



OTAGO SCOTTISH HERITAGE COUNCIL

Welcome to the September 2022 newsletter
Edited by Dene Mackenzie

King Charles III



The name "Charles" for a monarch has a colourful royal history, fraught with beheadings, civil wars, years spent in exile and illegitimate children.

On September 8 2022, King Charles III ascended to the throne. Like his mother Queen Elizabeth II before him, he has opted to keep his own name as his regnal name.

Traditionally, monarchs may choose their own regnal name, which can be different to the name they otherwise use. For example, Charles's grandfather Albert became George VI (who reigned from 1936 to 1952).

This strengthened the connection of his reign to that of his father George V (1910-36) after the abdication of his older brother, Edward VIII (Jan-Dec 1936). Although Edward was his first name, his family called him by the last of his given names, David.

King Charles III could have chosen one of his other names - Philip, Arthur or George - but has decided to remain Charles. Some have lauded this decision for keeping it simple, although given the history of the two previous King Charleses, one might have forgiven him if he had decided to sidestep it.

Charles I: the king who lost the monarchy

Charles I, born in 1600, was the second son of King James VI. He became heir apparent (first in line to the throne) after the death of his older brother, Henry. He ascended to the throne in 1625.

The Conversation reports Charles I's policies were frequently unpopular with both his subjects and the parliament. His religious policies were considered too sympathetic to Roman Catholicism, and he levied taxes without parliamentary consent.

Tensions between his supporters, known as Cavaliers, and parliamentary supporters, known as Roundheads, led to the English Civil War. He was defeated in 1645, imprisoned, convicted of high treason, and executed by beheading in 1649.

The Commonwealth of England was established as a republic, and the monarchy was abolished, albeit only for 11 years.

A reproduction of Charles I's death warrant still hangs in the robing room at the Palace of Westminster.

Charles II: the king without a parliament



Although initially proclaimed as king by the Scottish parliament after his father's execution, Charles II (born in 1630) did not reign until 1660. He lived in exile in Europe until the monarchy was restored and he was invited to return to England.

Relations between the new monarch and the parliament were not smooth. Charles II dissolved parliament, ruling without it for the final four years of his reign before his death in 1685.

Political tensions notwithstanding, Charles II was a more popular king than his father. He was known as the "merry monarch" and presided over a lively and hedonistic court. He had at least 12 illegitimate children by mistresses, but left no legitimate heir. He was succeeded by his brother, James II of England (James VII of Scotland).

Meeting June 7, 1951 - Black Watch Band.

Heritage Council historian John Stinson delves into a meeting regarding the Black Watch Band's planned visit to Dunedin.

Origin. In the aftermath of the first Jacobite rebellion of 1715, Independent Companies of militia were raised from loyalist Highland clans for policing and peacekeeping duties. These companies were commonly known in Gaelic as 'Am Freiceadan Dubh', or 'The Black Watch', due to their unpopular nature and their dark green government-issue tartan - the regiment wore kilts as part of its everyday uniform until 1940.

In 1739, King George II ordered that four more of these companies be raised and that all the companies be merged into a single line infantry regiment.

John reports no reply had been received from Mr Farrell or the Officers of the Band in respect of the arrangements for the entertainment of the Band or the time of their arrival.

The arrangements for the entertaining of the Band in the Orphans Hall following their first Concert would have to stand as reservations had been made with Mr Winter and Major Familton.

The march through the Town would take place on Friday at 11.30am from the Gresham Hotel along Cumberland Street then to the War Memorial where a wreath would be laid.

The Civic Reception would be held in the Main Town Hall where the Council would have four seats reserved on the Platform. As this day was set aside for the Combined Bands to have their annual appeal it would be easy for two Composite Bands to accompany the Black Watch Band on their March.

Mr Caldwell received congratulations on his work in arranging the welcome to the Band and his Convening and Chairmanship of the Special Meetings.

Legacy. The Black Watch was amalgamated into The Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006. Announced in 2004, while the unit was on active service in Iraq (2003-2011), this caused much controversy. The Black Watch became the new regiment's 3rd Battalion.

Professor Val McDermid

Professor McDermid is Visiting Professor of Scottish Studies and Crime Fiction at the University of Otago and she is in Dunedin now.

Prof McDermid is one of the most distinguished crime writers in the English language. Her novels have been translated into forty languages and have sold over fifteen million copies.

In 2010 she received the Crime Writers' Association Cartier Diamond Dagger Award for outstanding achievement.

She is a previous winner of the LA Times Book Prize, the Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year, and the Grand Prix des Romans d'Adventure. She has won an Anthony Award in both the Fiction and Non-Fiction categories.

Professor McDermid spends eight weeks a year in Dunedin, where she is attached to the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies. Along with mentoring postgraduate students, she contributes to undergraduate courses in Scottish Studies, crime fiction and creative writing, and gives public lectures and readings.

Liam McIlvanney

Local author and academic Liam McIlvanney made the short list for the 2002 McIlvanney Prize, named after his father William.

However after winning in 2018, this year Alan Parks won the McIlvanney Prize for *May God Forgive* (Canongate).

The prizes are part of Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival and were announced on September 15 at the Albert Halls after all finalists led a torchlit procession there from Stirling Castle.

The McIlvanney Prize—named the Bloody Scotland Prize for Scottish Crime Writing until 2016, when it was renamed—recognises excellence in Scottish crime writing and includes a prize of £1,000 and nationwide promotion in Waterstones.

Ayo Onatade, chair of the McIlvanney Prize judges, described *May God Forgive* as: “A terrific continuation of Alan Parks’ police procedural ‘month’ series. *May God Forgive* is every bit

as entertaining, gritty, darkly humorous and steeped in the grimy underbelly of Glasgow.

“A fantastic book with an intriguing cast of characters that not only keeps to a tight timeframe, but is fast, hard, edgy and thought-provoking; 1970s Glasgow has never been so thoroughly invoked. A truly gripping read.”

President Royden Somerville’s Annual Report

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It gives me great pleasure to present my President’s Report for the period June 2021 to May 2022. I am delighted that we can meet in person after conducting the AGM last year on Zoom.

The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that a number of OSHC monthly Council meetings were cancelled or held on Zoom during the course of the year. Several Scottish cultural activities were also cancelled, including the Burns’ Dinner held to celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns, and the Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan. However, the Robert Burns Poetry Competition was held. The OSHC provides a significant prize. The OSHC’s Quaich was not awarded during the year.

A number of very interesting speakers spoke at the OSHC meetings. Sam Moncur talked about Shetland Islanders in Wellington and other parts of New Zealand. Sam is a postgraduate student at the University of Otago. Thank you to Professor Angela McCarthy for organising Sam to speak. The Rev Dr Peter Matheson spoke on his life in Scotland and provided a fascinating account of his Scottish heritage. He was born in Caithness and shifted to New Zealand with his family when his father (Very Rev James Matheson) became minister at Knox Church. The Inaugural Stuart Professor of Scottish Studies and internationally-acclaimed crime writer, Professor Liam McIlvanney, gave an informative account about his latest book ‘The Heretic’.

The stimulating session involved question-and-answers. Our historian, John Stinson won a copy of 'The Heretic' for asking the best question of the night, which was what Liam would do if he was not an author. Liam replied that he would still enjoy messing around with words.

Professor Neil Gemmel spoke about his use of e-DNA technology to investigate whether a prehistoric monster did exist or had existed in Loch Ness. His very informative and entertaining talk highlighted the importance of his research for environmental sciences and the benefits for the University of Otago resulting from the media interest in his project.

At each meeting John Stinson, the OSHC's historian, provided an intriguing account of his research at the Hocken Library for the history of the OSHC he is writing for its centenary in 2025. John's accounts of the way in which the organisation evolved and its major activities over the years, are highlights of our monthly meetings. We have also enjoyed Dr Alison Thornton's short tutorials on the Gaelic language at our meetings.

During the course of the year we were fortunate to receive excellent newsletters prepared by our secretary, Dene Mackenzie. We are very grateful to Dene not only for the very interesting and fascinating content of the newsletters but also for their regular appearance.

During the year the Caledonian Society of Otago Inc was wound up as an incorporated organisation. It was established as the first incorporated Scottish cultural society in New Zealand (formed in 1862). The funds from the Society were generously gifted to the University of Otago Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies for a scholarship, and to the Otago Scottish Heritage Council to use for promoting Scottish heritage. The Caledonian Society of Otago, as an unincorporated society, continues to be involved in supporting Scottish heritage activities, including the St Andrew's Day event in the Octagon. Its trophy cabinet is now located at the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Otago.

I wish to thank sincerely our secretary, Dene Mackenzie, who faithfully organised our monthly activities and invitations to our speakers during a very challenging year, and our treasurer, Bruce Nicholson for his careful stewardship of our accounts. The OSHC investments are in a healthy state, however, there has been a drop off in income due to the uncertainties and the difficulties in recruiting further members to the Council throughout Otago during the last two years. I also wish to thank the reviewer of the accounts, Mr B Suszko.

We remember the sad passing of Netty Lastovicka, who attended monthly OSHC meetings as an Otago Caledonian Society representative. She was also involved with the Combined Clans and Societies group.

John Stinson wrote: *“Netty played an integral role in the fortunes of the Caledonian Society over the past decade. She involved herself in all aspects of the society’s many community based activities and was always looking for ways to increase the society’s membership and raise its profile.*

With the assistance of grandchildren, Netty designed a Caledonian Society Flag to be displayed on all public occasions involving the society, such as the St Andrew’s Day Octagon Celebrations and the Caledonian Society Highland Games, held at the Caledonian Ground. She also designed many tartan monograms as a fundraising activity.”

Netty will be greatly missed.

I am very proud of how resilient Otago Scottish heritage and cultural organisations have been over the last year. It is very reassuring. I also wish to thank the representatives of the organisations that belong to the OSHC for your support, and I would be very pleased if you could extend to the members of your organisations, greetings and thanks from the OSHC.

Dr Royden Somerville KC

President

Otago Scottish Heritage Council badges

The council has badges for sale at \$10 each. Please contact Bruce Nicholson on 0274358191 to buy one.



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(thank you all for your support)

Dene Mackenzie