

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUST)

Newsletter No 58 April 2003



MACMILLAN

CREST BADGE: A dexter and
A sinister hand brandishing a two-
Handed sword, proper.

MOTTO: Miseris succurrere disc
(I learn to succour the distressed)

Gaelic Name:
Mheolain

President	Dr June Danks, 66 Campbell St, Kew Vic 3101 Phone & Fax: 9817 3148 Email: junedavid@bigpond.com
Secretary	Myrna Robertson, 1/56 Fairbairn Rd, Cranbourne Vic 3977 Phone: 5996 8667
Treasurer & Editor	June Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley Vic 3150 Phone & Fax: 9560 8746
Vice- President	Kaelene Blake, 29 Wittick St, Bacchus Marsh Vic 3340 Phone: 5367 6709 Email: kfbla@hotmail.net.au
Webmaster	Kaye O'Reilly, 28 Dunbar Gr, Churchill Vic 3842 Phone: 5122 1282 Email: macore@i-o.net.au
Assistant- Editor	Mick McMillan, P.O. Box 350 Belgrave Vic 3160 Phone: 9754 4578 Email: mickmack@alphalink.com.au
Web Page	http://clanmacmillanaus.freesevers.com

CMSA Newsletter April 2003

Fellow Clanspeople,

We have had a good start to the year with a group of members meeting again in Geelong for a picnic. Ken MacMillan spoke & showed us lovely photos of his trip to Scotland last year and Keith McMullin told us of the early struggles of his and my family in the goldfields of Pleasant Creek (Stawell area).

Then in March we attended the Geelong Highland Games in the beautiful setting of the gorge of the Barwon River. Only a couple of other clans were there because of the lack of public liability insurance cover.

Last weekend was the very successful Ringwood Highland Games. Three new members signed up including one from the Isle of Wight. As well as the Pipe Band Competition and Scottish Country Dancing there was the Australian Commonwealth Highland Dancing Championship which was of high standard. At the AGM of the Council of Clans the main item for discussion was the question of public liability insurance. Doug McLaughlan (Chief, Council of Clans) and Bill Schrank (secretary of both Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Committee) have worked hard and have been able to negotiate a deal with the Life Planning Foundation of Australia. The Foundation was prepared to recognise the Council of Clans as an affiliate immediately so that clans were able to pitch their tents at Ringwood. Details of their plan are included in this newsletter. Our committee would be grateful to hear from members their opinion in writing or verbally before 31st May so that we can act appropriately. There is \$20million public liability cover plus \$20million accident cover, with no excess, for the cost of \$6 per member. It is subsidised by the Victorian Government so that interstate members would not be covered (but they do not attend events).

Doug makes the point that we all should try to talk to politicians, phone talk-back radio hosts, friends and so on, about this situation which is having such a cramping effect on small not-for profit organisations which are so vital to the life of our communities.

Plenty to ponder over !

June Danks. President.

Advent 2002.

If travel broadens the mind, our minds must be much broader now than a year ago. Almost all our roaming was with Clan MacMillan.

Thanks to the Pacific and Arizona Branches, we had a fabulous time in and around Los Angeles and Phoenix in the spring. We enjoyed the contrasting flavours of Highland Games round the dear old Queen Mary (which George had first visited aged eight) and in the heat of Mesa, Phoenix. Like good tourists, we were taken to the Grand Canyon and to Disneyland, both of which lived up to their high reputation. But we specially enjoyed the privilege of staying and travelling with members of the clan.

In May we flew to Glasgow, Kentucky as guests of the Highland Games. Clan MacMillan managed to squeeze a really good dinner into the busy programme surrounding the Games— a programme made easy for us by our delightful minders. One surprise was being invited to judge the Highland Cattle

Our third highland event consisted of ten days spent round Fort William and here at Finlaystone. It commemorated the big migration to Canada in July 1802. The Gathering was immensely rich and varied – trips to Iona, Knapdale, Culloden, and also to Loch Arkaig, the place from which most of the migrant MacMillans had come. Our one frustration was that, with a group of about 150, it's impossible to spend a satisfactory length of time with anyone. Nevertheless it was exhilarating to be part of such an interesting crowd.

We think our visitor numbers have risen. People have got used to the idea of coming out on showery days. Some of them raise our morale by saying the gardens are better than ever. We're lucky to have a good team tending them. Meanwhile, the Rangers have put on masses of special events, some of which (like their Hallowe'en romps in the wood) have proved very attractive – as has 'Puffing Billy' (a train in the woods created by a genius of a handy-man out of anything that came to hand).

We've at last cleared up most of the trees blown down in 1998. We hope to begin replanting this winter.

Someone has remarked that 'You know you're approaching senility when your descendants outnumber your friends'. Though we have indeed lost many friends this year, the number of descendants remains constant. Arthur turned forty in style this year. He has his 'Clyde Marine' on as even a keel as economic storms permit. Barbara is busy bringing the estate

properties up to date. Malcolm is still with Scottish Media Group, enjoying some of his work. If you call the new Scottish medical help line, you could find yourself being advised by Tadpole. All five grandchildren are growing healthily. We're lucky to have them within easy range.

We're much enjoying life in the Apple House. Jane still manages visitor reception and collaborates with Judy over the garden. George continues to hew wood and tries to draw water – though recent efforts at drainage have been conspicuously unsuccessful.

Apple House, Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire
PA14 6TJ. Tel/Fax: 01475- 540285.
Email: chief @ clanmacmillan.org.



Insurance

Our Insurance cost for the year ending 30 June 2003 was \$547.48, with \$1,000.00 excess if a claim against the Clan Society was successful.

President June Danks in her letter has written that since then Doug McLaughlin and Bill Schrank have worked hard to negotiate a better deal.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a 2 page Insert setting out the affiliation offer to Scottish groups.

We would like members to let us know their opinions in writing, or verbally, before 31st. May.

As June has stated the Victorian Government is subsidising this offer, so Interstate members would not be covered.

In addition to our Family subscription of \$15.00 per year, members would pay an extra \$6.00 per person for Insurance.

Please let us know your thoughts on this matter, and we would appreciate any suggestions.

Those members who wish to be covered by Insurance would have to signify their agreement by paying \$6.00 per person by 31st. May.

Privacy Act

Last newsletter we included a page for Member details and Privacy statement. Even if you do not have family history details, I would appreciate you filling in the Privacy statement with your signature.

Under the Privacy Act I am unable to print your name(or a photo) unless I have your permission.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome three new members who visited our tent at the Ringwood Highland Games. We do hope you all enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

Scottish Information

There is a listing in the front section of the White Pages L-Z under "Scottish Council of Clans Australia Inc., phone: 97256016" to help people who have a Scottish query.

Correspondence

Thank you to members who have written to me when sending in their subscription. I will reply to your letter when sending out your newsletter.

Date to Remember

Kirkin' o' the Tartan will be held at Scots Church, Collins Street Melbourne on Sunday 6th July 2003.

Voyage to Australia 1851-1852

Lorraine Humphreys (McMillan) has kindly given me a copy of her G-G-Grandfather's diary:Lorraine writes: Alexander Campbell McMillan ,my G-G-Grandfather was born 4th Aug 1822 Fort William, Kilmallie, Scotland and married Margaret McKay on 24th March 1851 in the Hope St Free Gaelic Church, Glasgow. Margaret was born 30th Nov 1830 Fearn, Ross & Cromarty,Scotland.

They left Plymouth on 4th Dec 1851 aboard Cambodia along with 309 other emigrants and it took them 116 days to get to point Henry because they were becalmed many times and light winds.

They had 11 children in Australia. The diary commences on page 4 & 5 in this newsletter.

DIARY OF ALEXANDER CAMPBELL McMILLAN.



1851

Dec 4th Left Plymouth about 10 o'clock forenoon with a good Breeze and in the glooming was out of land sight.

Nothing particular happened for the following day, but on the 6th Dec in the morning a large number of Fishes was seen swimming about the Ship these Fishes are called Porpoises and the Sailors says that they are never seen but before a Storm, And in our case it was too true, for the Storm brewed from that very morning till Sunday night, the 7th when it was a perfect hurricane, the ship tossing like a barrel, I cannot relate the confusion between Decks, Women and Children roaring and vomiting in every corner, others praying, principally the Irish was to be heard for they all gathered in one place and prayed together, all our cooking utensils flying from side to side of the Ship, making a fearful noise, however towards morning it Ceased a little, and again the Fishes was to be seen, which told of Another trial, And so it was but not any way dangerous. On the morning of the 8th we got an Addition to our number, a nice Son the parents left about Linlithgow.

On Thursday following the 11th we had a death among us. (a Child aged 16 months) from Small pox, on Friday at 12 O'clock the Funeral took place, which threw a gloom over the whole Ship. We were going nicely for the following week, without any particular thing happening, till the morning of the 18th, when we got another young Stranger to our number, this is a fine young Daughter. The parents are from Glasgow. Can not catch an thing from this date till the 23rd when we lost a yard – about midnight, no accident happened by it, it was not from Storm, we were only going three knots an hour.

The 25th being Christmas we all were treated by the Doctor, Males got a glass of Brandy each. Females a pint of Stout, or as we Call it London porter. The Sailors were served also. And some of them got their Spirits up on accounts thereof – as to go about a very unmanly act as to break open the hatch about the young Women's apartment and throw it over Board. And it is said three of them went down among the women. This act Caused a great disturbance the following day, the men and women who are guilty of this Blacharly Act is not as yet found out correctly, although the most of us has as the saying is 'a rough guess'. On the 26th we got up all our chest out of the hold and it appears some of the Emigrants had a sly bottle in their Box as I believe, and had given freely to a few of the Sailors of it. Chiefly a nice young lad, a Scotchman of the name of Adams got a good Share, and being a little hearty, he broke the order given out the day before, which I should have mentioned. That no Sailor was to be seen talking to any of the young women. He and two of the Women (Scotchwomen too) was found speaking and the Doctor who is a very course fellow noticed him and told him to go away. Calling him a damm Scotch Son of a bitch, on which the lad turned to him and took witness for him calling him so, the Captain hearing them quareling ordered the poor fellow to be put in Irons so he was hand cuffed and kept on the poop for two hours, so we are all quiet again. Sunday we had Divine Service on deck the Dr Acting as Curate. I do not think much of their way of service. This day is very warm, And during the service the Captain was buisy sygnalising a ship which as we are told left Plymouth the day before us. We had some letters for her and the Captain boarded us it was very nice to see the two ships I may say speaking by their different flags. 29th we were quite close to the "Canary Islands" the first of them the Sailors Called Tanneriff, where Lord Nelson lost his Arm, we passed three of them. They rise out of the sea like a good sized hill, the Shores appears to be very rough, there is not much green pasture to be seen all black something like a heather in the distance, with trees seen on the eminence between you and the horison where is said to be Coco nut trees, in the evening we were out of sight of them us going at the rate of 10 miles an hour. This Taneriff is a Burning Mountain.

30th this morning a Shark is seen about the Ship, he passed under the bows it is a beautiful sight to see him and his Pilot Fishes going before him.

31st We were becalmed yesterday and to day not going a foot either way. To day the Shark was seen going his rounds and preparation was made for to Capture him, large hooks with great lumps of Pork on them was put out but no effect.

1852

Jan 1st This morning is as warm as any day in June at home, the day is bright by six o'clock and it is not very dark at six evening, but the time is not the same here as at home this morning I was in a great hurry to get my lines in order for fishing. There were scores of Dolphins about us, but none was Caught.

We got our allowance of grog as on Christmas, And had us disturbance. We were all very merry, but Maggie & I thought and spoke often of you all at home. The Glencoe Lads added greatly to our happiness. Chiefly the fiddler who is a very good Musician.

2nd Today we got fair wind and has got up all our Stun Sails, nothing had happened worth mentioning.

3rd This morning we are going nine miles an hour, last night an English man when on watch went down the hold and stole some bottles of Porter Sugar Raisans and other Articles, he was brought to day before the Captain and Doctor and found guilty, I heard the Captain say he could or would give three years imprisonment after we arrived in the Colonies.

4th This morning we were all diverted with shaols of flying fish seen on all sides of the Ship, it is told us by the Sailors that the Dolphin feeds on them and that it is when they are chased by the Dolphin that they take the wing. We had Divine Service to day on deck also. This is beautiful weather. In the evening a large monster of a fish was seen passing the ship. Called the Sun fish, it appears to be life-less, it resembles a large skate of ours at home, but as large as twenty of them found at home. The Sabbath is wretchedly kept on board this ship, a person Cannot get a quiet corner here, We are about 900 miles from line today.

5th Every day is still warmer, I think it was bright to day about 5 ½ O'clock, it is a delightful sight to see the Sun rising and setting on the Sea. The Salt water here is luke warm, a person would wish to lie in it all day.

At 9 o'clock P.M. our number was lessened by the death of a child from Fever aged about 4 years, belonging to the parents of the child dead some time ago, they are now left with one, And this one they heed not much for. The Father told us the other day, that he wish-to-God she was put the way her brother was (over the side). The parents are English of the name of Viccars.

6th The Funeral took place this morning at 8 A.m, it was done very quiet scarcely any of the Emigrants knew of it, but the few that happened to be on deck. The Flying Fish is getting more numerous as we go on.

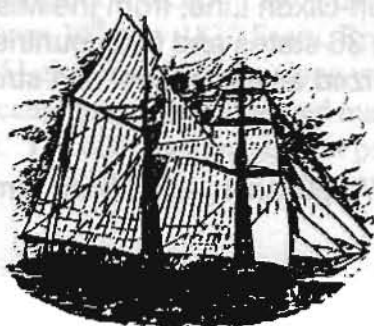
7th this day passed without any thing of Any Consequence occuring.

8th To day was so warm that we all were not fit to go with the least clothing, some who are well prepared has light trowsers and goes with trowsers and shirts, others are obliged to go with their ordinary Suits. We had a great examination among the young women to day, for some stollen thing, all their bags was opened out before us all, but nothing was got hardly, some Shifts was got in a berth, but the occupiers of this berth denies any knowledge of them time will expose some of the thieves.

9th this morning came in with thunder and lightening and rain, the Captain was expecting a storm, so the royal and the galtan Sails was taken down in the afternoon it cleared up, And turned out as hot as ever without a breath of wind, in the evening we all were diverted at the Boatswain and three boys who he sent occationally up the masts, one up each mast, to try a laso?

10th We have commenced bathing some days back, but I can say this day is as warm as any we have had yet. So being aware of the heat in the morning that the day would bring on a large number turned out by 4 am our mode of bathing is throwing buckets of water on each other, And as expected the day brought out heat I cannot describe this night we had heavy showers of rain and Lightening.

11th Nothing happened of any consequence to day, only plenty fishes to be seen. And lightning at night which is very bright. By the by we spoke a Yankee whaler – a Brig.



WEB NEWS

The Clan MacMillan Society of Australia

<http://clanmacmillanaus.freesevers.com>

Over 4000 hits since May 2001

Wondering what other MacMillan Clan Societies are doing on the Web?

Clan MacMillan, North Central States

Clan MacMillan's Minnesota Branch has become "Clan MacMillan North Central States." Their branch now encompasses Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas as well as Minnesota. Of course, MacMillans beyond these states are welcome to join them and participate.

<http://www.mcmillen-design.com/clan/index.html>

Glengarry and Ottawa Valley Branch of the CLAN MACMILLAN Society of North America

Some interesting MacMillan history pieces and photo's of their Highland Games.

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/comflex/mcmillan/index.htm>

Clan MacMillan Pacific Branch, Southern District.

This site takes a while to download but if you wait you'll get a very interesting 'Home Page' and a catchy sound track.

<http://members.cox.net/macmillan/>

The Appalachian Branch of Clan MacMillan

Members of their Branch come from the loose geographical areas including Florida in the South to the Mason-Dixon Line; from the Mississippi to the Atlantic. They have members in 36 states and five countries, including Scotland. This branch is recognized as the largest and strongest Branch of Clan MacMillan in the World.

http://www.downeastscots.com/AppBranch_MacMillan.html

Not forgetting our Chiefs' Page

George Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap, M.A., D.L.

George went to school at Eton College, Windsor, and then read Classics at Trinity College, Cambridge.

A very informative history of George...

<http://www.clanmacmillan.org/Chief.htm>

A Strange Fatality -- 'McLeod'

- I found this piece in 'The Narracan Shire Advocate', a newspaper printed and published in Moe, 1889.

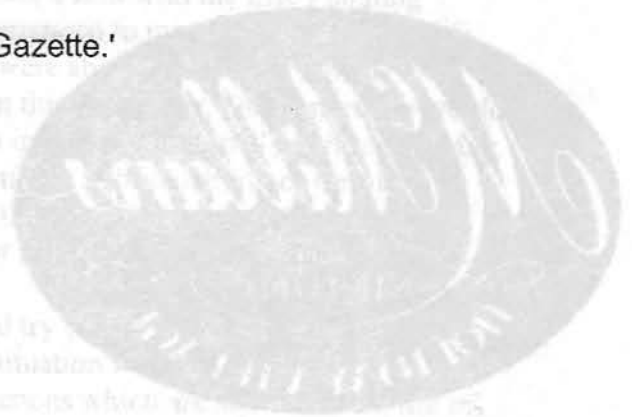
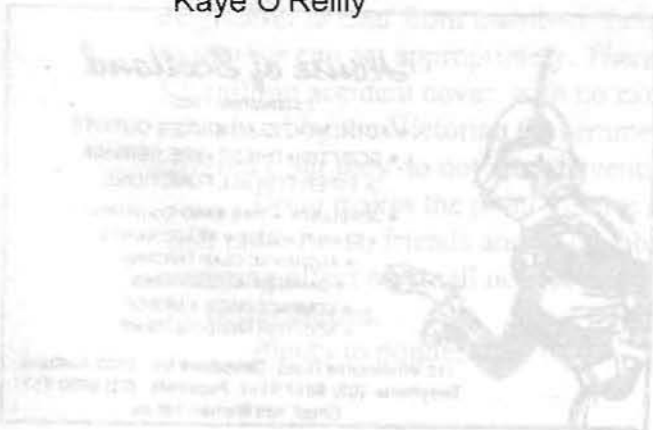
I hope you find it as interesting as I did.

A Strange Fatality -- 'McLeod'

It is our painful duty to chronicle the death of a member of a very old Gippsland family which took place at Strathavon, (sic) the residence of Mr. A. A. McMillan, a brother in-law of the deceased. We, of course, refer to Mr. John Campbell McLeod. The deceased gentleman was 68 years of age, and his death was the result of a buggy accident, which took place some months ago. A strange fatality seems to have followed the four brothers of the family. Mr. Norman McLeod met with his death through his horse falling on him whilst riding into Bairnsdale. Mr. Donald McLeod took a fit whilst riding in a cab in Melbourne, and died before medical aid could be summoned. Mr Chas McLeod, after landing a party of friends from a buggy in Ballarat, was thrown through the horses bolting, and killed on the spot, and as we remarked before the subject of our present notice also died from the effects of an accident

-- a strange chapter of coincidences. -- 'Gazette.'

Kaye O'Reilly



Did You Know.....?

(Our thanks to the Morrison Clan for the following information)

Every small farmhouse in 18th century Scotland made its own yarn for weaving and unmarried girls spent so much time spinning that the name "spinster" is still used today

The Barrac is the great undercover market in the East End of Glasgow. With 1000 stallholders it is Europe's largest indoor market and has been going for over a hundred years.

On a statue of a mounted horseman if all hooves are on the ground it indicates that the person died a natural death. If one hoof is lifted he died of wounds, if two are lifted he was killed in action.

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@mcmiliansofmetung.com.au
www.mcmiliansofmetung.com.au



House of Scotland

Established 1965

- + AUTHENTIC CLAN KILTS & OUTFITS
- + SCOTTISH DRESS HIRE SERVICE
- + PIPER FOR ALL FUNCTIONS
- + JEWELLERY + PIPE BAND EQUIPMENT
- + CLAN PLAQUES + KILTED SKIRTS
- + AUTHENTIC CLAN TARTANS
- + DANCERS ACCESSORIES
- + COMPACT DISCS & VIDEOS
- + SCOTTISH WEDDING ITEMS

115 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene Vic 3103 Australia
Telephone: (03) 9817 5151 Facsimile: (03) 9830 4131
Email: hcs@smart.net.au