



# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 34, MARCH 1995

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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 the President

I am often asked by my friends why I am interested in the Clan Society. For me, it is a tangible expression of my linkage to the past. The issue is not one of seeking fame or fortune in times gone by, but rather recognising that at least in recent history there are linkages that can be revisited either through reading and research or perhaps through visits and discussions with people who may have expert knowledge and understanding of the history of the Clan.

I was recently meeting with a person who is providing a range of community based education programs for an inner Melbourne community. He stressed the importance of meeting the varied needs of the recently arrived migrants and the need for empathy ... "After all we were all migrants once!" I commented to him that my family had come from an island many years ago and when he pursued my comment further, we discovered that his family had also come from that same island in the Hebrides, on the same ship, on the same voyage!

A recent article in the Melbourne Herald Sun (17 February 1995) about the Battle of Culloden referred to the fact that even though this Battle took place nearly 250 years ago, the passions it evokes are still strong. The writer mentions "the sadness which hangs in the air" and then goes on to discuss the evocative sense of history and the many places of interest in the Highlands of Scotland. I have often heard people speak of cultural memory and I was interested when a very sceptical friend of mine told me of her recent trip to Scotland. She was travelling through the Highlands in a bus and woke in fright, as if from a violent nightmare. She discovered that they were passing by Culloden and she was shivering, as if with fear. She said she could feel the sadness and the violence in the air and it was unlike any previous experience.

Last year at the Ringwood Highland Games, many people were interested in June and Max Senior's display of Macmillan memorabilia and information. However, although many people have connections to the Clan, we all know our membership is reasonably small. This year we are hoping to increase our membership, recognising the volunteer nature of the Society and our limited budget. One approach discussed at the AGM was to suggest to all members that they could invite a relative to join. We are intending to make some 'cold' selling approaches through telephone books, although we are aware that a previous campaign did not seem to result in many new memberships. We will be approaching companies with obvious association to the Clan, through their name. Please contact any committee member with ideas.

Best wishes for 1995.

**Elizabeth K McMillan**  
President

## 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 in the next Newsletter .

## NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to Mrs Jenny McMillan of Denison, Victoria; Mrs Erna Wright of Dimboola, Victoria; and Mrs. Barbara Rodda of North Balwyn, Victoria who have joined our Clan. We sincerely trust you will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you to all the members who have written to me when renewing your subscriptions. I appreciate hearing from you, especially when I can use items in the newsletter. This is your newsletter, so any ideas or suggestions on topics of interest you would like included certainly helps me.

## CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to the Clans who send us their Newsletters. These are of great interest and we are able to copy - with their permission- items that I am sure you enjoy reading.

## MACMILLAN CLAN PICNIC 1995

Please make a diary note NOW of 22nd. October 1995 when our A.G.M and picnic will be held. The venue will be announced in the July newsletter.

## CLAN CHIEF'S ANNUAL LETTER

On page 3 you will read our Clan Chief's Advent letter. Below is the poem and Christmas and New Year Greetings to all members from George and Jane.

### **Stella Maris.**

*Survey the skies for pointed stars:  
It's orbs you're like to see.  
The things that glow on Christmas cards  
Look submarine to me.*

*When Mary, robed in deep sea blue,  
Gave Heaven's son to earth,  
It must have been a star-fish drew  
The wizards to his birth.*

*And when the noon turned inky black  
And hope became despair,  
Amid the earthquake's shuddering crack,  
The Crown of Thorns was there.*

*We scar the earth, we foul the air;  
Yet still the ocean free  
Cradles our tender biosphere.  
How can we spoil the sea?*

Finlaystone, Langbank,  
Renfrewshire Scotland.  
PA14 6TJ

Tel. 01475 540285

with best wishes  
for Christmas  
and the New Year

from

*George  
and Jane*

News within

Advent 1994.

In all our thirty Christmas letters we have only once used a star. This time it's a star-fish (a true *Stella Maris*) given to Jane by a taverna-keeper on Santorini (perhaps better known as Thira), which we visited briefly while on a marvellous sailing holiday with old friends. Even in late September the Aegean sun was so hot that we had to go to great lengths to protect ourselves from its glare.

By the time the holiday arrived, we were ready for it: the year had been as much of a scramble as usual. The house again featured in a film - this time a rather up-market cops-&robbers affair. Had you blinked, you would have missed a shot of the pillars in the front hall, and the drawing-room (so heavily disguised that it could have been anywhere). The garden also featured in Scotland's premier gardening programme, with Judy and Jane as stars.

In May and July a whisky firm pitched a vast marquee on the lawn and entertained, first, its newly-acquired Spanish sales force, and later its best overseas customers, during their visit to the Golf Open.

August brought two big events. First, there was a gathering of senior clanspeople to discuss how best to finance and run our Clan Centre. We expanded the programme by attending the Brodick Games to honour the memory of Harold Macmillan (born 100 years ago). We took the chance to raise some money for Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund by joining a bicycle rally. For that purpose we took our replica of the first bicycle, created by Kirkpatrick Macmillan in 1839. An energetic Dutchman (married to a Macmillan) rode it over fifteen miles, losing and replacing the occasional nut en route. Even if no one else enjoyed the house party, we did: MacMillans make excellent do-it-yourself guests.

Hardly had the last clansman gone home, when Auntie Bill (aged 95) flew up for a week. We were a bit worried about the possible effects of an arduous journey. We needn't have been.

The next week-end, Malcolm and friends came to boat on Loch Lomond. Unfortunately, we saw little of them because our annual Celtic Craft Fair was on, and the house was full of participants. Now in its fifth year, the Fair draws buyers even on wet week-ends.

Malcolm remains in London. He's soon to be the Advertising Manager in D.H.L. Arthur has come to live here while doing a job for the Clyde Shipping Co. (the old family firm). It's good to have him back. Jane is pretty deeply involved in the recently created Inverclyde Hospital Trust, of which she is a Non-Executive Director.

As the back page shows, our family has further extended itself. On a sparkling day and night in February we all celebrated the wedding of James and Penny. Three babies made John, Judy and David grandparents. We were all proud to watch Harry rowing for Oxford.

With the help of many friends, we've at last got the fountain working, or playing, in the centre of the walled garden, so completing the project that began about five years ago. We think it looks quite nice. Come and see for yourself.

Meanwhile, Happy Christmas.

StopPress: Arthur is engaged to Barbara

# McMillan's discoveries are often overlooked

In last week's story I began a short series on Angus McMillan, a real hero in a quiet sort of way, and a man fashionable historians love to criticise now he isn't here to defend himself.

McMillan was to play a large part in the settlement of south-eastern Gippsland, particularly the area around the Gippsland Lakes.

Following the journeys discussed last week there was to be another brief journey in January of 1840 before he made his successful breakthrough to the coast at Port Albert.

Before I come to those journeys I want to make it clear that I am not claiming that he was the first white man to push into the ranges south from the Monaro.

Andrew Hutton came down the Snowy River valley (I think) and set up a camp at the Genoa River in 1838 or 1839.

McKillop had explored the hills south of the border.

James Macfarlane took up the Ormeo B run (Ormeo) in 1835 and John Pendergast took up another run at Ormeo in 1837.

I am well aware that the opening up of the country was not his to claim alone, but McMillan did more than any of these men.



## GIPPSLAND HISTORY

BY JOHN WELLS

He achieved a great personal triumph but it is typical of the man that he gave thanks to "Him who had guarded me and shielded me from many a danger" and that he wrote that the real hero of his journeys was James Lawrence, the bullocky who brought a team overland from Sydney and was with McMillan when he broke through to the Old Port at Port Albert.

McMillan marked a trail all the way from Numbia-Munjie to the inlet.

This marked a turning point in our history, for now Gippsland was to be settled, and one of the things which made that possible was the work of this shy, heroic explorer.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. The actual discovery of the port was still a few journeys away.

These first three journeys and all the work he had done in setting up an advanced base at Numbia-Munjie were just the start.

The fourth journey, still as an employee of Lachlan Macalister, lasted from January 11 to January 31, 1840.

A compass course southwest across the hills brought the party to an area one of the natives called Bruhen, which we now call Bruhen.

Two days out they had a glimpse of water between the hills, a glimpse of the Gippsland Lakes.

This helped his navigation and it gave McMillan's party great heart.

On the 14th they came back onto the Tambo and followed it downstream.

The 15th brought them to Swan Reach and "Lake Victoria".

This is now called Lake King and there is another Lake Victoria.

They bore along to the west, crossing and naming the Nicholson River and the Mitchell.

By the 20th they were on the shores of Lake Wellington and the next day they crossed the Avon and Macalister Rivers.

These crossings were far from easy but there was now great excitement because they knew the sea was not far beyond them.

There were more disappointments ahead, as there always were for poor Angus.

He followed the Macalister downstream, thinking it must flow into Comer Inlet.

Instead, it led him into the wild morasses south of today's Sale and into the junction of the Latrobe and Thomson Rivers.

He named the Latrobe as the Glengarry but the name was later changed.

The party could cross neither river.

Short of rations again, they headed sadly back to Numbia-Munjie.

They had left it so long to return that for the last three days they had no rations at all.

This fifth journey had brought McMillan very close to success, but now there was a period of consolidation.

There were other squatters moving into the Ormeo area, into the Tambo Valley and even down toward the lakes.

Macalister and his faithful overseer McMillan were apparently the only people seeking a southern outlet for their stock, though.

To walk animals across the Monaro to ship them from Eden was a difficult task and took much condition from the beasts.

Macalister knew what he was doing, but few, if any, shared his vision.

McMillan explored the areas around Numbia-Munjie and assured Macalister that there was land enough for all.

He marked out tracks and he set up a new run down near the lakes.

He was not a man who spent much time resting.

Like a good, God-fearing Scot he saw idleness as a sin.

Unfortunately, he was also creating a situation which would let others attack him later.

He informed Macalister of all that he saw and all that he did, because he was working for the man.

To McMillan, the bloke who paid the bills got the goods.

Neither McMillan nor Macalister ever publicised McMillan's work, and that is why people like Strzelecki could rename and claim credit for so much of McMillan's work.

Indeed, for a large part of Strzelecki's journey (the part where he was so hopelessly lost) he was following McMillan's blazed trail.

It is fashionable now to say that McMillan got more than his fair share of credit, and that he went about murdering aborigines, and that he was not a heroic figure at all, but the facts are there for everyone to see.

The runs are on the board.

Angus McMillan, as we will see was the man whose discoveries made it possible for the squatters to move into East and Central Gippsland.

This is the second of three articles about the explorer Angus McMillan by John Wells. They were published in a West Gippsland newspaper and kindly given to me by Mrs. Norma Morrison of the Morrison Clan Australia Inc. The first article appeared in our November '94 n'letter page 7.

## NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

I was delighted to receive Margaret Pool's newsletter recently. Margaret wrote of her visit to Scotland last year and I am sure you will be interested in her trip. She writes "The weekend of the 6th and 7th August was spent on the Isle of Arran. We were up early both mornings and travelled by car to catch the ferry. The journey took an hour. We were met each day by a coach and taken on a tour of the island. The island is 20 miles long and has 56 miles of coastline. We stopped at the village church in Lochranza where there is a plaque on the outside wall commemorating the family of the late British Prime Minister Sir Harold McMillan. This was the nearest church to the family farm. The Highland games at Brodick were most enjoyable and the weather was perfect. There were plenty of pipers, highland dancers, sports events including the traditional events of tossing the caber, as well as tossing a large stone over a bar. I can't remember what it was called but it was most impressive. Most of the men wore kilts. There was also a tug of war. The MacMillan teams fared well but were beaten by the locals. A good time was had by all. During the afternoon George led a parade of Clan members around the grounds".

(I will conclude Margaret's tour of Scotland next newsletter)

**DONATION TO CLAN CENTRE**

Our Clan Chief, George MacMillan replied by return mail to thank all Clan members for the Aust.\$211.64 we forwarded in November as our donation for 1993/1994.

George wrote: "Your letter has just arrived and also that very generous cheque for the Clan Centre. Quite apart from the material benefit, it's very nice to feel that the project has such good support behind it".

**MACMILLAN CLAN CENTRE NEWS**

In December 1994 I received my copy-No.3 -Autumn 1994 of the MacMillan Clan Centre Newsletter compiled by Graeme McKenzie. One of the articles detailed the Conclave of Clan Elders meeting at Finlaystone on 9th.August 1994. Russell Harrison from Sydney attended and kindly offered to represent our Society. We are greatly indebted to Russell.

Also included was a list world wide of Friends of the Clan Centre, donations to the Appeal, and donations to Project Maol.

The report on Project Maol was very interesting,detailing some of the work Graeme McKenzie has done. Already several links have been found between families Graeme is researching, and distant cousins are becoming known to each other.

**FOCUS ON FINLAYSTONE**

Finlaystone has lately been making regular appearances on television. Following last year's filming here of parts of two episodes of the new ITV "Dr Finlay" series, the drawing room was transformed this spring for use in the trial episode of a new BBC detective series. Later in the year the gardens came under the cameras' gaze in BBC Scotland's very popular series, "The Beechgrove Garden". The Clan Chief distinguished himself at the helm of his wheelbarrow, as Jane and his sister Judy showed viewers some of their most colourful exhibits.

Dear Friend,

20th November 1994.

Those of us who are keen on the Clan Centre (and Graeme's work there) very much appreciate the generous help given so far by all, and particularly by "Friends". When we set up the Friends scheme, we hadn't much experience on which to base our financial calculations. So we picked on £5 as a nice round figure for a year's subscription. We've found, though, that the cost of composing and mailing two newsletters a year leaves very little over for Graeme's other activities; mainly answering correspondence and meeting visitors. So I hope very much that if you were initially a one year Friend, you will feel able to subscribe again this year at the new rate. To do so, please cut-off, fill-in, and return the form on the reverse side of this message.

I also hope you enjoy the newsletter. Please give us your reactions (good or bad): literary, as well as financial contributions are always welcome.



*George*

**FRIEND'S RENEWAL FORM 1995 (Please cut-off and return to Clan Centre).**

NAME & ADDRESS:.....

FRIEND FOR 1995 (At £8.00; US\$13.00; CAN\$17.50; AUS\$17.00; NZ\$21.00):.....

FRIEND FOR 1995/96/97 (At £20.00; US\$32.00; CAN\$44.00; AUS\$42.00; NZ\$52.00):.....

Donation to Clan Centre Appeal Fund:.....

Donation to Project MAOL Fund:.....

Any others (Please specify):.....

TOTAL SENT (Cheques etc. made out to: *Friends of Clan MacMillan*):.....

Subscriptions to be sent to: Friends of the MacMillan Clan Centre,  
Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire, PA14 6TJ, SCOTLAND.

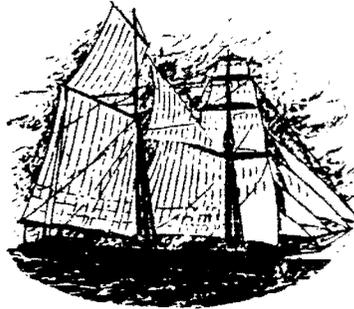
**ANGUS MCMILLAN - PATHFINDER (CONT'D)**

McMillan's thoughts were disturbed by a mob of kangaroos which bounded away through the bush at his approach, the old man sitting up at intervals to gaze on the unfamiliar figure of a man on a horse, while the females and young continued their flight.

He ruminated on the ups and downs of the Colony since his arrival. The drought had ended in 1843, and with it the mad speculation in land and stock which had caused values to skyrocket to ridiculous levels. Squatters who had borrowed heavily, on the expectation of high prices continuing, were faced with ruin when the crash came. Many were forced to sell at ruinous prices to meet their commitments. The optimistic confidence of the Colony vanished - no longer were men urged to invest all their savings in sheep which could be purchased for 6 pence and cattle 7/6. Bankrupt petitions mounted steeply and in towns unemployment was high. It seems that we are having similar conditions in the 1990s.

The dramatic changes in events had forced McMillan to consider abandoning his plan to settle on the land, but when he considered the success of the Macalisters and McFarlanes, and the conditions that they had to put up with, he felt assured that better times would again appear. Many blamed the depression on the actions of the Colonial Government in London, and the agitation for self government was led by William Wentworth.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



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## KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

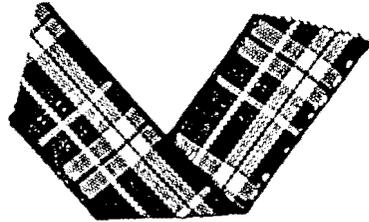
This most impressive service will be held at Scots Church Collins Street, Melbourne on Sunday 2nd. July 1995 commencing at 11a.m. After the service Clans will meet in the Scots Church Hall in Russell Street. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch. We must vacate the hall by 2 p.m. Anyone able to attend could ring June Senior for further details.



### HIGHLANDERS OATH AGAINST TARTAN 1746

*Those who refused to take it were treated as rebels*

I, A.B., do swear, as I shall answer to God at the great day of Judgement, I have not, nor shall have in my possession any gun, sword, pistol or arm whatsoever, and never use tartan, plaid, or any part of the Highland Garb; and if I do so may I be cursed in my undertakings, family and property,—may I be killed in battle as a coward, and lie without burial in a strange land, far from the graves of my forefathers and kindred; may all this come across me if I break my oath.



## *Kirkin' o' the Tartans*

The *Kirkin' o' the Tartans* service commemorates a turbulent period in 18th century Scottish history. Following the Battle of Culloden in 1745, an attempt was made by Parliament to repress highland loyalties, of which the clan system was an important element. Accordingly, in 1746, an Act of Parliament made the wearing of tartan illegal.

The Scottish loyalties, however, were not so easily destroyed. A custom developed whereby clanspeople secretly took a small piece of tartan to church on a particular Sunday of the year, and this was blessed in the course of the service, as people affirmed before God their ancient clan allegiance.

Eventually sanity prevailed and in 1782 the law was repealed, but the period of repression has not been forgotten, nor the need to affirm one's loyalties in the face of possible persecution.

Thus the ceremony reminds us of the ties of kindred and nationality, of loyalties to be affirmed under pressure, and of the basic human right of freedom over against the state.



Since July 1 has been designated *World Tartans Day*, and Scots people all over the world encouraged to wear some tartan on that day especially, this service is held on the first Sunday in July.

### LISTEN, MEN!

This is bringing before all the Sons of the Gael that the King and Parliament of Britain have for ever abolished the Act against the Highland Dress that came down to the Clans from the beginning of the world to the year 1746. This must bring great joy to every Highland heart. You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the Lowlander. This is declaring to every man, young and old, Commons and Gentles, that they may after this put on and wear the Trews, the Little Kilt, the Doublet and Hose, along with the Tartan Kilt, without fear of the Law of the Land or the jealousy of enemies.

## HISTORY OF THE MACMILLAN CLAN

### PART 7

Prior to the coming of those foreign usurpers the Roman Catholic Church held an uncertain foothold in Moray, but with their settlement it struck deeply and spread most rapidly. Religious houses were erected at Elgin, Pluscardin, Kinloss, Urquhart-in-Moray, Inverness and Beaully, all of which were richly endowed from the spoils of the old native rulers.

It must have been about this time that the MacMillans were forced to leave Old Spynie for Loch Arkaigside where they held their lands as vassals of Somerled. The author is of the opinion that they could not have been more than 28 years there when Malcolm IV had them removed. There, they bore the distinctive name of Clann 'illemhaoil Abrach, the Clan MacMillan of Lochaber. Somerled appears to have become involved in a fresh rising during 1153, over the claims of the house of Moray against the king. This rising lasted until 1156, when the claims of that house were compounded by the release of Malcolm (one of Somerled's nephews) and the bestowal upon him of the lesser earldom of Ross. This arrangement did not satisfy Somerled, who openly defied the king and remained in rebellion until 1159, when a reconciliation was made and some form of agreement was reached.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

# 29th ANNUAL RINGWOOD HIGHLAND CARNIVAL

THE LARGEST SCOTTISH GATHERING OUTSIDE SCOTLAND

12th Annual Gathering of Clans and Societies



**SUNDAY 26TH MARCH 1995**

Committee members will be in attendance at the MacMillan tent (stand 53) at the Ringwood Games.

There will be non-stop entertainment 8 a.m-5 p.m. Official Opening 1.30 p.m. Sunday 26th March 1995.

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Children & Pensioners \$3.50.

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**JUBILEE PARK - RINGWOOD**

(Ref. Melway Map 49, H 10)

This day is always a most enjoyable outing with non-stop entertainment. If you are attending, do call and say "hello" at our tent.