



# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUST)

## Newsletter No. 80 July 2010

### 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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### President's Report for July, 2010

The Ringwood Highland Games coped well with the changed weather pattern. It was cold and the earlier rain was replaced by some light showers. The highland dancers were transported to a nearby hall but the pipers were a highlight of the proceedings and played well for procession and the formalities. We greeted some visitors to the tent with refreshments. They are always very welcome.

Last Sunday was the Kirkin 'O the Tartan at Scots Church in Melbourne. The Minister, Rev. Douglas Robertson preached on "The People of the Book", noting the open book in the heraldic emblem and he talked about the changes with the Reformation in Scotland. He made reference to the contribution of the Scottish inventors of objects taken for granted in everyday life. (listed below)

Scottish Gaelic was heard in the Bible readings and in the singing of the Scottish Gaelic Choir.

Jonathan Quay, PLC Piping Tutor and Pipe Sergeant of the City of Hawthorn Highland Pipe Band piped the Clanspeople with their tartans into and out of the church as well as providing entertainment over lunch.

We look forward to renewing friendships at our AGM on Sunday 24th October at 12 noon at 383 Toorak Road, South Yarra. Our guest Speaker will be John Blackman from Genealogical Society Victoria.

June Danks.

### Scottish Inventiveness [Kirkin' O' the Tartans 2010]

*An average Englishman's day.....*

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Marmalade</b>            | <i>Mrs. Keiller of Dundee</i>             |
| <b>Raincoat</b>             | <i>Charles MacIntosh of Glasgow</i>       |
| <b>Bicycle</b>              | <i>MacMillan, Blacksmith of Dumfries</i>  |
| <b>Tyres</b>                | <i>John Boyd Dunlop of Dreghorn</i>       |
| <b>Tarmac Road</b>          | <i>John MacAdam of Ayr</i>                |
| <b>Steam Engine</b>         | <i>James Watt of Greenock</i>             |
| <b>Bank of England</b>      | <i>William Patterson of Dumfries</i>      |
| <b>Adhesive Stamps</b>      | <i>James Chalmers of Dundee</i>           |
| <b>Telephone</b>            | <i>Alexander Graham Bell of Edinburgh</i> |
| <b>Television</b>           | <i>John Logie Baird of Helensburgh</i>    |
| <b>US navy [news about]</b> | <i>John Paul Jones of Kirkebean</i>       |
| <b>Whisky</b>               |   |
| <b>Breach Loading Rifle</b> | <i>Captain Pat Ferguson of Pitfours</i>   |
| <b>Penicillin</b>           | <i>Alexander Fleming of Darvel</i>        |
| <b>Anaesthetic</b>          | <i>Sir James Simpson of Bathgate</i>      |
| <b>The Bible</b>            | <i>a Scot King James VI</i>               |

## SUBSCRIPTIONS



*Subscriptions* are now due and because of increased costs, have been increased to \$20.00 for 2010/2011. We only have 3 opportunities a year to remind members about their subscriptions, so please respond, and make the Treasurer's job that much easier. It would be appreciated if you could forward all monies to:

**Mrs. J. Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150.**

Also, if you would like to receive this Newsletter by E-mail (a saving on postage costs), could you please include your E-mail address with your Subscription.

## COMING EVENTS



**Nine heroes. Nine stories. One Rare Honour**      **13 August – 26 September, 2010**  
Melbourne

### **The Importance of the Gallipoli VCs**

On 25 April 1915 Australians and New Zealanders – the ANZACs – were part of the historic landings on the Turkish Gallipoli peninsula. The courage, endurance, initiative, discipline, and mate ship these men displayed came to be called “the ANZAC spirit”.....Nine members of the AIF were awarded the Victoria Cross – the highest form of recognition that can be bestowed on a soldier – for their bravery during the Gallipoli campaign. Despite its high status, the Victoria Cross isn't made from gold or other precious metal, but cast from the bronze of old captured cannons.

**Bringing History to life.....**“*This company of brave men: the Gallipoli VC's*” This exhibition has been touring Australia this year and is currently showing at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. Entry to the exhibition is free. For more information visit [awm.gov.au/exhibitions/bravemen](http://awm.gov.au/exhibitions/bravemen)

**Fromelles Soldiers**      **27<sup>th</sup> August, 2010.** Croydon RSL, Croydon.

Major-General Mike O'Brien will give a presentation to the Eastern Regional Libraries, Military History Group, on the recovery, identification and re-burial of the WWI Australian and British Soldiers discovered in the Mass graves at Pheasant Wood, France. This special presentation will be hosted at the Croydon RSL [Melways ref.J4].

Tea & Coffee provided and a gold coin is requested

Bookings Essential as numbers are limited, Ph: 9294 5640 or book online at [www.erl.vic.gov.au](http://www.erl.vic.gov.au)

**Royal Agricultural Show of Victoria (Melbourne Show)**      **18<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2010**

### **MC MILLAN SCOTS AT THE ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW**

Our intrepid Committee members Myrna Robinson and Debra Vaughan are going on an adventure to the Show this year.

The SCAC is committed to providing Scottish entertainment/information during four half-hour spots at the Royal Show on Thursday, 23 September, and Friday 24 September. Those periods will be at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm on each of those days.

The demonstrations and talks are still being work-shopped, but performance will be part of it – I do hope the animals enjoy bagpipes!

Under the SCAC banner there will be a good group of people in Highland Dress, with as many different tartans on display as possible and a number of Clan Society banners. Part of the display will be a map of Scotland, showing Scottish Clan information and fliers and booklets, etc that are being prepared will be handed out by us plaid clad promoters of our glorious heritage.

Don't forget my Aunty Phyllis, will be, as she has been over many Show years as part of the CWA, making over a thousand scones for ten days of Devonshire teas.

For our part, Myrna and I are putting together a Scottish quiz with Clan McMillan and research information (suggestions happily accepted), as well as some handmade thistles, to take away. You'll be surprised how much Clan McMillan has contributed to the world!

*Debra Vaughan*

**SCAC's Annual Luncheon     Sunday, 10th October, 2010.** Ringwood East.

The Annual Luncheon of Clans [a Scottish get together] is to be held again at the Karralyka Reception and Entertainment Centre, Mines Rd., East Ringwood. For further information please contact: Robert Stewart by phone on 9891 6450 or by E-mail: [randjstewart@optusnet.com.au](mailto:randjstewart@optusnet.com.au)

**Annual General Meeting                     Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.** South Yarra.

Our A.G.M. will again be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October, at Soroptimist House, 383 Toorak Rd., South Yarra from noon till 4 p.m. So bring your lunch and meet your fellow Clan members. Tea & Coffee will be provided. [Melways ref 2M, B6].

**The Beechworth Celtic Festival             5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.** Beechworth, Victoria

The sixteenth Beechworth Celtic Festival 2010 promises to be better than ever. The program has taken shape and the weekend looks like being another great weekend for anyone who enjoys music dance and a good time and not necessarily in that order. For further information contact -Free Call: 1300 366 321

Beechworth Information Centre Email: [info@beechworthcelticfestival.com.au](mailto:info@beechworthcelticfestival.com.au)

Website: [www.beechworthcelticfestival.com.au](http://www.beechworthcelticfestival.com.au)

**Clan MacLean Association in Australia Inc.     12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.** Williamstown, Victoria

This year 2010 Williamstown commemorates 175 years of European settlement, Clan Maclean also celebrates 175 years of occupation in the city of Hobson's Bay, where Hugh Maclean settled in 1835 and became the first official land holder following the subdivision by Robert Hoddle in 1837.

Hugh Maclean also established a ferry service from the area where Gem Pier now stands to the distant side of the Bay at Beacon Point, and business to new settlers.

Clan Maclean is having a celebration of the many Maclean family contributions to Williamstown and Hobson's Bay in November 2010, the Association proposes to conduct a re-enactment landing at Gem Pier from the tall ship Enterprise, carrying members of Maclean clan and others, a Welcome to Country ceremony from members of the Indigenous community of Boon Warrung Society, displays of Highland and Indigenous dance, Pipe Band performance and March from the Gem Pier to the Williamstown Maritime association complex, where further displays of Genealogy, local History, Scottish and Aboriginal culture may occur.

Clan Chief Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern, will be our Guest of Honor during the weekend celebrations which will take place on the Weekend of November 12 - 14, 2010.

On the Saturday, a family day and picnic BBQ at the Williamstown Maritime Association Complex, where Macleans and other Clans can meet the Chief, while being entertained by Highland dancers and Pipe Bands, followed by a combined Clans dinner in the evening.

On Sunday the Clan will have a Kirkin' o' the Tartan, a light luncheon and the Annual general meeting of Clan MacLean Association in Australia where Sir Lachlan will have opportunity to meet with Clan members.

Members, [*or others*] who would like to attend any of the functions, should register their intent to attend with the secretary/membership officer. Linda McLean, e-mail: [woorilla@hotmail.com](mailto:woorilla@hotmail.com)

Or otherwise, please contact Doug McLaughlin (Ph 03 9758 2594; E-mail [banddmcl@tpg.com.au](mailto:banddmcl@tpg.com.au))

## Hello Macmillan Seekers

In the hope it strikes a chord with you as it does with me, I am forwarding a message posted on a New Zealand genealogical mailing list, and then re-posted to the Genealogical Society of Victoria mailing list. Although it was referring to museums, the same applies to historical societies and genealogical groups, all with volunteers.

Ada Ackerly is a local historian gem and stalwart, recently given a major award for her many years of genealogical research and countless hours of volunteering in transcribing all sorts of indexes and information.

I am trying to track down an article she wrote in 1989 Ancestor called “**Grandma was a Charlady at the 1888 Exhibition**”; the title alone is worth it for me.

“Recently on the NZ list, I penned the following in reply to a genealogist who shared her research with local groups when she visited. I thought, maybe, people might feel some empathy:

I read Adele's appreciation of a small NZ museum and her offer to pass on material she had found, which would add to their local information. It gladdened my heart.

My travel is usually as a speaker at a family history group, but if I have the time, I like to look in on the local museum. And, having met both groups, make a note of anything I could contribute, and always learn something new.

Then, as I research in archives (NOT material on the internet, which they can access themselves) I keep these groups in mind, and, if I find something relating to their town, I copy it and post it off. As does Adele, who, like me and others I know, likes to share the joy and excitement of discovery.

HOWEVER, the point of my message to the list is this:

Every museum receives visits from family tree researchers seeking local information. The greedy ones demand and take everything that is offered, NEVER leave their name and address and are never heard of again.

Please, if you have then achieved your interesting family tree, do remember that local museums like to add to their collection any families of local interest, and please leave a contact address. Who knows, a long-lost cousin with lots of photos and letters might turn up a year later. Imagine what you miss out on, if the museum volunteer has to say "Oh, yes, a lady researching that name was here a year ago, but she didn't leave her name and address, sorry."

I can tell you, as a museum volunteer, that the above statement is made many times over in a 12 month period. Many will only offer their given name e.g. "Dorothy" (who burst in on the volunteers last Sunday). She refused to pay the entrance fee "Because I only want information, I don't want to look at your collection". She left some time later in high dudgeon with a sheaf of paper copies of information which she complained was insufficient information, and grudgingly objected to having to pay for. Probably our worst visitor in years. The volunteer on the day is not sure if she still wants to be on duty anymore.

Thank goodness for those lovely people who ask politely, offer information to add to our store, are grateful for what the museum has collected, gladly pay for their photocopies, and leave a contact address with permission to pass it on to other connected family who might enquire.

On very rare occasions we receive a letter of thanks sometimes with a donation to help with upkeep of equipment and supplies!

There are some delightful researchers, a joy to assist, and the volunteer at the museum goes home happy with their useful day and a lovely start to their week. I'm sure GSV volunteers often go home with the same infectious glow.”

Regards, Ada Ackerly, Melbourne, Australia

Published in the *Morwell Post* April 2010

**Morwell Historical Society Inc.**

**and**

Published in the *Churchill & District News*, 20 May 2010, page 9

## JOHN LACHLAN MACMILLAN

by Rob de Souza-Daw, Churchill

John Lachlan Macmillan known as Jack Macmillan was the son of John and Isabella Macmillan of Hazelwood. He was born 11 October 1869 at Hazelwood Station where he lived until 1910. As a child, John Lachlan Macmillan attended the Morwell State School and upon leaving school, was a grazier at Hazelwood Station. However, he did join the gold rush to the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia where he searched for alluvial gold in the Kalgoorlie district.

In 1899, John Macmillan snr died at Hazelwood Station. He was a very successful and wealthy grazier and at the time of his passing, held freehold title to 3,679 acres. John Macmillan's jnr's entitlement to his father's estate was approximately 1/6 share of the real estate. Initially after John Macmillan's death in 1899, the Macmillan family continued grazing but in 1905 the Macmillans sub-divided the property into dairying and mixed farming farms which were leased by auction for a six year period.

After the sub-division of Macmillan Estate in 1905, John Lachlan Macmillan described himself as a person of independent means rather than as a grazier. Gradually the widow and children of John Macmillan snr left Hazelwood but retained freehold title to Macmillan Estate.

On 16 February 1910 John Lachlan Macmillan married Margaret *Maude* Anderson, a widow at Toorak. She was the daughter of Dr Alfred and Maria Howitt of Metung. There were no children from this marriage. Immediately after their marriage and for the remainder of his life, John Macmillan lived at Metung.

John Lachlan Macmillan's youngest brother, Alexander (Lal) Campbell Macmillan had served in the Boer War as a Private in the Cameron's Scouts which were initially attached to the Victorian Third Bushmen's Contingent. He also left Hazelwood to live at Metung.

On 10 November 1914, John Lachlan Macmillan from Metung enlisted in the Third Light Horse. On enlistment he was described as 6 foot 4 inches, 14 stone, hazel eyes, dark hair and aged 41 years- but he was older. Jack Macmillan, like his father and brothers was tall.

Initially John Lachlan Macmillan was appointed as a driver but soon progressed through the ranks and on 3 February 1915, he was appointed Sergeant. He embarked on 2 February 1915 on the *SS Chika* for Egypt but on 6 July 1915 when at Heliopolis, Sergeant Macmillan transferred to the Western Australian regiment, the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse.

On 1 August 1915 Sergeant Macmillan embarked from Alexandra to the Gallipoli Peninsula. As the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse had volunteered to fight as infantry, they left their cavalry in Egypt. John Macmillan's horse was a *golden chestnut with a long tail and mane*<sup>3</sup> named Gold Bar. The horse was a *winner of first prize in the class for weight carrying hacks at the Melbourne Show*<sup>3</sup>.

Being a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse, Sergeant Macmillan on 7 August 1915, participated in the fatal charge of the Light Horse at The Nek. On that day 300 men from the Victorian 8<sup>th</sup> Light Horse and 300 men from the West Australian 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse *charged in four lines against an impregnable line of Turkish trenches. Two thirds of the Victorians were killed or wounded and the Western Australians who followed*<sup>4</sup>, lost nearly half.

Shortly after the charge of the Light Horse Brigade at The Nek, Sergeant Macmillan was again called into action. On 29 August 1915, the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse was occupying trenches that had been dug by other soldiers at the foot of Hill 60. The 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse was ordered to take a long trench which was held by the Turks on the summit of Hill 60. There was a heavy exchange of bombs, gun-fire and hand

JOHN LACHLAN MACMILLAN

by Rob de Souza-Daw, Churchill

fighting but eventually, the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse (and other units) took possession of Hill 60. During the course of the trench battle, Sergeant Macmillan received a gun shot wound to the right thigh.

It was reported that Sergeant John Macmillan *because of his extreme height and the difficulty the stretcher-bearers had in getting him out of the trench and exposing themselves to Turkish fire, he pleaded with them to leave him there, and that naturally they refused*<sup>1</sup>.

In the trench battle for Hill 60, Sergeant Macmillan fought alongside of Second-Lieutenant Hugo Throssell who at one stage was in sole command. Throssell was severely wounded and for his *conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty* in the fight for Hill 60, he was awarded the Victoria Cross. This was the only VC to be awarded to the Australian Light Horse.

On 29 August 1915 Sergeant Macmillan was evacuated from Mudros for England in the hospital ship *HA Devonka*. While at sea, doctors removed a bullet from his thigh. On arriving in London, Sergeant Macmillan spent several weeks at the King George Hospital, London and was then transferred to the Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park, Middlesex.

Two months after the battle for Hill 60, Sergeant Macmillan described *the fight that will always be the most vivid memory of my life, the most thrilling event in a career that has not been without its moments of adventure*<sup>3</sup>.

As a result of his war injury, Sergeant Macmillan was declared permanently unfit for service and the Medical Board recommended his discharge. On 22 January 1916 he embarked from London for Melbourne on the *SS Malwa* which he did at his own expense. He was accompanied on this voyage by his brother, Alexander Campbell Macmillan. On the 26 February 1916, the *SS Malwa* arrived at Freemantle and then continued to other ports. On arrival in Melbourne, Sergeant Macmillan was admitted to No.5 Australian General Hospital and on 11 June 1916 was discharged from the Australian Infantry Force as permanently unfit for active service.

John Lachlan Macmillan was awarded the 1914/15 British Star, British War and Victory campaign medals. His name is listed on the *Great European War Roll of Honour* at the Morwell State School, now known as the Morwell Primary School- Commercial Road.

In 1920, the Macmillan family sold Macmillan Estate at Hazelwood for World War I soldier settlement. The land then became known as Hazelwood Estate and was divided into 45 farming allotments by the Closer Settlement Board. Some of these allotments were allocated to returned soldiers who had fought at Gallipoli.

For the remainder of his life, Jack Macmillan suffered *foot drop* caused by nerve damage from the gun shot wound. *On return to Metung from the army, he always required a stick, but was so incensed when Melbourne had a police strike during (sic) the war, that he offered his services as a special constable and was seen ably directing traffic in Swanston Street, supported by his stick*<sup>1</sup>.

For several years John Macmillan worked as a Stock and Station Agent for McLean and Little and around 1941 he retired. John Macmillan owned and drove a 1929/30 Hudson sedan.

On 24 October 1950, John Lachlan Macmillan died at Traralgon and was buried in the Hazelwood Cemetery in the Macmillan family plot. His wife Margaret *Maude* Macmillan was the sole beneficiary of his estate which mainly consisted of fixed deposits, debentures and money in the bank. John Macmillan had stated in his will that his funeral arrangements were to be as quiet and unpretentious as possible and his remains were to be buried in the nearest cemetery. When his wife died in 1953, she was buried with her husband at the Hazelwood Cemetery.

On 7 November 1948, John Macmillan's youngest sister Grace Bruce died at Traralgon. In 1902 she had married Traralgon solicitor William Maxwell Bruce. On 13 January 1951, Maxwell Bruce bequeathed to the people of Traralgon for geriatric care, the Bruce property at Traralgon known as *Dalkeith*. Maxwell Bruce was fond of his wife Grace Bruce and his brother-in-law John Lachlan Macmillan and in bequeathing the real estate, he stated *their memory is very dear to me and I feel sure a gift of this nature would be a fitting memorial to their lives*<sup>2</sup>.

JOHN LACHLAN MACMILLAN

by Rob de Souza-Daw, Churchill

In 1961 *Dalkeith* was transferred to an organization known as the Grace Bruce & JL Macmillan Memorial Home Inc. This organization now manages the aged care facility at *Dalkeith* in Traralgon and *Hazelwood House* in Churchill.

John Lachlan Macmillan was a World War I soldier from Hazelwood. Lest we forget.

**References-**

- <sup>1</sup> Page 301 *The Story of Metung and its First Inhabitants* Gay Halstead, Self-published 1977
- <sup>2</sup> *Grace Bruce & J.L. MacMillan Memorial Home Inc.* in the Annual Report 2003/2004 of the Grace Bruce & JL Macmillan Memorial Home
- <sup>3</sup> Interview by John Macmillan as reported in the London Daily Mail, 27 October 1915
- <sup>4</sup> Personal correspondence from John Hamilton, Herald-Sun, February 2010

*For Valour* Ric Throssell Currency Press, Sydney 1976

VPRO Series 7591 (Wills) and Series 28 (Probate)

NAA Series K269 Passenger List

NAA War Service record for John Lachlan Macmillan.



**Sergeant John Macmillan on sentry duty at Gallipoli.  
Photo 1915 and courtesy of the Australian War Memorial. Item number A05402**

**JOHN LACHLAN MACMILLAN**  
by Rob de Souza-Daw, Churchill

News from the past



|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Aug 2, 1922  | Alexander Graham Bell died in Nova Scotia, |
| Aug 6, 1881  | Sir Alexander Fleming born,                |
| Aug 15, 1771 | Sir Walter Scott born,                     |
| Aug 23, 1305 | William Wallace executed,                  |
| Aug 25, 1819 | James Watt died                            |



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

