

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Newsletter #97 March 2018

<http://clanmacmillanaustralia.com.au/>

MACMILLAN

SYMBOLS

CREST: A dexter with a hand issuing from the wreath, grasping and brandishing aloft, a two-handed sword.

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



PLANT BADGE: Holly

GAELIC NAME:
MacGhille-Mhaolain.



YOUR COMMITTEE

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Kaye O'Reilly

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Myrna Robertson

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Committee:
Jan Brooks & June Danks

Presidents Report, March 2018

Our first event for this summer was the annual Australia Day Peoples March held in Melbourne on the 26th of January. As usual we marched directly behind the Scots of Victoria Group. CMSA had 5 members marching. Although I can no longer march I was waiting at the end of the parade route to welcome Jan, Myrna, Ross, David and Francesca,. Once together we settled down to watch the rest of the parade and enjoyed a picnic lunch.

Our next members' event was at Bendigo on the 3rd of March for their annual Scots Day Out. The weather treated us better than last year with a much milder day of 32 degrees. Family came and helped set up the gazebo where quite a few interested people stopped by. Jan caught the train down from Melbourne and was able to catch up with her family as well. We all had some free time to check out the events and the Irish and Scots dancing groups set up nearby so we were able to watch both. We also had a good view of the sword battles and were close to the bands practice area.

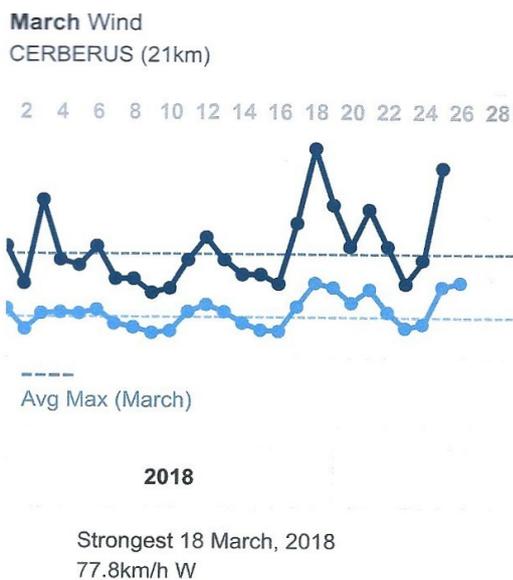
Summer and Autumn in Australia is when most Highland Gatherings are held due to the weather being more favourable. Sadly this wasn't the case for us this year at Scots on the Swamp. A Charity Open Day with a Scottish theme ,the event is an annual fundraiser for the Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service, Ladies Auxiliary. Set in the grounds surrounding Harewood House, which is open for tours on the day, the property overlooks Westernport Bay. Light showers were forecast, clearing by lunch time. In actual fact we had heavy rain and severe winds. I should have known better than to set up at all. My mindset was, arrive by 9am to set up the gazebo and get the display ready by the opening time of 10am. I was nowhere near ready by then and when fellow member Jan Brooks arrived soon after, she helped keep the gazebo grounded in the wind till Myrna and Ross arrived. The gazebo opposite us blew away. O.K. time to take ours down. It wasn't quite so simple. The wind blew so furiously that one of the poles had bent and the leg couldn't be folded. Happily Ross has a builder's brain and was able to hammer the pole into submission and we were able to get it folded. The rain stopped and the sun came out. Cont.

Presidents Report, March 2018 Cont.

We took our chairs over to the front lawn and were in time to watch a presentation by the Australian Great War Association (AGWA) who participated in a service to commemorate the last year of the Great War and afterwards did blank volley firing. The group were dressed in WW1 uniforms and put on a great show. There was also a parade of people in traditional Scottish dress. Ross found the Highland Cattle and we all had a great time watching mother and baby. Behind the house we had the Shetland ponies to visit. I have to add the hospitality Gazebo a much larger and sturdier arrangement than ours was, was packed up by the time we returned to our belongings, When I was there buying my Devonshire Tea there were two ladies holding on to the roof trusses with both hands to stop it flying away. They then moved their merchandise inside the house to sell.



Jan, Myrna and Ross doing an amazing job of holding down the Gazebo



Weather Graph of the day
<https://wind.willyweather.com.au>
 Max 77.8km/h. Avg 24.5kn/h



And the band played "Waltzing Matilda"

The next Sunday, the 25th March was the Ringwood Games. Mick and Mary Anne went along as usual to set up for us. Again another windy day with 45km/h winds predicted. *Kaye O'Reilly*

The Tale of Sunday's Ringwood Highland Games summed up in two pictures.



The first one was in the morning during a drizzle without wind, then the second was after we had our tent compromised by strong winds causing us to pull the tent down and sit in the tent space in the lovely sunshine.

Mostly, however, the day was bright and sunny and enjoyable with the occasional wind gusts that caused us to keep checking the tent. But it all changed about 2pm when we decided we'd been fighting a losing battle. There was a bit of interest about the Clan mostly by couples that were planning trips to Scotland in the near future. *Mick McMillan.*



Top: Mary Anne and visitor.

Above: Mick, Coral, Myrna and Ross

OUT & ABOUT



Top left: David Terrey at the Peoples March in Melbourne 26 Jan 2018.

Top centre: Waiting for the parade to start .

Top right: Myrna Robertson, David Terrey, Ross Underwood, Jan Brooks and Kaye O'Reilly.

Below: The Clan MacMillan display at Bendigo Scots Day Out.



OUT & ABOUT



Above: Visitors to the CMSA tent at Bendigo.



Below: The Australian Great War Association at Scots on the Swamp.



Above right and left; Scenes from the Australia Day March 26th January 2018



Left; Band practice at Bendigo Scots Day Out March 3rd 2018

HELP WANTED

Genee McMillan's father, Alex McMillan, was born in Glasgow, Scotland on the 16th January 1946. He came to Australia on a ship when he was 3 years old along with his parents John and Mary and older brother John.

She is wanting to find out any information about his family line as it is her parents wedding anniversary this July . She is hoping to surprise them with something special.

If you can help please Email: geneemcm@gmail.com



A message from the Clan Chief George MacMillan Advent 2017

I wonder what words enter your head when asked to characterise 2017. For me they were 'Brexit' and 'Trump'. Then I realised that we got them in 2016. But barely a day passes without reference to one or both of them, usually at the centre of some political storm. To them 2017 has added a catalogue of natural catastrophes, reminding us - if we needed it - of life's precariousness. In spite of all that, for almost everyone I know, life continues exactly as before. How very lucky we are! Yet I, for one, can't quite dismiss the feeling that some sort of action is required.

I heard recently from a Macmillan who, after visiting Rwanda, was inspired to set up a charity ('Children of Rwanda') to help children to go to school, among other things. I think I detect similar stirrings elsewhere, especially among the younger generation. Let's hope - and, perhaps, help.

The event foreshadowed in my 2016 letter duly occurred - the appearance of Clan Macmillan as a 'Warm-up' act before the Edinburgh Tattoo on 7 August. Along with Clan Macaulay, about a hundred Macmillans emerged from the Castle gates led by four pipers - Fraser Smith (an Australian of Macmillan extraction, in Scotland with his pipe band), Stuart McMillan M.S.P. (official Piper to the Scottish Parliament), Arthur-and-Barbara's Hugo and Malcolm-and-Tadpole's Jamie. The evening was dry and reasonably warm; and, as usual, the Tattoo was spectacular. I think we all enjoyed the experience a lot; but once was probably enough.

Four of my five grandchildren are now at universities in England. Rory and Hugo (Arthur and Barbara's boys/men) are in their third year at Durham. They recently did very creditably at an international Triathlon in Rotterdam. Of Malcolm and Tadpole's family, Emily is learning to teach in Canterbury, where hockey and bar-tending seem to absorb much of her spare time; Fergus, having left Sedbergh as Captain of Athletics, is studying Chemical Engineering at Loughborough; while Jamie, who seems just as fleet-footed as the rest of them, is in the senior section of Sedbergh.

The older generations are more or less as usual. Leg ulcers (a fashionable affliction among many of my friends) have hit one or two of us. We think we've at last located a medic who takes them seriously. Tadpole and I were both told we had cancers of various kinds. Her treatment was horrible but, to everybody's relief, highly effective. Mine has been a positive pleasure and I'm still here and feeling well. It's hard to know where to assign credit between chemotherapy in our excellent local hospital, the prayers of seven thousand nuns, and regular draughts of vitamin C disguised as lemon, ginger and carrot juice, for all of which I'm very thankful. In any case, I can't grumble: at eighty-seven I can say with Horace 'Vixi': I've had my time, and, anyway, the world is getting a bit over-crowded.

Happy Christmas!

DNA for use by Family Historians

Have you had your DNA tested?

I was fortunate enough to be given an Ancestry DNA kit for Christmas. It was easy to us, just a couple of spits into a test tube, put that in the bag supplied then use the pre paid post bag to send it to the Ancestry lab. I sent my test in, in January and received the results less than 5 weeks later

My Ethnicity Estimate surprised me as I had thought from the family history research I have done so far that I was equally Scottish, Irish and English, instead I am 85% from Ireland, Scotland and Wales mostly Munster, Ireland. Europe West 5%, and 3% Great Brittan.

I have had some new connections and found some surprising trees concerning my family. One tree has my 2nd Great Grandfather having 3 marriages and 20 children. In fact he's buried with his first wife in an Australian cemetery.

I have also reconnected with cousins I researched with over 10 years ago. I found some of our brick walls are still up, and that others were happy to share what new discoveries they have made. It has certainly renewed my interest in genealogy.

In February I attended the GUM seminar, "Making the Most of your DNA". There I learnt that while I have the Ancestry Kit I can still put my DNA results on other sites for FREE. I signed up to the My Heritage site and uploaded my DNA results. I know my cousin has hers there so I will have at least one connection. It was an easy process and I will follow up with the other sites in due course. Other free sites mentioned were FTDNA, 23andMe, GEDmatch, Gencove, DNA land, Gedmatch Genesis.

Addendum:

Free to join?

It took just two days for my results to start coming thru on My Heritage BUT I cannot contact the matches without paying A\$18.17 a month for a subscription.

More on DNA in the next issue.

Agricultural Revolution, Scotland

Taken from "Scotland's People," Edited by James Jupp

Industrialization bypassed the Highlands because the highlands didn't possess the appropriate natural resources, in particular Coal, without which, in the era of the steam engine, no areas could hope to compete.

The Highlands had a traditional society with a form of land tenure designed to ensure a stable social structure. Cattle were the most important export commodity until the 19th century.

Agricultural production before 1770 was based upon runrig, a system in which those who worked the land had equal shares of strips of differing quality. Under this system everyone knew their situation in life and all were protected.

From 1770 until at least the end of the 19th century landlords began to consolidate their holdings which enabled to gain better control over their lands.

The tacksmen (individuals who leased large tracks of land that they in turn sublet, in small parcels, and who in turn were the lynchpins of Highland society) were squeezed out. Agricultural improvements were made and sheep were gradually introduced so that by 1860 wool and sheep exports were as important as cattle exports had been a century earlier

The consolidation of land holdings bought about the clearances – the ridding of the land of excess population.

At first people didn't leave the Highlands on a large scale but rather moved to the coast to engage in fishing in the kelp industry. However after 1810 kelp declined in importance resulting in a mass exodus of population.

Before the 1820's few Scots seriously contemplated migration to Australia. Less than 5% of all convicts previously sent were Scottish. Migrants to Australia before the 1830's were either farmers or landholders. From the 1830's the lower classes joined the flow, many of them as assisted migrants after 1832

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL and JOINING FORM To 30th JUNE 2018



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The biggest event coming up in Australia is the **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games** from 4th to 15th April 2018 .

CMSA Event: The next planned event that we are attending as a group will be the “Kirkin of the Tartan” at Scots Church in Melbourne on Sunday 1st of July at 11am

Bundanoon Highland Gathering : In the Southern Highlands of NSW on Sat April 7th 2018. Parades ,Bands, dancing, obedience dog club demonstrations, caber throwing, also includes the Australian Highland Heavy Weight Championship

Glenbarr Highland Gathering (175 anniversary) Glenbarr Homestead at 1400B Paris Creek Road, Strathalbyn, South Australia 5255 on April 14th 2018
Dancing, music, bagpipes, even some medieval sword fighting.

Clan Cameron Gathering April 20th – 22nd. Their first gathering. If you have Cameron Ancestors you'll want to be there Web: <http://www.clan-cameron.org.au/>

Australian Celtic Festival 3rd -6th May. Glen Innes. NSW
Parade, Highland dancing, pipes and drums, Poets, dog show, teas and dinners, massed bands, Celtic fashions and much more <https://www.australiancelticfestival.com/>

Berry Celtic festival 26th May. Berry NSW. Parade Pipe bands, jousting, hand to hand combat, sword skills, dogs, etc. <http://www.berryrotary.org.au/celtic-festival>

For a full list of Scots events I recommend the Scot's of Australia site
<http://www.scotsofaus.org.au/>

The committee decided we would trial a page on **FACEBOOK**, to try and attract new members. We have our site up and running and would like all members on social media to “Join” and “Like” our page. You need to join to be able to comment and post. You will find us under Clan Macmillan Society of Australia.

The comments expressed in the Clan MacMillan Society of Australia's (CMSA) newsletter are the editors own unless otherwise stated.

If you have any items you would like to include in the newsletters please send them in an email to the editor: oreillykaye@gmail.com or post to the address provided. Why not repost your surname interests?

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