



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 51 DECEMBER 2000

MACMILLAN

CREST BADGE A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-handed sword, proper.
MOTTO *Misere succurre disco*
(I learn to succour the distressed)
GAELIC NAME *MacGhille-MhacIain.*

President: Dr. June Danks, 66 Campbell St., Kew Vic. 3101
Phone & Fax: 9817 3148 Email: junedavid@bigpond.com.
Secretary: Myrna Robertson, 3/91 Athol Rd., Springvale Sth. 3172
Phone: 9546 3474
Treasurer: June Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave., Glen Waverley 3150
& Editor: Phone: 9560 8746 Fax: via 98024986
Vice- Kaelene Blake, 29 Wittick St., Bacchus Marsh 3340
President: Phone: 5367 6709 Email: kfabla@hotmail.net.au
Committee: Peter McMillan, 5 Keyes St., Linden Park S.A. 5065

CMS MESSAGE from PRESIDENT December 2000

There have been a few things happening during the year which I would like to mention to you.

In April we had a visit to the **Braeside Family History Library** where a few of our members availed themselves of the valuable help of volunteer Alex Glennie and others to trace family links. I was able to get one further step back in our ancestry.

The **Ringwood Games** were held on a beautiful day in April and it was a colourful and successful occasion with Highland dancing, Pipe bands, stalls, and a Procession of Clans in which we were able to take part, walking behind our new banner, ably held aloft by Mick Macmillan of Croydon. June and Max Senior set up the tent where we had quite a number of visitors. June and I attended the meeting of the Council of Clans.

The main Event of the year was the Gathering at Finlaystone which was entitled -- **Mac-Millinium Drain-Piping and Chiefly Birthday Bash**

A week of celebrations marking 70 years of Chief George MacMillan
100 years of Finlaystone Plumbing
1000 years of Clan ancestors and
2000 years of Christian faith.

An elaborate programme was organised and many people attended from Canada and United States, and Russell Harrison from Australia and Margaret Pool from New Zealand.

At the **Meeting of the Elders** much was discussed and The Chief's Recollections of the Conclave were printed in the July newsletter. We are very fortunate to have a Chief who is so generous in giving his time and effort to unite and encourage the Clans, and has been able to visit the Americas and Australia. His wife Jane is totally involved also. At our AGM we decided to have a small raffle to raise additional funds for The Clan MacMillan International Centre. Any donations will be promptly forwarded to Finlaystone. We would appreciate ideas for further fund-raising.

Each year, the Scots, who back in history were deprived of wearing tartan because of a ban invoked by their English invaders, celebrate 1st July as "**Tartan Day**", in recognition of the joyous day this ban was lifted.

On Sunday 2nd July 2000 a service took place in Scots Church Melbourne where representatives of 28 clans entered the church carrying samples of their respective tartans, seen as a request for God's blessing on the Clans and all that they represent. Four members of our clan participated.

Con't page 2.....

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Continued.

One of our members, Kaye O'Reilly, has had an opportunity to develop a **web-site for Clan MacMillan Society** and she is hoping it will attract new members and also assist us all to fill in details of our respective family trees. Information that would be helpful would be individual member's interests, marriage dates, and associated family names. This is a generous offer and we want to thank her for it, especially knowing that a considerable amount of time and effort is involved.

Next year, at Easter, Saturday 14th April and Sunday 15th April the **Federation Highland Games** will be held at Ringwood which will include Australian Pipe Band and Australian Commonwealth Highland Dancing Championships. Pipe bands are coming from Canada and New Zealand so it will be a Big Event ! Our clan has applied for a tent site which has been accepted so there will be shelter and' comradery 'for all our members. It will be a good opportunity for a family picnic and good fun.

Finally I want to **thank my committee**, especially June and Myrna, for the help and support during the year. We try to pass on the news through the newsletter but we do depend on you, as members, for your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to ask us any questions at any time.

CLAN Macmillan Society (Australia) now has a Web Page

As mentioned in the President's letter Clan MacMillan Society(Australia) now has a Web Page, thanks to member Kaye O'Reilly. As well as current members now having access to a web site, we are hoping other MacMillans will learn of our Clan Society and be interested to join the Society. See page 4 for details.

COMING EVENTS

The Ballarat Federation Tatoo - January 26-28, 2001 -Ballarat Clarendon College - for further information please phone 03 5333 5888.

Sunday February 11 Berwick Highland Games, Akoona Park, Berwick.

Sunday March 4 Nunawading Highland Gathering, Burwood Reserve, Burwood.

Sunday March 18 Geelong Highland Gathering,

Sat. & Sunday April 14 & 15 Ringwood Highland Gathering,
Jubilee Park, Ringwood.

SCOTTISH NEWS

At a recent flower show at Hampton Court Palace, the exhibit created by the City of Glasgow won a Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medal. The floral arrangement has now been set up in Glasgow's George Square to let the local citizens see it. Adorned with specially-commissioned metal sculptures by a local artist, illustrating a tree, a bird, a fish with a ring in its mouth and a bell, all symbols from the Glasgow coat of arms. It also depicts in flowers and stone a Celtic Knot design.

Reluctantly the committee decided it was necessary to increase our annual subscription from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per year. After discussion, this was passed at the A.G.M. on November 12, 2000.

There has been no increase since October 1992, when fees were increased to \$10.00.

I am sure all members will realize prices have increased in the last 8 years. Our printing (now plus G.S.T.) and postage has risen considerably in that time.

Our Banner (pictured page 2, July 2000 newsletter) was a big expense in the last financial year. It had been discussed for the last 15 years, but finally, thanks to secretary Myrna Robertson, she arranged for the Banner to be made. It has been greatly admired and is really necessary when we attend Highland Gatherings or any function promoting The Clan MacMillan Society.

VALE

We were saddened to learn that Shirley, wife of Stuart McMillan, passed away in September. Our deepest sympathy to Stuart and his family.

In August Ronald Robb of the MacFarlane Clan and foundation Chief of the Council of Clans died suddenly. Ronald was a Knight of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, first Chairman of the St. Andrew's Remembrance Day Committee, member of the Gaelic Choir and much loved piper among all Scottish groups. To his wife Lesley and family the MacMillan Clan Society extend deepest sympathy.

GUEST SPEAKER AT A.G.M.

Bob Johnston, Chief of the Council of Clans, was Guest Speaker at our A.G.M. on November 12.

For those of you who were unable to attend I am sure you will enjoy reading what Bob had to say.

You will find "The MacMillan" on pages 5, 6 and 7.

Our thanks to Bob and his wife Marion for attending our A.G.M. and sharing their time with us.

CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to the Clans who send us their Newsletter. It is very interesting reading of their activities.

Margaret Pool, President of Clan MacMillan Society of New Zealand keeps in touch with us and it is always a pleasure to hear from her.

Margaret and Peter's daughter Katie is off to Japan next year to teach English. They do not know yet what area Katie will be but when she is settled they are looking forward to visiting her. Hopefully Margaret will write and tell us about their time in Japan.

CLAN RAFFLE

First Prize, a bottle of Whisky, kindly donated by our President was won by Kaelene Blake of Bacchus Marsh.

Second Prize, a MacMillan crest pin was won by Gavin McMillan of Maffra.

Thank you to all those members who supported this raffle, proceeds are to go to The Clan Centre in Scotland.

<http://clanmacmillanaus.freesevers.com>

Clan MacMillan Society (Australia) now has a Web Page

Members with access to the Internet will be pleased to know that we now have a Web Page. Our Paggers are sponsored by "Freesevers" who are able to offer free Web space by placing an advertising banner at the top of each of our pages. Be aware that by clicking your mouse anywhere on the banners it will take you away from our pages. If that happens just click on the Back button in the left hand top corner to return.

It is to be hoped that by using our **MEMBERS INTEREST** page we will be able to make connections with others researching the same lines. Just send in your Family names either by E-mail to Kaye O'Reilly macore@i-o.net.au or by post to 28 Dunbar Grove, CHURCHILL 3842.

Many formats can be used for these entry's and may be changed as members decide. At present I am simply listing the first known members of the Australian Family with Spouse Name, Date, Area Settled and Associated Family names.

ie. **McMillen Robert James m Elizabeth Fitzpatrick**, 1858. Creswick/Dean, Vic.
Associated Family Names: Guthrie, Bray, Keating, Campbell, MacDonald, Ainger, Bennet, Lingenberg, Henderson, Murdock, Nagel, Sedman, etc.

Contact Kaye O'Reilly: macore@i-o.net.au

For Members not on the Internet, Postal or Phone details can be entered.

We are also offering a **MEMBERS HELP** Page. This page is intended to offer "Clan MacMillan" members Australian B.D.M. lookups from the Vital Records Index and other Records that members make available. If you can help with any Records you may have gathered over the years please get in touch. ie. I have an index of all the McMillan's buried in the Garfield Cemetery. These small data bases may be invaluable to some of our interstate members.

Check out what's on in our **Meetings and Events** Page.

The Australian Site is not designed to offer information on the History of the MacMillan Clan's as that information is available from the Official, Clan MacMillan Web Site whose link can be found on our **FAVOURITE LINKS** Page. In future we will have a Newsletter Highlights page and others are sure to be added.

Note: If you use the link on our **HOME** Page to contact the WEBMASTER (a fancy name for the person on the other end of the computer) you will need to minimise your screen to see the E-mail form. That's the minus sign at the top right of your screen.

Please feel free to offer any suggestions for the site.

The MacMillan

First and foremost. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to your Treasurer, June Senior, after her hip operation.

I attended a dinner the other night to witness the presentation of a 70 year Service Jewel to Tom Patterson. On receiving his award, Tom opened his reply by saying: a speech should be like a mini skirt. Long enough to cover the subject and short enough to hold your interest.

The MacMillan,

Where do you start?

In history they seem to have been around before time! The 50th commonest surname in Scotland in 1958, and if, it is to be believed, it is only a "nickname" for the son of a Shaveling, A Bald-headed person or a Tonsured one.

To the best of my knowledge, there is only one in Australia. (June Senior) and I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony. If I am wrong I apologise to the other Tonsured Servants.

The Macmillan's are Celts descended from an ancient royal house and from the orders of the Celtic church.

In the sixth century, the Irish prince, St Columba, established his church on Iona, thereafter the cradle of Christianity in Gaelic Scotland.

A few years rolled by. Alexander 1st he appointed Cormac, a Columban, as Bishop of Dunkeld.

Cormac had numerous sons, one of whom was Gillie Chriod, (**Creeous**) or disciple of Christ, who was progenitor of the Macmillans.

As a Celtic priest, the bishops son would have had a distinctive tonsure: (haircut) The Celts shaved their hair over the front of the head, rather than in the roman manner of a ring around the crown. The Celtic tonsure was described as that of St John, which is rendered in Gaelic, 'Mhaoil Iain', (**Vail Iain**) Macmillan is therefore son of one who bore the tonsure of St John.

The Lochaber branch of the Clan favoured an alternative form, 'Mac Ghilemhaoil', (**Ye-a-vail**) 'son of the tonsured servant'.

The Clan was given the boot from Moray when David 1st abolished the mormaership of Moray, and settled the region with Norman Knights. They moved to the shores of Loch Archaig in Lochaber where they were well established by the 13th century.

Nothing was static for long in Scotland of old. After the death of Margaret 'Maid of Norway'. Came the War of Independence. Robert the Bruce settled his dispute with John the Red Comyn, by stabbing him to death in the Greyfriars Church at Dumfries.

The MacMillan (Cont'd)

The Comyns and Co were most upset to say the least, the new king had to flee into hiding in the Highlands.

Maolmuire, (**Malmure-a**) the Macmillan chief, sheltered him at his home at Ben Lawers. The chief's brother Gilbert stayed with the king, and the clan fought at Bannockburn.

Many years of turmoil followed. The Macmillans lost lands and castles, only to gain them back as the tides of battle ebbed and flowed.

The Macmillans were noted Jacobites. John Macmillan of Murlaggan, whose line was later to head the Lochaber Macmillans, refused to join Prince Charlie, unless the Stuarts renounced the Catholic Faith.

Muriaggan's eldest son defied his father and the Macmillans formed a company of Lochiel's regiment, which fought at Culloden; both sons died in the battle.

Donald Macmillan of Tulloch, was induced to surrender to the Duke of Cumberland under the impression that he and his men had been promised protection, but they were transported to the Caribbean to become slaves, without trial.

Some of the clan moved south to Galloway, and got into trouble as 'disorderly people' (i. e. Covenanters).

Hugh Macmillan guided the prince from Fasnakyle at the mouth of Glen Afric over the hills to Loch Arkaig after Culloden.

The Macmillans held many important positions in Scotland over the following years.

It was Captain William's great-grandson, General Sir Gordon Macmillan, father of the present chief, who reawakened the chiefly memory. He was not aware that he was the hereditary chief of the Clan Macmillan until he sought to matriculate arms to fly over Edinburgh Castle, of which he had been appointed governor. In fact, arms had been designed, showing him to be a cadet of the chiefly house, when his true pedigree was discovered by the Reverend. Somerled Macmillan, Sir Gordon established the seat of the chiefs at Finlaystone House in Renfrewshire.

In the few years I have been associated with things Scottish in Australia, few have been more involved and supportive of the Scottish cause than the MacMillan's.

Oh' that, that support was infectious to many other Clans, what a voice we could have.

And talking of voices:

There are moves afoot, to have a Combined Scottish Organization.

The next meeting is on Sunday 19th November at Burwood Heights Uniting Church at 2.00pm to form a Victorian Scots Coordinating Committee. I hope it eventuates and we will talk, and be as one, at last.

For a spell I worked with the Irish relatives of the Clan: The Mullen's. Great entertainment on a pay night. After a few Guinness's it was on for young and old, but only within the family, they never involved anyone else, the rest of the time they had hearts of gold, were hard workers and well-mannered gentlemen. The Mullen's or

The MacMillan (cont'd)

McMullen's were not indigenous to Ireland, so they were Macmillan's through and through. This could be the reason for gentle manners.

I knew of Kirkpatrick MacMillan inventor of the bicycle, as I was a cyclist in my youth. I also remember Sir Harold MacMillan 1st Earl of Stockton and Prime Minister of Britain 1957- 63.

But one I had not heard was: William Mac Millan, Captain of the Marines under Lord Nelson on the HMS Victory.

At the end of his days, Wullie went to heaven, and was greeted at the pearly gates by Peter, with these words: "A Scotsman I see! And a MacMillan at that. I'm no impressed wi' yer' fancy hairdo, so off ye go, We' re no makin' porridge for one!"

ANGUS MCMILLAN - PATHFINDER BY K. COX

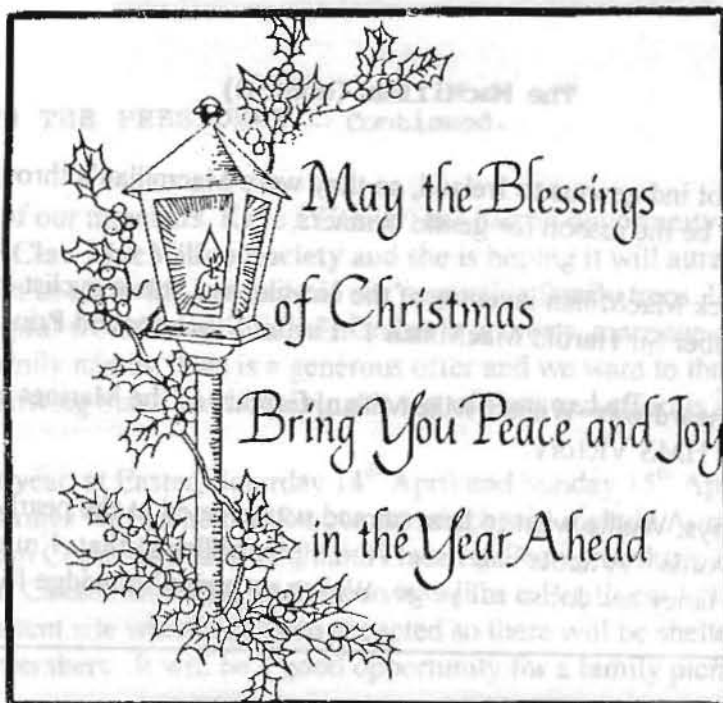


The rich deposits discovered over wide areas of Gippsland led to dramatic development in the Province. Tracks and roads were built, the straggling towns established for the squatters grew into prosperous centres, the foundations of successful businesses were laid; accommodation houses, stores, sly grog shops and saloons appeared almost overnight. The hard working diggers spent freely. Demand for mining equipment could not be met, and for some time the importance of Australia as an agricultural country dimmed in significance as the papers filled their pages with news of fresh discoveries of gold. Miners came from America and South Africa, from China and Britain, and with convicts from Tasmania, poured into the Colony for the new wealth. Those who found gold spent lavishly, breeding in the future of the Colony an optimistic confidence which was lacking a few years previously and which was to have a strong effect on the national character. Progress, stimulated by the gold fever, seemed limitless; squatters such as McMillan watched the rapidly changing scene with a certain bewilderment.

Port Albert assumed new importance as the gold escorts brought the metal from the mountain mines for shipment to Melbourne. The Bank of Victoria opened a branch for the receipt of gold, and many who had used the private bank of Turnbull Brothers transferred their accounts. The Customs and Bond Store was inadequate to cope with the goods passing through, and the powder magazine which held explosives for the mines was full to capacity. The Port Albert Post Office became one of the busiest in Gippsland, with a telegraph line to Sale. The hotels at Port Albert and Tarraville prospered in the new-found wealth as diggers spent their earnings before leaving for Melbourne for a further spree. Bullock waggons lined up near the wharf to load and unload, and the air was full of the colourful language of the bullockies. Troopers swaggered in their bright uniforms. In the busy street, the squatter felt overshadowed as he shopped for supplies and discussed his problems with the staff at Turnbull Brothers, now so occupied with coping with the demands of the goldfields that the needs of the squatter were relegated to second place.

Robberies—even murder—caused the police force to be augmented and lonely settlers and bush travellers carried firearms for protection. The route from Melbourne to Sale had been a precarious journey. Bishop Perry and his wife in 1849 successfully endured the discomforts and dangers of a peregrination, staying at rough bush hostleries under the protection of a detachment of native troopers.

To be continued.....



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



P.O. Box 66 Metung 3904 Victoria Australia

Phone 03 5156 2283 Fax 03 5156 2375

Email info@mcmillansofmetung.com.au
www.mcmillansofmetung.com.au

Telephone (03) 817 5151
 Fax (03) 817 4596



House of Scotland

FINEST SCOTTISH PRODUCTS
 AUTHENTIC CLAN KILTS

- * CLAN PLAQUES * PIPE BAND EQUIPMENT
- * DANCERS ACCESSORIES * JEWELLRY
- * HIRE SERVICE * SCOTTISH CRAFTS
- * RECORDS * VIDEOS * AUTHENTIC TARTANS
- * KILTS * PIPER FOR ALL FUNCTIONS

115 WHITEHORSE ROAD,
 BALWYN/DEEPDENE, 3103, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA. (P.T.O.)