



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 37, MARCH 1996

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

I was recently driving to Beechworth when heard an interesting music program on the ABC. The program seemed to be about singers and bands attending the Port Fairy Folk Festival. I thoroughly enjoyed the music and was especially interested to hear one of the members of Battlefield Band interviewed on the origin of their name. It seems that the Band was named after a district in Glasgow called 'Battlefield'. They discussed why it is that Irish Celtic music seems to be so well known compared with Scots music. It was interesting to listen to the view that when Scots emigrate they tend to disperse and integrate into their new communities, whereas the Irish are more likely to maintain a distinct cultural presence in their new countries. This concept interests me, especially when considering the difference in recognition in Australia between St Andrews Day and St Patrick's Day.

In Beechworth, I bought an interesting small book from the Scottish Shop called *Clan Macmillan* compiled by Alan McNie, and published in Jedburgh Scotland by Cascade Publishing in 1986. The book states that it is condensed from the *Clan Macmillan*, written by Hugh Macmillan in 1901. I found it an interesting little book, including drawings and photographs of various places in Scotland where the Macmillans have lived over time. The following (which I have included exactly as it appears in the book) was accompanied by a map showing the locations being mentioned:

- Arran Former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's ancestors from here
- Arkaig, Loch MacMillans here closely associated with the Camerons
- Dunmore This branch became large mid-18th cent. landholder
- Inveraray Castle Where a MacMillan assumed a baker's disguise
- Islay MacMillans here since 1497
- Jura MacMillans probably forced here in 1670
- Kilmory Knap Partly restored 13th cent. chapel with Macmillan's Cross
- Kintyre 16th cent. record of MacMillan families
- 9 Lawers Settled here in mid-12th cent. & remained two centuries
- Sween, Castle MacMillan possession for a short time

Those of you who are experts in the genealogy of your families will of course know all of this and a whole lot more. You may even dispute some of the above. I cannot vouch for its accuracy, as I have just repeated what I have read. I always find myself browsing through any book on the clans and on the Macmillan Clan in particular, looking for obvious keys to my own family who it is said came from Mull.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont'd)

I recently joined a group on the Internet interested in criminal justice. When I joined I had to post a message about myself and I outlined my interest in criminal justice and then added that I am President of the Macmillan Clan Society of Australia. Within one hour, I had a return message from Toronto, Canada about an international directory into which we should place the information about the Society to enable people all around the world to make contact with us. So I have sent a return message requesting the questionnaire required of the directory entry. It is an interesting process on the Internet sending out messages and receiving replies from Toronto and other places.

We have received notice of the Clan Macmillan International Gathering 1996 which will take place between 11-15th September this year. There is a program of visits being organised to enable people who attend to visit Macmillan special places in the two weeks prior to the Gathering. Anyone who is interested can contact either June Senior or myself for further information.

Best wishes to you all. Elizabeth McMillan (email address libbymcm@ozemail.com.au)

NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to Colin Bell of St. Kilda, Lt.Col. Ed Hawkes of Blackburn, Malcolm and Judy Campbell of Blackburn, Mrs Enid Green of Hawthorn, South Australia and Dugald McMillan of Regents Park, Queensland who have joined our Clan. We trust you will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

VALE - MACMILLAN

It is with deep regret we advise the death of Sister Felix of Geelong, and Mrs. Win Ryan of Blackburn. Both members were long time MacMillan Clan Society friends and we extend our very deepest sympathy to their families.

SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

I would like to thank members who have sent me their subscription of \$10.00 for the year 1995/1996. However there are still several subscriptions not yet paid. I will put a "reminder sticker" on those who have not yet paid. If you have paid early-and perhaps forgotten-if there is no sticker on your Newsletter you will know that you have paid your subscription.

June Senior- Treasurer

CLAN NEWSLETTERS

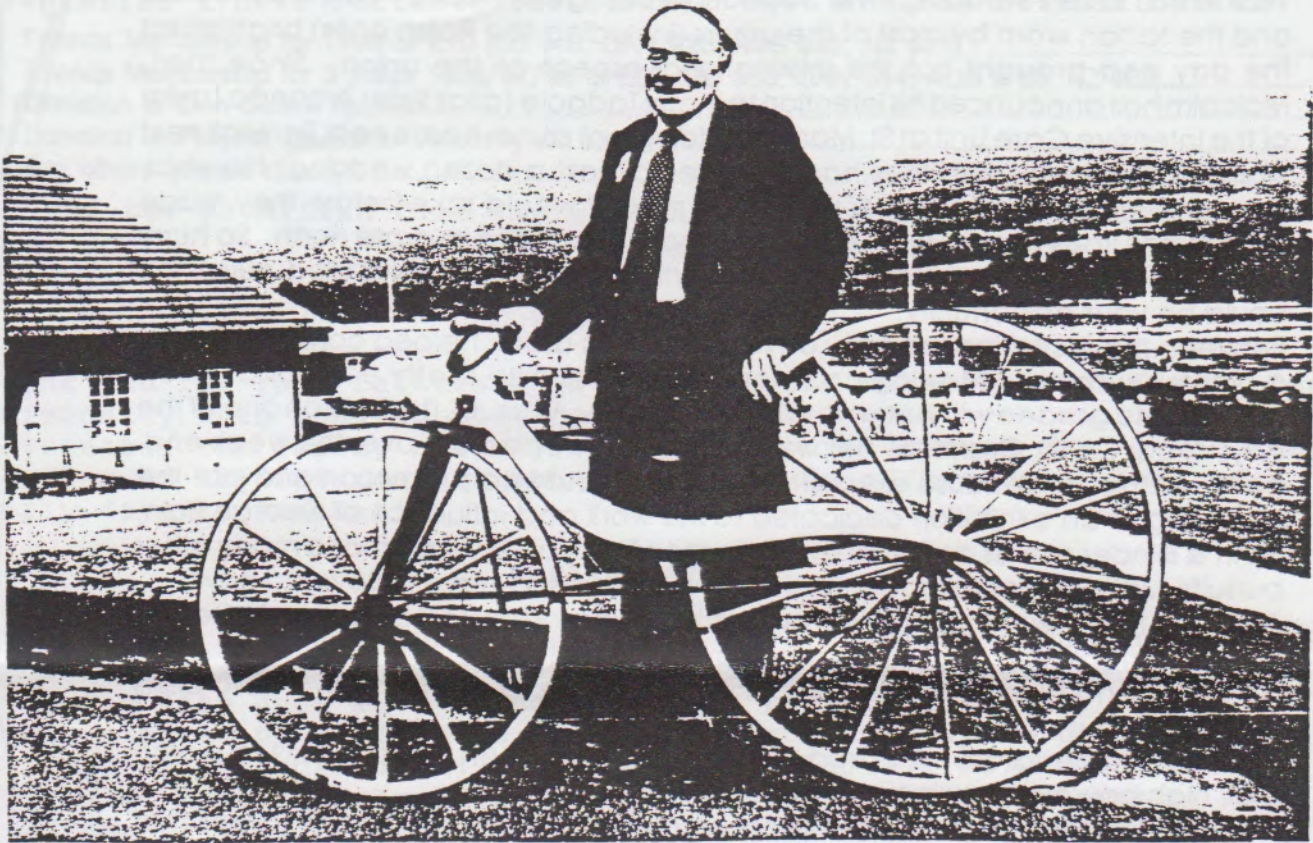
Thank you to the Clans who send us their Newsletters. These are read with great interest and we are able to copy-with their permission- items that I am sure you enjoy reading.

CLAN CHIEF'S ANNUAL LETTER

I know you will all read with interest George and Jane's Christmas letter. You will read of their family and their activities at Finlaystone and abroad on page 4.

COME TO SCOTLAND '96

Clan invited to join chief in September gathering with triple cause for celebration at Finlaystone



Chief George MacMillan with the MacMillan "Velocipede" on Arran

Photo courtesy of the Arran Banner

THE GATHERING: 11th to 15th September 1996:

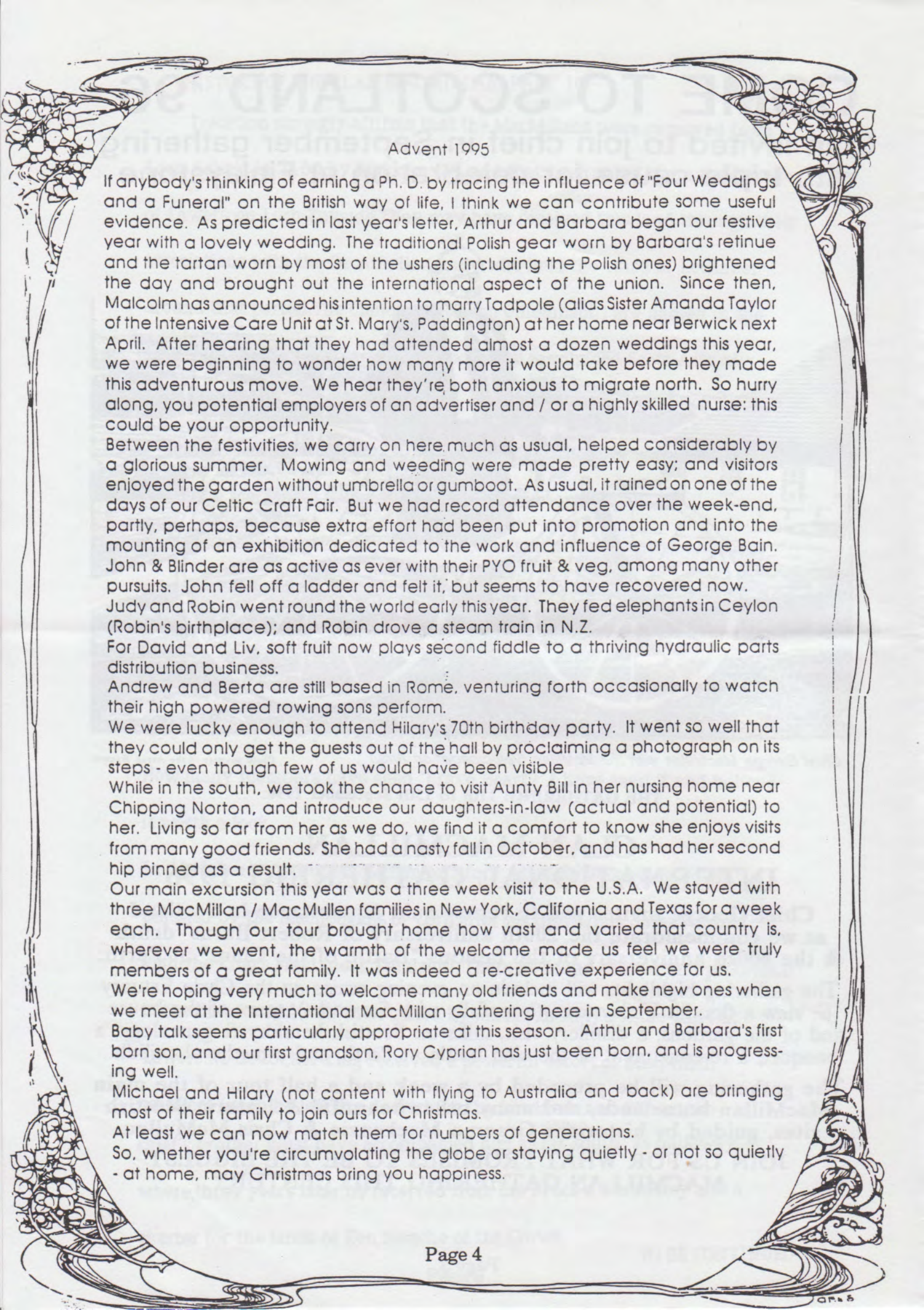
CLAN MACMILLAN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 1996

Chief George invites you to renew auld acquaintance in Scotland as we commemorate the 200th anniversary of Robert Burns' death & the 600th anniversary of the famous "Battle of the Clans" at Perth.

The gathering highlights will include an evening cruise on the Clyde Estuary to view a floodlit Finlaystone (hopefully with fireworks), tours of the house and of the gardens, a distillery visit, talks on Scottish heraldry & genealogy, a banquet, a re-enactment of the clan battle at Perth, and a medieval ceilidh.

The gathering will be preceded by a week and a half tour of the main MacMillan homelands, and many other beautiful & historic Scottish sites, guided by historians Graeme Mackenzie & Chris McMullen.

**JOIN US FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE THE BIGGEST
MACMILLAN GATHERING THIS CENTURY**



Advent 1995

If anybody's thinking of earning a Ph. D. by tracing the influence of "Four Weddings and a Funeral" on the British way of life, I think we can contribute some useful evidence. As predicted in last year's letter, Arthur and Barbara began our festive year with a lovely wedding. The traditional Polish gear worn by Barbara's retinue and the tartan worn by most of the ushers (including the Polish ones) brightened the day and brought out the international aspect of the union. Since then, Malcolm has announced his intention to marry Tadpole (alias Sister Amanda Taylor of the Intensive Care Unit at St. Mary's, Paddington) at her home near Berwick next April. After hearing that they had attended almost a dozen weddings this year, we were beginning to wonder how many more it would take before they made this adventurous move. We hear they're both anxious to migrate north. So hurry along, you potential employers of an advertiser and / or a highly skilled nurse: this could be your opportunity.

Between the festivities, we carry on here much as usual, helped considerably by a glorious summer. Mowing and weeding were made pretty easy; and visitors enjoyed the garden without umbrella or gumboot. As usual, it rained on one of the days of our Celtic Craft Fair. But we had record attendance over the week-end, partly, perhaps, because extra effort had been put into promotion and into the mounting of an exhibition dedicated to the work and influence of George Bain. John & Blinder are as active as ever with their PYO fruit & veg, among many other pursuits. John fell off a ladder and felt it, but seems to have recovered now. Judy and Robin went round the world early this year. They fed elephants in Ceylon (Robin's birthplace); and Robin drove a steam train in N.Z.

For David and Liv, soft fruit now plays second fiddle to a thriving hydraulic parts distribution business.

Andrew and Berta are still based in Rome, venturing forth occasionally to watch their high powered rowing sons perform.

We were lucky enough to attend Hilary's 70th birthday party. It went so well that they could only get the guests out of the hall by proclaiming a photograph on its steps - even though few of us would have been visible.

While in the south, we took the chance to visit Aunty Bill in her nursing home near Chipping Norton, and introduce our daughters-in-law (actual and potential) to her. Living so far from her as we do, we find it a comfort to know she enjoys visits from many good friends. She had a nasty fall in October, and has had her second hip pinned as a result.

Our main excursion this year was a three week visit to the U.S.A. We stayed with three MacMillan / MacMullen families in New York, California and Texas for a week each. Though our tour brought home how vast and varied that country is, wherever we went, the warmth of the welcome made us feel we were truly members of a great family. It was indeed a re-creative experience for us.

We're hoping very much to welcome many old friends and make new ones when we meet at the International MacMillan Gathering here in September.

Baby talk seems particularly appropriate at this season. Arthur and Barbara's first born son, and our first grandson, Rory Cyprian has just been born, and is progressing well.

Michael and Hilary (not content with flying to Australia and back) are bringing most of their family to join ours for Christmas.

At least we can now match them for numbers of generations.

So, whether you're circumvolating the globe or staying quietly - or not so quietly - at home, may Christmas bring you happiness.

REFERENCE CLAN GATHERING 1996

Tours have been arranged from 31 August- 11 September, followed by the Gathering at Finlaystone 11 - 15 September. Any members going to Scotland at that time may contact me for more information(Ref.page 3)

FRIENDS OF THE CLAN CENTRE

I have received my copy of the MacMillan Clan Centre Newsletter No 5 Autumn 1995. If you would like to become a member and receive the Newsletter I have included the current cost and the address below.

- Friends Membership for 1996 at £10 (US \$18; CAN \$25; AUS \$23; NZ \$28).....
- Friends Membership for 3 years 1996/'97/'98 at £25 (US \$38; CAN \$54; AUS \$ 50; NZ \$62).....
- Donation to Clan Centre Appeal:.....
- Donation to **Project Macmillan Ancestry On Line**:.....
- Any others (please specify):..... **Total sum sent**:.....

**Send to: MacMillan Clan Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank SCOTLAND PA14 6TJ
Tel.& Fax: 01475-540713**

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you for your letters when sending your subscription. I will reply personally when sending your receipt. I will hold over until the next Newsletter the Family History and items you have sent me. Please keep sending me any information you have as it is of great interest of early days in Australia.

THEATRE NIGHT

The Council of Clans Australasia Inc. have arranged a Theatre Night at the Renaissance Theatre, Kew High School, High Street, Kew on Saturday 15th June 1996 to see the Trak Players in "Party Piece" commencing at 8p.m. Tickets are \$14.00 each and may be obtained from Don Moore, 86 Bedford Rd, Ringwood East, 3135 Tel:9870 9950 before 15th.May. Arrive early to park your car and locate your seat. Free supper will be provided at the conclusion of the play. Coffee,tea,sherry etc.available before show and at interval. Do come!

30TH ANNUAL RINGWOOD HIGHLAND CARNIVAL

THE LARGEST SCOTTISH GATHERING OUTSIDE SCOTLAND
13th Annual Gathering of Clans and Societies



Aust. Commonwealth Highland Dancing Championships

★

Victorian Highland Pipe Band Championships

★

Country Dancing

★

Vic. Axemans Age Woodchopping Championships

★

Victorian Scottish Games Championships

★

SUNDAY 31ST. MARCH 1996

Max & I will be attending the Games (tent site 56) This is always a very enjoyable family day with non-stop entertainment from 8a.m-5p.m. There will be a large variety of stalls Refreshments will be available Venue:
**JUBILEE PARK - RINGWOOD
(REF.MELWAY MAP 49, H10)**

If you are attending please call and say hello.

HISTORY OF THE CLAN MACMILLAN PART 10

Tradition strongly affirms that the MacMillans were removed from Loch Arkaig in 1160 by Malcolm IV., and that he granted them the barony of Lawers on Loch Tayside. They may have received this land through their associations with the De Atholia family who held the ward of Lochaber around that period. The Clanquhale (Clann Gillemhaoil) are named in the year 1392 as the followers of this powerful family (see Scots Acts of Parliament Vol 1. p. 217)

The first chief of the clan in Perthshire may have been Malcolm, from the name MacMillan is derived, or possibly his son Dougall.

During their lengthy stay there the chiefs must have witnessed many stirring scenes when Wallace (Brave Heart) and Bruce led the Scottish nation on to victory against the proud oppressor. We could never picture them as disinterested spectators, but rather are we inclined to believe that they valiantly took part in the historic struggle for national freedom.

How many members have seen "Brave Heart?" I have seen it and believe it worth a look.

In 1306, Bruce fled to MacMillan territory when he was being hotly pursued by the MacDougalls of Lorn, after his disastrous defeat at Dail Righ (the King's Field), near Tyndrum. There, he found shelter and protection in the district and was entertained by Maolmuire (Myles), the chief at Lawers. No doubt, the king received a powerful escort of MacMillan warriors when he left the district for the Lowlands, and Gilbert, the chief's brother, must have accompanied him as far south as Galloway, where, three years later, he received from the Bruce a baronetcy and a charter for the lands of Ken, blanche of the Crown.

TO BE CONTINUED

ANGUS MCMILLAN (PATHFINDER)(CONTINUED)

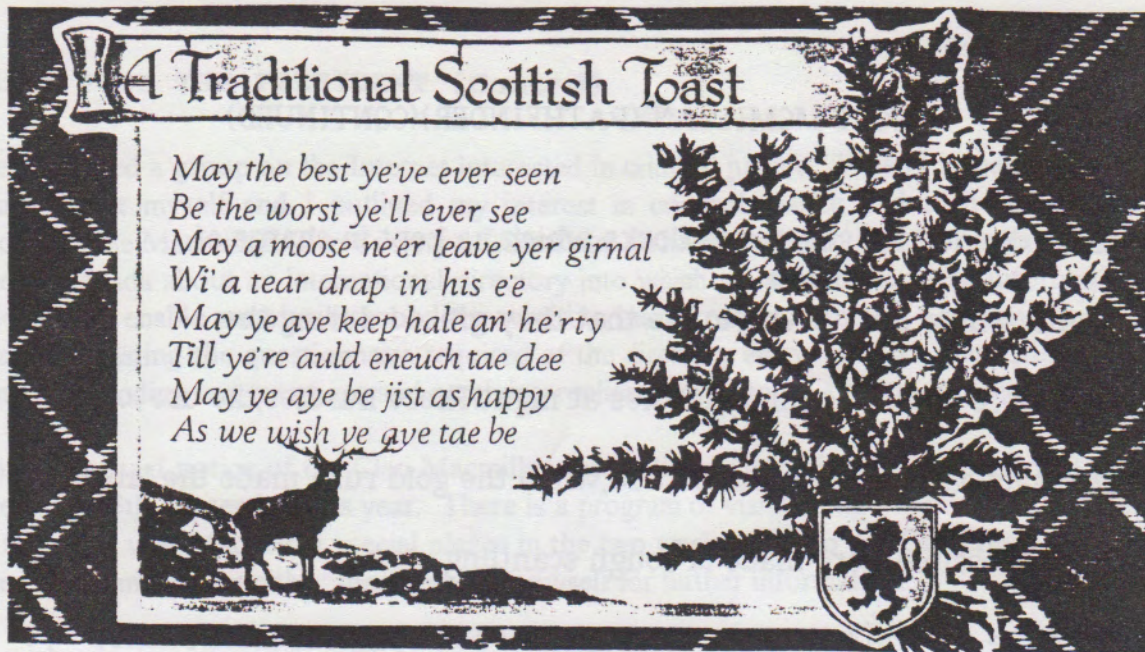
McMillan divided his sheep into flocks which he kept in charge of shepherds, whose duty it was to see that they grazed during the day and were secured behind hurdles at night. These hurdles, the use of which disappeared in the next decade, when the gold rush made the labour market impossible, were made of rough scantling.

During the day, the shepherds took the sheep out an hour after sunrise and moved them slowly over the grazing area. At night the flock was counted, the number recorded in a book and handed over to the watchman, who erected six feet bars in rows of five to prevent sheep from crawling through. Between the yards, the watchman sat in a raised sentry box, his eyes open for wild dogs which could mangle 50 or more sheep before the watchman could drive them away.


The watchman's box was fitted with handles so that it could be moved easily, and handles and boxes were shifted every few days, since the squatters believed that sheep herded in the one spot would develop foot-rot.

McMillan regularly inspected the flocks. His shepherds were simple men with no ambition to seek other employment. His main concern was disease. He had behind him some experience of sheep in the Hebrides, but here the animals seemed to get diseases he had not encountered. Such diseases as foot-rot, scab and catarrh.

TO BE CONTINUED



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

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