



# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 31, MARCH 1994

## MACMILLAN

CREST BADGE : *A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-handed sword, proper.*  
MOTTO : *Misere succurrere disco*  
(*I learn to succour the distressed*)  
GAELIC NAME : *MacGhille-Mhaolain.*

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## Message from the President.

By now you will have received the Macmillan Clan Centre Newsletter No.1. I found it very interesting and certainly intend to support the work of the Centre. It is a great achievement for the Centre to have been established and for there to be a point of reference for all those who belong to the Clan. The newsletter seeks for people to become "Friends of the Clan Centre" and like all such ventures, the success of the centre relies upon the active participation of support of "friends". So I encourage you all to fill in the form that accompanied the Newsletter and please contact me or June Senior if you need another form. Also you may have noted the request for information, items and ideas for the Clan Centre Newsletter and the Clan Magazine. A similar request also comes to you from the Editor of our newsletter, June Senior, who would welcome ideas and comments at any time.

There is an interesting request from the Clan Centre for copies of pages from Telephone Directories. If you do make such copies, we would appreciate if you would also send a copy to June Senior. The Committee has already sent letters of invitation, on a number of occasions, to people using the telephone book and has had some limited interest in response. As with the Clan Centre, the viability of the Clan Macmillan Society of Australia is dependent on the involvement of members either through their subscriptions, their articles and ideas for the newsletter and their involvement in the Committee and the occasional events.

When I mention the Clan Macmillan Society and my membership to some of my friends, they seem bemused as to why I should be involved.. Their views extend from total amazement to wary curiosity. And yet when we discuss the origins of their own families, they are usually interested. Perhaps it is the formality of actually belonging to a Clan Society that is less usual.

I wonder why it is that so many people are interested in their past, in the genealogy of their families and in the places from where their family have originated. Is it a matter of one's age? Are such interests and fascinations with the past a matter for those whose own pasts are actually longer? Is it a feature of finding an identity, more easily defined from the past than from the present? I'm not sure. Is the strong identification with the clan (family grouping) a characteristics especially present in those of Scots origin? I wonder if the sound of the bagpipes has the same affect on those of non-Scot's background.

Cont'd....

A couple of years ago I went to a concert of a Glasgow group called "Battlefield Band" and one of the most moving songs was called "The Green and the Blue" (by band member Alan Reid). Although the song tells of people leaving Ireland (green) and going to Scotland (blue), Alan Reid described it as a song for all people who have moved from one country to another and, at a very human level, it tells of the sadness of leaving one's home - even with good cause - and starting a new life elsewhere. Perhaps the words of this song give some insight into the desire to look back and rekindle the past.

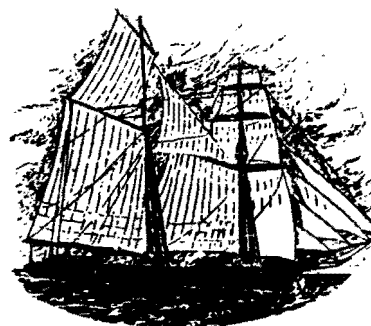
## THE GREEN AND THE BLUE

**Chorus: ...** Don't turn to look on the green hills of Antrim  
 Fermanagh's behind you, it's time to move on.  
 Look onwards to Glasgow and all your tomorrows;  
 The future lies there, and it's waiting for you,  
 As the green crosses over to meet with the blue.

And what was the sense when the wee ones were crying,  
 The cries of the hungry no sense to remain,  
 No prayer could recover a sister or brother,  
 So farewell to Fermanagh, the praying is done.

**Chorus: ..**


The land that you leave has too many martyrs,  
 And too many lives that have perished in vain,  
 And too many boats slipping out from its harbours,  
 With cargoes that never came homewards again.



**Chorus: ...**

If the wings of the eagle could carry you over  
 To the land of the prairie, then surely you'd fly,  
 But an ocean so wide, and a far distant country,  
 So far from your own land is no place to die.


**Chorus: ...**



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## RINGWOOD HIGHLAND GAMES



We will again be attending the Ringwood Highland Games on Sunday 27th March 1994. See details on Poster.

We will be at the MacMillan tent and hope many of you will come along and say hello. It is always a most enjoyable day and plenty of entertainment for all the family.

### SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

A big thank you to all who have sent me their \$10.00 subscription for 1993/94. It would be appreciated if outstanding subscriptions could be sent to me at:  
41 Lincoln Ave.,  
Glen Waverley Vic 3150

June Senior  
Treasurer.

### CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to all the Clans who have sent us their Newsletters.

### SPECIAL THOUGHTS

A special greeting to those members who are not well. We trust you will soon be feeling much better.

# 28th ANNUAL RINGWOOD HIGHLAND CARNIVAL

THE LARGEST SCOTTISH GATHERING OUTSIDE SCOTLAND

11th Annual Gathering of Clans and Societies

Aust. Community Health Highland Dancing Championships

Victoria Highland Pipe Band Championships

Country

Vic. Archery & Bowchord Championships

Victorian Scottish Games Championships

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

SUNDAY 27th MARCH 1994

LARGEST DISPLAY OF ENTERTAINMENT EVER ASSEMBLED IN RINGWOOD

ADULTS \$6.50 - CHILDREN & PENSIONERS \$3.00 - FAMILY (2 Adults & 3 Children) \$12.00

LARGE VARIETY OF STALLS ● ● ● REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

**JUBILEE PARK - RINGWOOD**

GATES OPEN 8.00 a.m.

SPONSORED BY RINGWOOD CITY COUNCIL

ENQUIRIES: ROBIN GARDINI, 876 4518

### NEW MEMBER

We welcome Mr & Mrs Joseph Bell of Whittington. We hope you will enjoy our kinship and Newsletters.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you to members for writing when sending their subscriptions. It is always great to hear from you. Do let me have any story or article of interest members would enjoy reading for inclusion in the Newsletter.

On page 5 you will read our Clan Chief's annual Advent letter.  
Below is the photograph and poem with greetings to all from  
George and Jane which accompanied the letter.  
The waterfall pictured is on the estate at Finlaystone.



Element Protean, Fickle,  
Now a pool beneath a tree,  
Now a little tinkling trickle,  
Now a torrent roaring free!  
Busily we curb and cramp you,  
Wall you round on every side,  
Canalise you, pipe you, dam you  
In our technocratic pride.  
Mighty rivers, mild, complying,  
Brook the tyranny of men,  
Unobtrusively supplying  
Taps and generators; then  
Rise and ditch our engineering,  
With a force that bates our breath,  
Leaving us agasp, revering  
Water's power of life and death.  
  
'But,' you murmur, 'All this ought to  
Bear on Christmas.' And you're right.  
Bear in mind that, but for water,  
No one's Christmas could be white.

Finlaystone, Langbank,  
Renfrewshire Scotland.  
PA14 6TJ  
Tel. 0475 540285

with best wishes  
for Christmas  
and the New Year

from

*George*  
and *Jane*

*News within*

Advent 1993

Most of us recognise the importance of the sun in sustaining life. But 20th century western man may sometimes forget that he's just as dependent on water – until there's a hose-pipe ban or his car is washed down the street by a flash flood. Water has certainly exercised our minds here this year. It can be embarrassing when the tea-room tap dries up just as a crowd of potential tea-drinkers comes through the door. After much fruitless consultation and hole-digging, Robin grabbed a tractor-mounted pump and blew backwards up a pipe. That did the trick – but for how long?

Another teasing problem has been how to keep the water in a small garden pond near the folly. We twice tried thick-plastic; but we think herons put their beaks through it. We tried eight tons of ready-mix concrete, but in vain. We've now patched and painted the concrete with special paint. So far, so good.

Jane's biggest scoop of the year was to persuade a local contractor to dredge the dam where once there was a weed-infested swamp, we now have an acre of open water, much as there was when the dam was built for hydro power about 1920.

We have yet to finish the fountain that's designed to play in the centre of the walled garden (consult last year's card, if you have it). We have all the ingredients except time.

Graeme Mackenzie is now living in the top of the house. He's compiling a list of MacMillans world-wide, and has started to link them up by recording their family trees on a computer. Under his direction the Clan Centre has made strides, and interests not only clan-connected visitors but others too. We're grateful to all who make these projects possible.

All senior members of our families are where they were last Christmas. Robin, however, has retired from his electronics firm to take up furniture restoration. James (his son) is to marry Penny Salvesen in February. Meanwhile, Gordon (John's son) has achieved a Ph.D. for work done on the Amazon.

Arthur and Malcolm are still in the London area, when they're not in the air. Arthur's work has taken him to Dublin and the continent. Malcolm (when not promoting Kellogg's wares) sometimes gets a free air ticket from his friends. To our sorrow, Arthur and Karen have decided to separate. Let's hope that they can each build new and satisfying lives. We now have their marmalade cat Joshua. Or does he have us? He certainly controls our two ginger-biscuit labradors.

Aunty Bill is at present convalescing in Southern Down Nursing Home, Chipping Norton. Although she's ninety-four, she paid us two flying visits this year.

Along with Judy, we spend more and more of our time in the garden, and are glad to see more people enjoying it. Jane's other main preoccupation has been the conversion of the old servants' hall and adjacent rooms into a ground-floor flat.

This Christmas we're expecting Michael and Hilary and all their children and grandchildren. Let's hope the water supply holds up.

We hope that you too have something good in store for this Christmas and the coming year.

## MACMILLAN CLAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 1993

I trust all members have received a copy of the above Newsletter compiled by Graeme M. MacKenzie.  
If any members are travelling overseas and have an opportunity to attend the gatherings on the Isle of Arran, August 6/7th, and Glen Urquhart, 13/14th, it would be quite an exciting experience.  
It would be great to have a representative from our Society attend.

### CELTFEIS 1994

Australia's biggest Celtic Festival is in Geelong March 24 - 26. 3 days and 3 nights of Celtic revelry and family fun. It's all in Geelong, within a 3 minute walk from Geelong Railway Station and lot's of it, is free.

The Geelong Performing Arts Centre and the Celtfeis(pronounced Keltfesh) Committee presents Celtfeis '94.

Anyone interested in the programme may ring me as I have a copy. On Saturday 26th there is a morning procession from 10.30-11.00a.m. Pipe Bands, animals of the Celtic nations, children and Clans in national costume proceed from Lt. Ryrie St/Moorabool St. corner, north along Moorabool, west into Lt Malop, finishing at the Celtic Fare & Market in Johnstone Park, Lt. Malop Street. The Celtic Fare & Market is from 11.00 a.m.-5.30p.m.. This is a free family-day's entertainment including Clan Exhibitions, food, drinks, wares, children's games, pipers, music, dancing, competitions, bards, poets, sports demonstrations and animals of the Celtic nations.

This is only a small list of activities. Max & I hope to be in attendance so come along to the Clan tent and say hello if you are able to attend.

### GLEN URQUHART MACMILLAN SOCIETY

Russell Harrison the GUMS Australian representative forwarded me the following information. Unfortunately it was received too late for our November '93 Newsletter so I am including it now.

#### EXTRACT OF GUMS MINUTES 1993

There is to be a Clan Gathering August 12 to 14, 1994. A program is being drawn up by a sub-committee.

There were 21 people present at the Annual Meeting, including three Canadians. The main Office Bearers and Committee Members elected were :-

Chairman	Willie Donald McMillan
Secretary	Hazel Murie
Treasurer	Toni Moffat
Archives	Cathy McMillan
Auditor	Ann McFarlane

#### Reports

The treasurer reported that the Society is "in funds" and there is sufficient money to pay a capitation fee towards the upkeep of Finlaystone if that is agreed to by members.

Graeme Mackenzie is now based at Finlaystone and progressing the various McMillan Society records.

GUMS is concerned that some of the Overseas Correspondents are not keeping in touch with the members in their country. In some countries Members are not receiving Newsletters, and other information. Efforts are being made to educate and encourage the Correspondent to be more diligent.

Annual Fees remain at 5 Pounds/person, 8 Pounds/family. The membership year ends on the March 31 each year.

## VALE MCMILLAN

We were saddened to learn of the death on 7th. March 1994 of John McMillan of West Brunswick. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Pat and to his family.

### GENEALOGY

Members who subscribe to "The Scots Link" would have been interested to read in the November 1993 issue on page 34 "MacMillan Ancestry on Line - Project MAOL". Our Secretary Steven McMillan supplied the article telling about the project which appeared in our March 1993 Newsletter.

As a result of Steven's article in The Scots Link we recently received a letter from Mrs Jenny Williams of Sarsfield, Victoria. Jenny writes:

"I have currently started researching the family tree of McMillan on my Husband's Mother's side.

His great great grandfather came to N.S.W. in 1837 aboard the 'Midlothian' with his wife and 2 sons. In 1840 his brothers and sisters arrived aboard the 'Henry Porcher'.

His father was Duncan McMillan who was married to Catherine McKenzie.

His children were:- Mary born 1802, Angus born 1803, \*Donald born 1804, married 1832 to Janet McDonald, Flora born 1811, John born 1814, Catherine born 1820.

Donalds children were:- Duncan born 1833, \*Alexander born 1834, Christina, Ronald born 1842, Catherine born 1844, Flora born 1847, Mary born 1849, and 3 males names unknown.

Alexander whom my Husband is descended from married Lydia Baker in 1862, They had 19 children.

I would be very interested to hear about your project and whether I can help in any way and whether you might be able to help me. Possibly somebody else is researching this line and may have already contacted you."

Thank you for your letter Jenny. Hopefully there is some-one who may be able to help Jenny. If so I can let you have her address.

June Senior Editor.

### HISTORY OF THE MACMILLAN CLAN PART 4

The late Rev. Thomas MacLauchlan L.L.D.F.S.A.S. in his essay on "Gaelic Literature Language and Music", gives a scholarly outline of the Book of Deer and its contents particularly the names of certain persons which occur in different grants. It is necessary to quote the particular where the name of Malcolm MacMillan is mentioned. Here are his own words:-

The next set of grants entered on the margin of this remarkable record are as follows:- Donchad McMeic Bead mec Hidid (probably the same with

Edna and therefore Aoidh) gave Acchad Madchor to Christ and to Drostan and to Coluimicille: Malechi and Comgell and Gillecriosd McFingon and MALCOLUM McMOLINI.....The names here are different from those in the former entry with a few exceptions.They are Duncan,son of MacBeth, son of Hugh or Ay, Malechi Comgall, Gilchrist McKinnon and Malcolm McMillan.....For further information see John S. Keltie s 'History of the Scottish Highlands Vol. 2)

It is interesting to note the Christian name of the first MacKinnon record Fingon was the brother of Gilchrist,son of Cormac,and for that reason he named one of his sons after the uncle, Malcolm MacMillan undoubtedly answers the name of the second chief in our early genealogy and so both entries doubly confirm that the MacMillans rank among our oldest Highland Clans

The prominence of Peter in entry III indicates a strong Roman Catholic influence Their infiltration was slower at work in the North, but with the creation of the a few bishoprics the Celtic Church was gradually being eclipsed by this new powerful order.

Now, it was the decided policy of David I. to remove the Celtic Church, and he had, at least two reasons for attaining that end.

In the next part of this story we will have a brief history lesson. We will deal with this sinister move which resulted in the removal of the Celtic Church, the Moray risings, and the evacuation of the principal families involved in the struggle against the Scottish Crown.

TO BE CONTINUED