



Clan Chisholm Society
Australia and New Zealand Branches
Combined Newsletter June 2024
Chisholms Down Under



Inside this Issue

Welcome to the Winter newsletter. Some lucky Chisholms from DownUnder will escape our winter by heading off to the Clan Gathering in Inverness in July. That reminds me, I did hear a famed Glaswegian meteorologist named Billy Connolly once explain that Scotland only had two seasons: “Winter and July”! I also hear that the Highland biting midges are at peak hunger in July, so be warned those of ye who would don the Chisholm Kilt over traditional underwear.

The winter newsletter presents quite a few contributions from the Australian members, this time around there is just a minimal input from the east side of the Tasman, we are hoping that the Chisholms of New Zealand will be more forthcoming for the Summer edition of the newsletter.

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Please think about what you can contribute to the next Newsletter. A family milestone, a holiday snap, a paper clipping, photos which you have taken, some family history story. The Clan Chisholm Newsletter relies on contributions from you in order to keep it relevant and interesting.

If you see a hyperlink, you can Ctrl+ click or Tap and go directly to the linked site.

We hope you enjoy the read.

Kim Polley and Robert Chisholm, Editors.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to the following for contributing to this newsletter: Margaret Chisholm, Elizabeth Flockton, Tony Morrison, Caitlin Midson, Lucia Vaca, Fay Chisholm, John Ross, Shannon Chisholm, Dave Chisholm, Lukas Walkowiak, Am Baille FB page.



MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY

By Margaret Chisholm

I became a member of the Clan Chisholm Society on 20th September 1963. I will always remember the date as it was the day that my sister Joyce Kennedy gave birth prematurely to her first child, Maureen. At that time Victoria had its own group and my cousin's wife Glad Chisholm had arranged to take me to the meeting on a Friday night. Glad had come to stay for the Thursday night so that she could have a break away from the bus depot in Geelong but she did not get much of a break when Joyce went into labour. Jim and Glad had joined the Society when they were on holiday in the United Kingdom in 1955. Royena Chisholm asked me from what part of Scotland my Chisholms came. I told her that I did not know so she told me that I had better find out. That was the start of my interest in Genealogy. I now know that the Chisholms who came to Australia in 1850 came from an area about twelve miles southeast of Edinburgh but I do not know whether they had always lived there or had come from the Highlands or were part of the Border Chisholms.

Mrs Coral Chisholm was the Secretary for the Victorian group. She had been befriended by Miriam Chisholm when her son was killed in a road accident at Goulburn. When Coral decided to resign, I took over as Secretary for a year or so. We used to have various outings including to Royena's home at Macedon and to the Botanical Gardens. Royena's two sisters had also been members but they had both died by the time I joined. When I knew that I was going to move to Canberra I resigned as Secretary. The Victorian group kept on going for a while but eventually closed.

After I moved to Canberra I went to a couple of meetings at Kippilaw, the home of the Chisholms since the 1830s. Miriam Chisholm was a descendant of the first Chisholm to settle in Australia and she was the Secretary of the Australian Branch of the Clan Chisholm Society and she asked me to take over as Treasurer from Ron Galley. I had that role for about six years before I resigned as I



I-r Margaret Chisholm, niece Leonie Mulvany, sister Joyce Kennedy

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knew that I was going to be Secretary of Soroptimists International of the South West Pacific in 1978-80 and I would not be able to do both as I still had a full-time job in the Public Service. Barbara Donkin took over from me and when my time in the Soroptimists was over I replaced her until I left Canberra to go back to Melbourne in 1985. Ken Miles took over from me.

While I lived in Canberra I used to visit Miriam often to get cheques signed. By that time she had moved to Deccan Street from Kippilaw. I also used to drive her to Sydney for Committee Meetings, initially at the Galleys and then at the Watsons. On these trips she would point out places that had relevance to her family such as where they stopped on their trips to Sydney in the 19th Century. On one weekend I was driving from Canberra to Goulburn to pick her up and go to Sydney when I heard on the car radio that parts of Canberra and Queanbeyan were flooded and it was not known what other parts would be flooded. There was already water lying beside the road so when I got to Goulburn I told Miriam that I did not want to drive to Sydney in case I could not get back into Canberra so we cancelled the meeting. The floods were worse in Queanbeyan than in Canberra and even washed bodies out of the cemetery.

I was in Canberra for fifteen years and in that time I went to meetings in various places. One of the meetings I particularly remember was the one where the memorial at the Kippilaw Church was first built. Alec Chisholm of Australian Encyclopaedia fame gave a speech. It was a freezing cold day and he looked so frail that a puff of wind could blow him away. We were very pleased to get into the warmth of Kippilaw where Tom Chisholm made us free of his alcoholic drinks. I poured a glass each for my mother and myself of what I thought was sherry but it turned out to be whisky. I felt the warmth go down my body and back again.

On another occasion at Kippilaw, Tony Morrison tried on the jockey silks. I doubt that he would fit into them nowadays. One meeting was held in my home at Waramanga and we spent time the next day at the Canberra Botanical Gardens. In those days we held the meeting on one day with a social event the next day but thanks to a suggestion from Allan Asquith we started having the social events and dinner before the meeting.

After I retired in 1994, I moved to Cowes on Phillip Island. Miriam Chisholm had accumulated a large collection of newspaper clippings and no one knew what was there so I got the job of indexing them. This was most interesting as they dated back to the beginning of the twentieth century. I was particularly delighted with the items on Sheila Chisholm who married three times, to Lord Loughborough, to Sir John Millbanke and to Prince Dimitri Romanoff. In one interview she was reported as saying that she had married them all for love as none of them had any money. Among the articles was one about my brother Neil when he was killed in a plane crash.

My next major task was as Clan Genealogist. I was given what Wilfred Medlam had done and I used that and the book written by Carolyn Chown as the starting point of my efforts. I advertised through the various Genealogical Societies in the six states and was contacted by Chisholms throughout Australia. I also checked all the publically available indices of births, deaths and marriages and visited the records offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. I also had the help of Audrey Barney from New Zealand as a number of families moved from one country to the other depending on the situation regarding employment. It was thanks to Audrey that I learnt something about my great-grandfather's siblings who had moved to New Zealand. Through various people, we learnt that there was another Chisholm on the ship when the first James Chisholm arrived but he does not appear to have stayed. We also learnt that Caroline Chisholm had a baby in England who died before she went to India with Archibald. It was interesting also to see the number of Chisholm convicts including one convict in Western Australia who called his children 'Chisholm' but was known under a different name himself. I resigned as Clan Genealogist when I knew that I

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was moving into a Retirement Village as I would not have room to store all the papers I had accumulated, and I thought that I had probably gone as far as I could.

My sister and I managed to get to the Scottish Gathering in Glen Innes but in recent years I have not been attending the meetings. These days I prefer to travel by sea rather than cope with driving long distances or coping with planes.

I was fortunate to have met Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm on two occasions, in 1975 when my mother and I had lunch at her home and in 1980 when I stayed with her before going to the Annual Meeting in Inverness with her. I was also able to attend the Fiftieth Anniversary Gathering in Inverness in 2001.

The Knockfin Axehead

By Kim Polley



Image courtesy of Inverness Museum & Art Gallery

The Axehead, accession number, INVMG.2001.023 was a stray find, found at Knockfin, Tomich. It is a grey, polished stone, much degraded & pitted with a large chip on the blade. The dimensions are: length 130mm, width at its widest point is 50mm, depth at widest point is 30mm.



Ken Watson

By Elizabeth Flockton

It is with sadness that I write to inform you and all Chisholm clans folk that my father Ken Watson passed away 25th February 2024.

As a farewell we had a graveside service as requested by my father, with only immediate family attending. My father was buried in an outfit which included his Chisholm tie and tartan socks from Inverness. The red Chisholm rug with a beautiful arrangement of native flowers adorned his coffin for the service.

My father enjoyed being a member of The Australian Branch of the Clan Chisholm Society. He was one of the original NSW members alongside Miriam Chisholm, when she founded the Australian Branch of the Clan Chisholm Society. My father, held the position of Hon President of The Australian Branch of The Clan Chisholm Society from 1957 - 1996. He attended every meeting until health issues prevented him from attending. He was 94yrs old when he passed away.



My father lived a full life and his greatest joy was his family. He had a strong work ethic with nothing less than excellence in all he did. He had a brilliant mind and had a love for books and journals. He had a passion for gardening and what he accomplished in the garden now takes a team of landscapers to maintain.

My father and mother had a large social network. Both were pharmacists and owned businesses together. For their fiftieth wedding anniversary they took the whole family to Heron Island where they had spent their honeymoon all those years ago.

Together with my mother they hosted Clan branch meetings and AGM gatherings in their home. They travelled all over the world; and had fond memories of meeting Clans folk from all over the world when they attended an International AGM in the UK. They were great ones for making friends who they managed to keep in touch with for most of their lives. It was running joke in our family Ken & Ruth were never at home but out exploring the world.

My father was a royalist and was in London for Queen Elizabeth II Coronation. Little did he realise at the time, that one of the Scottish Clans folk he would meet many years later had been one of the Grenadier Guards he had watched at the Queen's coronation.

My father adored his grandfather and often stayed with him in Barrington. My father's mother was the Chisholm in our family and her ancestors were originally from the Isle of Skye. He shared a special relationship with his cousin Bruce Chisholm who was more like a younger brother than a cousin. He was delighted when Bruce and his wife Kerry became active members of the Australian branch of the Clan Chisholm Society. This meant they were able to catch up more frequently at Clan gatherings and have a shared interest together.

Obit. Ken Watson (continued)

It is hard to think of my father without my mother. The last couple of years without my mother, and then with Bruce Chisholm passing away were particularly difficult for my father. We miss them deeply and find peace in knowing they are together again.

Written by Elizabeth Flockton (Ken Watson's daughter)

Editor's note: Elizabeth gets a mention in the Archive article for the 1960 AGM at Goulbourn





RETURN OF THE CHISHOLMS

An Acre of the Ancient Territory Gifted to the Chief and His Clan

THE CHISHOLM, his heirs, and the Clan Chisholm Society once more have a stake in their ancestral land. Mr Robert Wotherspoon, an Inverness solicitor, has gifted to them, free of all vassalage and secure for all time, about an acre of land on Comar Farm.

This is on the main Cannich-Glen Affric road, in the centre of the traditional Clan Chisholm territory. The donor, although he has no blood connections with the Chisholms, has offered the land in token of friendship for a landless clan of honourable history and repute in the Highlands.

It may be some time before the gift can be put to material use in the interests of the clan. Meanwhile the Clan Chief, Alastair Chisholm of Chisholm (who farms in Suffolk), expresses his great delight.

"The deepest thanks are owed to Mr Wotherspoon from myself and from the clan," he told the "Weekly Scotsman." "We are extremely pleased to have back part of the traditional territory of the Chisholms.

Clan Gathering?

"It is naturally too early to speak in detail of a clan gathering at Comar Farm, but I should think that there is every likelihood of a gathering, or gatherings, there at some future date.

The Chisholm was in the Seaforth Highlanders during the last war, and served in the Far East with them.

The last occasion on which The Chisholm visited the ancient territory of his race was in connection with the hydro-electric scheme at Cannich a year or two ago. It would give him great pleasure to revisit this beautiful part of the Highlands on Clan Chisholm affairs.

The Chisholms of Comar and Strathglass descend from Thomas de Chisholm, born in 1403. He was son of Alexander (son of Sir Robert, Constable of Urquhart Castle), and of Margaret, Lady of Erchless and heiress of Weyland of the Aird.

The Direct Line

Under Thomas's grandson John, the lands of Erchless and Comar were erected into baronies in 1528-39, and thereafter the direct line of The Chisholm continued for more than 250 years. Alexander Chisholm, last of the direct line, died in 1723.

The name of Chisholm continued an honoured one in the Highlands—Alexander's daughter, Mary Gooden-Chisholm, who married James Gooden, was celebrated for her opposition to the Clearances.

One story of Mary relates to her girlhood, when she heard her father, in the next room, discussing the possibility of dispossessing some of his clansmen.

Mary, in tears, ran from the house to seek help; word of the proposal passed round like lightning, and before Alexander had left the room he found a deputation of his clansmen awaiting him, to press him—successfully—to change his mind.

After Culloden

The story also goes that Mary (from whom the present Chief is directly descended) was the only person to whom Hugh Chisholm would offer his right hand after shaking that of J. J. Prince—and he helped him to escape from Culloden.

Erchless Castle, seat of the race for centuries, was sold some years ago, and the Chisholms, as a clan, have since been without a traditional rallying-point that they could call their own.

"Mr Wotherspoon's gift," says Miss M. Chisholm of Chisholm, honorary secretary of the Clan Chisholm Society, "is very highly appreciated, as the clan is at present landless, and it gives us once more a foothold in our ancestral home.

"Clansmen all over the world will express their gratitude to Mr Wotherspoon for gifting the land."



In the Chisholm country of tradition—the River Glass, near Cannich, Inverness-shire.



THE CHISHOLM

Alastair Hamish Wiland André Fraser Chisholm of Chisholm.

From Kim Polley

An article given to me by my late father.

It is from *Weekly Scotsman*, 6 May 1954.



Google Earth screenshots showing Comar Farm





What is a Shieling? (Scottish Gaelic: àirigh)



By Kim Polley

Many of our Scottish ancestors would be familiar with the term 'shieling'. A shieling was one or a collection of temporary accommodation structures used in summer months by people who took their stock away from their permanent settlement to higher ground for a better pasture. Shielings were situated near running water. There were 3 types of shieling: a small beehived dwelling (called a 'both'); the rectangular kind with a ridged roof (featured in this article); and the 'spring house' which was large enough to house animals during bad weather.

During the warmer months of May until June every year, the women and children from a croft would annually supervise the grazing of the family's cattle and milking or in-calf cows and live in the shieling. This short migration was eagerly awaited after the family, often of 8 to 10 children, would have been confined indoors, sometimes with their cattle, on lower lands during the harsh winters.

Self-sufficiency was paramount. "...all they had was what they were able to build, grow, catch (fish), produce and cook for themselves".¹ Most days youngsters from the shielings would walk down to the village carrying the day's fresh milk from the cows on the moor pasture, plus some cream, crowdie cheese (curds and whey) and butter. They would return with any produce available and, if they lived near the sea, a quantity of seaweed for the cattle. Seaweed helped improve the milk content of the cows.

A calf "...born at the shieling was kept in a low, stone enclosure (an cotan) where they were bucket-fed their mother's milk until they were strong enough to join the herd, by which time they had ceased to suckle their mother. Importantly, this meant that there was plenty of milk for both the calf



Cotan or calf pen at Brue shieling

and the family".²

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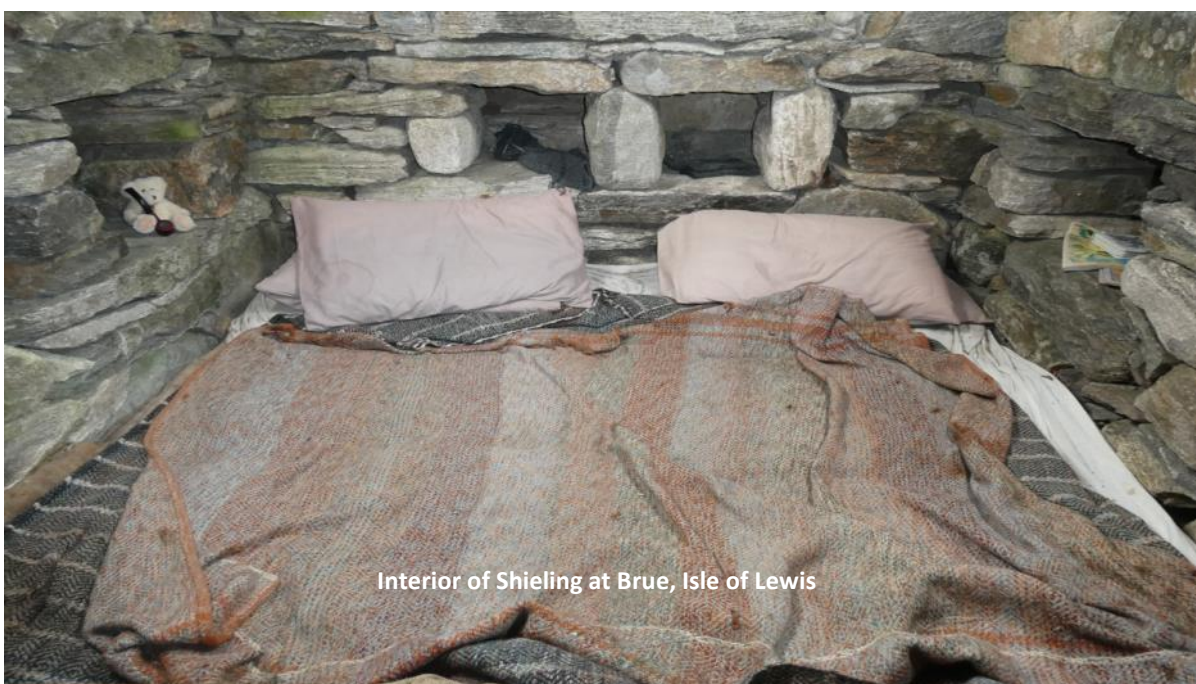
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Shielings were typically basic abodes. Peat that had been cut and dried the previous year would be stacked close by. A peat fire on an open hearth would warm the shelter and be used to cook food and boil water. The smoke would escape through a hole in the roof or a chimney. If there was rain either a flat stone or piece of turf was placed strategically so that the smoke could escape and the rain did not enter the dwelling. "The àirigh floor was of earth or beaten clay and there were two doors opposite each other. The windward door was always kept shut, so that the àirigh, if dark and



Exterior of shieling at Brue, Isle of Lewis

smoke-filled at times, was always free from draught. The doors always opened outwards so that the cattle or wind could not push them inward."³ The walls were made of stone, the roof of wood and



Interior of Shieling at Brue, Isle of Lewis

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on that, over-lapping turf slabs. The mattress on the bed would be made of heather, rushes or dried grasses. The bed sensibly was opposite the fire place. A long stone or turf seat sat at the end of the bed and in front of the fireplace. The family's possessions including milk basins and food were stored in the stone recesses in the walls.

It is not difficult to imagine the fun times the youngest children would have had living in a shieling during warm weather. Life would have been much more carefree and less onerous. Older children would have helped their accompanying mother, aunt or maybe grandmother with the stock and manufacture of produce. Friendships with neighbouring residents would be renewed each year.

The importance of the hills to crofters was expressed often by those offering evidence in Her Majesty's Commissioners of Enquiry into the Conditions of the Crofters and Cottars in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. In July 1883 Reverend John Macmillan of the Free Church of Loch Broom stated that even if the poor crofters whose land was severely reduced due to the new owner of 'Leckmelm' preferring deer and sheep farming, they could possibly still survive if they had access to the hills. "Yes, if the proprietor would give the hills to the people, the people would rise up ten degrees and more in prosperity."⁴

Further information about shielings:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-shielings/heag233-shielings/>

¹ Barvas and Brue Historical Society, *An Airigh*, 2017, Isle of Lewis, Scotland

² *An Airigh*

³ *An Airigh*

⁴ C M Holms, *The Clearance of Leckmelm, The dispossession of a Highland crofting community. Ullapool, Scotland, Seanntaigh, 2023, p. 309.*

Photos © by Kim Polley



Hearth in shieling at Brue



Scratching stone for cattle at shieling at Brue



By Tony Morrison

David was born on the 23rd of July, 1937. The elder child of Elizabeth (Betty) Kenway, nee Chisholm and Gawen Llewellyn Kenway, brother to Geraldine Margaret Chisholm Kenway who predeceased him in September 2022, and a direct descendant of James Chisholm who arrived in Australia with the second fleet as a corporal in The NSW Regiment in 1792, and who became one of the tenth largest landholders in NSW upon his death in 1837.

David's early years were spent living with his family in Lindfield, Sydney. My family, Mum, whose sister was my Aunt Betty Kenway, Michael and I, lived with them for two or three years, having come back out from England after the war in 1945.

My first memories of David are of his caring and attentive nature, even as a young boy. '34' (Middle Harbour Rd) had a lovely garden with a creek – and tadpoles. I can remember to this day, David explaining how those little black specks in the foam floating on the water, hatched into tadpoles which miraculously, as they grew, grew legs and turned into – frogs! Really? Amazing.

We all had bikes and David, always cautious, made sure we obeyed the rules of the road so we didn't end up killing ourselves, which happily, although we made a few attempts, we didn't succeed in doing.

David was educated at Knox Grammar School and did 'The Leaving' as the HSC was known in those days, in 1955. David's life wasn't easy. His parents divorced in 1957, while he was still at home, working. At about the same time, he 'came out'. Not an easy thing to do in those days. There was no such thing as gay rights, let alone recognition, but he handled it quietly, with dignity and courage. He was true to himself.

Country life really wasn't for David, but coming as he did from a rural family, still retaining ownership of 'Raeburn', a mixed farming property just outside Goulburn, NSW, it made sense for him to give it a try, and so he went up to jackaroo on a place in Northern Queensland, which confirmed what he already knew. North Queensland was a long way from home and country life wasn't for him.

David had taken quite an interest in cars, through his father's interest, while growing up. He loved driving and teaching driving. However, his first lesson, which was teaching his sister didn't end so well. She froze on the accelerator and crashed into the stableyard's wrought iron gate, while all of us in the back were splitting ourselves.

His father's first car was a Wolesley. Classic design, deep green and black with wall nut and deliciously smelling leather interior. Followed by the brand new 50's revolutionary designed Rover. It was only a short step from there to Rolls Royce. His first car was a 1930's Rolls. He became a member of The RR Club in Sydney and later on in Melbourne, where he moved to in the 60's, and where fate intervened. For that's where he met Kanthien, a most wonderful bloke, a Cambodian, who fled Pol Pot at about the same time. They remained devoted life partners until the end.

Not unlike many Chisholms in Australia, who contributed in various fields, small or not so small, David played a significant role in reorganising and coordinating the various systems and activities for The Rolls Royce Veteran and Vintage Car Clubs in Melbourne, where he was loved and respected, as well as rallies throughout Australia.

David was a gentle man and a gentleman who will be fondly remembered by all of us and the many friends he made throughout his life.

From the Archives

64 Years ago Clan Chisholm Journal Number 1 January 1960 Page 9

CLAN FOUNDERS OF THE NORTH

Six hundred years ago the first Chisholm settled in the Highlands. In 1359 Robert Chisholm succeeded his grandfather Sir Robert Lauder in the lands of Quarrelwood near Elgin and Cantray near Nairn, and in the office of Constable of Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness. His paternal grandfather was "Lord of Chesholme in Roxburgh and Paxtoun in Berwickshire", so Robert was indeed far from his old home. Robert was by no means the only stranger to settle in North-eastern Scotland; indeed in the province of Moray (which then stretched from the borders of Sutherland to Badenoch and from Glen Affric to Elgin) was almost entirely in the hands of incomers. This was the result of two waves of immigration - the first of which took place in the later 12th century, and the second in early fourteenth.

The plantation of Moray in the late 1100s was brought about by the revolt of successive Earls of Moray who regarded themselves as rightful Kings of Scots. In order to subdue the malcontents, David I, Malcolm IV, and William the Lion pursued a policy of granting lands in Moray to outsiders, who were to introduce feudalism to the Highlands. The earliest grant was that of the lands of Duffus near Elgin to Freskin who came from what is now West Lothian. Others later came to Moray from different parts, Berowald ancestor of the Inneses was a Fleming, Shaw the earliest of the Mackintoshes was said to be a son of the Earl of Fife while several were Normans including the Comyns and the Bissets, who received lands at Beauly, the Aird and Strathglass. Some of the families survived until Robert Chisholm's time but the War of Independence in the early 14th century caused another upheaval. The Comyns, who had developed very quickly and by 1300 held a leading place in the north, supported the losing side and gradually declined. The Mackintoshes had not prospered so quickly and had even begun to consider moving to Lochaber but the fall of the Comyns shifted the balance in their favour and they remained in the north. For other reasons the Bissets too had failed. Little is known of this family but after only three generations they died out in the male line and the vast property was divided among heiresses who married outside the family. The general shaking which the War of Independence gave to the landowners of the North, introduced several new families of incomers. These were mostly Normans who had temporarily settled in the south of Scotland and they included the Frasers, Roses, Grants, Gordons and also Sir Robert Lauder whose home was not so far from the Chisholm's Border lands.

Thus when Robert Chisholm came north he found that many of the landowners had been resident for only two or three generations and of the older families few were originally native. It follows from this situation that in 1359 there was no such "clan system" as we find developing in the 15th and 16th centuries. Records are few and concern the landlords only, but it seems unlikely that the whole country was cleared of inhabitants either in the 12th or 14th centuries. Modern historians think that the later clan organisation was a repeat of an earlier process, by which former landlords had founded small clans which were "taken over" by the new owners of the country. These early clans were probably not developed very far for they did not enjoy the time of peaceful consolidation which their successors knew. Robert Chisholm thus reached the north at the end of a long period of change. His neighbours were hardly yet established in their lands and when his son acquired Strathglass, by marriage with a descendant of the Bissets, the Chisholms were able to start on level terms in the task of building a clan.

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From the Archives

64 Years ago Clan Chisholm Journal Number 1 January 1960 Pages 6-7

Chiefly about The Chisholms

Chisholms have a way with flowers: in Victoria Australia, Miss Royena Strathy Chisholm gained 1st and 2nd prizes for gladioli at recent horticultural shows; in Argyll, Miss Chisholm of Chisholm won a prize at the North Connel and District Flower Show; while in Surrey Mrs Douglas Chisholm organised several one-day schools in floral arrangement.

Mr Ross Chisholm, Perth, Western Australia, an architect and old boy of the school, submitted the winning design for the new Wesley School chapel. Round, with a folded-type roof supported on a perimeter of 12 equally spaced columns, it will seat 270 people.

The Editor of the Australian Encyclopaedia, Mr Alec Hugh Chisholm, has been elected President of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

From New Zealand Miss Margery Chisholm writes that her family planned a reunion just 101 years after her great-grandparents landed there from the "Three Bells". Unfortunately it had to be cancelled owing to the death of her mother and uncle, on which we send our sympathy.

Mr Thomas K.S. Chisholm, Kippilaw, gained 1st and 2nd places in Fat Steer and Carcass competitions for Polled Hereford and Polled Shorthorn cross bred vealers at the Goulburn Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Show.

A.G.M. AND CEILIDH AT GOULBURN, NEW SOUTH WALES.

64 Years ago Clan Chisholm Journal Number 2 July 1960 Pages 5-6

By Mr and Mrs R.M. Galley

Goulburn, with its lovely country setting situated in the Wollondilly and Mulwarree river valleys some 130 miles from Sydney, was chosen for our Annual General Meeting this year on Saturday April 30th. It was held in a cosy room at the Fire Side Inn, the official table being decorated with heather sent from Scotland specially for the occasion and white heather, grown in Mrs Chisholm's garden at Kippilaw, near Goulburn. There were some 20 members present (the youngest, Elizabeth Grace Watson aged six months, our President's daughter . for all and led by Mr Tom Chisholm we passed the old pioneer properties of Maldon, Cardross and Maxton where at the latter was the site of the only flour mill between Goulburn and Adelaide, and so to the old Chisholm homestead of Kippilaw. This two storeyed late Georgian house was built by the original pioneer Chisholm in the 1830's and here we were entertained and shown the terraced and sunken gardens designed at a later date and the sun-distinguished herself as of real Scottish descent by sleeping through the playing of the bagpipes.) Our members came from Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne and were welcomed by Mr Ken Watson as President and Miss Miriam Chisholm Hon. Secretary. After the formal business including the election of the office bearers for the ensuing twelve months, an enjoyable evening was spent viewing some glorious colour slides of Scotland taken by Mr Douglas Chisholm of the unveiling of the plaque at the Chief's stone and other of Glen Cannich and Strathglass by Miss Miriam Chisholm and Mr Ken Watson. Recorded

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Scottish music was played and the "real thing" was provided by our unofficial piper Mr Donald Winton. On display was a piece of the original Chief's stone presented by a Chisholm to Miss Miriam on her first tour of the Clan Country in 1926. Supper was served and goodnights said.

The following day several cars provided transport for all and led by Mr Tom Chisholm we passed the old pioneer properties of Maldon, Cardross and Maxton where at the latter was the site of the only flour mill between Goulburn and Adelaide, and so to the old Chisholm homestead of Kippilaw. This two storeyed late Georgian house was built by the original pioneer Chisholm in the 1830's and here we were entertained and shown the terraced and sunken gardens designed at a later date and the sundial made from the grinding stone of the old mill previously mentioned. The house itself is furnished in fine old period style and holds many relics of past Chisholms.

From upstairs a fine view may be obtained of the willow fringed Wollondilly river and of miles of undulating sheep country, but today the typical Australian scene resounded to the skirl of pipes as The Chisholm's Salute and Erchless Castle were played probably for the first time in the valley. At the rear of the homestead we saw the fine old stone stables woolshed and shearers quarters and then went on to the church situated on a high hill overlooking the homestead. This church celebrated its centenary last year and monthly services are still held. It is built of stone well proportioned with high pitched roof and belfrey, narrow Gothic windows of clear diamond paned glass and furnished in cedar. The Altar Cross, Candlesticks and vases brass are memorials to the Chisholms of Merilla. In the cemetery within the church grounds are many graves of the Clan, the earliest dating back to 1859.

We returned to Goulburn for lunch and then were taken to see the Domestic Science College which was once the home of Mr Arthur Chisholm. Here is still preserved a wooden overmantle beautifully carved by his daughter Joan, now Mrs Hamilton of Victoria. Next we visited the old Barracks where Caroline Chisholm housed her immigrants over 100 years ago. Finally we came to St Saviour's Cathedral where a stained glass window to Robert Chisholm 1884 and several tablets to the same family are part of the Cathedral fabric, itself one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the country. And so ended a most interesting and enjoyable week-end.



The Southern Lights, Aurora Australis

By the editor

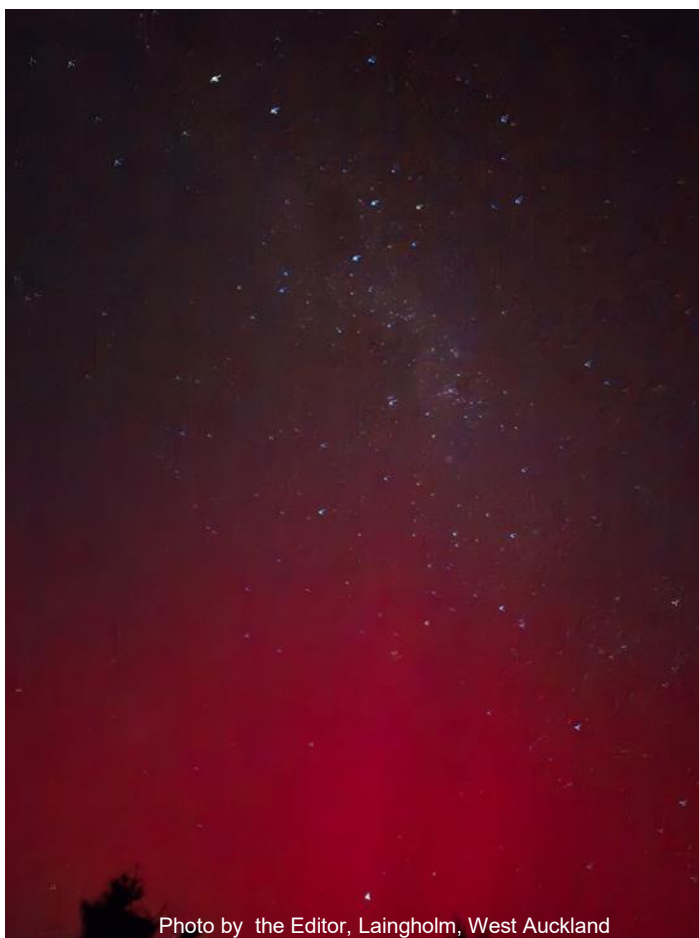


Photo by the Editor, Laingholm, West Auckland

At 11.42 pm on 11 May I popped out onto my deck, observing the background glow over in the south. I took out my trusty Samsung, a relatively new model, and snapped a pic of the Southern Cross. The Samsung revealed the bright red glow, far below the cross, much greater than could be detected with the naked eye. This is at Auckland, some 36.5 degrees latitude South. Some 550km closer to the South pole, over in Tasmania, Lucia Vaca captured a multi-coloured moment.

Do we have any Chisholms in the deep south of Canterbury, Otago, or Stewart Island, who have managed to capture an Aurora photo in greater splendour than possible in the north?

And what about the stargazers, can you name the bright star at the bottom of the

Auckland Pic, and is it the same star as captured bottom right in by Lucia in Longford, Tasmania?

How about the top left in Tasmania, is that Alpha and Beta Centauri, the pointers, but at a different aspect than as seen at 11.42pm in Auckland



Photo by Lucia Vaca, Longford, TAS

Those Hidden Chisholm Treasures! Put them in the Clan Artifacts Register.

By Fay Chisholm

The artifacts file has been slowly growing since the Chisholm Clan Council was first formed.

Some of the articles have an interesting history No1 for instance is a little battered, but when we think of where that bugle has been it is a wonder it has survived.

Then there's the fire place surround from Erchless castle why is not still in the castle ?

The Medlam files came to me via computer some 30 years ago and in doing so became corrupted, and there they sat until 2021 when I decided it was time to unravel them, and that was only because the forum master was looking for some information that I knew was in these files, having read the files on Wilfred's computer back in 1990. That was a three-four months of work, and now there are copies in five different places.

You see how each article has its own story to tell, some stories are already online like the stone of Struy and the lament that goes with it, but it was still worth recording it as it will live on long after you and I are gone, and the same goes for some of the other artifacts.

Chisholm's on the whole have a long history, have fought many a battle, so there must be many more articles of interest amongst the members and their families.

This is one way to keep alive our family stories about an article we hold and by recording them they will not be lost in time but live forever on the [Clan website](#).

At present there are 39 artifacts registered.

All that is needed is a description of the article and a photo and who owns it.

The owners name and address is not disclosed to anyone without their say so.

To register an artifact please contact Fay Chisholm at mj.fd.chisholm@xtra.co.nz

Index to Clan Chisholm registered Artifacts

Artifact or Artefact?
The Oxford English Dictionary describes the two spellings:
Artefact is considered the "English" spelling (cf arterial, artisan, etc), while
Artifact is considered the "Colonial" spelling (cf artificial, arti...)

1	Military Bugle	Bugle from c1880 in New Zealand In private ownership in New Zealand
2	Small Oak Box	With inscription "The Chisholm" In private ownership in England
3	Sheriffmuir Claymore	Claymore used at the Battle of Sheriffmuir In private ownership in Canada
4	Crystal Decanter	Wine decanter with Chisholm inscriptionxxx In private ownership in the United States
5	Clan Chisholm location markers	Stone markers laid at Culloden Located on the battlefield
6	Gallery Paintings	from the 19th century Located in galleries in Canada and Scotland
7	Mullardoch Stone	Also known as The Chisholm Stone Located on the shores of Loch Mullardoch
8	Fireplace Surround	From Erchless Castle Privately owned in Canada
9	Broadwords	Andrea Ferrera swords from the 18th century Displayed in the Inverness Town House
10	Chisholm Estate Letters	Factor's correspondence with Erchless owner Privately owned in Scotland
11	Armorial Bookplates	Bookplates of James Chisholme and Gilbert Chisholme of the ancient Chisholme family of that Ilk

Information on the Society:
Please check out the following links:

- Contacts
- How to join
- Clan History
- Annual Report



The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize 2023.

Kim Polley interviews a 2023 recipient, her niece Caitlin Midson

1. Can you tell me how you got involved in the expedition and how many students/teachers etc went? How were you all chosen to participate?

The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize is a competition that commemorates and preserves the meaning of the Anzac spirit in the Tasmanian community. Six year nine Tasmanian students are selected, along with a teacher chaperone, a Parliamentarian and an RSL representative to participate in the prize. The prize included a visit to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in February 2023, educational meetings each month and it culminated with a study tour in April 2023 (incorporating Anzac Day) to sites of wartime significance in Belgium and France. The prize was established in the memory of Tasmania's last surviving World War 1 Veteran, Frank MacDonald MM. It has been designed to ensure that Anzac stories continue to be shared and this is enabled by each tour participant selecting a World War 1 soldier to research. Research is shared with a pilgrimage and findings are published online to ensure that stories are heard and shared.

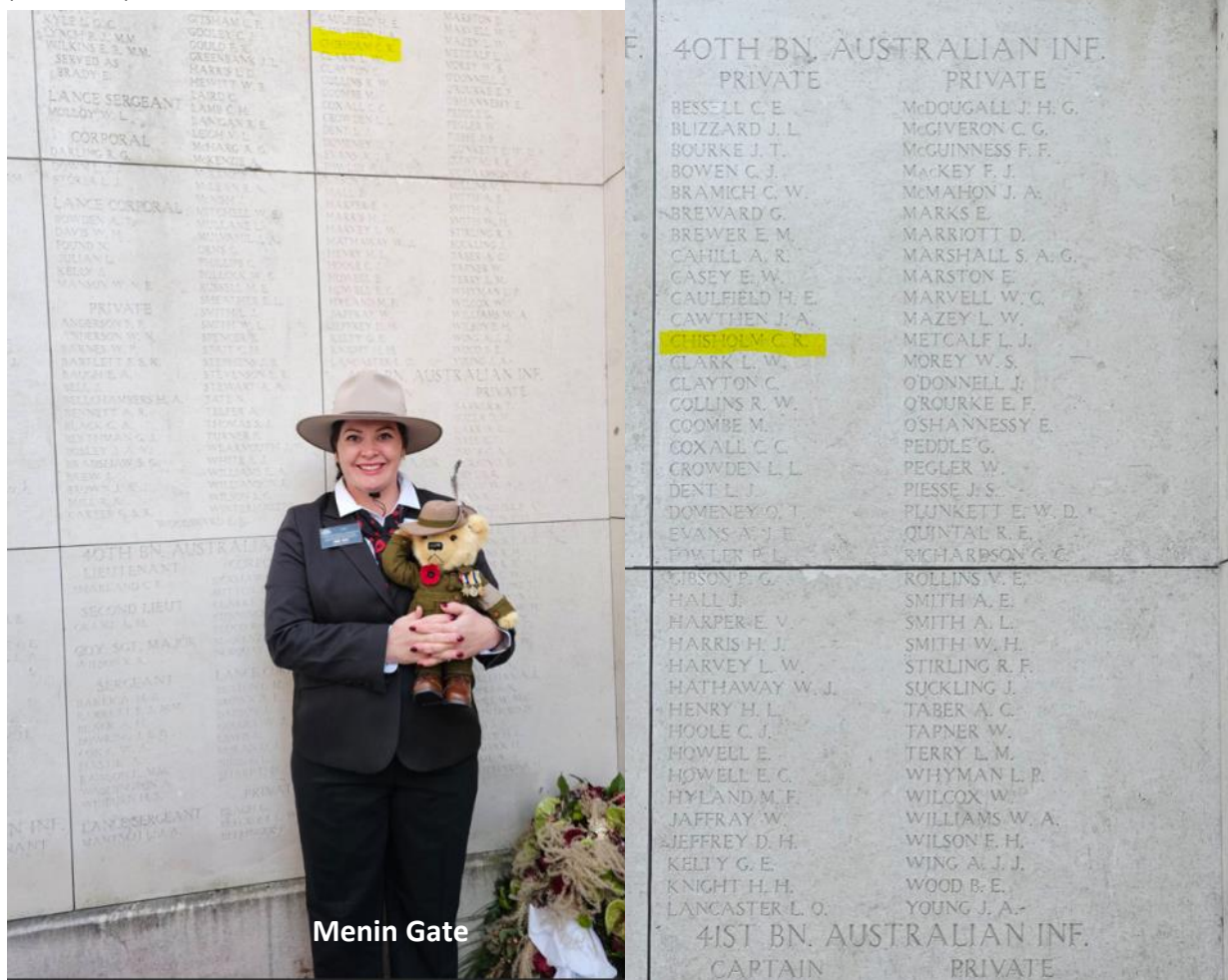
I applied, interviewed, and was awarded a position as Teacher Chaperone for the 2022 Prize and held a two-year position. In 2022 the travel was restricted to a Domestic experience due to Covid19, but in 2023 eased restrictions allowed for European travel. I am a passionate high school History teacher and always offer my Year 9 students the opportunity to enter the competition as a part of their World War 1 studies. I have been involved in helping two students complete successful entries into the competition and am currently awaiting the release of this year's question to coach more students. I work at Devonport High School as an Advanced Skills Teacher and Head of Department for History and Social Sciences.

2. Which battle fronts did you visit?

Our tour took us to many different sites of wartime significance in Belgium and France. In Belgium, we were based in the heart of Ypres. We had many a trip to Menin Gate which was meaningful to a lot of members in our group, as the soldier's they had researched had no known grave in Belgium – including Colin Russell Chisholm. Russell served in the 40th Battalion, alongside Frank MacDonald. We followed the footsteps of Frank MacDonald, and therefore Russell Chisholm. On Day 7, we started a walk at Zonnebeke and walked along the path where the 40th advanced during the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge, a part of the Third Battle of Ypres. It was the most successful component and the 40th advanced and captured their objective – the current day location of Tyne Cot. The 40th felt disappointed that the advance didn't strike again immediately, instead, they waited until 12 October and launched Passchendaele which was deadly for the 40th. They tried to advance in mud, could not dig in and their guns were clogged. The heavy artillery could not move in the mud, and they ended up retreating. This is where Russell died. Tyne Cot. What can I say? It was a very emotional place. This is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world, for any war. There are almost 12,000 graves here. A staggering 8,369 are unnamed. 1,353 are marked as Australian burials. The wall behind the cemetery contains the names of 35,000 soldiers with no known grave. They include British, Irish and New Zealanders who perished in the region after 16 August 1917 (Australians are recorded on Menin Gate). It is likely that Colin Russell Chisholm rests here with a headstone that reads 'an Australian soldier of the Great War – known unto God'.

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3. How did you feel when you laid a rose during the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres?

Visiting Menin Gate was certainly a highlight of the trip. We attended as guests on the first night in Ypres. We were surprised to hear the Didgeridoo performed by an Australian guest – such a grounding sound to hear when so far away from home. It is truly remarkable to know that every evening at 8.00pm, the police halt the traffic passing under the Menin Gate to allow the buglers to play their moving tribute to the memory of the soldiers who fought and died here so many years ago. The service has been held every day since 1928, apart for the years of Nazi occupation. On Day 6, we attended as participants, where we dressed in our uniform and laid wreaths or roses. I was able to lay a single stem red rose to honour Colin Russell Chisholm. It was a moving experience to honour Russell on behalf of his family – I hope he knows that his sacrifice is known and appreciated.

4. What are the most significant things that you discovered whilst away? Eg learned about yourself, your Chisholm family, the people and culture of the places you visited?

All day everyday was spent learning new things about the war, battles, significant people and the country. One thing I did not understand until going to Villers Bretonneux was just how grateful the French are towards Australia for helping defend their country, then staying on and helping during the recovery after the war. My understanding of battles and the fronts was improved by actually seeing the sites and geography of the places. I learnt about my Great-Great Uncle, Colin Russell Chisholm. As a child, I went to Anzac services with my pop (Geoff Chisholm), however, I didn't retain his stories of Russell. What I would give to go back and pick his brains again.

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5. What were the most significant moments for the students?

There are many aspects of the trip to consider when weighing up the most significant moments. Firstly, I think that being away from family and embarking on this journey at just 15 or 16 years of age is life-changing for the students. They learn a lot about themselves – their strengths, weaknesses, interests, communication skills, coping strategies, how long they can leave it before they call their mother etc. I really enjoyed watching the students' faces when they were treated with huge respect at the various places we visited, and when dignitaries went out of their way to engage with them. They felt special and worthy and stood a little straighter. Every person needs to feel this way and I believe this will help them in their futures.

I believe that the pilgrimages are the most significant moments of the trip. Each student provided a well-researched, heart-felt, and eloquently spoken tribute to their chosen soldier. These presentations reflect days of research and preparation, during which students build a personal connection to the soldier and their family. Often the pilgrimages are full of emotion – even taking the student by surprise.

Of course there are also the tourist highlights that the students will remember forever; Dubai Airport, long haul flights, Belgian chocolate, Belgian waffles, the Cloth Hall, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tour, Champs Elysses and escargot.

For more info on Colin Russell Chisholm

turn to page 40 of the Clan Chisholm Society Flanders Memorial Booklet

https://www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/docs/WW1/WW1_Vol_1_Flanders_1_2.pdf



Ambassador's residence, Paris



Tyne Cot



Lest we forget



L to r: Mali, Erin, and Gracie Chisholm

Photos by Shannon Chisholm

The Chisholm girls of Gerringong lay the wreath at the Gerringong Anzac Day Service, 2024.

Erin will deliver a presentation to the Gerringong Rotary Club about her Great Grandfather, Bruce Chisholm, a Gunner with the NZ Artillery, who took part in the ill-fated ANZAC attempted defence of Greece, and thence in the 8th Army campaign in North Africa 1941-43. Meanwhile over in New Zealand, their Great Uncle, Sapper Dave Chisholm, leads the Mangawhai Heads Dawn Service #Anzac on Alamar.



Photos by Lukas Walkowiak

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Thanks to the Am Baille Facebook page, a colour photo from the 1950's, from Castle Street Inverness, not only showing the famous store of Duncan Chisholm and Sons, but also on kilted display, is Duncan Chisholm and sons. Just outside the lower door stands Duncan (senior) and on the doorstep is Alan (I) and Duncan Og , while Ian is at the upper door.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/B9yMeLVF2EffZKEF/?mibextid=WC7FNe>



Am Baille - Highland History and Culture

45K followers • 243 following

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Here's an easy challenge for you! Go to the [Am Baille Facebook Page](#) and give the photo of Duncan Chisholm a "like". If you have a photo of yourself or family outside Duncan's shop, send it in to Kim Polley or Robert Chisholm, we can make a compilation page.



NZ Branch Notices

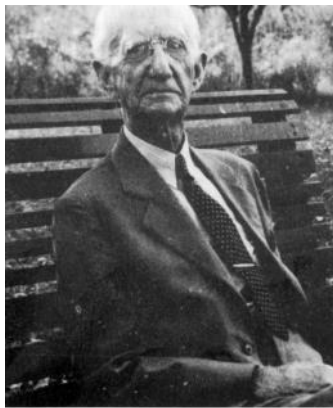


From the President

Dear Chisholm Folk

I was chuffed to see that a hymn my Methodist congregation in Palmerston North sometimes sings, "**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**," was written by a Thomas Chisholm. This was Thomas Obadiah Chisholm, born on 29 July 1866, in a log-cabin near Franklin, Kentucky, USA, died 22 December 1960 in Neptune Town, New Jersey. He was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1903, and served for a year, but then had to resign because of ill-health, and spent the rest of his working-life as an insurance agent. Nonetheless, he wrote over 1,200 sacred poems, including composing the text of this hymn in 1923. He wrote at least one other fairly well-known hymn. Chisholms get around.

Again, in 2024, we should make contact with each other WHEN? WHERE? HOW? Keeping on keeping on is winning.
John C. Ross, President



- J.O. Chisholm

Editor's note:

Thomas O Chisholm's family is well known in the Clan Chisholm Genealogical Database, and in the DNA Project. He is a descendant of Obadiah Chisholm, youngest son of John Chisum and Ellender Gillington, who are first known to the historical record in the 1740's in Amelia County, Central Virginia. There has been a mistaken historical link which connects this family to John Chissum of Little Fork, in Northern Virginia .

Both of the John Chisum/Chisum families in colonial Virginia have extensive lists of descendants throughout the USA, bearing the surnames Chism, Chisum, Chisolm and Chisholm.

2024 SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Our Constitution notes that the Financial Year for the NZ Branch of Clan Chisholm Society runs from 1 February to 31 January. This means that the subs for 2024 will soon become due.

The subs are needed to keep the Society running. Costs incurred are the printed journals from UK, Stationery and postage within NZ, expenses incurred when annual gatherings/AGM's are held.

Please arrange for the annual subs of \$20.00 to be deposited into the accounted as listed below.

06-0701-0134415-000

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Newsletter Editor: Robert Chisholm, Auckland rpchisholm@gmail.com 027 379 4924

Clan Chisholm Society, Australia Branch



Presidents Report

Dear Clan folk,

I am very excited to tell you all that my wife, Sue, and I are going over 'there', to Inverness, for the 2024 July Clan Gathering. There are at least 6 other Australians and some New Zealand members who will be attending plus other members from the UK, US and Canada.

The Gathering is spread out over a week with lots of activities and visits, including a visit to Glen Cannich, the site of 'The Chief's Stone' or Cairn. This has an Australian connection. The original Stone was inundated by the construction of the Glen Affric hydroelectricity dam. In 1957, Miriam Chisholm, the founding member of The Clan Chisholm Society in Australia, suggested that a new plaque and cairn be built above the waterline, which she offered to pay for, and which was subsequently unveiled by Mairi Chisholm at the Gathering at Inverness in 1959.

Cairns are an allegedly Scottish thing, and Miriam, a Scottish Chisholm, initiated the construction of a Chisholm Cairn at her home at 'Kippilaw', as well as being involved, maybe, in the cairn at the 'Standing Stones', Glen Innes.

Each cairn is a family touchstone that connects us all; here in Australia and back 'home' in Scotland; and each rock in the cairn tells its own story whether it be in Scotland, Australia, or maybe even further afield. We are lucky to have inherited such a good 'thing'.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best for the remaining half of 2024 and encourage you to keep your stories coming. They are the rocks we depend on to keep our history rolling.

Tony Morrison

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Clan Chisholm Society Genealogy Database (international database)

www.chisholmgenealogy.com/DB/ (Secretary can provide password)

CCS Forum: <http://www.chisholmgenealogy.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.p>

Clan Chisholm Australia Branch Genealogy Database <http://clanchisholm.org.au/> (Secretary can provide password)

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