

# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

Newsletter No 20, July 1990

## 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.*

### Office Bearers:

President - June Senior 41 Lincoln Ave.,  
Glen Waverley, 3150. 560 8746  
Secretary - Steven McMillan 126 Morack Rd,  
Vermont Stn, 3133. 801 5223  
Treasurer - Bob McMillan—Kay 37 Trafalgar St.  
Ferntree Gully, 3156 758 5823  
Archivist - Bob McMillan—Kay 37 Trafalgar St.  
& Editor Ferntree Gully, 3156, 758 5823

### Committee Members:

Bruce A McMillan 38 Parkhill Rd.  
Kew. 3101. 817 4303

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Max and I were fortunate in May this year to visit Scotland. The Isle of Arran was our first stop as this was where my great grandparents came from. From there we visited Kilmory Knap Chapel in a remote but lovely region where the MacMillan Cross is located. From there we drove to Finlaystone, the home of the MacMillan Clan Chief George, his wife Jane and Lady MacMillan. It was wonderful to meet them again. They are hard at work establishing the Clan Centre, also redesigning and replanting the walled garden, a very big job but being carried out with vigour and enthusiasm.

I support very strongly the item by Bob McMillan-Kay in this Newsletter. In 1988 our gathering and Annual General Meeting at Ferntree Gully was very poorly attended. We decided to have a MacMillan tent at the Ringwood Highland Gathering in 1989 and at Daylesford Games in December 1989 hoping that the latter would be more convenient for country members, however very few attended these events. This year at the Ringwood Games attendance was extremely poor.

I think the time has come when members need to tell the Committee what they prefer as we need to have at least one gathering each year to hold our Annual General Meeting. Your Committee has tried the above venues without success, so we need to know what date and location would suit more of our members.

Your present Committee was elected in October 1987. Since then we have not had enough members attend a gathering to properly conduct such a meeting. Bob has done a wonderful job as Archivist (since 1984) Editor of the Newsletter (since 1985) and Treasurer (since 1987).

I would ask each member to either write or ring Bob or myself with any suggestions as to the direction we should take. We certainly will appreciate any ideas you may have and will publish these in the next Newsletter.

Kindest regards,  
June Senior  
President

## CORRESPONDENCE

A quiet period for correspondence this quarter. We received a copy of the May 1990 Newsletter of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America. Also a letter from Mrs. Gibson from Lofters N.S.W. seeking some MacMillan assistance (see Help Wanted).

## HELP WANTED

My husband's grandmother was Janet McMillan born 1862 at Barkly, Victoria. twin daughter of Hector and Ann (nee MacDonald) McMillan. Her elder sister Mary was born on the Isle of Skye Scotland and married James Armstrong in 1871 in Victoria and had about 6 children. Her twin sister Margaret died aged 21, and there was a brother James born 1866 at Landsborough, Victoria. I do not know what year Hector and Ann came to Australia. Janet firstly married Patrick McFarland in 1883 and had 3 children. Patrick died in 1889. Janet and Edward moved to the north coast of N.S.W. in the early 1900's.

Your sincerely  
Mrs. Elaine Gibson  
11 Veronica Place  
Lofters N.S.W. 2232

## COMMITTEE RESIGNATION

I omitted to mention in our last Newsletter that one of our Committee members Don Jinnette resigned due to work and study commitments. Although his time on Committee was short it was most helpful. Thank you Don and best wishes.

## SOCIETY FEES

As per usual I have to remind members that fees are due. Those members who are overdue will find a reminder on their Newsletter. It is a pity I have to do it this way but it is the only method that is practical short of telephoning.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome 2 new members to our Society who joined us at the Ringwood Highland Games. They are:

Mrs. Dot Audsley, Noble Park, Vic  
Mrs. G. Reed, Ringwood East, Vic  
Mrs. Joy Von Harten joined in February after hearing of our Society.

We sincerely hope they enjoy our kinship and Newsletters.



Bob McMillan-Kay  
Archivist/Editor/Treasurer

## HIGHLAND GAMES AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I do not wish to sound disgruntled but I was very disappointed in the attendance at the Ringwood Highland Gathering in April this year. Considering the time and cost incurred by the Committee in hiring and erecting a tent the lack of support for the Committee, especially June, husband Max and Bruce McMillan was extremely disappointing.

How can we possibly have an Annual General Meeting with so few attending. We go to a lot of trouble to obtain suitable and interesting venues and so few come along to support us. Those of us on the Committee could do with a break and let someone else take over for a while. I myself am fast becoming disillusioned with the lack of support for my efforts as Treasurer/Editor/Archivist from ordinary members.

I realize we are all busy, as I am in my own business, but the venues for our gatherings of late have been 'family' orientated. I certainly hope things improve in the future and I do not wish to be put in a situation or frame of mind where I shall have to resign. It would be a pity to see the efforts of past and present Committee members be completely wasted.

Bob McMillan-Kay  
Archivist/Editor/Treasurer

### COMING EVENTS

#### "KIRKIN O' THE TARTAN"

This event will be held at Scots Church, Russell Street Melbourne on Sunday 19th. August 1990 at 11 a.m.


Please note that if you are coming by car, you may use the Car Park at the back of the Church but you must go through the back door of the Church Hall and have your ticket stamped in order that you will not have to pay a fee. The Car Park is free until 2 p.m.

Please bring your own lunch. After the service proceed along Russell Street about 100 yards to the Administration building. Here on the 2nd. Floor we will have lunch and time to relax and meet together with members from other Clans. Tea and coffee will be provided at a small charge to meet costs.

#### ST ANDREWS DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

This event will be held at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 25th November 1990. Members are asked to assemble at the Shrine at 2 p.m.

Bob McMillan-Kay  
Archivist/Editor/Treasurer



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ANGUS MCMILLAN - PATHFINDER (Continued)

At this time, Strezlecki, a Polish exile, appeared on the scene. His flamboyant exploits were to set the whole Colony talking and his writings were to tear away the veil of secrecy from the carefully hidden schemes of the Scottish Pioneers. The two never met yet the Pole exercised a profound influence on the life of the Scot.

The two men were very different in their outlook.

The Pole was an extrovert who invited the world at large to share his exploits and aspirations.

McMillan was reserved, concealing his hopes and ambitions from those who were closest to him.

Both were self-educated.

The Pole was a scientist of some distinction, with the ability to study and observe geographical and geological data, and to publish his findings in a book which made a considerable impact on the scientific knowledge of the century.

McMillan was the practical farmer and pathfinder.

McMillan had a cheap pocket compass and a torn map of the coast prepared by Matthew Flinders, yet, through his bushcraft he found a way over mountains and through forests with unerring skill.

McMillan landed in Sydney in January 1838. Strezlecki reached Port Jackson on April 25, 1839, at the age of forty-two. He had no firm plans to visit the Colony. By chance, he had accepted an offer in South America to travel the Pacific Ocean and then to Australia. Without any degrees or academic awards, he had become a scientist of world reputation.

No one questioned his authority; his manner, his entertaining and engaging conversation, his extensive travels, his Polish title- all were sufficient to ensure him a warm welcome in Sydney. In his turn Strezlecki was keen to acquaint himself with the physical characteristics of this unknown land as the outcome of the scientist's thirst for knowledge.

For three months Strezlecki enjoyed the hospitality of the upper class of Sydney. As usual, he made friends readily and by skillful questioning, gained an impression of those parts of New South Wales which presented a challenge to a traveller and a scientist.

On December 20, 1839, McMillan had left Ensay on his abortive attempt to reach the Lakes, being forced to turn back following injury to his pack-horse.

Strezlecki had a meeting with James Macarthur, who gave an interesting account of a recent trip to Tasmania. H.M.S. Pelorus, in which Macarthur was a passenger, had been driven by a gale to the west of Cape Howe.

With another passenger, John Blaxland Junior, Macarthur had stood on the deck as she sailed parallel to the coast before they reached Wilsons Promontary. Macarthur and Blaxland concluded that it was possible that fertile land lay between the ranges and the coast.

On his return to Sydney, Macarthur began to make preparations for an exploration of the country between Omeo and Port Phillip.

Strezlecki was told of his plans, and it was agreed that, in view of his desire to extend his scientific knowledge of the country, he should join the party.

Macarthur took his friend Lachlan MacAllister into his confidence.

MacAllister knew that McMillan had probably started on a similar expedition, but revealed nothing to Macarthur of McMillan's attempts to reach the coast.

(To be continued)

Steven McMillan  
Secretary