



The Clan Matheson Society Australia Newsletter

Membership dues now overdue!

(see below)

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November meeting by ZOOM worked well.

We are becoming much more used to using Zoom to conduct our meetings. On 22 November, we held a Zoom meeting at which our Chief (Sir Alexander Matheson) was able to attend. There were a few glitches connecting him, but it was a great privilege for us to have him present as if in the same room. We held the meeting in the early evening for us so that Sir Alexander could join us in his early morning. The Minutes of this meeting are summarised in this Newsletter.

We continue to have difficulty getting our website updated and reorganised but the Facebook page goes from strength to strength. We have lots of followers from all over the world and Brad and Helen do a great job sustaining it. I would like, however, for the website to become more dynamic and a means of informing members and friends of the Clan Society about what is going on here and elsewhere. Along with so many community organisations, any activities we might have planned have been severely curtailed. State border closures and other intra-state restrictions mean that it is impossible to schedule meetings, gatherings and other events as they can be cancelled at very short notice. Despite this, our fixed costs remain, such as our website domain registration and hosting (clanmatheson.com.au) as well as insurance and affiliate fees (eg Clans of Victoria) and Newsletter production and distribution costs for those members without email accounts. Accordingly, we request members to pay their memberships as detailed below so we can continue to operate.

Our next scheduled event is the annual Clan Picnic, usually held at Flagstaff Gardens, on Sunday 21st February. As of a week ago, it looked as though this might be able to go ahead, but the very recent outbreak of Covid-19 from hotel quarantine and subsequent lockdown in Melbourne means that this has now had to be cancelled.

This is a pretty thin Newsletter as I have received no stories in the last few months. Please do send me stories for inclusion.

Colin Matheson (acting Newsletter editor)

MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2020-21 FELL DUE LAST AUGUST!

Please send us your dues now. Do not put this Newsletter aside and tell yourself you will do it later. If you have not done it already, please do it NOW. Annual dues are only \$25 per family—2 adults and children under 18. Direct deposit is the preferred method, but cheques, made out to the Clan Matheson Society, can be sent to the Treasurer, Genevieve Ahearne at PO Box 166 Rye Vic 3941 .

Bank details for online transfer are: Bendigo Bank (Blackburn South Branch) BSB 633 000, Account 145 886 719 Clan Matheson account.

Please use as reference your postcode and as much of your full name as possible to unequivocally identify you—remember many of

CLAN MATHESON

Summary of virtual Meeting held by Zoom on 22nd November 2020 7:00 pm

We were all very pleased to be able to welcome Sir Alexander Matheson, Chief of Clan Matheson, attending via Zoom from the UK for the first time.

Brenton Hayward has agreed to take over the website maintenance and updates of the Clan website (clanmatheson.com.au). There are some ongoing issues with permissions etc to be sorted out. Colin passed on Brenton's advice that, because some web functions had been structured within Brad's business, he could not access them. Brenton has suggested re-vamping the site. The only other alternative is to leave the site as it is, which would mean out-of-date documents and references remaining. All present agreed with Brenton's suggestion. Colin will pass this on to Brenton and report back to the Committee on likely costs and timeframe.

Euan said he will pick up merchandise from Roma as soon as he can make the trip. Warren offered his daughter's assistance with picking up the merchandise from Hastings and delivering to Euan in Bendigo.

Alexander said that Colvin Matheson from the USA has advised they are planning for the International Gathering in North Carolina (USA) to go ahead on 8-11 July 2021. Alexander himself, and as many of his family as possible, are planning on attending. Colin noted that Australians are not currently allowed to travel overseas, or if they did gain permission to do so, it might be difficult for them to return to Australia. Colin said Australians would be reluctant to commit at present, due to the Covid-19 situation. Alexander noted that there will likely be developments next month with vaccines etc. He said he will make great efforts to get to the International Gathering, especially as this would give a boost to Colvin. Colin noted that Australians can only watch and wait at this stage.

Alexander said he would try to visit Australia and New Zealand in about 2 years' time, during our summer. He spoke of the next International Clan Matheson Gathering in Scotland, the timing of which would depend on what happens with Covid-19 and the proposed International Gathering in North Carolina in 2021. The earliest likely Gathering in Scotland would be July 2023.

Genevieve advised the Society's current bank balance is approx. \$7,000. She noted some (Committee) members had paid their subscription fees but few other members had done so as yet. Genevieve will go to the bank to arrange for Colin to be added as a signatory.

There was some discussion about insurance and whether the Society needed to have it. It was noted we would not be able to pitch a Clan tent at any public event without public liability insurance. All present agreed we should continue paying for this insurance, in spite of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council's proposed increase in 2021.

Colin passed on congratulations to the Victorians present at the meeting, for managing the second wave of Covid-19 so well. Colin hopes that we can have our usual February picnic (in person), rather than having a Zoom meeting at that time, on Sunday, 21 February 2021. No other 'meeting' dates for 2021 have yet been set – we are all in a watch-and-wait phase concerning Covid-19, and possible vaccine, etc. Alexander noted he is in a second lockdown in the UK until 2 Dec 2020.

There was a vote of thanks to Roma, stepping down from Secretary role at AGM. New Secretary is Brad.

Next meeting scheduled for 21 February at the Annual Clan Picnic at Flagstaff Gardens 12:00 noon

Vale Lance Matheson (1929-2020)



Photo of Lance taken from Betty Salathiel's book 'Mathesons'

Lance and Ella at the Clan AGM in Masonic Hall Werribee, 2002



We are sad to report the death in Geelong on 13th December of Lance Hector Matheson, long-standing, generous and unassuming member of the Clan Matheson Society. Lance was a member of the large Wycheproof Matheson family and a great grandson of Farquhar Matheson (b 1820) who emigrated from Scotland via Liverpool to Portland (Vic) in 1853. Lance worked as a bank manager and married Ella in 1971. He attended several Clan Matheson International Gatherings, beginning in 1998 where I first encountered him, as well as Clan picnics and other events until recent years when illness prevented it. At the Clan Dinner after the International Gathering at Plockton in 1998, he 'dobbed' Mary and me in to sit at 'High Table' to represent Australia – a task he and Ella would have been far better qualified to carry out than Mary and I were. This was an example of his humility and modesty that was very endearing; tributes from others describe him as a true gentleman. We send deepest condolences to Ella.

Colin Matheson

Notes:

- 1. We have not included a forthcoming events list in this Newsletter because of the uncertainty about when such events may be possible in the future. When circumstances permit, we shall begin to hold musters, picnics and lunches again. This might not be until the government vaccination program has been implemented. Please keep an eye on the website—soon to be revamped, and on the Facebook page.**
- 2. The February picnic meeting was scheduled for 21st February at Flagstaff Gardens, starting at 12:00 noon. Under the present circumstances, Covid-19 lockdown in Victoria of uncertain length, this picnic has had to be cancelled. In its place, starting at 2.00 pm, we shall hold a brief meeting (as the third of the four we are required to hold each year) via Zoom. If you would like to join in, please let me know and I'll send you the link.**

Colin Matheson

Acting Newsletter Editor

DNA note:

You might have been watching the news about the spread of the Sars-cov-2 virus, you know, the one that causes the Covid-19 disease. You might also have noted that some genomic testing of the virus has been able to detect where outbreaks occurred, allowing extra precautions against further outbreaks from similar sources. This is because the virus changes by mutation very frequently so that virus from one person is more genetically similar to the virus from the person who passed it on than to the virus particles from any other person. This is very like the results of DNA analyses we follow when doing family trees of our own families, albeit very much faster. The virus lineages follow much the same rules as our own, that allow us to follow our own family ancestries using DNA analyses.

Clan Matheson Society Australian Branch Office Bearers

Chief's Lieutenant	Dr Colin Matheson	colin.matheson@gmail.com
President:	Dr Colin Matheson	colin.matheson@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Warren Matheson	warrenmatheson@bigpond.com
Secretary:	Brad Matheson	brad@domainpc.com.au
Facebook:	Brad Matheson	brad@domainpc.com.au
Treasurer:	Genevieve Ahearne	secretary.clanmatheson@gmail.com
Piper:	Warren Matheson	warrenmatheson@bigpond.com
Genealogist: (acting)	Dr Colin Matheson	colin.matheson@gmail.com
Newsletter: (acting)	Dr Colin Matheson	colin.matheson@gmail.com
Website:	Brenton Hayward	tlblhayward@outlook.com