



# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 30, NOVEMBER 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-Mhaoian.*

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## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We had a very enjoyable day at our garden lunch and Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 17 October 1993. Bruce and June McMillan were our hosts at their home in Kew. Our thanks to Bruce and June for welcoming us into their home. We had worried about the rain, but in fact we were all seeking the shade. We had a number of apologies from those unable to attend. It was great to welcome some members from as far away as South Australia who managed to fit in our meeting during their visit to Melbourne.

June Senior has retired as President and the meeting expressed thanks to her for her leadership and her encouragement of others. She has, and will continue to be, in her role as Treasurer and Editor of the Newsletter, a mainstay of the Society. Those of us who know June personally are well aware of her quiet, efficient manner. She has a wonderful capacity to spread her enthusiasm to those around her.

Also Bruce McMillan has retired as Treasurer and the meeting expressed appreciation to Bruce for his excellent work. Bruce has passed the books over to June, but will continue to be involved in providing advice. Bruce has been an enthusiastic member of the Committee. We look forward to his continued interest.

The Clan Macmillan Society is a low-key gathering of people who meet together occasionally, but who are drawn together by their sharing of a common past and heritage. With such a diverse group of people, it would be interesting to ascertain what benefit they believe is provided to them through their membership. Not all people want to be personally active in organisations, but you may have ideas which could enhance the effectiveness of the Society in meeting the objectives of the members. The Committee would welcome any ideas or comments that you might have at any time.

I visited Scotland a couple of years ago and came across a contemporary band from Skye, Runrig, who play both modern and more traditional Celtic music. In investigating the current music of Scotland, I have found some wonderful bands and singers, Battlefield Band, Catherine-Anne Macphee, Wolfestone, Tony Cuffe - to name a few. This music is respectful of, but is not restrained by tradition and so it is alive and relevant today. Runrig's rendition of Loch Lomond is haunting and emotional, whilst being full of vigour and life.

I know that some members have not been well during the year. Our special greetings to you and hope that 1994 will be a good year for you. Christmas will soon be here. This year has passed by very quickly. Seasons greetings to all and the best wishes for 1994.

Best wishes to all,  
Elizabeth McMillan.

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA)

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

I would like to present a report for the year 1992/93.

Our present membership is 74. Sadly Colin McMillan of Ballarat and Jack McMillan of Murrumbena died during the year and our deepest sympathy has been expressed to their families.

We have 6 new members and 2 cancellations.

Our Clan Chief's annual letter was welcomed with great interest. This letter keeps us in touch with happenings at Finlaystone. The "Celtic Tree" Tea-rooms opened in 1992. The Glasgow Clan Society celebrated their 100th Anniversary and the Clan Chief attended the inauguration of the Glen Urquhart MacMillan Society. This is an area in Scotland where several of our members' families came from.

Project Maol (MacMillan Ancestry on Line) is progressing well. Graeme MacKenzie, a historian and professional genealogist is spending time at Finlaystone this year sorting out the Clan Archives and putting family trees on the Clan Computer. Our Clan Chief has asked Clan Societies for support for Project Maol.

On the local scene we have had a quiet year. Bruce McMillan, Max & I attended the Ringwood Highland Games in March.

Three Newsletters have been produced this year. My thanks to members who have sent articles of interest. This is a great help to me. Thanks also to the other Clans who send their Newsletters and allow us to use any of their items. This also is very helpful.

As discussed at our last A.G.M. a donation has been sent to the Clan Centre at Finlaystone. Any members visiting Scotland are invited to visit the Centre where they will find so much about the history of the Clan MacMillan.

Finally my grateful thanks to our Secretary Steven and Treasurer Bruce for the work they have done during the past year, also our Auditor Max Senior. To John & Joy, Libby and Kaelene - our Committee members - thank you for your support.

A special thank you to Bruce & June McMillan for again having our Picnic and A.G.M. at their home. We greatly appreciate their hospitality.

June Senior      President.

**CLAN CHIEF'S LETTER**

Our Clan Chief George MacMillan wrote immediately on receiving our donation of \$224.00 (£100 Sterling) to the Clan Centre for 1992/93.

After thanking us for our contribution George wrote "Graeme is beavering away. He's collected a vast quantity of data, and has just started listing people's names as a preliminary to putting them on disc. In the process, though, he's made a good many personal contacts. It's been very nice to be able to take people into the Clan Room to see him. In the light of comments, we've modified the suggestions about a possible Clan organisational structure. We feel it might be best to keep the Clan Centre separate from the existing groupings. So any organisation would be focused primarily on the Clan Centre and its maintenance, and might be called something like "Friends of the Clan Centre". It would still meet very occasionally, and, if possible, consist of much the same set of people, representing the various branches. The idea that Graeme should produce an annual magazine, with, if possible, a short news sheet six months away from it, seemed to appeal. He seems pretty confident that he can do it.

## NEW MEMBER

We extend a very warm welcome to new member Harold McMillan of Carrum, father of member Myrna Robertson. We sincerely trust you will enjoy our kinship and Newsletters.

## VALE - MCMILLAN

It is with deep regret we advise the death of Jack McMillan of Murrumbeena earlier in the year. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Connie.

## SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

Subscription of \$10.00 is now due for 1993/94. It would be appreciated if this amount could be sent to our Treasurer as soon as possible. On receipt of your subscription your receipt will be sent with the next Newsletter.

## CLAN NEWSLETTERS

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

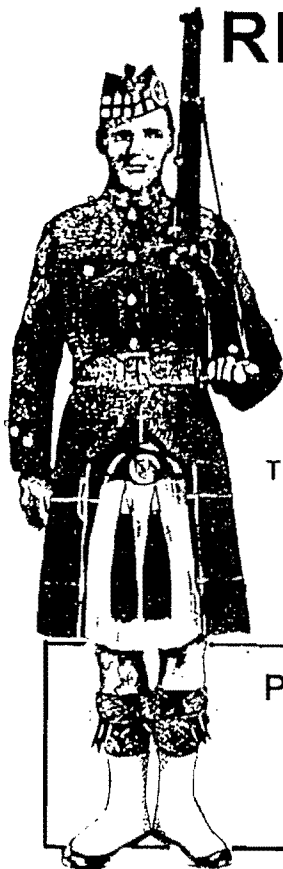
### St. Andrew's Day Remembrance Committee

Patron: Lieutenant Colonel The Honourable Sir Rupert Hamer, AC, KCMG, ED  
Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel G. M. Palmer, ED.



*Let Us Forget*

Dedicated to the memory of men and women of Scots birth or descent who died in the service of their countries.



*You are invited to the*  
**SCOTTISH  
REMEMBRANCE  
CEREMONY  
1993**

AT THE SHRINE OF  
REMEMBRANCE

St Kilda Road, Melbourne

SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER AT 1.45PM

Guest Speaker

The Honourable Sir John Young AC, KCMG

Guard of Honour

Cadets of Scotch College

*Ceremony Includes....*

**PROCESSION OF CLANS & EX.  
SERVICE GROUPS  
MEMORIAL SERVICE  
MASSED PIPE BANDS**

**Post Ceremony Activities**

Afternoon teas, a Display of Highland and Country Dancing  
at

Army Depot Australian Army Band (Melbourne)  
Albert Road Drive  
SOUTH MELBOURNE

## PICNIC AND A.G.M. - 17 OCTOBER 1993

The weather was very kind to us this year and the 13 members who were able to attend our A.G.M. at Bruce & June McMillan's home in Kew had a most enjoyable gathering. I would like to thank Libby McMillan for accepting the Presidency. Members who have joined since 1983 may like to know how our Society was formed. The following is taken from the first Newsletter of our Clan.

"Following a large Gathering and Barbeque on the banks of the Yarra at Scotch College Hawthorn in October 1982, interest was shown in forming a Clan MacMillan Society in Victoria. We were encouraged and supported by the Son of the Chief, George MacMillan and his wife Jane - whose father General Sir Gordon H.A. MacMillan, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., C.D., is Chief of the Knapdale Branch and current Chief of the Clan MacMillan. The home of the Chief and his family is Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday 21st June 1983 This will be the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Agenda: To approve the Constitution drawn up by the Committee.

Guest Speaker will be Mr John Barth, President of the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Subject-"Genealogical Research in Scotland".

Following the March meeting a committee was elected as follows:

President - Donald Macmillan; Secretary - Steven McMillan; Treasurer - John T Macmillan; Archivist - John Ronald Macmillan."

Donald McMillan was President from March 1983 until October 1987 when June Senior was elected and held this position until October 1993.

### COMING EVENTS

28th November 1993- St. Andrew's Day Remembrance Ceremony-details page 3.

4th & 5th Dec.1993- Daylesford Highland Gathering.

### CORRESPONDENCE

It is always great to hear news of members when they send their subscriptions. Mrs Joy McMillan of Geelong wrote earlier in the year "It may interest you to know that I recently had an opportunity to visit Vanuatu where Dr. Thomson MacMillan was a missionary for 40 years. The health and education of the Vanuatuans owe much to those Scottish Missionaries.

Donald Mcmillan of Red Hill Sth. wrote "Meg and I have just returned from 4 months in central west Queensland where we were tutors(voluntary) on 2 sheep stations, to children of isolated families doing school through the Longreach School of Distance Education. We can't get used to the traffic, the short cold days and the green grass! The drought area in the Longreach area is very bad indeed - although western N.S.W. looks wonderful, after some good winter rains".

Bob McMillan-Kay of Maleny wrote that he and family's well. In June when he wrote he was still busy with his Landscape business. He is in the local Light Horse Troop. They train every fortnight and are getting a lot of requests to attend functions. They have 23 members now and about 18 are riders and 15 of those are uniformed. Keep up the good work Bob!



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# Kath gives tartan a new lease of life

**Mrs Kath Baker of Berwick is giving Scottish tartan a new lease of life. She has made patterns for more than 180 different crochet tartan rugs and has crocheted 52 rugs herself!**

"My husband and I will never be cold," she said. "For as long as I can remember I have loved to sit down and crochet rugs. Making patterns for Scottish tartan has been a great challenge."

Kath has spent countless hours searching through books for pictures of different tartans.

From those pictures she has calculated patterns so that the square rugs would start and finish with the correct colours.

"I sent a pattern in to the Women's Weekly magazine in 1989 and they published it. I had a lot of calls from people wanting more patterns so that kept me busy for quite some time."

Little did Kath realise at the time just how busy she would become.

The constant demand for more patterns has resulted in a 91 page book!

"The book has 180 different patterns. I don't sell any of the rugs I do myself because I keep them as proof that the patterns are accurate and they look quite good when finished," she said. "It's a great hobby, especially for the older person who likes to do something while watching TV."

Kath's book has stirred great interest in the history of tartan amongst many local groups and clubs.

"I am often invited to group meetings to speak about tartan and show my rugs and that makes a nice, interesting afternoon. A lot of these tartans have been "asleep" for a long time in books and it's great to be able to bring them to life."

Most of the rugs measure about 125cm square and, according to Kath, are very easy to do as long as the pattern is followed correctly.

And is Kath a born Scot? "Well my husband and I have a little Scottish blood."



Mrs Kath Baker of Berwick shows just a few of the many tartan crochet rugs she has made

The above article from the Pakenham Gazette, May 1993 was sent to us by Mrs. Baker. She wrote "My pattern book is creating enthusiasm and interest among Scottish folk and handcraft workers. Some of your members may like to know of it. The "MACMILLAN HUNTING" rug pattern is included in the book.

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TARTAN RUGS,  
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BEACONSFIELD 3807 VICTORIA**

**SECOND EDITION AUG.1993**

I was very interested to learn from a friend of mine, Mrs. Carrie Kemp (nee Higgins) that she was a member of the first Ladies Pipe Band formed in Scotland. It was the Coatbridge & District Ladies Pipe Band founded by Mr Tom Romanes. Carrie's father, Neil founded the Coatbridge Choir about 1936. The Pipe Band wore the Buchanan tartan kilt.



*There was a young  
lady called Maud  
Who danced  
because she  
was bored  
She did the  
Strathspey in an  
elegant way  
From the moment  
she heard the first  
chord*

In our July 1992 Newsletter Mrs. Ellen Mc.Cormack of N.Z. asked for information about the Rev. John Kennedy Macmillan. I followed this up, and the Presbyterian Church in Melbourne sent me the following:

REV. JOHN KENNEDY MACMILLAN B.A. 1833-1904.

Mr. Macmillan was a son of the Manse, and was born at Ballachulish, Inverness-shire, Scotland in 1833. His early education was at the High School, Edinburgh. At seventeen received his degree. He came to Victoria in 1858 and in a short time received a call to Beechworth. "Here he bravely fronted toil & bore hardship on the highlands of the north east country, pressing his way at times through bridgeless rivers and pathless bush to plant the old blue flag of our order in sequestered dells and valleys, where men had congregated in the absorbing quest for gold, kindling and strengthening the flame of piety in many hearts" (Scottish Church in Victoria" by Ross)

During his 11 years of ministry at Beechworth he founded churches at Bright, Buckland, Yackandandah, Chiltern, Oxley, Benalla and Stanley. In 1869 he removed to Hamilton and was inducted into this charge on 27th. January 1869. Here, for thirty-five years he performed all his work with marked efficiency, maintaining the dignity of his office and taking an active part in the management and control of institutions of charity and benevolence. In 1878 he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly, and during his term of office was noted for his business capacity. In 1884 he visited Scotland and Ireland, mainly for the benefit of his health, which had not been good for some time.

He was appointed by the Victorian Church to attend as deputy the General Assembly of the Churches of Scotland and as a member of the General Council in the Presbyterian Church which met in Belfast, Ireland, in July of the same year.

On Mr. Macmillan's return, he was the recipient of an address and public welcome. In the last years of his long ministry his health somewhat failed, and during the summer months of the last two years he engaged, as assistant, Mr. George Wood. He passed away after a short illness on Friday, February 9th, 1904. His death closed the long and honoured career of one of Victoria's pioneer ministers.

Editor: I was very interested in this story as my great grandparents would have attended the Stanley Church in the 1960's.

## Burns The Golfer

My curse upon that feather ba'  
I canna hit the thing ava,  
At least it's niver far awa  
Frae faur I stan,  
The cursed thing I'd farrer blaw,  
or throw by han'

I swing, I pech, I groan, I grunt,  
Wi a my micht I giet a dunt.  
It's maistly grun that bears the brunt  
O' a my wark  
Till reeking het an sair I want  
a clean washed sark.

I canna drive, I canna putt,  
My mashie shots jist a gang futt,  
My drive's I top my irons cut  
ower a' the place.  
I'd gie the world to clear this rut  
Tae save my face.

The breem an whins are in the wye,  
My ba is there—an unca liel  
The mair I yark an howk an try it tichter sits,  
Til fowk maun think when passing by  
I'm hae'n fits.

Some chiel worked a deevlish plan  
He's howket holes where ere he can  
An made a mess o' bonnie lan  
tae catch my ba  
On's lug I'd like to lay a han'  
Or's skull to claw.

The bonnie burn that wimples clear  
That stream that once to me was dear  
Has noo an aspect dark and drear.  
It's become a bane,  
It's noo alas to me I fear  
A bloody drain!

The divots flee as I let fung  
I'll need a bridle to my tongue  
Nae praises O' this game I've sung  
Thoughts far ower deep  
By day, an e'en by night are stung  
through troubled sleep.

O warlocks, Witches an their clan  
Yon Colonel Bogey beats the ban'  
The mair I try, the mair I plan  
The warse I get  
He aye maun haud the maister han'  
He's nae that blate.

O' thou the hell o' a' the pests  
The hardest, sairest O' the tests,  
The grimmet yet O' human jests  
At leisure's games  
I'll leave ye noo tae ither Quests  
An stick t' dames.

by Harry Robertson Snr.  
of Aberdeen

Our thanks to member Harry Robertson for this poem by his Father.

## HISTORY OF THE MACMILLAN CLAN Part 3

As I stated in Part 2, the most likely spot to find such facts is among the early records of the Church and, as tradition points out 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.

The Book of Deer is mainly a record kept of grants of land and of offerings made to the Celtic Church by the ancient mormaers of Moray. It was written and compiled by members of the Celtic clergy over a period of one hundred and fifty years from 1000-1150.

This precious book contains the Gospel of St. John in Latin, with a few pages and fly-leaves written in Scottish Gaelic, those being the oldest specimens of their kind extant. It also looks as if those Gaelic entries are simply translations of earlier Latin versions, and this is most noticeable in the structure of certain names inscribed, such as BRECINI (Of Brechin), MALEDOMNI, the Latinized form of the Gaelic name Maoldomhnuich, which has its English equivalent in Ludovich, and mac Molini (the Gaelic being obviously Maolin, hence its English form in MILLAN.)

Now, we will examine the first reference as it appears in entry III., where the name of Gillchrist, son of Cormac is mentioned.

Somerled MacMillan the author of this book is fully convinced that the question refers to the progenitor of the MacMillans. The following is a translation of the original entry:-

"Gartnait, son of Kenneth and Eive (Eite), daughter of Gillemichael, gave the Stead of Cymro's (the Welshman's) son to be consecrated to the Church of Christ and Peter the Apostle and to St. Columba and St. Drostan, free from all charges, with their gift to Cormac, bishop of Dunkeld, in the eighth year of King David's (1) reign (about 1132). These being the witnesses: (testibus istis). Nectan, bishop of Aberdeen (The See was founded in about 1125), and Leot, abbot of Brechin (Brecini) and Ludovick (Maledomni), son of MacBeth, and Algwin, son of Arcill and Rory, mormaer of Marr, and Matadin judge, and GILLCHRIST, SON OF CORMAC, and Malpeter, son of Donald, and Domongart, lector of Turriff, and Malcolm, son of Murdoch, and Dooney, son of Malcolm".

It could be argued that the above reference could easily refer to several of the same name in the Celtic Church, no one can readily deny that Malcolm Mac Millan, mentioned in entry V., was the first person to bear that distinctive surname and that he was the first-born of the TONSURED SERVANT.

TO BE CONTINUED.

## ANGUS MCMILLAN

### Pathfinder (Continued)

Dr. Arbuckle had a similiar streak of independence like McMillan. It was a common trait amongst many of his countrymen who had migrated to Australia. On his return to practice he rode long distances to reach his patients, and his reputation in Gippsland as a friend and physician was high. He had independent means, and as a bachelor he had no domestic responsibilities. He possessed, in common with Surgeon George Bass, a scientific curiosity which led him to seek out the unusual. As a citizen he was interested in the problems of the Aborigines and the difficulties facing the early settlers, particularly those arising from isolation. Despite his apparent indifference to wealth his pastoral ventures were successful. He was the first licence holder of the station known as Mewburn Park and later managed the holding at Bairnsdale selected by McMillan's kinsman, John McLeod.

On a visit to Tarraville with cattle, McMillan discussed his financial problems with Arbuckle where he practiced medicine. The genial doctor finding that work was plentiful, although many of his patients could not afford to pay. This did not greatly concern the doctor whose wants were few and made money out of his pastoral interests.

He offered to lend Angus sufficient money to purchase stock, and to pay for labour. McMillan refused. Arbuckle persisted and assuring Angus that it was a legitimate business proposition for which he would accept McMillan's note as security. The two of them discussed business late into the night and Angus finally accepted his offer.

Angus returned to Bushy Park with a feeling of deep gratitude to his friend. As he road through the bush, his mind was turning over schemes for acquiring stock and carrying out improvements at Bushy Park. As well as offering financial assistance Arbuckle had promised to look out for likely labour at Port Albert and Tarraville.

Shortage of labour, especially for agricultural work, was one of the greatest handicaps of pastoral advancement. Melbourne papers were full of advertisements for shepherds. Even when recruited, the men were often inexperienced, inefficient or untrustworthy. They would leave on the slightest pretext; nearly all were victims of drink. At Port Albert some of the notorious beach dwellers, who lived in squalor at the Old Port, had set up illegal activities and harboured convicts. Robberies and crimes of violence were blamed on this element, which had extended along the Tarra River in abandoned huts to Tarraville.

TO BE CONTINUED