



# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO. 46 MARCH 1999

MACMILLAN

**CREST** *Booze: A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-handed sword, proper.*  
**MOTTO:** *Alacris succurre disco*  
(I learn to succour the distressed)  
**GAELIC** *Naime: MacGhille-Mhathair.*

**President:**  
Dr. June Danks  
66 Campbell Street  
EAST KEW VIC. 3102  
PHONE & FAX: 98173148

**Vice-President:**  
Kaelene Blake  
29 Wittick Street  
BACCHUS MARSH VIC. 3340  
PHONE: 53676709

**Secretary:**  
Myrna Robertson  
8/4 Renver Road  
CLAYTON VIC. 3168  
PHONE: 95435429

**Committee:**  
Peter McMillan  
5 Keyes Street  
LINDEN PARK S.A. 5065  
PHONE: (08)83381029

**Treasurer/Editor**  
June Senior  
41 Lincoln Ave  
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC.3150  
PHONE: 95608746

## Message from the President

We have received the Clan MacMillan Centre newsletter from Finlaystone, Langbank, Scotland with news of various events. At Finlaystone, The MacMillan Garden has been opened, featuring a Memorial Wall. It has a "family tree" and although many spaces are already taken by initial purchases there is still room for more plaques. If you are interested in having a plaque please contact June Senior or myself.

Last year George and Jane attended a Gathering of Clans in North Carolina at Grandfather Mountain, and this year in August 12-22, 1999, they will go to another Gathering organized by the Clan MacMillan Society of North America at Vicksberg, Mississippi, U.S.A. It is open to all persons interested in Scottish and Family History. They sound very welcoming. One of our members has plans to attend.

Speaking of Scottish history reminds me that our Society has a visit to the Braeside Family Library arranged for Friday 26th March from 10am to 2.30pm. Alex Glennie, guest speaker at last year's A.G.M, has offered to help us search the records individually. He has asked those attending to send in any/all information as soon as possible so he can start unravelling the facts before we arrive.

Each year June and Max Senior have diligently erected a tent at the Ringwood Highland Games and this year they will do this again, so it is an opportunity to meet again and also to join the festivities. It takes place at Jubilee Park, Ringwood on Sunday 28th March from 8am - 5pm.

At 11am the annual meeting of the Council of Clans is held in the Pavilion, to which 2 members of each affiliated Clan are invited to attend.

Hope to see you at one or more of these events.

June Danks.



Graeme Mckenzie has produced an excellent newsletter, November '98 issue, which I received prior to Christmas. Graeme spent much of the northern summer compiling a substantial website for the Clan Centre. The need for this has been even more apparent this year as there had been many general enquiries by email which the website could answer, thus freeing Graeme for more specific questions. Details will be published as soon as they become available. We are all deeply indebted to Graeme for his dedication and work for the Clan Centre.

Below is a delightful photo of George and Jane's three grandchildren, with Christmas greetings and a verse. See letter page 3.



*Our Grandchildren - Rory (3), Emily (1), Hugo (2) on the "Stone Sofa" made by George for the MacMillan Garden*

**Flight**

*The hunted child has left his bed  
Of flea-infested hay,  
And to an unknown Egypt sped  
Before the break of day.  
Salvation's hanging by a thread:  
The angels gasp and pray.*

*Ah ! There's a halo on his head:*

*He's bound to be O.K.*

*'Well, yes; and yet, and yet he bled,  
As millions bleed today;  
While many millions more have fled,  
To flood, foe, famine prey.*

*We wring our hands; a tear we shed:*

*What can we do or say ?*

*And yet we might as well be dead*

*As look the other way.*

*Best Wishes  
for  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy 1999*

*from*

*George  
and Jane*

Finlaystone • Langbank • Renfrewshire

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## Advent 1998

While much of humanity has been on the move by force of dire circumstances, we have been privileged to remain in a beautiful, if moist, Scotland, venturing abroad only when we wanted to.

We got off to a grand start in early spring with a week divided between friends in Athens and brother Andrew and Berta in and around Rome. It was a wonderful moment to be there; the sun was bright, yet temperate; and there were flowers everywhere. We tried our hand at pruning Andrews olive trees.

The big journey of the year was to the Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, the biggest such games in the eastern U.S.A. Clan MacMillan was very well represented there. The climax came towards the end, when our four-man team won the kilted mile relay in record time. But on the way to that triumph we experienced wonderful hospitality and saw lots of old friends.

At our midsummer Clan party, we unveiled a little memorial garden. Apart from some nice plants, it contains a stone sofa (see photograph) and an impression of a (family) tree fixed to a wall, on which clanspeople can put up memorial plaques, thereby benefiting the Clan Centre. Several people have already done just that.

Jane's big project was the organisation of her ninth Celtic Art and Craft Fair. Besides the trade stalls themselves, fun was provided by other activities - pitched battles, music, workshops, dancing and puppets. We were lucky enough to get two beautiful days for it. As a result, it was a big success.

Why go away when your children are all around you? Arthur, Barbara, Rory and Hugo are still nine miles away in Kilbarchan. Malcolm, Tadpole and Emily have moved under our roof, but are soon to move out again, having bought a house about four miles from here, towards the Erskine Bridge. Hardly a day seems to pass without a party attended by them and their numerous cousins. We foresee a slight reduction in the party faithful in 1999, when two 'uncles', who came to Glasgow as majors, leave as colonels, taking five of the cousins with them.

David, Liv and Alastair have just moved White House Products (their hydraulics distribution firm) into a purpose-built warehouse about six times the size of the previous one, a couple of miles away. Though David is bound to miss the half-minute walk to work, at least he can swing a cat when he gets there.

By the year's end, we hope to have joined John and Blinder in celebrating the weddings of two of their children, Gordon married Susanna Rose in September, and Diana is to marry Alistair Davidson just before Christmas.

*May every blessing be theirs and yours for this Christmas and many more.*



## DUE



Annual subscription of \$10.00 for 1998/1999 is now due. It would be appreciated if this amount could be forwarded to Mrs. J. Senior, 41 Lincoln Av., GLEN WAVERLEY, VIC. 3150. There will be a reminder in this newsletter if you have not paid.

A big thank you to those of you who have already paid. This makes the work of the Treasurer much easier.

The "reminder" on the left has been "lifted" from The Clan MacMillan Society of North America newsletter, for which we thank them.

## ANNUAL DONATION TO CLAN CENTRE

I have received a letter of thanks from our Clan chief, George MacMillan, for our 1997/1998 donation of A\$325.00.

The Clan Centre is struggling financially, so every donation they receive is vital to keep it going. The Clan Centre is there for all MacMillans world wide, and it is up to us all to support the untiring work done by George, Jane and Graeme.

## VALE

We were sad to learn of the recent death of Harold McMillan, aged 90. To his son Ronald, and daughter Myrna, our Clan Secretary, we extend our deepest sympathy.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you for your letters. It is always great to hear news from you. Also any news and information for the newsletter is keenly sought.

Mrs Enid Green from South Australia told me that she and her husband went to the Gathering in 1984 in Canada. They met the then Clan Chief, Sir Gordon MacMillan and Lady MacMillan.

Brian McMillan from Surfers Paradise is planning a return trip to Scotland. He will visit the Kilmory area. His family came from "Creer Farm" and he is hoping to find the property.

Erna Wright was delighted to write and tell me her second great grandchild was born early January. Erna's letters are always full of interest about life in Dimboola and news of her family. Max & I enjoyed meeting Erna and her daughter Maureen when we travelled through Dimboola some time ago.

Several of our members have not been well and we wish them a swift recovery. I hope 1999 is a much healthier year for all those who have been unwell.

## IT'S METUNG, METHINKS



Further to the information John and Kaye McMillan wrote about "McMillans of Metung-Holiday Village" (see November '98 issue Page 6) there was an article in the Herald Sun Travel supplement, Friday January 29, 1999 by Peter Helme, who wrote that he had found almost the perfect lakeside haven for rest and recreation.

On the shores of Bancroft Bay in the Gippsland Lakes, McMillans offers numerous ways to unwind, whether it be with one special friend or with the family and/or friends. The 3.2ha property is a mixture of seaside enjoyment and country charm. The article endorses all John wrote about earlier.



## COMING EVENTS

South Street Society Highland Pipe Band Gathering, Ballarat	March 14, 1999
Geelong Highland Gathering	March 21, 1999
Scots Week at Eastlands Shopping Centre	March 22-27 1999
Ringwood Highland Gathering and Council of Clans A.G.M.	March 28, 1999
MacLeod Goldfields Highland Gathering at Bendigo	April 28-May 2, 1999
Kirkin o' the Tartan, Scots Church Melb.	July 4, 1999



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### A JOURNEY TO MISSISSIPPI - 1799 TO 1999

An International Gathering of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America- open to all persons interested in Scottish and family history- will be held from August 12 to 22, 1999 at Vicksburg, Mississippi U.S.A.

Eleven days of study and festival celebration with the Chief of the Clan MacMillan, divided into three separate parts:  
Part 1 August 12-15, 1999; Part 2 August 15-20, 1999  
Part 3 August 20-22, 1999.

For information visit website:

[www.vicksburg.com/-mcmillin](http://www.vicksburg.com/-mcmillin)

email address: [mcmillin@vicksburg.com](mailto:mcmillin@vicksburg.com)

I am delighted that one of our members Mrs. Myrtle Beitlich and her husband George plan to attend part 3 of the above gathering. This will include attending the Highland Games of the Caledonian Society. Noon Parade of Tartans, with all MacMillans present in the parade. Ceilidh will be held in the evening. On the Sunday there will be a Kirkin o' the Tartan Church Service at Jackson, Mississippi.

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I was pleased to receive The Clan MacMillan Society of North America's newsletter in December '98.

The Clan MacMillan Society of North America was founded on 25-26 July 1958 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. John B. McMillan has been editor since 1968. The presidency alternates between Canada and the U.S.A.

Thank you also to Margaret Pool who sends me each N'letter of the Clan MacMillan Society of New Zealand. Margaret founded the Society in N.Z. several years ago. She has visited Finlaystone for Clan Gatherings and at present is the N.Z. and Australian Trustee for the Clan Centre, having taken over from Russell Harrison who held that position for some years. Thank you Margaret for the great job you are doing for the Clan in N.Z.

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Mrs Anne Archer of Lawrence N.S.W. wrote to tell me about visiting Scotland in 1997. She and her relatives were interested to visit Knapdale and visit Castle Sween and the MacMillan Cross. At Stirling Castle they learned of the Clan MacMillan Centre at Finlaystone which they visited. I hope to print Anne's family tree in the near future.

Anne also sent me a copy of a certificate her grandfather had framed and was of great value to him, and also her father. The certificate tells of a Clan MacMillan Gathering in Glasgow in 1907. I will need to retype the article and this, too, I hope to put in a newsletter soon.



## JUDIE McMILLAN'S VISIT TO SCOTLAND

Judie has sent me a letter about her trip to Scotland in 1998:



"For five and a half weeks I was continually overawed and overwhelmed by all my experiences. I just felt so lucky. I went to Finlaystone. George and Jane were so wonderful and invited me to stay for lunch, along with some MacMillans from New Zealand. The next day Graeme Mckenzie and I caught the train to Edinburgh and went to the Records Centre.

I then started two weeks driving around Scotland having lots of terrific adventures. I went to Kilmory to see Castle Sween and the MacMillan Cross. That was fantastic! It was so special to see and touch the Cross and take a step back into a past age. I travelled to Fort William, Nairn, Balmoral, Inverness, Plockton and Stirling. I found McMillan graves dating back to 1804 in the Clan Cameron graveyard at Fort William. I went to the Lonarch Highland Gathering at Strathdon. It was very special to see the marching of the Clansmen. I went to Crathie Church one Sunday morning when the Queen was in attendance. I found where my Grandfather lived and worked as a young lad in Nairn. I visited the Battlefield at Culloden. I was fortunate to see the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh. I saw many beautiful scenes of lochs, mountains, wildflowers and castle ruins, and I stayed in many excellent B & B's.

I then took a ferry to Mull to meet up with my Earthwatch Team. Eight of us stayed in Ben Doran Cottage, near the village of Bunessan. We all got on really well and worked together for two weeks. We walked miles and miles every day, seeing lots of wonderful sights and wildlife. We collected lots of bird sightings for Dr. Paul Haworth. He was a fantastic leader and friend during our time there". Judie's project was called "Eagles of Mull".

Thank you Judie - I am glad you had such a wonderful trip. Thank you also for coming to our A.G.M. It was great to meet up with you again.

June Senior Editor.

### EAGLE FEATHERS TO INDIA

This is the second time that Judie's family has had an experience with eagle feathers and Scotland.

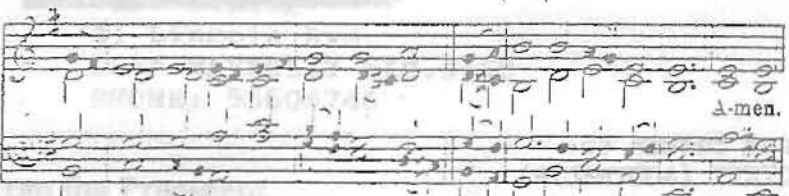
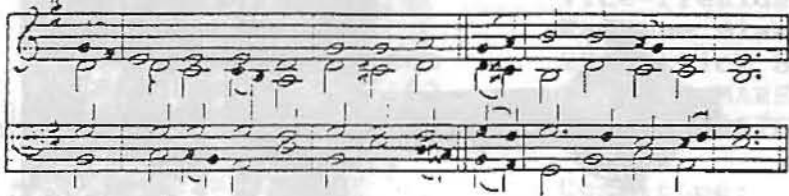
Judie has in her possession a letter from the Pipe President of the 2nd Bn, Q.O. Cameron Highlanders, in Ahmednagar, India in 1938. He requested to buy some right wing golden eagle feathers. Judie believes her Grandfather sent wedge-tail eagle feathers. They were duly wrapped in tissue paper and sent to India. Judie has an order and a letter of thanks to her Grandfather.

### MORE SCOTTISH HUMOUR

Did you hear what the English, the Irish and the Scots did when they heard the world was coming to an end:  
The English all went out and got drunk.  
The Irish all went to Church, and the Scots had a "closing down sale"

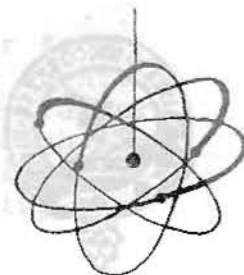




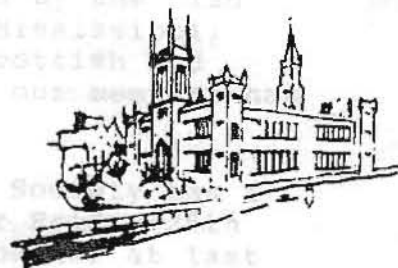


A MacMillan Hymn

The waters lapped Iona's shore  
 In days of Scotland's youth;  
 A coracle of holy souls  
 Brought Gaeldom Christ's own truth;  
 Columba, and his holy friends,  
 The tribe of Aibertach,  
 Whose pious spirit yet instills  
 The piper's lone pibroch!



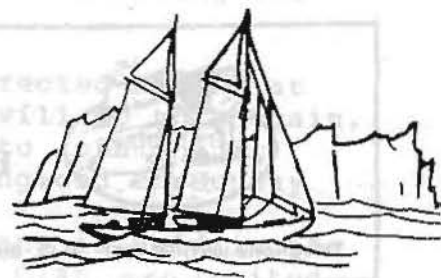
The waters lapped Lochaber's shores  
 Where rich, green holly grows;  
 A holy servant, named for Christ,  
 There succoured poor folks' woes.  
 The Tonsured Servant healed and taught  
 Of humble love and grace,  
 Pervading every act and thought  
 In every time and place!



The waters lapped the Point of Knap,  
 "MacMillan's Right" stood tall;  
 But few short years would see the Clan  
 MacMillan's rise and fall.  
 O Living Rock, who has endured  
 The rise and fall of sin,  
 Help us keep faithful to that Word  
 Who Scots for Christ did win!



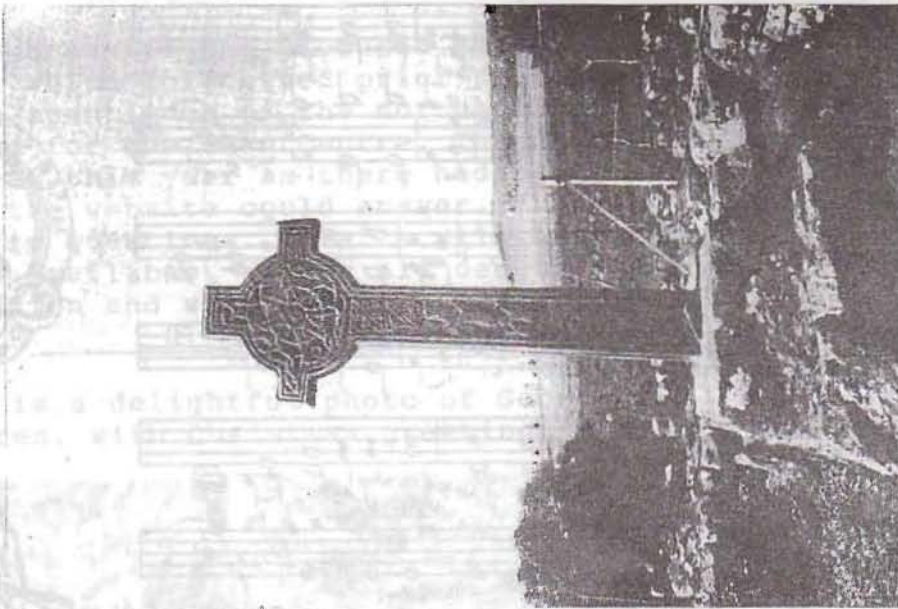
The waters lap a hundred shores  
 Where Gillchrist's children came,  
 To birth a thousand families  
 All bearing Gillchrist's name!  
 O Christ, prosper his progeny  
 With humble love and grace;  
 So bless each kinfolk's act and thought  
 In each new time and place!



(To the tune, "Kingsfold")

(Rev. Chris McMullen, July 1990)






MacMillan's Cross at Maelrhuba's Chapel,  
at Kilmory-Knap was erected in honour  
of Alexander MacMillan, our 12th Chief,  
circa 1450.

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



Best Wishes  
for  
Christmas  
Happy



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