



NATIONAL OFFICERS

- Rich Gunn,
Society President
- Royce Perry,
Immediate Past President
- Sam Johnson,
First Vice President
- Joel Gunn,
Second Vice President
- Barbara Wilson,
Recording Secretary
- Elise Erickson,
Membership Secretary
- Caroline Mann, Treasurer
- Abb Gunn, Genealogist

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New Zealand Twice in the Same Year?

By Rich Gunn

What an honor it is to be invited to participate in the dedication of the Marae (Meeting and Ceremonial Hall) for the Ngati Awa Maori tribe. These are the folks who came to Scotland in 2009 to return "the essence of the spirit" of one of their tribe, Jack Mahiti Wilson, who was also a proud member of Clan Gunn. Jack had planned to attend the International Gunn Gathering that year with his wife, Christine, but died in 2008. I was privileged to be a part of that ceremony on what was to have been a rainy Sunday morning in Edinburgh. Instead, the prayers of Pouroto Ngaropo, a leader of the tribe, were answered. What began as a dreary, rain anticipated morning turned sunny with the commencement of the ceremony. Friendships were established during that time.

Todd and Sheila Wall, the President of Clan Gunn Society of New Zealand and his wife, have become great friends and hosted us in March. We had a great time and left very sad not knowing when we'd return. Not too many months passed and we got a phone call from Sheila informing us that the Marae was to be dedicated on November 5 and asking if we would be able to attend, along with our Commander, Iain and his wife, Bunty. Plans have been made and many of those involved in the 2009 ceremony will be present. Representing Clan Gunn will be Iain Gunn of Banniskirk, his wife, Bunty, Rich and Linda Gunn from the United States, Todd and Sheila Wall from New Zealand and, hopefully Alan Robson and his wife, Sally, from the United Kingdom. The Clan Gunn North America Piper, Chuck Jamison, will also attend as will some Gunns from Northern California and New Zealand – and who knows where else.

Ted Gunn, our Eastern Canada Commissioner, spoke on our behalf at the Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Society.

Planning is well under way for the International Gunn Gathering for 2012. It will be held July 21 – 29, 2012 and will start with a ferry ride to the Orkney Islands. Saturday through Monday will be spent on the Orkneys and on Tuesday we will return to Thurso for the Caithness portion of the program. John and Sarah Gunn are in charge of the program and are working hard to do some different things. Plans should be finalized around October, so watch the Clan Gunn web site, www.clangunn.us for information as we get it.

Todd and Sheila Wall are planning to attend as are some other Gunns from New Zealand who will stay in Scotland after the Gathering and return to California on their way home and attend the San Francisco Caledonian Club's Games in Pleasanton, CA over Labor Day weekend. We hope to plan some sort of gathering for these Kiwis whilst they are here. We'd love for it to be an occasion where lots of us can get together and meet our friends from abroad. Remember, practice up on speaking Kiwi before they arrive. It's not NZ, it's N Zed.



As a result of the planned trip to New Zealand, we cancelled our planned trip to Nova Scotia and

Woodland Games

May 2011

The 2011 Sacramento games were a little different this year. They were held in May instead of April because Easter was the last weekend in April. We had our AGM for the first time at these games. We were honored to have 2 past presidents in attendance, Burke Wilson and Al Gunn. And holding to past tradition, another NorCal member, Don Wilson, was elected as a National Officer in the position of First Vice President. Outgoing President, Rich Gunn has given at least 9 years of his life to Clan Gunn, first as membership secretary and then as president. He is looking forward to being the past president even though he will still be Iain Gunn's North American Commissioner for a few more years.

Clan Gunn saw numerous old members, many interested potential members and a few new members join at these games. One great outcome was the meeting of the George family from Utah playing in their pipe band. They were interested in helping out the Central Rocky Mt. branch by doing the games in Utah and Wyoming. They hosted the Utah Scottish games in June with the help of Linda and Rich Gunn who went there to show them how.

Many people purchased the new color shirts and hats. The Gunn crest tattoos were a big hit by kids and adults alike. We were well represented in the clan march on both days. The weather was great. A good time was had by all.



Don Wilson, Rich Gunn and Sam Johnson



2011 AGM in Woodland

May 2011

The 2011 AGM of the Clan Gunn Society of North America was held in Woodland, CA, in conjunction with the Sacramento Valley Games (Woodland Games).

We had several of the Society officers in attendance including the upcoming President, Sam Johnson, and First Vice President, Don Wilson. Sam presented Rich Gunn with a plaque and gavel for his six years in presidency. Two past presidents were also in attendance, Al Gunn and Burke Wilson.

The dinner was very nice though the location was slightly crowded with the number of people in attendance. Practically everyone walked away with a prize and we thank the McLaren's for their donation of the shortbread packets.



Sam Johnson and Rich Gunn



Al Gunn and Burke Wilson



The younger generation is finally helping out (Woodland Games).



Bill Wilson doing the Ode to the Haggis at the AGM. He's just getting ready to stab it.



A group from Clan Keith came to visit the tent in Woodland. Everyone got one of the Clan Gunn shot glasses and a toast of the good stuff was made to the two Clans.

Alex Beaton Information

Taken From His Webpage

As many of you have heard, Alex recently sustained a serious spinal cord injury. On Saturday July 2nd around 10:30 p.m. while sitting on his patio, Alex took ill. He asked his stepson, John Pat, to get him some water from the kitchen. When John returned less than a minute later, he found the chair on its side on the ground with Alex still in the chair. At that time Alex was unresponsive. John performed CPR on Alex and successfully regained a heartbeat. 911 was immediately called. Alex was then transported to Williamson County Medical Center where test confirmed that he had not suffered a stroke or heart attack. After being transferred to Baptist Hospital in Nashville, an MRI determined that a cervical disk was severely compressed, impinging upon his spinal cord. The disk was removed and a titanium disk put in its place.

Alex remains in the Medical ICU at Baptist Hospital following surgery to relieve pressure caused by the disk injury. The latest MRI indicates bruising still on the spinal cord and until the bruising heals, we won't know what permanent damage he may have sustained. As the trauma heals, the doctors expect the extent of the paralysis to lessen. In addition to the physicians at Baptist, a nationally known neurologist from Duke has also been enlisted to assist on Alex's case.

As often happens in cases when a person is forced to lie on their back for an extended period of time, Alex is working hard to fight off pneumonia. To this end, the doctors performed a tracheotomy and placed him on a ventilator four days after the surgery. This helps in two ways: it makes it easier for Alex to breathe, and it also allows him to focus his energy towards the healing of his spinal cord injury. The downside is that, for the moment, Alex is unable to speak. The doctors have begun weaning him off the ventilator and we look forward to hearing his Scottish brogue in the very near future.

Alex will continue in the ICU until the pneumonia is arrested. He will then be transferred to a special facility for additional treatment of the spinal trauma. Though many have expressed a desire to visit, at this time, visitation is limited.

Alex and Linda offer their sincere appreciation for all of the e-mails, Facebook comments and cards they have received. Alex is particularly touched by all of the prayers and good wishes that have been raised on his behalf by not only his friends, but also by those who have heard of his situation. The love shown by those who have responded to his injury has touched his heart and gives him immense strength to see this through. Alex and Linda continue to invite you to send them your thoughts and well-wishes via his Facebook page. Cards may be sent care of Glenfinnan Music, P.O. Box 681707, Franklin, TN 37068.

While Alex's injury has been rather traumatic and the road to recovery may be a long one, his attitude is extremely positive and optimistic! His nurses say he is an inspiration to them and to all who come in contact with him. His doctors universally agree that his positive attitude will contribute to his recovery. And.... anyone fortunate enough to have met Alex already knows that his love of people and performing will push him through this episode to a full recovery.

Modesto Cancelled

June 2011

The 30th Modesto Highland Games sponsored by the St. Andrews Society of Modesto was cancelled this year due to the weather. They held off until the last possible minute until they decided to cancel the event.

The Society is planning on have a fundraising event August 28th at Downey Community Park (corner of Brighton and Coffee Roads) in Modesto. They plan on a BBQ provided by the Ripon Police and Fire Pipe Band. The cost is \$10 for the event.

Please contact "Vicky" at (209) 529-9430 if interested in attending.

Dixon Games Return

The Dixon Scottish Highland Games and Gathering will be held once again on Sept 24, 2011, at the Dixon Fairgrounds. This will be their 8th Games. The Games will start at 9:00 am and run until 5:00 pm. You can stay and enjoy their Ceilidh after the Games. The Ceilidh is free. The cost for the BBQ Tri-Tip dinner is \$12.

Clan Gunn will have a tent at the Dixon Games.

Pleasanton Games

Saturday Pot Luck

Rich and Linda Gunn have once again offered to host a pot luck after closing on Saturday night. They will provide chicken wings for the adults and hotdogs for any kids who attend. If you will be attending please come with an appetizer, salad, or dessert. Drinks will be provided. For more information please call (916) 687-8510 or come to the Gunn tent at the Pleasanton Games.

NorCal Scholarship

For those members who are not aware, the NorCal Branch has a scholarship for purpose of supporting and advancing the educational related activities of our members. It is called the NorCal Clan Gunn Charitable Scholarship Fund. The funds will be granted to individuals furthering the arts relating to Scottish culture and will be awarded as determined by the scholarship fund Board of Directors. In 2009, Lauren Kass was awarded a scholarship.

The application process is fairly simple. The applicant must be a current family member or

member of the NorCal Branch of the Clan Gunn Society of North America. Submit a completed written application. Last, the applicant is asked for a narrative no more than 500 words as to their Scottish related activities to date and how one's course of study is related to Scottish history, industry or arts.

The application must be received by September 14th. Please contact Commissioner Chuck Jamison or Treasurer Linda Gunn if you wish to have an application or wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the scholarship.



Iain and Bunty's son, John, daughter-in-law, Sarah, and their 3 daughters visited Rich and Linda Gunn while touring the West Coast. They stopped and took a dip in the pool, paddled around the pond, and rode quads. The highlight for John was driving their 6-speed Corvette down some good curvy roads. He did remember to drive on the right hand side of the road and to shift with his right hand.

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The Gunn Report is the newsletter of the Northern California Branch of the Clan Gunn Society of North America. This newsletter is electronically mailed to all Northern California members for whom we have a valid e-mail address for.

Any member wishing to contribute to *The Gunn Report* newsletter may do so. Please email the editor with your material you wish to have in *The Gunn Report*. If you contribute electronic photos, please include a description and name of who is in the photograph, if known.

The Gunn Report is sent four times a year providing the newsletter has enough information for publication; Winter (February), Spring (April), Summer (July) and Fall (October). The newsletter is emailed the first week of the month with USPS

mailings around the same time frame after printing.

The USPS mailings are to those Northern California members who subscribe to the newsletter for \$4.00 per year; subscription expiration date follows the name on the mailing label.

Send your USPS renewals to:
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c/o Linda Gunn, NorCal Treasurer
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Please notify the editor if your email changes to update emailing records for the newsletter.

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Mark Your Calendars

September 3-4, 2011—

[Pleasanton Games](#)
Alameda Co. Fairgrounds
Pleasanton, CA

September 17, 2011—

[Fresno Games](#)
Kearney Park
Fresno, CA

September 24, 2011—

[Dixon Games](#)
Dixon Fairgrounds
Dixon, CA

Games dates are posted with the best information available at the time of printing.

Helpful Clan Gunn Web Links Below

NorCal Clan Gunn Yahoo group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GunnNCA/>

Northern California Celtic Events website:

<http://www.2jamisons.com>

Official Clan Gunn of North America website:

<http://www.clangunn.us/>

Clan Gunn Wiki:

<http://gunsoftheworld.pbwiki.com>

If you are interested in helping or hosting a Clan Gunn tent at any of the California Games please contact NorCal Commissioner Chuck Jamison at chuck@2jamisons.com

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Place
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