



# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 28, MARCH 1993

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## 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.*

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I hope you all had a happy festive and holiday season. Thank you to members who have written when sending your subscriptions. I appreciate your letters and suggestions; it is great to receive your feedback on our Newsletter.

We will be attending the Ringwood Highland Games on Sunday 28 March. I do hope if you are attending you will come along to the MacMillan tent and say hello.

I am reprinting several articles in this issue which I trust you will enjoy, especially our Clan Chief's Annual Advent letter to all the Clan (see page 2).

A special greeting to members who are not well. I hope you are soon feeling much better.

Kindest regards, June Senior

## NEW MEMBER

We welcome Nanette Watts of Somerville. We sincerely hope you enjoy our kinship and Newsletters, Nanette.

## SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

The 1992/93 subscription of ten dollars (\$10) is now due. It would be appreciated if you would forward this amount as soon as possible.

June Senior, Editor

## VALE - MCMILLAN

It is with deep regret we advise the death of Foundation Member Colin Campbell McMillan of Ballarat on 24 February 1993. Colin has been a loyal supporter of the Clan and always attended our annual picnic. We extend our deepest sympathy to his daughter, Val Gaskell, and to all members of his family.

*With the world once more in turmoil, it's hard to believe that a couple of Christmases ago we actually thought we were on the brink of universal peace. Journalists cover the present troubles so well that we risk a surfeit of misery and consequent hardening of hearts. So even the name of that little Dutch resort will not darken this page, I promise.*

*I'm concocting this letter with the aid of a word-processor that speaks to me as I write. Though the chap in the box is occasionally less than frank about what's on the screen, it's an astounding piece of international technology for which I'm often grateful.*

*Early in the year, Jane and a friendly expert on Victorian life in big houses raked through cupboards and drawers and found enough antique utensils to form a fascinating display in the old kitchen. It was opened in the presence of a lady who worked here as a girl in the late '20s.*

*The chief event of our year has been the completion (at last) of the 'Celtic Tree' tea room in the walled garden, where the greenhouses once stood. We hope that our frontispiece will give you an aerial view of the garden created as its setting. We wish to record our thanks to Mr. Lamont and those of our readers who pay him taxes for generous, if unwitting, help over its financing. Who says the government hasn't been helping the construction industry? Unfortunately, delays in the planning stage meant that, instead of opening in time for the summer, the Tree (or 'Tray', as some Celts call it) started trading just as the weather collapsed. It's still an attractive asset, though.*

*The Scottish end of Clan MacMillan passed two milestones this summer. In June we celebrated the founding of the Glasgow Clan Society in 1892; and in August we attended the inauguration of the Glen Urquhart Macmillan Society. We're hoping that its founder, Graham Mackenzie, will live here for the coming year and give some time to inspiring other similar groups and tuning up the Clan Centre computer to take our accumulation of family trees. Though the Clan Centre is still embryonic, its visitors' book indicates a sharp rise in interest among clans people. We're also very grateful for many generous contributions towards its cost.*

*We returned prematurely from Glen Urquhart to join Malcolm in making some Finlaystone history. He had persuaded forty friends to spend Bank Holiday here. This feat confirmed his reputation as a party organiser. By day he still helps J. Walter Thomson to advertise Mr. Kellogg's wares.*

*Arthur and Karen are enjoying their rented country house, where their three cats enjoy roaming in the thick undergrowth. They have recently used their minute helicopter to help Michael (Jane's brother) to photograph south coast harbours for a yachting guide.*

*Aunty Bill paid us two flying visits this year. We thank all who made it possible for her to come. Otherwise, she is cosily housed in a sheltered corner of Blockley.*

*This autumn John marked his sixtieth birthday by squeezing most of his friends and relations into the heavily-disguised steading attached to Bog Hall. Though not wishing to compete, we're hoping to muster almost all my parents' descendants and spouses here for Christmas. We're lucky to have the space.*

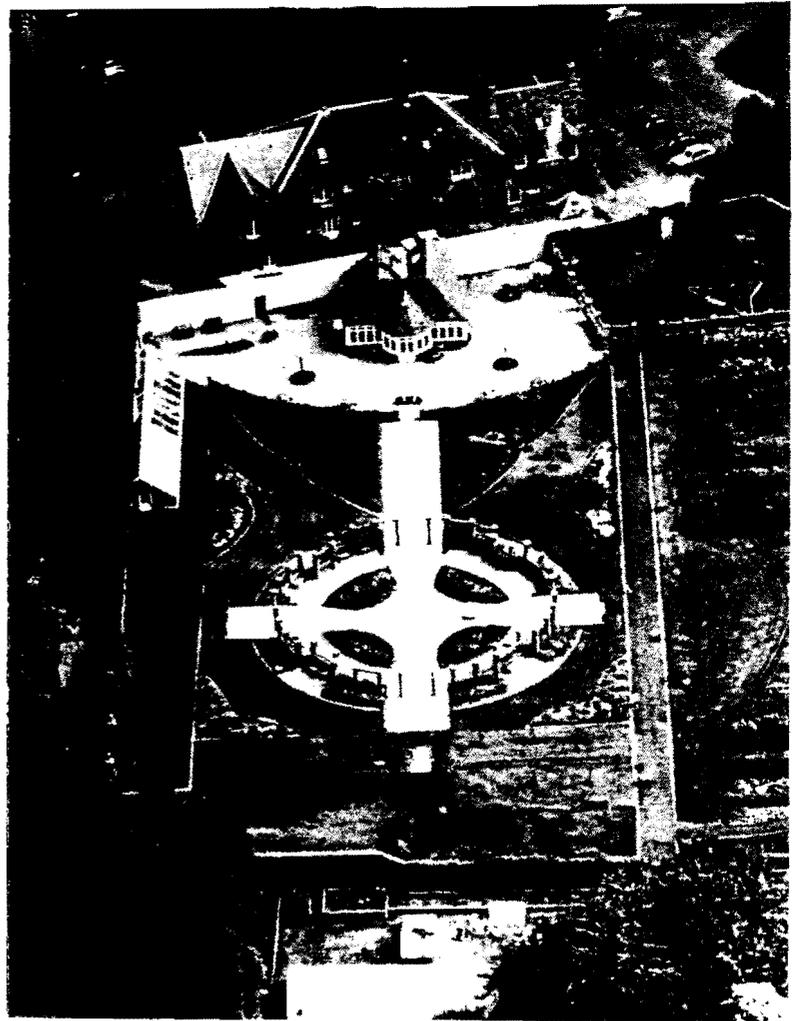
Finlaystone, Langbank,  
Renfrewshire, Scotland.  
PA14 6TJ  
Tel. 047 554 285

with best wishes  
for Christmas  
and the New Year

from

*George  
and Jane*

News within



Our thanks to Bob MacMillan-Kay for sharing "A Bonnie Scottish Night in Maleny" with Members.

### **A BONNIE SCOTTISH NIGHT IN MALENY**

THE ROTARY club of Maleny had rather a "Wee Scottish Night" on Wednesday, October 21 at their usual venue, the Maleny Hotel.

Organised by the Club's International Director, Bob MacMillan-Kay as a fun night, a reason to get dressed up, plus a means of establishing more understanding of the Scottish people, the evening turned out as expected.

Those attending were asked to wear something Scottish to set the atmosphere. Some had a tie, or a scarf, other more daring members wore kilts with real and improvised sporrans. It was a sight to see some of the fellows in kilts.

The Club was fortunate to have a Piper in full Scottish dress who 'piped in' people as they arrived. On arrival, the ladies were presented with a small posie of flowers tied up with a tartan ribbon bow.

The guest speaker Grahame MacDonald, Australian Clan MacDonald Chief spoke on Scottish tartans, Clans, history and surnames of Scotland. Grahame spoke briefly about each of the club's members who had Scottish surnames, how they came about, their meaning and how the original names have changed over the years. Surprisingly more than half of the club members had Scottish surnames.

Hotel staff put on a traditional Scottish meal for the meeting served by waitresses in Scottish dress, which was much appreciated.

The Club was treated to Scots Broth, Baked Rainbow Trout with vegetables, Wine Trifle and of course Shortbread to go with Tea and Coffee.

Small vases of Scotch Thistles, Scotland's floral emblem, adorned the tables. Charts and books on Scotland were on display showing tartans and clans.



And there were prizes for the best dressed 'laddie' and 'lassie'. The prizes, a packet of Scottish Shortbread were awarded to Steve and Anne Robertson and well deserved too!

The finale was Scottish in the true sense, well almost. Len Moore the Piper, played the Scottish National Anthem, Advance Australia Fair and finally, Amazing Grace.

A bonnie night was had by all who attended and special thanks go to the staff of the Maleny Hotel for their support.

## HISTORY OF THE MACMILLAN CLAN

I propose to write a series of articles on the history of the MacMillan Clan and will be using the book "The MacMillans and their Septs", by Somerled MacMillan, as the major source of the material.

The name "MacMillan" is of ecclesiastical origin, the ancestor of the Clan being one of the clergy belonging to the Culdee Order of the Celtic Church. The Culdee clergy, unlike those of the Roman Catholic Church did not practice celibacy. Their abbots differed from the Augustinians in this respect that their office was a hereditary one and, unlike their powerful colleagues had no lay order.

It was only with the coming of the Normans in about 1066, that surnames began to be popular in Britain, and in all probability the name "AN GILLAMAOL" was first used as a common designation before it became to be recognised as a surname. Later, the family would become known as the "Clann An Mail" which in English means the CLAN MACMILLAN.

Gille-Chriosd (meaning "The Servant of Christ") otherwise An Gillamaol, or the tonsured servant, was the forefather of the MacMillans.

Tradition strongly affirms that he and his family were attached to the Culdee preaching-station at Old Spynie. In a document relating to Old Spynie and dating back to the beginning of the 13th Century, the Church of Kintrae is stated 3 times to be very old. The site of Kintrae Church is on the Westfield Estate near Elgin.

This ancient place of worship was an off-shoot of Turriff and the Abbey-lands of Deer.

At one time there was a Culdee (one of a fraternity of monks living in Scotland from the 8th Century in groups of cells) Abbot in Turriff who bore the same name as the tonsured servant's father and it is possible that this was the same person. All that is known of him is contained in a reference taken from the Breviary (A book containing the daily service of the Roman Catholic Church) at Aberdeen which seems to indicate that he was a man of some influence and power. We learn that he was present with the nobles and land-owners of Buchan at Helen (Ellon) and was a witness with the King's earls and bishops to the Charter of Immunity granted by David 1 to the clerics of Deer.

The monastery at Turriff was associated with St. Congau, one of St. Columbia's contemporaries who continued the great missionary work among the Northern Picts which was begun by the Abbott of Hy. He is said to have been the son and heir of a provincial Chief of Lienster, who ruled for a time, but afterwards gave it up to do work in the Church.

(To be Continued)

In the next section I will look at how the name MacMillan came about. If anyone has any questions about any aspects of this history please contact the Secretary.

## **"PROJECT MAOL" has been written by Graeme MacKenzie, Editor of the Glen Urquhart MacMillan News.**

### **PROJECT "MAOL"**

In January, at the invitation of George and Jane Macmillan, I will be moving to Finlaystone where they are offering me free accommodation in return for devoting as much of my time as possible to the history and genealogy of all branches of the Macmillans (though my professional genealogical work for others as "Highland Roots" will continue). The main focus of my efforts there will be the setting up of "Project MAOL" (Macmillan Ancestors On Line!) - an attempt to record all Macmillans, past and present, and their genealogy on the computer that has been donated to the clan. I will also be concerned with the continued fitting up of the Clan Centre and the organisation of a "Federation of Clan Macmillan Societies" - as an attempt to co-ordinate clan activities worldwide, whilst retaining the essential autonomy of the various existing (and hopefully yet to be founded) local Societies; a structure particularly suitable to the Macmillans, who were from such an early date a scattered clan with various branches owing day-to-day allegiance to chiefs other than Macmillan of Knap. I hope that our success in establishing such a flourishing Society among Glen Urquhart Macmillans will serve as an example to our fellows in Galloway, Lewis, Argyll and Lochaber - and George and Jane agree with me that a programme of annual gatherings in different parts of Scotland (not to mention the world) would be a great help in generating local enthusiasm and contacts with other branches; in other words, clan feeling.

I hope our Society will agree to fit its gatherings in with such a pattern of activities - though it will in all respects retain its autonomy to do as it pleases, and will no doubt find that easier to do with me taking more of a back seat in the organisation, and concentrating on such liaison as you the members decide is desirable with Finlaystone. You should know, however, how much George and Jane were impressed by our activities to date; we are the only local Macmillan Society in Scotland since the Glasgow society became the Scottish organisation; and of course we differ from the older body by being rooted in the area in which our Macmillan ancestors lived, and our cousins still live. In discussing with the committee of the Scottish Society how to go about emulating such success in other parts of Scotland, I have stressed the necessity of keeping it local and family based, as I know how much the present size and enthusiasm of our Society is based on the word (that it is a worthwhile and enjoyable thing to join) being passed around among both local and far-flung members of connected families. I know that George and Jane particularly, having experienced at first hand the family feeling expressed by the eight-to-eighty spread of ages at our gathering, appreciate this - just as I know from your comments to me, how much you enjoyed meeting them and appreciated their down to earth attitude and instinctive ability to relate to everyone.

I am sure that many of you will now be keen to visit Finlaystone in the future, where George and Jane will be delighted to welcome you in the same spirit - and where, in due course, you will be able to see what I am up to in the Clan Centre. There will probably be a gathering at Finlaystone in the summer, though we are hoping that the main focus of the clan in May will be on some sort of participation in the Dumfries and Galloway "Roots '93" celebrations - a major branch of the clan having lived in Galloway since the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries. Quite what the Macmillans will be able to arrange remains to be seen (I will let you know in the spring newsletter), but I can tell you about two of the main events that some Macmillans are bound to be attending: "Scottish Gathering" (Pipes, crafts, sports, dancing and music) at Drumlanrig Castle on Sunday May 23rd; "Grand Clan Ball" in Dumfries on Monday May 31st; further details of these and a lot of other events over ten days from: Roots '93, Magdalene House, Lochmaben, Lockerbie, Dumfries-shire, DG11 1PD.

### **FINLAYSTONE WINTER GATHERING**

On Saturday 6th February 1993 George and Jane will host their annual Winter Gathering/Burns Supper - including on this occasion (weather permitting) the burial of the time-capsule commemorating the centenary of the foundation of the Glasgow Macmillan Society (to be dug up 100 year further on). Having attended for the first time last winter, I can tell you that this is a largely informal mix of food and chat, music and dramatic renditions of Burns' works - and any other entertainments that members can devise. Expect to muck in and help with serving, washing up and other domestic chores; everyone has their designated task - which divided among 50 plus people actually adds up to very little, and is a sure way of getting everyone relaxed and acquainted. If you are interested in attending, contact George and Jane at Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire PA14 6TJ; Tel. 0475-54-285. Events kick off at 6.30pm; £8 per head, and £4 for children - any profits to the clan funds - and I hope that there will be a few of you there to join in a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

## **COUNCIL OF CLANS SCOTTISH FUN DAY**

All members of Clan MacMillan are invited to a Scottish Fun Day and BBQ lunch (BYO drinks) on Sunday April 14, 1993, at 12 noon at the property of Brian and Norma Morrison, Wagners Road, Neerim South, Gippsland, to raise funds for the Forthcoming VSU Conference at Echuca/Moama in September 1993. The Council of Clans requests the full support of you Clan for this function in order that the VSU Conference will achieve its goals. Catering requirements make it necessary to obtain tickets by phoning Norma Morrison on (03) 583 6249, or writing to PO Box 368, Mentone 3194. Cost \$6.00 per head includes food, tea and coffee. Directions and a map will be forwarded with your tickets. RSVP by March 24, 1993.

## MEMBER PROFILE

Member Val Gaskell has had excellent reviews for her icecreams. I recently asked Val about her icecreams and she has kindly sent the following Newspaper articles that have been published.

THE SUNDAY AGE 10-1-1993

### best Icecreams



**Sheer class:** Val Gaskell with a selection of Rickett's Point icecreams.

**Geoff Slattery**, cook, writer, and president of the vanilla-bean fan club, said his kids ate "anything that comes in paper on a stick", but personally, he went for Rickett's Point Lemon Delicious Icecream. The icecreamery won five gold medals at the Royal Show for their icecream, which is available from their Sandringham shop, David Jones food hall and The Village Pantry, Canterbury. A Blackburn outlet is coming soon.

**Beverley Sutherland Smith**, cookery writer and teacher, is also a fan of Rickett's Point Icecream, but she mentions a couple of icecreams worth trying. The first is Haagen-Daas, which she thought was good, and the other, Cadbury's Icecream Tempo, a bar which she noted contained good-quality chocolate.

Restaurant reviewer **Stephen Downes** Downes reserved most enthusiasm for Rickett's Point Icecream, and was, in fact, the judge responsible for one of its Royal Show gold medals.

THE WEEKEND REVIEW DECEMBER 12-13, 1992

Diane Holuigue

**M**Y friend Val Gaskell makes great ice-creams. Her friends thought they were so great that when she gave dinner parties, the typical acceptance became "of course, as long as you make your lemon ice-cream ... your deep chocolate ice-cream ... your plum pudding ice-cream ..."

Val made and tested her ices at home for several years, then began selling them to restaurants. In December 1987 she opened a shop, Ricketts Point - named after a local landmark near her Beaumauris, Melbourne, home - as an outlet for her products.

This year, five of Val's ice-creams won gold medals at the Royal Melbourne Show, and her newly developed Citrus Yoghourt Sorbet took out the inaugural Innovation Award from an extraordinarily wide variety of entrants across all categories of professional food lines.

Since she began, Val has won an Award for Enterprise (1988), been a finalist in this year's inaugural Telecom Small Business Awards, and now the Royal Show awards have added yet another honour. She is now making hundreds of plum pudding ice-creams for sale over Christmas. This confection is made from a dense fruit mince base she makes herself.

Her ice-creams do not sell outside Victoria, but anybody armed with a good eskie would find them transportable from her Melbourne outlets - David Jones Food Hall, The Village Pantry in Maling Road Canterbury, Ritchies in Mount Eliza or Ricketts Point in Melrose St. Sandringham.

## GENEALOGY

Russell Harrison the Australian Correspondence Secretary of the Glen Urquhart MacMillan Society recently sent me their November 1992 Newsletter.

Russell sent the following information:

I have discovered there is a very large pool of people interested in Genealogy on one of the local Bulletin Board Services accessible by computer over the telephone (provided the computer has a modem). People from all over Australia are making contact and the BBS is in daily touch with various overseas BBS's that are exclusively on genealogy. New Zealand is very strong. Many computer files can be downloaded giving marriage, shipping, convict, newspaper extracts. I have been having a lot of bother with my modem and hope to get it fixed this week. When I do get my modem going I will, if you wish, give details of your Society, asking people who are interested to contact you. Let me know if you would like this, also give me a draft of if you want to prepare the message rather than have me do it. There is no limit to the length of the message you may include. If you can get access to a computer the BBS is ALPHAMED (02) 9064442. The cost to connect is the cost of the phone call. Some of your members may wish to call up this BBS.

## 27th ANNUAL RINGWOOD HIGHLAND CARNIVAL

THE LARGEST SCOTTISH GATHERING OUTSIDE SCOTLAND

10th Annual Gathering of Clans and Societies

Aust. Commonwealth Highland Dancing Championships

Victorian Highland Pipe Band Championships

Country Dancing

Vic. A.S. Woodchoir Championships

Victorian Scottish Games Championships

NON-STOP ENTERTAINMENT 8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

SUNDAY 28th MARCH, 1993

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## CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to the Clans who have sent their recent Newsletters: Cameron, MacFarlane, Morrison and Clan MacMillan New Zealand.

## ANGUS MCMILLAN

### Pathfinder (Continued)

Angus returned to Ensay on 20-2-1841. At the station was a convict bullock driver named James Lawrence who had driven the dray from Sydney. He became a firm friend of the explorer.

In May, McMillan and Lawrence spent three weeks clearing a track from Ensay to Port Albert, to where they brought the dray. The distance being about 130 miles.

When Angus reached the old Port Albert, he discovered that there was another settlement there. However, he was delighted that the harbour he had discovered was suitable for shipping.

Lachlan Macalister followed hard on the heels of McMillan and the two surveyed the shipping point as well as the route from Ensay to the port.

It was not until March 1844 that McMillan was able to select 16000 acres of land at Bushy Park, Stratford. The day he and Jimmy Lawrence travelled to the new station to mark out the boundaries was an occasion that Angus would remember for a long time.

McMillan was not so foolish as to believe that the grazing of sheep or cattle on Crown Land was the key to a fortune. To settled land owners such as the Macalisters, who had been able to accumulate wealth by acquisitions of land and the free use of convict labour, licences to take up further areas could be lucrative and profitable.

He had no capital and the first thing he did was to erect a bark hut from timber on the run. He had acquired during his 6 years in the Colony essential tools such as an axe, hammer and saw, he also owned a horse. Furniture was primitive, he made it himself from timber on Bushy Park. The hut was erected on the banks of the Avon River, a slow moving stream winding through the open park-like countryside which had captured his imagination. With no capital, McMillan's only method of stocking was to borrow money from a bank or merchant. In this he was in good company. Well educated gentlemen from Britain rubbed shoulders with the sons of convicts, army and naval officers, and migrants like himself with farming or business experience in the old country, in the quest for money. Many were shrewd and farseeing businessmen, many were rogues.

Angus had one advantage over many who took up land. He had the expert knowledge and experience to select wisely, in contrast to many who set out from Melbourne or Sydney, with their provisions and equipment on a dray, over trackless country until they reached an area to which no other had a prior claim and which appeared to meet their requirements.

He had much more than his share of pioneering, and he understood the hardship and heartburnings which were the lot of the pioneer squatter, often with little or no experience in the bush who trekked into unknown country, travelling over wide rivers, dark gullies. All this was now behind him, and he was ever ready to set aside his own work and help others who were passing through the area.

Whilst reflecting on his life he realized that any scheme to invite Margaret to join him in this primitive life was out of the question.