



# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO. 48 NOVEMBER 1999

MACMILLAN

**CREST** *Alere Sicuti* A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-handed sword, proper  
**MOTTO** *Alere sicuti dico*  
(I leave to succour the distressed)  
**GAELIC** *MacMillan*  
*MacMillan*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### ANNUAL GATHERING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA) ON 24TH OCTOBER 1999.

Firstly I would like to welcome everyone who has come along and to say thank you to June and Myrna who do so much for our Society. As you are aware June, as well as being Treasurer, is the editor of our newsletter which is produced three times a year and keeps us in touch with our members. Myrna just does all the other things that have to be done, very happily and without fuss which is very nice for all of us. We do appreciate it.

Earlier in the year we made a visit to the Braeside Family History Library. With the help of Alex Glennie and his volunteers we were able to use the computer records to trace the beginnings of our ancestral lines in the U.K. and to search the passenger lists for the names of the first members of our families to arrive in Australia. It was a very revealing and interesting session.

Despite the inclement weather the Ringwood Highland Games took place with the marching of the clans to the sounds of the bagpipes. June, with Max's assistance, erected and manned the tent. There were a number of visitors. I went along with three of the grandchildren and we had a pleasant time.

One of our members was able to take part in the meeting of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America, "A Journey to Mississippi 1799 - 1999" and we will read what she has to tell us in the November 1999 newsletter. Our Clan Chief, George Gordon MacMillan, and his wife Jane were present and sent us greetings.

The Clan Centre is flourishing. Have you visited the web-site on [www.clanmacmillan.org/](http://www.clanmacmillan.org/) It has very detailed information on Genealogy, News, and Connections.

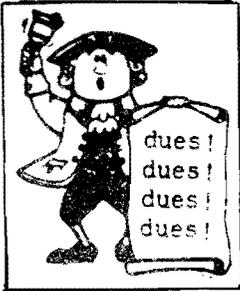
Most people want to know from whence they came, and it is this sense of 'belonging' that inspires people to search for their origins. Only this year Scotland has re-established her Parliament and is busy showing her independence. As the country which has had the highest number of emigrants to other lands she already has world-wide connections. We believe that there must be more MacMillans, (also Bells, Baxters, Browns and Walkers) in Australia who might enjoy membership of our Society. Any suggestions as to how we can make contact with them would be appreciated.

My very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the year 2000.

June Danks.

## VISIT TO BRAESIDE FAMILY LIBRARY

We have arranged another visit to Braeside Family History Library on Friday 14th April, 2000 from 10 a.m. - 2.30 p.m. It is at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Springvale Rd., Mordialloc. Melway reference Map 93 G1. You can bring your own lunch and drink (no tea, coffee or alcohol). Alternatively refreshments are available at Garden World Cafe close by. We need at least 5 members to attend. If you would like to attend, please advise June Senior. We will tell you the details again in our March 2000 newsletter.



## SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Our annual subscription of \$10.00 for 1999/2000 is now due. There are still a few subscriptions for 1998/1999 outstanding. It would be appreciated if you could send the amount owing to Mrs J Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150. Your receipt will be enclosed in the next newsletter after payment is received.

## NEW MEMBERS

A very big welcome to Carol Ainsworth of Gippsland and Bruce and Lesley McMullin of Toorak. We trust they will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

## SCOT MAGAZINE

Have members seen the publication "SCOTS", which is published in Australia quarterly. The Clan MacMillan Societies of Australia and New Zealand have placed an advertisement for 12 months, under the heading "Scottish Societies". I have taken out a subscription and received issue No.6 in which our advertisement appeared. It is an excellent magazine and well worth reading.

## COMING EVENTS

The Daylesford Highland Gathering will be held on Saturday December 4th at Victoria Park, Davlesford.

"Scotland the Brave" - This smash hit celebration of the Best of Scottish Music, Song and Dance will be held on Saturday 19th. February, 2000 at 2p.m. & 8 p.m. at the Melbourne Concert Hall, Victorian Arts Centre.

April 9 - Ringwood Highland Gathering, Jubilee Park, Ringwood. Melway ref. 49 H11.

## CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to the Clans who send us their newsletters. These are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Morrison Clan Society of Australia Inc., for their copy of the Celtic Blessing which appears on page 8 of this newsletter.

## OUR FRIENDS ACROSS THE TASMAN

I would like to thank Margaret Pool, President of the Clan MacMillan Society of New Zealand for sending me her October 1999 newsletter. Congratulations to Margaret and Peter on the safe arrival of their first Grandchild.

Margaret writes: "E mail is a wonderful invention, information from the Clan Centre in Scotland has arrived with dates and some provisional plans for a Gathering in June 2000. There is to be a Conclave of Elders at Finlaystone, when George invites the Clan Elders from around the world, including us, to attend a meeting to discuss Clan business and future plans. This is also quite a social occasion, a chance to meet other MacMillans and to celebrate Clan Chief George's birthday. The dates are: 20th June - 25th June. There will be some events organized for those who wish to come but are not attending the Conclave. These have always been well organized in the past and most enjoyable occasions. There will be more details in the November "Friends of the Clan" newsletter". Thank you Margaret. See page 7 of this newsletter for news of the Gathering in Scotland in 2002!

GEORGE GORDON MacMILLAN OF MacMILLAN AND KNAP, M.A., D.L.

George MacMillan(born 1930 in London,England)is the eldest of the five children of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon Holmes Alexander MacMillan and Marian Blakiston-Houston. George was educated at Eton College,Windsor,and at the University of Cambridge(Trinity College);as was his brother John, who went into the army and followed in their father's footsteps to become the General Officer Commanding in Scotland and the Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

George himself pursued an academic career, despite being handicapped from an early age by an hereditary eye disease(Retinitis Pigmentosa)which makes it impossible for him to read from the page himself; and, after teaching classics at Wellington College,Berkshire,for 10 years,was in 1963 invited to spend a year as "Visiting Professor in Religious Studies" at Trinity College in Toronto. In 1961 George had married Jane Spurgin,an Oxford University graduate and medical social worker at St.Thomas' Hospital in London,and together with their infant son,Arthur (born in 1961)George and Jane enjoyed a memorable year in Canada,where their second son Richard was born,and where they had a chance to meet many MacMillans and descendants of other emigrant Scots.

Upon their return to Britain,and after doing a course in Personnel Management at Strathclyde University,George was offered a post as Lecturer in Religious Studies at Bede College at Durham in the north-east of England. This was within relatively easy reach of Finlaystone,the estate which George had inherited in 1955 from his maternal grandmother,and where his parents settled following his father's retirement from the army. George and Jane's third son, Malcolm,was born in 1967 at Durham,which they left in 1974 to join Sir Gordon and Lady Marian in running the Finlaystone Country Estate.

Finlaystone had by then also become the home of Clan MacMillan,since in 1952 George's father had been declared by the Lord Lyon to be the Hereditary Chief of Clan MacMillan,as the heir of Sir Gordon's great-great-grand-uncle Duncan MacMillan of Dunmore,who had died childless 153 years before. The discovery of a chief stimulated a renewal of interest in their clan roots by MacMillans all over the world, and George represented his father on a number of occasions at overseas gatherings of the clan,before himself succeeding as MacMillan of MacMillan following Sir Gordon's death in 1986.

George has continued to be an active traveller on behalf of the clan,attending the Stone Mountain Games in Georgia,USA,in 1990 as the "Honored Guest";touring the Maritime Provinces of Canada in 1991;being the "Guest of Honor"at the Fresno Games in California in 1995;and,in his busiest year yet,appearing in 1997 as a "Distinguished Guest" at both the Glengarry Highland Games in Ontario,and at Stone Mountain: before travelling on with Jane for their first visit to New Zealand and their second to Australia. In 1998 George and Jane were"Distinguished Guests"at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina whilst attending a gathering of the Appalachian Branch of the clan.

Shortly after their return to Finlaystone in November 1997 George and Jane's third grandchild was born-the daughter of their youngest son Malcolm-who followed the arrival in 1995 and 1996 of two sons born to George's heir Arthur.Though blessed now with a happy and ever-growing family,George and Jane were faced in 1985 with the tragic loss of their middle son Richard in an automobile accident;which prompted them to set up a charitable trust in his memory. Jane MacMillan is active on the board of a local hospital and in the area branch of Macmillan Cancer Relief,while George is particularly concerned with the administration of the nearby Quarriers Homes as well as other charitable work. He is also a leading member of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and an elder of the Langbank parish church.

Despite enjoying all the travelling and other activities that fill his life to overflowing,George's first love,along with his immediate family,is Finlaystone; the gardens and woods of which he cultivates personally every day of the year that he is at home. Though the estate is open daily for any visitors to admire the family's horticultural skills(George's sister Judy looks after the gardens and his brother David the neighbouring farmlands),MacMillans are specially catered for in the Clan Centre that George and Jane opened in 1991;part of the warm welcome that clanspeople from all over the world will always find at the Scottish home of their chief, George MacMillan.

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We are indebted to Dr.Lamar McMillin Jnr.M.D. President of the North American Society for this profile of our Clan Chief.

## AN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY

### NORTH AMERICA

I am very appreciative of member Myrtle Beitlich's account below of her participation in Part 3 of the "Journey to Mississippi" 1799-1999, held at Jackson, Mississippi from 20th - 22nd August 1999.

#### "A Journey down the East coast of America to Jackson, Mississippi to attend the International Gathering of the MacMillan Clan."

My husband George and I visited Finlaystone in August 1998. I was able to buy MacMillan tartan from the Clan Centre's shop, have lunch at the restaurant, chat with our Clan Chief George (his wife Jane was away at the time) and walk through the beautiful grounds of Finlaystone. I was so impressed with the work put into the upkeep of the gardens and the Clan Centre that I joined the "Friends of the Clan MacMillan Centre". Consequently I received the Clan Centre newsletter and read that our Clan Chief George and his wife Jane, and the Clan's genealogist Graeme Mackenzie were heading for Mississippi U.S.A. in August 1999 to attend the International Gathering of the North American MacMillan Clan Society. We put our plans for a holiday to Spain aside and decided to go to the States instead.

Preparatory to attending the Gathering, Dr Lamar McMillin Jr. M.D. President of the North American MacMillan Clan corresponded with us. He sent interesting literature and gave us the background of the McMillins and their long association with Clan MacMillan. His Father, Dr Lamar McMillin Snr. M.D. was President of the Society at one time. We looked forward to meeting Lamar and his wife Carol.

It was fortuitous for us that the festivities were divided into three parts, as to visit the U.S.A. meant seeing cousins and close friends. We elected to attend Part 3 of the Gathering. This took in the Scottish Caledonian Society Dinner on Friday 20th August, where Chief George and Jane were the honored guests and Clan MacMillan was the featured clan, The Highland Games on Saturday, 21st August and the Church Service with the Kirking of the Tartan on Sunday, 22nd August, as well as a host of other activities.

We flew into Boston on 31st July and after staying with cousins in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Martha's Vineyard we headed down on the Amtrak train to visit friends in North Carolina and Georgia. We chose train travel as we were able to relax between visits and see the countryside. Family and friends were sorry we could only stay three days with them.

When we were farewelled at Atlanta Rail Station I was very excited as the next visit was the Gathering of the Clan in Mississippi, and we would arrive in time for the Dinner on Friday evening. However, we found out that the train was behind schedule and that we may miss our Greyhound Bus connection at Meridian R.S. for the 90 mile journey to Jackson MS.

It had been arranged for us to be met at the Bus Terminus, taken to our Hotel, then to the Dinner. We missed the Bus, it had well and truly left. Amtrak staff provided a telephone and George hired a taxi - of some sort - It was an old Kombi type van. I never queried his choice, grateful that it had four wheels and a driver. An urgent tone in my voice to the driver that we needed to go 90 miles in 1¼ hours to be in time for an important dinner engagement brought the response from him "Were we dining with the Governor?". I told him it was just as important! I cannot recall ever having had such a nightmarish ride as I experienced in this taxi. With windows down (no air-conditioning) the old van kept up to the speed limit of 70 m.p.h. for most of the time.

We were late. Fortunately it was a buffet style dinner which did not make our late arrival so conspicuous. It was difficult for me to compose myself, however our Clan Chief George soon put us at ease, and after eating, Graeme Mackenzie took us to the microphone and introduced us to the guests. Some of them thought we had just arrived from Australia!

Chatting with George and Jane, meeting President Lamar and the Committee made for a very happy social evening. I soon forgot the ordeal we had getting there.

Cont'd page 5 .....

## A JOURNEY TO MISSISSIPPI 1799 - 1999 (Cont'd)

The weather was hot for the Highland Games. All of the Eastern States were in drought conditions and Jackson, Mississippi, known for its hot summers was no exception. Dr McMillin and his committee spared no expense for our comfort. The MacMillan Clan had a marquee 40ft by 20 ft, which had two huge industrial fans either end. With the sides of the tent rolled up we could watch the arena events in pleasant conditions. The Scottish dancing and other activities were in an air-conditioned building close by. The Chief's Musician Red McWilliams sang and played Celtic songs on his guitar. Lamar's wife, Carol and the Committee kept up welcome refreshments.

We met many Clansfolk, one of whom was Hazel, an 86 year old lady from British Columbia, a wonderful lady.

When all the Clans were assembled to march, the MacMillan Clan was by far the largest, as people came from other parts of America, as well as International visitors. It was with a feeling of pride to see our Clan Chief George and his wife Jane on the dais as we marched by.

It was also a proud moment when the Australian Anthem was played and to see our Flag displayed. Evening festivities rounded off a wonderful day.

The Church Service on Sunday with the Kirking of the Tartan allowed us to reflect on the significance of the occasion. It was a very moving service.

Later that day we said our farewell and prepared our departure for Kentucky and Syracuse N.Y. State before flying out of Boston on 1st. September.

Myrtle MacMillan Beitlich.



Myrtle & George Beitlich(3rd from left)with Clan Chief George & his wife, Jane, Lamar McMillin, Graeme Mackenzie and other MacMillans at Jackson, Mississippi.

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### **MELBOURNE SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB**

The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club sprang into life in late 1995, and has been fiddling its way into the hearts of festival audiences ever since. Their performances have all the joyfulness and spontaneity of the very best amateur music.

Members and friends of the fiddle club will be making a CD in June.

If you are organizing a function and require some entertainment, please contact:

Inquiries and/or bookings please contact:

Lisa 9480 0024 or Michael 9387 7334

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## MCMILLAN REFERENCES IN THE CCA INDEX

I would like to thank Kaye O'Reilly for sending me the following information. Also our thanks to Sue O'Neil for allowing us to print this list in our n'letter.

Kaye writes:While making some inquiries regarding my Great Great Grandmother Elizabeth on the internet I had contact with Sue O'Neil. She is indexing the Creswick & Clunes Advertiser. She has completed 1859 to 1864 and is working on 1865. The Creswick papers are on microfilm up to 1942 and are held at the State Library, Victoria.

firstly here are the McMillan references in the CCA index

Surname	First Name	Type	Place	Date	Page
McMILLAN	PRESBYTERY MEETING	BALLARAT	07-Sep-63	4	
McMILLAN	NEW BUSINESS REPORT	CLUNES	12-May-63	3	
McMILLAN	POUND NEWS	CLUNES	20-Nov-63	3	
McMILLAN	POLICE COURT	CLUNES	24-Jul-63	2	
McMillan	Fire	Clunes	23-May-62	2	
McMillan	Court	Creswick	09-Nov-60	4	
McMillan	LclNews	Dargo River	03-Aug-60	4	
McMillan	LclNews	Glendaruel	26-Oct-60	3	
McMillan	Agric Society	Melbourne	09-Apr-61	4	
McMillan &	Handasyde News	Melbourne	11-Jul-62	2	
McMillan &	Handyside Exhibition	Melbourne	25-Feb-62	3	
McMillan	Alan Court	Creswick	02-Nov-60	2	
McMillan	D Council	Clunes	17-Dec-61	2	
McMillan	D Unclaimed Letter	Clunes	31-Dec-61	2	
McMILLAN	D POLICE COURT	CLUNES	13-Feb-63	2	
McMILLAN	DANIEL TAILOR ADVERT	CLUNES	29-May-63	3	
McMILLAN	DANIEL DRAPER ADVERT	CLUNES	30-Jun-63	3	
McMILLAN	DANIEL TAILOR ADVERT	CLUNES	31-Jul-63	3	
MCMILLAN	DANIEL TAILOR ADVERT	CLUNES	02-Oct-63	3	
McMILLAN	DANIEL TAILOR	CLUNES	02-Nov-63	3	
McMILLAN	DANIEL NEW TAILOR ADVERT	CLUNES	08-May-63	3	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	05-Jul-61	4	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	28-Jun-61	4	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	09-Jul-61	4	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	12-Jul-61	4	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	16-Jul-61	4	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	02-Jul-61	4	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	18-Jun-61	1	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	25-Jun-61	4	
McMillan	Daniel Advert	Creswick	21-Jun-61	4	
McMillan	Duncan Unclaimed Letter	Clunes	04-Feb-62	3	
McMillan	George Grain Show	Learmonth	18-Feb-62	3	
McMILLAN	J PLOUGHING JUDGE	HARCOURT	30-Sep-64	3	
McMILLAN	MRS POLICE COURT	CLUNES	24-Jul-63	2	
McMillan	W Agric Society	Ballarat	08-Apr-62	4	

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### DID YOU KNOW?

that there is a small village **McMILLAN**, Michigan U.S.A. It is a small village on Highway No.28.

John B McMillan, Editor of the Clan MacMillan newsletter of North America mentioned that he had mailed his newsletters at McMILLAN.

**MAKING PLANS FOR  
SCOTLAND 2002: THE GREAT RETURN**

**The International Gathering of Clan MacMillan  
to be held in Scotland in the year 2002.**

2002 may seem a long way off but one of the most important lessons of the last International Gathering in Scotland (in 1996) was that preparations need to be made, and publicity widely spread, years in advance, especially when the plans are ambitious and may require large-scale sponsorship to come off as envisaged.

The year 2002 has been chosen because it is the bicentenary of the great emigration from Lochaber to Ontario; when three ships carried over 300 souls-of whom over 100 were Macmillans—from Fort William to Montreal. We intend to mark this momentous event with a day of activities in Fort William on the very date the emigrants departed(3rd July)which will be part of a 6 day programme in the Lochaber area; to be followed by a 4 day programme at Finlaystone.

It is hoped that the base for our Lochaber events will be the spectacular Glen Nevis, once home to a small branch of the Macmillans, but more familiar to many of you as the location for some of the most stunning scenes from the film "Braveheart". The Glen Nevis estate-not far from the hotels and B&B's of Fort William-has a fully equipped camp-site,many self-catering chalets for hire,and all built round a restaurant and bar which can cater for a sizeable number of visitors.

Finlaystone of course has, in addition to the historic mansion house,a visitor's centre-including the Clan Centre-a restaurant,and acres of space for marquees and outside activities;all sitting on the shores of the Firth of Clyde with magnificent views across to the mountains of Argyll from whence came many Macmillans.

We intend offering flexible packages for the gathering programme, so that people can attend individual events,whole parts,or all parts;and with the choice of hotel,bed & breakfast,or self-catering accommodation. Transport will be laid on for the main events for people not having-or not wishing to use-their own cars; and both Fort William & Langbank are connected to airports by public transport.

The intention is to make all the gathering events accessible to people on limited budgets, though there will also probably be an official luxury two-week tour- taking in other parts of Scotland too-for those who can afford to make this the centrepiece of a once in a lifetime trip to the old country. To plan all this, and especially to be able to budget it in advance, we need to have some kind of idea of the numbers of clanspeople who might attend; so if you think you might like to come we would ask you to fill-in, cut-off and return the form below now- which entails absolutely no obligation at this stage-to help us plan it all.

Please note that although the individual events shown below are as yet provisional, the dates are set;so you can enter them in your diary,book your holidays and start saving up immediately.

Please return form to:Clan MacMillan Centre,Finlaystone,Langbank,PA14 6TJ.Scotland.

Part One: LOCHABER: 5 nights in and around Fort William

Mon.July 1:

Tue.July 2: Part-Day Trip to the Clan Cameron Centre Lock Arkaig,Murlaggan.

Wed.July 3; Emigration day- events to be decided.

Thu.July 4: Round Day Trip to Glencoe,Loch Tayside and Badenoch

Fri.July 5: Round Day Trip to the Isles of Mull and Iona

Sat.July 6: Day Trip to Knapdale,Inverary and on to Glasgow/Paisley.

Part Two: FINLAYSTONE: Sun. July 7 - Wed. July 10.

More details of Part 1 and 2 available from June Senior.

PLEASE REGISTER MY INTEREST IN SCOTLAND 2002; THE GREAT RETURN

My name is:.....

My address is:.....

I might join(tick as appropriate) Part 1.....Part 2.....My party might number...

Preferred accommodation(tick)Hotel..... B & B.....Self-Catering.....



*A Celtic Blessing  
for you  
at Christmas*

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
The wind be always at your back,  
the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rain fall soft upon your field,  
And, - until we meet again, -  
May Almighty God hold you  
In the hollow of his hand*

If unclaimed, please return to:  
CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA)  
41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley Vic.3150



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