

## Appendix 1 Comunn na Feinne and Gaelic Education

For those Highlanders, especially the children, who could not read or write in their own language, efforts were made through such things as the setting up of Gaelic schools and also through Highland Associations such as the Comunn na Feinne, which encouraged reading and writing and composing in Gaelic through educational competitions, from its inception in 1856.

Comunn Na Feinne—Tha cruinneachadh bliadhna a' chomann ghaidhealaich seo ri bhi air latha na bliadhna ùire 1858, dlù air baile Geelong, Bhictoria. Tha dochas againn gu 'n d' thig na's urrainn da 'r luchd-dùthcha a chum na coinneamh mòire seo a nochdadh an dilseachd do chànan 's do luth-chleasan na 'n Gaidheal. A measg na 'n duais-mheasan (prizes) a thèid a thoirt seachad aig a Chruinneachadh, tha aon diubh air a chuir air leth airson leughadh agus ceart sgrìobhadh (Spelling) na Gàilig. Tha seo ro fheumail oir is nar do mhòran de na Gaidheil, ann an Astrailia, cho fhad 's tha iad air an ais ann an leughadh 's 'n sgrìobhadh cainnt an dùthcha. (*An Teachdaire Gaidhealeachd* No 10, November 1857, p8).

### Translation

[Comunn na Feinne. There is to be a Highland gathering on New Year's Day, 1858, near to the town of Geelong, Victoria. We hope that all of our countrymen who are able will come to this large meeting which is faithful to the language and games of the Highlander. Among the prizes which will be awarded at the Gathering is a special one separately for reading and spelling Gaelic. This is very useful because many of the Gaels in Australia so far away are backward in reading and writing their native language.]

\*[A Gaelic School had also been established at Geelong in 1854 with the leaders of Comunn na Feinne being prominent in its formation. Comunn na Feinne also provided in its educational competitions a category for knowledge of Gaelic. See Appendix 11 for example of areas which were covered by Comunn na Feinne Examinations.]

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