



MAY NEWSLETTER- 2015

REPORT ON ABC TOUR:



On Tuesday, 7th April, 10 people, namely, George Cowin, Robyn & Max Cain, Val & Tony Ashworth, Alan & Carolyn Randle, Doug & Isobel Quayle and Joyce Holliss turned up to enjoy the ABC Studio tour

We all met at the Studio and were shown around by two very entertaining guides who had both before retiring, been working as Journalists at the ABC studios for the past 30 years or so, and went on to explain and to show us how it all had changed in recent years.

There are fewer programmes coming out of Brisbane, as most of the programmes go to Sydney to be put together and presented. This is supposed to be for continuity, efficiency of labour and cost containment, but I think it is not the labour that costs, it is the equipment needed to do the work.

The Journalist today works mainly through the Internet, and with the help of modern technology, taping interviews and internet stories, prepares his or her programme to go on air. The range of equipment used is mind-boggling for the uninitiated, totally fascinating and fast moving. I can understand why so many young people want to be Journalists and to be part of the ever-changing world events. Sadly, in real life, not many get good permanent jobs these days.

However, looking around at the existing staff, I, for one, felt very old, as most of the people working at the Studio were all under 40, Although I am used to spending long hours at the Computer at times, these youngsters looked as though they never left their desks, seemingly riveted to their screens, although one or two looked up and waved at us going by.

We were shown the local news and weather studio where TV presenters, Karina Karvahlio and Jenny Woodward work and where Spencer Howson and Dave Austin of 612 prepare their Radio programmes, but unfortunately, did not get to meet any of them or see them in action.

All in all, it was a very interesting and informative day, and I recommend the tour to anyone who wishes to find out how each programme is presented and to view all the equipment used today.

REPORT ON CELTIC COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA [QLD] AWARDS NIGHT:

The Celtic Awards night was held on the 11th April, this year held at the Easts League Club, Coorparoo and was well attended by the various Celtic Societies. The Manx were represented by Doug Quayle [recipient of a *Duine Uasal* Award], his wife, Nancy and members of their family, George Cowin, Edna Davis, Lillian Smith and Val Ashworth. It was a very enjoyable event, with Scottish Dancers, a young Harpist and the Irish Pipe Band entertaining us. The food was

excellent and the company convivial, but the best part for me was to see the beam on Doug's face after he had received his Award.

Photo below – 2015 CCAQ Award Recipients – Doug Quayle on the right hand side.



REPORT ON SHINGLE INN – BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL 18TH APRIL, 2015:

Twelve enthusiastic Manxies gathered at the Shingle Inn to enjoy a meal, a laugh and a chat. The food was very tasty and the surroundings very pleasant. After our luncheon, we all travelled to the 3rd floor and separated to take in the various tours and displays, including a video of the Brisbane River and activities, History of Brisbane, a Bell tower tour and the Hollywood Costume collection with videos of various actors singing and dancing. Although we did not have the space to hold a traditional meeting, we still managed to have a good Manxie day out.



L to R: Lillian Smith, Robyn Cain, Maxwell Cain, Alan Randle, Carolyn Randle, Shelley Cass. Other members who attended were Helen Saxby, Ellen Wilkinson, Ann De Hass, Joyce Mitchell, and Val Ashworth

NEXT EVENT PLANNED AS AN EXCURSION FOR THE QMS:

BRUNCH at the **SECRET GARDEN CAFE**, 999 Stanley Street, East Brisbane, which we have booked for **SATURDAY, 23RD MAY, at 11.30 a.m, for up to 20 people.** A menu and price list is being sent to the MCM, but most food prices seem to be up to \$20. . This Cafe is also part of a Plant nursery, where you can browse and/or purchase any flower that takes your fancy.

Car pooling can be arranged if necessary, but buses can be taken from the City – 185 and 210 which stop almost outside the Secret Garden Cafe in Vulture Street. This is open to all friends and family, and our friends from other Celtic Societies if they wish to attend. **PLEASE LET ACTING SECRETARY KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THIS BRUNCH, BY 16TH MAY.**

THE FOLLOWING STORIES WERE TAKEN FROM THE N.S.W. NEWSLETTER WITH KIND PERMISSION FROM ALWYN PIGGOTT, PRESIDENT. [Stories originally from the Isle of Man]



UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF OUR THREE LEGS - DAVE KNEALE

It's perhaps the ultimate Manx symbol, but where does it come from? A new book aims to unlock the mysteries of the distinctive and ubiquitous Three Legs of Mann.

Sara Goodwins, author of **'Three Legs Good'** that celebrates the history of the Three Legs of Mann symbol **'Three Legs Good'**, published by Loaghtan Books, celebrates the Manx triskelion and explores the history of the symbol and its origins. Author Sara Goodwins, who lives in Ramsey, told the Manx Independent: *'I'm a comeover, and the first time I visited the island about 25 years ago I saw the symbol everywhere. 'It's distinctive, eye-catching and also quite odd when you think about it. 'There was obviously great pride in the symbol, but I noticed people weren't always sure where it really comes from.'*

The Manx version of the triskelion is believed to have been adopted as a royal coat of arms in the island during the 13th century, but the symbol's origins go much further into the past, taking in Celtic and even classical history. *'From a Manx point of view the earliest examples are on the Manx Sword of State and on the Maughold stone cross, but it appears even earlier elsewhere in the world,'* Sara said. *'The spiral symbol goes back several thousand years, and the three legs themselves appeared about 500BC in ancient Greece.'*

The book features full colour photographs of some of the most distinctive examples of the symbol to be found around the Isle of Man. **'Three Legs Good'** is available in the island's bookshops for £4.95, or can be ordered online at www.loaghtanbooks.com

STEAM TRAIN TO THE RESCUE BY ADRIAN DARBYSHIRE

In scenes straight out of Thomas the Tank Engine, a steam engine *Loch* had to come to the rescue when the railway's new diesel loco broke down.

Guests on the *Valentine's Massacre Murder Mystery train* were left stranded for a time at Santon on Friday night when the US-built diesel conked out. Steam engine ***Loch*** was sent from Douglas to rescue the dining train. Director of public transport Ian Longworth said: 'Unfortunately a contactor needed adjustment which is a small job.'

'Since it was the first time we had the problem we recovered the train rather than risk it taking longer than we expected. The passengers were just over an hour late but being the dining train we were able to entertain them during the delay. The diesel was fixed very quickly Saturday morning as it was only a small adjustment to the contactor and is in use again today on a works train. Just part of learning about the new technology and us not taking risks in the dark.'

The diesel-electric, costing £400,000, was shipped to the island in December 2013. But it was soon consigned to the shed after being beset with engine problems. A new engine had to be fitted, at the manufacturer's own cost, but teething troubles continued involving the air intake temperature. It was finally declared 'serviceable' last July.

Liberal Vannin MHK Peter Karran (Onchan) has tabled a House of Keys question on the cost of purchasing the diesel, what business plan for it was made, what use has been made of the machine and whether it is 'fit for purpose'.



GLEN INNES:

Nine members of the QMS made it down to Glen Innes this year to help celebrate the Year of the Welsh - George and Edna having had to bow out at the last minute. So the Queensland Manx shared the N.S.W. Manx Tent at the Standing Stones this year. Only three members of the N.S.W. Manx attended this year, President Alwyn Piggott and his wife, Sally, and of course, Margaret Sharpe. The Queensland members were Doug & Nancy Quayle, Norma Conwell, her sister Audrey Laird, and son, Jeff Conwell, Jan & Richard Blackburn and Val & Tony Ashworth. The weather, although not as bad as last year, still was a little hard to take, with wind and rain taking turns to taunt the Festival goers, who had to tramp through layers of mud around the tents and events. Still, we managed to have a good time, and were very happy to meet up with a real Manxie, originally from Laxey, Isle of Man, Alastair Kneale. Alastair now lives in London and is the President of the London Manx Society. He said he had such a good time at the Festival, he was coming again next year, for the Year of the Manx.

We again met up with member Jim Williams, who was staying at the Showgrounds Caravan Park with Tony & Val Ashworth and Jan and Richard Blackburn. With Jim and Liz, was their wonderful poodle, Rupert, who again took pride of place with the Manx Society, in the Saturday morning Street Parade. I have to say, he was the star of the show, strolling along with Jim, and making friends with people in the crowd. Thank you, Jim and Rupert. You really made our day.

I don't know how Jim & Liz Williams got on in the wind and rain at the Camping ground, but Tony and I were flooded out in our Caravan Annexe in one of the more severe storms, and even though we had a mat on the ground, had to squelch through water to get to our car and back again. Our Van rocked and rolled with the wind, but inside we were quite warm and dry. I don't know how Jim & Liz got on in the storms, but Jan & Richard Blackburn in their Montana Fifth Wheeler Home were certainly high and dry on the whole. It was great to meet up with the Blackburns again and hear all their news. We left them in Glen Innes about to do some fossicking for sapphires, etc. and hope they manage to find something special.

However, despite all this, we all managed to have a good time, and now have to get our heads together to plan for the Year of the Manx at the Festival next year. **If you are thinking of attending the Glen Innes Festival next year for this event, you can get your Manx Tartan Scarves and Berets from Edna Davis, - 0417 061 865.**

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR REMOTE VILLAGERS IN VANUATU;

*As you are probably aware by now that our Vice President Max Cain has close ties to Vanuatu which is still in shock and slowly recovering from devastation from the recent terrible cyclone. When the Committee, at the last meeting, asked how the Qld Manx Society could help in any way, Max came up with the following suggestion. We thought that donations [other than money] sent through the right channels would be the best way to help. If you would like to donate any of the following items, please contact **MAX CAIN** on **0407 039 356**, and he will advise you as to whether you should bring donations to him, or whether you should direct them to a suitable venue for processing and delivery to Vanuatu. The items most needed are:*

FIRST AID ITEMS, TOOTHPASTE, SOAP, SHAMPOO, PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS, NAPPIES, NON PERISHABLE FOOD, CLOTHING, [mainly T-shirts, shorts, etc] TOWELS, SHEETS, ETC. but mainly first aid items, bandaids, bandages, tape, scissors, etc.

As the remote Islanders are seriously suffering, anything you can send to them will be very welcome. Please endeavour to help in any way you can.



MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER: Treasurer Doug has in his possession many records of the Isle of Man Family History Society with details of Parish Records and Monumental inscriptions. If any member would like to borrow or study these records, please contact him on 3408 6791 or email: dnquayle@tpg.com.au

COMING QMS EVENTS:

TYNWALD DAY – SATURDAY, 4TH JULY, 2015 to be held at Arana Leagues Club, Dawson Parade, Keperra, 11 a.m. to 11.30. a.m. start. . Please note in your Calendar.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SATURDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 2015 , to be held at Arana Leagues Club, Dawson Parade, Keperra, 11 a.m. for 11.30 a.m. start. More details next month. Please note in your Calendar.

FUTURE QMS EXCURSION:

Later in the year, we are also planning another excursion open to everyone, including our Celtic Cousins, in a car-pooled trip to Maleny to have lunch at the **LE JARDIN Restaurant**, which was formerly the Celtic Restaurant, some of you may remember visiting in the past. Although now open to the public with a French theme, it is still worth a visit. There will be lovely gardens to browse through, a nursery, gift shop and a gallery displaying up and coming artists, all to be enjoyed. We will be planning this for around September, but have not yet decided whether to make it during the week or at the weekend. Your comments will be appreciated. Car pooling can be arranged if required. More on this later



MANX DANCE CLASSES:

When we were in Glen Innes, we were visited by Heather Clarke, Dance Historian, who teaches Manx Dancing in Brisbane and if you or your children or grand-children have any interest in learning Manx Dancing, please contact her on 3289 4708, or at heather.clarke40@yahoo.com. Visit their website – www.colonialdance.com.au It would be nice to have some dancers for our Year of the Manx next year.,



OTHER CELTIC SOCIETY EVENTS:

INTERNATIONAL TARTAN DAY: [Australian Scottish Community of Qld]

This year, the International Tartan Day will be held on the **11th July, 2015** and not on the Qld Manx Tynwald Day, 4th July. It is now held in the City Hall Park area and is very popular and well attended. The Qld Manx will be setting up their tent where Manxies can gather to enjoy the event.

SCOTLAND IN THE PARK: [Scottish Clans Congress of Qld]

The event will be held on the **19th July, 2015**, at the new venue at Greenbank Sport & Recreation Club, 720 – 768 Middle Road, Greenbank, from 9 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Lots of parking to be had and entry by gold coin donation. Enquiries to Ern Thompson [07] 3200 9536.

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