime in Golspie at the Golspie Inn. There is also a hope that Lady Elizabeth Costin and her husband (The Rt. Hon. Alistair Charles St Clair Sutherland's daughter) will be able to attend and give an update on the Dunrobin Distillery. Saturday afternoon there will be free time for visiting the castle or other places in the area. The evening will see the Ceilidh and Supper at the Golspie Golf club.
- ❖ Sunday morning, we will attend worship at Dornoch cathedral (You do not need to be of the Presbyterian faith or indeed any faith as all are welcome to attend) build by the family in the 12th century, followed by lunch at the Dornoch Castle Hotel before farewelling attendees.

As you can see by the itinerary set by the organisers of Clan Sutherland Society Scotland's, it will be an event not to be missed. I am pleased Nathan Rantall, Sharon Kontista and Sue Frolchenko will be attending along myself. It is not too late if anyone would like to come along and join the festivities. Please reach out to either myself or Mark Sutherland-Fisher at info@cadboll.com for more details.

Recent events we attended and reports from our representatives.

Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic Festival by Nathan Rantall

The festival was on the Saturday 26th March at Eastfield Park, Croydon VIC. Previously known as Ringwood Highland Games, The Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic Festival has previously been held in the Maroondah area since 1967!

Nathan reported a great day with many a bagpipe in the air. There was plenty of Dancing (Highland Dancing, Highland Hustle, Irish Dancing, Morris Dancing, Scottish Country Dancing and Welsh Dancing), Pipe Bands (Victorian Pipe Band Championships to be exact), Heavy Events (Caber Toss, Hammer Throw, Weight Throw, Stone Put and other strength events), Folk Music Tent where many a musical performance was held, Displays of Scottish Martial Arts, Wee Scots Games, Heilan Coo, Ambulance Victoria Museum, as well as MANY Clan Tents (including ours) and Stalls for food, drink (whisky!) and retail (souvenirs & all things Scottish).

Nathan enjoys sharing his Scottish heritage with everyone he meets, when he and Fidza first met, one of the first things they attended was a Scottish Ceilidh! Thank you, Nathan, for representing us in Victoria and to your lovely girlfriend Fidza to joining you!



Brigadoon's Bundanoon Highland Gathering

Bundanoon was held on the 1st of April for the first time in three years. It's good to see everyone back out in their Scottish best.

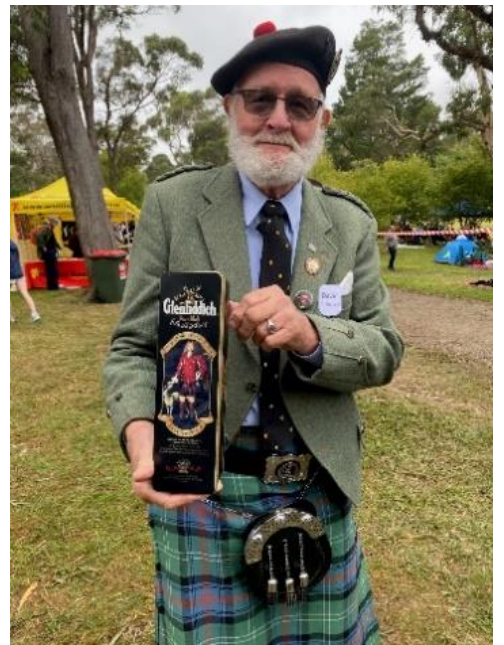
Pictured right, we have John Kontista, Jon Bracht, Philip F Sutherland (President), David Sutherland, Margaret Sutherland & Sharon Kontista. Thank you all for representing our Clan and we hope you all had an enjoyable and memorable day.

David Sutherland reported a great turn out. The day started with a Street Parade consisting of 25 Pipe Bands, Marching Clans and Scottish Societies and Floats and a Massed Pipes and drums performance, (Sharon & John participated with their westies on our behalf. Thank you both!) before the opening ceremony which included National Anthem of Australia Performed by: Robert Langley OAM, and National Song of Scotland. Performed by: Graeme Sutherland (Our Commissioner!). Did anyone get this on video by chance??



Following this, there was Scottish Country Dancing and Scottish Highland Dancing, Individual Pipe Band performances throughout the day at 3 locations around the oval and Bonnie Bairns Competition for Children under 5 years. There was a Fiddlers Tent attended by the Sydney Scottish Fiddlers group, Mary Kiani, Sally Andrews-Accordionist, Bob McInnes, Jane Ellis and Guests. Other events of the day included a Mini Pipe Band & Dancers, Children's Games, Caber Toss and Stone Put with Audience participation, the Kilted Dash, The Tartan Warriors-Lifting the Bundanoon Stones, and The Australian Highland Heavy Weight Championship before a Massed Pipes and Drums finale with the Lone Piper.

David has consistently represented Clan Sutherland at Bundanoon for many years. If you would like to get involved on a more regular basis, please let us know. David is looking for help for future events. Pictured to the left, David is holding a Glenfiddich tin gifted to him by former president Bill Sutherland. This tin is decades old. David proudly shows it off (also in the photo of Graeme Sutherland and David pictured above). Thank you, David, for all you do. David's next festival is Berry!



The Declaration of Arbroath is 703 years old!

Scotland's People have just announced the following.

The Declaration of Arbroath is an iconic document which dates from 1320. It is cared for and preserved by National Records of Scotland. It can only be displayed infrequently to ensure its long-term survival for future generations.

For the first time in 18 years, this famous document will be displayed at the National Museum of Scotland, in Edinburgh, from 3 June to 2 July 2023. Admission is free and the exhibition will be in Gallery 2, Level 3, 10:00 -17:00 daily.

The Declaration of Arbroath, dated 6th April 1320, is widely seen as Scotland's most iconic document. One of the treasures of National Records of Scotland, it is regarded as the key Scottish document from the Wars of Independence when the Scots attempted to re-affirm the independence of the kingdom of Scotland against English claims to overlordship. Neither Edward nor the Pope recognised Robert I as king of Scots.

The Declaration was sent in the names of eight earls and 31 barons of Scotland. It implies that all Scots were steadfast in their support of Robert I as king. But in reality that support was not universal. The majority of the barons named in the Declaration were King Robert's loyal supporters, but not all. Furthermore, Robert's dynasty was fragile – his heir, grandson Robert Stewart, was only four years old.

In December 1318 an act of Parliament had been passed against anyone spreading rumours against the king or his government, and within weeks of the Declaration being drafted, a conspiracy against King Robert I was uncovered. Its leaders were savagely dealt with at Parliament in August 1320. The conspirators intended to oust Robert, but it is not clear whom they wanted as his replacement. Historians speculate that they preferred to have Edward Balliol (son of King John Balliol, deposed in 1296) as king, rather than Robert

A papal attempt to secure peace failed when King Robert recaptured the border town of Berwick in 1318. The Pope issued letters in November 1319 summoning the King and four Scottish bishops to attend the papal court. Their refusal to obey the summons led to their excommunication. The Declaration was part of their diplomatic counter-offensive.

Sadly, The original letter sent to the Pope has long since disappeared. The document held by National Records of Scotland is what is regarded as the Scottish "file copy", but it was undoubtedly written at the same time as the original letter.

More on the Declaration of Arbroath and the translation of the full document can be found at this link [NRS - Declaration of Arbroath 2020 - Outreach and Learning - Artwork - DOA English booklet Spread NRS Only Web 0.pdf \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/declaration-of-arbroath-2020-outreach-and-learning-artwork-doa-english-booklet-spread-nrs-only-web-0.pdf)



Flag of Scotland

What do you know of the Scottish flag? Before writing this piece, I knew it was blue with a white cross and it was often referred to as the Satire. But that was about it. On researching, I found it is also called the St Andrew's Cross. But where did it come from?



Wikipedia notes the following:

“Use of the flag is first recorded with the illustration of a heraldic flag in Sir David Lyndsay of the Mount's Register of Scottish Arms, c. 1542. It is possible that this is based on a precedent of the late 15th century, the use of a white saltire in the canton of a blue flag reputedly made by Queen Margaret, wife of James III (1451–1488).”

However, the Historic UK website states *“Whilst its exact origin may have been lost in myth and legend, the flag of Scotland is generally regarded as one of the oldest national flags still in modern use.”* So we don't know exactly how old the flag may be!

“The heraldic term for an X-shaped cross is a 'saltire', from the old French word sautoir or salteur (itself derived from the Latin saltatorium), a word for both a type of stile constructed from two cross pieces and a type of cross-shaped stirrup-cord.[8] In heraldic language, the Scottish flag may be blazoned azure, a saltire argent. The tincture of the Saltire can appear as either silver (argent) or white. However, the term azure does not refer to a particular shade of blue.”
(Wikipedia)

Throughout history the colour of the Scottish flag did vary depending on the dyes available and the use of the flag. For example, the dark blue was often seen in maritime use, while the lighter on land.



☐ Saltire with sky blue field



☐ Saltire with navy blue field

“The variations in shade eventually led to calls to standardise the colour of Scotland's national flag, and in 2003 a committee of the Scottish Parliament met to examine a petition that the Scottish Executive adopt the Pantone 300 colour as a standard (note that this blue is of a lighter shade than the Pantone 280 of the Union Flag). Having taken advice from a number of sources, including the office of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, the committee recommended that the optimum shade of blue for the Saltire be Pantone 300. Recent versions of the Saltire have therefore largely converged on this official recommendation.

In Scotland, the Saltire can be flown at any time by any individual, company, local authority, hospital or school without obtaining express consent.” (Wikipedia)

To read more about the Scottish flag go to https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Scotland or [TheFlagsofScotland - Saltire and Lion Rampant \(historic-uk.com\)](http://TheFlagsofScotland-SaltireandLionRampant(historic-uk.com))

Next month I will introduce you to another flag of Scotland.



Clan Sutherland Society of Australia Incorporated

Registered No. INC16001144

Committee List - 2023

CHIEF Seat:	The Rt. Hon. Alistair Charles St Clair Sutherland, The 25th Earl of Sutherland. Dunrobin Castle, Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6SF. Scotland
PATRONS	Lady Annabel Bainton His Hon, Judge Robert Sutherland SC
COMMISSIONER	Graeme Sutherland
OFFICE BEARERS President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Public Officer Membership Secretary Genealogist Historian	Philip F Sutherland Duncan Sutherland Michelle Williams James Sutherland Helen Sutherland Mona Black Marie Hodgkinson Nathan Rantall
REPRESENTATIVES NSW ACT VIC QLD CSS Scotland	Duncan Sutherland Sharon Kontista Nathan Rantall Michelle Williams Mona Black
COMMUNICATIONS Web Editor Social media Newsletter Editor	Michelle Williams Michelle Williams Michelle Williams
AGM	Held Via Zoom April annually.
MEMBERSHIP FEES	Due 1st April annually Single \$ 15.00; Household \$ 20.00 Contact Michelle Williams for how to pay fees.
MAILING ADDRESS	Michelle Williams, Secretary, Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc. Po Box 1166, Park Ridge, QLD, 4125