



# Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER No. 61 February 2007

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Baronet of Lochalsh

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Genealogist:

DNA Project Administrator

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## THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

There may be several good reasons for supporting our Clan Society of which a main one may be to promote friendship among our kinsmen. Reading of the many functions so ably arranged by our Branch Clan Officials one is inclined to think we achieve this aim to no mean tune. But is this really so? Aren't there large numbers of gaps on the map where plenty of Mathesons are to be found who probably are totally unaware that our Clan Society exists? The news that Australia and New Zealand are both hosting an International Clan Matheson Gathering provides an excellent opportunity and reason to go into those areas and encourage membership and the formation of sub branches. I hope the lead given by the Australians and New Zealanders will enthuse our members young and old to give the gathering the publicity it deserves. Don't just leave it to someone else to pass the word around.

I was moved when I read a Christmas Card from an elderly lady who said she missed the Clan. Her husband a devoted helper and organiser had died and no one had come forward to continue his good work. Of course this should not happen and lines of capable helpers should be coming along the whole time to fill the gaps and offer their services. We rely too much on the excellent Clan officials in place now and in some cases have been for years, to carry on indefinitely. We don't want them to leave but we do need many more young leaders who will give of their time and expertise to back them up. Please support the Clan, get out and about and help form new branches, find new members. We are so lucky to belong to a Clan and have a Highland heritage to look back on with pride, let's

make the most of it. Any member who feels he or she has something to give should not be afraid to come forward and offer his or her services at any level to the appropriate Chief's Lieutenant or other official. I welcome John Aakesson and Bob Matheson who have done just this and have now been appointed Deputy Chief's Lieutenants in the United States and I wish them well.

I was fortunate to receive an invitation to the Island of Lewis from Alexander (Sandy) Matheson, OBE, JP., Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the Western Isles and Mr. Tony Robson, Chairman of the Stornoway Amenity Trust to attend the Opening Ceremony of the restored Memorial to Sir James Matheson, First and Last Baronet of the Lews. The open air ceremony overlooking Stornoway Harbour was held in the afternoon on a perfect autumn day which ended with a spectacular display by the Stornoway Pipe Band, followed by dinner for 100 in the Matheson Hall, Matheson Road. We had arrived by air, skimming, it seemed, over the waters of the Minch to land at a modern and efficient airport. Before leaving, visits were laid on to see Lews Castle, the Stornoway Port Authority and other offices instituted by Sir James in the mid 1800s. He had made the Lews his home after retiring from Jardine Matheson & Co in China of which he was a founder partner. The island is a reminder of the peace and tranquility, friendship and hospitality so common in the Highklands. As a bonus for bird loving visitors there are Puffins on the nearby Shiant Isles just South of Stornoway !

Best wishes for a prosperous 2007

*Fergus Matheson of Matheson*

## GENEALOGY CORNER

Provided one remembers that not all information on the internet is necessarily proven as fact, that medium can provide some very interesting material for the genealogist. Last year I discovered it was possible to search the England/Wales birth, marriage and death registration indexes. Not only those interesting sources but also census records are available for perusal too. The upshot of all this was my realising just how many Matheson/Mathieson people lived in England and Wales for several generations, with plenty continuing to do so. This source of information has led me to understand, when trying to find a 'lost' family, where so many Scottish Mathesons have 'disappeared' to. This genealogist has generally assumed such a

family might have moved from Scotland to Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand etc. Not always so, many individuals and families merely shifted over the border. Of course, to make it even more fun for the genealogist, such short distance emigrants may well have decided to make a much more distant shift some number of generations along. A genealogist's work is never dull.

I would like to wish all Clan Matheson members a very happy 2007 and good health.

*Don Scott, Clan Genealogist*



## **CLAN DNA NEWS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2006**

So far we have DNA results on 24 males and 4 females with 7 more male testing in progress. People have tested from the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. While tests on females don't show us much on the history of the surname, they do show that Mathesons married females from many different backgrounds. One is descended from Haplogroup H (Helena) which began about 20,000 years ago near the border of France and Spain. Another comes from V (Velda) who lived about 15,000 years ago on the Iberian peninsula. The third comes from K (Katrine) who lived about 15,000 years ago on the southern slopes of the Italian Alps. The fourth comes from J (Jasmine) who lived 8-10,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent and whose descendants moved into Europe with the spread of agriculture. More on these lines is contained in the book *The Seven Daughters of Eve* by Bryan Sykes.

Eighteen males descend from Y-DNA Haplogroup R1b. This is the youngest of the male haplogroups and spread throughout western Europe after the last glacial maximum 10,000-12,000 years ago. Four of the men are from a single ancestor in the Lairg, Sutherland area, and quite likely of the family of the Chieftains of Shiness. One is descended from a group that was first called Colla Uais, then the Princes of Dalriada, and now Scotland 1. The exact ancestor is still under debate, but many of this group are found in Clan

Donald. One from Aberdeenshire is actually descended from Dunbars. Patrick Dunbar, Chancellor of Aberdeen owned Bennetsfield before the Mathesons, so the connection may lie here. The remainder of R1b men are still searching for links and may be the result of early Pict settlers in the territory later controlled by Matheson Chiefs or Chieftains. Four men are from Haplogroup R1a which originated in the Eurasian Steppes north of the Black and Caspian seas in the Kurgan culture, known for domestication of the horse (approximately 3000 B.C.E.) Their DNA signature is of Norwegian Viking descent and their ancestry goes back to Murchadh Buidhe, Chief of the Mathesons in the 1500's.

The final two men are from Haplogroup I which is nearly completely restricted to north-western Europe. One of the men is of Viking descent and the other's DNA is a Western Isles signature. I'm hoping that eventually we will get some testers from Norway or at least the Orkneys who will be able to tell us more.

To inquire about DNA testing, e-mail, write, or call Alice Fairhurst, [afairhurst@earthlink.net](mailto:afairhurst@earthlink.net), 313 E. Hurst St., Covina, CA 91723, (626) 331-4791. To see results of the tests, go to

<http://www.ftdna.com/public/Matheson>

*Alice Fairhurst*

*Clan Matheson DNA Project Administrator*

## **THE CLAN MATHESON WEB SITE**

The web site has now been up and running for just over a year and seems to be generating a fair amount of interest. It is receiving more "hits" every week and I've been delighted to receive e-mails from Mathesons all over the world expressing an interest in joining the Clan Society and/or e-group.

Up to now, the site has been fairly basic. Nonetheless, it has evolved considerably over the year, with the addition of photos of Matheson events, details of the DNA project, Clan news and even the addition of a page allowing people to join the Clan Society directly from the site. In addition, virtually every Clan officer listed on the web site has his or her own [clanmatheson.org](http://clanmatheson.org) e-mail address; please can branches let me know of any new officers or, indeed, if any changes in the contact details of existing officers, so that I can include them on the site?

Next year, time permitting, I shall try to work on the design of the site. The eventual aim is to co-ordinate the web sites of all the different national branches, with a "corporate" design, colour scheme and general theme. This is very important because there are a number of web sites out there claiming to contain "authentic" Matheson details, whereas in fact they are inaccurate. Some even sell what they say are "authorised" Matheson products, but these have never been anywhere near the Chief! Consequently,

whilst one or two branches already have their own web sites and I envisage a gradual bringing together of these as the corporate design evolves. The first site to follow the "corporate" line belongs to the England branch

(<http://www.clanmatheson.org/englandbranch.htm>). This is currently very simple, showing details of past and future events, but eventually it should contain more information on how the Clan spread when it left Scotland for life "down south". Meantime, follow the link to "The Lowry's Down Under" to see what happened when England branch's Ron and Kate Lowry went to visit their family in Australia.

Because of limited space (and time!), I haven't been able to put every photo that I've received on the web site, but I've had huge fun going through the pictures that people have sent me and selecting what I hope is a representative sample. I'm always delighted to receive news and photos for the web site - even if I can't always process them straight away. Keep them coming! In addition, I welcome ideas and hints for improving the site, so if you have any thoughts, do please contact me at

[patricia.mathieson@clanmatheson.org](mailto:patricia.mathieson@clanmatheson.org)

*Patricia Mathieson*

*Clan Internet Adviser*

## **BONNET CLAN BADGES**

*There is a possibility of getting some sterling silver bonnet badges made. They are fairly expensive but will be the real thing and quite the best you could get. If you are interested, please contact Alexander at [afmatheson@gmail.com](mailto:afmatheson@gmail.com) for further details.*



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## UNITED KINGDOM

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e-mail: johnlfaid@hotmail.co.uk  
Internet Adviser: Miss Jennie Matheson e-mail : jenniem@globalnet.co.uk  
Pipers: Lt. Colonel Alexander Matheson of Matheson, yr.  
Andrew Matheson  
Edmund Kendall

## ENGLAND

Convenor: Lt. Colonel Alexander Matheson of Matheson, yr.  
e-mail: afmatheson@gmail.com  
Hon. Secretary: Ron Lowry, Brae Cottage, Colchester Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1RP  
Tel. 01376 561662 e-mail: ron@rlowry.fsnet.co.uk.  
Hon Treasurer: Malcolm Matheson, Little Tompsets, Tompsets Bank, Forest Row, Sussex, RH18 5LN.  
e-mail: Malcolm@matheson-ward.co.uk tel. 01342 824183.  
Committee Members: John Faid, Jennie Matheson, Leslie Matheson, Malcolm Matheson, Patricia Mathieson

Another year has sped past and it is again my privilege to report on the activities of the England Branch of the Clan Matheson Society for the last twelve months.

Our Branch remains healthy as regards its membership numbers as new comers replace those who have left us. Our current total stands at 86, including those who only take our Newsletter. Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Isabel Hammond of Southampton who died in September 2006. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

During the year your Committee has met on four occasions and has continued to examine ways in which to enlarge our Membership and to encourage members to give their views on what they would like the Branch to achieve in the future. The web site has been greatly improved and it is hoped that Members who have access to it will take the time to comment on its contents while learning more about the Clan, its history and prospects for the next few years. It is still intended that a questionnaire will be published to all Members, both on the web and by postal means, to hear their comments and suggestions for the Branch. To increase local interest in the Branch, there are plans to hold meetings and events away from the London area in the hope that more Members will be able to join in them.

In May this year some Members met on a very wet Sunday at the RAF Museum at Hendon, North London. There were very many aircraft on display of varying ages and it proved to be a very interesting outing. The older members were intrigued to find a dramatic portrayal of life in London (or other cities) during the Blitz. Happy memories of gas masks and ration books!! Your Secretary was particularly interested to find on display the first aircraft to fly over Mount Everest on the day he was born!!

Apart from the Committee Meetings, the Annual General Meeting of the Branch was as usual held in May. On this occasion, however, the venue was changed to the Offices of the Convenor in St James' Palace. We were pleased to welcome the Chief to this Meeting and fruitful discussions were held on a number of topics. Members should all have received a copy of the Minutes of the AGM, but if necessary they can be obtained again from the Secretary. One interesting result of our deliberations is that the owner of Eilean Donan Castle has agreed to display Clan Matheson exhibits in the Castle, where Matheson visitors would be especially welcome.

Early in the year Kate and Ron Lowry were very fortunate to be able to visit Australia and New Zealand and were most royally entertained by the Chief's Lieutenants in both Countries, Colin and Mary and Doug and Anne. We were invited to join in the annual Matheson Picnic in Melbourne and also enjoyed a mini Gathering in Auckland at Doug and Anne's house. We were very pleased to renew acquaintances in both countries and look forward to the next time.

More members of the Branch visited New Zealand in the last few months and Alan and Di Harpham had as an enjoyable time as we did. Their report is published elsewhere in this Newsletter.

On behalf of the whole committee, I send you all our very best wishes for 2007 and hope that we will meet at some time this year. The AGM will be on Tuesday 8th May 6pm for 6.30pm at Matheson & Co., 6 Crutched Friars, City of London, venue to be confirmed. Other possibilities are a visit to Stratford upon Avon; and boating at Cambridge, possibly on Sunday 12th August 2007. Members will be advised shortly, meanwhile watch the Clan web site.

*Ron Lowry  
Hon Secretary, England*

## A TRIP ROUND THE WORLD

Alan & Di Harpham (Bromham, Bedford) recently went around the world on an extended business trip and managed a week's holiday in New Zealand, whilst visiting all 5 Continents and travelling nearly 35,000 miles. They now hope to plant a forest for all that Carbon! They met up on their first evening in NZ with Doug Matheson, his wife Anne, and unexpectedly one daughter, Dianne and son Blair for dinner and a great time was had by all as we had not seen each other since the Clan Gathering in 2004. We had much catching up to do. Doug is busy with his planning for the 2008 event, which as we understand it will start in Melbourne, Australia, moving after that to Auckland, NZ and hopefully later to Queenstown in South Island. Having

spent a few wonderful days in Queenstown on this trip we cannot wait for 2008 to get back with the benefit of seeing many clan members there too. The sights were wonderful with a visit to Milford Sound and a trip by Jet Boat up the Dart River which supplied much of the scenic backdrop to Lord of the Rings! We concluded our visit with a dinner with Doug and his wife at the revolving restaurant in Auckland. Can't wait to see as many clan members as possible there in May 2008.

Sadly our visit was all too brief and we did not get to meet Diane's husband or see anyone's home this trip.

*Alan Harpham*



## AUSTRALIA

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chief's Lieutenant<br>& President  | Dr. A. Colin Matheson                                                                                                                                                             | 20 Nymagee Place, Fisher, ACT 2611<br>e-mail: Colin.Matheson@csiro.au Tel: (02) 6288 1001.               |
| Vice President:                    | Brett Mathieson,                                                                                                                                                                  | 67 Thomas Street, Hampton, Victoria. 3188<br>e-mail: mitchellmeade@yahoo.com                             |
| Hon. Secretary:                    | Roma Jorgensen                                                                                                                                                                    | GPO Box 2587W, Melbourne 3001 Victoria.<br>e-mail: rjorgenson@bigpond.com Tel: (03) 9614 1021            |
| Hon. Treasurer:                    | Lois Langford                                                                                                                                                                     | 36 Valley Parade, Glen Iris, Victoria. 3146<br>e-mail : goodsir.matheson@bigpond.com Tel: (03) 9889 6547 |
| Genealogist &<br>Internet Adviser: | Craige Proctor                                                                                                                                                                    | 774, Bellarine Highway, Leopold, Victoria 3224<br>e-mail : craige@iprimus.com.au Tel: (03) 5250 2045.    |
| Research Officer:                  | Diane Matheson,                                                                                                                                                                   | P.O. Box 85, Trafalgar, Victoria. 3824 Tel: (03) 56 331976                                               |
| Committee:                         | Len Langford, Margaret Fleming, Robert Mathieson, Bruce Mathieson, Lance Matheson,<br>Ella Matheson, Abigail Butler, Merle Matheson, Janet Blainey, Gordon Marshall, (newsletter) |                                                                                                          |

This year has been one of consolidation following changes to the Committee. Margaret Fleming, at whose house we held the most recent AGM in December 2006, decided she was not able to continue as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. She did an excellent job at both, but had other commitments. We elected Roma Jorgenson as Secretary at the last AGM, and she has done a sterling job during the year. Roma did not want to be the Editor of the Newsletter and so Gordon Marshall volunteered for the job and has clearly continued the high standard we have come to expect. We continue to get feedback that members and overseas recipients enjoy receiving and reading it. We thank Roma and Gordon for their work.

Early this year the Australian and New Zealand Branches of the Clan Matheson Society floated the idea of a joint Gathering of the Clan for 2008. At the Clan Council meeting at Plockton in 2004, it was decided there should be an International Clan Gathering each 8 years in Scotland with the possibility of having one elsewhere in between. This plan would mean a Gathering every four years and was accepted by the Clan Parliament, also at Plockton, soon afterwards. At the Clan Picnic at Flagstaff Gardens earlier this year, the Committee agreed to begin joint planning for such an International Clan Gathering to be held jointly by Australia and New Zealand in 2008. We have maintained fairly close links with the New Zealand Branch and have formed a sub-committee for the Australian part, kindly chaired by Abigail Butler, to do the planning.

The original dates proposed for the Gathering were late February 2008, partly because of the weather and partly because of other events in Melbourne. Events beyond our control meant we had to change these dates so the Gathering will now begin in Melbourne on 28 March and move to New Zealand the following week. Melbourne is an extremely interesting city for the visitor, being Australia's second largest city and one of the few in the world with electric trams still functioning as part of the public transport system. The city houses the very fine Victorian National Gallery among others and has many museums as well; including the Immigration Museum at which some Gathering functions are to be held. Within striking distance of the city are over 40 fine wineries in the Yarra Valley, the Dandenong Ranges with magnificent tall eucalyptus forests with giant eucalyptus as well as the famous Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary which displays Australia's wonderful and unique animals such as koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and wombats (all marsupials) in a bush land setting. You can find out about Melbourne and its State, Victoria at [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com). We are hoping to have bus tours to some of these attractions, a genealogy forum, a presentation and discussion of the Scottish Australian experience and to include the Ringwood Highland Games in our Gathering. Our Australian Clan web site is [www.mathesonclan.com.au](http://www.mathesonclan.com.au)

where details of the Gathering will be available plus links to other items of interest. The current plan for the Australian part of the Gathering is listed at the end of this report.

In recent years we have had much heartache about Public Liability Insurance. Following the September 11 disaster in New York, PL Insurance premiums in Australia for small societies like ours became almost prohibitively expensive if policies could be obtained at all. Many small societies either ceased to exist or abandoned PL Insurance (not an option for us). I am pleased to say that the premiums are now much cheaper, although expensive still, compared with pre 2001. We were able to arrange Insurance through a NSW Scottish organisation called Scottish House. Initially, the premium fell due early in each year when any delays to the issue of the Certificate of Currency meant we could not attend highland games and the like. We have now been able to arrange that the premium becomes due in the middle of each year when things are quieter rather than.

The Certificate of Membership, originally mooted several years ago, is still grinding its way from one incremental improvement to the next. The latest improvement is to incorporate a photograph of Alexander's bonnet crest rather than a drawn graphic of the crest. We hope to have some finality on it before too long.

We are aiming to provide some memorabilia for the 2008 Gathering incorporating the Crest such as polo shirts, sweaters, mugs and hats of various sorts. This depends partly on getting a suitable image and partly on a suitable deal with a manufacturer. Roma hopes to have an embroidered version of the crest available soon, particularly for use on Polo shirts, sweaters etc.

Finally I would like to thank the members of our Committee who continue to work hard for the Clan Society. Lois Langford has done yet another great job as Treasurer, Roma as mentioned earlier as Secretary, Abigail as Chair of the 2008 Gathering subcommittee and Gordon as Editor of the Newsletter. Lance and Ella, Robert, Len Langford, Janet, Bruce and Marcia, Brett, Merle and Margaret all come along to Committee meetings and help with the discussions. All were re-elected at the AGM in December 2006, with Colin Matheson continuing as President.

Murray Matheson passed away in December 2006. He was the husband of Betty and brother of Lance Matheson and brother in law of Ella of Geelong in Victoria Australia. He was one of the founding members of Clan Matheson Society of Australia.

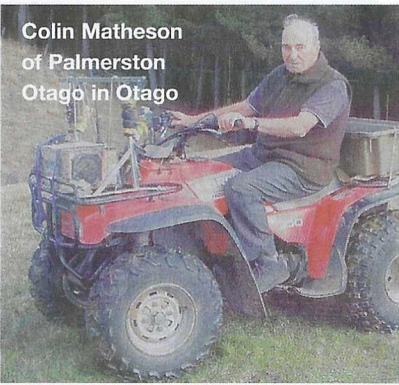
It is with great regret that I report that founding member Murray Matheson died last December. He was the husband of Betty and brother of Lance Matheson and brother in law of Ella of Geelong to all of whom we extend our sympathy.

*Colin Matheson  
Chief's Lieutenant, Australia*



## New Zealand

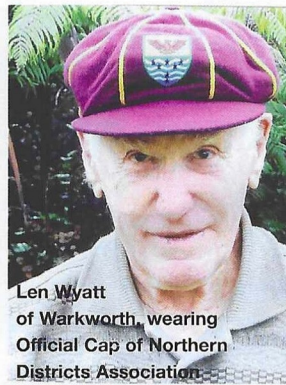
Colin Matheson  
of Palmerston  
Otago in Otago



Don Scott  
Clan Genealogist



Len Wyatt  
of Warkworth, wearing  
Official Cap of Northern  
Districts Association



Dawn Connor (nee  
Matheson) Ian Matheson  
and Ailsa Matheson (Hon  
Sec) at Owaka 2006



Clan Members at Owaka.



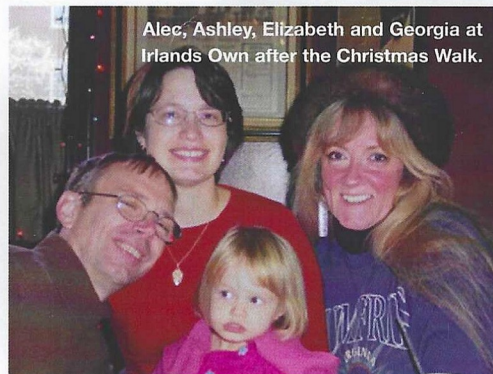
Elizabeth Grace  
Myred Aakesson  
age 2 rolling up  
her elbows



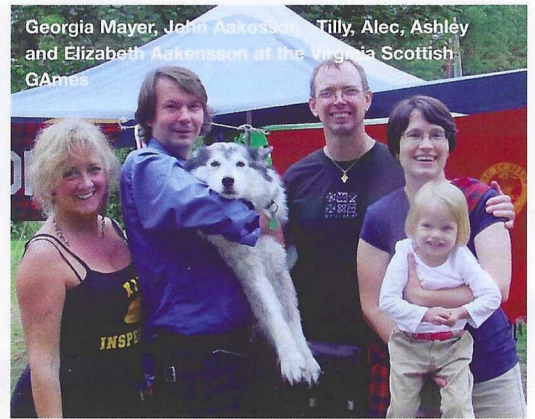
Georgia Mayer, Alec & Ashley (holding Elizabeth)  
Aakesson and John Aakesson at the Virginia  
Scottish Games



Alec, Ashley, Elizabeth and Georgia at  
Irlsands Own after the Christmas Walk.



Georgia Mayer, John Aakesson, Tilly, Alec, Ashley  
and Elizabeth Aakesson at the Virginia Scottish  
Games



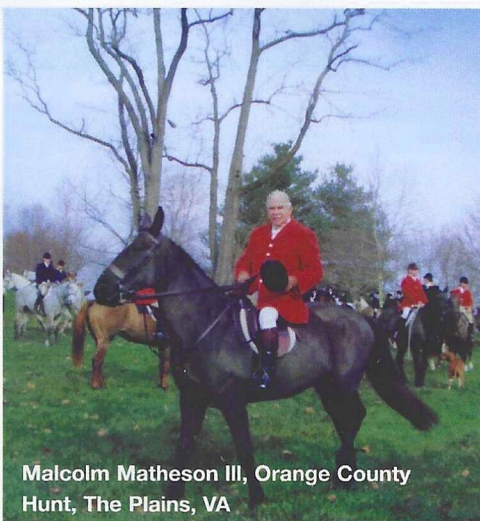
Brigadier General  
Bruce J. Matheson



Alec with Gentlemen of the 1st  
Andrew's Society of  
Washington D.C.



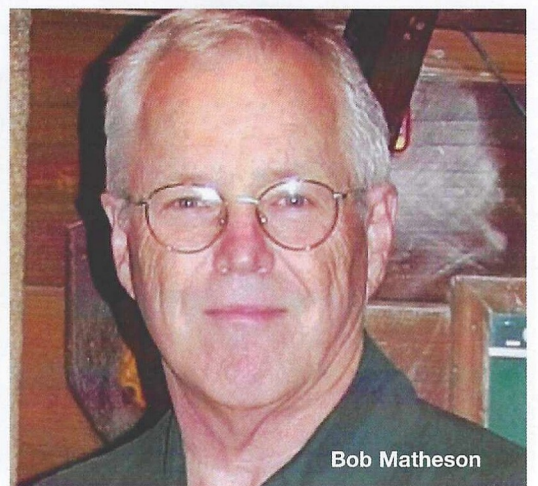
Malcolm Matheson III, Orange County  
Hunt, The Plains, VA



Angus Dugald Matheson's  
graduation 10th June 2006

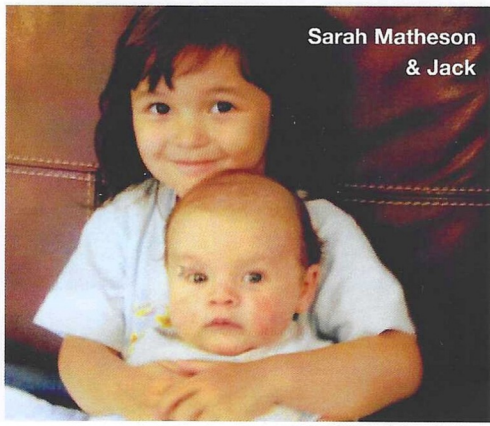


Bob Matheson



## United States

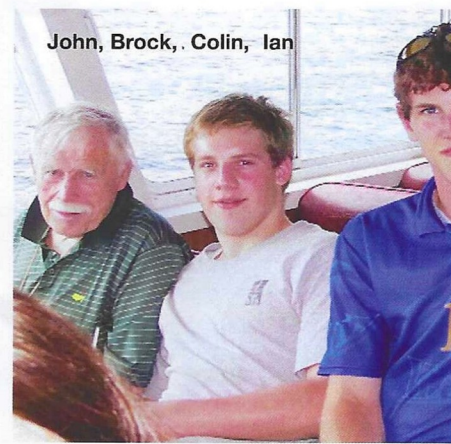




Sarah Matheson  
& Jack



Al presenting a quilt to Joanne Matheson



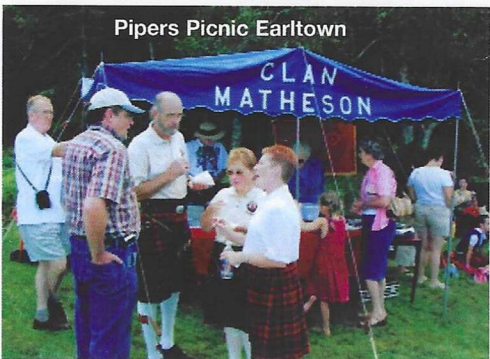
John, Brock, Colin, Ian



Al Matheson &  
Bill Sutherland



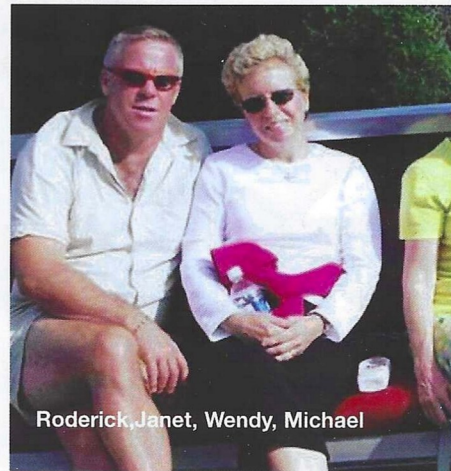
Joel &  
Elizabeth Matheson



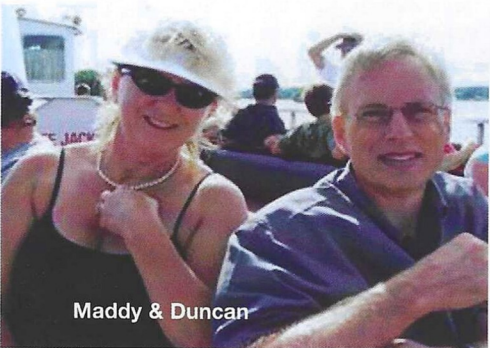
Pipers Picnic Earltown



Trueman Matheson & Family with Mrs  
Nelson



Roderick, Janet, Wendy, Michael



Maddy & Duncan



Jenny, Kameran, Mike, Katie.



Claude & Mona  
Matheson



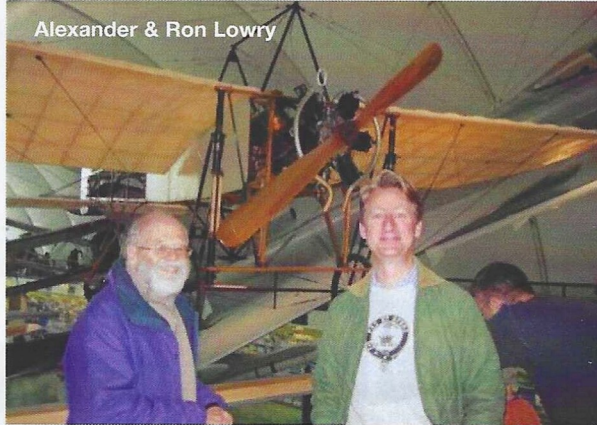
## England



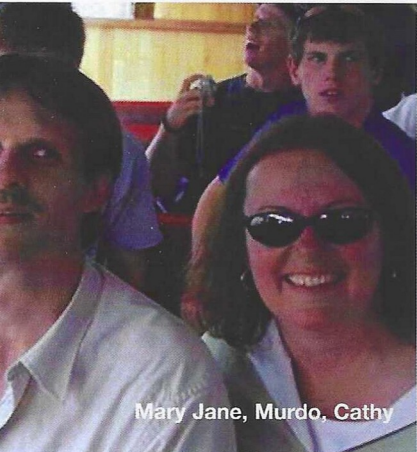
Lochalsh and Shiness Mathesons:  
Robert Brackenbury, Matilda Thompson,  
Fergus, Jean, Hugh,  
Elizabeth Brackenbury, Ranji



Alexander & Ron Lowry



Alexander dressed as Secretary,  
Central Chancery of the Orders of  
Knighthood.



Mary Jane, Murdo, Cathy



Edith & John



Malcolm & Hazel



Barbara  
Mathieson at her  
95th birthday  
party with gt  
nephew Oliver  
(9 mths), Ruth nee  
Mathieson &  
Peter Baker

## Australia



Colin Matheson's  
daughter Elizabeth  
and Dave  
Mackenzie hand-  
fasting with the  
Matheson and  
Mackenzie tartans.  
The wedding took  
place at Guthega  
in the Snowy  
Mountains, New  
South Wales,  
Australia in  
October 2005.



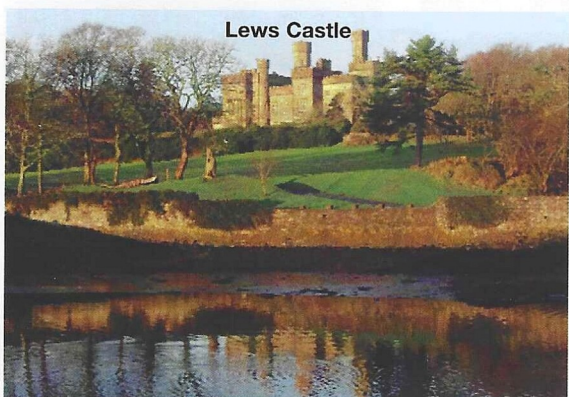
Colin Matheson's son Jamie and his  
bride (formerly Alison Parkinson) cutting  
the cake at the wedding reception held  
at the Lion Gate Lodge, Botanic Gardens,  
Sydney, Australia in September 2006



## Stornoway



Alexander, Sandy, Fergus



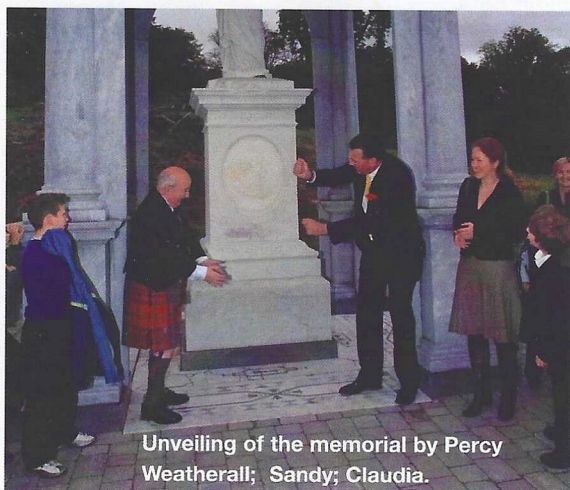
Lews Castle



Clara Weatherall; Norman MacDonald; Alexander; Sandy, Fergus; Claudia; Percy Wetherall, Director Jardine Matheson; Murdo MacLeod



Mathesons swimming in the Minch, New Year's Day 2007

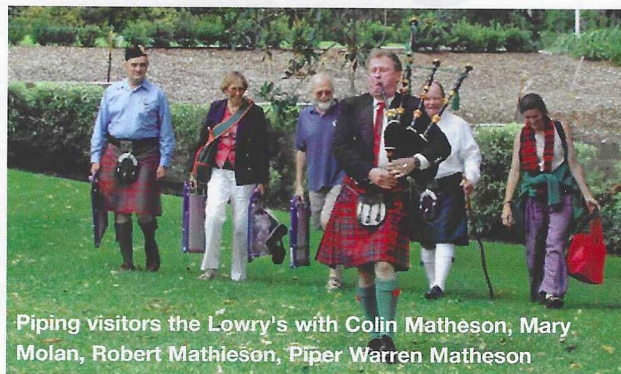


Unveiling of the memorial by Percy Weatherall; Sandy; Claudia.

## Australia



Clan members at a picnic at Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne, February 2006

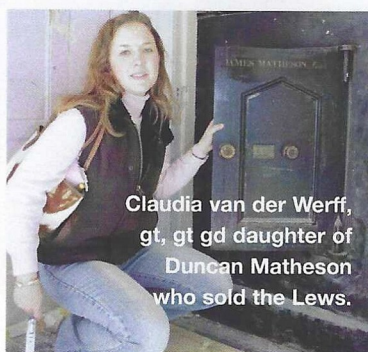


Piping visitors the Lowry's with Colin Matheson, Mary Molan, Robert Mathieson, Piper Warren Matheson

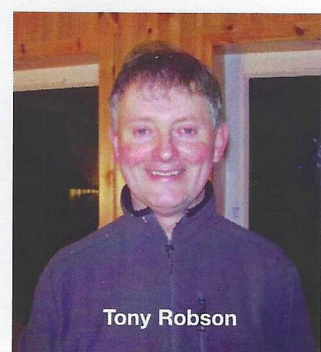


Piper Warren Matheson, Kate Lowry, Ron Lowry, Chief's Lieut. Colin Matheson under a gum trees at Flagstaff

Annual General Meeting. Brett Mathieson & daughter, Margaret Flemming, Colin Matheson President, Gordon Marshall, Lois Langford at desk



Claudia van der Werff, gt, gt gd daughter of Duncan Matheson who sold the Lews.



Tony Robson



## CANADA

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The past year has been positive for our Clan Society. We have received inquiries and new members from many parts of Canada. Also, we are continuing our efforts to establish Branches in other Provinces. This will lead to our appointing Deputy Chief's Lieutenants in the areas where Branches are established. In my annual report to our members I will be seeking their input on this proposal. The appointment of Deputy Chief's Lieutenants is a process approved during the Council Meeting at the last Gathering.

The Nova Scotia Branch had another busy year as you can see in their report. Their many activities have been a major contribution to our Provincial Scottish heritage. In addition, the Branch has been of tremendous support to our Canada Society and their President Al Matheson has been extremely helpful to me in carrying out my duties. Their support and the

support of member's dues and contributions have made it possible for our society to be in a positive financial position.

We share with you the exciting announcement of a possible Clan Gathering in Australia and New Zealand. I wish them every success in their endeavours. We will be circulating the Gathering information to our members as it becomes available. In Nova Scotia we were saddened on 15 May with the passing of our dear friend Allister Neil Matheson in his 89th year. Allister was a long time member and director of our Branch. A true gentleman who's wisdom and support is greatly missed. Our love and support goes out to Loudelle and her family.

In closing, I extend to you all my best wishes for a great 2007.

*Joel Matheson  
Chief's Lieutenant, Canada*

## MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA

|                    |                                   |                                                                                            |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President:         | Albert Matheson,                  | 88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, B4C 1V6<br>e-mail : al@familymatheson.com |
| Vice President :   | Glen Matheson,                    | RR# 1, Debert, Nova Scotia, BOM 1G0                                                        |
| & Internet Adviser |                                   | e-mail: jag.matheson@ns.sympatico.ca                                                       |
| Hon. Secretary :   | Ena Matheson,                     | PO Box 1017, Windsor, Nova Scotia, B0N 2T0                                                 |
| Hon. Treasurer:    | Patricia Matheson,                | RR# 1, Hopewell, Nova Scotia, BOK 1C0                                                      |
| Genealogist &      | Glen Matheson,                    | RR# 1, Debert, Nova Scotia, BOM. 1G0                                                       |
| Piper:             | Ms Kelly Putnam                   |                                                                                            |
| Chaplain:          | The Reverend Doctor Glen Matheson |                                                                                            |

This Branch of the Clan was not as active as in past years but managed to achieve many things as well as have a fun year once again, meeting old friends and making new ones. We started the year with Beverly and I representing this Branch at a Tartan Day Dinner (6April) hosted by the Clan Stuart. On 29 April Beverly and I, along with Bertha and Eileen, attended the Federation Of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia (FSCNS) dinner and auction in Eureka. It was a fun night and many treasures were bought. We held our first pot luck dinner meeting on 28 May in Brookfield with 16 members present. On July 8th the Clan Matheson tent was front and centre at the Halifax Highland Games. It was a beautiful day and we had many people visit our tent, some from Scotland, Holland, USA and of course from across Canada.

Our annual general meeting (AGM) was held in Earltown on 5 August with 14 members present. This was election year and the new executive was elected. After much campaigning I managed to be elected president for another term. I thank the members for their vote of confidence. After the AGM we went to our Clan tent at the Pipers Picnic. The weather was perfect and over 1000 people were in attendance and many visited our tent. A super day!

Our Branch's bursary for the furtherance of the Gaelic Culture in Nova Scotia, was awarded to the St. Andrew's Gaelic Society for holding classes to teach the Gaelic language.

August 13th found us once again at Vaughn and Donna's cottage at Shortt's Lake for our annual family picnic and auction. This is always a fun day with 37 attending. Many laughs were had and lots of treasures auctioned. The day was topped off with a pot luck dinner. Our thanks to Donna and Vaughn for having us back again, as this event is the high light of the Clan year.

Our Memorial Book project is well under way and I ask our members to send me a picture and write up on past members as a memorial. A few of our members, including myself, had our DNA taken for genealogy purposes and I would encourage others to take part in this project as it will help put our family trees together. Our Branch sends our congratulations to Joel and Elizabeth (Cameron) Matheson on their marriage 26 August. We wish them a long and happy life together. Our congratulations also to Frank and Peggy (Matheson) Caldwell on the birth of their daughter Sabrina Grace born 21 August, granddaughter of Pat and Bob Matheson. Congratulations also to Brian and Jacqueline Matheson on the birth of their daughter Ellie Margaret on 21 August, granddaughter of Bertha Matheson. Along with sharing the same birth date, both babies were born at the Kentville hospital.

On 28th October Beverly and I represented our Branch at the FSCNS dinner and auction held in Dartmouth. As this was the day for drawing our Quilt raffle, I had the draw at this event. Bill Sutherland from the FSCNS



drew the winning ticket and the winner of the beautiful quilt was Joanne Matheson of Bedford, N.S. My thanks to those who supported this raffle, and to Carrie Matheson who donated the beautiful quilt.

Our Branch held our last social gathering for the year on 12 November, we were small in numbers but large in spirit. We spent the afternoon socialising and identifying old clan pictures. The day was topped off with a delicious pot luck meal. Our sincere appreciation

to all members who gave faithfully of their time and talents, thus making our Clan activities a success.

As the year 2006 comes to a close and as it will be the new year when this newsletter reaches you, it is our hope that all Matheson's and their families around the world had a very Merry Christmas and may you have good health and happiness in 2007

*Al Matheson*

*President*

*Mainland Nova Scotia*

### **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Chairman: Myron Matheson

Vice Chairman: The Reverend Gordon Matheson

Hon. Secretary: Gladys MacMillan

Hon Treasurer: J. Claude Matheson

Genealogist: Linda Harding

General Delivery, Breadalbane, P.E.I. C0A 1E0

e-mail: mmatheson@pei.sympatico.ca

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264 Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 5T7

### **ONTARIO**

In charge Donald Matheson

drmatheson@webdesign-nb.com

The family of Judge John and Edith Matheson met in Kingston, Ontario to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 4th August 2005. The celebrations included a 1,000 Islands boat cruise, a round of golf at the Glen Lawrence Country Club, sailing from the CFB Kingston Club, a visit to the 1,000 Islands Playhouse

also a visit to the Morgan Memorial Chapel at Queen's Theological College where the couple were married.

Prime Minister Paul Martin was present on 15 February 2000 for the 40th Anniversary of the launch of the Canadian National Flag. Judge John was honoured for his role in the birth of the flag.

### **NEW ZEALAND**

Chief's Lieutenant: Douglas Matheson

Chairman: Donald Matheson,

Hon. Secretary Mrs Ailsa Matheson

Hon. Treasurer Gordon Matheson

Genealogist Don Scott,

Internet Adviser Wayne Matheson

Piper Norman Matheson

Committee Lois Ahlquist, Anne Matheson, Keith Matheson, Elaine Rankin, Joy Weeds, Fay Whittlome

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10 Knox Road, Manurewa

It is a pleasure, as always, to write of New Zealand Clan Matheson activities for the year. February saw 2 Clan Picnics, one for Auckland members in that area, the other was a most successful Gathering at the Owaka, South Island home of Ian and Ruth Matheson. Their warm hospitality ensured about 30 Southland Matheson/Mathiesons met for a shared lunch and a happy time together. It also served the dual purpose of being a mini Mathieson family reunion.

New members joined at that meeting, also in Dunedin where Ailsa met for the first time a group keen to join.

A well attended July Annual General meeting at Manurewa Gardens saw Auckland members as well as folk from Tauranga and Hamilton. Sincere thanks are extended to Chairman Donald for his leadership and to the Committee for their helpful support.

We are all unanimous in thanking Genealogist, Don Scott for his untiring research work and help given to Clan Members world-wide.

Our Membership stands at approximately 200 families throughout the country and the bi-monthly newsletters are a valuable link keeping us all together.

In January Committee members had the pleasure of meeting Kate and Ron Lowry who were holidaying in Auckland and

hosted by Chief's Lieutenant Doug and Anne Matheson. Ron is Hon. Secretary for Clan Matheson in England.

At the July meeting it was an opportunity for Chief's Lieutenant Douglas Matheson to outline initial ideas for the proposed world-wide 2008 Clan Gathering in Australia and New Zealand.

Both countries are excited at the chance to meet and greet overseas Clan visitors and thus share with them places of particular interest, to show off special scenic spots and enjoy the culture of our countries.

Already there has been an indication of visitor interest and we know this will increase once the detailed programme is announced. Planned dates for Melbourne, Australia are from 28 March to 1 April and Auckland/Queenstown, New Zealand from 3 - 11 April 2008. Local committees are working on plans for this first ever Clan Gathering "Down Under". There will be details on the Clan Web site as plans progress.

A warm welcome awaits you in New Zealand so come for the Clan activities and stay for a longer time to experience a wonderful country.

*Ailsa Matheson,*

*Hon. Secretary,*

*New Zealand*



## UNITED STATES

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tel: (703) 256-4746

Deputy Chief's Lt.: Robert W. Matheson 2030 Liliano Drive, Sierra Madre, California 91024  
Tel. (626) 355-5505 : Cell: (626) 221-7317  
e-mail: Clan\_Matheson@yahoo.com

Genealogist: Alice M. Fairhurst 313 E. Hurst St., Covina, California 91723  
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Piper: Lt. Col. Leslie P. Matheson USAF (ret) 1 Caswell Circle, Mary Ester, FL. 32569

Of particular note for the U. S. branch of the Clan Society this past year (2006) was the appointment by the Chief of two Deputy Chief's Lieutenants. For the west coast Robert W. "Bob" Matheson and for the east coast John Aakesson. These two very capable and willing Clan participants will give a great boost to Clan activities in the United States and are a welcome addition to our official "staff"!

John Aakesson reports that once again this past year he represented the Clan with our Clan Matheson tent at three Scottish Festivals in Virginia: The Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg, VA; the Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, VA; and the Scottish Heritage Fair also in Alexandria, VA. He also marched with the St. Andrews Society of Washington, DC's Christmas Walk in Old Town Alexandria (Virginia) this past December.

Our Branch Genealogist, Alice M. Fairhurst has submitted the following profile of a long time Clan member, Brigadier General Bruce J. Matheson USMC retired, descended from Caithness Mathesons, joined the Marine Corp on December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbour. He left his sophomore year at the University of Illinois to undergo recruit training. While attending aviation readioman school, he qualified for Navy pilot training. After fighter training in the F4F Wildcat, he joined the fighter replacement pool in the New Hebrides in June 1943. Pilots in this pool under Major Gregory "Pappy" Boyington became known as the Black Sheep Squadron. After three tours of combat duty in the Solomon Islands, he returned to the US to marry his college classmate, Mary Jo Fain, who is his wife of 62 years. He flew Corsairs throughout and after World War II and then transitioned to

jets. As a Major he flew night escort missions for Air Force B-29s in strikes against North Korean targets in 1953. As a Colonel he assumed command missions as pilot of the UH-1E "Huey" gunship. In 1971, honorably promoted to the rank of Brigadier General due to W.W.II combat experience, he retired to Kailua, Hawaii, where he and his wife now live. Again this past year we were most fortunate in having 21 "Life Members" contribute in the \$25 to \$100 category. They were: Jeanette Matheson Lussi, Don P. Matheson, David L. Green, Nell P. Wilkerson, Harold M. Matheson,, Brig. Gen. Bruce J. Matheson, Robert K. Matheson, Ian M. Ballard, John A. Mathieson, Thomas K. Andison, Garrick D. Matheson, Gordon M. Matheson, Robert W. Matheson, John Ward Matheson, Leslie P. Matheson, Lyman W. Matheson, Valencia L. Barree, Dr. John D. Matheson, Charles T. Matheson, Charles T. Matheson, Sr., William Leonard Matheson. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

We welcomed 9 new members in this past year: James Ernest Matheson (Palo Alto, CA) and his son, David Ernest Matheson (also of Palo Alto); Christopher G. Matheson (Sussex, WI); Scott T. Matheson (Plymouth, WI); Eric M. Matheson (River Falls, WI); Janice A. Matheson Rosche (Glenbeulah, WI); Carroll Mathewson Griffin (Pittsboro, NC); Jonah Bruce Matheson (Hayesville, NC); Mary Elizabeth Van Orlinda (Long Lake, MN).

Our sincerest condolences are extended to Patricia J. Matheson on the loss of her husband, James T. Matheson who died October 13, 2005; and to the family of John Martin Priest who died June 9, 2005.

*Malcolm Matheson, III  
Chief's Lieutenant, United States*

## 2008 Gathering and proposed programmes (subject to amendment)

| <u>AUSTRALIA</u>        |                                     |                                                         | <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> |  |                                                                            |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 March - 1 April 2008 |                                     |                                                         | 4 - 11 April       |  |                                                                            |
| <b>MARCH</b>            |                                     |                                                         | <b>APRIL</b>       |  |                                                                            |
| 28                      | 1100-1600                           | Registration                                            | 4                  |  | Registration in morning                                                    |
|                         | 1600                                | The Scots-Aussie experience presentation and discussion | 5                  |  | Formal Dinner in evening                                                   |
|                         | 1700                                | informal drinks                                         |                    |  | Trips and tours around Auckland and environs                               |
| 29                      | 1100                                | Clan Council                                            | 6                  |  | Evening, Light meal and get-together                                       |
|                         | 1230                                | Lunch, then Clan Parliament                             |                    |  | Church Parade at Historic St Andrews Church inc KOT                        |
|                         | 1530                                | Afternoon tea and Genealogy Forum                       | 7                  |  | Lunch and get-together                                                     |
|                         | 1830                                | Drinks                                                  |                    |  | Tour, whole day to historic Waipu Museum, lunch, lecture and entertainment |
| 30                      | 1930                                | Clan Dinner                                             | 8                  |  | Evening meal back at Auckland                                              |
|                         | 1100                                | Clan Church Service at Scots Church Melbourne           | 9                  |  | Transfer by air to Queenstown                                              |
|                         | 1300                                | Ringwood Highland Games                                 |                    |  | Trips and tours, dinner and other meals, meeting and talk etc              |
|                         | 1700                                | Aussie barbeque                                         |                    |  |                                                                            |
| 31                      | evening                             | Scottish country dancing                                | 10                 |  |                                                                            |
| 31 & 1 April            |                                     | Whole and half day bus trips                            | 11                 |  |                                                                            |
| APRIL                   | See website mathesonclan.com.au     |                                                         |                    |  |                                                                            |
| 2 & 3                   | Transer to Auckland NZ - 3hr flight |                                                         |                    |  | Disperse for longer stay in NZ or travel home                              |



## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

### UNITED KINGDOM

- \* Edmund, son of Andrew & Fiona Kendall and grandson of the Chief and Jean, for successfully completing the world famous Melton Hunt Ride in February 2007. The ride, a horse race over three and a half miles of natural fences, took place in the finest of the Quorn hunting country. At just sixteen Edmund is the youngest competitor to have ever taken part.

### AUSTRALIA

- \* Bill Matheson for his award of the OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2006 for outstanding service to the environment, in particular soil, water and biodiversity. He graduated in Agricultural Science from Adelaide University in 1952. His gt. grandparents emigrated from Sutherland in 1859
- \* Elizabeth, daughter of Colin Matheson, and Dave Mackenzie on their marriage in October 2005
- \* Jamie, son of Colin Matheson, and Alison Parkinson on their wedding in September 2006

### CANADA

- \* Joel and Elizabeth (Cameron) Matheson on their marriage 26 August 2006.
- \* Brian and Jacqueline (Petrie) Matheson on the birth of their daughter, Ellie Margaret 21 August 2006
- \* Frank and Peggy (Matheson) Caldwell on the birth of their daughter, Sabrina Grace 21 August 21 2006
- \* Tim and Kim (Orr) Matheson on the birth of their son, Jack Daniel, born May 27 2006. A special event for his grandfather, Joel.
- \* John and Edith Matheson on their 60th wedding anniversary on 4 August 2005. John and his family have been strong supporters of our Clan Society and Scottish culture over many years.
- \* Claude and Mona (Taylor) Matheson on their 50th wedding anniversary on March 23, 2005. Claude is a former Member of the Legislative Assembly of P.E.I. has been a supporter of the P.E.I. Branch for many years.
- \* Colin, son of Don & Kathy Matheson, for receiving in 2005 a Terry Fox Humanitarian Award given to twenty graduating high school students across Canada each year.
- \* Brian and Jacqueline (Petrie) Matheson on the birth of their daughter, Ellie Margaret, born August 21, 2006.
- \* Frank and Peggy (Matheson) Caldwell on the birth of their daughter, Sabrina Grace, born August 21, 2006.

### NEW ZEALAND

- \* Colin & Eudora Mathieson who celebrated their Golden Wedding in June 2006
- \* Lachie & Margaret Matheson of Waipukurau who celebrated their Golden Wedding in June 2006
- \* Lucy Mathieson, daughter of Stuart Mathieson and his late wife Anna, on her posting to Nepal as the only New Zealander in the International Peace Brigade and completing a Master's Degree in International Law.
- \* Len Wyatt of Warkworth on his award of the Official Cap of the Northern Districts Cricket Association, 49 years after qualifying

### U.S.A.

- \* Angus Dugald Matheson (Chief's Lieutenant's Grandson) on his graduation from Wakefield School in The Plains, VA and his matriculation to Virginia Wesleyan College.
- \* Lt. Col. Leslie P. Matheson's daughter, Eleanor, who graduated December 11, 2006 with honors from the Burnett Honors College at the University of Central Florida, (Orlando, FL) with a degree in Digital Media in Computer Animation.

### IF UNDELIVERED

PLEASE RETURN TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS BELOW

|              |                                                           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Scotland     | The Old Rectory, Hedenham, Norfolk, NR35 2LD              |
| England      | Brae Cottage, Colchester Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1RP |
| Australia.   | GPO Box 2587W, Melbourne 3001 Victoria.                   |
| Canada.      | 88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, B4C 4V6  |
| New Zealand. | H. Ross Village, T/H 158-30 Ruakura Road, Hamilton        |
| U.S.A.       | The Tannery, PO Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 20198      |