



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO. 49 MARCH 2000

MACMILLAN

Crest Bearer: A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-headed sword, proper
MOTTO: Alisano succurrens dico (I learn to succour the distressed)
Gaelic Name: MacGhille-Mhuirich

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Surprise! Surprise! We have had several interesting letters recently. One was from Lamar McMillin, Jr., M.D. of Vicksburg, U.S.A., who was convenor of the Mississippi Gathering, celebrating the bi-centenary of the arrival of the first members of his family in Mississippi in 1799. He sent a gift of a CD of 23 songs most of which were from a booklet published by the Bard of the Clan, Reverend Somerled MacMillan (1910-1977). The compensation is that I send US\$20.00 to any of the MacMillan organisations, which I have done. Proceeds from the sales go to the Clan Centre. If anyone would like to borrow this CD please contact me. There is also a video of the meeting available, featuring the highlights of the Mississippi Gathering (copies can be ordered, US\$20.00 each).

Another letter received was notification of the 43rd Annual GEELONG Highland Gathering on Sunday, 19th March, 2000, 9.30am - 5.30pm. Those in the vicinity would be interested.

The last letter was from our Chief, George MacMillan, inviting the President of our Clan to a Millennium Drain-Piping and Chiefly Birthday Bash at Finlaystone, 20-25th June, 2000. This is an opportunity to toast our Chief on his 70th Birthday and also to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the plumbing at Finlaystone, which, when it was installed by George's maternal great-grandfather, George Kidston, was "state of the art stuff", still providing great baths as well as being very interesting historically. I am accepting the invitation and look forward to visiting Finlaystone once again. Other members and their families would be most welcome to join in the celebrations. Russell Harrison, an expert on genealogy and our first trustee of the Clan Centre for Australia and New Zealand will also attend.

On the local scene we are in the process of having a banner made, so that it can be used at Clan functions including Highland Gatherings. Hopefully we will have it at the Ringwood Games on Sunday 9th April, 2000. We plan to have our tent there and hope that some of our members will visit us.

For those interested in tracing family trees and passenger lists for arrivals in Australia there is an opportunity to receive assistance at the Family History Library in Springvale Road on Friday 14th April (see details page 4). If possible Alex Glennie would like to have some family details in advance so that he can start the search for you. We would enjoy seeing you if you can come. It is school holiday time.

My very best wishes to you all for the year 2000.

June Danks.

LETTER FROM OUR CLAN CHIEF

On receipt of our donation to the Clan Centre for the year 1998/1999 (Aust\$511.00) our Clan Chief, George MacMillan sent a letter of thanks to the Clan Society(Aust) thanking the members for their continued support of the Clan Centre. You will read more of the celebrations planned in June 2000 at Finlaystone in our President's letter on page 1.

MACMILLANS NEAR & FAR

One of the joys of my job as Editor is to receive letters from so many people involved with Clan MacMillan Societies. Margaret Pool is in regular contact when sending the newsletter from New Zealand, and as our Trustee at the Clan Centre. Margaret takes time out to let me know what is going on and it is greatly appreciated.

Lamar and Carol McMillin(Lamar is President of the North American Clan Society)and last year organized the very successful "Journey to Mississippi 1799-1999" attended by Clan Chief George and his wife Jane, also our own members Myrtle and George Beitlich. Lamar sent their family Christmas letter and it was good to hear of them both and their three children David, Ashley and Stephen.

Another Christmas letter was received from John and Blanche McMillan and their family, sons John, James and his wife Kathryn, and daughter Christy and her husband Simon.

John is Editor of the North American Clan Society newsletter. Blanche is Abbot of Clan MacMillan's world wide(five countries) "Community of the Tonsured Servant". It is good to read of all their interests and commitments and to share greetings at Christmas.

Many of our own members sent greetings at Christmas when sending their subscriptions. It is always great to hear from you. Because we are geographically scattered throughout Australia the newsletter and personal letters are our only contact, so thank you for keeping in touch.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM FINLAYSTONE

A couple of millennia have slipped away
Since somebody's nativity in Bethlechem.
Will anything be different post Y2K?
My guess is it'll probably be much the same.

While Govment is busy with it's pleasure dome,
Or bribing electricians to connect it's trains,
We denizens of Finlaystone will stay back home
To celebrate a century of well-piped drains.

Today, when superseded by tomorrow's date
Will enter a millennium of yesterdays.
So hoocher the millennium! Let's celebrate
More frequent anniversaries in grateful ways.

It doesn't take a genius to propound the law
That most will have a birthday in the year to come
That Rory could be five, and brother Hugo four,
And Emily be three, and little Fergus one.



Best Wishes
For
Christmas
and a
Happy 2000

From

George
and Jane



Finlaystone • Langbank • Renfrewshire
• PA14 6TJ •

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ADVENT 1999

For us the year 2000 will see the conjunction of three anniversaries - two thousand years from the alleged birth of Christ, one hundred from the installation of drains at Finlaystone (and all our drainpipes proclaim their date of birth) and three score and ten years from George's birth. Do you, we wonder, find that this year's importance has diminished with it's approach? Could it be the perspective of the space age, or merely of age?
A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday', as the Psalmist says.

The year's catastrophes, both natural and man-made, dwarf our little problems here, caused by gales at the turn of the year which flattened patches of woodland. A year on, we're still in a mess; but we have wood enough to repair - even improve - some of the things children play on in the woods.

It was good to forget the devastation and the worst of the weather by flying to Morocco with two friends in February - an excellent time to be there. There is plenty to interest the tourist for at least two weeks, especially if he can learn to play the game of life by the rules of an alien, albeit a friendly culture.

Fergus George was born to Malcolm and Tadpole on the 5th May. Amnesiac Genealogists may like to be reminded that we now have four grandchildren - Arthur & Barbara's Rory and Hugo and Malcolm & Tadpole's Emily and Fergus. To them can be added a new great niece, another Emily, daughter of Jane's niece, Sophia.

In late July Greenock hosted part of the Tall Ships Race, which has become something of a mobile tourist attraction. It certainly drew huge crowds. By all accounts, they departed impressed by Greenock, which, till then, had not featured on many people's list of tourist attractions. The ships were grand and the weather was baking, as we discovered while advertising our wares in one of the huge marquees by the quayside.

That heat prepared us for our final big adventure for the year - a clan gathering organised by an old friend in Mississippi in mid-August. Although temperature and humidity were often high, air-conditioning was never far away, even at the Highland Games in Jackson. The programme was extremely interesting and gave us an unique insight into life & living in the Southern States.

But let's not forget two brief trips to Scottish Islands - a windy, but highly enjoyable, March weekend with all our descendants on Arran, and two glorious July days on Colonsay. One advantage of such brief breaks is that they recreate the spirit without then smothering it in a pile of junk mail.

Arthur, Barbara, Malcolm, Tadpole and their families are all where they were last year - quite near here. Arthur took the Clyde Shipping Company firmly into the Leisure Marine world by buying Lewmar. Malcolm continues to grapple with the selling of newspapers in and beyond Glasgow - and with some notable successes.

As a family, we'll probably put more emphasis on December 25th than on the 31st. But that doesn't stop us wishing you happiness in the millennium to come.

Happy Christmas and 2000



SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Our annual subscription of \$10.00 is now due. There are still a few subscriptions for 1998/1999 outstanding. It would be appreciated if you could send the amount owing to Mrs J Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150. Your receipt will be enclosed in the newsletter after payment is received.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome five new members since our last newsletter. A very warm welcome to John Bell of Highton, Victoria, Brian & Carmel Harris of Lara, Victoria, Andrew Danks of Mt. Waverley, Ross McMullin of Clifton Hill and Peter McMullin of Nth Fitzroy. We extend a very warm welcome and trust they will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

VISIT TO BRAESIDE FAMILY LIBRARY

Our visit to Braeside Family History Library on Friday 14 April from 10a.m.-2.30p.m. is only weeks away. It is at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Springvale Rd, Braeside. Melway reference Map 93 G1. You can bring your own lunch and drink (no tea, coffee or alcohol). Alternatively refreshments are available at Garden World Cafe close by. We still have vacancies but need to know if you plan to visit so that enough staff can be on hand to assist you. Please contact me on 9560.8746 if you would like to attend..... June Senior.

COMING EVENTS

- April 7 - Scottish Dinner & entertainment Karralyka Centre, Ringwood Enq: 9876 4140.
- April 9 - Ringwood Highland Gathering, Jubilee Park, Ringwood. Melway Ref: 49 H11.
- July 2 - Kirkin o' The Tartan Iiam Scots Church, Collins St., Melbourne.

SONG BOOK GIVEN TO CLAN

Our Secretary, Myran Robertson was recently given a hard cover Music Book "Words and Music by Somerled MacMillan (Bard of the Clan MacMillan)"

It was presented to Myrna by Maureen Watson (both members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society). It belonged to Margaret Greer, now deceased. I believe the book was published in 1949. The inscription by Somerled MacMillan was dated 1963. The words are printed in Gaelic and English.

I had just received the book into the Clan archives when I received a letter from Lamar McMillin who organized the successful "Journey to Mississippi" in 1999.

"Probably King Robert the Bruce was pleased by and thankful for his association with the Clan MacMillan. Hopefully, you do now, or you shall in the future, feel the same way. Members of Clan MacMillan protected and sheltered The Bruce in AD1306, when he was weak and in harms way, and supported him at the Battle of Bannockburn in AD 1314, when he was strong and in harms way. In appreciation he allowed members of Clan MacMillan to wear the royal colours of red and gold.

Among many others, Reverend Somerled MacMillan (1910-1977) was thankful for his association with the Clan MacMillan. While Bard of the Clan, he published in 1949, a booklet of 16 original songs with Gaelic and English words. To help celebrate The Clan MacMillan's "Journey to Mississippi 1799-1999" seven of Rev. Somerled's original songs were recorded on a CD".

I had bought a copy of the CD which my friend Myrtle Beitlich kindly brought back to me from Mississippi. Since then Lamar McMillin has sent the Committee members a CD suggesting a donation to the Clan Centre for the US\$20.00 cost. If any member would like to have a loan of the CD and arrange collecting and returning same, I am sure we can organize this for Clan members.

CLAN MACMILLAN CENTRE NEWSLETTER

I was very pleased to receive my Clan Centre newsletter in December. As June Danks has mentioned in her letter, she and David will attend George's 70th Birthday celebrations and the Conclave of Clan Elders meeting. Russell Harrison from N.S.W. will also attend. We wish them well for their visit and send our warmest Birthday wishes to George, our Clan Chief, on this very special Birthday.

FAMILY HISTORY

I received the information below from Kaye O'Reilly of Churchill, Victoria. It was great to meet Kaye at Braeside last year. Members have another opportunity to visit the Family History Library at Braeside again on April 14. See details on page 4.



Dear June,

It was great to meet you and other members of The MacMillan Clan recently at Braeside. I have checked the Spare Certificate Index held by Dawn Cowley for McMillan and although not many McMillan's are listed these are to the current Volume #16. I hope they are of interest to some one in the group.

Dawn charges \$1.00 for full information per certificate and asks you send a SAE. She will also put you in touch with any one else researching the same names if she has the information.

Dawn Cowley
TAKAMUNA
27 Shanahan Pde.
Newborough Vic 3825

McMillan	Margaret Jane b 1857	Elizabeth Sarah d 1907
	Robert John b 1891	Kate d 1882
	Margaret b 1861	Mary Annie Clark d 1911
	Malcilim ? b 1872	William David Tas. b 1895
	Royston Edward b 1893	James Alexander d 1865
	Sarah Ann d 1865	Hamilton d 1912
	Thomas d 1858	Christina m 1864
	Francis m 1892	Mary Stevenson m 1908
	Isabella ? 1859	Hugh d 1900
McMillian	Olive d 1872	Alexander Allen d 1925
	Cacella b 1862	
McMillin	Robert John b 1874	McMillon Robert Bryce m 1871
McMillen	John d 1916	Helen Fenwick m 1865

McMullen John Gould d 1886 John d 1922
McMullin James b 1858 Robert b 1862

I have also recently given copies of the Certificates I have to Dawn and these are,
McMillan **Robert James** d Jan 1885 Clarke's Hill, wife Eliz. Fitzpatrick 8 child.
Andrey dau. of Robert James & Eliz. Fitzp. b 29 June 1874 Bungaree.
Robert James d 30 Jan 1932 Bunyip, wife Bridget Guthrie.
Bridget d 16 Oct 1935 Bunyip Wife of Robert James, 13 children.
Robert James/ Bridget Guthrie m 27 Nov 1885
William d 3 feb 1932 Vervale, wife Sarah Bennet. 6 children.
Stephen d 24 July 1960 Frankston, wife Sophie Baxter, 5 child.
Brian dad d 19 Jul 1986, wife June Fitzgerald, 5 children.

With these names you can see where my interest is in Family History.
I have yet to find anyone else who is researching my line. Hopefully I can find a contact through the Clan.

A PROFILE OF MEMBERS OF THE CLAN

I have received an interesting letter from Jean and Raymond Bell who are members of the MacMillan Clan Society (Australia).

Jean writes: " Raymond was born in Invercargill, New Zealand to Douglas Bell whose own Mother was a Duncan and knew of Donnachaidh. Raymond is Secretary of Clan Donnachaidh. In 1989 we organized a Kirkin to honour St. Columba.. There were 6 at the June Service and Ceilidh. This year 106 attended. On Raymond's Great Grandfather's Birth Certificate he was listed as Mac Ghilleam baoinn, known as Bell.

Ray and I are children of the depression. Our Fathers were in Army Camp. Our ambition was to reach the United Kingdom. I did a Post Graduate course called Education of Handicapped at the Institute of Education, University of London. I was the first Anzac to attend and complete the course and return to Australasia and teach, which continued until February 1999. I was also a Volunteer on Visually Impaired Person radio February and December 1999.

Ray with other Scouts joined a team of other Kiwis and left Auckland on the Monowai. In Sydney the group was joined by Scouts from Queensland. After the Centennial Jamboree near Birmingham, Ray attended a Wood badge course. It was an amazing experience for 1,000 Anzac Scouts who were part of a contingent of 35,000 from all over the Empire and Commonwealth.

The Dominion Trust was founded by wonderful people who helped myself and 27,000 other Anzacs over the years. Miss Macdonald of Sleat, Lady Frances Ryder and four others ran the Dominion Trust. Under this wonderful trust I visited houses of my ancestors. Miraculously tickets were issued for concerts to Albert Hall and many other wonderful places. The splendid Ladies and Max Aitken had a chain of wonderful houses. If a Trust member needed a break we could be tactfully sent to fascinating houses.

The Trust began in the late 1920's. They were wonderful to Anzacs in 1939-1945. A cousin of mine was a member of the "Goldfish Club"- someone shot down and managing to swim the English Channel. Duncan was picked up and he managed to get to Sloane Square. Lady Ryder got Duncan to Swinton where he stayed in a mansion until he was quite well. The Trust was under the watchful eye of the Midland Bank. The former Lord Portal was chairman. We have a grand heritage and we wish it could be revived somehow.

Jean's qualifications are: J.P., Dip. Teaching London. Remedial Certificate (St Lucia) I.t.c.l. Fellow FAW.

Our thanks to Jean and Ray for sending this interesting information and for telling us about the Dominion Trust. June Senior, Editor.

SCOTTISH QUIZ

When were potatoes introduced into the Highlands? 1743.

When were the Universities of St. Andrews and Glasgow founded?
1412 and 1451.

Where would you find DULL in Scotland? The answer is Not Nowhere
It is a village west of Aberfeldy in Perthshire.

Where is the Scottish Sahara? Culbin Sands in Morayshire.

Who was the Tartan Pimpernel?

Donald Caskie, Minister of Scots Kirk in Paris, who helped Allied Servicemen to escape from France.

My thanks to Jean McMillan for the above information....J Senior.



In the last article we read where McMillan started at Bushy Park (August 1997).

McMillan's explorations in Gippsland and his pioneer work at Bushy Park made him widely known and much respected. He travelled widely amongst the squatters and scattered settlers of the province, the people of Port Albert, Alberton and Tarraville, and the traders and public men of Melbourne, which he visited often by boat from Port Albert.

He had matured into a short, stocky man with a strong, weather-tanned, elfin face fringed with white whiskers. The sound of his broad Scottish accent, with its dry humour, was welcome in the towns and in the bush. He was genial company in any gathering, but not even to his close friends did he reveal his inner worries; his growing concern over money and the fear that Bushy Park would never become a profitable station.

At times in his hut in the evenings, when sleep would not come, he reflected on his lonely life. Letters from Margaret were not as frequent as he would have wished; they kept him informed of events at home in which he felt less and less interested as change occurred from the life he had known. In his letters he had not attempted to describe to her the life he led, realizing that this was beyond his words, since the possibility of her understanding, even slightly, conditions in the lonely province was remote. Margaret he realized now had less and less in common and any thought of her joining him was never committed to paper.

His mother wrote regularly, giving news of his father and the farm, and the whereabouts of the brothers who had left home. Letters also came from his sisters, but McMillan realized that his ties with the Hebrides were becoming more slender as the years went by.

Occasionally, in these lonely evenings, McMillan's thoughts turned to memories of his bush journeys. Looking back, he marvelled at the energy and persistence which had possessed him and the hardships he had undergone to accomplish his purpose. He felt that many took his exploits for granted; like the Macalisters and others, who were only too ready to profit by his labours. Few, especially the settlers who had come later, bothered to make any reference to his achievements. As with most introverts, he was too modest to bring up the subject himself. Like a canker, it grew within him until, when allied with his slow realization that material success was afar off, he harboured, deep within, thoughts of resentment. The Government had failed to recognise his achievement in any tangible way. He had been compelled to protest strongly against Strzelecki's names of rivers and mountains being preferred by officialdom to his own. More bitter still was the belief that Strzelecki was still widely regarded as the discoverer of Gippsland and, occasionally after several tots of whisky, McMillan protested vigorously against the actions of 'that foreign imposter' in claiming credit for a discovery which was not his own.

Underneath the outwardly cheerful Scot was an inner man, reserved, worried, unhappy, who believed that life should have rewarded him more generously.

He accepted, as an act of God, the natural disasters which threatened Bushy Park from time to time—floods which turned the Avon into a raging torrent and the countryside into a huge lake, bush fires when the north wind transformed the scrub into a raging inferno before which cattle and sheep and wild life desperately fled for their lives. When livestock died through diseases he could not control, McMillan shrugged his strong shoulders and started again. When no rain fell for months from a cloudless sky, he watched his stock lose condition and buried their carcasses with a degree of resignation which amazed his fellow men. There were few weapons with which to fight nature. Fodder and water conservation were unknown; against cattle duffers he could do little. Depredations by the blacks, in the main, he accepted since they did not know any better. Cruel winters when most of his lambs perished; falls in prices when a year's work ran him into debt; irresponsible acts by inefficient drunken workers, the daily monotony of his diet, the lonely evenings in a draughty hut, the lack of culture and refinement—all this McMillan came to tolerate, largely because he could see no alternative.

There were warm compensations. He loved the unrestricted open life; the original impact on his soul of Bushy Park had never changed, the usually quiet flowing Avon, the peaceful bush, the carolling magpies in the morning, the laughter of the kookaburras in the evening, the effortless movement of a mob of kangaroos, the sight of cattle browsing contentedly, the lush green growth of spring, the shade of the gums

on a scorching day, the majestic backdrop of the mountains-Bushy Park was to him a little paradise in which he forgot his frustrations, his loneliness, his lack of money, his longing for female company and the refinements of his youth.

On the whole, he was content and prepared to continue as a Gippsland squatter, quietly enjoying the prestige of his position, his reputation as an explorer, his popularity among his many friends, the gay yet all too few evenings when he relaxed in congenial company with his pipe and dram.


Life seemed good until news of a dramatic discovery changed the course of events.

In May 1851 Edward Hargraves startled the world with news of the discovery of GOLD. Within weeks thousands of men left shops, offices, warehouses and pastoral stations, caught up in the fever to become rich. Suddenly, gold appeared almost everywhere. Migrants poured in, crews deserted ships and the needs of commerce and agriculture were brushed aside as men feverishly pursued the yellow metal.

McMillan's first impulse was to join the rush himself. His men had already gone. He could easily have left his cattle and sheep to their own devices, struck it rich perhaps and returned to Bushy Park with the capital he sorely lacked. But his native caution made him stay his hand; perhaps there were other ways he could benefit from the rush without actually joining in the digging.

To be cont'd July newsletter.

If unclaimed, please return to:
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41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley Vic. 3150

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HOLIDAY VILLAGE**

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