

THE OBJECTS OF THE FESTIVAL

- To be a whole-of-community project inviting participation from all individuals, sporting clubs, other clubs, NFP groups, and commercial organisations
- To give schools and our children a chance to participate, enjoy, and benefit
- To benefit all of the above and the community in general
- To provide a great, family day-out for locals and visitors to our town
- To showcase pipe band and highland dancing competitions
- To raise funds for local charities, projects, clubs, and NFP organisations
- To benefit commercial operations in town, and the local economy
- To provide cultural awareness of our historical mining background
- To include descendants of other than the Scottish and Irish miners, especially the original indigenous inhabitants of the region, the Italian families, and other European groups who settled in Collie

THE WALLSEND GROUNDS

The Wallsend Grounds occupy a wooded tongue of land nestled in a loop of the Collie River - an arboretum, in fact, and a perfect Celtic setting for a village on the Scottish Borders or a gathering in the Highland Woods.

CHIEF OF THE GAMES

It is customary when more than one clan participates in a gathering, that the clans choose one of their chiefs as Chief Of The Games. On this occasion Chief Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, 29th Chief of the Elliot Clan, past Vice Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Roxburghshire, will be coming from Scotland to officiate as Chief Of The Games.

FOOD

In keeping with the Clan Gathering theme for the festival, we will, as far as possible, try to feature Scottish food, with an Address to the Haggis, BBQ square sausages, and Scottish pies. Descendants of other ethnicities may wish to contribute their specialities, and the commercial caterers will, no doubt, fill any gaps. Barista coffee will be available from Australind Coffee Roasters.

THE HIGHLAND TAVERN

A tent bar with a beer garden overlooking the main stage and grounds, serving traditional Scottish and Irish beers as well as the best from our local wineries, micro-breweries, and cideries. We also hope to have a 'Tasting Alley' of stalls where one can choose one's favourite tipple and a local cheese to go with it. Security will apply, and proof of age will be required.

CLAN TENTS

Under Scots Law, as administered by the Lord Lyon, King of Heraldry, and enforced by the Lyon Court, any person with the same surname as the chief of a clan, is a member of that clan. Most active clans also have clan societies whose membership is open to all descendants of that ilk, and their spouses. The clans who have clan societies in Australia will have tents at the festival displaying their tartan, history, and memorabilia. If you have a Scottish heritage your kinsmen and women will be delighted to educate you on your Celtic origins.

MARKETS & ENTERTAINMENT

We plan to have market stalls for fresh local produce. There will also be many other stalls selling all manner of goods. The main stage will be the source of all announcements and at other times the venue for local musicians and performers. There will be several arenas: one for the pipe bands; one (or more) combat arenas for mediaeval martial artists and re-enactments. The Highland Dancers will have a sprung dance floor and tent. We hope to have a venue for schools to use for performances, costume judging, and/or whatever they come up with.