



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.*

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUST)

Newsletter No. 66 November 2005

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President's Report AGM 2005

Our Clan was founded by the late Donald MacMillan in 1983 so now we are in the 22nd year. We have associations with the Council of Clans, The Scots of Victoria and the Genealogical Society of Victoria. I will briefly describe the happenings of the past year.

Following our custom we had the picnic in February at a delightful spot overlooking Eastern Beach in Geelong on a bright sunny day. It enabled us to catch up with members and friends and exchange information about our family trees. It was good to see Judi MacMillan, back from Singapore and Ken MacMillan who is always actively involved with the Geelong Games, both organising as well as playing in the Pipe Band.

In March, June and Max once again set up the Clan tent at the Ringwood Games. They have been doing this for many many years to provide information to visitors and hopefully attracting new members. We appreciate their huge effort and take this opportunity to thank them very much. Several of us took part in the procession for the Opening Ceremony.

Twenty-four clans/societies were represented at the AGM of the Council of Clans, presided over by Doug McLaughlin. He has received an award for his work in multicultural affairs from Governor Landy. Plans were made to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the show trial and execution of William Wallace for treason against the King of England. This took place at his statue in the Ballarat Gardens in August 2005. The Council of Clans has received a grant of \$2500 from the Victorian Multicultural Commission to aid recruitment of new members of clans and societies. Details will be described by our secretary. The Annual Lunch of the Council of Clans took place this month at the Karralyka Centre where we enjoyed Haggis, and Scottish entertainment and dancing.

The Scots of Victoria have given moral and financial support to the Community Radio station 3ZZZ, 92.3 FM which broadcasts Scottish programmes on Monday nights from 11pm. They have been threatened with closure so would welcome response and donations from listeners.

The good news is that the Scottish Resource Centre has begun to operate at the Celtic Club, 316-320 Queen Street, Melbourne. There is still a need for volunteers to assist in the office.

In late June we were saddened to hear of the death, after a long illness of Jane MacMillan, wife of Chief George MacMillan of Knap and Finlaystone. As well as being a botanist and social worker, she was inspirational in her concern for other people. Rev. Douglas Robertson made mention of this at the Kirkin o' the Tartan service at Scots Church which was attended by clan members.

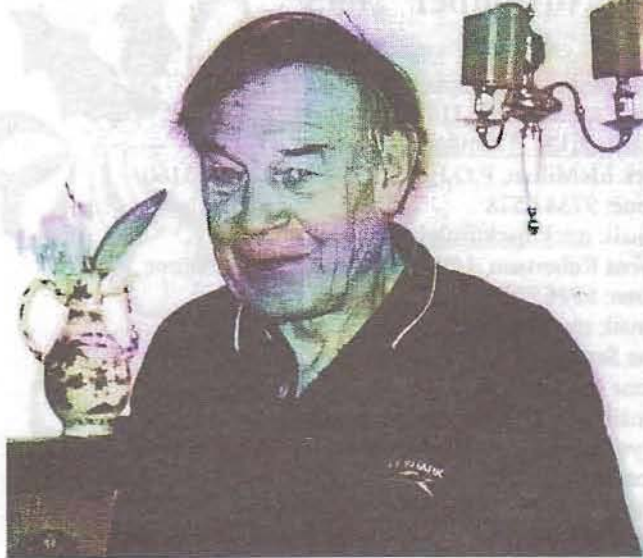
Jane had collected many of George's poems written to celebrate anniversaries and so on, and it was her wish that these should be published. The booklet was launched at her funeral on 2nd July 2005.

There have been several members of our clan visiting Finlaystone this year. The first one was Rob McMillan-Kay who was the first secretary. Then I was overseas and able to call at 'Applehouse' to see George who was very welcoming. He was able to bring me up to date on Trustee matters, we lunched and then wandered in the garden which is open to the public every day. Then Libbie MacMillan was to visit and will be followed by Mick MacMillan. Just after my return to Melbourne four of us had lunch with Margaret Pool who was here from New Zealand to research family history.

Today we are fortunate to have Susan McLean talk to us about Scottish Parish Registers, Scotland's turbulent church history from Reformation, and how this affects Genealogists.

It is always good to hear your news, so keep in touch—write, phone, fax or email !

June Danks.



This photo of our Clan Chief George MacMillan, was taken by June Danks in September this year.

This portrait of Jane MacMillan was taken during her University days.



This photo shows Rob McMillan-Kay at a Family Burial Ground on the Isle of Arran, Scotland this year.

Read of Rob's visit to Scotland on page 4



Subscriptions are now due and will remain at \$15.00 for 2006. 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.

Annual General Meeting Sunday 23rd. October 2005

We had a very enjoyable day at our A.G.M. We had a social time over lunch before our Guest Speaker, Susan McLean spoke on Parish Records in Scotland. This was extremely informative and Susan has kindly offered to précis her talk which will be included in our March 2006 newsletter.

As well as our annual contribution to the International Clan Centre it was agreed to send a special donation in memory of Jane MacMillan who had worked so tirelessly for the Clan Centre. This was sent to our Clan Chief George MacMillan and I have just received a reply from George.

Letter from Finlaystone George writes: "Pauline told me yesterday that she'd received two very generous cheques from you – one being the contribution of the Australian Society to the running of the Clan Centre, and the other a very special present in memory of Jane. It really is marvellous to have received such generosity.

Our current project is the re-lighting of the Clan Centre's outer room, which badly needs up-grading. Although, perhaps, it's not a very glamorous affair, it will be a continuation of the work Jane herself started when she fitted out the two rooms. I can't be sure, but I guess that the electrician's account will be somewhere near the amount that you have sent us. I do hope everybody will approve. Please tell them all how very grateful we are for their steady support".

Family History Member Effie Frudd, (4/24 Reservoir Rd, Frankston, Vic 3199) has written: My great grandfather was Christopher McMillan, who arrived in Melbourne about 1857. He worked as a shepherd on "Glenwyln" property near Stawell Vic., run by Alexander McMillan. Alexander's father was Archibald McMillan, who was a pioneer in 1839 to Australia. I'd like to know were Alexander and my grandfather cousins. Does anyone know? I also know Christopher had a brother John. I am sure it's the one mentioned in your newsletter No.61. They were both from Inverate, Scotland (Kintail). I believe their father was Donald McMillan who married Ellen McCrae. I have no further information on Donald.

Coming Events: Daylesford Highland Gathering Saturday 3rd December 2005.

Ringwood Highland Games: Because of the Commonwealth Games in 2006, the Ringwood Highland Games will be held on **Sunday 5th March 2006**. Because of the change of date Jubilee Park will not be available. **However the new venue will be Eastfield Park, Eastfield Rd., Croydon.**

Melways 50 J7. Ringwood Highland Games are celebrating their 40th Anniversary next year and the Australian Pipe Band Championships are being held as well as the National Fly-Ball Championships. 'Light Heavy' Games – for everyone to try. We have received funding from the Commonwealth Games to have this event. Shuttle Bus will operate all day from the Croydon Railway Station. There is a lot of parking around the ground, but few seats so -- B.Y.O!

A week long genealogical gathering for those with ancestors from the Isle of Mull.

Join us for walks, tours and speakers from Sunday May 14 to Friday May 19, 2006. Among the guest speakers will be Jo Currie, author of "Mull, the Island and It's People" and Prof. Ted Cowan of the University of Glasgow and former head of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

Any of our members interested in this tour can contact June Senior who has further details.

Trip to Scotland by R.M.McMillan-Kay

The realisation of a wish to visit Scotland and the Isle of Arran in particular came in May of 2005. Since tracing my Scottish ancestry in the early 80's and writing a book about them as well I have looked forward to the time when I would be able to see the place where my great-great-grandparents lived on the west coast of the isle of Arran. Ros and I visited Scotland in and around our visits to Singapore and England, with time in Belgium and France after that.

Our tour of Scotland started at Edinburgh on 3 May. We couldn't visit Edinburgh without a tour of Edinburgh castle and what a magnificent place it is. Graeme McKenzie made a special trip from Perth, north of Edinburgh, to meet us for lunch. He kindly gave Ros and me a conducted historical tour around the CBD of Edinburgh with afternoon tea at Jenners, the exclusive department store in central Edinburgh. His knowledge of the history of Edinburgh was evident as we really appreciated his time and effort in coming all the way from Perth to see us and show us around.

Our next stop was Glasgow which we used as a base for visits. From there we made an afternoon train trip to the small town of Helensburgh on the river Clyde. The next day we went to Finlaystone House to see our clan chief, George MacMillan. We arrived unannounced, but Maureen, who operates a shop at Finlaystone, welcomed us with a cuppa. George showed us through the clan centre followed by a tour of the lovely gardens. We were deeply grateful of the time George spent with us, especially considering Jane's poor health at the time. George recommended a visit to Stirling Castle where his father and our past clan chief, General Sir Gordon MacMillan, spent part of his military career.

The following day we went to Stirling Castle and found Sir Gordon's portrait proudly displayed in one of the rooms. Stirling Castle was a fascinating and moving experience with its wonderful displays and colourful history. A walk round the historical city of Stirling included a visit to Argyll's lodgings – 'The Weekender' of the Duke of Argyll.

On Saturday 10 May we took the train to Ardrossan on the west coast and caught the ferry across to Brodick, the Island capital, on the east coast of the Isle of Arran. We hired a car and spent 3 days touring Arran, including their lovely heritage museum at Brodick, Brodick Castle, Lochranza Castle and almost every village and hamlet on the Island, most appropriately named 'Little Scotland'.

It was a long-held wish to find all the headstones of my ancestors' graves, notably those of my great-great-grandparents in the burial ground at Whitefarland on the west coast. The small family burial grounds are tucked away just back from the beach and at the end of what was their family farmland. I was surprised to find Helen McGreevy home, now the owner of the property where my forefathers lived. Some of the original stone buildings still stand today. Helen was most obliging and helpful when I arrived on her doorstep, a perfect stranger, asking questions about the whereabouts of my family burial ground.

With our Isle of Arran trip over we returned to the mainland at Ardrossan and travelled to Ayr, south of Ardrossan on the west coast. We spent 2 days there at a B&B Guest House. Ayr was full of magnificent stately homes and beautiful shops. A truly lovely city and spotlessly clean, as are all the cities and towns of Scotland as well as one's we visited in Europe.

Sadly the visit to Ayr completed our visit to Scotland. From there we went to Birmingham, back to London, (after spending 2 days there prior to Edinburgh) then over to Brussels by train, onto Paris and home via Singapore.

We enjoyed our trip to Scotland so much that we plan to go again next year. This time we will make sure that we don't commit ourselves to deadlines and booked accommodation. If anyone is even considering a visit to Scotland.....do it.

Web Report 2005 <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mcmillan/>

Not a lot has been added to the web site this year, apart from some extra cemetery index's.

We have had nearly 1200 visitors to the "Vicnet" site since Jan 2004, while the old "Freeservers" site has 13690 on its counter.

While the Clan MacMillan cemetery pages, give you MacMillan's in its listed cemetery's, I would like to recommend the "Australia Cemeteries Site", http://www.ozgenonline.com/aust_cemeteries/
The aim of the site is to put you in touch with someone who can give you information on people in a particular cemetery.

The site, as its name suggests, covers just about every cemetery in Australia.

The Victoria pages have over 670 cemeteries listed in their indexes.

This one site while not necessarily having the information in it's own domain, will give you a link to somewhere or someone who has the information.

Most entries will at least give you the name and addressee of the Cemetery Trust and perhaps an email link to them. They could give you a link to a Family History Center whose index's covers a particular region. These genealogy groups charge for the lookup service, but generally give value for money. Someone might offer a lookup service if they have an index in their possession. If your lucky, you will find an index to people buried in the cemetery, and perhaps headstone photos.

There are quite a lot of people gathering Cemetery information for free access for those using the Web. The Australia Cemeteries site puts you in touch with them.

More and more cemetery trusts are putting their indexes online. Put the Australia Cemeteries site into your "favourites" folder and the next time you have a few hours to spare, go exploring.

I found a link to the Fawkner Crematorium & Memorial Park: <http://www.fcmp.com.au/>

It's one of the better cemetery sites for Genealogists.

Just click on "DECEASED ENQUIRIES" which will bring up their search engine.

1. Surname:
2. Given Name:
3. Search for deceased

In any index I am searching I start with surname only. If there is more than one page of results, then you can add the given name to make searching quicker. The first option might reveal some familiar family names you hadn't known were buried there.

I use the Advanced Search option. This usually gives you, The Register Number; Surname & Given Names; Date of Birth; Date Of Death; Service Type & Date; Gender; Age; Funeral Director; Location Area and Type of grave.

I recognised the name Annie Prior under my search for MACMILLAN; this was the result.

DECEASED INFORMATION

Fawkner Crematorium And Memorial Park wishes to advise that the location of the cremated remains of the late Annie Prior Macmillan aged 74 are located at Presbyterian Compartment D Grave 4308.

Within this location you will find:-

Surname Given Names Service Date

MACMILLAN Annie Prior 19/10/1964

MACMILLAN Colin John 15/08/1934

MACMILLAN Stuart Donald 17/09/1934

Offered on the page, is a Printable Location Map. This gives you the address and phone number of the cemetery, their office hours and even details of those buried in the area of your family.

Happy Searching, *Kaye O'Reilly*

ANSWERS FROM THE GRAVE

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This intriguing phrase was the title of the West Bourke Heritage Association Inc.'s Fair on 20 August 2005 at the Norton family's gothic gem, "Overnewton Castle" at Keilor.

Your intrepid reporter, nothing loath to swathe herself in the veils of glamour that a visit to a castle bring to the imagination, attended the gathering.

Their previous fair in Kensington had been a well-attended and lively affair and this was no exception. The two committee members on the door were very welcoming, handing me a show bag which contained various brochures and a delicious package of fancy biscuits. The bags innovatively displayed the program pasted on the side and a felt pen to name your bag, so it could be returned to you should you lay it down and forget to take it up again in the excitement of your learning and research.

The WBHA was formed to provide a showcase for the heritage groups in the region west of Melbourne, using the old West Bourke Electoral District to define the region. The old district covered Altona, Ascot Vale, Broadmeadows, Brunswick, Coburg, Essendon, Fawkner, Flemington, Footscray, Gisborne, Keilor, Kensington, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Ponds, Mount Macedon, North Melbourne, St Albans, Sunbury, Sunshine, Sydenham, Werribee and Williamstown.

The boundaries have been extended to include Brunswick, Coburg and Fawkner, towns whose development is parallel with the other suburban parts of the West Bourke District.

Introducing myself as a woman with a mission to share the event with our readers, in turn I was introduced to the Secretary, Denise Donnan, who took me around, explaining the program and furthering my introductions to stallholders of many and varied interests.

I spent the most time with Scott and Fiona Brown. Part of Scott's business scott@historyaustralia.org.au (03) 9323 6473, involved putting his genealogical research on compact disc, with a focus on the very early days of convicts and pioneers and he had an excellent knowledge of conservation. He passed on wisdom re writing on the back of photos. Apparently biro will eventually bleed through onto the face of the photo. Like many folks, I know who my photos portray, so I don't get around often enough to labelling them for future generations.

His family were founders of Albury and he had a marvellous photo of the two great grandmothers, taking the air in the family garden.

Scott had just told me he had recently been the co-ordinator of the PRO Reading Room. As I leant forward with alacrity, hoping to hear some of the arcane workings of one of the genealogical temples, his wife and young son arrived and Scott was directed to source the closest Macdonalds to fill a pair of hollow legs. Ah! The casual cruelty of the young. So I had to defer the knowledge of that oracle.

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ANSWERS FROM THE GRAVE

Scott's wife, Fiona Brown, had a lovely display of scrapbooking materials and heirloom pieces, using one's family portraits as the focus of the designs. I was intrigued to see a method of holding a photo without glue, but using a paper cut-out of a Celtic type knot to place at each corner of a paper frame, whereunder were slipped the four corners to be held snugly, safely and charmingly.

The house was charming with its huge pastel painted rooms, with their picture windows and chandeliers, and lovely gardens where an early Spring was beginning to make her presence known. The tour around the outside of the house and the gardens was intriguing, and the area is especially amazing as the rich archaeological site bearing one of the earliest skeletons of Australian man; in this little rift valley of Keilor just across the paddocks. Somehow I had thought our earliest folk had been discovered in Central desert country, so it was great to know that artefacts and other treasures were to be discovered so close to home.

The lecture venue was delightful, a wooden lined chapel which had a series of artworks, approximately A4 in size, incorporated at picture rail height. Framed with edgings of an ornate Gothic style, the pictures had been worked with a hot poker to get black line drawing on blond wood, which contrasted with the rich ruby brown darkness of the walls. I didn't discover who was the pioneer artist. Some scenes were floral or paid homage to Nature, interspersed with portraits of famous philosophers and literary lights.

There were four lectures in the programme: Dr Celestina Sagazio, Senior Historian of the National Trust, took "Appreciating Our Cemeteries"; Louise Rainbow, Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies "Family History - Fact or Fiction"; Laurie Burchell, Coburg Historical Society "Researching the History of your House"; and Georgina Knightley, director of the paper company Zetta Florence P/L, took "Preservation Solutions for treasured photographs, records, documents, objects, textiles and memorabilia".

The talk I attended was "Preservation Solutions for Memorabilia". The trade secrets of the business were shared at this informative lecture by its principal, Georgina Knightly. Question time also proved enlightening. I was able to establish that there were cardboard pages to be had for family tree displays in virtually any size, in acid free paper.

My question re a very extensive family tree written on 1960's cardboard elicited the alarming information that it was an era of the most damaging of papers. But happily, serendipity was at play, for after the talk a lady came up to me asking about my mention of Vanda Savill's history books & museum collection. Great was our joy when we swapped tales of our identities, for I had rung this lady for the first time a few months ago, without being able to broker a meeting. Although not from my father's direct line, we were related by marriage since the four times great grandfathers were brothers. We had many generations to catch up on! Alfred Bence and Harriet Baulch, we salute you!

Everyone was so friendly, delicious food was available from the very helpful catering staff and the raffle had eight really great genealogical prizes of CD's and books. All in all, with its many facets, it was a very pleasant way to spend a day. **Debra Vaughan**

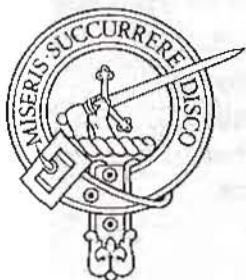
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*A Celtic Blessing
for you
at Christmas*

*May the road rise up to meet you,
The wind be always at your back,
the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your field,
And, - until we meet again, -
May Almighty God hold you
In the hollow of his hand*

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