



Lean gu dlùth ri cliù do shinnsear

An
Teachdaire
Gàidhealach

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Secretary's Report

We began increasing our public profile this year with a stall at the annual Celtic Festival at St Leonards Park, North Sydney on Australia Day. We had many visitors to our stall and it even resulted in a few new members joining the society. We advertised our Latha Gaidhlig and Ceilidh and had visitors to that day also as a result of our stall at North Sydney. Ivor will be running our stall at the Bundanoon Gathering on the 8th April, so come along and say "Ciamar a tha sibh?"

Our Latha Gaidhlig was a great success and all who came enjoyed themselves and learned a lot as a result of the day. Many thanks to all of our enthusiastic teachers and presenters! We had several lessons throughout the day for beginners, intermediate level students and advanced students. One of the highlights of the day was a wonderful talk by Will Scott on Celtic art. This included an analysis of the Book of Kells, one volume of which is currently on display at the Australian National Gallery in Canberra. Another feature of the day which was enjoyed by all was the session after lunch called "Fichead Ceist". We had two teams competing to identify the object or person Katie had thought of. The day ended with Jim Robertson telling a sgeuladh about Angus MacKenzie, his Gaelic teacher. We also had Sally Anne exhibiting her collection of celtic artware which included cards, fridge magnets and original prints. There were lots of books, pamphlets, newspapers and videos for people to read or watch throughout the day.

In the evening we had a ceilidh and were graced with the beautiful voice of Danielle Crowley and John Coombs playing the harp. After Graeme told us a haunting story about a selkie they performed a lovely duet with the same theme. Everyone who came contributed in some way to make the evening very enjoyable indeed. We had people telling stories, reciting poems, singing songs and playing tunes. We look forward to making this an annual event so please think about joining us next year.

Oirin

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Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

The Gaelic Association of Australia (*Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia*) is a non-profit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels in Australia. Members include both native speakers and learners. We welcome contact from anyone with an interest in these subjects. A' Ghàidhlig gu brath !!

Enquiries should be directed to the Secretary at PO Box A2259, Sydney South NSW 1235, or at the email address listed above. Membership of the Gaelic Association of Australia costs \$20 per year.

The Association produces a quarterly journal, *An Teachdaire Gaidhealach*, which is sent to all members.

We are proud and happy to remind our readers that with this March 2000 issue, *An Teachdaire* turns 50. The history of the publication in its many guises was recounted by PT MacAlasdair in Issue 47.

Naidheachdan

The campaign for legal status for Gaelic-medium education is being furthered by a petition put to the education committee of the Scottish Parliament by parents' action group *Comann nam Parant* (Naiseanta). The petition calls for the provision of Gaelic teaching to be compulsory wherever there is enough demand, and also asks for legislation on Gaelic to be included in the *Standards in Scotland's Schools Bill*. The committee will debate the petition in full at the second stage of its passage through Parliament.

Highland councillors have lodged an appeal with the Scottish Executive to increase the use of Gaelic on road signs in many towns and villages. Under their plan, in towns with an English name similar to the Gaelic, only Gaelic would appear; in others, Gaelic would dominate the sign, with the Anglicised name underneath in italics. If successful, the appeal is likely to see Gaelic signs erected in Skye, Lochaber and Wester Ross; the Executive had originally insisted the signs could only be used where more than 10% of the local population spoke Gaelic — effectively Skye and Ardnamurchan. The Executive is likely to block the move, however, insisting sign-posting in Gaelic-only would confuse motorists.

Children who are taught in Gaelic-medium schools are outperforming peers in conventional Scottish schools, according to a recently-leaked Government report. Research commissioned by the Executive suggests that pupils at 34 primary schools where Gaelic is the main language are better at maths and even English than those who attend schools where everyday subjects are taught solely in English. The findings of Professor Dick Johnstone, of Stirling University, refute claims that children are held back if they attend Gaelic-medium schools, and are likely to strengthen demands for an increase in public subsidies for such education.



With sadness we record the passing on December 25th, 1999 of Angus MacKenzie, latterly of Miranda, Sydney. Angus was active in Gaelic radio and community activities and gave Gaelic language classes over many years. He is survived by his wife Jean, and our thoughts are with her and their family. Ivor Mackay gave the eulogy at his funeral, and this is reproduced in full on page 8 of this issue.

John Douglas Pringle, former editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Gaelic learner and Scottish Nationalist with a great passion for our language and culture, passed away in Sydney in December. His last contribution to *ATG* was in September 1998 (Issue 46).

Following his recent period of ill health, John Angus MacKenzie has moved to R J Williams Lodge, Glebe Point Road, Glebe. He enjoys having his friends in for a chat so if you are in the area do drop in to see him.

We note also the recent passing of Mrs C. Lewis, aged 81, in Adelaide. Mrs Lewis was born Cairistiona Iain Mhurchaidh Neill on the island of North Tolsta, and emigrated to Australia with her husband shortly after their marriage.



Sydney's Australian Gaelic Singers, in rehearsal for their attendance at the Royal National Mod in Dunoon, Scotland, in October of this year, must pass proficiency tests in Gaelic to be eligible to compete. They happily report they have been successful in their application to *An Comunn Gàidhealachd* in Inverness to have the tests conducted here in Australia in August by local native Gaelic speakers, rather than having to wait until they reach Scotland. They see this as an acknowledgement of the local Gaelic community.



Two pieces of news regarding members of ACG: Pamela James, former Secretary, is to be married on April 8 at Crackneck Point, Shelley Beach. The Australian Gaelic Singers will provide the music for her wedding. We wish long life and happiness to Pamela and her fiancé, Andrew O'Neill.

And Alex and Sue Stewart are delighted to announce that Alexander Duncan Stewart was born on March 17th at St Georges Private Hospital, Kogarah, weighing in at 7lbs 9 oz. Mum and baby are both well.

The Editors



Scottish memories endure

Scottish memories and traditions – like those of all the Celts – last for many generations even in such distant lands as Australia. Witness the continuing series of Scottish societies that exist in Australia; witness the series of Gatherings and Games that are regularly organised. These are frequently organised by people whose ancestors left Scotland long ago and whose connection with Scotland is little more than a visit. Witness the continuing strong concern with the future of Scotland: witness the joy at the recent coming again of the Scottish Parliament.

Various Games, dances and Gatherings occur regularly all around Australia. Scottish Week is a great event in Sydney. A new event commenced last year, in Inverell, whose name indicates its history. A local, Councillor Moore, spent the year organising celebrations to accompany the raising of a memorial cairn. Pipe bands, dancers, marchers and speakers were arranged. Alas, it rained. It poured. Some brave souls did what they could, but what a shame!

Our sympathies to Councillor Moore; our hope that she will try again sometime this year (perhaps not in October this time). We will do what we can to support that. Good for Inverell – the Sapphire City!

P T MacAlasdair (Peter Alexander)

Mo Thuras Air Ais Chun Na Gàidhealtachd

Fhuair mi cuideachadh is dealbh-duthaich rathaid Albannaich aig ban-runaire ann an Roinn na Computaireachd aig an oilthigh agus thog mi orm uair eile a rithist. Shiubhail mi ann mo ghluais-tean beag astar fada gus an d'rainig mi Gleann Comhainn agus lorg mi am bàrd Domhnall Mac Illip a dh'fhuiricheas an sin sia mìosan 'sa bhliadhna. Air leth eile na bliadhna fuirichidh e 's a bhean ann an taigh air an eilean Bearnaraidh Na Hearadh is ged a bhitheas mi a' dol a dhol ann cha bhiod mi air ais anns a' cheàrn seo. Mar sin cha tug mi an cothrom gum bi iad air an eilean ach an àite sin lorg mi an seo iad agus as deidh ùine mhòire bha mi fortunach am faighinn. Tha sealladh uabhasach math aca a mach an uineige shuas air a' ghleann. Chaidh Domhnall is mise a mach a dh'amharc air leac cuimhneachan Gleann Comhainn agus chuala mi an eachdraidh uair eile bhuaithe. Fhuair mi a mach aig a bhean Ceitidh gur e Domhnall Mac Fhraing a' cheud duine a chaidh a mharbhadh leis na Caimbeulaich agus bha esan air a rathad rabhadh a chur air na Domhnallach na bha ann an inntinnean nan Caimbeulaich air an oidhche oillteil sin. Bha mi moiteal gun robh sinnsear air sàs anns an tachartas ainmeil sin. Ged a bha mi ag iarraidh fuireach nas fhaide, dh'fheum mi fàgail a rithist. Leis an uair sin bha mi ro fhadalach dhan an aithseig bho Mhallaig agus mar sin stiùir mi a dh'ionnsaigh na drochaide. Ann an dol tarsinn cha chosg e ach ceithir nota trì fichead 's a deich agus glé dh'aithghearr bha mi air ais air an Eilean Sgitheanach. Bha mi a' lorg taigh Neill is Morag Beaton ann an Achadh A' Chuirn ("Waterloo" 'sa Bheurla anns na laithean seo). Dh'fheòraich mi ann an taigh-bidh agus direarch nuair a bha a' ghrian a' dol fodha fhuair mi Morag a' coiseach air an traigh mu coinneamh a taighe. Cha robh Neill no an fheadhainn eile aca ann air an oidhche sin ach bha ùine mhath againn co-dhiubh a' seinn òrain Ghàidhlig. Tha Morag anns a' chòisir Còisir an t-Sraith agus seinnidh ise gu binn. Thug ise dhomh teipean na còisire a thoirt air ais do Astràilia agus a thoirt do a cairdean air an taobh seo dhen an t-saoghail. (Agus rinn mi sin ceart gu leòr.)

Tràth air an ath mhaduinn thog mi orm a rithist : bha mi a' dol gu Aros – bùth na h-oidhreachd aig Artur Cormac. Tha seo faisg air Port Rìgh agus cha robh trioblaid sam bith agam fhaighinn. Anns a' bhùth sin cheannaich mi uiread de chlaran daingean, leabhraichean is tepaichean. Rinn mi agallamh fada le Artur ann oifig shuas an staidhre cuideachd leis na h-uidheam aig SBS a thug mi leam. Nuair a dh'fhàg mi Aros aig gu bhith meadhan latha di Sathuirne, bha iongnadh mòr orm gun robh sneachd a' tuiteam aig an uair sin de latha samhraidh. Bha e agam strìuireadh gu slaodach anns a' chuireadh seo o'n a bha na rathaidean sleamhain is uaigneach. Ach ré an turais seo chunnaich mi na feidh a' ruith is a' feòrach anns na h-achaidhean air gach taobh an rathaid. Mu dheireadh rinn mi gu sàbhailte a steach gu Port Rìgh agus bha an sneachd

uile air falbh. Sheall mi timcheall agus mhothaich mi gun robh an àite atharraichte anns na deich bliadhnachan a dh'fhalbh – bha Oifis A' Phuist ann an àite eadar-dhealaichte mar eiseipleir. Chuir mi air falbh cairtean postach bhon sin ach bha aiseag agam a ghlacadh agus mar sin dh'imich mi do Uig nam chabhaig. Bha loidhne-fuirich eile aig an aiseig seo agus nuair a bha mi anns an oifis a' ceannach na billeig is dealbh-dùthcha bha am bàta mòr gu bhith deiseil a dhol. Ghreas mi orm agus fhuair mi air bord ann an ám taing do Fhreasdail. Bha sinn a' dol air a' chuan gharbh a dh'ionnsaigh Loch Na Mallaidh air an eilean Uidhist A Tuath. 'Se turas math a bh'ann agus nuair a fhuair mi dhith, fhuair mi mo rathad chun na cabhsaire ùire, thairis gu Bearnaraidh Na Hearradh. Air Bearnaraidh, cheannaich mi deochan do Splash agus fhuair mi a thaigh snog. Bha e cho math a choinneachadh ri Splash agus dh'aithnich mi e le a ghuth gu ball agus an aon rud dhà fhéin. Chaidh sinn a mach air sgrìob bheag air na monaidhean agus bheathaich sinn na caoirich aige. Chunnaic mi uain dhan an robh e a' toirt cùram àraidh agus mhinich e dhomh na h-aobharan agus carson a ni e rudan mar a ni e air a chroit. Chaidh mi air coiseach air traigh Bearnaraidh an ath latha, feuchainn a choiseach timcheall air an eilean ach 'se astar mòr ann an sin dhà riribh agus mu dheireadh thug mi suas am beachd. Ann an aon phairt bha mi a' gabhail rathad goirid troimh a' mhuir eu-domhainn agus gu bhith gun mhothachadh, bha e a' faighinn nas domhainne is nas domhainne. Bha eagal orm gum bi uisge a' tighinn a steach dom bhotannan a thug Splash dhomh agus gum bi mi an sàs anns a mhuir. Ann an aon doigh air coireagan fhuair mi a mach às an ribe sin.

Bha cairdean ionadail aig Splash a' tighinn bho ám gu ám a choinneachadh air son craic agus bha e fìor mhath barrachd Gàidhlig a chluinntinn an sin. 'Se deagh chòcaire a th'ann an Gloria a bhean a tha á Astràilia. Dì-Domhnaich, threòraich Splash mi gu eaglais Ghàidhlig leis an t-ainm Cille Muire. B'aithne dhan a' mhinistear is a bhean mi o'n a bha e na mhinistear ann an eaglais Ghàidhlig Stràit A' Gharaidh ann an Glaschu nuair a fhrithealadh mi o'chionn fhada i. Rinn mi claradh dhen an t-seirbheis le a chead. Air an rathad air ais, bha Splash ag iarraidh stiùireadh a' ghluistein ùir seo agam agus chord an stiùireadh ris.

Ach bha agam ri cairdean eile fhaichinn air an turas luath seo, mar sin as deidh beagan laithean chaidh mi sios gu Uidhist A Deas far an do lorg mi Domhnall Domhnallach is a bhean Peigidh. 'Se draibheadair na carbaid a bh'ann agus bha e ag iarraidh mo dhraibheadh timcheall an àite. 'Se draibheadair cùramach a th'ann. Thainig sin gu bùth bheag air Bein Na Faoile, bùth Mhac Ghille Bhraith, far an robh torr teipean a cheannach, teipean làn de òrain Ghàidhlig air an seinn le daoine comasach ionadail. Cheannaich mi cho móran a's urrain dhomh giulan. Tha seann chlaran aig Domhnall

cuideach ann am mullach a thaighe agus dhirich sinn suas a dh'amharc orra. Thug sinn cuid sìos agus chluich sinn iad air a ghramafon. Nuair a dh'fhàg mi an taigh aca chaidh mi air ais gu Splash agus thug e gu mullach a' bheine mi far a' bheil làrachan is clachan Ceilteach nan seasamh agus dh'innis e dhomh mu an deidheinn. Chaidh mi gu Oitir Nis far an do ghlac mi aithseag eile chun An Oib air Na Hearadh. Chan fhaca mi càite an deach na daoine eile air an aiseig agus nuair a bha mi a' sealltuinn timcheall air a' bhord uachdrach thainig an cathadh-mara bho mhuir fiadhaich mo fhluicheadh. As deidh greis fhuair mi seòmar na luinge far an robh e sàbhailte agus far an robh a h-uile dhuine eile! Nuair a rainig sinn An t-Ob thug mi an rathad ceàrr agus thaing e gu dearbh crìoch. Bha sean Gaidheal ann an sinn agus stad mi a bhruidhinn ris greasag. As deidh sin fhuair mi an rathad ceart agus thog mi orm a rithist. 'Se rathad meallaidhean troimh gharbhach clachach a bh'ann. Chuannaich mi Rodail ach chan fhaca mi an uaigh Naomh Clement an uair seo. Chaidh mi air adhart gu Flodabhàigh – àite àilidh agus chaidh mi gu taigh Iain MacAughlaidh ach cha robh gin aig an taigh agus cha robh gin ann an taigh a mhàthar air taobh eile an rathaid cuideachd. Mar sin chaidh mi air adhart gu Tarbairt far a' bheil an seinneadair Iain Murchadh Moireasdan a bhunaich bonn òir anns a Mhod a' ruith an taigh-osda an sin.

Bha a' ghrian a' dol fodha agus bha mise a' ruith a mach de ùine. Mar sin chaidh mi air adhart gu mo chairdean, na Domhnallaich ann am Breasclait. Bhàisich Alaine o chionn bliadhna agus dh'fhàg seo Aonghas agus a dhithis clann nan aonar anns an taigh. An uair mu dheireadh a bha mi comhla riutha chaidh mi gu eaglais comhla ri Alaine. Co-dhiubh bha Aonghas ag iarraidh a' dol comhla rium gu Steòrnabhagh agus àiteachan timcheal na cairdean a shealltuinn rium a rithist. Cuideachd thadhail sinn air Iain MacAsgaill is a bhean Doline, Gaideil choibhneal ann am Barbhas Uachdar agus rinn mi agallamh air a bhad comhla ri Iain le inneal a' chlaraidh sin bho ShBS. Chaidh Aonghas is mise a steach gu na studioan aig Réidio Nan Gàidheal ann an Steòrnabhagh agus rinn Coinneach Mòr (an craoladair) agallamh leam do a phrogram réidio Ghàidhlig a teid a mach gach maduinn bho dhi-Luain gu di-Haoine. Nuair a bh'agam ri Leòdhas a dh'fhàgail thug mi an aiseag bho Steòrnabhagh gu Ulabul, an ceart aiseag air an oibricheas Iain, am mac aig Aonghas. Bha leabhraichean saor air an aiseig agus cheannaich mi beagan oirre. Bho Ulabul stiùir mi gu Inbhir Nis far a fhuair mi taigh Ruairidh Mhic Illeathain. Bha e math fhaicinn a rithist is a bhean is a theaghlach uile bhruidhinn 'sa Ghàidhlig a mhàin fad na h-ùine. Theab mi uair no dà uair bruidhinn 'sa Bheurla an sin ach stad mi air an impis dìreach ann an ám. Thug Ruairidh mi a steach gu Réidio Nan Gàidheil ann an Inbhir Nis agus choimeas mi e ris na goireasan aig Réidio SBS.

As deidh sin bha agam ri thilleadh gu Glaschu far an robh ruisean mór aig Iain Patterson dhomh agus dinnear comhla ri Domhnall Mac Fhionghuin is a bhean Ealaid. Chuidich Domhnall mo rathad fhaighinn chun

a' phort-adhair agus b'e rathad ioma-fhillte a bh'ann o'n a bha iad a' chàrachadh nan rathad mu a thimcheall. Co-dhiubh dh'oibrich a h-uile ni a mach anns a' chrich agus tràth an ath mhaduinn bha mi ann an itealan a rithist air an rathad gu Lunainn agus air ais gu Astràilia. Mo thaing dhan na daoine choibhneal a chuir àgh air mo thuras air ais chun na Gàidhealtachd.

Seonaidh MacFhraing, 1999.

Suas rì 150 air am murt gun truas agus se na Gàidhil a rinn e

Buinidh sgrìos Allt Uaragail do na h-Albannaich. Sin beachd Don Watson, fear-eachdraidh Astràilianach, mu mhurt thùsanach an 1843 ann an Gippsland. Tha e ag aideachadh nach eil fios dé direach a ghabh àite. Ach tha aon rud cinnteach: gur e gnothach Gàidhealach a bh'ann, cùis a dh'fhàgas sgleò air cliù nan Gàidheal san sgìre fhathast. Cha b'urrainn an caochladh a bhith ann, le eadar 50 agus 150 duine dubh air am marbhadh san aon àite, 's clann agus boireannaich 'nam measg.

San Iuchar 1843 chaidh Ragnall MacAlasdair, mac bràthair an uachdarain mhóir, Lachlann MacAlasdair, a mhurt le tùsanaich fàisg air Port Albert air cladach Ghippsland, sgìre mhór ann an taobh sear Bhictoria. Bhuineadh Clann 'Ic Alasdair dhan Eilean Sgitheanach, agus bha Gàidhil sa mhórchuid am measg a' chiad luchd-àiteachaidh san sgìre.

Bho ghluais na daoine geala a-steach an toiseach, móran aca a' leantainn Aonghas Mac a' Mhaoilein, Sgitheanach eile a bha ag obair do Lachlann MacAlasdair 's a lorg rathad eadar na beanntan agus an cladach ann an 1839-41 (chuir e Caledonia Australis air an sgìre mar ainm), bha an dà shluagh a-mach air a-chéile. Don chuid as motha dhe na h-Albannaich bha na tùsanaich san rathad orra 's ghabh iad fearg mun dòigh san robh na daoine dubha a' marbhadh an cuid chruaidh agus chaorach. Ach bha na tùsanaich, a bhuineadh do bhuidhinn ris an canar Ganai, air an raointean-seilge a chall do na Gàidhil 's an co-chreutairean Eòrpach. Bha iad a' fulang an iomadh dòigh. Bha adhbhar aca fhéin a bhith feargach.

Nuair a chaidh MacAlasdair a mhurt b'e co-dhiù an cóigeamh fear a chaill a bheatha do thùsanaich Ghippsland taobh a-staigh bliadhna. Ach bha esan eadar-dhealaichte leis gun robh e cairdeach don fhear a bu chumhachdaiche anns an sgìre — bràthair athar, Lachlann. Goirid as déidh a' mhuirt, chuireadh comhlan Gàidhealach air dòigh leis an amas, tha e coltach, dìoladh a dhèanamh air na tùsanaich.

A réir aithris rinn iad cumhnant an gnothach a chumail diomhair. Se bu choireach gun robh an riaghaltas air a bhith trom air daoine geala a mhuirt tùsanaich aig Allt Mhyall ann an Cuimrigh Nuaidh a-Deas beagan bhliadhnaichean roimhe. Bha seachdnar dhaoine geala air an crochadh. Tha Watson ag ràdh, "Thachair àiteachadh Ghippsland fo sgleò Allt Mhyall, agus feumaidh sinn cuimhneachadh gur dòcha gur e Lachlann MacAlasdair a bu choireach son an sgrìos sin cuideachd." Cha robh an t-uachdaran mór Albannach a' dol a dhèanamh na h-aon mhearachd a-rithist.

Ach a dh'ainneoin na dìomhaireachd, dh'aodion beagan a-mach mun mhurt thairis air na bliadhnaichean. A réir aithris sgrìobhte an 1925, chaidh na Gàidhil gu ruige na daoine dubha a bha a' campachadh aig Allt Uaragail. "Chaidh iad mu'n timcheall 's loisg iad orra, a' marbhadh mórain. Fhuair

feadhainn às don choille, leum feadhainn eile dhan pholl san allt. Cho luath 's a chuir iad an cinn suas air son anail a ghabhail, loisgeadh orra gus an robh an t-uisge dearg le fuil."

Bha an aithris air a sgrìobhadh le bodach a bha a' cumail a-mach (ged nach robh e deònach innse ann an clò có e) gun robh eòlas pearsanta aige air dithis thùsanach, ged a bha iad air an leòn, a thàinig beò às a' pholl. "Bha fear dhiubh 'na ghille aig an àm, mu 12 neo 14 bliadhna a dh'aois. Bha e air a bhualadh 'na shùil le peilear, air a chur an greim leis na daoine geala, agus thugadh air an comhlan a threòrachadh bho champa gu campa." Tha e coltach nach robh obair sgrìosail nam murtairean deiseil aig Allt Uaragail.

Tha an sgrìobhadair Gippslandach Pàdraig Gardner dhen bheachd gu bheil am marbhadh seo am measg "nan tachartasan a bu chudromaich' ann an Astràilia ro linn an òir" 's gum feum muinntir an àite an-diugh gabhail ris gun do thachair a leithid. "Bha pairt de dh'eachdraidh Ghippsland air a cleith."

Sgrìobh Gardner tri leabhraichean air son foillseachadh mar a dh'fhulaing na daoine dubha fo làmhachas làidir nan Eòrpach, san robh prìomhachas uaireannan aig Gàidhil. Tha fear-eachdraidh á Gippsland, Pàdraig Morgan, ag ràdh: "Ann an Gippsland bha dà shluagh a bh' air fulang ri cogadh an aghaidh a-chéile, na Gàidhil Albannach a bh' air an saoradh bho làmhachas làidir le bhith fàgail Alba, 's an slugh eile, na Ganai, a bha gu bhith fulang [san dearbh dhòigh]. Ach cha do mhothaich na h-Albannaich an coimeas."

Tha Watson ag ràdh gu bheil móran ann an Gippsland a' dèanamh dheth gum buineadh seann Ghaidhil na sgìre do linn a chaidh 's gun robh a h-uile duine ri murt 's ri marbhadh. "Ach cha robh."

Tha e faighinn taic bho Ghardner, ged a tha esan dhen bheachd gun robh a' mhórchuid de na daoine geala "ris" ann an dòigh air choreigin. Do mhóran fhathast an Gippsland tha na seann Ghaidhil, leithid Mhic a' Mhaoilein, 'nan gaisgich dhaibh air son 's mar a lorg 's a dh'aitich iad an sgìre an toiseach.

Ach tha Gardner 's a luchd-taic a' comharrachadh gaisgeach eile — Eanraig Meyrick, a fhuair tuathanas an Gippsland an 1845. "Thathar a' losgadh air fir [dhubha], boireannaich agus clann, anns a h-uile h-àite," sgrìobh Meyrick gu a chairdean mu thuathanaich na sgìre. "Tha mi air cur 'na aghaidh anns a h-uile h-àite dhan deach mi ann an Gippsland ... ach tha na rudan seo air an cumail gu math dìomhair ... Chuala mi naidheachdan agus chunnaic mi rudan a dhèanadh duilleag cho dorch 's a leugh sibh a-riamh ann an eachdraidh. Taing do Shealbh cha do ghabh mi gnothach riutha."

Cha b'e Gàidheal a bh' ann am Meyrick ach Sasannach. Tha Gàidhil Ghippsland fhathast a' sireadh gaisgeach Gàidhealach a chaidh don uaigh gun mhurt dhaoine dubha air a chogais.

The real meaning of Easter

às a ' Bhioball

Agus air dol don t-Sàbaid seachad, cheannaich Moire Magdalen, agus Muire màthair Sheumais, agus Salome, spìosraidh deagh fhàile, chum air dhaibh teachd gun ungradh iad e.

Agus thàinig iad gu ro mhoch air madainn a' chiad là den t-seachdain chum na h-uaighe, aig èirigh na grèine.

Agus thuirt iad eatorra fèin, Cò a charaicheas dhuinn a' chlach o dhoras na h-uaighe? Agus air dhaibh amharc, chunnaic iad gun robh a' chlach air a h-atharrachadh air falbh, oir bha i ro mhòr.

Agus air dhaibh dol a-stigh don àit-adhlacaidh, chunnaic iad òganach na shuidhe air an làimh dheis, mun robh trusgan fada geal, agus bha eagal orra.

Agus thuirt esan riutha, Na biodh eagal oirbh; tha sibh ag iarraidh Iosa o Nazaret, a cheusadh: dh'èirich e, chan eil e an seo: faicibh an t-àit anns an do chuir iad e:

Ach imichibh, innsibh da dheiscioblaibh agus do Pheadar gu bheil e a' dol roimhibh do Ghalile: chì sibh an sin e
Soisgeul Mharc XVI : 1-7



Good News for Gaelic Learners in Scotland and Overseas

Deagh Naidheachd Airson Luchd-ionnsachaidh Na Gàidhlig Ann An Alba Agus Thall Thairis

A chàirdean,

I would like you all to know that my radio programme for Gaelic Learners, "Litir do Luchd Ionnsachaidh" (Letter for Gaelic Learners) is now available in both audio and text format on the new BBC Gaelic web-site. Vocabulary and notes on grammar and figures of speech are included with the text of the letter. The programme is suitable for those who already have some command of the language and who are striving towards fluency.

The new BBC Gaelic web-site is at www.bbc.co.uk/alba

The press release on the new web-site which includes other matters of interest to both learners and fluent speakers is to be found below. Please spread the word!

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New Gaelic Website

This week BBC Scotland launched a major new initiative, with an expanded Gaelic website that will bring together native speakers and learners of the language worldwide, as well as keeping youngsters and adults in Scotland up to date about BBC television and radio output in Gaelic.

The Craoladh nan Gaidheal site now includes sections

on children's programmes, news, education, programme listings and culture. An interactive element has been introduced with Conaltradh, the BBC Gaelic Message Board, which has a wide range of discussion topics for Gaels and learners, wherever they are located. The expanded Website also offers the opportunity of hearing spoken Gaelic, an important facility for exiles overseas, and for those who are learning the language in isolation.

Audio files of some of the day's new headlines from Radio nan Gaidheal will be available at eleven o' clock daily. Gaelic learners will be able to hear, and to read, the Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh by Ruairidh Maclean, which will be available each week. Younger Web browsers will be able to enjoy listening to song clips from Dotaman.

Janet Maciver will operate the new service from Radio nan Gaidheal's Stornoway office. Janet, who hails from Breasclate in Lewis, graduated from Strathclyde University before joining BBC Scotland. Janet has also worked for the Gaelic newspaper An Gaidheal Ur.

Donalda MacKinnon, Head of Gaelic broadcasting, said, "The BBC pioneered Gaelic radio and Gaelic television. It now builds on that experience with the first interactive programme-based service on the worldwide web. This relaunch is a very important step in the development of broadcast services in Gaelic. Convergence of internet services and other media is an inevitable development and one with which we need to be in tune. The interrelation between television, radio and on-line is manifest in our pages and the added value of combining these services and the expertise involved in their development will, I am certain, become readily apparent to the consumer, wherever in the world they live."

For Angus MacKenzie

Angus MacKenzie was born in Bayble, Lewis, and passed away in Sydney on 25th December 1999. His funeral service was held at Woronora Cemetery Chapel in Sutherland, Sydney on December 30th. Ivor Mackay gave this eulogy to his friend Aonghas MacCoinnich, who was known as “Aonghas Dhomhnall a’ Piobair”.

This short address is given as testimony to some very special moments in the life of Angus MacKenzie. It is also given on behalf of his many friends who could not be here, and who cherished his friendship. I am sure those who mourn Angus’ death come from many parts, including Lewis, Inverness, Glasgow, England and Australia. This address is also given on behalf of members of the Gaelic Association of Australia and the Australian Gaelic Choir.

As a very close friend of twenty years, I got to know Angus and most of what he did throughout his life — also what he stood for in connection with our Gaelic Culture. I met Angus for the first time at a meeting of the Council for Scottish Gaelic in the early seventies. There started a close friendship that continued until the end.

How do we describe Angus’ life? Angus was raised in a Lewis crofting community where the lifestyle would have been that of a close-knit Christian family unit and a neighbourly village culture. He often conveyed to me that he enjoyed immensely this part of his young life in Bayble.

When Angus came of age, he followed his father into the then-busy fishing industry and there served the pre-war years in many positions to enable him to learn the craft of a professional deep-sea fisherman. WWII intervened, and like many Island boys, he was called up, and served with the Royal Navy for the duration. After serving on Naval vessels, facing the many dangers of wartime seafaring, often on North Atlantic convoy duty, he was drafted to Sydney to assist the Australian Navy following the end of war in Europe. Here he met Jean and soon after he and his bride returned to Bayble in Lewis, where Angus once again went back to fishing out of Stornoway. After some years they returned to Australia, settling back in Sydney in 1952.

It seems Angus had finally found his niche in life when he gained employment at the Garden Island Naval Dockyard. For a great part of the time he spent there he was in charge of various works, mainly to do with supply of rigging services to Naval vessels. There are many still around from his dockyard days who would tell you of their liking and respect for Angus, his quiet Hebridean approach to his work, recalling the efficiency and professional fairness he applied to his tasks.

I suppose Angus’ greatest asset was his wide knowledge of our Gaelic culture. If at any time you were stuck with anything to do with a particular Gaelic song or poem or other Gaelic matters, Angus would always come to your aid with the answer.

Angus conducted his Gaelic classes over many years, both at Longueville and later at his home at Caringbah. He was generous to a fault, along with his wife Jean; there was always a welcome in their home. When Angus was asked why he did not charge for his time and effort in teaching Gaelic, he would remark, “I did not pay to learn it, so I cannot charge for teaching it!” That was the style which endeared Angus to us.

Angus made many friends wherever he went. He served our Gaelic culture with distinction, including participating in Gaelic broadcasting on the SBS Gaelic programme, of course his Gaelic classes, assisting with the Gaelic church services, and his participation in the many and various Scottish festivals and gatherings.

I experienced many light-hearted moments in his company. Our association included travelling to Gaelic Mods, and in recent years the many functions and meetings around Sydney. He told me he really enjoyed his visits back to the old country.

We will all miss Angus very much — there are not many of his kind left. It now remains my duty to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathy to Jean and their extended family, both here and in the UK.

In conclusion, a final word: in Angus MacKenzie we have had an example of dedication and tireless work for our race and language. Now we know what we would wish:

Gun tugadh Dia dhuinn misneach agus neart, a’ bhi dol air adhart, le spiorad taingeil is aghmor.
May God give us courage and strength to go forward with a thankful and joyous spirit.

I’m sure Angus MacKenzie would have agreed with those words.

Ivor Mackay

Memories of my island

I was born in Australia, in Sydney, of Scottish ancestry. I was always firmly aware of that ancestry and in my middle years, involved in education, war, family-raising, career making, there was enough to take me to the Island of my ancestry – the delectable Island of Jura, of the Inner Hebrides.

I flew to Port Ellen (Puirt nan Eilean) and travelled by post office van through Bowmore and Port Askaig of the whisky-distilling island of Islay, across by ferry over the narrow but sometimes fiercely rough Sound of Islay. Landing on Jura (Diura in Gaelic – the Island of Deer) was immensely emotional. I found myself talking of coming back to Jura though I had never been there. Picked up by Duncan Buie, a major figure in the small population of Jura (about 200 – once many more), in his car (Duncan had been a Sergeant Major in the War) and driven to Craighouse with its very good small hotel – it is still there – I spent several wonderful days. My Australian eye was concerned at first with the yellow water that came from the taps – it came through peat. But there was wine obtainable at the hotel, and whisky needs no water. I walked to the Burial Ground where I found ancestral graves back over the centuries. I looked

at Allt-a-mhinistear as it flowed past the graves. I gazed at and later climbed Beinn an Oir, highest of the three Paps of Jura. I saw the Standing Stones of time immemorial. I visited the house of my ancestors but saw no ghosts.

I have been to Jura again a number of times and have taken my children and grandchildren. The water is no longer yellow, the population slowly diminishes; none now speak Gaelic as their first tongue. There are more deer and black-faced sheep than men. Scandinavians and Germans come each year to stalk the deer. But there is hope yet.

Jura is a long island, mountainous, well-watered, with nearly all place names in Gaelic. It is unspoilt. Rough seas surround it: a famous whirlpool, Corrievreckan, exists where the fierce seas of the rolling Atlantic meet the waters of the Sound of Jura that divides Jura from Scotland. The Sound of Jura is known in Gaelic as An Linne Rosach – the Waters of Sorrow – from the many lives lost to its fury. In former times of sail, you had to await the pleasure of the sea before you crossed to Jura. But for me, Jura is my Island.

P T MacAlasdair
(Peter Alexander)

Na freagairtean

Toimhseachan-tarsainn

Tarsainn 1 acair; 4 fala; 6 iarr; 7 saoghal; 9 eile; 10 arsa; 11 niasach; 15 Anna; 16 rian; 17 dràma.

Sìos 1 aois; 2 a bho; 3 robh; 4 failleas; 5 àirde;

8 gearain; 10 abair; 12 achd; 13 asda; 14 hama.

Word puzzle

The eight-letter word is *Gaidheal*

ada; adha; agad; agh; aig; aige; dàil; deagh; dia; dig; dìle; eala; ealadh; gad; gal; gear; ged; gial; gill; glè; iad; iadh; lag; lagh; laige; laigh; leag; leagadh; leig ...

Highland quiz

1 St Kilda; 2 Morag; 3 Lewis; 4 Skye; 5 Culloden;

6 achadh, a field; 7 the Lewis Chessmen; 8 the Black

Watch; 9 Sir Joseph Banks; 10 a seanchaidh = a reciter

of traditional stories; 11 MacKay country in Sutherland;

12 the Brahan Seer.

New Gaelic music

Last time, I recommended some albums from the heart of Gaeldom, the west of Scotland itself, and the new Parliament at Holyrood. This issue, we look at some music made by Gaels from outside the Gaeltachd.

Australia's own Chris Duncan has released *Fyvie's Embrace*, an accomplished paean to "The Golden Age of the Scottish Fiddle". This, his second album, features the music of Niel Gow and son Nathaniel, William Marshall, James Scott Skinner and Simon Fraser, noted fiddlers and tune-collectors of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Sources for the tunes range widely through Scottish culture; of particular interest may be the Simon Fraser pieces, from his 1816 collection *The Airs and Melodies Peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland and the Isles*. Both moving and exhilarating, this album is well summed up by a quote from Yehudi Menuhin, himself a great admirer of the Scottish fiddler: "Their music knows no detour — it goes straight to our feet if dance we must, to our eyes if cry we must, and always directly to our hearts, evoking every shade of joy, sorrow or contentment." Highly recommended. [ABC Classics ABC 465 263-2]

If Chris Duncan is illuminating Scottish fiddling's past, Ashley MacIsaac is a young Nova Scotian virtually redefining its future. His 1995 album, *hi™ how are you today?* is fascinating stuff (though those looking for traditional or even orthodox music would be better-served by Chris Duncan). The title of this release may give you a taste of MacIsaac's irreverent sense of humour; look past its quirkiness. And don't be distracted by the cover photo of Ashley in lumberjack shirt, kilt and bush-walking boots. Listen instead to the sheer energy and precision and, yes, joy shining through traditional tunes like *Hills of Glenorchy* and *The Devil in the Kitchen* or the playfulness of tracks like *Rusty D-con-STRUCK-tion*. How are we today? Very well, indeed. [A&M Records 31454 0522 2]

Perhaps the highlight of Ashley's album is the track *Sleepy Maggie*, which features vocals by Mary Jane Lamond, a fine singer and tutor in Gaelic song at St Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. Mary Jane's own first album, *Bho Thìr nan Craobh*, made ears prick up; her newer one, *Suas e!*, confirms her talent and has quickly become a firm favourite. She reveres the Cape Breton song tradition, and all the tracks here are new arrangements and recordings of long-sung songs collected in and around Inverness County. There are spinning and milling songs, step-dances and the inevitable immigrant's lament, all given in clear and resonant Gaelic (bonus points to this album for having notes on the songs and full Gaelic lyrics). On a number of tracks Mary Jane is joined by Gaelic singers of older generations, reinforcing the music's lineage and giving a glimpse of style and tradition from a bygone era. *Suas e!* [BMG 09026-63246-2]

Greum MacEachaidh

Bàrdachd

le Rody Gorman

We published two poems by Rody Gorman, poet-in-residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, in the last issue of *An Teachdaire*. Rody has kindly provided two more poems for this issue.

Dearg no Geal

Dè ged a bhithinn
Nam fhion dearg no geal

Nuair a leigeadh tu leam am bàs fhaighinn
Seach mo ghabhail,

An dàrna cuid leis an reothadh
No le bhith casg m' analach?

Red or White?

Me? Red or white?
Same difference,

Seeing as you'd let me expire
one way or the other

either
by freezing or suffocating me.

Drùdhadh

'S math tha fhios agam
Gu bheil thu muigh ann an shin

Am bad air choreigin
Air àrainn an taighe

'S tu a' drùdhadh orm
Nad thighinn tilgte.

Penetration

I know that
you're out there, damnit,

somewhere in
the environs of the house,

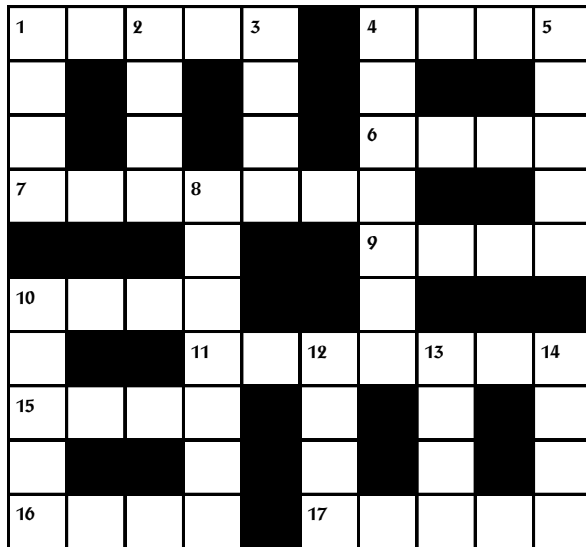
oozing through as some
form of precipitation.

Rody Gorman

Dibhearsan

Answers to all puzzles
can be found on page 9.

Toimhseachan-tarsainn



Tarsainn

1. An anchor
4. The genitive of *fuil*
6. Ask
7. The world (*an ...*)
9. Another
10. Said
11. Messy (around the mouth)
15. A girl's name
16. Order, sense
17. A play

Sìos

1. Age
2. The cow (1, 3)
3. Was? (*An ... ?*)
4. A shadow
5. Height
8. Complain
10. Say
12. An act
13. Out of them
14. You can eat this

Aged hail

Can you make a single Gaelic word eight letters long from this phrase ?

(Hint: most people reading *An Teachdaire* would consider themselves this, if only at heart !)

Once you've found the word, how many other Gaelic words of three or more letters can you make from it ?

You can only use each letter the number of times it appears in the title phrase. Twenty words is good !

Highland quiz

1. Which island was evacuated in 1930 ?
2. Nessie lives in Loch Ness !
Who lives in Loch Morar ?
3. Which island is *Eilean an Fhraoich* in song ?
4. Which island is *Eilean a' Cheò* in song ?
5. Which battle was fought on Drumossie Moor ?
6. What does *ach* mean in Scottish placenames ?
7. Which famous chess set was discovered in 1831 ?
8. Which Highland regiment is *Am Freacadan Dubh* ?
9. What is the connection between Staffa and Australia ?
10. What is a *shenachie* ?
11. Where is *Dùthaich MhicAoidh* ?
12. Who was *Coinneach Odhar* ?



Gaelic idiom

More expressions meaning "end" by using *ceann*.

ceann an taighe = the end of the house
Tha a' gharaid aig ceann an taighe
The garage is at the end of the house

ceann na leap' = the bedhead
Tha a' chluasag aig ceann na leap'
The pillow is at the bedhead
also

an ceann adhairt = the forward end (i.e. pillow end)
(*adhairt* is given in some dictionaries as "pillow")

ceann caol (the narrow end) = prow of a boat

o cheann gu cheann = from end to end
Leugh mi an leabhar o cheann gu ceann
I read the book from beginning to end

an ceann seachdain = at the end of a week
Thainig e an ceann seachdain
He came at the end of a week

ceann an rathaid = the end of the road
Choinnich mi e aig ceann an rathaid
I met him at the end of the road

Cum ceann a' mhaide ris
= keep the end of the stick to him
i.e. Don't give in to him / stand up to him

Na'n ceadaicheadh an tìde dhomh

This song was written by William Mackenzie (Uilleam Dho'ill 'ic Choinnich), a crofter-fisherman of Shader, Point on the island of Lewis. He was born in 1857. After the death of his wife, the family emigrated to Canada. He died in Fort William, Ontario, in 1907. A collection of his songs and poems was published in "Cnoc Chùsbaig" in 1936.

Na 'n ceadaicheadh an tìde dhomh
'S gun innsinn e do chàch
Mar a mheall an saoghal mi
Le faoineasan gun stàth,
'Nuair bha mi meadhon sòlais
Le mo theaghlach òg 's iad slàn,
Is mar a chaidh an sgapadh uam
Le freasdal is le bàs.

Mo chridhe gheall e móran dhomh
'N uair bha mi òg is faoin;
Gheall e iomadh seòrsa dhomh
De shòslan an t-saogh'l;
Gheall e 'n uair a phòs mi dhomh
Gu 'm bithinn beò gu aois,
Gu 'm biodh gach nì mar dh'orduichinn,
'S mo chòmhnuidh ri mo thaobh.

Fàsaidh smal air òr
'S fàsaidh còinneach air an aol;
'S théid a' ghrian a chòmhdachadh
Le ceò is le droch thid',
Na lusan 's boidhch' 's an t-Samhradh
Bheir an Geamhradh gu neo-bhrìgh,
Ach gaol far n' deach a dhaigheachadh
Cha téid air chall an tìm.

Ged sheargadh craobh 's a' Gheamhradh
Bheir an Samhradh oirre fàs,
'S bidh na h-eòin a' seinn oirre
Deanamh aoibhneis leis an àl;
Ach bithidh mo chlann fo chianalas
Gu bheil 'gan riaghladh càch,
'S am màthair 's i gun sgial oirre,
An sgiath fo'm biodh iad blàth.

Sgapar clann gun mhàthair,
Cha bhi càch dhiubh gabhail suim,
Dh'aindeoin dé cho àlainn
'S a bha 'n t-àl 'nuair bha e cruinn;
'Nuair bhios mi smuaintean Màiri,
Bha cho gràdhach air a' chloinn
Dé'n t-ìongnadh ged a dhrùidheadh
Air mo shùil le bùrn mo chinn ?

