



## June 2023 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

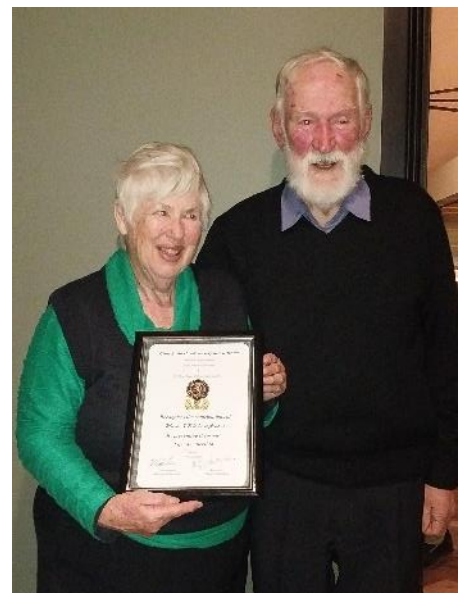
#### Events for June

- 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Clan Sutherland Gathering, Sutherland Scotland
- 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 National Celtic Festival, Portarlington, Vic
- 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023 The Scenic Rim Clydesdale – Spectacular Calling of the Clans Boonah QLD
- 23 to 27 June 2023 Scottish Week 2023 - Sydney, NSW (events TBC):

### Thank you for our Life Membership

I would like to thank the Society for honouring Bill and I with life membership and for the beautiful, embossed glasses. Much appreciated.

Newer members maybe not be aware that in the mid-2000s I took over the role of secretary “during very lean times” to use the words of our commissioner. Still ringing in my ears are the words of Bill Sutherland who joined and contributed to the growth of the Australian Society in 1987 “Your best advice would be to close the Society”. Even in those days I knew better than to pass any comment to a dour and gruff Scotsman! But those words inspired me to attempt to build the society and the results today speak for themselves and as Bill saw what had started, he supported me! In those days David and Margaret Sutherland were my greatest encouragers, David ringing regularly to see how things were going.



I also recall the time when Bill Sutherland wanted all members of the Committee to have the surname SUTHERLAND and low and behold here was a secretary with an English surname. That was my very first hoop to jump through.

However, the Societies success would not have been possible without a very strong team behind me as I was only the “face” of the Society. I clearly remember being in awe of Helen Sutherland from Tamworth a member of the Society well before me and who has done almost every job in the Society and choses to stay in the background. There have been others I have used as a sounding board and thrown ideas off. So, I see this award going to the team behind me as well as Bill and I and I say thank you to ALL in that team.

I still have a small role to play, and I know the Society is in good hands and I wish them well.

Marie and Bill Hodgkinson

## The coronation of his majesty the King Charles III & Queen Camilla

Coronation Service took place at Westminster Abbey on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Their Majesties travelled from Buckingham Palace in The King's Procession to Westminster Abbey in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach. The King's Procession travelled to arrive at the Sanctuary of Westminster Abbey, where the Coronation Service began at 11 o'clock. Upon returning to Buckingham Palace following the Coronation Service, Their Majesties received a Royal Salute from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth

Armed Forces who had been on parade that day. The Royal Salute was followed by three cheers from the assembled service personnel, as a tribute from the Armed Forces on parade to The King and The Queen Consort on this day, Their Majesties' Coronation.



## Profile of Your Committee

This month I introduce you to your President **Philip Sutherland**

Born in Hong Kong of British parents. Mother resides Hampshire, England. Father, proud Scot, served in The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders WW2 on leaving Ampleforth, and thereafter over 30 years with HSBC all over the world; deceased 1987 aged 62 years. Grandson of Dr Halliday Sutherland (1882-1960), physician, author, and opponent of eugenics; autobiography, "The Arches of the Years" (1932) and "A Time to Keep" (1934). Married to Angela, residing in Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Philip was educated Tanglin School, Singapore and Ampleforth College in Yorkshire, England. Graduated with honours LL.B. London School of Economics and LL.M. University of Sydney, where served as member of Faculty of Law. Formerly Slaughter and May, London, Herbert Smith Freehills (as now known) and Sydney Bar, practising principally in commercial and civil proceedings. Solicitor of Supreme Court of New South Wales. Member of Law Society of NSW and serving on two Law Society committees. Former lecturer University of Sydney; University of Technology, Sydney. Author of many articles in peer-reviewed law journals and major work on Evidence Act 1995 (NSW) to which His Honour Justice Michael Kirby AC, CMG, judge of High Court of Australia, kindly wrote foreword.

Philip is a proud supporter of Indigenous Peoples and former general counsel of New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, peak body in NSW and has recently compiled our Acknowledgement of Country.



## Messages of support

Mid-April our fellow clansman **John Kontista** was in an awful accident. He sustained injuries to his knees and is working hard at rehabilitation. I have it on good authority he is recovering well. Sharon and John know that we are all thinking of you and please don't hesitate to ask if help is needed.

Mid-May **Graeme & Sue Sutherland** lost Sue's beloved mother when she passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both in this difficult time. It's in our memory of our loved ones they live on.

## New Member Welcome

This month we welcome Shane Cheney to our Clan. Shane comes from Sydney and attended the Brigadoon Highland Games at Bundanoon to meet some of our lovely representatives. He said "I visited the Clan Sutherland tent at the festival and introduced myself to your beautiful Clan members manning the tent. Such beautiful people who were more than happy to talk and provide information about your Society. Afterwards, I knew that this is where I need to be and belong". Thank you Shane and you are very welcome here.



Shane has a unique connection to our Clan, rather than being a Sutherland descendant, he joins us as a clan member through our associated Clan's that can sometimes be confused with a Sept. Which by no means reduces his connection to us.

## What is an associated Clan or Sept you say?

Mark Sutherland-Fisher wrote an article for us in 2012 where he explained the legal position of Septs. This following is from that article.

This issue continues to cause confusion and in some respects concerns, especially among the overseas societies who do not understand the niceties of Scots Law. Put simply, a Sept is a group of people or families of a shared family name which is not recognised as being a Scots Clan in its own right, but owing to long standing, historical connections, either through blood ties or residency, is accepted as being associated with a particular Clan.

We have had a longstanding problem with 4 specific family names considered septs of Clan Sutherland. These are Cheyne, Gray, Keith and Oliphant.

- The Cheyne family is recognised as a clan in its own right but no individual has been acknowledged chief of the name.
- The Keith family has long been recognised as a clan in its own right and its chief is the present Earl of Kintore.
- The Gray family has long been recognised as a clan in its own right but because of a Lyon Court decision in 1950, the present Lord Gray cannot be recognised as chief because his family will not abandon its compound (double barrelled) surname.
- The Oliphant family has in recent years successfully petitioned for the recognition of Richard Oliphant as chief of the name. However even before then it was recognised as a clan in its own right, a fact made clear by it having its own entry in the Encyclopaedia.

Accordingly, under Scots Law we may not claim any of these 4 names as being Septs of Clan Sutherland. That however does not prevent people bearing these names choosing to belong to Clan Sutherland or any of its societies around the world because they consider themselves to have a strong connection with either the people or lands of the name Sutherland.

Although forming separate, distinct clans in their own right, for historical reasons and those of family ties, many people bearing the names Cheyne, Gray, Keith and Oliphant have retained a strong attachment to Clan Sutherland. They will always be welcome to do so as long as they recognise that there is a clan which bears each of these family names and to which they may have a stronger tie.

Thank you Mark for this clarification.



## Reports of events we have attended from our representatives.

### **ANZAC Day Scottish Act of Remembrance and laying of wreath ceremony, Sydney NSW 25 April 2023 by Duncan Sutherland**

On ANZAC Day, the Scottish Act of Remembrance and laying of wreath ceremony took place with a parade to pay respects for those that have served or lost their lives serving to give us the freedoms we often take for granted.

The parade consists of full Massed band that marches into Martin place and forms up around the cenotaph. This has been the practice since prior to 2016. The March commences at exactly 12.30pm from the march off point in king street (between George and Pitt, facing West), and makes its way down George Street and into Martin Place. The trams are stopped specifically for the parade for 20 minutes.



On reaching the bottom of Martin Place, The Massed Bands right wheel into Martin Place with the pipers marching past the Cenotaph and coming to the halt, the lament is played, then march out right wheeling into Pitt Street coming to a halt and being dismissed.

The parade formation begins with the Spearhead Drum Majors followed by the Flag party. Next is the Chaplain, PBA Patron, PBNSW Chair and/or representative and they are followed by Members of the Scottish Community groups who are participating in the laying of wreaths (Such as Clan Sutherland). Behind them is where the Leading Drum Majors and Massed Pipes and Drums can be found. Members of the Scottish Community groups who are not laying wreaths but

wish to take part in the Remembrance Parade are invited to form up behind the rear rank of the NSW Scottish Regimental Association who will be positioned directly behind the rear rank of the Massed Pipes and Drums.



*Clan Sutherland's Wreath at the Cenotaph in Martin Place*

It is a great honour to be invited to join the weath laying party and It is with respect and admiration for those that have served that Duncan appreciates being able to join the march each year. Thank you Duncan for represending us.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. We will remember them. Lest We Forget.

## Clan Sutherland Society in Scotland - European Branch

### Anzac Day report - Belgium 25-04-2023

Last Tuesday, April 25, Philippe was present on Anzac Day at the military cemetery Buttes New British Cemetery in Zonnebeke for the ceremony by Dawn. At 4 o'clock there was a gathering at the bus parking of the Passchendaele Museum. He was representing the Clan Sutherland Society in Scotland and was with the Representative for the Clan MacLeod in Belgium, William De Baes.

First he would like to report that there were no ceremonies in the afternoon, not even in Tyne Cot Cemetery. It was not reported why.



*Buttes New British Cemetery*

It was a gloomy, chilly and rainy morning. At 6am the ceremony started with 2 pipers of the Field Marshal Haig's Own Pipes and Drum Band followed by the opening prayers by Reverend Canon Stephen Murray.

Speeches were given by the Mayor of Zonnebeke, the Australian Ambassador to Belgium, Caroline Miller and a very emotional speech by the New Zealand Ambassador to Belgium, Diana Reaich.

The Ode of Remembrance was performed in English and in Te Reo (Maori).

The Last Post was performed by the Last Post Association buglers and was followed by 1 minute of silence. National Anthems from Australia, New Zealand and Belgium were



*Buttes New British Cemetery*

sung by a young Belgian soprano, and she was musically accompanied by the Gippsland Grammar School Band.

The Anzac Day ceremony ended by the final blessing and benediction by the Reverend Canon and the Catafalque dismounts. Afterwards, the official guests and the public were invited to place flowers on the graves of the fallen soldiers.

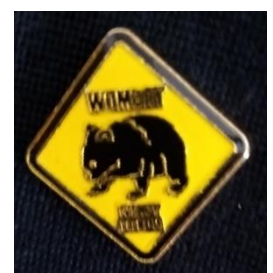


*Brothers in Arms Memorial - Zonnebeke*

Philippe said that this was a very successful edition, despite the bad weather. He also noticed that many Australian tourists were back at the ceremony.

As a result, he met a very nice couple, Phill and Diana, from Melbourne.

They had come via Canada (family visit), Paris and the French front region to here in the Ypres region. Diana was able to visit her grandfather's grave for the first time and as the first of her family in a British military cemetery somewhere on the French battleground. Phill was here to remember his grandfather who fought during WW1 and to remember his father who fought during the Vietnam and Korean War.





## Meeting of Two Cultures Commemoration Flat Kamay Botany Bay National Park in Kurnell Sydney, 29th April 2023

It gave me great pleasure to make the time to join Duncan Sutherland on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 Meeting of Two Cultures at Kurnell Sydney. We were also joined by our President Philip F Sutherland, our Co- Patron Judge Robert Sutherland and our new member, Dot Haynes who flew in from Melbourne for the occasion.

Kurnell is located at Botany Bay, not far from Cronulla in New South Wales. The Meeting of Two Cultures is one of the most significant moments in Australian history the marking the anniversary of the first contact between Europeans and the First Nations peoples of Australia's east coast. This year celebrating the 253rd anniversary of Lieutenant (later- Captain) James Cook's Landing here on our shores.



*Joined in this photo we have (L to R) Hon. Mark Speakman, CSSA Patron Judge Robert Sutherland, Secretary Michelle Williams, President Philip F Sutherland, Vice President Duncan Sutherland, Hon. Bruce Baird, Dot Haynes OAM, and Hon. Scott Morrison*

The significance of this event to Clan Sutherland is one of our own was on that ship. Forby Sutherland was a member of the crew of the Endeavour during Lieutenant (later- Captain) James Cook's voyage to New South Wales. He died while the ship was in Botany Bay, making him the first British subject to die in Australia and the first European to die in New South Wales. Cook made the decision rather than burying him at sea, which was tradition, to bury him on the shore of what is now Commemoration Flat Kamay Botany Bay National Park in Kurnell Sydney. Cook's actions that day gave Clan Sutherland the significance that no one understood at the time.



The soggy weather wasn't deterring the event organisers. They were unwavering in true Scottish style that the weather wasn't going to stop us commemorating such a significant occasion. The event began with a Welcome to Country by Auntie Joyce Timberly from the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council. She was followed by

Auntie Barb Simms who spoke of unity. She explained how she was a descendent of the people that once occupied this land at the time of Cook's landing. She spoke passionately about coming together as a nation of Australians to unite and grow together showing our warmth and generosity. The question she left us with was "if we can't unite, what does that say about us as a people?"



We were then joined by speaker Noeleen Timberly, Chairperson for La Perouse local Aboriginal Land Council, who was pleased to announce the spears that were collected by Cook on that voyage of discovery that are held in Trinity College in Cambridge England will be returned to the Aboriginal people here in Australia. Noeleen was followed by Councillor Carmelo Pesce, Mayor of Sutherland Shire, Hon. Scott Morrison Federal Member for Cook and Hon. Mark Speakman State member for Cronulla. All spoke of unity and the need to work together for us as a nation.

When the official ceremonies were concluded, a Cultural Workshops, Light Refreshments, Community BBQ was offered. The wet weather didn't deter most; however, it did make it difficult to really get stuck into the workshops.

## Clan Sutherland Society in Australia's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in Glen Innes by Michelle Williams

It was wonderful to see so very many clan members in Glen Innes for the festival. We had many small occasions where we could celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Official Opening was held at 11am on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May in the Town Square. Helen Sutherland & Barbara Tom represented our clan with our banner to parade in front of the Official Party and declare our attendance.

Later that night, we hosted a Dinner for Clan members at Railway Hotel with 22 attendees. Mona Black proposed a toast to his majesty the King with his impending coronation followed by the presentation of Marie & Bill Hodgkinson's life membership which included a gift of etched glasses that have the clan crest with "life membership Clan Sutherland Society in Australia 2023" on them. It was a great opportunity to sit and chat to each other and catch up on what's going on in each other's lives. An opportunity many have not had for some time.



Saturday morning, 6 May, we all assembled we assembled at the southern end of Grey Street to participate in the street parade that started at 9.30am sharp. Represented by Helen Sutherland, Mona & Fred Black, Michelle Williams, Marie & Bill Hodgkinson & Wayne Clarke. While other's

chose to be spectators and enjoy the very long procession of pipe bands, dance groups and almost 20 Clan's.



Later that day, we had the long-awaited Celtic Family Wall unveiling. We gathered at 12 noon at the Stones on Tynwald Hill. It was my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Clan at the stone dedication ceremony where I spoke briefly of our Clan history, and the previous stone that was donated by the late Countess of Sutherland in 2006. This new stone has come from the Scottish Hebrides and was donated by Mona Black. As you can see in the picture it is a beautiful pink and grey and looks perfect in the wall.

After such an exciting day, the evening saw Helen Sutherland, Barbara Axelsen and I attending the High Commissioners Dinner hosted by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council at the Highland Tavern. Where I had the opportunity to not only try but enjoy the haggis! Clan Sutherland's 40th anniversary was recognised with an introduction by Malcolm Buchanan followed by a speech by me (Michelle Williams Secretary). In this speech I noted the long-standing history of our clan, from our beginnings in 1983, our reinvention in 1987 by Bill & Merle Sutherland, and our involvement with the Scottish Australian Heritage council and our cousins in Scotland and around the world. It was a great night where new friends were made (not to mention me winning the raffle! 12-year-old 1L bottle of Jonnie Walker).

Sunday was the last day of the festival which is often a more low-key day with many heading home. Clan Sutherland participated in the Scottish ceremony at 11.30am on Tynwald Hill followed by the Kirkin' o' the Tartan at 12 noon in the Stone Circle. Clans were invited to parade with banners and a piece of tartan that was laid on to the table for blessing.





Some photos of the weekend.



*L to R: Don Tom, Michelle Williams, Bill Hodgkinson, Fred Black, Wayne Clarke (behind) Mona Black, Gemma Clarke (hiding behind) Marie Hodgkinson, Barbara Tom, Barbara Axelsen, John Sutherland (behind) & Helen Sutherland. Missing from the photo is Roland Maetens & Bruce.*



Many more video's & photos can be found on our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/clansutherlandsocietyinaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/clansutherlandsocietyinaustralia)



## Flag of Sutherland

Did you know there was a flag for the county of Sutherland? It was the winning design after a competition voted on by over 3,000 people, it was revealed on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The Flag Institute notes the following.

*"The Sutherland Flag is a community flag proclaiming the unique identity of this historic Scottish county.*

*It features a black Saltire and a black Nordic Cross overlaid on a white field, with an eight-pointed yellow star at the point where the crosses meet. The design reflects Sutherland's unique history as the Viking 'South Land', the limit of Norwegian control of the Scottish mainland.*

*The two crosses denote this meeting of Scotland and Norway, while black recalls Sutherland's dark skies and the peaty soil of the Flow Country. In conjunction with the white field, it also evokes the arms of the former Sutherland County Council. The yellow star symbolises the origins of the county's name, evoking the sun that shines highest in the south. It also reflects Sutherland's two coasts: the sunrises of the east and the sunsets of the west.*

*The Sutherland Flag flew for the first time at a ceremony at the Highland Council offices in Drumbuie, Golspie. A party of active and retired sailors from HMS Sutherland, accompanied by the Sutherland Schools Pipe Band, conducted the formal raising."*

<https://www.flaginstitute.org/wp/flags/sutherland-flag/#:~:text=The%20Sutherland%20Flag%20is%20a,point%20where%20the%20crosses%20meet.>



Interesting to note, this design wasn't the original winner of the competition. The original design included a swooping eagle seen face on, against a vertical bicoloured red and yellow background with the eagle counter changed yellow and red. This was to represent the Atlantic Ocean and North Sea that borders the county on it's west and east coasts. Also pictured was three stars or mullets all taken from the

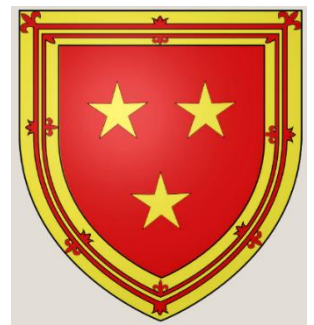
arm borne y High de Moray, Earl of Sutherland. But Many Sutherland residents objected and expressed their disapproval of the design stating they felt it evoked communism, the eagle was crudely drawn and not the best choice to represent the region. Some suggested the wildcat would have made better choice. As a result of the very strong objection especially from schools and young people, the office of Lord Lyon halted the process of registering the original design. It was then put to a public vote of the shortlisted designs where over 3,000 people voted against the eagle design and in favour of the Black Satire, Nordic Cross & Yellow Star design pictured at the top of this page.



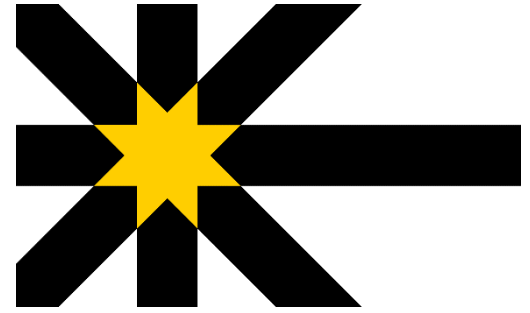
Another flag you may be familiar with is the Sutherland Family flag. Seen here flying over Dunrobin Castle, it is my understanding only family members are allowed to display this flag. (as seen on the Dunrobin Castle Facebook page [Dunrobin Castle Facebook Page](#)).

The flag proudly shows a similar design as the Arms of Earls of Sutherland: Gules (red), three mullets or 5-pointed star denotes virtue, learning & piety (Yellow, representing generosity), on a bordure of the second a double tressure flory

counterflory of the first (Denoting Royal Authority and an Honourable charge). [Sutherland coat of arms & family crest](#)



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



## Some housekeeping

As I write this month's newsletter, I am finalising a multitude of things and packing my bags to attend the Clan Sutherland Gathering in Scotland hosted by Clan Sutherland Society in Scotland. If you are attending the Gathering, I look forward to seeing you there. For those unable to attend, I hope we do you proud! I look forward to writing the next newsletter from Scotland! Stay tuned! For regular updates of the events as they unfold be sure to follow our Facebook page. I am still fully contactable via email and Facebook! 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.

<https://www.facebook.com/clansutherlandsocietyinaustralia>

Michelle Williams Secretary [genealogist\\_clan\\_sutherland\\_australia@hotmail.com](mailto:genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com)

## 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).

## Clan Sutherland Handbook

Since the AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, I have updated the Clan Sutherland Handbook and wish to offer anyone wishing to receive a copy to let me know. There are only slight changes, but this is our Anniversary year and some of you may wish to keep a copy for prosperity.

## Membership Fees

Just a friendly reminder, if you haven't already, membership fees were due 1<sup>st</sup> April. 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 222050

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

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 44-58 Old Pub Lane, Greenbank, QLD, 4124 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. 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.

