



September 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Events for September

- 9th September 2023 Clan Sutherland Southeast QLD Lunch
- 23rd September 2023 Clans on the Coast Celtic Festival Raymond Terrace NSW
 - Followed by Ceilidh Dinner Dance and Entertainment at 6.00pm at Raymond Terrace Bowling Club (booking is essential)
- 1st October 2023 Warwick Celtic Festival, QLD

Profile of Your Committee

This month I bring you the lovely Mona Sutherland Black

Mona Black (nee Sutherland) was born in the home her maternal grandparents in Little Rogart, Scotland. Her father was from Brora. Australia has been her home since 1974. She is the only member of her family living here.

Mona has been a member of Clan Sutherland in Australia for many years and has held the position of Membership Secretary for some time. You will often hear from Mona around your birthday, or any significant events to ensure a connection with the Clan at times of celebration, need or hardship. Mona has been a great help to me as I took over from Marie in the role of Secretary offering support wherever needed.



Mona attends the events in Brisbane as our representative, when time allows, including the Tartan Day Festival and the Kirkin' of the Tartan. Mona also organises the SE QLD lunch in Brisbane each year. Recently she accepted the role of our representative with Clan Sutherland Society in Scotland keeping us all apprised of events in their respective part of the world. These may include Scotland, France, Belgium, New Zealand and many other countries our Sutherland cousins live in.

Congratulations!!



On a recent trip to Malaysia, our Historian Nathan Rantall made his engagement to his girlfriend Fidza Wahab while visiting her family. Fidza has accompanied Nathan on a number of occasions to represent our clan and Nathan has joined Fidza in her traditional customs in return. I'm sure being home in Malaysia with her family made this occasion particularly special for Fidza. On behalf



of CSSA cohort I wish to extend our best wishes to the happy couple on their engagement and look forward to hearing wedding bells soon.

Southeast Queensland Annual Lunch

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, It's that time of year again when we plan and gather in Queensland. Mona Black our Membership Secretary enjoys organising this event every year. This year it will be held **Saturday 9th September at 12 noon at the Grand Central Hotel** (270 Ann Street, Brisbane Queensland). This hotel is situated across from ANZAC Square and Central Station making it easy to get to by public transport. Parking is also possible but may be difficult to find. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Last year's lunch was a huge success, and we would like to repeat this.

For those of you interstate wanting to join, of course you are welcome. Or stay tuned! I would like to organise something similar in Sydney and Melbourne in due course!

Did you know!?

The current Bar Broadway Hotel was once the Sutherlands Hotel. Located in Chippendale in Sydney it was constructed in 1939 and was also known as the Tooth and Co pub, the Westminster Hotel, and Guys & Dolls Hotel.

A heritage-listed public landmark, designed by Rudder & Grout, it is "one of the few corner hotel ceramic tiled interiors to be retained largely intact," as per the Council's heritage listing.

The property went on the market last year after 20 years with the same owners, with a price tag of \$45 million.

Perhaps a future meeting place for New South Wales based Clan Sutherland members?



Obituary of Ron Johnstone D.Ua



It is with a heavy heart that I advise of the death on Tuesday evening, 8th August, following a short illness. Ron was the inaugural Patron of the Townsville Scottish Community Inc.

Pictured left with his lovely wife Sandra, they were very regular attendees at most of the Townsville Scottish Community Inc. functions.

The funeral was held Thursday, 17th August 2023 at 10:00am at the St Andrew's Church Townsville.

Ron is well known and very influential within the Scottish community. Particularly in the Townsville Celtic Group where he was active since first formed.

On behalf of Clan Sutherland Society in Australia may we pass our condolences to Ron's family and friends, in particular his wife Sandra for their loss. The Scottish community mourns with you.

Obituary of David Sutherland, Cartoonist

David Sutherland was born 4 March 1933 in Invergordon, Scotland. the youngest of three, David was only two when his mother died and the family moved first to Stirling and then to Kirkintilloch, near Glasgow. His father was a joiner who was later called up to serve in the war, during which David entertained himself drawing aeroplanes.

He was encouraged by an art teacher at school and, when he left at the age of 15, David applied to the advertising agency Rex Studios, where he filled in lettering, mixed paints and swept the floor. He attended evening classes at Glasgow School of Art, studying commercial art and life drawing three times a week. By the age of 17, Sutherland was drawing promotional material for cinemas, redesigning a foyer or cinema front with images of Marilyn Monroe or Jane Russell one week and a 16-ft high battle scene from a war movie the next. One day, he doodled a Disneyesque dog on the wall that was spotted by the cinema's manager, who adopted it as a mascot – Davy's Dug – to introduce coming attractions.



In 1958 he married Margaret Robertson, and to make extra money to start buying a home, painted scenes for restaurants and chip shops around Glasgow. Entering a competition in the Sunday Post, Sutherland won £10 and the attention of the comics editors at DC Thomson, who began offering him freelance work. With these earnings on top of his regular wage, Sutherland felt confident that he could put down the deposit on a house. When the managing editor, RD Low, heard of this, Low invited him to relocate to Dundee, which he did in 1960.

Growing up, Sutherland was a fan of Paddy Brennan, Beano's popular adventure artist, and it was his style that Sutherland adopted for his earliest work. His first published strip, Danny on a Dolphin. Other early adventure strips include The Great Flood of London, The Cannonball Crackshots, and Lester's Little Circus. In 1963, Sutherland took over the artwork for General Jumbo and his creation of Billy the Cat. He drew a number of other strips and spin-offs for Beano including Gnasher's Tales, Rasher, Foo-Foo's Fairy Story, Gnasher & Gnipper, The Germs, Fred's Bed and, for The Dandy, Korky the Cat and Jak and Biff the Bear, which he took over from his hero, Dudley D. Watkins..



Although he officially retired in 1998, Sutherland continued to draw the Bash Street Kids strip for more than 60 years and was the artist responsible for 30 years of Dennis the Menace. Even in his 80s he kept up his weekly schedule, using a tray as a drawing board and working on half a page at a time while sitting in his living room watching TV. His final strip carried the byline David Sutherland OBE, to mark his receipt of the award last month.

David Sutherland died 19 January 2023 at age 89 years old. He was survived by his wife Margaret and their two daughters, Lorraine and Fiona, and three grandchildren.

For the full obituary and photo credits (including the comic strips on the next page) go to <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/feb/06/david-sutherland-obituary> & [Wife's tribute to David Sutherland OBE after death of legendary Beano artist from Broughty Ferry \(thecourier.co.uk\)](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/feb/06/david-sutherland-obituary)

David Sutherland's first Bash Street Kids strip from 1962.



Did you know?

Did you know Scotland has a multitude of stone circles? These days when we think of Scotland and Stone Circles, we think of the TV series or book Series Outlander. Of course, Craigh Na Dun was created out of Styrofoam and temporarily placed on site. However, there are many other stone circles to visit in Scotland.

The Isle of Lewis is home to the **Calanais Standing Stones (pictured right)**. Nicknamed the "Stonehenge of the North", these iconic standing stones on the Isle of Lewis are believed to be 3,000 - 5,000 years old. In the 17th century, the people of Lewis called the stones na fir bhrèige, or "the false men".



On the Isle of Arran, you can find the **Machrie Moor Standing Stones (pictured left)**. Their dramatic placement in a moorland rich in archaeological history are just stunning in the landscape. These stones on the Isle of Arran may have once been used for observing astronomical activities, with the prehistoric standing stones dating to back to between 3,500 and 1,500 BC.

On the Orkney Isles, the **Ring of Brodgar (pictured right)** can be found as part of the Heart of the Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site. The prehistoric stone circle comprises of 27 stones. One of several significant Orkney stone circle sites, the don't get much more impressive than the Ring of Brodgar.



The Standing Stones of Stenness (pictured left) is also in Orkney and thought to be the earliest henge monument in the British Isles. Dating back to the third millennium BC, it originally consisted of 12 stones.

Clava Cairns (pictured right), in Inverness is a more modest stone circle example that consists of a multitude of stones gathered together to form a ring. These are a well-preserved Bronze Age cemetery complex of ring cairns, kerb cairns and standing stones in a beautiful setting.



Kilmartin Glen (pictured left), in Oban spans 5,000 years with a multitude of cairns, standing stones, carved rock, one circles, forts and castles. Kilmartin Glen is considered to have one of the most important concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland. The remains of the fortress of the Scots at Dunadd, a royal centre of Dal Riata, are located to the south of the glen, on the edge of the

Moine Mhòr or Great Moss.

Photo & information credit to [Stones of Stenness Circle and Henge, Stenness – Historic Sites | VisitScotland](#)

The Scottish Wildcat

The wildcat is the animal symbol of Clan Sutherland.

Wildcats are carnivores, feeding on rabbits and small mammals. Their power and ferocity means, they can also hunt larger animals like hares and deer. With great strength and agility, they can spring off their hind legs and catch birds.

Although they may look similar to domestic (pet) cats, they do have some unique features, including their blunt and bushy tails and their genetic make-up! They weigh in at around 5.5kg, measure up to half a meter long and can get up to 48km p/hr! It can be very difficult to tell the difference between a wildcat, a domestic tabby, or a hybrid from looks alone. Thanks to their un-broken striped coats, wildcats have earned the nickname 'Highland tigers'. They are very shy and not often seen, yet with a feisty temperament. As meat-eaters, they spend long hours sleeping and digesting their food during the day and are most active around dawn and dusk.



Photo credit:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/24874528@N04/18164611680/>



Photo credit:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/24874528@N04/17256183461/>

The wildcat has left an indelible pawprint on Scotland, where its untameable, fearless spirit and love of solitude have given it a mythical reputation in folklore and history. The few that are left prowl the ancient woodlands and glens, preferring widespread tree coverage. They are stealth hunters, lying in wait and stalking their prey under the light of the moon.

Very few places in Britain still have the level of woodland they need. They're now restricted to sites in the Scottish Highlands that have this sort of habitat, notably including the Cairngorms, parts of Aberdeenshire which still have primeval forest, the Black Isle and the Angus Glens.

Wildcats tend to maintain a territory of at least a few hundred hectares in size, and much of this needs to be woodland, although they also require open pasture for hunting.

Now critically endangered in Britain, there are barely a handful left and scientific research has confirmed the species will not survive without help. The last hope for our beautiful Highland tigers is the Saving Wildcats. A breeding programme is underway by the Saving Wildcats project, in partnership project which RZSS is leading in collaboration with NatureScot, Forestry and Land Scotland, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Nordens Ark and Junta de Andalucía. Their aim is to have 150 wildcats as a source population to reinforce numbers in Scotland.

Based at the Highland Wildlife Park (in Kincaig, Kingussie Scotland) and building on the work of Scottish Wildcat Action (2015-2020), the project brings together national and international expertise to prevent the extinction of wildcats in Britain by breeding and releasing them into the wild.

The above information was found at [Wildcat restoration & conservation](#) | [Rewilding Britain](#) & [Scottish Wildcat](#) | [Highland Wildlife Park](#) websites



Photo credit:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/24874528@N04/17245513781/>

Flags of Scotland

This month we have the flags of Shetland. This flag was *"The flag was designed by students Roy Grønneberg and Bill Adams in 1969 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the transfer of the islands from Norway to the Kingdom of Scotland and the 500 years before the transfer as part of Norway."* [Shetland | British County Flags](#)

"the colours come from the Scottish flag, and the cross shape comes from Scandinavian tradition." [Shetland Flag | Free official image and info | UK Flag Registry \(flaginstitute.org\)](#)



The idea of the design was as follows: *"Wishing to give equal symbolic weight to the fact that Shetland had been part of Norway for 500 years and part of Scotland for 500 years, we took the national colours of Scotland - blue and white - and inserted them into the offset cross design common to all Scandinavian countries."* [Shetland Islands \(United Kingdom\) \(crwflags.com\)](#)

The first appearance of the flag was at the Inter-Island games on the Isle of Man in 1985. After that the popularity of the flag grew and began being used on boats, cars and outside hotels. The only variation was noted to be a similar design with a red square in the centre of the white cross.

British County Flags noted: *"Donnie Williamson claimed that the symbolism of his flag was more complete, arguing that the red, white and blue colours of his design were also those of the Union*



Jack and the closest neighbours, the Faroe Islands, Norway and Iceland. The Williamson flag had been seen occasionally and borne by some local vessels. Local fishermen clearly felt the need for a distinct Shetland flag, perhaps influenced by their counterparts on the mainland who had raised the Scottish Saltire on their mastheads and painted it on their shelter decks" [Shetland | British County Flags](#)

In 2005 the matter was resolved when *"Shetland's flag has been officially sanctioned and can now be flown as a community flag to represent the islands."* [Shetland Islands \(United Kingdom\) \(crwflags.com\)](#). *"Lord Lyon made an official grant of the flag to the local council, thereby allowing the flag's registration by the Flag Institute. Under Scottish law and unlike England or Wales, all flags must be licensed by the heraldic authority. The official recognition came in time for the 2005 Island Games and the flag was officially adopted with a description by the Shetland Islands Council (SIC) on 13 December 2006."* [Shetland | British County Flags](#)

British County Flags noted *"Islands are by their nature separate entities and thus perhaps more naturally disposed to express themselves as something distinct and different. Coupled with a distinct, different heritage, Shetland's self-expression in the form of a flag is not surprising. Many islanders fly their blue and white flag to express their unique character, and sense of autonomy. The flag is widely used privately by Shetlanders both on land and sea and it is now seen as a symbol of a special Shetland identity."* [Shetland | British County Flags](#)

Next month another flag of Scotland.

Some housekeeping

For regular updates of the events, we attend as they unfold be sure to follow our Facebook page. Feel free to email me at any time, I am happy to forward emails to other committee members or members at your request as well.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/clansutherlandsoctyinaustralia>

Michelle Williams Secretary clansutherlandaustralia@hotmail.com

New members contact clansutherlandsoctyaustralia@gmail.com

Our website <https://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>

Change of postage address

Please note that I will be giving up my post box that I have been using for all clan mail. In future, please use my home address **44-58 Old Pub Lane, Greenbank, QLD, 4124.**

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 (Secretary).

Membership Fees

Membership fees are due 1st April each year. However, we are happy to receive them any time. Please contact me (Michelle) If you have any difficulties.

I have had some people email asking how much the fees are and how to pay.

Individual: **\$15.00** Family (spouse/partner or household members): **\$20.00**

Our bank details:

For those doing it in person at a bank, it is a Westpac Bank account.

Account name: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia,

BSB: 032-008,

Account number: 222050

Please include your Clan ID number as a reference if you recall it, otherwise your name is sufficient.

Clan Sutherland Australia Lapel Pins available!

These superb lapel pins are still in stock. This is the same pin that was presented to Lady Rachel on behalf of her father The Earl of Sutherland.

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.

