

The Gaels had a prominent role in the foundation of Scotland. the Gaelic language was widely used throughout the Country up to the 14th century.

The Clan system was strongest in the West Coast, the Highlands and the Islands. The Border region had a similar system.

This culture is still an important part of Modern day Scotland.

The Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria was founded in *1905* mainly by descendants of people from those parts of Scotland.

Now all Scots or Scottish descendants are welcome.

The Society's aim is to promote the Gaelic Culture however possible.

We have a Gaelic choir and a Gaelic language class and produce our own Newsletter.

We also have a Website and we are contacted by people from near and far.

We are involved with all the others Scottish organizations and attend Highland Games, Celtic Festivals and hold regular Ceilidhs.

The choir perform at various venues during the year. Some of our members attend the Mod and even perform.

We have people from Teaching institutions in Scotland who come and hold Language and Music workshops.

Our members like all expatriate Scots are very interested in the future of Scotland and Family ties are still very important. Every year some of our members will be on holiday in Scotland, good for the Economy.

Even though we are far away we still feel the Spirit of Scotland.

Personal thoughts. *from John Johnston*

I was born and raised in Glasgow. In my teenage years I was in the Boy Scouts and went to camps on the Isle of Bute and near Loch Lomond. I did not travel very far from Glasgow and had no knowledge of the Gaelic language. I knew the basic History of Scotland but I was far more interested in Football and the Dancing.

When I completed my apprenticeship I decided to leave Scotland as future prospects looked quite bleak. My Brother was already in Australia so my wife myself and my sister all migrated their. Australia was awash with Scots migrants at that time, 1963 so it was not hard to fit in.

In 1969 we had our first trip home and I realized I did not know much about Scotland at all. Our next trip home was in 1976 and we stayed for 10 months, I was lucky enough to get employment for most of the time.

I have followed with interest the changes that have taken place in Scotland over the years. The advent of a Scottish Parliament was a great step forward. I felt that it was important for me to learn more about Scotland and I joined the Society to learn the language. I also know more about my own Family who were a prominent Family in the Border region.