



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

Newsletter No 5, April 1985

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-Athaolain.*

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I never cease to be amazed by the fanaticism of the support shown by so many people at this time of the year for the various league football clubs. It is something which is not confined to Victoria, or even Australia. The reports on the activities of the supporters of certain soccer clubs in the U.K. support that their supporters are even more frenzied in their expression of disappointment - or even joy - than our own groups of supporters.

As one who enjoys watching a good game of football (of any code), I have never been able to identify very ardently with the heroes of league football or their clubs - probably because they are remote, and, if one is extremely honest, none have any real impact on ones day to day existence.

On the other hand I have very different feelings when I am engaged in coaching a group of athletes, or a crew. I identify so closely and strongly with these, that they become almost as important to me as my own family. (My wife would ruefully agree with this!).

What on earth has all this to do with the Clan MacMillan Society Newsletter?, I can hear you asking. My answer is this.

Our interest in things Scottish, in Scottish History, the Scottish Clans in general and the MacMillan Clan in particular, springs from a desire to feel that we belong to a special group - or a special sub-culture. We are following up a normal and natural curiosity to find out something about our origins - our place in the unfolding of history as it affected the lives of our forebears, and therefore our own lives. As we belong to a particular group with a particular name, we are drawn even more strongly into a cohesive group and able to identify a common interest.

The fanatical football club supporters previously mentioned are fulfilling a similar normal desire to identify with and belong to a group which has a common purpose, common interests, and gives a sense of belonging. It also gives them the chance to identify strongly with their heroes, past and present.

If football supporters feel so strongly about a mere game (and a parochial one at that!), imagine how much more strongly the members of the Scottish Clans must have been, drawn together to support each other to survive in the extremely harsh environments in which they lived. (Their dependence on each other must have been far more fanatical than mere football fans!).

And yet, on reflection I realise just how little I know of Scottish History - not only the history of the Kings and Queens and the Lairds, but of the ordinary clansmen and the crofters. From the small amount of reading that I have done, I realise that our forebears managed to survive not only the rigours of a very hostile environment, but also the constant fighting and skirmishing which took place between clans, and Scotland and England. They must surely have been some of the toughest and most resourceful people in history.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont.)

In order to find out more about the history of the clans, the life styles of their people, the problems, the triumphs and the disasters, I have arranged for a speaker to come to the next meeting of the Clan MacMillan Society on Tuesday, June 4th to talk on the fascinating aspect of our Scottish past. At the time of writing I cannot say exactly who it will be, but my old friend, the Rev. Alex Fraser has the matter in hand and assures me that it is an enthralling story for all who have Scottish blood in their veins.

Please come and make this a worthwhile occasion and pay due respect and honour to our speaker. After all, if a minor event like a league football match can attract thirty or forty thousand, how many more should a historical happening like this bring together.

Remember - Tuesday, June 4th, 7.30 p.m. Boarders Annex at Scotch College.

Best Wishes to all
Donald Macmillan
President



CLAN MOTTO 'Miseris succurrere disco'

Over the past year or so since becoming Archivist for the society I have come to notice various translations of the MacMillan Clan Motto. I can't honestly provide an answer to how this has come about but I thought it worthy of mention in our newsletter.

It was also brought to my attention by a member of the society that the Royal Melbourne Hospital also uses the same motto, again with a different translation to our own.

Listed below are the mottos and the various translations.

Clan MacMillan Society (Victoria)... 'I learn to succour the distressed'

Clan MacMillan Society of North America... 'We succour the unfortunate'

Royal Melbourne Hospital... 'I learn to aid the wretched'

Bob McMillan—Kay
Archivist



ANCESTRAL ORIGINS IN SCOTLAND (see enclosed insert)



KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

Many members have as yet never met any of our committee and in some cases are not likely to do so. Therefore we have decided to do the next best thing, by including a photograph of our committee for you.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Left to Right: Anne Asche, John R. Macmillan, Bob McMillan-Kay (Archivist and Newsletter Editor), Steven McMillan (Secretary), Donald Macmillan (President), Geva Macmillan, and John T. Macmillan (Treasurer). Mac Francome is not shown.



BACK HOME TO SCOTLAND

A member of our society, June Senior and her husband, Max left for holidays in Europe and Britain on Monday 4th March.

It is their second trip overseas and as with the first trip several years ago it will include some time in Scotland. While there June and Max plan to once again tour the Isle of Arran, situated off the west coast of Scotland. Neil and Margaret McMillan, June's Great Grandparents came from a small hamlet on the west coast of Arran.

On the Isle of Arran they hope to find and photograph some ancestral gravestones and old family homes. June is especially hoping to locate any families which may be distantly related.

During their stay in Scotland June and Max hope to spend some time with the Clan Chief and his family at 'Finlaystone', near Glasgow. You may recall in a previous newsletter that the Clan Chief had offered a room at the castle to any MacMillan Clan descendants who wish to stay with them as long as they are prepared to help with a bit of work around the place.

This is a tremendous opportunity for any of our members travelling in Scotland. I hope one day that I can do the same myself.

I'm sure you will all join me in wishing both Max and June a good trip and I for one will be looking forward to hearing about their visit to Arran and 'Finlaystone' upon their return in a few weeks time.

The results of any research material that June is able to bring back will be used in my next book, planned for publication early in 1988. June's grandfather and my great grandfather were brothers.

Bob McMillan—Kay
Archivist



BARBECUE RAFFLE

At our last annual barbecue in October we conducted a raffle for the first time, not merely as a means of raising some money but as a way of stimulating interest. The raffle was a great success having gained us \$24.05 profit from the sale of 100 tickets, a tremendous effort considering the amount of people present on the day. The extra money will help supplement our small bank balance and contribute towards our newsletter production and increasing postage costs.

The prizes that we purchased were items of 'Scottish origin', naturally.
1st prize, a MacMillan crest brooch was won by Shirley Monahan.
2nd prize, a box of Scottish shortbread was won by Patricia Sinclair.



Bob McMillan—Kay
Archivist



ANNUAL BARBECUE

A scene from the annual barbecue on the banks of the Yarra River in the grounds of Scotch College, Hawthorn.

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FROM THE SECRETARY



Angus McMillan

A new book called 'Caledonia Australis' by Don Watson has come on to the market at \$14.95.

It relates to Scottish Highlanders on the frontier of Australia and refers to Angus McMillan and other Scottish immigrants.

The background to Angus McMillan commences with a look at his father, Ewan McMillan. The McMillans traditionally occupied land near Lochaber in the central highlands 'hereditary servants of the McIntoshes'.

The McMillans inhabited Cameron County and it was somewhere in this County that the McMillans went to Skye in the early 1800's.

Ewan McMillan was an educated protestant of limited but secure means. The first record of his tenancy on the McLeod estates of Skye occurs in 1803 when his name appears in the minutes of a meeting regarding the need for a Customs House. The absence of such a facility was a serious impediment to the growing wool trade of Skye. Ewan was a gentleman farmer and also a Presbyterian. He married Marion McLeod who bore him fourteen children, one of whom was Angus, born 14-8-1810. (to be continued)

I obtained material for this article from the books 'Angus McMillan - Pathfinder' with the consent of Kenneth Cox and also 'Caledonia Australis' by Don Watson.

GENERAL INTEREST

I discovered recently that a 'John McMillan' travelled by the schooner 'Ellen Elizabeth' from Melbourne to Portland and Port Fairy.

There are still copies of the book 'Angus McMillan - Pathfinder', written by Kenneth Cox.

Steven McMillan
Secretary



DATES TO REMEMBER

1. Clan Society Meeting:

Tuesday 4th June 1985, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the hall near the main entrance to the Scotch College grounds. Entry by gate at the corner of Glenferrie and Callantine Roads (Traffic lights). First building on right of drive. A guest speaker will present a talk on 'The History of the Scottish Clans'.

2. Clan MacMillan Gathering:

Glasgow 25th May - 1st June 1985, Edinburgh 1st June - 8th June 1985.

Anyone going overseas to Britain should take the opportunity to try and attend one of these functions. These functions coincide with the 'Scottish International Gathering in Scotland 1985'.

3. Annual General Meeting and Barbecue, Sunday 13th October 1985:

It has been decided this year, for everyone's convenience, to combine both the Barbecue and the Annual General Meeting. The venue will be at the usual location, ie. in the grounds of Scotch College, on the banks of the Yarra. Fees will be due on the day. Also, there will be the election of the office bearers for our committee.

