

Tha Sinne Douglas

Pronounced "Ha Shin-eh Du-glas"

Issue 3

December 2020



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Christmas Message;

2020 has certainly been a difficult year, but we made it! At the time of writing, most states have opened up their borders just in time for Christmas, so we can all expect to have a well-deserved reprieve after the trials of this year.

While the events of this year have been taxing, it has taught us to value the time that we have together and how the community can pull together in the face of adversity. We got through the quarantine by taking care of each other, whether keeping in touch by phone or internet call, and by following the mandated mask and social distancing requirements.

So pack up the esky and remember to bring sunblock and mozzie repellent - we've earned the opportunity to enjoy ourselves this summer.

On behalf of the Clan Douglas Society of Australia, have a Nollaig Chridheil (Merry Christmas) and bliadhna Mhath U'r. (Happy New Year)

Upcoming Events: (what has and hasn't been cancelled)

The Douglas Luncheon has been scheduled for the 24th of April 2021 at 12pm Burns Club in Canberra. Please RSVP by the 30th of March to let us know if we'll be seeing you there.

- The Multicultural Festival next February has been postponed until later in 2021, though the 2021 Highland Gathering will hopefully go ahead on its scheduled date.

Chan eil a ‘Ghàidhlig marbh fhathast ; (Han ill ah Gah-lig Marv Hast.) **Gaelic isn't a dead language yet.**

As we all know, our native language of Gàidhlig has been on the decline due to centuries of persecution. Thankfully, there have been steps taken in the hopes of reversing the damage of the past.

On the 28th of November, 2019, the language learning app Duolingo started a course on Gàidhlig. Within the first five days of its release, there were a recorded number of 50,000 students partaking in the course. This wouldn't be possible without the three moderators that provide the lesson plans, translations, and voices for our precious ancestral tongue.

For those interested, here are some other resources aside from Duolingo that provide education in Gàidhlig;

- Australian School of Celtic Learning – Founded in December 2017 by Dr Pamela O'Neill, provides an affordable and accessible opportunities to learn about Celtic cultures and languages through both in-person and online seminars. Cost per person per lesson for language classes is \$10 per person, though scholarships are available.
- LearnGaelic.net – an online dictionary for Gàidhlig with a plethora of resources, including a thesaurus, course finder, a guide for typing in Gàidhlig, and a collection of videos in Gàidhlig with English translations.
- Gaidhlig-nan-og.scot – A website centred on providing resources for adults to use when teaching children the Gàidhlig language. The website is presented in both Gàidhlig and English, and is an absolute treasure trove of information that is useful for both children and adults.

I know that this year, a lot of us have had the often imposed opportunity to learn new things in isolation. So, I've put together a small table and a few example sentences to help in picking up the basics.

In Scots Gàidhlig, there are casual, informal, and formal ways to say the same thing – relevant examples being in the way that a greeting and a farewell is said and structured. Informal Gàidhlig is used when addressing people younger than you, while Formal Gàidhlig is used when addressing people older or as a sign of respect to the person that you are talking to – for example, you would use the Informal 'Mar Sin Leat' to say goodbye to a friend or a child, while the Formal 'Mar Sin Leibh' would be used to an older relative or a clan leader.

An important thing to remember with Gàidhlig is that vowels and letter combinations are completely different from how we say them in English, and have a lot of silent letters. For example, Dh', Th's and F's are often silent, bh's are pronounced as a v' sound, è being an 'eh' sound, with à being an 'ah' sound.

| Gàidhlig: Word or Phrase | Pronunciation Guide: | English Translation: |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Halo' | "Hal-oh" | Hello (casual) |
| Madainn mhath | "Mad In Vah" | Good Morning |
| Feasgur mhath | "Fesgur Vath" | Good afternoon |
| Tìoraidh an-dràsta | "Cheery ann Drasta" | Goodbye just now |
| Mar Sin Leibh | "Mar Shin leave" | Goodbye (formal) |
| Mar Sin Leat | "Mar Shin Let" | Goodbye (informal) |
| Tapadh Leat | "Tapa Let" | Thank You |
| Mo'ran Taing | Mor-ann taineg | Many thanks |
| Gabh mo lìsgul | "Gavh mo lishgul" | Excuse me |
| Can sin a-rithist | Can Shin a-risht | Say that again? |
| Duilich | "Dool-ick" | Sorry |
| Is mise | "Is Mishe" | I am |
| Ainm | "Ehn-yum" | Name |
| Alba | "All-ah-bah" | Scotland |
| Gàidhlig | "Gah-lig" | Gaelic |
| A charaid | "Ah har-ighe" | Friend |
| Math Fhèin | "Mah Hein" | Excellent |
| Sin thu fhèin | "Shin ooh hein" | Well Done |
| Bruidhinn nas slaodaiche | "Brewying nas slew-dich-ha" | Speak Slower |
| Chan eil mi a'tuigsinn | "Han ill mi ah-tigshinn" | I am not understanding |
| Dè tha dol? | "Je ha doll" | What is going on? |
| S' e ur beatha | "Shh-eh err vea-ha" | You are welcome |

Photo Gallery:



Anne Breust (left) and Donald McLaren (right) besides the Clan Douglas Pennant at the Canberra Scottish Festival, October 2019.



Sinéad Inglis at the 2020 National Multicultural Festival, on the left of the Clan Douglas Pennant.