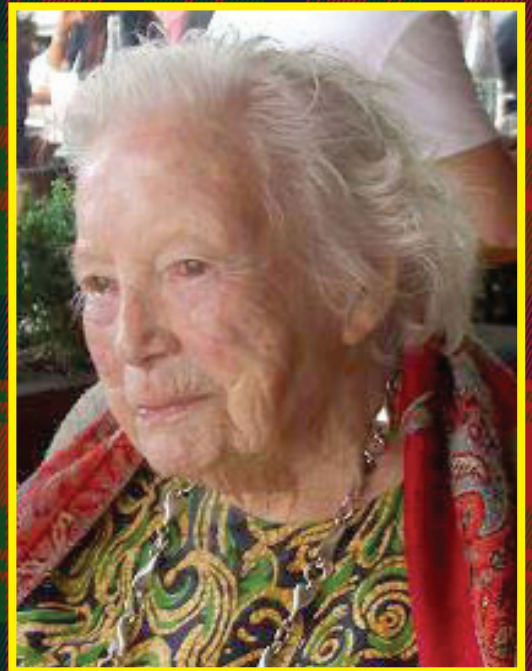




The Clan Matheson Society Newsletter 2014





THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Laurence Binyon's famous epitaph "We will remember them" is repeated annually at Armistice or Remembrance Day services in many parts of the world. If the words are to mean anything, now is a good moment to show an interest in the centenary of the start of the 1914-18 Great War, also referred to by some as World War One. There must be many Matheson families which became involved and possibly lost friends or relatives. It is of interest to my family as my father and some Matheson first cousins took part throughout the war, some survived, others were less fortunate.

In particular I am thinking of the three sons of Sir Alexander Matheson, 3rd Baronet of Lochalsh (not to be confused with Sir Alexander, 1st Baronet). They were:-

Ian Kenneth born 1893, Capt. Seaforth Highlanders, died of wounds received in action 13 May 1917; Alexander Perceval born 1895, Lieut. Army Service Corps, & A/ Flight Commander, Royal Flying Corps, killed in action 13 July 1917;

Roderick Kyrle born 1897, 2nd Lieut Royal West Kent Regiment, died of wounds received in action 8 Sept 1916.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MATHESON GATHERING SCOTLAND 2014

Proposed outline programme

Friday 18 July: PM - Assemble Dornie Hall, Wester Ross Visit on foot Eilean Donan Castle.

Saturday 19 July: AM - Free PM - Attend the Lochcarron Highland Games in the grounds of Attadale House near Strathcarron.

Sunday 20 July: AM - I hope we will be able to hold a Clan Church Service. Sadly I have heard that Lochalsh Parish Church at Kirkton has been closed, but perhaps a special service can be arranged

PM - For those who are fit, visit the site of the old Fort and the site of the old gathering place on of Loch Achaidh na -h-Inich

Monday 21 July: AM - Move to Easter Ross
PM - If there is sufficient interest, visit the site of the Battle of Glenshiel, 10 June 1719

Tuesday 22 July AM - Assemble Ardrross Castle, Clan Council Meeting
PM - Parliament Evening Clan Dinner Drumossie Hotel, Inverness

Wednesday 23 July: Disperse.

Extras: Anyone wishing to visit Skye by road before Friday 18 July and or Stornoway by air after the Inverness dinner is asked to make their own arrangements. If there is a big enough demand something might be arranged.

Some Clan Members planning to attend the Gathering in July appear to be slow revealing their intentions. Please will they inform their Chief's Lieutenant who I hope will pass a consolidated list to me.

The sooner the better please. FJM



AN CIREAN
CEANN CINNISH

THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

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Cover Photos

Ron Lowry's 80th birthday
down under

Lady Audrey Matheson (Australia)
now 100

Alexander Matheson of Brahan,
Philip Matheson of Brahan,
Alexander Matheson of Matheson
and Andrew Matheson of Brahan at
a Hollyrood Palace Investiture

Paxton Matheson of Eastern
Passage, Nova Scotia receiving the
Chief Scout Award

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It has been a year of transition and change for the UK Branch: Ron Lowry has retired as Secretary after 12 years of commitment to the role and Malcolm Matheson has stepped down as Treasurer. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Malcolm and Ron for their dedicated service over recent years of Clan Matheson. They performed their jobs with charm and efficiency and will be missed by the UK Branch. Tim Underwood has now become Secretary of the UK branch, and David Mathieson has taken on the Treasurer's job for which we wish them both well as they get used to their new roles.

On a more somber note, it was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Alan Harpham. Alan, with his wife Di, was a familiar face at many Gatherings, and meetings. He was proud of his Matheson connections, and worked hard as a UK Committee member and organised attractive merchandise for the recent Gathering in Edinburgh. I am sure that many would wish to extend their sympathy to Di and the family.

On 7th September 2013, a few members of Clan Matheson met up in Cambridge to punt on the Cam. Luckily, no one fell in, the weather was on their side and a wonderful time was had by all! Thanks to all those involved in organising the event, and we look forward to what 2014 has to bring for the UK branch!

The 2014 Clan Gathering in Scotland is fast approaching us, and final preparations are being made. Members will receive a letter in the post shortly in order to register their interest in attending.

The Gathering is open to all, and not just members. The itinerary is available on the Clan Matheson website and under the chief's message in this Newsletter.

Any members wanting to attend and get involved, or wanting further information can either visit the Clan Matheson website (www.clanmatheson.org) or contact the Hon Sec of the UK branch, Tim Underwood, details above.

We wish all of you a successful and happy 2014, and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Clan Matheson Gathering in July.

*Tim Underwood
Secretary UK Branch*

GENEALOGIST'S REPORT

There are strong grounds for considering Gilleoin of the Aird, who appears in the Clan Matheson pedigree in the famous MS1465, as an historical figure of the 12th century/ late 11th century, and possessor of the Lordship of the Aird abutting the Beaulieu Firth within the ancient province of Moray. He would have been a contemporary, and, as a major lord, a companion in arms, of the successors to Macbeth in his earlier role as ruler of Moray. In the period between Gilleoin and his 13th century successor, Coinneach mac Mathghamna, we can catch glimpses of the changed relationship between major Highland kindreds and the emerging Kingdom of Scots.

The defeat of Macbeth as King of Scots in 1056 had left in place the province of Moray as a base for future conflict, and with it, the Lordship of the Aird. But the rebellion of the men of Moray in

support of rival claimants of the Canmore dynasty in the mid 12th century was closely followed by expropriation of lands of some important native leaders in Moray. Most of the Aird was vested during the 1160s x 1170s in the Norman family of Bisset and Gilleoin's family removed to the west coast. It looks quite likely that a segment of a disaffected Canmore royal line was settled further north in Strathnaver, later becoming Clan Mackay.

Relocating these Moraymen served two purposes, as the Rev William Matheson has observed: they were less likely to be a trouble to the kings of Scots in lands abutting those of Thorfinn and other Norse rulers beyond the Stockford of Ross, in Sutherland and Caithness; and they would be strongly motivated to develop the frontiersman skills necessary to hold the line against these Norsemen on behalf of the Kings of Scots. This approach seems to have been vindicated later. In the campaign to subdue the Norse in the Western Isles, 1262/4, Gilleoin's successor, Coinneach mac Mathghamna, was an honoured ally of royal henchman William, Earl of Ross, son of the Earl who suppressed the last major Moray rebellion in 1215.

*John Faid
Clan Genealogist*

Clan Gathering in Edinburgh 2010

CANADA AND NOVA SCOTIA

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Greetings to all Mathesons. I have combined the Canada and Nova Scotia Branches for this article. This again has been a busy year as the Chief's Lieutenant, President of the Nova Scotia Branch and Treasurer of the Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia (www.scotsns.ca). As such I have attended various functions over the year on behalf of the Clan.



Hugh Krenz

On behalf of the Clan members I pass on our condolences to the family of Baillie Matheson of Gairloch, NS who died on 3 January 2013 in his ninetieth year. Baillie was a long time member and the video of Clan gatherings in the eighties and early nineties is a treasure we still enjoy. We lost another long time member in Loudelle Matheson in October 2013 in her ninety fifth year. She was one of our founding members. Our condolences go to her family. Along with Judge John Matheson

whose obituary appears elsewhere, these members will be greatly missed.

On a happier note we have many congratulations to pass on: To Hugh Krenz of Calgary, who was appointed an Officer Of The Order Of Canada by the Governor General David Johnston at the investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall, Ottawa. The Governor General stated, "Hugh Krenz has been instrumental in making Canadian buildings and bridges safer and stronger. He has drawn on fifty years of experience as an engineer in the steel and construction industries to develop more efficient, safe and sound building codes and standards which are now used in Canada and around the world". Hugh was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Hugh is a descendant of Alexander Matheson, one of the Selkirk Settlers, who immigrated from Sutherland to the Winnipeg area in the early 1800's. Hugh's uncle, Tom Matheson was also a loyal member of our Clan and his picture with the current Lord Selkirk who in September 2012 visited for the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Selkirk settlers. Also receiving



Thomas Matheson

the Queens Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was Miles Matheson of Morell PEI, a Second World War veteran, in appreciation for his many years of community service.

Our congratulations also to Araon Matheson of Eastern Passage NS, son of John and Linda Matheson, and grandson of Ed and Dyan Matheson, on graduating from high school; to Sarah Rose Matheson of Eastern Passage NS, on her graduation from high school with International Baccalaureate courses and an overall average of 96 %. Sarah is now attending Dalhousie University studying Neuroscience. We wish these two young people great success in their future. Congratulations also to Paxton Matheson of Eastern Passage NS on receiving the Chief Scout Award, presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, General J.J. Grant. Both Sarah and Paxton are the children of Steven and Judy Matheson and my grandchildren. Special congratulations and Happy Birthday to our "Den Mother" Merle Nelson who celebrated her 105th birthday on 24 November.

Over the past year I had the pleasure of representing our Clan as the Chief's Lieutenant or President of the Nova Scotia Branch at various events; the first being the Robert Burns Dinner, sponsored by the Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia (FSCNS). This was a marvelous evening with piping, dancing, singing and fiddling a toast to Burns and the Lassies was given followed by a great meal including haggis. I had the honor of carrying the haggis as it was piped into the room. I attended the Tartan Day celebrations held at Government House in Halifax as guest of the Lieutenant- Governor and Mrs Grant. The next day it was on with the kilt again for the Celebrated Tartan service at Knox United Church, Sackville. Clan Matheson sponsored the bulletin for this service. I attended the first annual Celtic Festival in Halifax on 14 September. This is an indoors



Canada Clan Picnic 2013

festival and was a great success.

The Nova Scotia Branch held its spring meeting in June and our annual picnic and auction in July and as always it was a great success, well attended with the oldest present at 104 years. We closed our year with our annual general meeting at the Saltscapes Restaurant in Truro. I represented our Clan at the FSCNS spring and fall annual general meetings.

I am so grateful to those members who have sent me news items and pictures, remember this is your Newsletter so let us make it interesting for all readers. I thank Clan member Ellen Watson for the article on Matheson, Ontario.

With your help we must continue to recruit new members. To this end please use the application form from our web site - clanmatheson.org.

I extend my best wishes for good health and happiness to all Mathesons and their families in 2014.

*Al Matheson
Chief's Lieutenant, Canada*



Sarah Matheson
Graduate 2013



Aaron John Matheson

UNITED STATES

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Lt. Col. Leslie P. Matheson USAF (ret.)

There is no way to top the report on Chief Fergus' visit to the United States over Labor Day weekend in 2012 so this will be much abbreviated.

Our Major effort this year was as usual at the Virginia Scottish Games held at Great Meadow in the Plans, Virginia again over Labor Day weekend. The Clan Matheson Society tent was manned by John T. G. Aakesson, brother Alex and wife Ashley; friends Marion MacRae and Georgia Lawson; myself and Gail, and son, Malcolm IV. The Games and Festival were a huge success but without the Chief's presence we were less of a draw. John also participated in a Christmas walk (parade) and a Kirkin O' The Tartan in Alexandria, VA put on by the St. Andrew's Society of Washington. And our own Deputy Chief's Lieutenant West Coast, Roger Barry Mathison, was spotted at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina over the summer (see his report).

With regret I must report the death of the long time member Kenneth Albert Matheson of San Jose, CA who passed away in February 2013 at the age of 82. We send our sincerest condolences to his family. We also send our condolences to Lyman W. Matheson of Houston, TX whose wife, Phyllis, passed away

in January 2013 at the age of 93. Many of you may remember Lyman as my immediate predecessor as Chief's Lieutenant U.S. who retired in 1995 - some 18 years ago when he was about my age (76)!

Again in 2013 less than half the Society membership paid their dues yet received the Chief's Newsletter. This is hardly fair and I will have to make the dreaded roll cuts in the near future for those who are over 3 years in arrears. We got many returned mailings for those we have lost and I'm sure more have passed away. Unless we hear from you we cannot keep our rolls current!

Fortunately we had a big group of Life Members and annual members who donated substantially in the \$ 50 - \$100 range: Robert K. Matheson, Lyman W. Matheson, Thomas K. Andison, Ruth Peebles, Gordon M. Matheson, Harold M. Matheson, Ian M. Ballard, Emma Matheson Roe, Torrey Matheson Cooke, John D. Matheson, Jean P. Guyton, Colvin T. Matheson, Edward B. Matheson, Jr., William John Matheson, James W. Mathieson and Matthew T. Guilford. Over half of this same list has donated a like amount this year again for credit to 2014. We cannot thank you enough for this high level of support!

As our dollar amount in dues increased this year so did our enrollment of new members - from a low of 3 in 2012 to 8 this year:

Lowel Daniel Mathison (Klamath Falls, OR), Richard Elton Mathison (Eugene, OR), Malcolm Matheson Randolph (Richmond,

VA), Bonnie Buchanan Matheson (Charlottesville, VA), Finlay B. Matheson (Miami, FL), Bruce C. Matheson (Miami, FL), Anna LiGuori Matheson (Arden, NC), Mr. and Mrs. Roland D. Matteson (Phoenix, AZ). A hearty welcome to the Clan Matheson Society! And a very Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year to all!

*Malcolm Matheson, III
Chief's Lieutenant USA*

USA WEST COAST

The past year has been serendipitous for Clan Matheson West USA. The dancing talents of Nadya and I were on display at the St. Andrews Society of Southern California 82nd Burns Supper at the Altadena Town and Country Club. I had the honor of bearing the dirk in the ceremonial procession of Piping in the Haggis. At the supper Neal and Brandy Matheson of South Pasadena expressed interest in joining the Clan and later in the year manned the tent at the Scottish Highland Games at the Queen Mary, Long Beach, California. Despite fewer clans represented, Clan Matheson West decided to erect a tent to alert the Scottish community that we are alive and well. Jim McAuley, a fellow genealogist of Alice Fairhurst, dropped in and took measurements from Roger's kilt to record the sett of Matheson tartan approved by the Chief.

Next day, having recovered from the bacchanalian delights of the Burn's

Roland Matteson at the
Phoenix Games



Alice for her service to the Clan.
With Bob Matheson of Sierra
Madre, California, she is the reason
Clan Matheson West is still vibrant.

the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at MacRea meadows. In addition to the traditional Highland Games we witnessed the spectacle of the late evening Torchlight Ceremony: Clans clutching burning torches as they paraded in the darkness to the center of the East Meadow accompanied by the pipes. We were treated to singers in the North Carolina Gaelic Mod, a competitive festival with its origins at the Oban Highland Games of 1891, loosely modelled on the

The Memorial Day weekend coincides with the United Scottish Society's presentation of Scotsfest in Costa Mesa, California. Alice schlepped the Matheson impedimenta to the Games site with



*Roger Mathison
Chief's Deputy Lieutenant USA
West Coast*

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Donald Matheson, Keith Matheson, Margaret Faed, Jo and Ross Matheson, Cherie Matches, Shirley Matheson, Richard Brown, Genny Cameron and Joan Harbour.

Greetings to you from us all in New Zealand.

Where did 2013 go? Christmas in particular was gone in an instant. The weather in NZ over the Christmas Holidays was atrocious, so much so that (I) Chairman Donald and 15 or more of the family, who travelled from Auckland to Wellington to join more family for the wedding on 28th December of his Grandson Jamie to Vanessa, wondered whether the airport would be closed. Just before the wedding the sun burst through and like a fairy tale the 90 or more guests were able to celebrate in style. The family are getting together again in

January to celebrate the wedding of another grandson, Sean, who is to marry Tineke in Auckland on the 25th. In January last some members gathered at the Burns night dinner which was organised by the Scottish Clans Association of Auckland, an enjoyable evening. The Association, of which our branch of Clan Matheson are members, always hosts a good evening and their annual dinner was well attended by our branch members

In February Clan Members gathered for our annual picnic in Cornwall Park in Auckland. A happy time was had by all with the help

of good weather and the Petanque competition. We had 8 teams of four playing and several bystanders as our audience. No official winners emerged although one player was heard shouting "We are the winners". Everyone said they had had a great day out. The Park is a favourite place for a picnic with a barbecue area and plenty of trees for shade and for climbing.

In March Australia and New Zealand branches of the Clan Matheson Society held a memorable Mini Gathering in Melbourne, Australia. The gathering was well organised, with an excellent programme, and enjoyed



Jamie, Vanessa and Grandfather Donald.



by all. The New Zealand team was made most welcome. The highlight of the gathering had to be the formal dinner, during which President Colin amused us all with his address to the "HAGGIS". Chairman Donald proposed a toast to Absent Friends.

It is hoped that New Zealand will reciprocate with a NZ mini gathering in the not too distant future.



The top photo is of the two branches of the Clan Society assembled together for the Gathering. The lower photo is of the New Zealand members

In July we had our AGM at which our Treasure Graeme & Committee Member Robin retired after many years of loyal service to the Society. Margaret Faed our Genealogist volunteered to take on the office of Treasurer and was unanimously elected. All sitting committee members were reelected and



Petanque Team and Supporters



Joan and Donald with Dame Cath and Cathy McLeod

received thanks for past good work. At the meeting the subject of sending newsletters by Email to paid up members with Email addresses was recommended and adopted. The first newsletter to be sent by Email was the December issue no 124. The Editor received many messages of thanks and congratulations.

Clan Committee Member Joan Harbour had learned that the Clan McLeod was holding their international gathering in Auckland in November. She along with her family had attended an earlier McLeod gathering in 1954. The occasion then was a formal dinner for Dame Flora McLeod Chief of the Clan. The dinner was organised by the Gaelic Society of which Joan's father was a past president. We wrote to the organiser and found she, Cathy, had been Matheson, from Lewis, before her marriage. Cathy invited Clan Members to attend the opening ceremony so Joan and Chairman Donald attended. The ceremony was opened by Dame Cath Tizzard with a good speech full of humour. In addition the Bendigo Pipe Band flew in to play at the opening Ceremony. We had an Email from Cathy McLeod later to say the four day Gathering was very successful. Sadly in October our Founder member Gordon Matheson died. Gordon was our first Chairman and Treasurer for many years. He, with his wife Ailsa, also a Founder member and our first Secretary and Newsletter Editor, set the

pattern for the development of the NZ Branch of the Clan Matheson Society. Gordon was much loved and respected. Besides being dedicated to the Clan, Gordon was an accomplished organist and during his lifetime played the organ at many churches in New Zealand. Just a few days before he died Gordon and Ailsa celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary. Gordo will be missed by his family and many friends who were privileged to have known him.

In updating our Membership Roll it appears we have 'lost' many members, and this has emphasised the importance of 'recruiting' new members. Despite the appeals to the older members to enroll their young who have left home to start up their own families, we have not had a great deal of success. The young ones are the Clan's future. Without them the history and legends of Scotland will be lost. Members are urged to play their part.

Thanks are due to Chief's Lieutenant Douglas and Deputies Graeme and Blair, also Chairman and Newsletter Editor Donald and the Committee of Chris, Lois, Shirley, Joan and Wayne and Secretary Keith, Treasurer and Genealogist Margaret, Webmaster Andrew and Clan Piper Norman for the hard work undertaken to ensure the continued development of the NZ Branch and the Clan.

*Donald Matheson
Chairman NZ Branch.*



CORPORAL WINSTON WILLIAM MATHESON, CD

On November 20, 2009, Corporal Winston Matheson rescued a wounded soldier from a burning bus, following a head-on collision in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The driver of a bus carrying two passengers was unable to avoid an oncoming SUV that had drifted into his lane. On impact, Corporal Matheson was thrown forward and landed halfway through the front windshield. Despite his injuries, he made his way back inside the bus to search for the other passenger, while the bus driver escaped. Corporal Matheson grabbed the injured man and, with great difficulty, opened the emergency exit and pushed him outside. Corporal Matheson then fell unconscious but was pulled to safety before the bus became completely engulfed in flames.



Hon Judge John Matheson

A full obituary of Judge Matheson can be found at :
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ottawacitizen/obituary.aspx?n=john-ross-matheson&pid=168838523&fhid=12285>

THE HONOURABLE JOHN ROSS MATHESON OF KINGSTON ON 1917-2013

After an exploding German shell left him with six pieces of shrapnel in his head and initially paralyzed him from the neck down, John Ross Matheson returned to Canada, recovered all but the use of his right leg, and would play a masterminding role in the creation of Canada's Maple Leaf flag, a rare unifying symbol in what was then a fractious country.

Along the way, he practised law, had six children, won an Eastern

Ontario seat in the House of Commons and was appointed a judge. He would also come up with the concept for the Order of Canada, an institution established as Canada came of age in the 1960s.

Mr. Matheson, an engaging personality whose expertise in heraldry came in handy as he championed the design of the flag, died on Dec. 27 in hospital in Kingston, Ont., aged 96.

In a statement PM Stephen Harper said "Canada has lost a great public servant,"

THE MATHESONS OF ONTARIO, CANADA

Roderick Matheson born in Lochcarron, Ross-shire, Scotland in 1793 and came to Lower Canada around 1806. He served with the Glengarry Fencibles during the War of 1812, reaching the rank of Lieutenant. In 1817 he settled at the military settlement at Perth, Ontario. Matheson operated a general store there and was a director of the Tay Navigation Company. In 1847 he was appointed to the Legislative Council of the Provinces of Canada and in 1855 was made colonel in charge of the 1st military district of Canada West. He was named a Senator after Confederation (1867).

Roderick died of a stroke in Perth, Ontario 1873. Matheson House, his former residence in Perth, is a National Historic Site of Canada and now serves as the Perth museum. He married Mary Fraser Robertson in Montreal on November 5 1823. After she died giving birth to twins in 1825, he married Annabella Russel in Gavilock, Scotland on August 11 1830.

Roderick had four daughters and seven sons, one of whom was Arthur James Matheson. Arthur was a Canadian lawyer and politician who served as a Conservative Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for Lanark South from 1898 to 1913, and was provincial treasurer from 1905 to 1913. He was born in Perth, Canada West in 1842, and educated at Upper Canada College and Trinity College, Toronto where he studied law. He was called to the bar in 1870 and set up practice in Perth. He was mayor of Perth in 1883 and 1884.

Arthur served in the local militia, including service during the Fenian raids, and became Lieutenant-Colonel in 1886. He was a member of various house committees, including the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. He died in office in 1913.

The geographical township of Matheson, part of Black River-Matheson Township, was named after Arthur Matheson.

*Ellen Watson
Kirkland Lake Ontario*

THE SHIP HECTOR

Greetings from Hector Quay

As you may know, the town of Pictou is home to the Ship Hector, a replica of the famous 1773 ship which brought 189 Scottish settlers (including members of clan Matheson) to Nova Scotia, Canada directly from Scotland. We launched a new fundraising campaign a couple of years ago on indiegogo.com <<http://indiegogo.com>> . You can click on the links below to read more about it and us.

www.indiegogo.com/shiphector

www.shiphector.com/

www.facebook.com/shiphector

Perhaps you could post the indiegogo address on your facebook page and use any other media outlet you may have to spread the word about this project?

We are open daily from 9 - 5 and 9 -8pm during July & August. We also open for special requests, visits, tours, Clan celebrations, weddings etc. The entire site,

except for one student on a government grant, is run by volunteers Anne is the Volunteer Coordinator, and she has 86+ volunteers on shift.

Our Board, of which Keith is a Director, has taken on specific tasks and we are all moving forward very cheerfully. We expect an exciting summer 2012 as we will have pipe band youth workshops, piping and drumming performances, highland dancers, Celtic entertainment as well as artisans like blacksmiths, weavers, rughookers, and carvers working on site.

The hull of Hector, from waterline down, has been repaired, re-caulked, and re-painted. Now the Volunteers are working topside / deckside to scrape, paint and get her "aesthetically" pleasing. She will be re-assessed by the original Project Manager and Master Shipwright to determine which repairs need attention, an ongoing process. We continue to seek corporate and private sponsorship for the work that needs to be completed.

We still have a vision of sailing Hector within Pictou Harbour and are working towards completion of the running rigging, sails and other regulated workings.

Anyone planning to visit Pictou, NS should let us know by email, so that we can welcome them on board.

Thank you for your support.

Keith and Anne Matheson

AUSTRALIA

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Vice President

Robert Mathieson

Secretary

Margaret Fleming

Treasurer

Abigail Butler

Genealogist

Glenn Mathieson

We held a very successful Australian-New Zealand Gathering in Melbourne over the weekend of 22-24 March. A strong contingent came from New Zealand, much appreciated by the organisers. Sadly floods and fires preceding the Gathering kept some rural Mathesons away. At a reception and welcome on the Friday 4-year-old Elizabeth Mathieson cut the ribbon to open the Gathering. The next day a river boat trip down the Yarra River that took us across part of Port Phillip Bay to Williamstown, the original planned settlement of the colony in 1837. Insufficient water led to the founding of Melbourne a few miles upriver. On Saturday evening we dressed in our Clan finery and enjoyed a memorable Dinner. Our piper, Warren, organised an "Address to the Haggis" and piped us in to dinner. The haggis was actually a heavily disguised plate of bruschetta, but served the purpose. I proposed a Toast to The Chief and Donald Matheson led the Toast to Absent Friends.

On the Sunday morning we had a genealogy forum. Graham Simpson from GUM (Genealogists Using Microcomputers) gave an excellent talk about computer programs for recording, storing and organising family records. Graham has a Matheson connection in his family, so his presence was welcome. We were fortunate to have Margaret Faed, the NZ Clan genealogist, and

our genealogist, Roma Jorgenson, present for the discussion. I gave a talk about DNA and the linking of families, especially in my own case with the surprise relationship to Shinness in Sutherland. Through the Chief's family tree I showed links to member Belinda Coyte, from Adelaide. Belinda's family includes early Australian PM Alfred Deakin (listed as Alfred Deacon in "The History of The Mathesons").

Although this was the first Trans-Tasman Gathering of the Clan, we plan to repeat the occasion. Doug Matheson (Chief's Lieutenant for New Zealand) has already issued invitations to a Gathering in 2017. Such Gatherings are a delightful way to renew old ties and forge new friendships across the Tasman or the world.

Because Australia is a huge country, it has always been difficult to bring our membership together for quarterly meetings. Meetings held outside Melbourne have not generally been successful, except one held in Brisbane. In May we had a get-together in Geelong for the first time, about one hour's drive south-west of Melbourne. Stalwart founding members Lance and Ella Matheson, who have been unable to attend meetings in Melbourne due to ill-health, were present. The successful and productive meeting was held in the Geelong Presbyterian Church hall. Glenn Mathieson agreed to take over as Genealogist from Roma

Robin M, Shirley and Keith M, Donald M



Jorgenson (with some help from Graham Simpson of GUM) and Brad Matheson agreed to examine the feasibility of upgrading our Clan website to complement the global website set up by the Chief. Brad has already set up a Clan Matheson Australia Facebook page with vast numbers of followers. The Clan Picnic was held in February and in August the Winter Lunch at the Radisson.

We are all looking forward to the 2014 International Clan Matheson Gathering in Scotland. We are still collecting names of people wishing to attend - Mary and I plan to be there, as do a number of our members.

We held our AGM in November at which a new Committee was elected. There were a few changes. Roma Jorgenson retired. Clan Genealogist has done a wonderful job and we shall miss her input. We welcome Glenn Mathieson to the Committee. We also thank Helen Mathieson for doing a sterling job over the years as Secretary. Margaret Fleming was duly elected as her replacement. Without the efforts of such dedicated helpers we could not continue and we are all very grateful for their work.

*Colin Matheson
Chief's Lieutenant and President*

BBQ in the Sun