



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 33, NOVEMBER 1994

MACMILLAN

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the last few months, we have had our own Annual General Meeting and the Clan Macmillan Conclave of Elders took place at Fin laystone in Scotland.

Our Annual General Meeting, held again at the home of June McMillan, was a very pleasant afternoon for those of us who were able to be there. Our usual procedure is to bring our own chairs and our picnics and enjoy sitting outside in June's garden. However, this year it was very hot and so June invited us all inside to escape the sun. During the meeting the office bearers were elected, reports were given by office bearers for the last 12 months and we discussed the issues of increasing membership, attendance at various 'Highland' functions, the image and community attitudes towards clan societies, and the Conclave of Elders at Fin laystone. We expressed appreciation to our office bearers and in particular to June Senior who produces and edits the Newsletters which is a very time consuming role.

Prior to the Conclave of Elders, the Society was invited to submit views on a range of issues that were being raised at the Conclave. The timeline did not allow for us to consult with members and so we submitted a document which commented on each of the areas being discussed. We provided information on our membership and our subscriptions, outlined how our funds are allocated and discussed our Newsletter.

We were fortunate that Russell Harrison who is a member of the Clan Macmillan Society of Australia and the Clan Urquhart Society Australia present at the Conclave. Russell was able to provide an Australian perspective and has, through his membership of the Committee of Management of the Clan Centre, ensured that Australian views can continue to be presented in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. We congratulate Russell on his membership and look forward to working with him in relation to the Clan Centre and any other areas where we can work together.

We submitted the following list of future plans (noting that we must take account of our available resources - human and financial):

- to develop a plan to enable the Society to continue to exist and to strengthen;
- to promote the Society and thus attract and retain new members;
- to provide support to the volunteer committee members;
- to encourage more young people to join the Society;
- to promote the Clan Centre (Findlaystone) and Project MAOL;
- to continue to provide the newsletter;
- to attend various Highland Games and Scottish Society functions.

There has been some discussion as to the structure of the Clan Society in Australia and the fact that although we are an Australian Society, the majority of our members come from Victoria. It should be noted that there are members from other states and in fact, Frank and Pauline McMillan from South Australia always plan a trip to Melbourne to coincide with the AGM. However, we are aware that the Society commenced in Victoria and has continued to attract Victorian members through existing members and their contacts. There is certainly no intention by the Society to limit the potential of the Society to become more broadly representative of Macmillans throughout Australia. But we are of the view, that to propose a model that would be based on a federal structure (as is the case in North America) would not seem to be practicable given the volunteer nature of the Society's Committee, the limited resources and the level of interest to date in other states. The Committee is obviously interested in expanding the membership and would welcome the federal structure if that were possible and if that would increase membership and involvement. We indicated to the Conclave of Elders that we would welcome good ideas from elsewhere and would readily share our experiences and ideas with others.

Issues of membership continue to challenge the Committee and at the AGM it was agreed that we should focus on increasing the membership. While this is a an obvious objective, the solution is not so obvious. We are aware that people are interested in genealogical information and connections, in some association with the past and some kinship within the clan. There have been a number of approaches to people to join, with varying degrees of success.

The profile of the Clan Society is limited by the volunteer nature of the Society and the geographic spread of members. The AGM has been an opportunity for the core of the membership to meet and discuss some issues and the Newsletter provides another avenue for communication. However, the activity expectation of most members would seem to be limited and their preparedness to become active and involved members seems limited. It is within this reality context that the Society must operate.

The motivation for belonging must be considered. We must identify the reasons why people would choose or not choose to belong. This will assist us in planning our approaches in seeking new members. If anyone has any ideas, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Following the Conclave, we received a letter from the Chief of the Clan, George Macmillan. he is preparing a formal statement reporting on the Conclave but provided us with an outline of matters which were raised and discussed. One area of interest was the issue of the control and financing of the Clan Centre. It was agreed that the primary basis of the funding of the Clan Centre should be by way of subscriptions from "Friends of the Clan Centre". For the Clan Centre to operate to its full potential, it is hoped that many "friends" will be recruited. The aim is to fund two days a week of Graeme Mackenzie's time to work on Project Maol and other Clan Centre activities. A Committee of Management has been established to oversee the work of the Clan Centre: Alexander Macmillan (retired CEO of the Clydesdale Bank), Nigel Macmillan (retired safety officer from the oil rigs and ex-Chairman of the local branch), John B Macmillan (Editor of the North American Newsletter for many years) and Russell Harrison from Australia as the fourth member. Membership of the Committee will work on a three year cycle to ensure that there is continuity and overlap of experience and knowledge.

We hope that 1995 will be the year of "extended membership" and we look forward to hearing from you with any ideas. On behalf of the Committee, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that 1995 will be a successful and healthy year for you.

SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

Our subscription of \$10.00 for 1994/1995 is now due. It would be appreciated if this amount could be sent to Treasurer June Senior at 41 Lincoln Ave., Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150 as soon as possible. A big thank you to members who have already paid. Your receipt will be included with your newsletter.

TOURISM AWARD FOR 1994

Our congratulations to John and Kaye McMillan of Metung who have won the 1994 Victorian Tourism Award for Motoring Accommodation. John and Kaye have won this award for many years and we congratulate them on this fine achievement.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Kay Morris who has joined our Clan. Kay lives in Sydney but has been working for some months in Melbourne. We hope you enjoyed your time in Melbourne Kay, and sincerely trust you will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you for the letters I have received since our last newsletter. It is always a pleasure to read your letters when you send your subscription. Family history articles are of great interest and I am able to print these in the newsletter.

GENEALOGY MICROFICHE HIRE

Alice McMillan of Vermont South has given me the following article from their local newsletter:

Genealogists rejoice! You can now do your research in the comfort of your home, thanks to a new service to be provided from the Nunawading Library.

Sets of Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages microfiche can now be hired from the Nunawading Library.

A set of fiche and a microfiche reader can be hired for the following times and at the following rates:

2 pm Monday to 2 pm Wednesday \$20.00

2 pm Wednesday to 2 pm Friday \$20.00

2 pm Friday to 2 pm Monday (weekend) \$28.00

\$5.00 per hour or part thereof will be charged for late returns to that it is important to return the items by 2 pm on the due date.

Please note that you must have your library card with you to borrow these items and that they may be collected from and returned to the Nunawading Library only.

Libraries in other areas may also be offering this service. If you are interested it may be worth making enquiries at your Library.

BROADFORD SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

Max and I attended the Broadford Scottish Festival on the 22nd October. The weather was fine and sunny and a perfect day to enjoy the activities. Our thanks to Bob and Patsy McLennan for sharing their tent with us. Members Harry and Myrna Robertson were among the country Scottish dancers who attended and entertained us.

MCMILLAN FAMILY HISTORY

Valmae & Lex McMillan of Nandaly have sent me the following information on Lex's family.
Lex is son of last Duncan underlined.

Charles McMillan married Elizabeth McKechnie in Scotland.
Charles, son of Charles and Elizabeth, was born in Argyllshire Scotland 23. 5.1832.

Charles (for letter to Charles in 1863 refer Clan Newsletter July 1994--page 4.) migrated to Australia in the 1850's as a miner on the Ballarat goldfields.

He later married Jane Russell, daughter of John Russell and Jane Wotherspoon. Jane was born in Glasgow 22. 8.1840.

Charles and Jane married in Ballarat on 10. 4.1856, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Free Church, the officiating minister being James Baird. The union of Charles and Jane was blessed with eleven children, seven girls and four boys, their names, year and date of birth are as follows:

Elizabeth:	2. 1.1857	at Buninyong,	died at Sea Lake	30. 7.1938.
Jane:	15.11.1860	at Carngham,	died in W.A.	24. 9.1900.
Margaret:	29.11.1862	at Carngham.		
Charles:	18.10.1864	at Raglan,	died at Rainbow	11. 8.1940.
John:	28. 7.1867	at Stockyard Hill,	died Rainbow	25. 7.1954.
<u>Duncan Archibald:</u>				
	22. 6.1870	at Stockyard Hill,	died Rainbow	27. 9.1948.
Isabella:	5. 1.1873	at Stockyard Hill,	died	6.11.1936.
Agnes:	14. 1.1876	at Horsham,	died at Stawell	13. 9.1968.
Janet:	23. 5.1879	at Rupanyup,	died at Dandenong	16. 1.1972.
Arthur Thomas:				
	24. 7. 1883	at Lubeck,	died at Murtoa	4. 2.1965.
Florence Maud:				
	2 29.12.1886	at Lubeck,	died at Murtoa	5. 5.1972.

Elizabeth:(Aunt Bess) married David Whitecross, their children:
Charles,Mary(Millie),Jane(Jean),David(Lindsay)Archibald.

Jane:(Aunt Jinnie) married Thomas Steedman, their children:
Bessie, Ada, Daisy and Tom.

Margaret:(Aunt Mag) married John(Jack)Edwards,their daughter, Ila.

Charles :married Annie Edson, their daughter was Margaret(Mag).

John :married Alice Douglas,children Kenneth, Jane and Alice.

Duncan :married Blanch Smith, their children: Nellie, Charles,
Duncan, Blanch, Norman, Florence, Elsie and Alan.

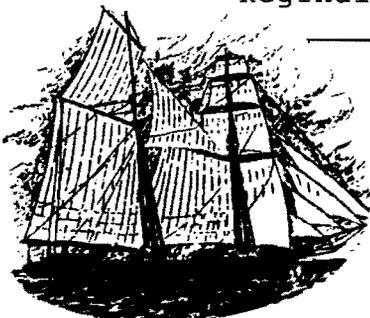
Isabella:(Aunt Bell)married John(Jack)Williams, their children:
Charles and Florence.

Agnes :(Aunt Agg) married Paul Aumann, no issue.

Janet :(Aunt Jen) married Dominic(Dom) Pianta,their daughter Gladys.

Arthur Thomas:(Tom) remained a bachelor.

Florence:(Aunt Floss) married Oliver Pianta, their children:
Reginald(Dink), Oliver(Mick) and Roy.



HISTORY OF THE MACMILLAN CLAN

PART 6

The rich province of Moray, which formerly extended from the Spey to the water-shed between it and Argyll, did not actually become an integral part of the kingdom of the sons of Margaret until after the battle of Strathcathro in 1130, when Angus, the last semi-independent mormaer of Moray, was slain with close on four thousand of his men. Soon thereafter it was forfeited to the Crown, and portions of its rich lands were divided among King David's favourites, who were chiefly nobleman of foreign descent. That led to the erection of a line of fortified castles with feudal baronies attached. Those strongholds were built on strategic positions over a wide area which extended from the river Farrar to the Spey. Bissets, Freskins, DeFentons, Grants, Comyns and De Grahams, not to mention others, were called in to take possession of this territory and soon the tribal system was displaced by the feudal. (Remember learning about the Feudal system at school).

Several of the larger centres of population in that part of the country were made into boroughs and sometimes later they were raised to the status of royal boroughs by William the Lyon, thus enjoying many privileges. Merchants and tradesmen came from foreign parts and settled in these towns. Foreign knights with their men-at-arms were employed to crush any attempted rising and were rewarded with

extensive tracts of land in return for their services against the principal families of Moray. With such a cosmopolitan population it was as familiar to hear French, Flemish and Saxon as the native Gaelic in any of these northern towns.

To be Continued.

MCMILLAN FAMILY HISTORY

In the July 1994 newsletter (page 3) I printed information from Ronald McMillan re his Family history. Since then I have had a letter from Mrs. Ernesta Wright of Dimboola who shares great-grandparents with Ronald. Ernesta (known as Erna) was one of nine children, six of whom survived. Her sister, Sister Felix of Geelong is a Clan member. Her only brother John of West Brunswick died on the 7th. March 1994. John's sons, Paul Gerald and John Bernard are members.

Also our secretary Steven McMillan thinks there is a connection with his family.

It is a great feeling to think that these links are made through information you send in to the newsletter.

Mrs. Clem Lyons wrote to tell me that she is researching her McMillan family. Her great-grandparents, Anthony, 31 years and his wife Catherine, 33 years, came to Australia on the Northern Light arriving on the 8th. April 1855. Her grandfather John was 8 years old. An infant daughter Grace died on the journey which would have been heartbreaking for all concerned. Clem's grandfather John, who died on the 16th. October 1926 was one of the oldest, if not the oldest Trade Unionists in Ballarat. He started work at the Ballarat Courier paper in 1868. Thanks Clem for sharing your family with us.



**MCMILLAN
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COMING EVENTS

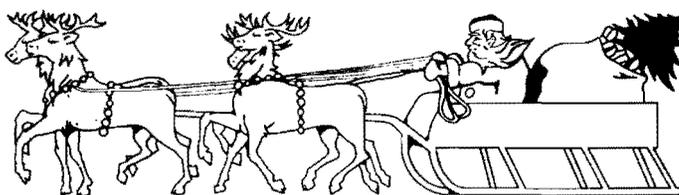
Daylesford Highland Gathering, Victoria Park, Daylesford

on Saturday December 3, 1994

Ringwood Highland Games, Jubilee Park, Ringwood will be held on

Sunday March 26, 1995. Full details in the March Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL



McMillan's explorations were a series of colorful adventures

I don't know if there is a life after death.

If there is, obviously I cannot know what it will be like, or where I will be.

If there is, and I go up instead of down, which will depend on a certain degree of mercy, I'm afraid, there are a few people I'd like to meet.

There are questions which can only be answered by the people who made our history and not by the people like me who merely pick it over and rummage around in it like jackals.

One of the people I want to meet is Angus McMillan.

I want to ask him why he had so little sense of history that he let Sirzelecki and others take so much of the credit for discovering Gippsland.

Perhaps he was just too nice a bloke to take the credit for himself.

One thing which comes through all my reading on him is that he was just that, a nice bloke.

He was tenacious, loyal, honest, kind, hospitable, generous, courageous, and despite the slurs now being promoted, a protector of Gippsland's aborigines.

Angus was born on the Isle of Skye in 1810. His father was a farmer but apparently well off.

In 1837 McMillan sailed from Greenock in the migrant ship Minerva and arrived in Sydney on January



GIPPSLAND HISTORY

BY JOHN WELLS

23, 1838 after four months and 10 days at sea.

The passage cost him 55 pounds.

He had a letter of introduction to Lachlan Macalister, another Skye man who now had a run near Camden.

Macalister employed the young Scot and soon appointed him manager of a run on the Monaro.

A long drought in 1838-39, his first summer in Australia, began McMillan's career as an explorer.

He went in search of pastures in the hill country toward what later became the Victorian border.

During these short excursions he tried to befriend the aborigines and it was from them that he heard of good grazing land further out.

On May 28, 1839 he set out toward the valley of the Snowy River, taking with him only Jemmy Gibber, an aborigine.

Six days later he was near Buchan and had a fine view from what we now call The Haystack of the coastal plains around the Gippsland Lakes.

That night Jemmy tried

to murder him, apparently because he was so afraid of the wild blacks in the area that he wanted simply to head home.

McMillan disarmed him, but the trip was over.

Obviously he could not travel far in the bush with his one companion trying to kill him.

It took four more days to reach the Omeo-Monaro track.

They camped on the Limestone River and at about this time Jemmy deserted, turning up at McFarlane's station on June 7.

There were other squatters in the area at the time, all looking for land.

The names included Bayliss, Fender, Mitchell, Buckley and Ryan.

On June 13 McMillan left Omeo to report to Macalister and was 'home' within 48 hours.

Macalister was delighted with McMillan's report and plans were made for a base camp on the southern side of the ranges.

On September 16, 1839 they set out to drive a herd of cattle across the Snowy Mountains.

These mountains earned their name because a fierce snowstorm swept the whole area.

It took about three weeks to get to Omeo and the hardships the men endured would make a story in themselves.

The men had no tents, for instance, and it took them three days to drag their dray up the nine-mile climb onto the Freestone Ranges, in deep snow.

They rested at Omeo for 12 days and then went on down the Tambo for two days, to Tongio-Munjie, where Buckley had set up a station.

They crossed the Tambo at what is now Doctor's Flat and set up Numbia-Munjie for Macalister, about halfway between there and Ensay.

November and part of December were spent consolidating this base, which was intended to act as a springboard for further exploration.

On December 26, 1839 McMillan and his party set off for the south lands, leaving behind three men of the original party of seven.

They carried provisions for six weeks.

It is interesting to note that McMillan had been told there was a harbor at Corner Inlet.

Possibly this was from the charts of Matthew Flinders or George Bass but I don't know.

We tend to believe now that the discovery of Corner Inlet hung about the wrecking of the Clonmel in January 1841 on the Clonmel Bank, but this is not so.

The journey lasted another four days.

The dense scrub and steep, rocky valleys of the Tambo at this point slowed McMillan down and it was soon obvious that his supplies would not last the distance.

On December 29 one packhorse slipped and fell some distance down into a gully, staking himself several times in the process.

He was badly injured, and it was pointless to continue.

McMillan returned to Numbia-Munjie, in one hard day's walking.

He promptly sent to Omeo for two aboriginal guides to act as interpreters along the way.

He was going back, as soon as he could. There was work to be done, and Angus was a man who did whatever his employers were paying him to do, whatever the cost.

During the whole of this next expedition they were close to numbers of tribesmen.

On the third day McMillan, on horseback, was confronted by a large number of natives.

He waved his hands in

what he hoped was a friendly gesture, but they bolted into the scrub.

Later, through his interpreters, he found that the natives had at first thought he and his horse were one animal.

When he dismounted they decided that he must be the picaninny of the larger animal.

These were aborigines who had never, as far as we know, seen a white man before.

And this McMillan was the man who was later to be called a "founding, murdering forefather" in a savage travesty of historical interpretation.



ANGUS MCMILLAN-PATHFINDER (CONT'D)

Some whites had given the Aboriginals poisoned flour. Now they were less inclined to adopt such extreme measures for fear of punishment, but the division between them and the white was clear - cut. To the squatter, the Aborigine was a dirty, degraded race, useless for work, given to theft and completely devoid of any redeeming qualities. The Aboriginals, in their turn, regarded the white man as an intruder on the land through which they had wandered for generations, a despoiler of their sacred tribal areas. Fortunately today in 1994 both the groups have been moving towards a period of reconciliation towards each other. The Mabo decision has defined property values for the Aboriginals and has improved the life style of these people. I hope this movement of love will continue to flow towards them.

McMillan did not like the change which had taken place in the Aboriginal people. Contact with the white man had made them more cunning and some were known to have said to white men not to touch them or the Governor would have them hanged. Angus had discussed with Jimmy Gibber and his tribe his journey south and offered them sanctuary on the station he planned to establish. He still believed that, with friendly treatment, he could win their friend-ship, and that, with encouragement and training, the Aboriginals could be taught to perform useful work at Bushy Park

(To be Continued)