



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 26, JULY 1992

MACMILLAN

CREST BADGE : *A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-handed sword, proper.*

MOTTO : *Aniseris succurrere disco*
(I learn to succour the distressed).

GAELIC NAME : *MacGhille-Mhaolain.*

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members. Winter arrived early this year and with it the usual ills and chills. Best wishes to those of you who are not well and I do trust you will soon be feeling much better.

Since our last newsletter we attended the Ringwood Highland Games in March and a Rediscover your Scottish roots at the Scottish history/Genealogy day at the end of June. Details of both these days are mentioned in the newsletter.

The next important date to mark in your diary will be our Annual General Meeting and B.B.Q to be held on Sunday, 18th October 1992 at Scotch College grounds Hawthorn. This also is mentioned, with a location map, inside.

I do hope this date will suit our members and that we will have a chance to meet many of you later in the year.

Hoping to see you there,

Kindest regards, June Senior.

LETTER FROM OUR CLAN CHIEF

I received a letter in March from our Clan Chief, George MacMillan telling us about a special Clan gathering at Finlaystone to celebrate the centenary of the Glasgow MacMillan Society on 20th. June 1992. George wrote to ask if we would like to send something from the Australian Society to go into a time capsule that might be of interest if dug up in 2092! I forwarded our Newsletter to be included and sent our congratulations and best wishes to the Glasgow group. George mentioned that the founding fathers of the Glasgow Society were an interesting group of people, including Alexander Macmillan the publisher, grandfather of the late Harold Macmillan, Earl of Stockton.

CLAN MACMILLAN - GLEN URQUHART

I have received two letters from Russell Harrison of West Ryde, N.S.W. Russell is the honorary co-ordinator for Australia of the newly formed Glen Urquhart MacMillan Society and has kindly sent me a copy of their first Newsletter. As I know several of our members whose forbears came from this area, and there may be many more, I am enclosing a copy of their Newsletter in this edition. If any members are interested it gives details on joining, also Russell's address is enclosed if you wish to contact him. Russell mentioned in his letter to me that any members connected to Glen Urquhart may like to write to him and he may be able to help them with information from Graeme's charts when they come to hand. Unfortunately I could not let anyone know about the Glen Urquhart International Gathering late August 1992 as Russell's first letter to me arrived the day after I had mailed out our March 1992 Newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE

Many thanks to members who have sent their subscription and written to say they enjoy reading the Newsletter. Don't forget it is your Newsletter and anything of interest you have would be gratefully accepted....Editor

I was delighted to receive a letter from Mrs. Margaret Poole of N.Z. and she enclosed a copy of their second newsletter.

Margaret, after four years research has found the branch of MacMillans from the Lochaber area near Fort William that she belongs to, so congratulations Margaret on this important find.

We are happy to list below two queries from New Zealand.

If any of our members has a query on MacMillans who settled in New Zealand Margaret would be happy to include the details in their newsletter.

HELP WANTED

Mrs Margaret Poole, 6 Bonita Ave., Whangaparaoa, Auckland New Zealand would like information on MacMillan families from Glen Nevis, Bridge of Nevis area, near Fort William, Scotland.

Mrs Ellen McCormack, Matapihi Road, 5RD Tauranga, New Zealand would like information on the family of Rev. John Kennedy McMillan, born Ballachulish, Argyll 1832. He was the son of Rev. John and Mary Ann Kennedy. John Kennedy McMillan arrived in Melbourne on 13th. December 1858 on the ship "Mermaid". He was minister at Beechworth Vic, and Hamilton Vic.

SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

There are still a few members who did not respond to my reminder note with the March newsletter. These were due last October and I will put another reminder with this newsletter. It would be appreciated if you would take a few minutes NOW and send your subscription to Bruce McMillan our Treasurer (address on page 1).

VALE- BELL

We were saddened to learn of the death earlier in June of our member James(Mick) Bell. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Beth and to their family.

SCOTTISH HISTORY/GENEALOGY DAY

On Sunday 28th. June 1992 the Genealogical Society of Victoria- Scottish Ancestry Group - held a "Rediscover your Scottish roots" at the Glen Waverley Primary School. Along with several other Clans we had a display. There was a steady stream of people all day, most seeking information from the Scottish Ancestry Group on tracing their ancestors.

As well as the Clan Societies displays with histories and information there was a programme which included Highland dancing, Scottish country dancing and the playing of bagpipes. Later in the day there was Gaelic reading and singing and Burns poetry and songs on the programme.

RINGWOOD HIGHLAND GAMES

We attended the Games on Sunday 29th. March 1992. We put up our display which included tea-towels of Scotland(showing where the Clans came from) and The Isle of Arran, photos of our Clan Chief George MacMillan and his wife Jane, photos of Finlaystone and many lovely photos of the gardens at Finlaystone. As the people passed by they would come to our tent to view the display and it was very interesting to hear where some folk had come from. Some had been born on the Isle of Arran and many more had visited there. One family were visiting from Scotland, another lady lived quite close to Finlaystone. As well as all that there were the Pipe Bands playing, Scottish Highland dancing, Scottish country dancing and the heavy games competitions. All in all a very interesting day and we were pleased to sign up two new members - Mrs Bess Hughes of Doncaster and John & Sheila Brown of Croydon. On behalf of the Society we welcome them to our Clan and hope they enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

RECORDS OF ANCESTORS

On page 8 I am enclosing a 'Records of Ancestors' form for your perusal. It is some years since we have asked members to co-operate in listing their ancestral origins. As we have many new members since the last time this form was circulated I feel it is time to update our records to include our newer members.

In filling in the form you may not know all the 'details of ancestry' however it would be appreciated if you would fill in what information you do have and return it to me. When we have received your forms we can then compile a register which we will publish in a future Newsletter

June Senior.

NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to all the Clans and Societies for forwarding their excellent Newsletters to us: Clan MacMillan of New Zealand, Clans Morrison, Cameron, Fraser and MacFarlane.

CEILIDHS

On Sunday March 8, Max & I joined with the Morrison Clan at their third Ceilidh at Bena in South Gippsland. A most enjoyable time was had by all with some fine entertainment and delicious food. Thank you to the Morrison Clan for sharing your Ceilidh with us.

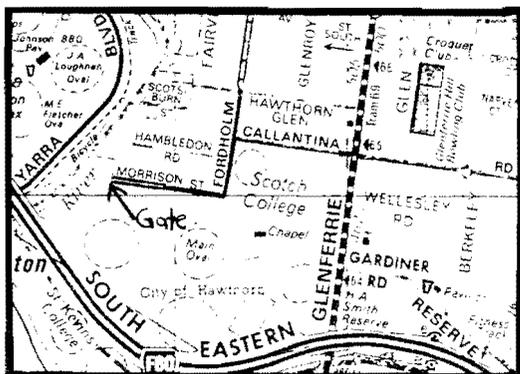
Again on the 4th July Max & I attended the Clan Cameron mid year Ceilidh. This too was a most enjoyable evening with Scottish Country Dancing, exhibition Highland Dancing and other items of fine singing of Scottish songs. This followed with a delicious supper to bring a very happy and friendly evening to a close. A big thank you to the Cameron Clan.

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

We were delighted to receive a card recently from Bob and Louise McMillan-Kay who were holidaying at Long Island, Palm Bay Hideaway. Bob wrote: "It is a real paradise here, so relaxing, no commercialism, no T.V.'s or radios, just little huts and bures on the edge of a tropical palm lined lagoon. The staff are absolutely wonderful. They have built their own yachts which are moored here. You become part of the Palm Bay family after a few days. Its a lovely unspoiled part of the world here in the Whitsunday Islands". Many thanks Bob for your card.

B.B.Q AND A.G.M. OCTOBER 18, 1992 11.30A.M.-4.00 P.M.

As mentioned on Page 1 we are fortunate again to have Scotch College grounds as a venue for our annual gathering on Sunday October 18, 1992. It is some years since we have had a large number attending so hopefully this year the date and venue will suit more of our members. Below you will find a map and instructions. Please bring your own food and drink. Also any material you have on the MacMillan Clan which may be displayed and viewed by those attending.



LOCATION MAP FOR A.G.M. AND B.B.Q. AT
SCOTCH COLLEGE SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 1992
11.30 A.M. - 4.00 P.M.

MELWAY MAP 59, REFERENCE B1.

Proceed through gate at end of Morrison St.,
into Scotch College grounds to picnic area
near Boatshed by the Yarra River.

ANGUS McMILLAN - PATHFINDER
CONTINUED

McMillan recognised the leader as a black he had met before at the swamp. As they eyed each other the blacks paused. Seizing the opportunity, Mc Millan made signs to the leader to put down his spear, at the same time dropping his rifle. The black dropped his spear, but, unseen in the long grass, he held it between his toes. As he edged forward, he dragged the weapon with him. Mc Millan was unaware of the danger. The black was within 20 metres and prepared to stoop rapidly and throw the spear with the idea of killing Angus.

Ingebira, an Omeo black, detected the ruse and uttered a warning cry. Seeing the danger, one of McMillan's party fired his gun and the leader fell. In fear the remainder of the natives threw themselves on their faces. Alarmed by the noise and death of their leader, they bolted in confusion.

On the 4th January, 1841, the dray arrived at the station with supplies. The day was hot and flies harassed the convicts as they worked in the bush. There was a letter from Lachlan Macalister saying to abandon the country and sell the cattle in Melbourne, he was convinced that there was no outlet to the sea. McMillan resolved to disobey these orders and make a final dash for the coast.

With Colin McLaren, Old Bath Tom Macalister and the Blackboy Friday, McMillan left Ensay on 8th February, 1841 with four weeks provisions. He was determined this time there would be no turning back.

Following the old tracks, they reached Merriman's Creek from where they cut a track through to Toms Gap, South East of the site of Gormandale. From this spot, the party was cheered by the sight of Wilson's Promontory, reclining in the distance like a giant asleep, and beneath it the sparkling waters of Corner Inlet.

McMillan was in high spirits, on the 12th February, they camped on Bruthen Creek named because the native Friday thought it resembled the Bruthen they had already passed. Leaving the forest behind, the travelling became easy. They crossed Greenmount near Yarram and camped below Parkside on the Yarra River named after the Aboriginal who had accompanied Strzelecki's Party.

On the 14th February, the party triumphantly reached the sea at the Old Port near the mouth of the Albert River. He wrote in his Journal, "This was a Happy Day. Having accomplished my object, I had great cause to be thankful to him who guarded me and shielding me from many a danger."



To be continued.....

CLAN MACMILLAN



GLEN URQUHART

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 1992

GLENURQUHART MACMILLAN SOCIETY

The inaugural meeting of the Society was held in the Glen on a beautifully hot and sunny 31st August 1991. I am pleased to report that some forty descendants of the clan gathered at The Steading, Kilmartin to enjoy a drink and some lunch before the meeting proper at 2.00 pm. Especially notable among the pleasant mix of generations was the large turnout of one particular family - that of Katie "Balnalick" (Mrs. Campbell, Dores Road, Inverness) who was born in 1910; she was accompanied by a number of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren - among whom was the youngest "member" present. The oldest was my father, Malcolm Macmillan Mackenzie, who was born in 1907; the furthest-flung was Hugh Macdonald from New Zealand (related to the Drumclune Macmillans through the Macdonalds of Balnalurigan) - closely followed by Anne Stewart Macmillan (Mrs. Clarke) from South Australia, another descendant of the Shewglie/Balnalick branch. I was also particularly pleased to see Hugh Macmillan from the University of Zambia, a fellow historian (and son of the distinguished Professor of that subject, William Miller Macmillan) along with his brother Duncan, the renowned historian of Scottish Art, and their sister Lyndsay - all with their families. Closer to home, it was also good to meet some of the clan now living in the neighbouring parish of Kirkhill - where there are actually many more Macmillans to be found these days than in the Glen itself.

After some of the children had been taken off to see the Games, we got down to the business of the day. The meeting resolved to make the Glenurquhart Macmillan Society open to all descendants of the clan, and other interested parties; to have a minimum annual subscription of £5; to hold a bi-annual International Clan Gathering in the Glen on the weekend of the Games; to elect a temporary committee to organise such a gathering in 1992, and to draw up a constitution for the Society members to ratify at the business meeting to be held as part of that gathering (when a permanent committee and officials will be elected to run the Society).

THE COMMITTEE

Owing to the difficulty of meeting in person (because of the geographical spread of the member's homes), the committee that was elected will rarely - if ever - meet before the weekend of the gathering and will have to conduct most of its business by mail and telephone; the portfolios and responsibilities outlined below are being suggested by me as Chairman for this year - apart from the post of General Secretary which was conferred by the general wish of the meeting. The committee is as follows:

Graeme Mackenzie, Edinburgh	- Chairman
Willie Donald Macmillan, Forres	- General Secretary
Hazel Murie, Dundee	- Ass. Sec. (Membership).
"Tony" (Mrs. Doris) Moffat, Aberdeen	- Treasurer
Cathy Macmillan, Oakbank	- Keeper of the Archives
Norman Macmillan, Aberdeen	
Alasdair Mackenzie, Blairbeg	

In addition to these "home" committee members, I am asking the following members abroad to act as "Correspondence Secretaries" and deal with the forwarding of communications between the Society in Scotland and the membership in their particular areas (in order to cut down on the costs of international postage):

U.S.A.	- Doug MacMillan, 26666 Venado Drive, Mission Viejo, California 92691
New Zealand	- Alastair Tod, 25 Velma Road, Glenfield, Auckland.
Canada	- Evangeline Macmillan Way, PO Box 242, Stellarton, Pictou, Nova Scotia.
Australia	- Russell Harrison, 44 Glenayr Avenue, West Ryde, NSW 2114.
Africa	- Hugh Macmillan, University of Zambia, Box 32379, Lusaka.

Clan MacMillan Glen Urquhart Society Newsletter January 1992 Cont'd..
THE 1992 INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

This will be held over the weekend of the 29th August 1992. The exact number and nature of the events will be guided by your response to this newsletter - depending on the numbers coming and any suggestions or requests that you (especially those of you coming from abroad) may have. So far the programme is likely to consist of:

FRIDAY 28th: Evening: Formal dinner (probably in Inverness).

SATURDAY 29th: Morning: Business Meeting in the Glen (venue to be arranged).

Afternoon: Highland Games in Drumnadrochit (possible parade)

Evening: Ceilidh in the Glen (venue to be arranged).

SUNDAY 30th: Morning: Free for those who wish to attend Kilmore Kirk.

Afternoon: Talk and Tour on the history of clan and glen.

The above programme should allow a full weekend to those resident and working the rest of the week in Scotland, and any extra activities will be designed to meet the wishes of those coming from abroad who are on holiday with time to spare and a need to see as much as possible. These would likely include spending the earlier part of Friday 28th in Lochaber - visiting the places from which many of the clan migrated to the Glen, and calling at the home of Sir Donald Cameron of Lochail who's ancestors were followed by the McMillans of Lochaber and Glenurquhart. This could be a day trip from Inverness and the Glen, or part of a two day trip from Edinburgh, taking in on the first day a visit to George MacMillan of MacMillan at Finlaystone (near Glasgow); Inverary; and the ancient homeland of the main McMillan branch at Knap in Argyll. Since the Edinburgh Festival would be in its last week at this time, members from abroad might like to fly into Glasgow or London, and spend a couple of days in the Scottish capital enjoying the festivities (including of course the famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo in the Castle), where I should be happy to meet you and show you a few of the sights here - before embarking on our journey north to the Glen, via the aforementioned places of McMillan interest.

In deciding what to organise for the weekend, or the preceding week, we obviously need to know as soon as possible how many members are likely to be coming - especially from overseas - and in what activities you would like to participate. Clearly your decisions will be influenced by the costs involved - but equally we need to know the likely numbers before we can get quotes about the likely costs. We will probably endeavour to make as much of the programme a pay-as-you-go affair, so that you can work on the assumption that it will not cost much more than seeing similar sights, taking similar trips or eating similar meals elsewhere on your holiday in the Highlands. However, formal dinners do have to be arranged in advance, coaches (if required) do have to be booked - and even clan chiefs like to be warned of the impending arrival of clanspeople (especially as they might otherwise have popped out - say to Canada!). So please, if you think you might be coming - or just would like to, but need more details to decide - let me know quickly (and the further you are away, the quicker please) by filling in, cutting off and returning (to my Edinburgh PO Box address as shown on the same sheet) the form attached to the second sheet of this newsletter.

GLENURQUHART MCMILLAN GATHERINGS ABROAD

Obviously many overseas members will not be able to afford to come to the gathering in Scotland, and I hope that as my research and the activities of the Society put you in touch with more fellow clanspeople in your own countries, you will begin to organise gatherings there. Your Correspondence Secretaries will have full lists of names and addresses of all known members in your country, and will no doubt be happy to pass them on to other interested members, especially those prepared to help organise local branches of the Society or gatherings. If you think this is a good idea, please don't just rely on the Correspondence Secretaries to take the initiative - they are chosen or have volunteered because they have the facilities to copy and co-ordinate Society communications, which usually means they are busy people who would welcome help in organising any more ambitious local activities. I hope in due course to visit all the countries where we have members, to do research to find more clanspeople there, and to be able to tell you more in person about our branch of the clan and our beautiful glen back in Scotland. In the meantime don't forget that the overall clan chief, George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap, has plans to visit most of these countries in the relatively near future to spread the word about the new Clan MacMillan centre at his home - and he can also provide you with details of any existing branches of the wider Clan McMillan Society in your country. You can contact him at: Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire PA14 6TJ, Scotland.

GLENUURQUHART MCMILLAN PROJECT

My research into the history of the clan and its present whereabouts all over the world continues apace, and I will try to give you some idea of the work in hand and the progress (or lack of it) being made in the various fields of study. I hope to have a booklet compiled and ready to put on sale at the gathering in August which will go into much more detail, and contain some of the more interesting documentary evidence I have so far found. Copies of all the relevant material will be deposited in the clan archive when a suitable home for it has been found in the Glen - and I hope it will be possible to view some, or all, of it by the time of the gathering. Again I would urge you all to send me copies of whatever material you have about your earliest McMillan ancestors, in or out of the Glen - and put down on paper, or on tape, whatever facts or stories you have had handed down to you about them before they are lost or forgotten forever.

Research into the history of the clan is a complicated and slow matter. I have completed the straightforward (but very time-consuming) process of noting, analysing and collating all the information on McMillans to be found in the Glenurquhart Parish Registers (1739-1854), Censuses, and Statutory Certificates of Death (1855-1914). This means that I have as complete a picture as it is possible to have about the genealogy of all the McMillan families living in the Glen between roughly 1800 and 1900; a good picture, but with gaps, of 1740-1800; and an ever-improving picture of 1900 to the present day (as I slowly work through the Statutory Registers of Births and Marriages from 1855 - there being no census material available after 1891). Similar groundwork research is being extended to cover neighbouring parishes, and other places in Scotland where families of Glenurquhart McMillans are known to have settled.

Having completed the obvious groundwork, the process of historical research thereafter becomes much more of a treasure hunt - looking for clues and following trails that may, or may not, lead to some fruitful new discoveries. A great deal of the time what one is looking for are new sources of information - which can take the form of existing historical or genealogical writings to be found in the libraries, or relevant original documents and papers to be found among the many collections in the Scottish Record Office. In many cases one has to wade through a great deal of irrelevant dross to find one little gem of information - which will in turn often simply lead to another such trawl elsewhere; and of course with the original documents, one has to face the added difficulty of trying to read handwritten papers (often in archaic forms of writing, that even when neatly done are different enough to our hands to make reading a long and difficult task). Obviously much of my research in the SRO is going into the two tons of Seafield Papers (the family and estate papers of the Grant lairds of the Glen), and fascinating they are too - when you can find, amongst all the rest, those relevant to the Glen and to McMillans in particular.

Slowly all this work is adding to our knowledge of the history of the clan - and I have compiled a separate nine page report that summarises my latest discoveries and the tentative conclusions I have drawn from them. I will enclose copies of this report for members who expressed their interest by generously sending contributions to the McMillan Project. I will be happy to send copies to any others in Britain who care to write and ask for them - and I will also send copies to the above named Correspondence Secretaries abroad, from whom members overseas who are interested can obtain copies. Similarly copies will be available of all the sheets of the Glenurquhart McMillan family trees - now numbering over 50, with an index of nearly 950 Glen McMillans (the index lists only those born in Scotland called McMillan; the trees contain many hundreds more names - those born outside Scotland, and descendants of female lines who were born with names other than McMillan).

Further financial contributions towards the costs of research in the Glenurquhart McMillan Project will be gratefully received. My time and professional expertise I am happy to provide free of charge and I have been using the funds sent to the Project both to pay for the expenses of setting up the Society (paper, envelopes, photocopying and postage) and for the actual research costs (mostly entry fees into GROs). In future the costs of administering the Society will be handled by the Secretaries and paid for out of the Membership Subscriptions. The Society will probably be asked at the meeting in August 1992, when it adopts a proper constitution, if it wants to make a regular donation from those funds to my research project - which will of course depend on the level of general costs and of future subscriptions - but for this year I suggested to the inaugural meeting that the matter be left in the hands of individual members. Please remember as you consider this that you will in due course also be contacted by the newly appointed Membership Secretary and asked to pay £5 as your Society subscription for the year 1991/92, and Project contributions will be separate.

RECORDS OF ANCESTORS

The society plans to establish a register of members' ancestry in Scotland and seeks your co-operation in this project.

The resultant register will list the ancestral origin of all the society members.

This register, apart from being a valuable record, will be a useful document for any member interested in tracing possible family connections with other society members.

A copy of the register, when complete, will be published in the society newsletter and updated from time to time.

In order that this project can be commenced, we ask you, the member/s to fill in the form below to the best of your knowledge and return it as soon as practicable to:

Clan MacMillan Society Archivist

Mrs. June Senior
41 Lincoln Ave.,
GLEN WAVERLEY 3150
Victoria.

Cut along dotted line

THE CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

REGISTRATION OF ANCESTRY

Surname of Member: _____ Christian Names: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

DETAILS OF ANCESTRY

Surname of Ancestor: _____ Christian Names: _____

Embarkation Date: _____ Arrival Date: _____ Name of Ship: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____ Settled in: _____

Location in Scotland — Town/Hamlet: _____ County: _____

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