



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 50 JULY 2000

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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.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Clan MacMillan Conclave of Elders was held at Finlaystone, Scotland, on Wednesday, 21st. June. Unfortunately, owing to illness in the family I cancelled my proposed visit to UK and attendance at the meeting but Russell Harrison and Margaret Pool (N.Z.) were able to attend. We are looking forward to hearing news of the gathering and the celebrations of our Chief's 70th Birthday.

The Ringwood Games in April were held in delightful sunny weather, and with the Pipe bands and Highland dancing in full form it proved to be an enjoyable outing. Our Society now has its own banner and a number of us took part in the procession of Clans with a strong volunteer willing to carry the new banner. The AGM of the Council of Clans Australasia Inc. was held in the morning. We were told that next year, 2001, as part of the celebration of the Centenary of our Nationhood there will be a Gathering over Easter at Ringwood with Pipe Bands and Dancers competing for a Federal Cup. The purpose would be to recognise the part played by the Scots in the progress and welfare of Australia. The programme would reflect Scottish culture, customs, music & dance as well as the contribution of the Scottish tradition and Scottish lives in our history. More details will be announced later.

On Sunday 2nd. July there was a service in Scots Church in Melbourne during which the Kirking of the Tartans took place. Representatives of 28 Clans entered the church in procession carrying samples of their respective tartans, repeating a ceremony that is said to have taken place in Scotland in the 18th century in protest against the then British Parliament's ban on the wearing of Highland dress. The bringing of tartan to the church on a specific Sunday each year was seen as a request for God's blessing on the Clans and all that they represented.

Our Society has been able to secure the Chief of the Council of Clans, Robert Johnston, to speak at our AGM on Sunday 12th November and we want to show him that the Clan MacMillan is just as alive and well as the Clan Johnston. So please make an effort to come and make him welcome. The meeting will start at 2p.m. but please join us for a chat and lunch (BYO sandwiches, liquid refreshments provided) at 12.30p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you then. June Danks President.

I had just completed my letter when an email arrived from Clan Chief George about the Conclave held recently. This has been printed on pages 4 and 5.

A.G.M. AND ANNUAL GET TOGETHER

As June Danks mentioned in her letter our A.G.M. will be held on Sunday 12 November at the E.S.U and United Kingdom Settlers Assn's rooms at 146 West Toorak Road, Sth. Yarra. (reference Melway map 2L - D5. It is opposite Fawcner Park).

12.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

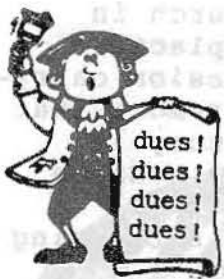
Please bring your lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. This is a great opportunity to meet other clan members in a very pleasant environment.

Please make an effort to come and hear our Guest Speaker Robert Johnston, Chief of the Council of Clans A/asia Inc.,

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY BANNER

We were pleased to display our Clan Banner at the Ringwood Highland Games.

Our thanks to Mick McMillan who carried the banner with June Danks, June Senior and Myrtle Beitlich marching with the other Clans.



SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE 1999/2000

Thank you to all those members who have paid. Your receipt will be included in this newsletter.

There are still 16 subscriptions not paid for this financial year. If you have not paid there will be a reminder sticker attached to this newsletter.

FAMILY HISTORY

Fay Ryan would love to hear from anyone who descends from:

David McMillan and Jane McKean
Linton-Victoria 1864.

Please phone Fay Ryan on 9754 6512 (evenings).



PRIZE FOR ICE CREAM

Member Val Gaskell's Ice cream shop at 257 Bluff Rd., Sandringham was in the news again last summer when she took out joint 2nd prize in the Champion of Champions' competition in Sydney in ice cream.

It took Val six years to make her lemon delicious ice cream - one of Melbourne's most sought after delights. Congratulations Val on yet another award.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY FOR OUR CLAN CHIEF

Our Clan Chief George MacMillan of MacMillan & Knap celebrated his 70th Birthday on 20th June, 2000.

We sent greetings from all the members of the Clan MacMillan Society (Australia) on this very special occasion.

As well as great social activities arranged, there was a meeting of the Conclave.

We look forward to hearing about the celebrations when Russell Harrison returns to Sydney.

You will read the Chief's recollections of the Conclave on pages 4 & 5 in the n'letter.



NEW MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome Murray MacMillan of Paynesville to our Clan. A very warm welcome Murray and we trust that you will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to the Clans who have sent us their Newsletters. We enjoy reading these and hearing what is going on in other Clan Societies. We also received the Clan MacMillan Centre Newsletter May/June 2000 This is always full of interest.

We also received the Clan MacMillan Society of North America's newsletter and, once again, this is full of interesting news and covers our Clan Chief's visits to Mississippi and North Carolina.

V A L E

We were saddened to learn of the death of member Joan Lang of Bright, on 5th May, 2000.

In our March 1998 newsletter there was an article about Joan Lang when she was awarded the Alpine Shire Citizen of the Year Award. At that time she was commended for "the years she had assisted and touched the hearts of so many with her driving involvement in various groups and projects, which have included, but not limited to, cancer, disabled, post polio and arthritis support groups. She has taught literacy and counselled the unwell, and provided emotional and practical support for their families".

Joan spent the last 12 months of her life in and out of hospital as she battled cancer.

In the Queen's Birthday Awards published on 12th June 2000 Joan was awarded the OAM - Medal of the Order of Australia - for her unfailing support for disabled and cancer. Even though very ill, Joan was aware of the award just before she died. She truly lived by the MacMillan Clan Motto "I learn to help the distressed".

Our deepest sympathy to her husband Jim who was always there for Joan and supported her in all her achievements.

I have lost a very dear and loving cousin whom I will miss very much.

June Senior.

THE CHIEF'S RECOLLECTIONS OF THE CONCLAVE

HELD AT FINLAYSTONE 21 - 24 JUNE 2000

I was amazed at the response to my invitation to this business meeting and mini-gathering; they came from Australia, New Zealand, California, Utah, Texas, Appalachia, North East USA, Virginia, Mississippi, the North American Branch, Ottawa & Glengarry, the Maritimes, British Columbia, England and Scotland. Arizona was also represented. For almost everyone this journey involved a huge amount of time, money and physical endurance. The pill of business was liberally sugared with parties, coach tours, a barbeque and a final service with Langbank congregation and a brass band on the lawn at the back of the house. But it's the business that concerns me now.

Under Arthur's chairmanship we began by considering the role of the clan today. We came up with the following "mission statements".

"The mission of each Clan MacMillan organisation is to be part of the world-wide family (by birth, marriage, adoption or interest), loyal to our Chief and supportive of the Clan Centre, researching, communicating, and celebrating the story and heritage of Clan MacMillan. We seek to work among ourselves and with others in the spirit of our motto 'Miseris succerrere disco'".

"The mission of the Clan Chief, with the advice and help of his 'executive forum', is to support Clan MacMillan and its branches/societies in achieving their objectives, to uphold the values of the clan and to provide a focal point for facilitating international initiatives and communication for branches".

The "executive forum" is the Clan Conclave; i.e. representatives of the various clan bodies, plus invited individuals. The Conclave exists to advise and to help the chief in the exercise of his authority, and has no power of its own to intervene in the affairs of any other Clan MacMillan body. The Conclave has a special responsibility for helping the chief oversee the Clan Centre; particularly in his choice of the Trustees who administer the Centre and who report on its work to the Chief and Conclave.

We next considered, amended and approved "Guidelines for the Setting-up and Running of a Clan MacMillan Society/Branch". The guidelines are not intended to be universally binding, but more as an example of how one might strive to embody certain broad principles—namely:

Transparency of information—i.e. rules, membership lists and accounts—both within the body of office-holders, and between them and the membership.

The avoidance of the concentration of office-holding at any one time in the hands of individuals or single families, and in the same hands for any great length of time.

Properly advertised elections at regular intervals—with postal balloting options where necessary—to hold all officers to account for their administration.

The requirement of the office-holders to organise at least one General Meeting and to produce at least one Newsletter per year to ensure that the membership can see the above principles being put into effect.

Recognition of the wider clan, and of the branch or society's obligations to support, by any possible means, the activities of the Chief, other branches, and the Clan Centre.

The work and financing of the Clan Centre was much discussed. Thanks to Graeme Mackenzie and, more recently Pauline Simpson, it is indeed a focal point for the world-wide family; with a twice-yearly newsletter, a regularly up-dated website, the on-going work of Project MAOL, organising events, handling correspondence, research etc. Till now it has depended for its support on:

- (a) Subscriptions from "Friends".
- (b) Donations from branches, individuals and the Community of the Tonsured Servant.

Friend's subs are dependable but barely cover the cost of the Newsletter.

THE CHIEF'S RECOLLECTIONS OF THE CONCLAVE (CONT'D)

Donations, though often very generous, are essentially unpredictable. To pay Graeme and Pauline at the present minimum levels, to maintain the necessary equipment and meet other running-costs will cost the equivalent of US\$10,000 a year. Additional cash would allow Project MAOL to forge ahead.

How to ensure a steady income? After much discussion, the Conclave agreed on three steps:

1. They passed a motion:

"That: in view of the financial needs of the Clan Centre and the desirability of a predictable income, this Conclave at Finlaystone (June 2000) challenges all clan members and affiliated groups, societies and branches to do their very best to make an annual contribution proportionate to the size of their membership.

That: This money may be raised in any way that seems appropriate. The amount required this year suggests a target sum equivalent to about six U.S. dollars per head, to be raised and forwarded to the Clan Centre by 31st December 2000.

That: We hope any burden will be spread as widely, and therefore as thinly, as possible.

That: The appointment of one of your members as a liason with the Trustees of the Clan Centre would be helpful.

Therefore we affirmatively advise the Chief".

2. They asked a working-group to look into the possibility of hiring a professional fund-raiser in the United States.

3. They urged the Trustees, in conjunction with any "Liason Officers" who might be appointed, to facilitate the exchange of ideas on ways to establish reliable long-term funding for the Centre.

N.B. "Appropriate" in the motion above should be taken to mean in any way that does not risk bringing our name into disrepute. Where money is concerned it's vital to be totally "transparent", as people say nowadays. "Liason" officers are intended to be people with a special responsibility for maintaining links between the Clan Centre Trustees and the members of their own branch/society. Ideally they should be people of integrity, initiative, enthusiasm and tact, with some knowledge of the work of the Centre, officially designated by their body to:

(a) Inform fellow members of what the Clan Centre does and can do for them.

(b) Explore and implement ways of securing a predictable flow of funds to the Trustees of the Clan Centre (e.g. by fund-raising initiatives and by speaking up for the Centre when group funds are being allocated).

(c) Tell the Trustees what services their members desire from the Centre, and share with the Trustees their ideas and experience relating to the previous item; so that the Trustees in turn can spread them around and if need be, co-ordinate efforts that may have repercussions outside individual societies (e.g. approaching big potential sponsors).

In an effort to clarify the status of subscribers to the Clan Centre in relation to the world-wide clan, they agreed that the Clan Centre should be re-named The Clan MacMillan International Centre, and "Friends" should henceforth be called "members". It was, however, pointed out that membership of the clan is essentially a matter of birth etc., and not payment. The payment expresses active support for the clan/family.

Finally I must thank all who serviced the Conclave - organisers, recorders, chairmen and food-providers - and also of course all who attended. There was plenty of vigorous discussion; but there was also a good spirit of compromise which I believe produced some excellent decisions. I hope very much that everybody will now feel they can put these into effect.

George MacMillan.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Alexander Graham Bell was born on March 3, 1847 in Edinburgh Scotland and educated at the Universities of Edinburgh and London. He immigrated to Canada in 1870 and to the United States in 1871. In the United States he began teaching deaf-mutes, publicising the system called visible speech. The system, which was developed by his father, the Scottish educator Alexander Melville Bell, shows how the lips tongue and throat are used in the articulation of sound. In 1872 Bell founded a school for deaf-mutes in Boston, Massachusetts. The school subsequently became part of Boston University, where Bell was appointed professor of vocal physiology. He became a naturalised U.S. citizen in 1882.

Since the age of 18, Bell had been working on the idea of transmitting speech. In 1874, while working on a multiple telegraph, he developed the basic ideas for the telephone. His experiments with his assistant Thomas Watson finally proved successful on March 10, 1876 when the first complete sentence was transmitted: "Watson, come here; I want you." Subsequent demonstrations, particularly one at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, introduced the telephone to the world and led to the organisation of the Bell Telephone Company in 1877.

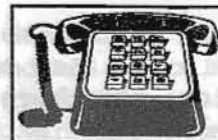
After 1895 Bell's interest turned mostly to aeronautics. Many of his inventions in this area were first tested near his summer home at Baddeck on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, Canada. His study of flight began with the construction of large kites, and in 1907 he devised a kite capable of carrying a person. With a group of associates, including the American inventor and aviator Glenn Hammond Curtiss, Bell developed the aileron, a movable section of an airplane wing that controls roll. They also developed the tricycle landing gear, which first permitted takeoff and landing on a flying field.

Applying the principles of aeronautics and marine propulsion, his group started work on hydrofoil boats, which travel above the water at high speeds. His final full-sized "hydrodrome," developed in 1917, reached speeds in excess of 113 km/h (70mph) and for many years was the fastest boat in the world. During 1917 Bell approached the British Government with the idea of them purchasing his invention of the hydrodome but they were not interested.

Bell's continuing studies on the causes and heredity of deafness led to experiments in eugenics, including sheep breeding, and to his book Duration of Life and Conditions Associated with Longevity (1918). He died in August, 1922, at Baddeck, where a museum containing many of his original inventions is maintained by the Canadian government.

I am indebted to the Morrison Clan for the above article that appeared in "Driftwood Digest" May 1999.

Brian and Norma Morrison spent a most interesting day at the museum at Baddeck in Nova Scotia in 1995.



(a) Subscriptions from "Friends".

(b) Donations from branches, individuals and the Community of "The Servant".

In May 1851 Edward Hargraves discovered gold. With expanded population, food was in urgent demand; beef quickly rose to Five Pence a pound, McMillan's cattle increased in value immediately. Then he heard that other squatters, including William Pearson, were purchasing shares in mines, thus participating in the new wealth without leaving their properties. McMillan had no capital to invest, but he felt that, with higher prices, he could quickly convert stock into cash and acquire a share in a mine.

The whole condition of agriculture changed overnight. The thirteen million sheep in Australia in 1851 required an army of shepherds to watch them; suddenly there were no shepherds and the squatters had no choice but to leave the sheep unattended. By a miracle the sheep did just as well, if not better, than previously. The routine of shepherding a flock behind hurdles each night with a watchman was abandoned with little harm. Somehow McMillan's October shearing was completed and the wool-dirty as ever-carted to Port Albert.

Sheep as well as cattle roamed freely without supervision; because gold was more profitable than stealing, cattle duffers vanished and losses diminished. Squatters, including McMillan, realised that stations could be run with far fewer men. McMillan commenced a plan, in which he met with partial success, to train Aborigines to do some of the work.

By this time also the squatters realised that no Government would turn them off their holdings, and that if they continued their agitation, it was reasonably certain that they would get security of tenure and eventually acquire a title to their runs.

The necessity for improvements was obvious, provided labour could be found to make them. Gradually runs began to be fenced, first of rough logs or rails slid into posts. This in itself brought about a revolution in farming, since there were reduced chances of stock straying or being stolen.

McMillan gradually erected fences; one of his new tasks was to ride around his boundary periodically and repair any fencing gaps.

Financially, the tide seemed to be turning. In seven years, he had repaid to Arbuckle the total sum borrowed with interest. Despite the good Doctor's protests that he had no need of the money, McMillan insisted on repayment in full. He had accounts with Turnbull Brothers and Goldsbroughs which fluctuated from debit to credit and back again. Apart from these, he had no liabilities, but no funds in the shape of an accumulation of capital.

Although the departure of labour to the gold fields meant that his outgoings for wages were less, his outlay on sheds, fencing and water holes had increased enormously. Rising prices had given him a higher yield from his operations but, against this, he was paying more for supplies and equipment.

Fortune seemed as far away as ever. At this time he held nine hundred cattle and three thousand sheep which grazed over twenty-two thousand acres. These included the original sixteen thousand acres at Cungmundi which he had selected in 1847. Cungmundi was on the Wonnangatta River, a swift flowing stream in the mountains almost due north of Bushy Park, some fifty miles as the crow flies but longer by the rough tracks. This area was taken up by McMillan on the theory that cattle wintered in the mountains and brought down to Bushy Park for topping off before selling appeared to do better than those reared on the home station. There was greater risk of losses from cattle duffers but, on the whole, the plan worked admirably in addition, McMillan had the excuse of riding to the mountains which he loved.

McMillan, after thirteen years in the Colony had acquired a deserved reputation as an explorer, gained the control of twenty-two thousand acres of good land which he had partially stocked, had won the esteem of squatters and officials throughout the Colony of Victoria as an upright man of integrity, and had earned the respect of his employees and the Aborigines who regarded Bushy Park as home.

Towns at Port Albert, Tarraville, Sale, Stratford and Bairnsdale had slowly developed to meet the needs of the pastoralists. With the discovery of gold, settlements came into being almost overnight. The mountain streams attracted the prospectors, the most spectacular was Stringers Creek where, at Walhalla, the famous Long Tunnel Mine paid dividends over 30 years in excess of £1,250,000.00.

THE SCOTTISH THISTLE



Early history tells us that the thistle was the badge of the Celtic Kings. Legend has it that one Celtic King was fighting the Danes. The Danes were creeping up on the Celts early in the morning when one of the soldiers stood on a thistle and his cry woke up the Scots who successfully defeated the attack. The same story is attributed to William Wallace and Robert the Bruce in their wars of Independence against the English.

James III made the thistle Scotland's national plant. In 1470 he struck a silver coin with a thistle stamped on each side. Since his reign the thistle has been the national emblem of Scotland.

If unclaimed, please return to:

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