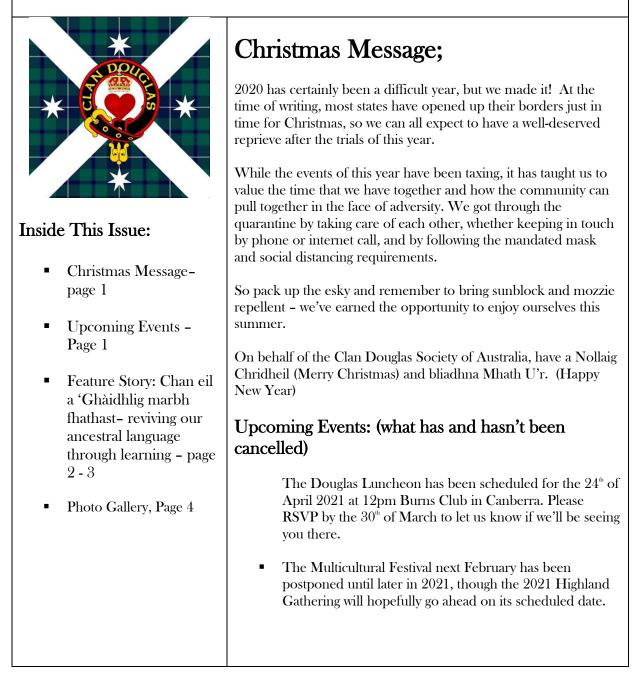
Clan Douglas Society of Australia Clan Douglas Society of Australia Clan Douglas Society of Australia

Tha Sinne Douglas

Pronounced "Ha Shin-eh Du-glas"

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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 0'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 lisgul	"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.