

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

Newsletter No 22, March 1991

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 Sth, 3133. 801 5223

Treasurer -

Archivist -
& Editor

Committee Members:

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year in 1991.

We will be attending the Ringwood Highland Games on 24th. March 1991 (for more details see advertisement in this newsletter).

This will be our 3rd. year in attendance at Ringwood and we hope clan members will come along and spend time with us at the Clan MacMillan tent. Each year we have enrolled new members and given them information about our society.

It is interesting to read in our Clan Chief's letter of how successful the Stone Mountain Highland Games in America were that he and Jane attended in 1990. We trust our attendance at Ringwood will be as successful.

Kindest regards

June Senior
President

LETTER FROM OUR CLAN CHIEF

I am sure you would all like to share our annual letter from our Clan Chief George and his wife Jane...

Depending on your point of view, our year has been either 'the Year of the Celt' or that of the Family Tree. Our frontis piece indicates that we've gone for the latter.

To deal with the Celts first—as our contribution to Glasgow's year as Cultural Capital of Europe, Jane put on a Celtic Art Festival on the last weekend of August. Celtic craftsmen, warriors, and even a story-teller, converged upon us, and went away determined to repeat the affair in 1991. That weekend was the climax of months of preparation—reflooring and repainting old stables, and setting up an exhibition on Celtic Ornament.

A week later, we plunged into family gatherings. Jane had found time to organize a party in a tent to celebrate the fact that her husband had turned sixty. (continued on Page 2)

A month later, we were in Atlanta as honoured guests of the Stone Mountain Highland Games, which are a great rallying point for North Americans of Scottish origin. We saw many old friends, most of them drawn from our extended family, Clan MacMillan. The Games are run by a dedicated group of families. As soon as the Games were over, directors, committee-chairmen, ticket-sellers and their children doffed their tartan and started pulling down the tents. The team-work was breathtaking.

Plans are being laid for the creation of a Clan MacMillan Centre here, which we hope will be far enough on its way to open at the clan gathering on the last three days of June 1991.

This spring we demolished most of the greenhouses in the walled garden before they fell down. Our plan is to replace them with a tea room set in a formal garden.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from George and Jane.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following is a letter received by Bob Mc.Millan Kay from member Dr. June Danks. I am sure it will be of interest to all Clan members and June is happy for it to be printed....

Dear Bob, It will be regretted that you have had to resign from your position as Treasurer and Archivist-Editor of the Clan MacMilan Society and I for one would like to thank you for what you have done for the Society.

Our youngest son, Alister, was overseas for 12 months in 1989 and on his visit to Scotland contacted George and Jane at Finlaystone who immediately asked him to tea and he stayed on for dinner and the night. At that time (Nov) the weather was poor with rain and there was no work underway so he went on his way northwards very much impressed with the hospitality and more aware of the ancestral connections.

This past year 1990 another son Peter, was away for 13 months and he also visited Scotland in November. This time they had some jobs underway and he stayed four days and helped with the construction of a rockery. Once again he was received very graciously by George and Jane and he enjoyed his time with them. Peter had previously spent three months on a large classic yacht on the Mediterranean -called 'Altair'- and it was interesting that the boat had been constructed on the Clyde at Fairlie in 1931-and the first skipper was Duncan MacMillan whom he met and spent several fascinating hours talking about the 'Fyfe's'. Duncan MacMillan is now 95 years old. Peter was extremely fortunate to have had these experiences.

I will enclose 2 papers about the Clan MacMillan Centre being planned. Perhaps our Society could make a donation towards it.

Best wishes for your future in Queensland, Yours sincerely, June Danks.

Thank you to the many members who have written to thank Bob Mc.Millan-Kay for the excellent work he has done in his years on committee as Editor of this newsletter, Archivist and Treasurer.

I have had phone contact recently with Colin Campbell MacMillan of Ivanhoe. Colin takes a keen interest in Clan activities but due to health problems is unable to attend our outings. On behalf of all members I would like to wish Colin a very Happy Birthday on 21st. March.

CLAN MAGAZINES

Our thanks to the following Clans for sending us their recent newsletters: Clan Maclean Assn in Australia and the Morrison Clan Society of Aust. Inc.,

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome 3 new members since our last newsletter:

Michael Mc.Millan of Upwey, Victoria

Mrs. Myrtle Mitchell of Knoxfield, Victoria

Neville & Margaret Wilson of Mooroolbark, Victoria

As we published a list of all members as at October 1990 in our November 1990 newsletter, members may wish to add the names and addresses of new members as they appear in the newsletter. This will keep their membership list up to date.

8th Annual Gathering of Clans and Societies

Aust. Commonwealth Highland Dancing Championships

Victorian Highland Pipe Band Championships

Scottish Country Dancing

Vic. Axemen's Assoc. Woodchopping Championships

Victorian Scottish Heavy Games Championships

OFFICIAL OPENING AT 2.30 p.m.

SUNDAY 24th MARCH, 1991

25th ANNUAL RINGWOOD HIGHLAND CARNIVAL

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The National Trust & the Ayrshire Breeders Association invite you to an Ayrshire Calf Show on Sunday 10th March 1991 -11am to 4pm.

A traditional country show with a Scottish flavour.

Ayrshire calves and their breeders from Victoria and interstate to compete for Champion Ayrshire Calf as well as displays and demonstrations of hand and machine milking - cream separating - butter churning - chaff-cutting using the horse-works - bagpipe music - Scottish dancing - Highland games - tossing the caber.

Scottish fare to sample - sausage sizzle and teas.

To be held at the historic farm established by a Scottish family in the 1850's

GULF STATION, Melba Highway, Yarra Glen. Admission Adults \$7, Concession \$3.50

Family ticket \$18.00. Trust members-half price

ANGUS McMILLAN - PATHFINDER...Continued

The accounts of Strzelecki and Macarthur vary, but it is certain that a change in the nature of the country slowed their progress to such an extent, that, within days after crossing the La Trobe river, they were forced to abandon the horses. Provisions diminished, the men were on half rations, and the party quickly approached a state of exhaustion.

The rate of progress through dense scrub, timber and undergrowth was two miles a day. The situation had become desperate. Gone was the care-free optimism of the journey as far as the La Trobe over delightfully open country. Now they were weary, trapped in a tangle of vegetation from which they had neither the strength nor the will to extricate themselves.

The party decided to abandon everything and make a dash to Western Port.

The cause of their predicament remains a mystery; admittedly the going was rough, but Macarthur was an experienced bushman and Charlie Tarra an intelligent Aborigine, wise in bushcraft.

Had the party relied on Macarthur and Charlie Tarra, all might have been well, but Strzelecki was the acknowledged leader and they had unquestioned faith in his decisions. By virtue of his scientific knowledge and skilful use of scientific the Count concluded they were twenty-five miles from Western Port, whereas the actual distance was sixty-five miles.

McMillan, in similar circumstances, would have probably endeavoured to find a new less difficult route. Strzelecki, however, persisted in keeping to the hills which bear his name.

The party struggled on under every kind of handicap; wet weather, impassable scrub and trees, lack of food and, more seriously, a deterioration in strength.

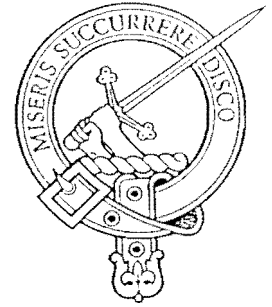
At last they came to the sites of the present towns of Mirboo North, Leongatha and Korumburra.

Finally the men battled on to Western Port, near the present day Corinella, where they were fed and clothed.

They eventually reached Melbourne on 19th May after a journey of almost five months.

Terrors of the journey were quickly forgotten, Strzelecki presented a glowing report and named the province Gippsland.

Steven McMillan.....to be continued.



Clan MacMillan Centre

You may already be aware that a group of clanspeople, convened by Dr. George Bell, has now completed plans for a Clan MacMillan Centre here at Finlaystone.

I'm enclosing an artist's impression of the two rooms which form part of a chain of spaces attached to the Visitor Centre.

The OUTER ROOM will be regularly open to the public and will be divided into two. The first section, dominated by the MacMillan Cross, will focus on the Clan's past. The second will feature the present Clan, with reference to Septs, geographical spread, distinguished clanspeople, industrial and commercial enterprises, a Clan MacMillan trail and MacMillan Nurses.

The INNER ROOM will be available to clanspeople for meetings or for studying archive / genealogical material, much of which will be stored on computer.

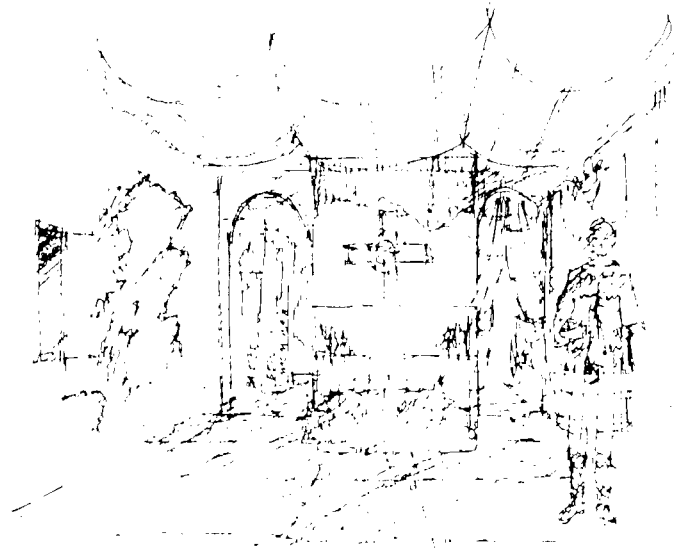
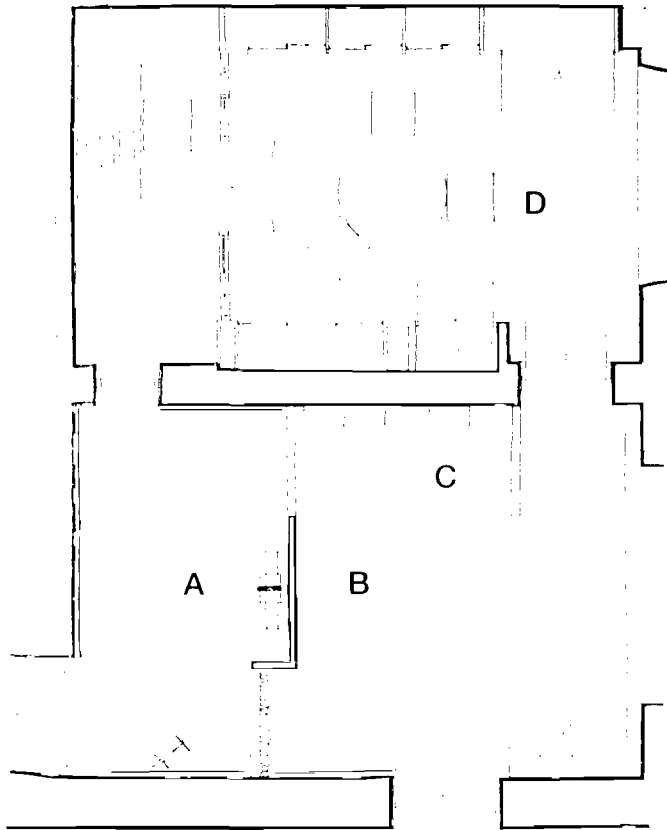
This is an ambitious project. We hope it will foster links between members of the Clan around the world and that you will find it both interesting and useful. To that end, we would very much welcome your ideas and your help.

Your contribution may go towards the cost of restyling the two rooms, or towards such items as :

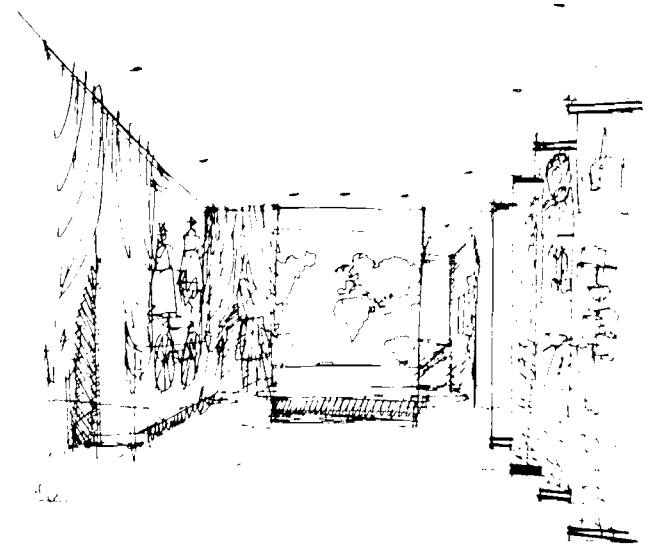
- A reproduction of the MacMillan Cross at Kilmory
- World map
- Lengths of tartan
- Computer
- Tables and chairs
- Reproduction of Kirkpartick MacMillan's bicycle
- Sept displays
- Video unit

We hope the Centre will be well on its way to completion by the Clan Gathering on the 28th - 30th of June 1991, to which we very much hope you can come.

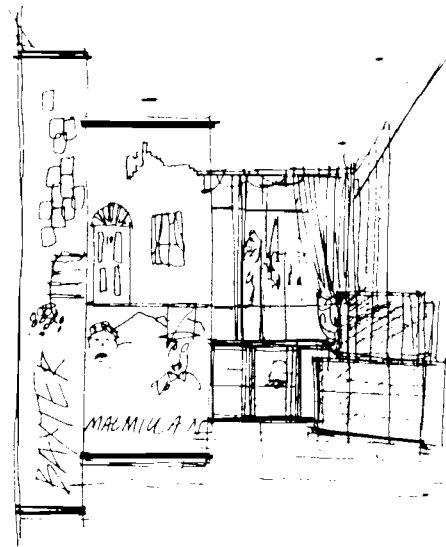
yours sincerely



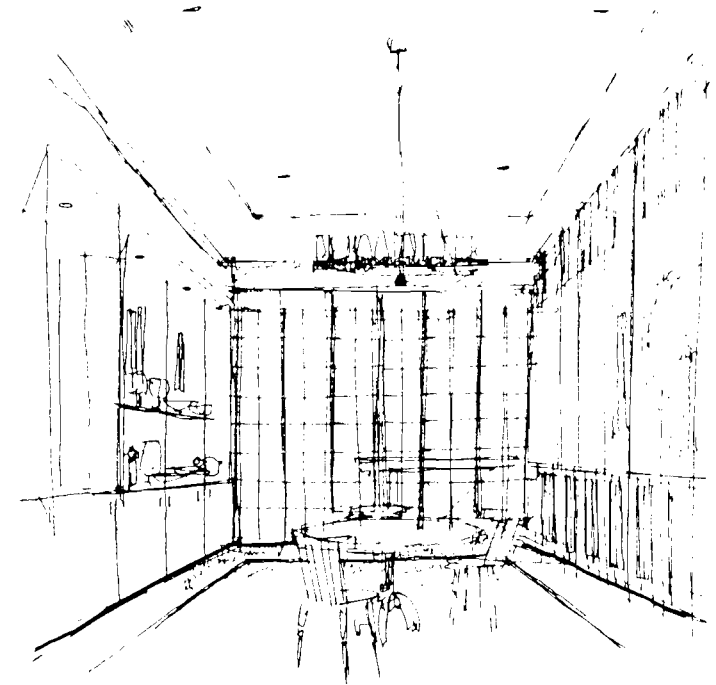
A. Ancient Clan



B. Modern Clan throughout the world



C. Septs of the Clan



D. Clan Archive and Research Room

Appeal Target: £30,000

Donations please to:
 Clan Macmillan Centre Appeal
 Finlaystone House, Langbank,
 Renfrewshire PA14 6TJ

For further details including
 sponsorship enquiries contact
 George Macmillan, Tel: 0475 54285