



MACMILLAN

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

# CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO.55 MARCH 2002

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## President's Report

Over the past 2000 years & more there have been migrations or movements of peoples from one settlement to another. At the moment there are many people on the move in Europe, Asia & Australasia. We are reminded of the emigration of Scots from Loch Arkraigside to Ontario in July 1802. This is being celebrated as "The Great Return 2002" by the Clan MacMillan Society in Fort William & Greenock in July 2002 to mark the bicentenary. Members of Clan MacMillan Society are invited to attend & all plans and details are here at hand if anyone is able to take part.

At our picnic in Geelong in February we heard the wonderful story of one of our members, John McMillan, whose family arrived on the North Shore in 1842. He has kindly given us permission to include his description of events of his antecedents' lives in this newsletter. There must be many more interesting stories which we would be happy to share together. Please tell us.

Our appreciation goes to Ken MacMillan who arranged the Geelong get-together, & also organised a tent for us at the Geelong Games on March 17<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful autumn day & it opened with a "Massed Highland Fling" display by young girls & boys. There was wood chopping, caber tossing, country dancing, Pipe bands, Scottish Dogs, celtic market, & so on. We had visitors to our tent & shared some yarns.

The Clan MacMillan tent will be at the Ringwood Games on March 24<sup>th</sup> as well. This is held in Jubilee Park, Ringwood. It is a major event & is well attended. A procession of the various clans is part of the Opening Ceremony & hopefully there will be a number of members to join in.

Kaye O'Reilly has been busy with the website & is constantly expanding the information available. We are very fortunate that she is so willing & able to do this & we are taking this opportunity to award her a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of voluntary service to the community. (International Year of Volunteers 2001). Congratulations Kaye!

Best wishes to all.

June Danks.





Advent 2001.

The terrible events of 11 September tend to erase from the memory all that went before. Nevertheless we must try to recall lost time.

We moved into our new and comfortable premises (the old servants' wing) in January, and we have been sorting out our possessions ever since - in between gardening or plying the tourist trade. Despite Foot & Mouth scares (which came to nothing in this area), we, unlike many in farming and tourism, have had a pretty good year, thanks to a good team and reasonable weather. For the second year running, we've been short-listed for a Thistle Award for Environmental Tourism.

We crossed the Atlantic twice this year. The first visit was in early May, to stay with Father Mac and some of his family for a Scottish festival in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and then to join Ed. and Emily Williams for a gathering of Emily's numerous MacMullen relations centring on the tiny church at MacMullen, Virginia. Both places were extremely interesting; but the pleasure of the visits was vastly enhanced by the kindness of our host(esse)s.

It takes barely 5 hrs. 30 mins. To fly from Glasgow to Halifax, Nova Scotia (and less to fly back). We know because we did so in August. We were taking part in a gathering of the North American Clan MacMillan Society, beautifully organised by its current president, the Rev. Chris MacMullen. Had I but world enough and time, I'd tell you our action-packed 9-day progress through the Maritime Provinces, in which MacMillans from as far away as New Zealand enjoyed the chance to meet one another and their local cousins.

Anniversaries dominated our September - forty years of marriage on the 2nd, and Jane's 70th birthday on the 22nd. We marked that event by filling a holiday house in Elie (Fife) with our descendants and a pack of dogs for a full week-end. Michael (Jane's brother) and Hilary flew up specially from Kent to be the surprise guests at a barbecue - pretty decent, as they'd just returned from celebrating their own golden wedding in France followed by an animal-spotting visit to Africa. Four dogs must have seemed rather tame to them.

For the first time in some years, both Arthur and Malcolm are experiencing serious problems in their respective industries. Despite that, they don't seem too down-hearted. Their five children are progressing well. We're lucky to have them close enough to allow them to drop in easily.

Arthur and Barbara have been busy with improvements to the main part of the house. As often happens with building projects, the course has not run completely smoothly. The end, however, seems to be in sight. When it comes, the effect should be spectacular.

We have similar hopes for our hydro-electric generating scheme, which is now a year behind schedule.....(November 23 - it's working)

Let's hope that 2002 will bring health, happiness and peace to you and indeed to the rest of the world, starting, perhaps, with Bethlehem (Palestine).

Meanwhile, we wish you a very happy Christmas.

Our Clan Chief George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap and his wife Jane, send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year in the above letter received in December 2001.

## CLAN ACTIVITIES IN VICTORIA

Our President, June Danks has mentioned our picnics at Geelong in February. We had a wonderfully relaxed day meeting with our Geelong members.

We also had a tent at the Geelong Highland Games on 17th March, thanks to member Ken MacMillan. Ken and his family were at the tent till June Danks and later, Max & I arrived, so thank you Ken, Heather and Jacqui for looking after the Clan MacMillan tent. Joe Bell also attended and thank you Joe for supporting Ken.

A fortnight earlier I had the offer of a tent at the Nunawading Highland Games in East Burwood. We had our first attendance at Nunawading and had a display for the Clan. My good friend and member Myrtle Beitlich came early and we had a busy time talking to the people who came by, so I was very appreciative of her time and support.

The Ringwood Highland Games were held on 24th March. It was a very successful day and we gained 3 new members which is our best result at a Highland Games attendance for quite some time. We had several members call at our tent and this made our day even more enjoyable. June Danks, Myrtle Beitlich and I proudly marched with our banner in the Clan March just prior to the opening of the Games.



### NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome three new members to our Clan Society.  
Alister Danks, 155 Victoria Rd., Hawthorn East. Vic 3123  
Thomas MacMillan, 11 Conn St., Ferntree Gully. Vic. 3156  
Ivor Davies, 35 Central Ave., Boronia. Vic. 3155  
We trust Alister, Thomas and Ivor will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A big thank you to all who have forwarded their subscriptions. This is a big help to me as Treasurer. Those who have not yet paid will have a reminder with this newsletter. The fee is \$15.00 per year. As we only have three newsletters each year there are only three opportunities to remind members. Our year ends in October when the Annual General Meeting is held.

### CORRESPONDENCE

I have received many interesting letters from members when sending their subscriptions -  
Donald Macmillan, our first President wrote: "We have become very active in conserving and re-vegetating the Mornington Peninsula, and many other activities with Birds Australia, Field Naturalists, and about four or five other organizations, as well as the activities involving our rather large combined families which now have produced 13 grandchildren plus 2 steps! Our re-vegetation of our seven acres with indigenous vegetation is going very well. The trees, shrubs, grasses etc. are all growing wonderfully, in spite of the low rainfall".  
Kay Morris from Gladesville, N.S.W wrote "The overseas trip was fantastic and I enjoyed travelling to all the places that my forebears left behind when they set sail for the new country. It certainly is amazing to think of their real pioneering spirit, in leaving such a civilized country and existence, to arrive in the barren Australian countryside. It must have been especially harsh for the women to live in that environment, and raise numerous children, without the support of other family members.



## THE GREAT RETURN 2002

The Clan MacMillan Centre in Scotland in association with the Glengarry & Ottawa Valley Branch in Canada invite all Macmillans to join them in Lochaber for THE GREAT RETURN 2002.

To mark the bicentenary of the great emigration from Loch Arkaigside to Ontario in July 1802 an International Gathering of Clan MacMillan will be held at Fort William in Lochaber and Greenock in Strathclyde 29 June - 9 July.

The Lochaber part of the gathering will feature an independence Day celebration on July 4th at the site where scenes of "Braveheart" were filmed in Glen Nevis. The Strathclyde part will include events at the chief's home of Finlaystone.

### CLAN CHIEF'S LETTER

"Thank you for the enormous cheque from the Branch for the Clan Centre, along with the newsletter. I must say that the contribution to Clan Centre expenses is magnificent. It really does help Graeme and Pauline to handle a lot of enquiries, mainly from non-members (whom we hope, rather optimistically) will one day become members. Please thank everyone very much. And thank YOU for sending the cheque in £'s. Even though our own local bank (the Clydesdale) is owned by one of yours, we find they charge the earth for turning your dollars into our pounds. We are all getting the benefit of our Hydro-electric generator - though the weather has been surprisingly dry. Low rainfall and sharp frosts go ill together in the hydro-world.

We're hoping to be in California and Arizona in the latter part of February. Highland Games at Long Beach under the shadow of the Queen Mary is just one of the novel experiences on offer. I think I last set foot on the Q.M. in 1938. Happy 2002 and beyond to you all".....George and Jane.

### LETTER FROM PAULINE - CLAN CENTRE

"I would like to say a personal thank you to you and all the members of the Clan MacMillan Society of Australia for their very generous donation. It makes such a big difference in the day to day running of the Centre to have this financial backing! Please convey my thanks to your members when you have the opportunity. In order to help branches feel more a part of what is going on here, I thought it would be useful to send out an informal, fairly brief newsletter to each branch a couple of times a year - perhaps autumn and spring so that you have some idea of what we're up to here at Finlaystone. Although you're on the other side of the world we really do want you to feel included.

Although the paperwork here is fairly routine we do have very interesting visitors (the perk of the job) even in our winter months.

Now that we're into the New Year and being 2002 - the enormity of planning The Great Return is hitting home! Fortunately Graeme has a very organised approach to things and keeps me in order...but panic sets in occasionally!!

Bookings have started coming in again after the shock of the terrorist attack on New York has subsided a bit. Without knowing what our numbers will be it is difficult to "fine tune" the plans.

George and Jane have boundless enthusiasm for everyone and everything which is a delight and which adds to the pleasure of working here. This, being winter, is a time when visitor numbers to the estate dwindle but they are kept busy with their upcoming trip to California in February and a trip to Kentucky in May.

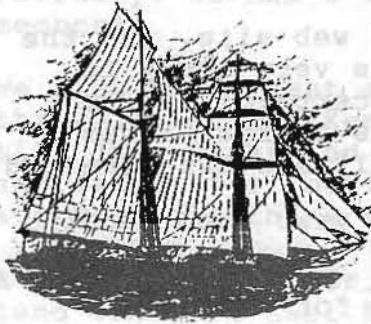
I keep in touch with Russell Harrison who I took an instant liking to when he was over here in 2000 - a font of knowledge if ever there was one and very sage counsel. My best wishes to all your members".....Pauline.



Finlaystone, Renfrewshire, Scotland, home of the Chief of Clan MacMillan.

The house is first mentioned in 1373.





At our Clan picnic at Eastern Park, Geelong in February one of our Geelong members, John McMillan told how his Great great grandfather arrived close by to where we were gathered 160 years ago. John has kindly given me a copy of his family history so that all our members can share his story.

The information was obtained mainly from shipping records.

My great great grandfather Hugh McMILLAN emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland on 21. 9.1841 on the sailing vessel "Robert Benn" of 809 tons, arriving at Port Phillip (Corio Bay) on 26. 1.1842.

Hugh was a weaver in Glasgow when the industry suffered a severe recession. In 1841 a government bounty of £38.00 was paid to any married migrant who had a son of ten years or over. Hugh's family was then Alexander aged 11 and Margaret 10. He later had 4 more sons. The home weaving industry in Scotland had almost died out and Hugh, with his wife Isabella, son and daughter left Glasgow to come to Geelong which probably had been recommended for its potential of becoming the country's wool capital which indeed it did some years later.

Meanwhile Hugh may have used the bounty money to set up a general store in Ashby (now Geelong West) very close to where he came ashore. The population at that time was about 500. It was fortuitous that in 1852 the Gold Rush commenced. Thousands of prospectors were landing here on their way to Ballarat and his store was conveniently located and well stocked with the majority's needs. He did well and in 1854 opened a much larger store in Market Square, Geelong.

After his death in 1864 his son Alexander carried on until he died in 1869, aged 38. The business was very successful. Alexander built a mansion on a prime site on the Western Beach, Geelong and one of the first houses on several acres of land overlooking the ocean at Anglesea. He pioneered the area then known as Swampy Creek. McMillan street is prominently situated in Anglesea. His widow, Jessie, later built an imposing residence in Newtown, Geelong in 1880 and it is still standing.

We presume the business was sold. His son Alexander Parker McMILLAN was educated at Geelong Grammar School and after leaving school entered into and carried on mercantile pursuits. He was one of the first commissioners of the Geelong Harbour Trust, on the board of the Geelong Gas Company and a member of the Borough Council of Geelong West. He was also treasurer of the Geelong Fire Brigade and a senior mason. He married Annie Traill, daughter of John Traill, who was a Scottish entrepreneur who emigrated from Montrose about 1852.

John was an accountant and later became managing director and part owner of Huddart Parker Limited, shipping line. They had 2 sons.

The elder son Stanley Traill McMILLAN, my father, died in 1967 after many years farming his grazing property at Inverleigh, Victoria. He sold the property in 1953 and retired to Anglesea where he built a comfortable residence on some of the land still owned there. Which brings us to the present generation!

#### GEELONG HIGHLAND GAMES

For the first time CLAN MACMILLAN was represented at the Geelong Highland Games on Sunday 17th March, thanks to Ken MacMillan for organizing a Clan tent.

A very big thank you to Ken and his family for manning the tent early in the day. Also member Joe Bell who came. Our President June Danks arrived during the morning and enjoyed the days activities. Max and I drove down after lunch. We stayed to see and hear the massed bands which is always a very stirring occasion. Ken had a busy day being on the Geelong Highland Games committee and playing in the Newtown Band. Member Ian McMillan also visited our tent. Ian plays with the Hawthorn City Band. So you can see we have some very talented members.



Kay continues: "I certainly don't think of my ancestors as "ordinary people"

I have enjoyed helping Kaye O'Reilly on the Clan's web site, and the work that she has done is just amazing. The Clan is very lucky to have such a sincere and devoted member".....We certainly agree with what you have said about Kaye O'Reilly. She is a great asset to our Clan Society and the committee appreciate all she has done..Ed.

Anne Archer sent best wishes to all for the coming year when sending her subscription.

Brian and Barbara McMillan sent best wishes to all for 2002 also. Brian wrote: My family came out in 1839 in the ship "The David Clarke" as did another McMillan family. I wondered if any of your readers know what happened to the David Clarke or if somebody would have a photo of her! .....Hopefully one of our members may have some information about this ship for Brian. I would be happy to pass on any news to Brian.....Ed.

Betty Mau of Queensland always enjoys receiving the newsletter. Thank you Betty for your interest.

Carmel Harris wrote to say her Mother, member Erna Wright of Dimboola broke her femur early January and was in Dimboola Hospital. We do hope things are much better now Erna and best wishes from all our members.

Space is up but I will include more members letters next issue in July.



**TO ALL CLAN MACMILLAN BRANCHES, SOCIETIES, CHAPTERS, ETC.**

**COULD YOU PLEASE INCLUDE A NOTE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR NEXT BRANCH NEWSLETTER OR COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP:**

**THE COMMUNITY OF THE TONSURED SERVANT (CTS) is a fellowship of MacMillans from around the world supporting our chief, our clan and the Clan MacMillan International Centre at Finlaystone, Scotland.**

**Please consider this your invitation to join CTS.**

Membership in CTS is open to all MacMillans and Septs of Clan MacMillan. The Objects of Clan MacMillan's CTS are

- \*to serve Christ and our neighbours
- \* to support our Chief and our Clan
- \*to learn to help the distressed
- \* to encourage pride in our heritage

**OUR NEXT CTS INVESTITURE SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN IONA ABBEY, SCOTLAND, 30 JUNE 2002:**  
In conjunction with Clan MacMillan's "Great Return 2002" Gathering in Scotland 29 June to 9 July, 2002, there will be a CTS Induction Service in Scotland's historic Iona Abbey, Island of Iona, Scotland, on Sunday 30 June 2002 at 2.00 PM. Please note that this is the second day of the Gathering and the whole MacMillan group, including CTS, will be traveling from Fort William to Iona on 30 June. New candidates for CTS will be invested at this service and if you or anyone you know would be interested in becoming a member, please contact:

Blanche McMillan, Abbot CTS  
5364 Salem Road,  
Burlington, Ontario, L7L 3X3  
Canada

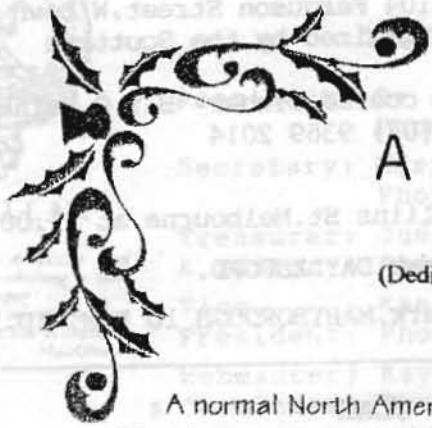
Ph: 905-637-3395  
e-mail: jbmcmillan@sympatico.ca  
fax: (via) 905-632-5597

Thanking you in advance for including this information in your newsletters -

Sincerely,

*Blanche McMillan*





## A Tribute to the Spouse

By Bob Edgar

(Dedicated to my wife Connie on Valentine's Day 1994)

A normal North American  
Stood next to you, hand in hand.  
The preacher led you in your vows,  
Your wedding day was grand.  
You kissed, they cheered, you cut the cake;  
You had finally tied the knot.  
But now be warned about your spouse-  
You are married to a Scot.

Though bred and born and reared and schooled  
In the Western Hemisphere,  
Their mind begins to wander  
And their thoughts begin to veer.  
A book, a scarf, a bagpipe tape  
Really didn't cost a lot.  
Oh, but that's just the beginning-  
You are married to a Scot.

The hope of some vacation calm  
Goes up again in flames.  
The next five summers have been booked  
Around the Highland Games.  
With coolers, banners, flags, and chairs  
Now you wish you'd packed a cot  
"Cause you're stuck staffing the clan tent-  
You are married to a Scot.

At least a baseball game is called  
When it's raining cats and dogs.  
But you sit, soaking wet, and watch  
Your kids toss rocks and logs.  
The dancers dance, the pipers pipe,  
And the noise makes your nerves taut.  
But you just grin and bear it all-  
You are married to a Scot.

You long for more variety  
In your wardrobe choice and plan.  
Instead your closet overflows  
With the colors of the clan.  
In tartan this, and tartan that  
You are always feeling hot  
In woolens clear up to your ears-  
You are married to a Scot.

Now at last you're both retired.  
Time is leisure, surf and sun?  
Your spouse thinks ten more Highland Games  
Would be a lot more fun.  
You'd love to sit and take a nap,  
Find the peace for which you've sought.  
Instead you march the clan parade-  
You are married to a Scot.

So when all of life is over  
And they rest your mortal bones  
The god, at last, will shield you from  
The pipes' infernal drones.  
Then Saint Andrew will reward you  
In that special quiet spot  
That's reserved for those in heaven  
Who were married to a Scot.



Our thanks to Marion Johnston for this poem.

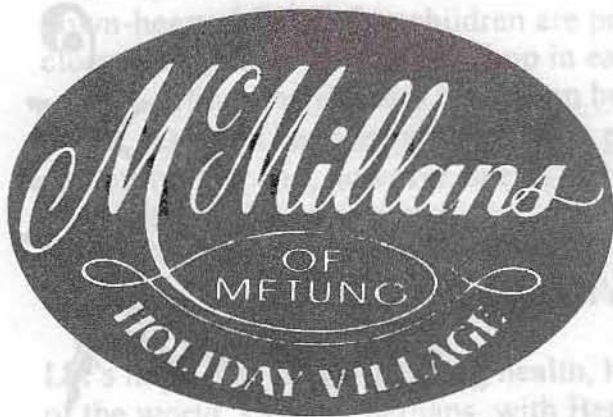
## COMING EVENTS

3. 5.2002 HIGHLAND BALL at Williamstown Town Hall, 104 Ferguson Street, W'town  
Melways reference 56 B8. \$40.00 single. organized by the Scottish  
Societies and Clans of Victoria.  
Old time and Scottish Country Dancing - 3 course Dinner- B.Y.O Drinks.  
Ticket Secretary: Mrs Lesley Ould, Phone (03) 9369 2014  
Limited Seating so Book Early.
7. 7.2002 Kirkin' o' the Tartan at SCOT'S CHURCH Collins St. Melbourne at 11.00 A.M.
- 7/8.12.2002 DAYLESFORD HIGHLAND GATHERING, Victoria Park DAYLESFORD.
1. 1.2003 MARYBOROUGH HIGHLAND GATHERING, Princes Park, MARYBOROUGH 10 A.M.-10.30 P.M.

### CLAN MACMILLAN-SEPT OF THE CLAN

**BLUE** - "Englished" form of Mac'illeghuirm- thought to mean "son of the blue-eyed lad". As there is no specific tradition about a blue-eyed Macmillan namefather, it is possible that "ghuirm" did not in fact come from 'gorm' ("blue") but from "Gorman", the name of a number of saints in the old Celtic church.

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



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