



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 29, JULY 1993

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 YOUR PRESIDENT

We will be well into winter by the time you receive this Newsletter. I know there are several members who are not well. A special greeting to you and I trust that you will soon be feeling much better. You will find a message from our Clan Chief George MacMillan on page 2 of this issue which is of special interest to all MacMillans. Some of you may wish to take advantage of Graeme Mackenzie's offer to research your family history. It would be very much appreciated if you would write and let me know your thoughts and suggestions as to how we, as the Australian Clan, can help in the good work being undertaken at Finlaystone. As I see it, we need to increase our membership to be able to offer assistance. If each member was able to introduce one new member we would double our membership, which at the present time is seventy-five.

Kindest regards, June Senior

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to new members - Mrs Lorna Edel of Fawkner, Victoria, and Neil & Maria Davey from Canberra, A.C.T. We sincerely trust you will enjoy our kinship and Newsletters.

SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

Many thanks to those members who have paid their subscription of \$10.00 for the current year- October 1992- September 1993-. As the year is well advanced those who have not yet paid will find another reminder with this Newsletter. It would be appreciated if you could pay as soon as possible as this will save me considerable time each newsletter not having to check on outstanding accounts.

June Senior, Editor

CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to all Clans and Societies for forwarding their excellent magazines to us. These are very much appreciated.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Finlaystone, 17th March 1993

As you may already have heard, a dream is coming true. We'd long hoped to find someone willing to take the Clan Centre in hand and computerise our family trees, in the hope that some of their branches might meet. To our amazement, such a person has appeared.

Graeme Mackenzie (whose grandmother was a Macmillan from Glen Urquhart) is a historian and a professional genealogist of a high order. He also has a keen interest in computers. He has been living here for a month or more, and has already sorted out most of the clan archives, making some interesting discoveries on the way. In addition to computerising our trees - Project MAOL (Macmillan Ancestry On Line) - he hopes to produce an annual magazine to keep the clan in touch with his work, the Clan Centre, and anything else of clan interest.

Ultimately, we hope that Graeme will be financed by a combination of sponsorship and subscriptions, and plans for this are being circulated to your Society office-bearers; along with proposals for establishing an international body to co-ordinate our activities at Finlaystone with the branches. Please ask them for copies if you wish to see the details.

The immediate future is more problematical, however; so I'm writing to branches to see if they would consider supporting his work in the meantime with donations to the Project MAOL fund. Our own little branch here (the Scottish Society) has recently got the ball rolling with a generous contribution, and we've also had some kind donations from individuals.

There is another possibility, which might benefit you, keep Graeme alive, and add to our knowledge of Macmillan ancestors. He is offering to research any Macmillan genealogy for two thirds of his normal professional fee. If you would like further details, write to him here. You might also consider passing the word on to any non-Macmillans with genealogies to research - though they would have to pay the full fee.

Graeme has offered to be here for a year, or more, if the Clan can make it possible. I'm sure you'll agree that this is a chance we ought not to miss. So I hope you will make your support known to your branch's office-bearers and/or consider commissioning genealogical research.

GEORGE MACMILLAN OF MACMILLAN AND KNAP

PICNIC AND A.G.M. - 17 OCTOBER 1993 NOON TO 4 P.M.

Bruce & June McMillan have again offered to have our annual gathering at their home at 38 PARKHILL ROAD, KEW. See MELWAY MAP 45/G5. As this is our only get-together for the year I do hope you will be able to come and enjoy the friendly atmosphere that is always present among those who attend. Please bring your own food and drink. Make it a family day and come along and meet your Committee. Bring any material you have on the MacMillan Clan which may be displayed and viewed by those attending. I'll look forward to seeing you there. June Senior, Ed.

RINGWOOD HIGHLAND GAMES

We attended the Games again this year and had our MacMillan tent, with the other Clans who attended, around the perimeter of Jubilee Park where the day long activities such as Pipe Bands, Scottish Highland dancing, Scottish Country Dancing and heavy games competitions could be seen. No MacMillan's came by but a steady stream of folk walked by and showed interest in our display of Scotland and MacMillans. As most of the Clans are represented on this day it is great to keep in touch with friends we have made over the years from Clans affiliated with the Council of Clans. Ringwood Games is the venue for the A.G.M. of the Council of Clans.

In our March '93 Newsletter we told you about Val Gaskell. The article below appeared in the Herald Sun "Checkout" supplement recently, under the heading VALIANT VAL SHOWS HOW TO BE A WINNER.

By FAY BURSTIN

SHE has suffered much personal hardship, but Val Gaskell refuses to be licked.

The celebrated ice cream maker, who won four gold medals and one silver at the recent Dairy Industry Association Awards, has had her fair share of hurdles to overcome.

After enduring breast cancer, the break-up of a 23-year marriage and the death of her mentor-father, all within about a year, one might be excused for thinking she had reason for giving up.

But Val Gaskell is made of tough stuff, and has responded to her downturn in luck by opening a new shop in Sandringham.

"Sometimes it takes a crisis to really understand yourself and sort out your priorities," she said.

And for the 1988 winner of a Victorian Enterprise Award, these include re-establishing herself and her business, Ricketts Point Fine Foods.

Now situated at the corner of Bluff and Bay Roads, a 15-minute stroll from the beach, the new Ricketts Point is more than a specialist ice cream parlor.

It is also a coffee shop and offers home-made scones, jams and the delicious brownies by local cake-creator Anna von Marburg.



AWARD-winning ice cream maker Val Gaskell ... making the most of her "second chance".

An old-fashioned corner shop decorated with antique tiles, the new premises complement the traditional character of Val's home-based ice cream manufacturing business.

Val and her team of three part-time employees work in the kitchen behind the shop, creating her award-winning ice creams, such as

passionfruit and yoghurt, orange and Grand Marnier, and yoghurt sorbet.

The cosy residence behind the new premises is also now home to Val and her daughter Caroline, 17, and son, Cameron, 14.

Moving house, shop and workshop has been an exhausting but re-

vitalising exercise for Val.

After radiotherapy treatment and the removal of a cancerous lump from her breast, her health has now stabilised.

She is philosophical about life and motivated to continue creating her magnificent ice creams, which she also sells to shops, including David Jones' Food Hall, restaurants and even golf courses.

"When you've been given a second chance, you use it," she said.

"My ambition is to sell my lemon delicious ice cream all over Australia. I'm certainly not ready yet for the Great Ice Cream Parlor in the sky!"

Her father's death in February was another untimely setback for Val.

A former dairy industry supervisor and champion hand-milker in the 1930s, he was very proud of her achievements in the industry.

A true "dairy daughter", Val recalls how a picture of a prize cow, rather than cherished family members, occupied pride of place on the piano at home.

Since his passing, Val's keen interest in antiques and french polishing has prompted her to restore some of the pieces from his old home in Ballarat.

"It's strange how things come full circle. Dad was really chuffed about my keeping up the family dairy tradition."

GENEALOGY

Committee member Kaelene Blake has been researching her McMillan family and has kindly sent me the following information.

HUGH MCMILLAN - son of John McMillan and Catherine Gilles, Born 1789 in the shire of Inverness Scotland.

Hugh married Mary McDonald, born 1793. They were married between 1815 and 1817 and had eight children: Angus, Mary, Duncan, John, Catherine, Donald, Ronald and Anne. Hugh and Mary came to Australia in 1852 and took up farming in the Mansfield district.

RONALD MCMILLAN - son of Hugh and Mary, was born in Glencoe, Scotland in 1836. He married Elizabeth McDiarmid around 1858. They had sixteen children: Isabella, John, Elizabeth, Donald, Hugh, DUNCAN, Donald, Angus, Mary, Christina, Harriet, Ronald, Hugh, Annie, Robert & Robina. Note the same names used twice; as children died, new babies were given the same names.

DUNCAN MCMILLAN - son of Ronald & Elizabeth was born in Mansfield in 1864. He married Ellen Maude Wale in 1891. They had seven children: John, Robert, Ronald, Duncan, Nellie, ERNEST and Arthur.

ERNEST MCMILLAN - married Flora Maria Chamberlain, their children being: Graeme, Gavin, David and KAELENE.

This is a brief written history of my family. Regards, Kaelene Blake.

Member Russell Harrison (Russell is the Australian Correspondent of the Glen Urquhart MacMillan Society) recently sent me the following information about his family.

My McMillan ancestor was Christina (Christy) McMillan born 4.11.1858 at the village of Drumnadrochit, Glen Urquhart, Invernesshire County. She migrated to Dunedin about 1884 and married Robert Millin there on 25.01.1886. She died at Timaru 26.09.1950 aged 92.

Her parents were James McMillan (1824-1880) and Christina McIntosh (1836-1911) who lived in a croft called Balnaban at Drumnadrochit.

Her siblings, all born at the same place were:

John (1858 - probably died at Aukcland),

Donald (1861 - 1937)

Mary (1862 - Scotland 1935)

Peter (1868 - 193?) Some query on this brother.

If you want more information please let me know, good wishes, Russell.

CORRESPONDENCE

I was delighted to receive a postcard of Finlaystone from Margaret Pool (President and Editor of the newly formed MacMillan Clan of New Zealand) in June. Margaret wrote in her March 1993 Newsletter: I am departing for Scotland on 9th May with a small group of genealogists. We will be travelling through the USA and stopping at Salt Lake City to spend four days at the Family History Library of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, I'm sure four days won't be enough for us. After spending a few days in London we are off up to Dumfries to attend the Roots '93 Gathering, the main purpose of the trip. It is a gathering of the Borders families with various functions over 10 days from 21-31 May. We will only be there over the first weekend but will be attending the Reception, a pageant and the Scottish Gathering of the Clans at Drumlanrig Castle. George and Jane MacMillan will be representing Clan MacMillan at the Gathering. Margaret's card came from Finlaystone where she had greatly enjoyed a visit to the Clan Centre. It will be interesting to hear more of Margaret's tour in her next Newsletter and I'll tell you more at a later date.

Russell Harrison recently sent me the March 1993 edition of the Glen Urquhart MacMillan Society Newsletter; I hope you will find interest in the following items as I did:

A party of Canadian clanspeople will be coming over in the middle of August 1994 on an organised tour of MacMillan sights. This is timed to coincide with the hoped for publication in Canada of a book about the 1796 and 1802 MacMillan emigrations from Lochaber (which included people from Glengarry, Glenmoriston and Glen Urquhart) and will therefore be concentrating on the Lochaber and associated areas, though naturally visiting the Argyllshire home of the clan and Finlaystone too. The proposed itinerary included only a passing visit to Glen Urquhart, but I have written to suggest that they could join us for our next GUMS gathering, so they could join us for some of the events.

The Scottish MacMillan Society are tentatively planning an event to allow the same party and any MacMillan visitors to attend - which will be in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Harold MacMillan (Prime Minister and Earl of Stockton). This would be held on the Island of Arran, where his family (the famous publishers) originally came from. As there are branches of this family in North America and Australia, this may also turn out to be quite an international affair. All MacMillan descendants, wheresoever from, will be welcome if it goes ahead. Further details in future Newsletters.

WORLDWIDE MACMILLAN CLAN ORGANISATION AND A CLAN MACMILLAN MAGAZINE
These are among the subjects dealt with in a package of proposals that are being sent out from Finlaystone to Clan branch Presidents/ Secretaries and "Elders" for their consideration and reaction. This is accompanied by the introductory "Message from the Chief" (on page 2 of this Newsletter) and further details about my Project MAOL which I precis below.

PROJECT "MAOL" is intended to record the genealogy of all branches of the clan (and septs) in much the same way that I have been doing in the Glen Urquhart MacMillan Project, with a view eventually to publishing as complete a genealogical history of the clan as possible. We propose to use the computer that was donated to the Clan Centre here at Finlaystone to record all the information - and to programme the machine in such a way that clanspeople will be able to use the computer to find out all that is known of their family and branch of the clan, and get in touch with hitherto unknown cousins elsewhere in the world. While this service will only be available at first to Clan Centre visitors, we hope to be able to extend the facility to overseas members "on line" with the help of clan computer buffs around the world.

THE GALLOWAY MACMILLAN GATHERING will take place on 23rd May as part of the Scottish Gathering at Drumlanrig Castle (home of the Duke of Buccleugh) during the Dumfries and Galloway "Roots '93" Festival. The Chief, George MacMillan will be attending with some of the leading members of the Scottish MacMillan Society - complete with tent, flagpole and banner (pipers and other suitable "retainers" if they can be recruited). "Roots '93" turns out to be a very ambitious two week long extravaganza with events to interest all sorts (history talks, historic house visits/tours; garden parties; a regatta and Robert the Bruce pageant; antique fairs; fashion shows, and of course lots of "ceilidhs") It is hoped the MacMillan activities might be the spur for the Galloway clan to get together and emulate us in forming a local MacMillan Society.

The Galloway branch is among the oldest in the clan, going back to at least 1306 when Robert the Bruce made one Gilbert Macmillan the Baron of Ken (he is thought to have been a brother of the then clan chief, Maolmuire, in Perthshire) The line of the Galloway Chieftains

can be traced back to John Macmillan of Brockloch in 1486 (probably a descendant of Gilbert's) and his descendant Susan Macmillan, Mrs. Seed, of the Holm of Dalquhairn is the only Macmillan Chieftain still living in the area of her branch. The most famous Galloway Macmillans are the Reverend John McMillan of Balmaghie, founder in the early 1700's of the Reformed Presbyterian Church; and Kirkpatrick McMillan, inventor of the "Velocipede" that many believe is the true forerunner of the modern pedal bicycle. A full size working model of his velocipede is to be found at Finlaystone in the Clan Centre.

ORIGINS OF THE CLAN

LAMENT FOR MACMILLAN

At the Wild Point of Knap
The Ocean laps the shore,
and Jura's paps look down
Upon a town
That is no more.

There stands MacMillan's Cross
Beside a shrine
Built on a hill of moss
And heath and pine;

Calling to Kiels
And Eilan Mhor
Across the seas,
Where churches stood of yore.

And daily prayers and Mass were said
For the beloved dead
And their souls' ease.
Now are their altars dumb:
No responses come
from either side
Of the tide.

There, Celtic carven stones
Watch over the bones
Of ancestors renowned,
Once keepers of the ground
Between
Loch Crinan and Loch Sween.

I am indebted to Margaret Pool, Editor of the Clan Macmillan Society of New Zealand Newsletter for this hauntingly beautiful poem. When Max and I were in Scotland in 1990 we made the journey to the ruined Chapel at Kilmory to see the Macmillan Cross. At that time I was not aware of the above poem.

June Senior, Editor

There, in the sky,
Sea-mews curvet and cry
In sad monotony
Like souls in agony;
And seals around the rocks
Murmer and moan
In antiphone,
"Witches and warlocks,
Leave us alone".

There, in the bleak solitude
Careless of storm and flood
Sleeps the MacMillan Clan,
Each one a Highland man.

Hark to the pibroch
When dies the day
Down to its rest;

No earthly pipers they
That nightly play
From out the West.

Yet o'er the moonlit main
Echoes the sad refrain;
"Knapdale MacMillans,
Come back again".

(Written by Sir Malcolm of
Poltalloch, 1938.



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ANGUS MCMILLAN
Pathfinder (Continued)

He looked back with fondness on his life in the Hebrides, but he had no desire to return. This new country had challenged him with its mystery and remoteness. With his discovery of a port, he had experienced a partial sense of satisfaction, but he now transferred his energy to the mastery of the land he had selected.

On his own he could accomplish little. One thought which recurred constantly was the possibility that one or more of his brothers might join him. He had seen how the migration of relatives had assisted Lachlan Macalister in his scattered enterprises, and saw no reason why, in the years ahead, the McMillan Clan might not constitute an equally formidable army. His only contact with his brothers was through his mother, and Angus resolved at the next opportunity to sound out the possibility of some of the family joining him at Bushy Park to develop it. In the years ahead some of his kinsfolk and others settled in Gippsland as the result of his urging.

In the meantime, he cast around for suitable labour. Lachlan Macalister still employed him moving herds of cattle to Port Albert; this work and the small sum he had saved were as yet his only means of obtaining funds to pay wages.

His friend Dr. Arbuckle had commenced practice at Tarraville, a private township on the Tarra River, about three miles from Port Albert. The town was coming into prominence as the first stopping place on the overland route from the Port to North Gippsland. By June 1844, several substantial brick buildings had been erected in the town, including hotels to accommodate travellers and to sell liquor.

Arbuckle, a fellow Scot, was born in the same year as McMillan, and the two were to become lifelong friends. Arriving in the Colony in 1839 he practised medicine until he became disenchanted with the Medical Board of New South Wales. In 1844 he became involved as an expert witness in a murder trial at Omeo, and Arbuckle resented strongly the action of the Court of Criminal Sessions in forcing him to make an arduous journey from Omeo to Melbourne to appear at the Court.

In a newspaper announcement in the Port Phillip Gazette, Arbuckle informed the Medical Board that he withdrew his name from the Medical Register. He had struck up an acquaintance with the Macalisters, and from frequent visits to Clifton Springs he saw at first hand the apparent ease with which sheep and cattle could be turned into wealth.

In 1841 Arbuckle joined Lachlan and Tom Macalister as a partner in the purchase of a line of cattle. These were overlanded south and as a result the medico came into contact with McMillan.

HISTORY OF THE MACMILLAN CLAN

Part 2

We will now look at how the name MacMillan is said to have originated. The late Dr. Hugh MacMillan gives us his theory in a brief historical sketch of the clan, which consists largely of seven lectures delivered by him at the Annual Gatherings of the Clan MacMillan Society. He states that "the name is supposed to be derived from the Celtic tonsure, known as St. John's, which differed from the Roman in that it consisted in shaving all the hair in front of a line drawn over the top of the head from ear to ear; whereas the Roman tonsure, associated with the name of St. Peter was formed by the top of the head being shaved clean, and a circle or crown of hair being left to grow around it. During the 7th and 8th centuries the shape of the tonsure formed the subject of most violent controversy in both sections of the Church: the Romans condemning the Celtic method and attributing it to Simon Magus, whilst the Celts claimed it was the earliest custom of the Church, and they brought it with them from the East directly and not by way of Rome. Bede tells us of Abbot Ceolfrid's letter to Nectan, King of the Picts, in which this form of tonsure was discussed at considerable length. It was probably during this controversy that the name of Macmillan came first into notice. The son of some prominent ecclesiastic was called the son of the man with the bald or tonsured head". Following up this surmise I might add that certain members of the clan are of the opinion that 'Millan' is from 'Maol-Iain' a compound term, and meaning 'the tonsure of St. John'. Strange to relate, in the Annals of Ulster, a cleric is mentioned who succeeded St. Ciaran of Cluain-mac-Nois and his name is Aed Ua Mail-Eoin (1098-1153) which means, Hugh grandson of the Tonsured of St. John. But, as fanciful notions get us nowhere, let concern ourselves with some facts.

The most likely spot to find such facts is among the early records of the Church and, as tradition points strongly to the Culdee preaching station at Old Spynie, one would naturally expect to find some reference in the Book of Deer. After a careful study of the Gaelic entries in this ancient book, the writer found what might well be strong evidence which will throw fresh light on the subject and to arrive at an approximate date as to the period in which the progenitor and his family lived.

TO BE CONTINUED.