

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

Newsletter No 15, September 1988

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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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

After our lovely summer and autumn weather we will be well and truly into winter by the time you receive this newsletter.

We were fortunate enough to have a lovely sunny day for our gathering at Ferntree Gully in March. A big thank-you to all those who made the effort to come. Bob McMillan-Kay our Archivist spends considerable time setting out a display of Mac-Millan history and we thank him for his good work, also for arranging the venue for our meeting.

Several people came along having seen a notice in some of the suburban newspapers. Obviously this is a very good way to let people know of our clan society. We thank our Secretary, Steven McMillan for arranging the notice.

On June 11th-12th the Clan was gathering in the Knapdale (Argyll) area of Scotland and we hope they had a memorable weekend.

Very sincerely
June Senior
President

DID YOU KNOW THAT!

In ancient times, a Chief wore in battle a distinguishing badge on his helmet, a device which his followers could recognise in the turmoil of action. This is known as the CREST OF THE CHIEF and appears at the top of his Full Coat of Arms. Anyone bearing the same name as a Scottish Chief is a Clansman of the Chief and has the privilege of wearing his Crest surrounded by a STRAP AND BUCKLE GARTER to denote his Clan Allegiance.

The great Scottish Clans contain families that bore a different surname but were descended from the Chief through the female line. They are called SEPTS. Therefore anyone who has an ancestor bearing a Sept name or the Clan name itself has the privilege of wearing or displaying the Crest Badge and indeed only they may legitimately wear the authentic Scottish Ancient Device.

OUR DON

For those members who may have watched the recently screened Mini-Series on the ABC 'The Four Minute Mile' about Roger Bannister and John Landy, might have noticed an Australian runner who trained and ran with them both by the name of Don Macmillan. That Don Macmillan just happens to be our own former society President.

Don represented Australia in the 1950 and 1954 Commonwealth (Empire) Games and also in the 1952 Helsinki and 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. He competed in the 800metres (½ mile) and 1500metres (1 mile) events.

At one stage during his athletic years Don was studying for his Diploma of Education in London which is why he was often with both Landy and Bannister. Don also remained in England for about 2½ years after he graduated.

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist/Editor/Treasurer

CORRESPONDENCE

I have received quite a lot of correspondence since our last newsletter, which has included the following:

A letter from Peggy Cockram, thanking us for a 'Help Wanted' article we included in a previous newsletter.

A 'Help Wanted' request from Shane McMillan of the ACT.

A letter from Trish Sinclair of Beaumaris.

A letter from Val Gaskell of Mornington.

A Newsletter of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America from John B McMillan of Canada.

A letter from our Clan Chief, George MacMillan and his wife Jane. (see photo on Page 3)

A letter from Mrs Colleen Muggleton of Texas, Queensland, seeking information about Angus McMillan (the Gippsland Explorer)

NEW MEMBERS

We have two more family members to our society, namely:

Elizabeth Kirsty McMillan and son of North Brighton and John and Connie McMillan of Murrumbidgee.

We welcome our new members and hope they enjoy our meetings and kinship.

ANCESTRAL DATA

In our last newsletter I made another request for members to provide me with their ancestral data if they have not already done so. The response was not as good as I expected, but it's better than nothing. Anyway, we now have the ancestral data on 40 members, which is about half of our membership. So for those who as yet have not sent theirs, a response will be most appreciated. A copy of our society's ancestral data is enclosed as an insert with this newsletter.

While on the subject of ancestral data. Don Jinnette, a committee member, donated a copy of his family pedigree which he prepared on a computer. I wish to extend my thanks to Don for this as it is a most valuable asset for our archives.

CLAN SOCIETY LIBRARY

Another book has been added to our small library. This time it is a book that I had on order through Bill Gibson of The House of Scotland in Balwyn. The book is titled "Your Clan Heritage — Clan MacMillan" by Alan McNie. This is a very informative publication, and should anyone want a copy, Bill Gibson has more on order, if not available now. (see advert. in newsletter) Surprisingly, at our Clan Gathering in March, one of our members was browsing through the book, which included a sample of a shipping register for a McMillan family, and it happened to be his ancestor. A small world indeed.

FEES

As usual it seems to be a case of reminding some people all the time regarding fees, but it's a necessary evil if we are to continue as a society. So please endeavour to pay them when due in October.

GENERAL INTEREST

Trish Sinclair included in a recent letter to me the following which someone may be able to give us further information on:

"A cousin of my father, Alex Macmillan, told me it was a highland custom for the first born son to spell his name 'Mac' and for subsequent sons to use 'Mc', but I have never been able to confirm this."

Trish cites a case of her father and her cousin, John McMillan of Metung, whose father was a younger brother of Alex. John's father used 'Mc' for his surname whereas Alex used Macmillan, being the first born son.

Maybe someone else has come across a similar occurrence. If so, please write and tell us about it.

Val Gaskell, a society member from Beaumaris, wrote to me recently informing me of her Ice-Cream business in which the Herald 'Taste Magazine' gave her products a 9½ out of 10. A pretty good score in today's competitive world. Val has her main outlets through two restaurants in Brighton as well as David Jones. Because of her success she is taking leave from her teaching career and concentrating on Ice-Cream making. Made with only natural ingredients, including fruit and eggs and in some cases a touch of a liqueur, Val's recipes are becoming famous. For anybody likely to be in the area and yearning for an Ice-Cream, Val can be contacted on 589 1102. She will only be too pleased to let you know where you can try one of her creations.

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist/Editor/Treasurer




This photograph of our Clan Chief, George MacMillan and his wife Jane is included for the benefit of any members who have not as yet seen them. (taken at the Bute Highland Games, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, Scotland, 22 August 1987 for the Newsletter of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America.

HELP WANTED

Does any Clan Society Member know of any 'Irish' McMillans that migrated to South Australia about 1860. I discovered that my original McMillan ancestor came here about 1856 and his parents, brothers and sisters, their spouses and children arrived in 1858 on the 'Sir Thomas Cresham'.

Yours Sincerely
Shane McMillan
105 A' Beckett St.
Watson 2602
ACT


Special Note: Steven McMillan, our Secretary has a new telephone number.



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Following later, Count Strezlecki named the stretch of water Lake King, after his friend Admiral P. P. King, the first native born Admiral. Today, Lake King remains, Lake Victoria, being restricted to the western section.

Striking North-West, the party continued through splendid forests to a river as deep and as broad as the Tambo. McMillan named it the Nicholson after Dr. Nicholson who was elected in 1848 as speaker of the first Legislative Council of New South Wales.

Here Cameron and the native named 'Friday' became lost. With Macallister, Cobone Johnny and Old Bath, McMillan searched for a crossing place, sending the remainder of the party to lead the horses around an extensive morass. When they did not appear, McMillan fired several shots without result. He became anxious. Angus and Cobone Johnny set out to find the missing men and overtook them travelling in the wrong direction.

Thereafter, McMillan kept the party together. He did not want to waste precious days searching the bush with the consequent risk of a small number falling as easy prey to a native ambush.

A rocky fiord was found and they continued north up the west bank of the river. Turning west they reached the Mitchell River named by McMillan after Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor-General of New South Wales. They struck trouble; following the Mitchell they encountered a morass, in attempting to cross, McMillan's favourite horse 'Clifton' became bogged and difficulty was experienced in extracting the animal. McMillan called this spot 'Cliftons Morass'. McMillan's ingenuity and previous experience saved the horse. A log rope was fastened to a log, slung over a tree, and the other end fastened around the struggling horse. By heaving on the suspended log, the extra leverage finally pulled the horse from the bog.

Delighted with the country, they camped on the bank on site called Prospect Flat. From this spot there was an unsurpassed view of the mountains.

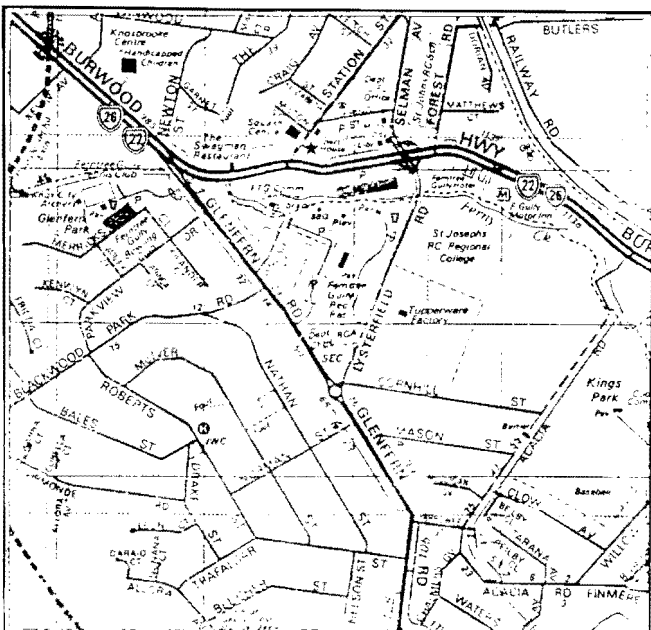
At this point McMillan's romantic nature overcame him and he wrote jubilantly of the country: "The river running majestically around the hill and the low country extending as far as the eye could carry. The Australian Alps, Lake Victoria and the noble streams emptying themselves into it put me in mind of the 'Land O brown heath and shaggy woodland of mountain and the flood', that I gave it the appropriate name of 'Caledonia Australis'. It was then that I keenly felt that I had a noble and glorious task to perform, and that I was only an instrument at the hands of the Almighty to accomplish it. Here was a country capable of supporting all my countrymen, lying dormant. Land of mountains, scrub, morasses, land of kangaroos and laughing jackasses."

We may forgive McMillan's attempt at poetry in his enthusiasm over the rich land he had conquered. Fortunately Strezlecki's more suitable Gippsland replaced Caledonia Australis. (to be continued)

Steven McMillan
Secretary

LOCALITY MAP

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 23rd October is our Annual General Meeting and Clan Gathering. The venue is the 1st and 3rd Fern-tree Gully Scout Hall located opposite St Josephs Regional College in Lysterfield Rd, Ferntree Gully. (see Melway map 74, ref. C5)

Commencing at 12.00 noon. Tables and chairs will be provided. Toilets and a kitchen area are available within the hall. BYO everything to eat and drink. Don't forget to bring along any friends or interested people, they are most welcome.

The AGM is also the day we elect a new committee, so have a think about who you would like to consider or nominate. (even yourself).

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