

ELIZABETH McLAUHLAN (nee Farmer)

Elizabeth was born in Kinglassie, Fife, Scotland where, as a student of Miss Betty Haggart, Elizabeth Ann School in Kirkcaldy, she enjoyed classes in Highland, Tap, Ballet, National and Ballroom. Elizabeth enjoyed many successful years of competitive highland dancing, both on the Highland Games circuit and Championships available at that time, a highlight of her career being presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and HRH Duke of Edinburgh, following a performance at Holyrood Palace.

In 1964 Elizabeth, together with husband Roy, emigrated to Melbourne where Elizabeth has been involved in the many aspects of highland dancing, as a Teacher, Examiner and Adjudicator, and on the administrative side has held Executive positions both at Victorian State and Australian Board level.

As a Teacher, Elizabeth enjoyed many Championship and Competition successes with her students, throughout Australia and overseas, she also enjoyed tutoring at various Workshops throughout Australia. As an ABHDI Adjudicator Elizabeth has enjoyed judging throughout Australia and, as a member of the SOBHD World Wide Panel, has been honoured and delighted to have judged in Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Scotland.

Highland Dancing has always played a major part in Elizabeth's life and in later years the administration side has both challenged and motivated Elizabeth in her endeavours to improve the sport which she loves so much. Elizabeth's most recent administrative position was that of President of the Australian Board of Highland Dancing Inc which followed roles as ABHDI Secretary and Assistant Secretary during which terms of office she represented Australia at both SOBHD Liaison Meetings held annually in August and at SOBHD Annual General Meetings.

Over the years Elizabeth's administrative positions at Victorian State level have included that of President and Secretary of the Victorian State Committee of Highland Dancing, and Technical Secretary of the VSCHDI Technical Committee. She has also fulfilled the role of Delegate at Australian Board meetings, representing her state of Victoria.

In 2016 Elizabeth was honoured, and totally overwhelmed, to receive the beautiful Atholl Clasp in recognition of her contribution to Highland Dancing. To join this most elite list of worldwide highland dancing recipients was, and still is, unbelievable.