

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING Inc.** **BUNDANOON IS BRIGADOON** **Saturday 11 April 2015**

It is with great pleasure that the Bundanoon Highland Gathering Committee announce their  
2015 Chieftain Of The Day:

**Norman Alexander Macdonald – High Commissioner Clan Donald Australia.**

“There is no joy without Clan Donald”

Norman was born, 19 September 1954, and raised in South Kingsville, south western suburbs of Melbourne. Parents: Murdoch Alexander and Etheleen Amelia Macdonald; Norman is the second son, and fourth child of six; brothers Thomas and Bruce, sisters Lorraine, Denise and Joanne.

Norman spent most of his life involved in Scottish past times, at one time learning the chanter, however the “dots” on the page ran too fast. Learning ballet and tap dancing, Norman starred in the school musicals at Altona North High School, this leading him to join the Altona City Youth Theatre where he met Jan, during performances of Princess Ida (Gilbert and Sullivan operetta).



Norman and Jan were married 13 February 1976, in Melbourne, living in Footscray till 1979 when they moved into their modest home in Altona Meadows.

Norman was educated at Newport Lakes Primary, Altona North High School, Footscray Institute of Technology and RMIT, completing his apprenticeship as a watchmaker prior to joining Victoria

Police in 1982. Having served in several 24 hour stations, force reserve, Norman is currently serving with the Highway Patrol out of Hobsons Bay area, in the uniform branch of Victoria Police, as Leading Senior Constable.

In the past 32 years Norman has, with the support of his wife and children, actively served on committees for Blue Light Disco in the Sunshine, Maidstone and Altona areas.

Norman is the President of Clan Donald Victoria, a member of the Clan Macdonald Yarraville, The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne and Scottish Country Dance Victoria, actively attending socials and dance classes, on a weekly basis, work commitments permitting.

Following on from his cousin, the late Mr. Andrew Macdonald, Norman was nominated for the position of State Commissioner for Clan Donald in Victoria in 2002 by Mrs June McDonald Clan Donald Victoria, and Mr. Godfrey Macdonald of Clan Macdonald Yarraville. Due to the onset of ill health, Mr. James McConnell indicated his intention to retire from the position of High Commissioner in the same year, 2002. Through the offices of the Clan Donald Chiefs in Scotland Norman was officially appointed High Commissioner Clan Donald Australia on 31 December 2002.

It has been one of Norman's goals, during his term, to help form a united Clan Donald Australia, an umbrella organisation representing the interests of the Clan Donald societies in all the states of Australia, to improve communication and ideas across the tyranny of distance in Australia. In October 2014 Clan Donald, finally had all of the mainland states represented by a State Commissioner. Those being, Mr. A. Neil Macdonald from Clan Donald Queensland, Mr. Lachlan Macdonald Clan Donald NSW, Ms. Therese McCutcheon Clan Donald SA and Ms. Pamela McDonald Clan Donald WA, with duly elected delegates also from each of the states representing the clan societies, Clan Donald Australia is now a reality.

Norman a past president of the Victorian Scottish Union now also represents the Victorian Scottish Union, as chief, 2014 - 2015.

Norman has been a member of the Masonic order since 1979, with Hope of Yarraville Mount Zion currently in a member of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> degrees, Rose of Sharon under the Scottish Rite.

Whilst they have yet to visit Scotland, Norman and Jan have been actively involved representing Clan Donald throughout Australia, as well as several trips to Clan Donald folk in New Zealand. They would love to finish their home; which they have been renovating for some years now, life seems to get in the way; it now appears that this will also be a retirement project, along with the planned return across the "pond" and the Big Lap.

Most of their limited leisure time is spent with their extended family; actively, involved in Scottish Country dancing, highland dancing and tennis, walking, gardening and renovating their home.

Norman and Jan have two children Catherine, a horticulturist, and Callum, transport manager with Sims Metals, married to Kristy, a legal secretary. Jan holds several positions in the Scottish community in Victoria, and works in the manufacturing sector as a Projects Administration Manager. Both Norman and Jan take an active role in the day to day lives of their four grandchildren Alexander, Skye, Jamison and Violet; plus two garden “terrorists” Dugald and Eithne; life is never dull.

In life, it's not required to stand tall, but you do have to stand up.

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**BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING INC. – BRIGADOON**

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