



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

Newsletter No 7, April 1986

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.*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last October seems a long time in the past and so much has happened since then. It was spring and we are now into the autumn. We looked forward then to the warmer summer days ahead and yet commented on the mild discomfort caused by the 'hot' 18 to 20°C temperatures! As I write it seems that the summer will never end - it's dry and warm, with no sign of the cold winter chill which cannot be far away.

The clan gathering and barbecue took place on October 13th on the banks of the Yarra at Scotch College on a beautiful day. It was a delightful occasion, when old and new friends meet, drawn together by our common interest in things Scottish in general and MacMillan in particular. Even though the weather was perfect and the setting attractive, our numbers were not large.

I am therefore asking you all to do TWO things for the Clan MacMillan cause this year.

Firstly - note the date of this year's gathering in your diary NOW - and keep the day free. It is to be on Sunday October 12th at Scotch College.

Secondly - make a resolution now (and carry it through) to persuade at least ONE person to join the Clan MacMillan Society.

If we all find one new member our numbers will rise dramatically; in fact they should DOUBLE! We all must look for relations who could be persuaded to join. Another suggestion is that you look through the McMillan / MacMillan / Macmillans in the telephone book, pick out any from your local area, and send them an information sheet with the details of the Clan MacMillan Society. Bob McMillan-Kay has anticipated your needs and will be delighted to send you some copies.

The news from Finlaystone has been very sad since last October. The tragic death of George and Jane's second son, Richard was a shock to all of us. Our thoughts and love went across the world to them in their sorrow. Then the news of the death of the Chief, General Sir Gordon MacMillan - again on the road, and in tragic circumstances. There is more on both Richard and Sir Gordon later in the newsletter.

It was strange to see Sir Gordon being interviewed on television on Sunday March 23rd as the Officer Commanding the British Forces in Palestine in 1947-48. He appeared at least three times on the BBC programme "End of Empire - Palestine" shown on ABC Television. He led an exciting and active life in the service of his country. We were fortunate to have had such a man as the Chief of the Clan. He worked with Lady MacMillan tirelessly to strengthen the clan ties in Scotland, North America and Australia. He and Lady MacMillan were charming and gracious hosts to those of us who had the good fortune to be able to call at Finlaystone.

As George takes over as Chief, we know from his visit in 1983, that the task is now in hands equally as able and enthusiastic. He and Jane stirred us into action with their visit. Now is the time to show them our support and go from strength to strength.

Donald Macmillan
President



A SMALL WORLD INDEED

During a research trip to North-East Victoria last October I visited a friend, Geoff Craig from Stanley (near Beechworth (who later joined our society by the way). He showed me a book titled 'The 1985 Genealogical Register', or a similar title, which listed countless surnames being researched by people both in Australia and overseas. I thought I would see if anyone was researching MacMillan or McMillan, in particular in Arran where my ancestors came from. To my surprise I found four names and addresses. I wrote to all of them and received a reply from each. One was from Queensland, one from New South Wales, one from Preston in Victoria and one from Canada. Although I was unable to find any direct family link to any of them it was rewarding enough to know that I located someone else in Australia and overseas with ancestors from the same part of Scotland.

The reply from Canada was from an 80 year old man and was extremely interesting and informative. His information agreed almost exactly with my own research material on Arran McMillans, proof of its accuracy.

MacMILLAN HISTORY ON TAPE

For our archives we now have a cassette tape of the history of the Clan MacMillan, thanks to Max and June Senior, who taped it while visiting the MacMillans at Finlaystone last year. It is titled 'Stories of the Clans in word and song - The MacMillans'. The tape explains the origins of the clan as well as playing some pipe tunes and MacMillan Songs. It is certainly a valuable asset to our archival collection as well as interesting to hear. Should anyone wish to borrow the tape they can contact me to arrange a time.

THE VALUE OF RESEARCH

In October last year I spent 4 days in North-East Victoria researching more information for my second book. My base was Beechworth, where I spent two days researching in and around the town as well as the Burke Museum and the Shire Offices. Another day was spent in Bright and Harrieville and another day in Yackandandah and Bruarong.

As well as research I took many photographs of former family homes and shops which still remain in the district. Relatives from Bright and Wodonga assisted me in my research and also helped in locating the former family homes and shops that I was unable to locate accurately myself.

After sorting out all of my notes I was amazed at what information I had found. My great great grandparents as it turned out were far more financially secure than I had thought. In 1880 they owned 75 acres of land in Myrtleford as well as two shops and homes, which it seems were rented or leased to some of their sons for their bootmaking and drapery businesses.

As a result of my research it was necessary to virtually rewrite a greater part of the text for my next book to include the additional information. Using old town plans as a base I have since prepared three more maps to include in the next book, which show the locations of the family homes and businesses once owned by my ancestors.

I was more than pleased with the information I found and very grateful that I had relatives to assist me. It only goes to show that a bit of persistence in your research ventures will in most cases be very rewarding. So if anyone contemplates doing some in the future don't give up at your first effort, you'll be rewarded eventually.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

CLAN BARBECUE

Our next AGM/Annual Clan Society Barbecue is to be held on Sunday October 12th 1986 at our usual venue on the banks of the Yarra River in the grounds of Scotch College. More details in our September Newsletter.

TALK AND FILM ON SCOTTISH TOUR

We wish to inform all members that Max and June Senior will present a combined talk and slide night highlighting the Scottish leg of their overseas trip in April/May last year.

The duration of the presentation is to be 1-1 1/2 hrs and from what I know of their trip, I am sure everyone who attends will definitely enjoy it, especially those who have visited Scotland previously or intend doing so in the future. Lets make their effort worthwhile and come along. Bring your family and friends too and make it a social evening.

We do ask that each family or group bring along a plate of supper. Tea and Coffee will be provided. Date is June 3rd 1986 at 8.00 p.m. Venue is at Scotch College in the Dining Hall Annex, which is the first building on the left as you enter from Callantina Road.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

We still look forward to stories or items of interest from any member for inclusion in our Newsletter. I always manage to come up with something each time myself, as do other committee members, but it would be a nice change to have a paragraph or more from somebody different. Anyone who has something they feel could be of interest for the Newsletter may send it to me anytime. My address is on the letterhead.

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist and Editor

It is our unfortunate duty to inform the Committee and Members of the Clan Society of Victoria of the deaths of two of the most prominent members of the MacMillan Clan in Scotland and also one of our own Clan Society members.

In November last year I received a letter from John B. McMillan of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America informing me of the tragic death of Richard Anthony MacMillan, second of three sons of George and Jane MacMillan of 'Finlaystone'. Richard died as a result of a car accident on October 14th 1985 and was to be 21 at the end of October.

Recently my cousin, June Senior was informed by a friend, who kindly sent a newspaper clipping, informing her of the death of our own Clan Chief, Sir Gordon MacMillan. He also died as a result of a car accident, and sadly, just outside of Finlaystone. One tragedy of this kind is enough, but twice in such a short period for one family is even more saddening.

On behalf of the Committee and members of our society I sent cards of sympathy to George and Jane on both occasions. Our deepest sympathy is extended to them both and their family from all of us here in Australia.

Only this month we had the death of Geva Macmillan, wife of our own Clan Society President, Donald Macmillan. Geva passed away on Friday April 4th after a long illness.

Few people would realise that it was Geva who was the driving force and inspiration behind the formation of the Clan MacMillan Society (Victoria). We all extend our deepest sympathy to Donald and his family at this time.

HOME NEWS

War hero killed in crash

ONE OF Britain's most distinguished leaders General Sir Gordon MacMillan, died yesterday after an air was in collision with another vehicle at the entrance to his home, Finlaystone Estate, at Langbank, Renfrewshire.

Sir Gordon, who was 74, was taken to Inverclyde Hospital, where he died from his injuries. The other driver, Mr Alan White, 22, of Carmichael Street, Greenock, was able to go home after treatment for leg injuries.

Sir Gordon had a lifelong involvement with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. After the Second World War he held the senior Army posting in Scotland, Commander-in-Chief and Governor of Edinburgh Castle. He became a leading industrialist after leaving the Army.

His death is the second tragedy to hit the family in a few months. Last autumn one of his grandsons, Richard, a student in his early twenties, was killed in a road accident in Aberdeenshire.

Sir Gordon leaves a family deeply involved in many of his varied interests. One of his sons is Major General John MacMillan, based at the Ministry of Defence in London. His daughter-in-law, Jane, is a committee member of Epskine Hospital for disabled ex-servicemen, of which he was chairman between 1955 and 1960.

His wife, Marion, three other sons, George, David, and Andrew, and daughter Judy, all held Sir Gordon's open up Finlaystone Estate to the public over the last 15 years. His cousin, where John Knox, celebrated his first communion service, is popular

for its woodland trails and garden centre.

Sir Gordon, hereditary Chief of the Clan MacMillan, was born in Bangalore, India, in 1877, the son of an Army officer.

He was educated at St Edmund's School, Canterbury, and Sandhurst, before being commissioned in the Argylls in 1915, a regiment of which he was to become Colonel, and then chairman of the successful "Save the Argylls" campaign.

In the First World War, Sir Gordon won the Military Cross and two bars for his part in the French campaign. Between wars, among many posts he held was as instructor at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario. In the Second World War he won the Distinguished Service Order for his command of an infantry

brigade with the 51st Division in Sicily.

At the end of the war he became Commander-in-Chief in Palestine in charge of British forces there during the last years of the mandate. Thereafter he returned to the War Office where he was responsible for weapons and development before his return to Scotland as Commander-in-Chief in 1949.

His Army career ended in 1956 as Commander-in-Chief in Gibraltar, but remained active in military retirement. He became first chairman of Cumbernauld Development Corporation, chairman of Greenock Harbour Trust, and chairman of Firth and Clyde Dry Dock.

In 1963 he led a Scottish trade mission to Scandinavia.



General Sir Gordon MacMillan

Above: 'Glasgow Herald', Glasgow, Scotland, January 22 1986

Below: 'The Globe and Mail', Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Friday, January 24 1986

DEATHS

MacMILLAN, General Sir Gordon H. A. MacMillan of MacMillan of Kinlo, KCB, KCMG, CBE, DSO, MC, DL, CD, 31st, Hereditary Chief of Clan MacMillan — Was killed in a car accident on 21 January 1986 at age 89 years, near his estate, Finlaystone Estate, near Langbank, Renfrewshire, Scotland. General MacMillan had a very long and distinguished Military Career. Born Bangalore, India, 1897. Graduated from Sandhurst in 1915, commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 1915 and served in France and Belgium 1916-1918. He held a variety of posts between the wars including two years 1926-1937, he taught at Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario. Held several commands during the Second WW and later was Colonel of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Scotland and Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Argylls. He commanded the British Forces in Palestine and was a former Governor and Commander in Chief of Gibraltar. Survived by his wife, Lady MacMillan, four sons, George the heir, of Finlaystone, Major General John of London, England, David of Finlaystone, Dr. Andrew of Rome, Italy, and daughter Judy of Finlaystone the wife of Commander Robin Hutton and a total of eleven grandchildren. There will be a cremation and family service at Kilmacomb Church on 24 January. A memorial service will be held sometime in March.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

In order to make our membership records easier to maintain, especially on payment time at the AGM/Annual Barbecue, the committee has decided to present every individual family member with a membership card. This will not only serve as a token of belonging to the society, but it will enable the treasurer to quickly identify you specifically in our records. As many of our members naturally have the same surname, and in some cases christian name, it is a simple task to quote your membership number when paying your fees.

These cards will accompany your next newsletter in September, prior to the AGM Annual Barbecue.

It is also proposed to list all financial members of our society in our next newsletter. All new members will be listed in following newsletters as they join.

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist and Editor



Telephone: (03) 80 5151.

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FROM THE SECRETARY

1. We gratefully acknowledge a donation of \$20.00 from Mrs Ryan of 27 Patricia Avenue, Blackburn, Victoria. Any other donations will be greatly appreciated.
2. I have visited Kenneth Cox (the author of 'Angus McMillan Pathfinder'). There are copies still available at \$9.95 including postage. He can be contacted at 26 Severn Street, North Balwyn.
He has also written a book called 'My father was a convict'. I have read this book and found it very interesting.

THE LIFE OF ANGUS McMILLAN (continued)

One of the families of Skye with whom the McMillans had close contact was the MacAlisters. Lachlan MacAlister was thirteen years older than Angus. He had joined the army and travelled to Sydney. Lachlan communicated regularly with his family and Mrs MacAlister had kept Marion McMillan informed about him. She knew that he had become friends with the influential and wealthy family, the MacArthur family of New South Wales.

When Marion knew that Lachlan was farming 20 000 acres, she realised that there were opportunities in the new land. By chance, Angus was able to read 'An Historical and Statistical Account of New South Wales' which was written by Dr John Dunmore Lang. Lang's advocacy of Australia being a land eminently suitable for colonists was not lost so that he and Margaret could eventually marry.

Angus could have had no idea of the vastness of Australia or of the settlers' difficulties living in a new environment. To him Australia was a goal to be sought in attaining his ambition to become a farmer such as his father and to establish a home with Margaret. The immediate problem was money. He was too proud to seek help from his father. He slowly built up an amount of £74. Marion McMillan learnt that Alan MacAlister intended to sail to New South Wales from Greenock on the ship 'Minerva'. Angus announced that he intended to voyage on the same ship.

On Tuesday 5th September 1837 - the year in which Victoria came to the throne and two years after the founding of Melbourne - the family gathered at the pier to farewell Angus. When he reached Greenock he encountered difficulties in finding a berth on the Minerva. Eventually the captain said that he would give Angus a berth in his own cabin. There were fifteen in the cabin including the captain. After a trip lasting one hundred and thirty eight days the Minerva reached Sydney on the 29th January 1838. **(to be continued).**

Steven McMillan
Secretary



A BIRTHDAY COINCIDENCE

Recently I realised that my father's birthday (January 7th) was the same as that of some other members of my family tree; namely June Senior, a cousin, whose mother was a McMillan and also my father's first cousin, Blair Leggett (nee McMillan). June contacted me recently to inform me of Sir Gordon MacMillan's death and it was then that she mentioned that Sir Gordon also celebrated his birthday on the same day - an interesting coincidence I thought.

OUR NEW COMMITTEE

For those people who were unable to attend our AGM/Annual Barbecue last October we held our committee elections on the day.

Outgoing committee by resignation were; Geva Macmillan, Mac Francome and Anne Asche. John R. Macmillan remained on committee for another year. Our thanks are extended to all those members for their efforts and contributions to the society, in particular to Geva (since deceased).

New committee members are; June Senior and Jim McMillan.

The office bearing committee remained unchanged as there were no other nominations for those positions.

SCOTLAND REVISITED

An inset is included in this newsletter which describes the Scottish leg of a recent overseas trip by John and Joy McMillan of Geelong, Victoria. We thank them for their interesting and detailed contribution to our April Newsletter.



Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist and Editor