

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

Newsletter No 13, December 1987

MACMILLAN

CREST BADGE : *A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-handed sword, proper.*
MOTTO : *Miseris succurrere disco*
(*I learn to succour the distressed*).
GAELIC NAME : *MacGhille-Mhaolain.*

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As your newly elected President I would like to thank Donald Macmillan for the sterling work he has done as President of the Clan MacMillan Society since the first Clan Gathering in October 1982.

Donald's foresight in establishing the society is a great legacy as he leaves committee. The best way we can show him and all those who ably assisted in the formative years is to continue to grow in the caring, friendly way to make our society a strong link in Australia. We are all very proud of our MacMillan heritage and it is fitting we should continue to foster this.

We are indeed fortunate to have personal contact with our Clan Chief, George MacMillan and his wife, Jane at Finlaystone on the Firth of Clyde. It was my very great pleasure in 1985 to meet them while in Scotland and their interest in our society is very strong. They were both delighted to meet so many of you at the first Clan Gathering at Scotch College in 1982. They also enjoy the personal contact of meeting any members visiting Scotland, so if any of you are contemplating a trip you would be made most welcome at Finlaystone.

I would like to also thank Bob McMillan-Kay for the wonderful work he does in keeping us informed via the newsletter. You will all agree it is the strongest link we have to keep in touch. If you have any news items Bob will be most appreciative to receive them for inclusion in the newsletter.

Our AGM Gathering was again held in Scotch College grounds on 11th October. Although small in number, those of us who attended had a most enjoyable time with our friends.

As this is our last newsletter for 1987 I would like to extend to everyone a very Happy Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Very Sincerely
June Senior
President



HELP WANTED

I am searching for descendants of Patrick, Ned and Michael Bourke (or Burke) born in 1850 in Derryhasma, Castleconnell, County Limerick, Ireland, sons of Patrick Bourke, Driver and wife Margaret Bourke, born Errina, Clonlar, County Clare.

The Bourkes came to Australia in the 1870's. They had aunts in South Australia, Mrs Considine, Mrs McCarthy and Mrs O'Grady. In the 1890's Ned visited a cousin, Mrs Robert Purcell, nee Davis, at Sarsfield Yarck, Victoria. The Bourkes had cousins called Hassetts in County Clare. During World War 1, a Hugh MacMillan (McMillan), an Australian soldier, visited his Bourke cousins in Dublin.

I am hoping if I can trace this Hugh MacMillan (McMillan). He may perhaps be a grandson of one of my three Bourke grand uncles.

Thank you in anticipation of any
information you may get on my behalf.
Sincerely
Peggy Cockram
1/46 Oakland St.
Mornington, 3931
Victoria
Tel (059) 75 5361



CORRESPONDENCE

1. I have so far received two letters from a Mrs Christine Lace from Queensland who has been seeking assistance on McMillans, especially some details about relatives of her father. A copy of her request which appeared in the Australasian Post is shown below.
2. Phyllis McMillan of Tootgarook has passed on a letter to me from the Clan Morrison Society which she received recently. It was sent to inform us of their existence.



I AM trying to locate any relatives of my father (on the right in the picture, wearing glasses). His name I believe was Frederick William McMillan. When he joined the Army his records said he was born on July 12, 1907 at Trundle (NSW). He enlisted in Paddington (NSW) on July 24, 1941. His next of kin (mother) was Thelma May McMillan. He served in the Australian Eastern Command Air Signals, the Australian 7th Military Signals and the 5th Australian Supply Company until he was discharged as medically unfit in February 19, 1942. His name was McMillan when he married my mother on August 14, 1944, saying at the time he was born in Brisbane and was 35 years old. He spoke

of living and working in many different parts of Australia and about coming from a large family. As he worked away from home when we were children and until he became sick, we did not really know him well. He died in August 1978, still with the name McMillan. I have written to the Births, Deaths and Marriages departments throughout Australia and there is no trace of a birth certificate for anyone of that name. I do not know any family members other than my brothers and sisters and my mother's side of the family, so I would like to learn who my father was and about his family.

— Christine Lace



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BARBECUE

As you were all aware October 11 was our last AGM and Barbecue at Scotch College. (next venue to be advised).

Unfortunately the weather was not as kind to us this year as it has been in previous years which no doubt contributed to the level of attendance. Nevertheless our usual band of staunch supporters were there. But we would love to see some new faces come along in future.

Well, we did get some new faces, namely three new members for our society. These were: Rachel (Rae) Mathers (nee McMillan), who is my father's half sister, Catherine Grey and Don Jinnett, a friend of Shirley Monohan, a member of our society. We all welcome Rae, Catherine and Don to our clan society and hope that they enjoy our newsletters and kinship.

Our AGM in October also involves the election of Office Bearers and Committee for the next year. Don Macmillan, our now retired President, was replaced by a committee member from last year, namely June Senior. Nice to have a lady at the helm. I myself remained as Archivist and Editor, as well as taking on the role of Treasurer. It will be easier now as I have all the society records anyway. Steven McMillan remained on as Secretary and we also have two new committee members, namely: Don Jinnett and Bruce A McMillan.

Special thanks go to John T Macmillan, our retired Treasurer for the great work he has done for us over the past years. We all look forward to another successful year with a new committee.

Thanks also go to June Senior who arranged a raffle of some items of Scottish origin. First prize of a book on the Highland Clans of Scotland was won by Given Connor. Second prize of a jar of home made Scottish Marmalade was won by the McRae family.

Since the AGM I have had more new members join our ranks. Some of these I have recruited from having corresponded with them because of enquiries through our society. Others have found out about us through other members. In any case we welcome them all to our society. The names and locations of all the new members are listed below.

Rachel Mathers (nee McMillan)	Upwey	Lex and Val McMillan	Nandaly (Country)
Anne Dunstan	Donald (Country)	Catherine Grey	Caulfield
Don Jinnett	Doncaster East	Peggy Cockram	Mornington
Shane McMillan	Merbein (Country)		

MEMBERSHIP FEES

October is the time for renewal of fees to cover the 1987/88 year. So for those who have not paid them could they forward them on as soon as possible so we can maintain a balance of funds to keep producing our newsletters of the same quantity and quality. Fees are still \$5.00 per individual or family and will remain that way as long as members endeavour to pay on time. Don't forget that I am the new treasurer, so please take note of the address.

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist/Editor/Treasurer

A McMILLAN REUNION

The article below appeared in the 'Weekly Times' in September. I was told about it purely in conversation while at the McMillan Holiday Village. I obtained a copy of the paper and subsequently contacted the people concerned who were quite surprised to hear that our society existed. I sent them a newsletter and information about our society to pass on to their family.

Colin McMillan of Ballarat saw the article also and contacted them. They apparently had about 300 people turn up at their reunion. I wish we could get a turn up like that!

McMillans meet

The McMillans will be meeting on September 27 to remember the founders of their family, Charles and Jane McMillan, pictured here as a dignified grey-haired couple looking back on life as migrants to Australia, parents of 11 children and pioneers of the Wimmera.

Both were born in Scotland, Charles to Charles and Elizabeth McMillan at Argyllshire on May 23, 1832; Jane to John Russell and Jane Wotherspoon in Glasgow on August 22, 1810.

Charles migrated to Australia in the early 1850s as a miner on the Ballarat goldfields. He married Jane Russell there on April 10, 1856.

The first seven of their 11 children were born around the Ballarat areas of Buninyoung, Carngham, Raglan and Stockyard Hill. Charles, Jane and family then moved to the Wimmera to settle and farm at Marna. The other four children were born at Horsham, Rupanyup and Lubeek.

The children's names were Elizabeth (Whitecross), Jane (Steedman), Margaret (Ed-



wards), Charles, John, Duncan, Isabella (Williams), Agnes (Aumann), Janet (D. Pianta), Thomas and Florence (O. Pianta).

If you are a descendant of Charles


and Jane, you and your families and any other interested people are invited to the McMillan reunion at the Marong Hall from 10 am onwards. Please bring a basket lunch

and afternoon tea; tea, coffee, sugar, milk, hot water and cups will be provided.

For further information, contact V. McMillan, PO Box 6, Nandaly, 3533 (050) 78-1257.



Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist/Editor/Treasurer



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ANGUS McMILLAN - PATHFINDER (Continued)

McMillan was anxious to return immediately with men and horses to retrace his steps to Mt McLeod and make a dash for the coast. However, he had to seek the permission of his employer Lachlan Macalister. Without delay McMillan started back to Clifton which he reached in five days. He had become very anxious to resume his trip to the south. He eventually located Macalister who agreed with him to continue the work of exploration without delay and find a road to Corner Inlet from where stock could be shipped to HobartTown and Launceston. Angus was elated. He gathered a party consisting of Alan Cameron, Matthew Macalister (a nephew of Lachlan Macalister), and three assigned convicts, James Lawrence, the bullock driver, Lorenzo Gilbert and Edward Clark.

With fresh horses the party of six wasted no time in commencing the southbound track. At Monaro McMillan set about selecting working bullocks, some of whom were wild and required breaking in to the work. The party met with McMillan to discuss the organisation of the dash to the sea. Cameron was impressed by McMillan; the man was a romantic, as when he talks of the natives and the land to the south, but he has with it an abundance of common sense. Cameron felt that he could follow this young Scot despite the fact that he was only thirty. While not a man who showed his feelings, Cameron caught some of the fervour of his leader.

As with McFarlane and Macalister, he was convinced that under McMillan's guidance they would reach the coast in a couple of months and cut a track along which drays and stock could follow. None of these parties knew the difficulties ahead or how long it would take.

In August 1839, a party consisting of McMillan, Cameron Macalister and the three prisoners left Currawong for Omeo. Supplies had been a problem. With the drought, wheat was selling for 30 shillings a bushel and flour was in short supply. Owing to the winter rains they were held up at the Nine Mile Pinch on the Snowy River, a difficult section which required all their ingenuity and patience to negotiate.

Unwilling to continue without more wheat, McMillan sent a dray back to Currawong. Owing to the impassable state of the track, with its deep ruts in which the wheels sank to the axles, the prisoners were forced to construct another road. In the absence of the convicts, the three who remained worked like slaves to cross the river. Why McMillan chose a severe Gippsland winter as a suitable time to make the journey is difficult to follow.

The immediate reason for this expedition was to find new grass for starving stock, but McMillan's enthusiastic zeal to pursue his exploration, without delay probably caused him to underestimate the difficulties of the weather. The water in the Snowy was up to the bank. This was a considerable obstacle with the river running wide and swift. The whole crossing took two days of dangerous work in a makeshift ferry. The steep Nine Mile Pinch occupied a further three days. Worse was to follow. The Firestone Range was covered with five feet of snow. At night, without a tent, they huddled around a fire or under a dray.

The bullocks and horses, with little feed, rapidly lost condition, the prisoners grumbled, and Macalister and Cameron suggested to turn back again because of the bad weather. The Scot refused to listen. Finally, after a fearful journey they reached Omeo from where they pressed on immediately south-east to Numblamungee where they formed a station. This necessitated the erection of a stockman's bark and slab hut which took them two days, ready for occupation when the stock could be overlanded to the run. **(to be continued)**

Steven McMillan
Secretary



CLAN GATHERING

As a consequence of the small attendance at our recent AGM and gathering, due mainly to the inclement weather, the committee has decided to have another clan gathering next year. This will give the opportunity to those who couldn't make it to our last gathering the chance to come along, as well as our new members and any potential members. We as committee also feel that one such gathering a year is very limiting.

In order to get a larger response we also intend to advertise our gathering in some local newspapers to inform more people of our existence.

The date for the gathering is Sunday 20th March 1988 at the Ferntree Gully Scout Hall, Lysterfield Road, Ferntree Gully (Opposite St Josephs Regional College). Melway Map 74, Ref. C5. An oval and community centre adjoins the hall so its safe and ideal for children. The hall is available should the weather be unsuitable. A kitchen area and toilets are available in the hall. Tables, chairs and tea/coffee making facilities will be provided. BYO everything.

Take this opportunity to bring along any family memorabilia to display for other members to see. Bring along a friend or a new member.

Commences approx. 12.00. Please keep the day free.

* Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year *