

Australia's archived news

Australian Gathering March 23 2013

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MacAmhlaidh gu Brath!

This is the war cry of the ancient MacAulay Clan and the sound of bagpipes were to be heard around Swaggers Restaurant at the Sundowner Swaggers Motor Inn at Yass on Saturday March 23



However, it was not an attack of wild Celtic warriors on Yass but the annual clan gathering of the MacAulays in Australia.

Members came from all over NSW, the ACT, NZ and even from England this year to celebrate the heritage of the MacAulay name.

The MacAulay clan in Australia is the local branch of the Clan MacAulay which is based in Scotland and encourages friendship between all descended from the MacAulay name.

The MacAulay clan in Australia had chosen Yass for their 2013 gathering, starting with an informal dinner on Friday night in town, a tour of the district on Saturday after the annual general meeting, including lunch at Cooma Cottage and a splendid homemade afternoon tea at the Binalong Motor Museum. Then came the Grand Dinner on Saturday night at Swaggers Restaurant. At every MacAulay clan formal dinner, it is essential for the haggis to be piped in by a lone piper accompanied by the sword bearing protector of the haggis, old Scottish tradition.



The haggis was then addressed by the master of ceremonies who recited the Scottish poet Robbie Burns' poem, Address to the Haggis, before the toast of whisky (Scotch, of course), and the serving of the dinner, together with the traditional mashed potatoes. A further two courses of dinner followed and everyone caught up with the year's news as much as possible. The rest of the evening was spent with a talk on the history of the area given by Gloria Carlos of the Yass & District Historical Society, presentation of updates on the genealogy of Macaulay, and a raffle of various items including items with embroidered MacAulay clan badges.

Our piper, Diamond, played Scottish tunes including those requested by clan members.

All members of the MacAulay clan commented on the friendliness of Yass people and the clan executive would like to extend their thanks to the staff of the Sundowner Swaggers Motor Inn, Friends of Cooma Cottage, Yass & District Historical Society and Binalong Motor Museum for the wonderful assistance given to the Macaulay clan for the gathering.

The clan gathering in 2014 will be held in Griffith and the MacAulay clan in Australia always welcomes new members.

It does not matter how the name is spelt as there are a number of different spellings available, as long as everyone is prepared to celebrate the name and have a good time.

For membership details, please contact the honourable secretary on 0409 328 193.

By the way, MacAmhlaidh gu Brath!

means MacAulay Forever!