



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.*

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 84 November 2011

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President's Report for November, 2011

This year seems to have flown and while it has been relatively quiet for our group, there has been a lot happening elsewhere.

Internationally the Chief, George of CMIC with Genealogist, attended the Grandfather Mountain Games in June 2011 visiting Nova Scotia and North Carolina. We have found that there is a descendant in Victoria from Duncan McMillan of Scotland through Hugh McMillan (boat builder) of Cape Breton!

The Community of the Tonsured Servant held an investiture service in conjunction with the games with 2 new candidates, Carol and David Morris. CTS has granted \$US1,000 this year to CMIC and over \$US36,600 since 1996.

Next year the bi-annual North American June gathering will be in the twin cities of Minneapolis and St Paul in Minnesota. These 2 cities are on opposite sides of the Mississippi River. There will be 6 days of education, entertainment, culture, and companionship. Details on --

www.mcmillan-design.com/clan/pages/gathering.html

We have had news of the death of Sir Graham MacMillan, 1920-2011. He was a leading official of the Conservative Party from the 60's to the 80's and well known for the sparkle in his eye. His grandfather was a founding member of our Clan.

In New Zealand President Avon McMillan has retired but the society's Patron, Margaret Pool, has conferred life membership on him.

Back here we had our AGM in September when it was announced that June Senior said she would retire from the committee after 27 years of service [since 1983]. She has been president, then treasurer and also produced and posted the newsletter for 13 years. Consequently she has been in close contact with new members as well as those members who were renewing their memberships. In the early days it was June, with her husband Max, who set up the tent at the various Games. Over the years Max has quietly audited the accounts. Life memberships have been conferred on both June and Max as well as small presentations in gratitude for all their continued interest and time they spent in building up CMSA.

We were fortunate to have as our speaker Mrs Susie Zada whose subject was "The Scots in Geelong & Districts up to 1860", a topic that she had researched and we found very interesting.

The Scots of Victoria held their AGM & Seminar on 13th November, which Myrna & I attended. Guest Speaker was Mr. Sam Afra [JP]. He is from Lebanon and arrived here in 1984. He is the Chairperson of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria and spoke of the importance of the multiculturalism in our society. The group discussions were on fund-raising and involvement of younger people in Scottish cultural activities. Notice was given of the participation of the Scottish groups in a March on Australia Day and also of Tartan Day in 2012.

June Danks.



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Dear Fellow Victorian

2012 Australia Day: Our Day Our March

On Australia Day 2012 (Thursday January 26th) the Australia Day Committee would like to introduce a brand new Australia Day People's March concept - **2012 Australia Day: Our Day Our March**.

Our Day Our March encourages Victorians to come together on Australia Day to promote Our Rich Culture and Our Diverse Community. We are asking communities, groups and organizations to participate in the 2012 Australia Day: Our Day Our March. The March will follow the Flag Raising ceremony at 10:30am, and will be along Swanston Street to Kings Domain Gardens.

The People's March has been a feature of Australia Day for the last 10 years. In 2011 we had a record number of participants with 3,000 people marching down Swanston Street into Kings Domain Gardens. In 2012 the Australia Day Committee of Victoria wishes to introduce a brand new **Australia Day: Our Day Our March** concept to further embrace and reflect the many faces that make up our community and the multicultural character of Australia and Victoria. We're asking you to **Dress to Express** Our heritage as part of Our Australia.

We are also putting an emphasis on Our Hobby, Our Sports, Our Culture, Our Religion, Our Lifestyle and Our Achievements.

In order to make **Our Day Our March** a great event to watch as well as to participate in, participants need to register with the Australia Day Committee, so that numbers, music and the nature of the participating groups can all be coordinated and planned. To register your interest, please complete the enclosed form and return, at your earliest convenience, to the address indicated.

I can think of no better way to express our national pride and cohesion of all the many communities that make up our great country.

Yours sincerely

ALISON FRASER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUSTRALIA DAY (VICTORIA)
AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE (VICTORIA)

SUBSCRIPTIONS



Subscriptions are now due and have been kept to \$20.00 for 2011/2012. 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:

Ms Janice Brooks, 15 Everest Drive, Cheltenham Vic 3192.

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

Maryborough Highland Games Monday, 2nd January 2012. Maryborough.

There is a website at <http://www.maryboroughhighlandsociety.com> for further information.

Enquiries: Ph. [03] 5461 1480.

At Princes Park, Park Road, Maryborough. First held in 1857, this is the oldest, continuous Highland Gathering in Australia. Apart from the athletic events including the Maryborough Gift, there are Highland Games, a Street Parade, Pipe Bands, Stalls, plus an evening Concert and Fireworks Display.

Australia Day March Thursday, 26th January 2012. Swanston St, Melbourne.

Australia Day: *Our Day Our March* invites Victorians from different walks of life to come together on Australia Day. It is a chance for everyone to reflect on our community as a whole by seeing the many facets that make up the character of our country. Australia has a strong and unique culture with a rich heritage. Australia Day: *Our Day Our March* will be an opportunity to **Dress to Express** an aspect of OUR Australia.

[Please contact Myrna via E-mail: <mailto:myrnar@tpg.com.au> or by phone: 5996 8667 if you'd be interested in joining us. Ed]

Berwick Highland Games Sunday, 11th February 2012. Acoonah Park, Berwick.

Activities on the day include Pipe Bands Competition, Solo Pipes and Drums Competition, Massed Pipe Bands at Closing Ceremony, Heavy Games, Haggis Throwing, Scottish Highland & Country Dancing, Clan Representation with Stalls and Displays, Black Scottish Terriers & West Highland Whites, Food and Drinks Available, Publicans Booth, Vintage & Classic car display, New Attractions, Flyball Dog Competition, Obedience & Agility Dog Demonstrations.

Enquiries: Contact: -Simon Hall: [03] 8768 9444 or mob: 0400 010 686, or,
e-mail: - www.berwickhighlandgathering.org.au

Clan Luncheon Sunday, 26th February 2012. [12 noon] Lynbrook Hotel, Lynbrook.

Our next Clan luncheon is to be held at Lynbrook Hotel, 550 South Gippsland Hwy, Lynbrook, Vic 3975 [Melways Map 96, C11]. [Please contact Myrna via E-mail: <mailto:myrnar@tpg.com.au> or by phone: 5996 8667 if you'd be interested in joining us. Ed]

Geelong Highland Games Sunday, 18th March 2012. Geelong Showgrounds, Breakwater.

[79 BREAKWATER ROAD, EAST GEELONG]

For 2012 The Geelong Highland Gathering will once again be hosting solo piping and drumming competitions. These will be on Saturday the 17th of March. This is a free to public event and will be held at the Showgrounds. There will also be a mini band competition for smaller bands. Activities on the Sunday include Pipe Bands Competition, Solo Pipes and Drums Competition, Massed Pipe Bands at Closing Ceremony, Heavy Games, Haggis Throwing, Scottish Highland & Country Dancing, Clan Representation with Stalls and Displays. *There is a website at www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au for further information.*

Enquiries: Ph. [03] 5221 7224 A.H.

Ringwood Highland Games Sunday, 1st April 2012. Jubilee Park, Ringwood

Activities on the day include Pipe Bands Competition, Massed Pipe Bands at Closing Ceremony, "Light" Heavy Games, Haggis Hurling, Welly Boot Throwing, Flyball Dog Competition, Scottish Highland & Country Dancing, Clan Representation with Stalls and Displays. [Free bus from & back to Ringwood Station].

There is a website at www.ringwoodhighlandgames.org.au for further information.

Enquiries: Ph. [03] 9876 4140, or e-mail: - info@ringwoodhighlandgames.com.au

2012 Tartan Day at Federation Square

The Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group is pleased to announce that next year's 'Tartan Day Celebrations' will be held at Federation Square on Sunday 1st July 2012. Representatives from the following groups comprise the 2012 'Planning Committee' and have already had their first meeting:

- Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group (SVCG)
- Scottish Clans and Associations Council
- Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club
- Pipe Bands Victoria
- Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
- Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
- Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
- Victorian Scottish Dancing Members Association
- Victorian Scottish Union Highland Dancing

The SVCG would be grateful for any financial assistance that Scottish community groups are able to offer for this event; it is after all a wonderful opportunity for the Scottish community to showcase its vibrant, unique culture to the wider multicultural community in Victoria.

[Contact: Bill Schrank (03) 8361 0282 0400 867 123]

Annual General Meeting **Sunday 26th August 2012.** South Yarra.

Our A.G.M. will again be held on Sunday 16th 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*].

Scottish Resource Centre

The Resource Centre is situated on Level 2, Celtic Club – Cnr Queen & La Trobe Streets, Melbourne. The office is staffed by volunteers from the Scottish community between the hours of 10.00 and 12.00 Mon- Fri. Phone: 9670 6766. Contact outside these hours can be made by using the same telephone number.

Coordinator: Ian Murdoch

Scots of Victoria Website

This website has been established for use by all members of the Scottish community. Are your Scottish group's details on the website? Do you need an event advertised? Would you like a brief history of your group placed on the website? If you answered yes to any of the above please make contact with the Scottish Resource Centre



[I was browsing the web looking for information on Angus MacMillan, when I found the following article on the ABC radio site; I thought it would be of interest. There is a bit more information but that's for next time. Ed].

Mac Villain?

When:- 8:19am - Thursday 25 April 2002

“..... At least that question: what makes a good man?”

Was Angus MacMillan really Angus Mac-Villain?

The Scottish born colonial pioneer's credited with being among the first white explorers into what's now called the Gippsland region of eastern Victoria, during the 1800's. He blazed a trail that led the area being opened-up to agriculture. And it remains one of the richest farming areas of the State.

But was Angus MacMillan a true hero, or an unscrupulous opportunist with blood on his hands, that of Aboriginals who stood in his way? And if so, is he a person worthy of having the federal electorate of MacMillan named after him?

These are the questions posed by the West Gippsland Reconciliation Group, in a submission to the Australian Electoral Commission now investigating a redistribution of electoral boundaries.....”

Angus McMillan - Pathfinder by K. Cox [cont'd] [Cont'd from Newsletter 78]



The roof was shingle, and the Church was designed to accommodate one hundred and eighty. It is a popular tourist attraction today.

McMillan and Arbuckle worshipped in the new Church one bright Sunday morning with one of the Trustees, Doctor G. D. Hedley. McMillan told his friends that this was the first occasion he had worshipped in a country Church since he left the island of Barra in 1838.

Meantime, the Presbyterian Church had sent men into the field. The first settled Minister was the Reverend W. S. Login, a Scot born in Orkney, who arrived in Gippsland in 1854. He was preceded by the Reverend Walter Robb, who was dispatched from Sydney in 1851, by the Reverend Dr J. Dunmore Lang to work in Gippsland.

Mr. Robb was a guest of McMillan at Bushy Park, which he made his headquarters while travelling over the huge Parish of Gippsland. Whilst sharing the rough bush hospitality which was all that McMillan could offer, the clergyman had long discussions with his host over a wide range of subjects. In the slab hut with its flickering tallow candle, Robb brought McMillan up to date regarding affairs in Britain, and they discussed the possibility of commencing a Presbyterian Church in Gippsland. McMillan, at his guest's request, gave an account of his life since his arrival in the Colony, including his journeys of exploration, during which with some bitterness to the attempt by the Polish Count to rob him of his work as the discoverer of Gippsland and to claim the credit himself. To all this, Reverend Robb listened with rapt attention. He reported the conversation to J. Dunmore Lang in a letter which took some weeks to reach the Minister in Sydney. He wrote:

There can be but one opinion as to the reception there is for all the labours which I can properly bring to bear upon the open profanity and great immorality existing in this part of this vast territory. To avert such is surely worth living for, even that I should be sadly stricken with penury and that I should drag out an existence unaffected by dainties of the rich. Would that I were more imbued with the spirit of the village Preacher of whom a certain popular writer speaks 'Who was passing rich with Forty Pounds a year'.

The reception and kindness that I have experienced from the hands of Mr. McMillan are beyond what I could possibly have anticipated on the part of anyone, which shall surely never be erased from my mind. May He who alone can reward return him fourfold?

Mr. McMillan requests me to proffer you his sincere and hearty thanks for having advocated for him the honour to which he is due as being the discoverer of Gippsland in opposition to the arrogant assumption of Count Strzelecki.

Each and all here with a unanimous voice give the palm of victory to Mr. McMillan as being the discoverer of Gippsland. There cannot but be one opinion concerning it amongst those who know and who wish to know the true nature of the case; for years before the said Count set foot upon this district, Mr. McMillan by night and by day, accompanied sometimes only by a solitary black, surveyed and explored its scrubby ranges and beautiful plains, and that at a time when even Mr. Macalister, who was at that time his employer, was ignorant of it as the child who has never been beyond the circumscribed precincts of its limited domain in sea-girt Iceland. Not having had the pleasure of seeing you personally, he had adopted for the present this indirect method of returning you his warm thanks for having acted as you did in the matter referred to. He may probably be in Sydney this season and he is going to take the liberty of calling upon you.

All letters etcetera, may be directed to the care of Mr. McMillan, Bushy Park, Gippsland. I beg to remain your sincere friend, Walter Robb.

McMillan's thanks to Lang were in response to a reference in his book, Phillip's Land, published in 1847, when he wrote:

It is pretty generally believed in New South Wales, that the discovery was really effected by Mr. A. McMillan, a respectable Scotchman who was then employed as a Superintendent or Overseer by Lachlan and Matthew Macalister, two gentlemen from the Highlands of Scotland who have long been settled in the country and were then extensive proprietors of stock in the direction of the Snowy Mountains.

It is well known, however, that when a settler or squatter in Australia discovers an eligible track of country, he is generally in no hurry to let the world know of it, but rather endeavour to keep it concealed that his own flocks and herds may luxuriate on the rich grass it produces so long and as quietly as possible without

interruption.

The Reverend W. S. Login arrived in Gippsland under the auspices of the Free Church of Scotland, a separate body to the established Church of Scotland, which sent to Tarraville and Alberton, Reverend Thomas M'Anlis in 1854.

Mr. Login, with his family and servants, travelled to Port Albert in the Meg Merrilees at a cost of Forty Pounds. Mr. Login's daughter, Mrs Harrison, wrote later:

We were all conducted at once to the ship Inn and introduced to the kindly and hospitable care of Mr. & Mrs Gellion. My uncle William Howden had sent a spring cart to meet us. This was almost a Rolls Royce in those days – most people travelling by bullock dray. We drove out to my uncle's property at The Green Hills, beyond Tarraville, where we found my mother's sister, Mrs Traill, also living with her little girl. Arrangements were made for us to remain there until my father had some home to receive us.

.....To Be Continued.....



[The following article was included with the last Newsletter of the Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group which I found interesting, and thought it worth including. Ed]

THE CLARSACH

“Clarsach” [*Clàrsach* or *Clàirseach* (depending on Scottish Gaelic or Irish spellings)] is the Gaelic word for ‘small harp’, and the instrument is sometimes known as the Celtic harp. These instruments have featured in Scottish history from as early as the eighth and ninth centuries, and by the Middle Ages were established as the characteristic instruments of the Scottish Gael.



There were two types of harp in Scotland. The Clarsach was the harp of the Highlands, and was strung with wire, and the similar gut-strung instrument was found in the Lowlands of Scotland.

Playing the harp was a noble profession during these times, and the Clan chiefs of the Highlands employed harpers or bards to compose tunes and songs for them. One of the most notable of these was Rory Dall Morrison, who was Harper to the Chief of the Clan MacLeod at Dunvegan on Skye in the early eighteenth century. The harping tradition died out in the eighteenth century after the collapse of the Clan system, and there were subsequent attempts to revive the small harp during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

But the strongest and most successful effort has been over the past 20-30 years. There are now more harp players in Scotland than ever before, and the Clarsach has once again established itself as one of the strongest instruments on the Scottish traditional music scene today.

[The precise Gaelic term for the harp of the Gael is clàrsach Ghàidhealach (Sc.)/clàirseach Ghaelach (Ir.), meaning Gaelic harp. Ed]



Correspondence

A Letter of Appreciation has been sent to Russell Harrison who has resigned. Russell was a member from October 1992. He was the Australian and N.Z Trustee for Clan MacMillan Society Australia, for some years and I believe he presided over at least one of the Trustee meetings at Finlaystone. He visited Melbourne for George and Jane's visit in November 1997. He has resigned due to family health problems.

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of Australia's finest musical exports" Australian Music magazine*

ORDER OF THE THISTLE

The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle is the second most senior order of chivalry in the UK. It was founded by James VII of Scotland (James II of England) in May 1687.

The Order consists of the Sovereign and sixteen Knights and Ladies, as well as 'extra' knights (members of the British Royal Family and foreign monarchs). The Sovereign alone grants membership of the Order; he or she is not advised by the Government, as occurs with most other Orders.

When James VII created the modern Order in 1687, he directed that the Abbey Church at the Palace of Holyroodhouse be converted to a Chapel for the Order of the Thistle, perhaps copying the idea from the Order of the Garter (whose chapel is located in Windsor Castle).

The Thistle Chapel bears the arms of members living and deceased on stall plates. These enameled plates are affixed to the back of the stall and display its occupant's name, arms, and date of admission into the Order. Sir Robert Menzies is the only Australian ever to be made a member of the Order (1963).....



If unclaimed, please return to:

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA)

P.O.Box 350, Belgrave Vic 3160

