		AILLAN SOCIETY (AUST) No. 76 March 2009
	President	-June Danks, 66 Campbell St., Kew Vic 3101
		Phone & Fax: 9817 3148 E-mail: jd15631@bigpond.net.au
V JOL	Vice-President /	
72057	Editor	Phone: 9754 4578
		E-mail: mickmack@alphalink.com.au
MACMILLAN	Secretary	-Myrna Robertson, 1/56 Fairbairn Rd., Cranbourne Vic 3977
		Phone: 5996 8667
		E-mail: <u>mymar@alphalink.com.au</u>
CREST BADGE : A dexter and a sinister	Treasurer /	-June Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave., Glen Waverley Vic 3150
hand brandishing a two-handed sword,	Asst Editor	Phone: 9560 8746
proper.		E-mail: <u>maxjune@tpg.com.au</u>
MOTTO: Miseris succurrere disco	Webmaster	-Kaye O'Reilly, 28 Dunbar Gr., Churchill Vic 3842
(I learn to succour the distressed).		Phone: 5122 1282
GAELIC NAME: MacGhille-Mhaolain.		E-mail: macore@taduast.org.au
	Web Page	- <u>http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mcmillan/welcome.htm</u>

President's Report for March, 2009

This year 2009 is 250 years since the birth of Robert Burns, the actor and writer of Scotland, known universally for his composition of "Auld Lang Syne". He lived in a remote part of Ayrshire in a small farmhouse and yet within a decade of publishing became known as a poet throughout Britain. As a youngster he worked on the farm, ploughing and planting, but he always carried 2 books, one to read and one to write in when he was inspired, making the most of his opportunities. He had been taught to read by his father and a young schoolmaster, John Murdoch. In his writing he was able to combine an academic attitude as well as appealing to the hearts of the common people. He referred to past history as well as folklore. It is said that his compositions were social commentaries, often with an ironic touch. He and his wife, Jean, had nine children. He died at the age of 37 years.

The National Trust of Scotland is to spend 21 million pounds to restore the Burns Cottage and Museum in Alloway, Ayrshire and re-house the precious collection of the poet's, original manuscripts, books letters and artworks. Our clan has been given a copy of Burns Complete Works. It was presented by Andrew Fisher's parents in Ayrshire to a cousin, James Fisher who was visiting from Australia.

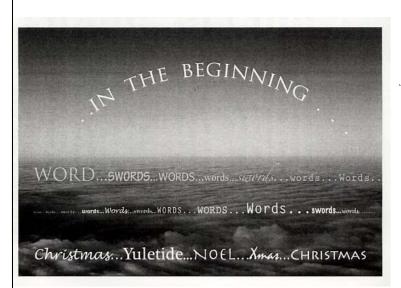
Andrew Fisher was Prime Minister of Australia 3 times in 1908-09, 1910-13 and 1914-15.

The book needs a little loving care but we are very proud to have it.

"The Homecoming" in Edinburgh is on the week-end 25 & 26 July. Despite the uncertainties arising from the global financial crisis the Gathering looks to be successful. Lord Sempill has estimated that 30,000 people will be attending. Well-known bands will be playing and about 124 clans and associations have booked. Some tickets are still available. Please consider joining in this fantastic event.

The Trustees of Clan MacMillan International Centre are to hold a telephone conference on 29th March. My call will be on the morning before I leave for our CMSA lunch at the Docklands. The subscriptions and donations for 2008 have covered expenses with little to spare. Those who receive the Magazine of CMIC will have seen the well deserved tribute to Father MacMillan, Father Mac, (1921-2008) written by Graeme Mackenzie, (genealogist of CMIC). Apart from his unfailing support for Chief George and the Centre Father Mac initiated the "Conclave Challenge" and the Community of the Tonsured Servant, CTS, which has been to the financial benefit of CMIC.

Here in Victoria there have been extreme changes in climate. After 10 years of lowered rainfall and severe drought in most areas we have experienced bushfires which have destroyed 400,000 hectares of bushland, over 2000 homes, and over 200 people have died. It has been very distressing for so many families. I have not heard of any of our clan members to have been affected but Kaye O'Reilly saw the flames on a ridge about 1 kilometre from her house in Churchill which was rather disturbing. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have suffered. June Danks



[What follows is the Annual Advent letter from our Clan Chief George Macmillan of McMillan & Knap received just before Christmas. Ed]

Advent 2008

I always marvel at the creativity of people who, year after year, produce original thoughts for public scrutiny - cartoonists, leader-writers, and even some poets. I was beginning to think I had mined out the rich vein of the Christmas story as the subject for verse, when experience brought me face to face with the most celebrated of all Christmas themes - "In the beginning was the Word..." - the high point of the Carol Service

broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, and, I think the Gospel appointed for Christmas Day. In it the apparent abstraction of "The Word" is brought right down to earth, "pitching his tent among us".

My offerings for this Christmas don't attempt to capture this loft paradox: rather, they are born of three experiences, all encountered on my journey to Los Angeles in July/August for a highly enjoyable Gathering to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America.

As early as I could, I had booked flights with three airlines to carry me from Glasgow to Gatwick to New York to Salt Lake City on 31 July, and sat back complacently to wait for take-off. Imagine my chagrin when Zoom Airlines told me they were cancelling their Gatwick-New York flight and offered me one two days earlier. As a result, I spent two happy days in New York with Andrew and Kitty MacM., who kindly took me to pay what we all knew would be a farewell visit to one of the wisest and best of men, "Father Mac" (the Rev. Canon A. Malcolm MacMillan), in his Bethlehem nursing home. Parkinson's disease made his words barely audible. Yet we came away the better for having been with him. Words, I thought, can sometimes get in the way.

Father Mac died not very long after. Clan MacMillan owes him an inestimable debt both for what he did for us and who he was.

The other two parts of the 'cycle' were attempts at self-therapy after some 'own goals' I scored in the ten days that followed. I hope they mean something when stripped of their context, of which I'm not particularly proud.

As in the past, I feel very fortunate to have enjoyed a year which has brought misery to so many of my globe-mates. Like Job (in his good times) I have supped almost incessantly with my friends and relations. I've also revisited Glyndebourne - a very much grander place than when I first saw it. Such kindnesses I'm afraid, go largely unrequited.

Arthur and Barbara continue to wrestle with the problems of maintaining this place - a task not eased by almost incessant rain. At least, though, their hydro-generator doesn't lack for fuel. Their boys - Rory (13) and Hugo (12) - both represent their school in a strong rugby football team.

Malcolm and Tadpole have bought a capacious old manse in Argyll, which they hope to let when not using it themselves. I've spent a happy week-end in it. They seem pleased with bookings to date. Their children - Emily (11), Fergus (9) and Jamie (8) will soon all be at one school (Ardvreck). Among other things, Emily and Fergus are very fast on their feet.

My brother John spent many hours driving to Glasgow for a daily dose of cancer treatment this summer. The omens seem good.

St Ignatius of Antioch remarked that "God is silence; and so the more silent a bishop, the more Godlike." That could probably apply to the rest of us - even Presbyterians. But before damming the flow of words, I must wish you

A good Christmas and a strong nerve in the roller-coaster that could be 2009.

SUBSCRIPTIONS



Subscriptions are now due and because of increased costs, have been increased to \$20.00 for 2008/2009. 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. It would be appreciated if you could forward all monies 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.

COMING EVENTS

Tartan Day in DandenongSunday, 24th May, 2009. Dandenong Town Hall.

"Bushfire Relief Concerts". Matinee: 1 pm - 4pm Concert: 7pm -11 pm

Featuring:- The City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band, Braemar, Welsh Male Choir (Victoria), Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Scottish Gaelic Choir, Victorian Highland Dancing Display Team, Seonag's Shielas, Berwick Highland Dancers' Wee Scots & Scotch Rocz, Sue Macleod – Soloist, O'Connor School of Irish Dancing, Jim McGregor – Tenor.

For further information contact:-

Drum Theatre at Dandenong Town Hall, 226 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong [Melways References 91A E7] Open: - Monday to Saturday [l0am to 5pm]

Phone: - [03] 9771 6666

The Kirkin' o' the Tartan

Email: - drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au Drum Theatre

Tickets: - Adults: \$32 / Children & Concession: \$25

Proceeds: - 60% to Bushfire Relief / 20% to Burnt & Injured Animal Relief

Sunday, 5th July, 2009. [11.00am] Scots Church, Melbourne.

Scottish Clans and Associations Annual Luncheon Sunday, 11th October, 2009. Ringwood East.

The Annual Luncheon of Clans [a Scottish get together] is to be held again at the Karralyka Reception and Entertainment Centre, Mines Rd, East Ringwood. For further information please contact: Robert Stewart by phone on 9891 6450, or by E-mail: <u>randjstewart@optusnet.com.au</u>.

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 25th October, 2009. South Yarra.

Our A.G.M. will be held on Sunday 25th October at **Soroptimist House, 383 Toorak Rd, South Yarra** from 12 noon till 4 p.m. So bring your lunch and meet fellow Clan members. Tea & coffee will be available. Speaker TBA. [Melways ref 2M, B6].

<u>Ringwood Highland Games</u>

We were up early, having packed the car with all the necessary equipment for setting up the Clan Tent, *[the scouts had erected the tents the previous afternoon]*, and the morning was fine [at home] but showers were forecast for later in the day

The rains eventually came just moments before the Official Opening and Parade of the Clans. A number of Clan members visited our tent during the day and it was good to catch up with them.

April is a more "Scottish" climate for a Highland Gathering anyway.



Clan MacMillan Gathering in Scotland 27 - 29 July 2009



Organized by "The Gathering 2009 Ltd" in association with www.visitscotland.com Though Clan MacMillan may organise a PAYG pub social evening in Edinburgh on Friday 24 (details of which will be sent to all those who have registered for the Clan MacMillan Gathering) and will have a tent at the Highland Games in Holyrood Park on Saturday 25 & Sunday 26, we have no more information about this event in Edinburgh than is available on its website.

We cannot make bookings in relation to it for travel, accommodation, or any other aspect of it. MacMillans wishing to participate in it must therefore make your own arrangements.

For prices and booking go to www.clangathering.org or phone: +44 (0)131 561 1323

Clan MacMillan Gathering in Greenock, Mon 27 - Wed 29 July Organised by the Clan MacMillan International Centre

- **Monday**: Evening Barbecue at Finlaystone. Arrive anytime during the day to enjoy the gardens & woods and take the chance to see the Clan Centre displays & MacMillan Memorial Wall.
- **Tuesday:** All Day: Bus Tour to Knapdale (previous seat of the chiefs) or Lorn (cradle of the clan) with CTS Investiture Service either at Kilmory Knap (site of MacMillan Cross) or Poltalloch Church, Lorn (seat of MacMillans' cousins Clan Malcolm)
- Choice of venue for the Investiture will depend on numbers the chapel at Kilmory being small -but both tours will visit other sites connected with the clan and its septs. Stops will be made for morning and afternoon refreshments, and lunch - all on a PAYG basis. Places on the bus must however be booked and paid for in advance as part of the MacMillan Homecoming 2009 Package.
- Wednesday: Daytime: PAYG boat-trip "Doon the Watter" to the Isle of Bute to visit the medieval Rothesay Castle [www.isle-of-bute.org.uk/castle.shtml] and the Victorian gothic mansion Mount Stuart & 300 acres of gardens [www.mountstuart.com]

Evening: Clan Banquet in the historic Tontine Hotel, Greenock [www.tontinehotel.co.uk] For full details & registration forms see <u>www.clanmacmillan.org/Greenock2009.html</u>

Clan Cameron Gathering in Fort William, Fri 31 July - Sun 2 August

Organised by the Clan Cameron Association of Scotland - see www.clancameron.org.uk Members of Clan MacMillan - the Lochaber branch of which were followers of Lochiel, the Cameron Chief - have been invited to participate in the Cameron Gathering. If enough MacMillans register an interest in so-doing we may organise a visit to a ceremony at the 1802 Emigration Monument at Murlagan, the home of the MacMillan chiefs in Lochaber, on Friday 31 July.

The MacMillan Homecoming 2009 Package will cover the barbecue at Finlaystone on Monday evening; the bus for the Tuesday tour; and the Wednesday evening banquet. Any other transport & meals, all other event & attraction participation & entrance charges, and all accommodation will be the responsibility of individual participants - though the Clan Centre will provide as much advice and useful information as possible.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the website (as above) or requested by post from Clan MacMillan Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank, PA14 6TJ. Tel. 01475-540713. Fax. 01475-540285.

Gathering of Clans Scotland 2009



Final Reminder about The Gathering in Edinburgh this year.

On the **25th and 26th July 2009** Edinburgh will witness one of the largest clan gatherings in history. Holyrood Park will host a magnificent Highland Games over the two days then on the Saturday evening Clan members will parade up the historic Royal Mile and take their seats on the castle esplanade for a spectacular Clan Pageant.

For information:- www.thegathering2009.com

'Fire Ready'

What would you do with your family history files if faced with a fire?



Do you have a fire plan?

Are you ready to leave your home with just a minutes' notice?

With the recent bushfires around our neighbourhood's it's a good time to plan just how you would handle your Genealogy Records in the case of a fire in your home.

Do you use a computer or paper? Both???

I have a book case full of family history folders, none less important than another.

At a moment's notice I would have to leave the lot. Then there is the computer, my Family Tree program and surname folders are all on that. I don't have time to unplug the hard drive. I'd have to leave that too.

I had a fire plan. Just go, grab my hand bag, that always (hopefully) has my wallet, keys and phone in it, and get out. I am insured and while my house is full of 'stuff', there's nothing that isn't replaceable, EXCEPT for my Family History, 10 years of research. It's too late when the alarms go off to think what you would do in an emergency.

Do it now.

Back up your computer files and folders, copy the important papers you simply can't bear to loose and take to a friend or relatives' for safekeeping, 2 external places would be better.

I copied my Computer files on to a 4 gig USB and I now have that in my purse.

I plan on getting another one to send to my daughter. Now as time permits I can add my scanned insurance papers and account details to it as well. Even all my "My Pictures" files fit on that one 4 gig USB. Whatever you decide your plan is, get to it. There's no time like the present!

Have you given the web person copies of your BDM certificates?

Do that too.

'Back up, back up'. We hear that all the time. There's no point in backing up your files if you

can't get to those backed up files. Have you left those CD ROM back up disks next to your computer?

'It's better to have a plan and never use it, than to need it and not have it!'

[The two pictures on this page show the loss that occurred in Bendigo, where the "Bush" Fire was on the edge of the city itself. Ed]





[This photo is courtesy of Kaye O'Reilly from Churchill.

Clan Luncheon





[Another leisurely lunch was enjoyed by all at "The Berth" including our newest member Marie Richards. Ed]

Curator's Report - August 08 - February 09

After leaving LA I attended the inaugural meeting of the Washington State Branch near Seattle. Whilst it was very enjoyable it was pretty hard work welcoming around 8 complete strangers for about an hour before the "cavalry" viz Adhaniá, George, Graeme and Carol MacMillan arrived. Hopefully nobody was put off. From there George, Graeme and I took the ferry to Victoria, BC, Canada where I helped "fly the flag" for Clan MacMillan International at two Clan social events organised by Dave MacMillan.

I wrote and circulated brief notes on the Trustees' Meeting in LA and the subsequent Conclave Meeting.

I have spent a great deal of time with George discussing comments received on the proposed new constitution and producing another version which has been sent to John Howell for his professional opinion.

During the CMSNA Gathering in LA I took orders for a 2009 Clan Calendar which I had produced, so I posted around 120 of them off in time for Christmas.

I wrote an article for the December Magazine. The Magazine resulted in the usual amount of proofreading and reading to George before being taken to the copy shop, collected and dispatched. Every effort is made to get the Magazine posted out before Christmas but it can be difficult because both the printer and I have a lot of other work to get through at that time.

Planning for a MacMillan presence at the Gathering 2009 25th/26th July in Edinburgh means I've spent time on completion of many tedious forms. I am also involved in planning our own event to take place during the three days following. So far the following people have booked to attend - Alaistair and Lesley Macmillan, Tom, Lynette and Tessa Szczepanik, Ronald and Gloria Baxter and daughter, Gary and Sherrill McMillian, Mike Drotar and Chris Wittenberg, June Danks, Susan Drinkwater. Others making positive noises are: Robert and Susan Bell and granddaughter Ishtar (19), Nigel, Nette and Gordon Macmillan, Linda Cooke and Judy Young's daughter Ginger and Dr Carol McMillan.

The more routine activities continue to be answering emails and forwarding where necessary to Graeme (I now explain to enquirers that we impose a charge and this seems to halt them in their tracks!) Since Arthur became Treasurer I now bank cheques and am a signatory to the account. I continue to keep a record of payments received and maintain the clan database.

It was agreed that Paypal should be used to take payment for genealogical enquiries and subscriptions from those who cannot pay by dollar or sterling cheques. An account has not been opened yet because I am reluctant to do the "nuts and bolts" of setting it up. Whilst I'm assured that it is easy (and I've no reason to doubt that it is) I don't have the confidence to put the system in place.

Since 1 August 22 people signed the Clan Centre Visitors' book. 4 from Australia, 3 from New Zealand, 10 from the USA, 4 from Canada and 1 from the UK.

Please visit the revamped Clan MacMillan International website at <u>www.clanmacmillan.org/</u>

If you find any links that don't work or any other problems please don't hesitate to notify us - such a major rebuild is very time-consuming and some glitches are inevitable.

Any suggestions for further improvements would be most welcome.

Email: - graeme@highlandroots.org

Graeme Mackenzie Clan MacMillan Centre Scotland.



Graeme's Report – March 2009.

WEBSITE

General Revamp

The major achievement during the last year has been the complete overhaul of the website. Trustees whose association with the Clan Centre goes back that far will remember that I created the original website from scratch over ten years ago, having had to teach myself how to do so using what was then state-of-the-art software recommended by a member of the Pacific Branch of Clan MacMillan (possibly even a resident of the original "Silicon Valley"). It was then one of the first comprehensive clan websites, and even as it gradually began to look more old-fashioned and amateurish it continued to be praised by clan members for the amount of information to be found on it – which was, and is still, far more than on many other clan websites.

Having learnt in the past couple of years how to use more modern website-creation software, and inspired by the arrival of the "Clan MacMillan Forum", I finally got down to the task of completely overhauling the site in September of last year, and have managed – I hope – to keep it as comprehensive as before, but at the same time much better to look at and easier to use. Improvements continue to be made in response to comments and suggestions from members; and only this week I have added a new link on the "Index" or "Welcome" page direct to the "Clan MacMillan International" page to make it easier for potential members to find out how to join. The suggestion for that came from Mike McMillen in Minneapolis who, as a professional website designer, has been a great support and inspiration throughout this process.

Project MAOL

The genealogical elements of the website remain amongst its most important, since the discovery of family history is perhaps the greatest single motivation for joining a clan society. While the website does of course contain information outwith Project MAOL about the genealogy of the most important Clan MacMillan families (i.e. those of the chiefs and chieftains), what makes Project MAOL itself especially significant is that it records the genealogy of hundreds of ordinary MacMillan families, and provides a resource that many members of such families anywhere in the world can tap straight into.

The Project MAOL M'millan Search Indices currently contain 18,756 individuals, 10,217 of whom are "M'millans". They constitute 406 families containing a minimum of 2 individuals, and a maximum (so far) of 2,966 in any one family tree.

DISPLAYS

Mike McMillen, Pauline, and myself, continue to correspond and consult about improvements to the displays in the Clan Centre. Recent work has concentrated on an enhanced map showing the clan lands all over Scotland – with pictures of some of the places and buildings connected with the clan.

PUBLICATIONS

The Magazine

My return to Inverness three years ago has led to a greater involvement with the MacKenzies and interaction with other clans through the Inverness Highland Games, and this has given me some further insights into how other clans cope with the production of clan magazines. The Clan MacKenzie example of recent years has shown me that a well-produced and very colourful magazine can be made economic by the use of advertising – if someone with good local connections, and the ability to sell/persuade, is able and willing to go out in person and get the advertising (but it's a lot of work to do so). Another option successfully pursued in recent years by Clan MacLean – and now being tried by the MacKenzies too – is to have the magazine produced by a firm that gets the advertising, and the benefit of it, itself. The company in question is NB Media and the magazines they have produced in recent years for the MacLeans have been very glossy, all-colour professional publications – which have not cost the MacLeans anything in terms of compilation and printing, however many copies were required. NB Media have even told the MacKenzies that they can, in certain circumstances, also handle the distribution – thus relieving the clan of postage and packing costs too. The first NB Media magazine for Clan MacKenzie is currently in the pipeline, and word is that the recession is affecting their ability to get advertising; so it remains to be seen how this model will work out in future.

In the meantime, our own partly coloured and partly sponsored last effort has been generally well-received (at least by those that have commented on it to me), and it's a model that I would like to continue to pursue once a year. To make the larger and partly coloured publication economic, I would propose to cut the second annual issue back in size, and perhaps revert to making it a folded black-and-white newsletter so as to avoid the cost of envelopes as well. It should be emphasised that the net result of such a scheme would be no reduction in the total number of pages produced per year – so no drop in what the members of CMI get each

year for their subscription.

Brief Introduction to Clan MacMillan

I have just updated this, and PDFs of the updated version will be available from the Clan Centre shortly.

The Rarest Decision in History – The Battle of the Clans 1396

The Clan Centre is sold out of this, and I only have a couple of copies left myself, so a reprint was thought desirable. Since however I no longer have the original file for it (it dates from 1996), and have therefore had to scan a printed copy, it seemed like a good idea to combine it with the follow-up paper I produced in 2000 for the Gaelic Society of Inverness, which was called "Forever Unfortunate – The Original Clan Chattan" (which used MacMillan history, amongst other things, to shed light on the origins of the pre-Mackintosh Clan Chattan). Putting the two papers together required considerable editing of the originals to avoid repetition, and this inspired me to follow up some comments on the originals, and to read-up on recent material produced on Clan Chattan. The result is some quite significant new discoveries that, of course, also bear on the early history of Clan MacMillan – since it was in effect the same clan in origin as the old Clan Chattan. The new combined booklet is now complete, and as soon as the cover is finalised, and a printer found, it will go to press – and hopefully be on sale through the Clan Centre by the summer.

EVENTS

Inverness Highland Games 2008

I represented Clan MacMillan - in solitary splendour – and had a handful of MacMillan descendants passing by. They included the Inverness piper, Alec Macmillan, who offered his services for any future clan events.

California Gathering of CMSNA 2008

Though not required to give any lectures I was able to do an informal illustrated presentation on gatherings past, and of course was available throughout to chat to members about the Clan Centre, the clan's history, and their own Clan MacMillan ancestry as and when required. I then went on with George and Pauline to the inaugural gatherings of the Washington State and British Columbia branches of the clan to do the same there.

Inverness Highland Games 2009

I'll be representing Clan MacMillan again here at the games, and at the first "Highland Clans Charity Soiree" to be held the night before (i.e. Friday 17th July). This is being organised by the recently founded *Highland Clans and Gathering Association* (provisional name) of which I am the acting Chairman.

Clan MacMillan Homecoming Gathering 2009

I'll be attending some or all of this, both in Edinburgh (24-26 July) and Finlaystone/Greenock (27-29 July); and I did some of the initial thinking about and research for the programme that is now being put into effect by George and Pauline. Unfortunately I am unable to do much more to help them with the organising of this as I am going to be too heavily tied-up with the events in Inverness the previous weekend, so I would appeal to the Trustees – especially of course those here in the UK – to come forward and offer your services as soon as possible to help George and Pauline with this.

Scottish Diaspora Conference in Inverness

Though this is not an event aimed at or involving clans as such, it will be one of the most important historical conferences of the year which may interest some Trustees or members of their branches of the clan. As well as attending it, I may be involved on the peripheries in my capacity as Chairman of the Highland Family History Society. The full name of the event is: "Scotland's Global Impact – How one small nation changed the world", and it'll be happening at the Eden Court Theatre 22 - 24 October. It's hoped that it will coincide with the opening of the new Highland Archive and Registration Centre in Inverness, which will include a Genealogical Search Room.

RESEARCH

Enquiries, correspondence, and research about MacMillans currently being pursued

A steady stream of enquiries and submissions for Project MAOL continue to come in – the most interesting ones of which generate research resulting in potential articles for future magazines. Some such current cases include the descendants of the Rev. John McMillan "of Balmaghie"; the Macmillans in Balivanich on the Isle of Benbecula; a family of Roman Catholic "McMellons" who went from Lancashire to the United States in the 19th century; the Corriebuidh Macmillans in Nova Scotia and Ontario; and of course the on-going puzzle that is the Murlagan/Glenpean family.

Apologies for anything I may have forgotten to mention.

Graema

"In the beginning was the Word"

What can I say to a man I revere? This meeting may well be our last. Shall I batter his ear with counterfeit cheer? Shall I prate of the times that are past......

......When I see him, I'm forced to abandon my plan: Away with such trivial stuff! To sit by his side as he speaks of the clan And his love for it - that is enough.

My words, in rehearsal, are gems of design And lucidity - limpid, urbane. But somehow my argument loses its shine On the way to my mouth from my brain.

While "Many a true word is spoken in jest", The prattle of jesters can pall.
Of policies honesty's top of the list;
But "Speak truth in love ", quoth St. Paul.
So a word or a silence in season is best; But discerning that season is all.

[The Advent letter is always accompanied by a poem and this was no different, above is this year's contribution. Ed]

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

