

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUST)

Newsletter No. 64 March 2005

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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.

President's Report for April, 2005

This New Year is passing so quickly, especially for me as I was fortunate to visit Tasmania. It was amazing to learn that in the very early days each part of Tasmania was named after an English county i.e. Kent, Sussex, etc. Also there was a very strong Scottish influence. In Ross, a Midlands town, there was a Scottish shop with an excellent array of clothing and artefacts adjacent to the bakery with its original oven – well worth a visit when you next visit Tasmania. The National Parks are wonderful to see and the tracks and boardwalks are in top condition. Logging is of course the big issue at present and I was lucky enough to see a protest site. The Tall Trees are magnificent at 85 metres. Coming back to the big city of Melbourne makes you realise the consumer society we have become.

In Victoria the Scots are active with Gatherings again. CMSA will have a presence at the Geelong Games on Sunday 20th March, and also at the Ringwood Highland Gathering at which the Scottish Highland Dancing Championships will be held on Sunday 3rd April. So if you are able to come to either of these events please pop in to our tent for a chat.

Our February picnic in Geelong, overlooking the lovely Eastern Beach was most enjoyable. It was a calm day and not too hot for our get to-gether. We welcomed Judie MacMillan back from her sojourn in Singapore.

In our correspondence with Finlaystone we learnt that Jane, wife of Chief George, has enjoyed an outing to the arboretum, despite the cold weather. Work is being done at the Centre to display the recently donated McMillan Bible. Unfortunately the subscriptions to CMIC have had to be increased but even then will barely cover costs.

The Genealogical Society of Victoria has finalised its move to it's new Headquarters at:

Level B1 257 Collins Street, Melbourne.

It is now very conveniently located with an improved layout and upgraded services and also opposite the new City Library. Well worth joining!

Please keep in touch. We are always interested in your news.

June Danks.



Advent 2004

This being an Olympiad, almost all descendants of George's parents will be at Finlaystone on Boxing Day. With luck, there will be forty-six of them. We'll be grateful to Arthur and Barbara for accepting the challenge, in spite of now living near Chichester on the south coast of England, to be near the headquarters of Arthur's business. We much enjoyed a week-end with them in October to see their characterful rented cottage, their sailing club and the boys' prep. school. Sussex pheasants seem to spend a lot of time congregating on small roads.

Though he's still with Scottish Media Group, Malcolm now divides his working time between Glasgow and London. Tadpole (who spends three mornings a week helping to organise a local general practice) is still permanently based with the three children at their home about five miles from here. That home is being remodelled around them.

In spite of damp weather, our visitor numbers have increased. We plan to replant some more woodland areas this year, as we did last. Although forestry doesn't pay these days, who knows what it will be like in a century's time? And anyway, it's depressing to see land producing nothing but weeds.

In March we spent a lovely week in and near Madrid visiting old friends, who kindly showed us all sorts of interesting places. Soon after we got home, Jane was diagnosed as having kidney cancer with outposts in her lungs. Although this bolt from the blue has blighted the remainder of the year, the kindness of family, neighbours and more far-flung friends has been of inestimable comfort. This seems a good chance to thank you all - and especially, perhaps, those who, at our request, refrained from deluging us with cards, but just kept Jane quietly in mind. Although she sleeps a lot and is frustratingly short of energy, she is not in serious pain, and still gets into the garden.

As we lucky people gather this Christmas, we'll be hoping, as ever, that the new year will bring peace to this world of ours and also to you.

Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire PA 14 6TJ Scotland. 1.1.05. Tel/Fax: 01475 540 285. Email: chief@clanmacmillan.org.

My dear June (and Max, of course),

Jane and I were having a bit of a job to read our Christmas mail; so Arthur came along to help us. Almost the first envelope he opened turned out to be much more than mere Christmas greetings -your cheque for £210. That must represent an astronomical number of Australian dollars: I think June Danks told us that there were 37 to the £. So it must have been quite a labour to collect all those dollars. Thank you very much for collecting, donating, and converting into sterling. This money is a life-line to the Clan Centre; so we are in no danger of squandering it. Please thank all those who contributed.

That tidal wave was terrible. I imagine a good many Australians were taking holidays in the worst-hit places; so the year will have got off to a very sad start. One feels so powerless to help.

We actually had a white Christmas this year -just enough snow to turn everything clean over-night. It was all gone by the end of Sunday. But before it went, we had a jolly time sledging on the golf course through the fence round Malcolm's house. I've so far heard no complaints from the green keepers. He may not have spotted the furrow I ploughed as I hurtled towards a small puddle after a very enjoyable run. Jane is none too strong these days; but she's not too down-hearted. She was able to enjoy most of the Christmas parties put on by various members of the family.

I hope you two are in good shape, and have had a good holiday season.

Very many thanks.

Yours ever

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SUBSCRIPTIONS



Subscriptions are now due and will remain at \$15.00 for 2004-2005. We only have 3 opportunities a year to remind members about their subscriptions, so please respond, and make the treasurer's job that much easier. So, if members could forward their Subscriptions to:

Mrs. J. Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150.

Also, if you would like to receive this Newsletter by E-mail (a saving on postage costs), could you please include your E-mail address with your Subscription.

The 'Conclave Challenge' - A Message from Chief George MacMillan

It's been suggested that I might remind office-bearers in Branches and Societies of the challenge I issued to them at the conference held here in 2000 a.d., quaintly known as the 'Conclave'.

The aim was to put the financing of the Clan MacMillan International Centre on a steadier foundation than the generous, but unpredictable, benefactions on which we had depended till then.

We calculated that the Centre cost about £10,000 a year to run at the level of activity then pertaining. A rough count suggested that our world-wide network consisted of two thousand branch members. From that we deduced that, if all branches could contribute about £5.00 per member, the running costs of the Clan Centre would be covered. At the time, I stressed that this did not necessarily involve a levy on individual members: it was an indication of the kind of contribution that a branch might expect to make.

To my great relief and delight, those branch representatives that were present accepted my challenge; and I'm glad to say that most of them have managed to maintain donations over the past four years. Inevitably, though, with the passage of time, the change of office-bearers, and so on, memories fade and enthusiasm wanes. So perhaps I ought to remind you what the Clan Centre tries to do.

Geographically, the Centre is two rooms here at Finlaystone. One houses exhibits featuring the history and the contemporary activities of the Clan round the world. The other contains a computer, archive material, and other items of interest to visiting clanspeople, like information leaflets, a visitors' book and a `Donation' box. This room is used for meetings. Pauline Simpson (who, in spite of having no blood links with Clan MacMillan, is a devoted supporter) keeps an eye on these rooms, checks e-mails etc. as part of her twenty hours of paid work per month. The main running costs are those connected with the purchase and running of communications and heating equipment. There is no rent for the premises.

But the Clan Centre is far more than those two rooms: it is the work done by Graeme Mackenzie (Clan Genealogist and Historian) and Pauline Simpson (Curator of the Clan Centre) in maintaining links with clanspeople round the world. They edit and dispatch the magazine. They answer large numbers of inquiries. They supply material for display in tents at Highland Games etc. Graeme maintains an excellent web site (www.clanmacmillan.org). He continues painstaking computerisation of our increasing volume of genealogical material (Project MAOL), and he conducts original historical research which has already expanded our knowledge of the early history of our clan. Much of this material is on the web site. For all this he receives a salary for one day's work per week and honoraria for publishing the newsletters and maintaining the web site.

About a year ago, Graeme and Pauline took a bold step, by initiating the Magazine. They did so at no extra charge to the Clan Centre finances. Their hope was that the increased size of the publication would be more interesting to readers and might also attract individuals to sponsor publications. Against this, they decided to dispatch magazines by surface mail. I'm sure they would be interested in readers' reactions to this decision. I'm glad to say that the June 2004 Magazine was sponsored by Hammy McMillan, the curling champion and hotelier. I hope others will feel inspired to follow his example. That may, in due time, enable us to pay Graeme and Pauline what they undoubtedly deserve for their pains.

By their frugality - not to say 'meanness', - the Trustees have managed to keep expenditure roughly in line with income. Unfortunately, though, the £ has recently risen quite sharply against the \$; and I feel we owe Pauline and Graeme a more generous reward for their labours. So I'm appealing to all branch office-bearers to keep the Clan Centre right at the top of their list of priorities when it comes to financial support.

I firmly believe that the Centre (that is the staff) is making a big contribution to the Clan world-wide.

Privacy Reminder

Under the new Privacy Laws we have to have permission from members to include their names in this newsletter. Members who have not responded to forms sent with previous newsletters will get another chance.

Just fill in as much Family History as you wish but please -Tick & Sign- the Privacy notice and return to June Senior. Those who've already forwarded a signed Privacy form don't need to do so again. *ed*

Daylesford Highland Gathering Saturday, 4 December, 2004. Victoria Park, Daylesford.

It was an early start to the day, a bit cool and overcast, but, as the day progressed the clouds dissipated and a nice warm summer's day followed. We felt for the Dancers' comfort whilst performing, as the day became warmer.

I'm not sure what the previous years have been like with the street march, but this year the majority of Bands decided not to march through the town. All competition was to be held at Victoria Park oval where most of the spectators proceeded to set up their deck chairs on the oval to watch the competition. There were about 20 Bands competing in five grades. One pleasing aspect to the day was the appearance of a band from Presbyterian Ladies College in the Juvenile Section.

Probably the most disappointing aspect of the day was the small number of Clan / Society tents and their positioning. We had trouble navigating all the poles & guy ropes between the tents as there was no clear pathway access as is the case at Ringwood and Geelong, but overall a very pleasant way to spend a day.

Edinburgh Tattoo in Sydney 3-5, 7 & 8th February, 2005. Stadium Australia, Sydney.

.....It was an extraordinary event." "....A sight to behold." "......An incredible logistical achievement."



We left our hotel early in order to get to the venue with plenty of time to find our seats before the show started, but it appeared that everybody had the same idea. We arrived at the Stadium only to find that the gates wouldn't be opening until 6:30pm and a fairly substantial crowd had already gathered waiting.

The first thing that struck us when we finally arrived at our seats was the sheer size of the venue, a much larger scale, so this wasn't going to be as intimate an evening as the usual Edinburgh Tattoo.

The life-size replica of Edinburgh Castle (the "Castle" took 22 people more than four months – or 17,500 hours – and 20 tonnes of ballast to build) provided the most impressive & realistic setting imaginable.



We sat and waited for the show to begin. After a 30 minute intro from the Ground announcer (20 minutes too long) the show got under way. From a lone didgeridoo player (in the spotlight), to the Finale featuring the entire 1200 strong cast, the evening ran without a glitch. From the stirring sight of the massed pipes and drums from Scotland and Australia, to the delightfully unexpected humour of the New Zealand Army Band with its Haka and Austin Powers dance, to the precision of the Queen's Colour Guard of the RAF, to the spectacular drumming of Switzerland's top Secret Drum Corps (we'll have to wait for either a DVD or for it to be telecast on Channel 7, as the Drum Corps were facing away from us so all we saw was their backs), to the Musical Ride of the mounted New South Wales Police, to the highland dancers, to the young men of HM The King's Guard from Norway, who had only begun their national service two months earlier, to a moving rendition of Waltzing Matilda by the bands of the Australian Armed Forces, it was a program full of surprise and variety. Tattoo soloist 19-year old Allegra Giagu sang beautifully as did the Tattoo Choir made up of young people from The Sydney Public Schools Singers. The crowd sang along with Waltzing Matilda, I Am Australian and a selection of golden oldies whilst waving multicoloured glow sticks that turned the stadium into fairyland. One couldn't help but be impressed by the assembly of so many pipes and drums ah! such a sweet sound, really made the blood sing.

If there was a down side to the event it was the pedestrian management by the transport system provider. No clear directions were provided from Central Station, we only found our way to the correct buses by following the crowds. Getting back to the hotel after the show was even harder, after queuing for quite some time in what turned out to be the wrong queue, we finally managed to get on the bus to Central Station, only to find out that we were going to be dropped off some distance from the Station proper just so the busses could turn around and return to the venue for the next busload. Thankfully the weather was fine.

Clan McMillan Picnic

Saturday, 5th February, 2005. Eastern Park, Geelong.

Another enjoyable picnic at Geelong has been and gone, with attendees as follows: Standing from left are - Debra Vaughan, Ken MacMillan, Kaye O'Reilly, Judie MacMillan and Eileen MacMillan, Seated from left are - Shirley Etheridge, June Senior, June Danks, and Myrna Robertson.



New Members

We have a number of New members: Peter Trevanna of Creswick, Mrs. E. Frudd of Frankston, and Mrs. Lindy Gilsenan of Mt Martha. Welcome to the Clan.

COMING EVENTS

Ringwood Highland Gathering Sunday, 3 April, 2005. Jubilee Park, Ringwood.

The Clan as always will be represented at these Games. Also the tent will be manned primarily by June, Max & yours truly, but all visiting members wishing to help will be appreciated. Council of Clans AGM will be held at 11:00 am., in the Function Room, Grandstand, Jubilee Park, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Bundanoon Highland Gathering Saturday, 9 April, 2005.

The day begins with a street march (to the oval – about 1Km) at 9:30, and continues to present a program filled with solo and massed Pipe Band displays, Highland and Scottish Country Dancing, traditional and some not so traditional games open to all spectators. There are also Scottish Clan Societies' information tents on site (the oval) for those who wish to trace their heritage.

<u>Family and Local History Fair</u> Saturday, 30 April, 2005. Collingwood.

The aim of the Fair is to provide a user-friendly day where anyone can:

- obtain information about services and organizations,
- purchase Genealogical publications available in Victoria,
- collect information on their family.

It will be held from 10 am - 4 pm at "The Wellington." cnr Otter & Wellington St., Collingwood

National Celtic Festival Queen's Birthday Weekend, 10th – 13th June, 2005. Portarlington.

June Senior was in attendance at last year's event and helped to man the 'Council of Clans' tent. On the Monday just before lunch they had a very severe wind and rain storm and apparently June was hanging on for dear life to one of the tent uprights. See what sort of fun you can have at these gatherings!!.

A Tribute

(The following is an Article found in "Clan Call" – The Newsletter of the Clan MacMillan Society, Scotland. It was inserted by Lorna McMillan, Secretary. And I thought it worthy of inclusion here. Ed)

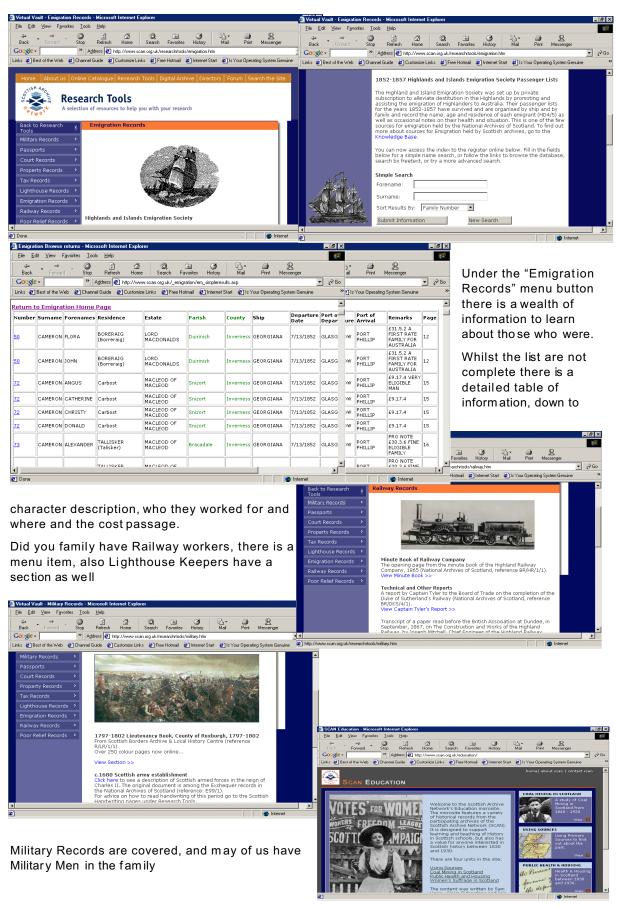
In August a friend drew my attention to an article in the Times Educational Supplement in which the broadcaster Peter Snow wrote about his two best teachers. One of them was his Classics master in Wellington School and who should it be but our own clan chief George MacMillan!

Here is part of the article.

".......George MacMillan, who taught Latin and Greek at Wellington, was head of the MacMillan clan. What was so amazing about George was that he was virtually blind yet wholly able. He had a curious magnifying glass and at huge personal effort could just manage to read a short piece of prose, but he couldn't read my essays or translations, so I had to read my work to him and we would discuss it. This is common at University but something you don't often experience at school.

He was a brilliant man and obviously did a lot of preparation for his classes. He was interesting, human and fascinating to listen to. No one ever took advantage of his disability as he was such a sweetheart. He's the nicest man I know. He didn't call me Snow, always Peter. He was absolutely devoid of pomposity with students......"

We think this is a lovely tribute to George and sums him up so well. You may not know but Peter Snow is married to a Macmillan. She is Ann MacMillan, a Canadian from Toronto, living in London, who occasionally reports from the UK on Canadian TV. Ann's older sister, Dr. Margaret MacMillan is Provost at Trinity College University in the University of Toronto and a best selling non-fiction author. Margaret was a guest speaker at the Clan MacMillan Society of North America Gathering in New York City, in August 2003. For my own part, I was delighted that in these days when it is more common for "celebrities" to boast about how they were expelled from school, Mr. Snow paid such a tribute to my own profession. As a Classics teacher myself, the tribute to my own subject was even more pleasing!



Women and the Vote give an insight into our female ancestors.

SCOTTISH DOCUMENTS. COM

By Joy Roy, FGSV

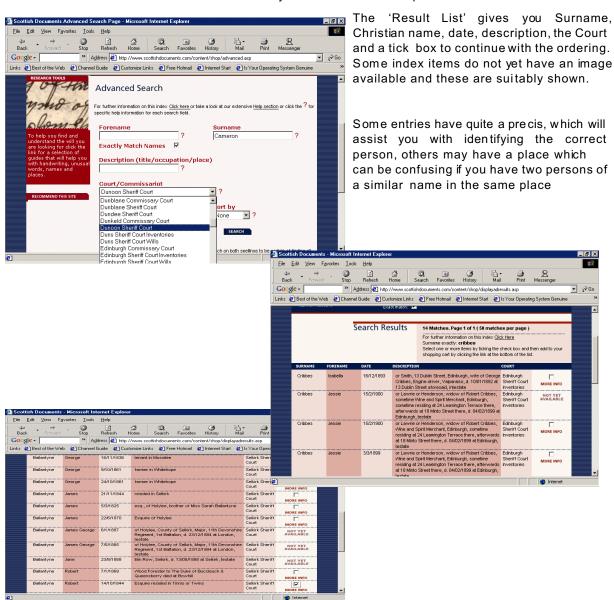
Wills and Testament records are most valuable to the Family Historian, primarily for detailing the relationships between family. They also give us an insight to our family members, how they lived, what property the owned.

One time for overseas family members we had to engage a researcher to go and search the indexes and then order and collect copies of documents. Then the wait on the Postal Service to deliver the precious material.

The internet has now changed the face of how we obtain the information. ScottishDocuments.com brings not only the index to the records within our reach, but the ability to order and obtain the record images instantly.

There is a simple search which for non-frequent surnames will probably suffice. Or there is an advanced search where you can restrict the options, thus making the results list smaller.

Where possible I like to keep my options open and be able to review as many results as possible but with 'Smith' or 'McDonald' or even Cameron I usually restrict the search to particular 'Courts'.



Scots of Victoria Co-Ordinating Group AGM 2004 Guest Speaker, John Blackwood, GSV Report for Clan McMillan

Guest Speaker was John Blackwood, a genealogist high up in the GSV, who started his research five years ago when he felt a family tree given to him could be improved on. A handout of handy internet addresses for researching our Scottish forebears was given us. He did have a slide show prepared, but unfortunately the organizers forgot to bring the projector.

His preliminary advice was "don't believe the folklore". His family lore was re the lost fortune and the Romany/gypsy heritage. However, I must interject in support of the gypsies; as they generally didn't leave written histories, so be careful of what you discard, there may be more than a smidgen of truth in there.

His Blackwood connections were bleachers in the flax and cotton trade. Other personal family ties he mentioned were Lennox and McMurdo. One of his Blackwoods was an accountant for the Coates Cotton empire in Paisley. By happy co-incidence, I'm researching my Paisley g g g grandfather, George Carmichael, whose mother-in-law, Elizabeth Sunister (Summister) was apparently part of that Coates family. So all you historians, you never know who you'll meet at these gatherings ~ a delightful payback for your presence and support!

John gave many instances of why Scotland has among the best family records in the world, giving a plethora of avenues of enquiry. The Government there, including the Scottish Records Office (GROS) takes pains to make it accessible ~ sometimes, for a price.

Census records were started in 1841 and the format was much improved in the following censuses each decade. Two points to note were that not everyone knew how old they were and of course, the information was only as good as that divulged to the census taker.

Access is regulated through the Freedom of Information Act. Available from the UK at present are births to 1903, marriages to 1928 and deaths to 1853; these year cut-offs come from limited access of one hundred, seventy five and fifty years, respectively.

Wills and Testaments are held in significant numbers and not just for the wealthy. A woman was able to hold land in her maiden name. And don't forget to look up death certificates under that name as well. As another editorial interjection, no doubt you all know that traditionally a woman is buried in her family tartan, rather than that of any clan she may have married into.

John warned us that wills may exclude the name of the eldest son, since it was virtually automatic that he received the heritable estate, whereas the others had the moveable estate divided amongst them – or not, according to the wishes and generosity of the testator or testatrix.

In Scotland, a woman was allowed to hold land in her maiden name, so don't forget to look up, for example, land records in this name, also death certificates. Be wary of data on death certificates, since a nephew or family friend might have struggled to know a wife's maiden name, for instance.

Burial records are much rarer since one had to pay extra for them. The parish would hire out the "mott cloth" (sp.?) and so the name in the records may be that of the hirer, rather than the deceased.

All military deaths in World War One and Two are recorded on the Internet.

Banns and Marriages will tell the parishes of the father and mother, at least. In 1855, the State took over Births, Deaths and Marriages so there were no more defactos. I must have misheard this; but perhaps this means that the state no longer recognized such unions. The initial 1855 certificates were particularly good because they included extra information to "catch up", so to speak.

Other fruitful lines of enquiry are prison and hospital records, and churchyard and monumental records of many, many counties. John talked of visiting a McMurdo grave in Keir Cemetery, East Renfrewshire (Renfreyshire?), Paisley, which was next to that of Lilias Kirkpatrick McMillan. She was daughter to Kirkpatrick McMillan, inventor of the bicycle. He was once arrested while riding through a town, as he affrighted women and children with his outlandish mode of transport.

Scottish Land Records are very thorough. One doesn't need to be a landowner to be mentioned, one's family could have been tenants or stewards.

Cindi's List is a gateway to the Internet, listing virtually every genealogical site in the world, including a link to our own Clan McMillan website.

An Alex at the IDS Centre at Braeside is very knowledgeable on Scottish records. Their trained staff, man the office on Thursday; one needs to book, and, orders for certificates take seven days.

Hopefully this is a faithful rendition of John's intent, at least, with his speech. Surely you'll join with the good folk at the Scots of Victoria, in applauding John's expertise laid out for our enjoyment.

Help Wanted:

Looking for information on NEIL CHRISTOPHER MACMILLAN and his sister FIONA Elizabeth, born in the 1950's perhaps in N.S.W. otherwise Victoria. Neil's father, NEIL DOUGLAS MACMILLAN was an air pilot, whose helicopter hit power lines, and went down in the Werribee River, Melton South in 1960. The children's mother was PAULINE MOCLAIR. Neil Douglas's father, was NEIL MACMILLAN, who married twice in Australia, his second wife here was BERNICE SCHMIDT, (m. 1940). Looking for any issue from this couple?

NEIL (b.1899) was married in Scotland, before arriving in Australia, to Isabella MICHAEL. Neil's parents were NEIL MacMillan and Ellen Paterson POLLOCK of the Parish of East Kilbride in the County of Lanark, Scotland.

I've checked the B.D.M's for Victoria, and found the 1973 & 1961 deaths for both Neil's, and the 1983 death of Mary Macmillan (Bromley), a sister of Neil, and found another sister, E.P. HYDE who in 1983 lived in Surrey Hills. Neil (Snr) was living in Armidale before his death. The descendants of this family wish to make contact with their Australian cousins. If you have any information please contact:

Fergus & Michele MacMillan Brown Gables, Westfield Road, Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire, DN18 5AB.

E-mail: Fergus.macmillan@dtopenworld.com

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





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