

August  
2026

# Newsletter

## Clan MacMillan Societies of Australia



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# A New Look for Clan MacMillan Australia

## A New Chapter for Clan MacMillan in Australia

Clan MacMillan in Australia is entering an exciting new chapter. Like many clan societies, we have faced the challenges of an ageing membership, busy younger generations and the great distances that separate our communities. Yet these challenges also give us an opportunity to renew our approach and bring clan activities closer to members.

Following consultation with Chief George MacMillan in Scotland, new Clan MacMillan societies are being established in Victoria and New South Wales. These state-based societies will focus on local membership, Highland gatherings, newsletters and activities, making it easier for MacMillans to connect and participate closer to home.

Clan MacMillan Australia will continue as the national umbrella organisation, linking the state societies and providing coordination, advice and a shared cultural focus.

This new structure is not a step away from our national identity. It is a positive step towards stronger local participation, closer connections and a reinvigorated Clan MacMillan presence across Australia.

We look forward to sharing this journey with you.



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More Information at  
**clanmacmillan.au**

# New South Wales MacMillans in the News

## *Sparkling Silver Performance:*

In a continuation of an Aussie tradition in race walking, Sydney - born Elizabeth “Lizzy” McMillen picked up a Silver Medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games just gone.

Lizzy led the race for most of the way until being pipped by her team mate, Jemima Montag. At just 22 years of age, Lizzy has a long career ahead of her in international track and field. Well done, Lizzy!



## *Honouring the Legend:*

The Merv McMillan Mini Band Competition was recently held at Club Macquarie in Newcastle. As usual, bands came from all over to compete in this very special competition, catch up with old friends, and enjoy a wee dram or two after the “lang blaw”.

The competition honours Merv McMillan, the beloved piper of the City of Newcastle RSL Pipe Band. Merv joined the Band in 1954, after the dissolution of the Newcastle Scottish band, and remained a member until his passing in 2022, accumulating 68 years of service, with 18 years as Pipe Major.



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# New South Wales News

## Recent Events

### 2026 Aberdeen Highland Games



The Aberdeen Highland Games are a major Scottish Cultural event in New South Wales.

This year thousands of people gathered to celebrate Scottish culture in all its forms. The Clans were well represented - twenty in all including your MacMillan Clan.

Our stall was busy fielding enquiries from MacMillans and their descendants about their ancestors and the activities of the Society and how to join.

Barbara McPhee, AM, President of the Clan Mcfie Association honoured us with a visit to discuss strategies for spreading Scottish culture.



MacMillan Descendant Marion with Richard Brown



MacMillan Stall busy with genealogy enquiries



Barbara McPhee AM with Dr Richard Brown of Clan MacMillan



L-R. Drum Major Simon Adam, Piper Graham Adams , Celtic Blacksmith Steve Snedden, Dr Erin MacGillivray-O'Neill, Dr Richard Brown



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# New South Wales News

## Genealogy & History

### The First MacMillans in the Colonies - 1788-1850

The National Library of Australia has a massive collection of Australian Newspapers and Gazettes tracing the birth of the colony of New South Wales onwards until Australia was born as a nation.

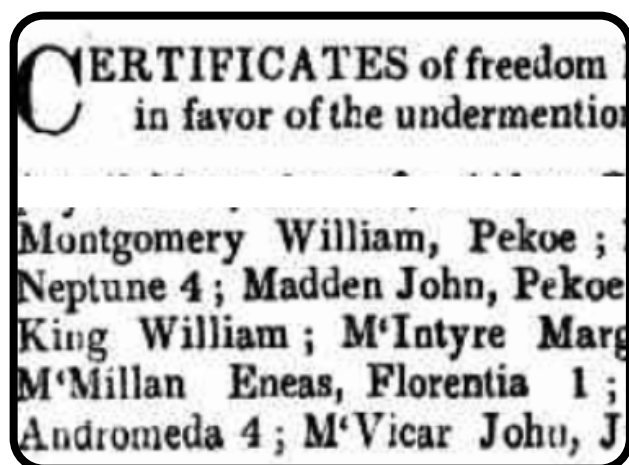
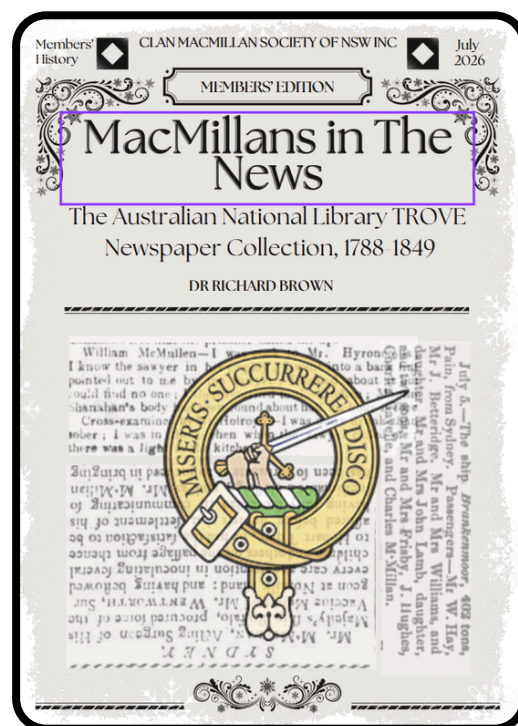
Millions of individual articles are a historian's or genealogist's dream. But the sheer volume of documents is daunting especially for time-poor family researchers who are new to tracing their family or local history.

Enter "MacMillans In The News", a first foray into the wilds of the Trove collection with an emphasis on the MacMillan clan and, in future, its Sept families.

MacMillans In The News is a collection of clippings from the early newspapers and Gazettes of the colony. The very first MacMillan to get a mention is one Dennis Mullen, who as an indentured convict skipped his job and was on the run - this was 1804. The first definite M'Millan as they write it was a ship's surgeon who bought "Vaccine Matter" from Norfolk Island to be used in vaccination against the scourge of Smallpox in the colonies.

This booklet is a starting point for anyone wanting to find out about their families and where to start looking. You may not have an ancestor mentioned, but you will get the flavour of life in the olden days and the role MacMillans played.

"MacMillans In The News", by Dr Richard Brown. A free publication to members.



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# New South Wales News

## Genealogy & History

### Sir William McMillan: Practical Father of Federation

Sir William McMillan may not be as famous as Henry Parkes or Edmund Barton, but he played an important part in creating the Australian nation.

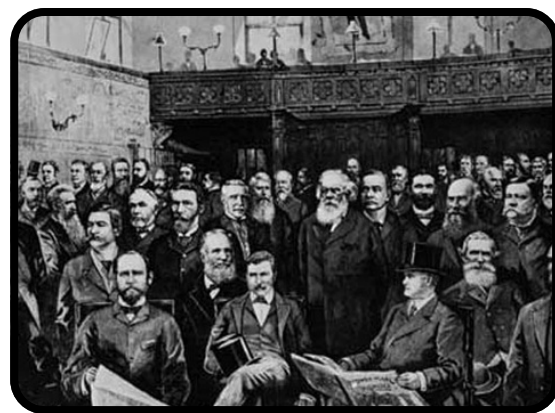
Born in Londonderry, Ireland, in 1850, William was the son of Methodist minister Reverend Gibson McMillan and Eliza McArthur. Educated in Dublin and London, he came to Sydney as a young man to work in the successful merchant business operated by his McArthur uncles.

McMillan quickly became a prominent figure in Sydney's commercial life. He served as president of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, helped establish the Free Trade Association of New South Wales and entered the NSW Parliament in 1887. As Colonial Treasurer under Sir Henry Parkes, he developed a reputation as a serious and capable financial administrator. His greatest contribution came during the movement towards Federation. McMillan attended the major Federation conferences and conventions of the 1890s and chaired the finance committee at the 1897–98 Federal Convention. While others delivered grand speeches about national unity, McMillan worked through the difficult questions of customs duties, colonial debts and how the new Commonwealth would pay its bills.

He was knighted in 1901 and became the first federal member for Wentworth and deputy leader of George Reid's Free Trade Party.

Although born in Ireland, McMillan came from the wider Ulster-Scots tradition. Both the McMillan and McArthur families had strong Scottish roots, reflecting the movement of Scottish families into Ulster over earlier generations.

Sir William died in Sydney in 1926. Quiet, practical and financially astute, he was one of the men who helped turn the dream of Federation into a workable nation.



Sir William McMillan at front left at the Federal Convention, 1891. McMillan's importance to Federation is demonstrated in his prominence in the engraving.



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# New South Wales News

## Upcoming Events

Clan MacMillan will be at the following NSW events. Drop by the Clan Tent and say g'day:

August 22, 2026  
Hunter Valley Highland Games  
Saltire Estate  
**Lovedale, NSW, Australia**



September 26, 2026  
Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival  
**Wingham, NSW , Australia**





# Victoria News

## Recent Events



### President's Report

At the AGM last August, the 2025 elections were held and the results are myself, Kaye O'Reilly as President, Jan Brooks as Secretary, Amanda Fing remained as Treasurer, Richard Brown is Editor and Web person. Aaron O'Reilly is the committee member. We would welcome a second committee member.

A role to consider: Our clan holds membership with the G.S.V. (The Genealogical Society of Victoria). As such we have a research officer entitled to visit the Melbourne office to do research for our members and themselves.



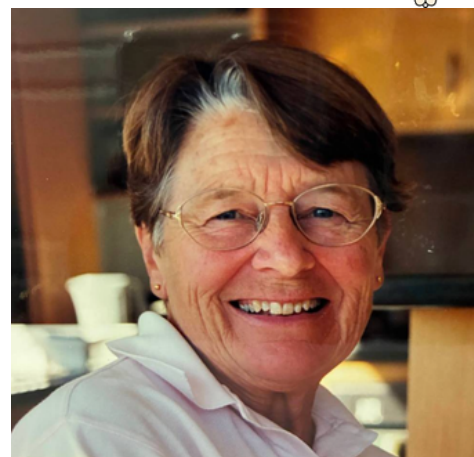
The Research & Education Centre is located in Melbourne just a 10 mins walk from Flinders street station. If you're interested in finding out more please ring myself on 0403 653 016. Please consider taking on a more active role in the committee this year? I for one, at 75 am aging out.

Kaye O'Reilly: President, Clan MacMillan Society of Australia/Victoria



Vale: June Danks 15/06/1931 – 05/03/2026

It is with great sadness I have to report of the death of our much loved former President June Danks. June was one of the inaugural members of the Clan MacMillan Society of Australia and attended the BBQ at Scots collage in 1982 where a group of MacMillan's and others met the now Chief, George MacMillan and his wife Jane. In 1983 the first AGM was held (I have previously written 1985) and our Victorian clan was formed. June went on to become President of our Society and held that position for 17 years. She continued as Trustee of the Clan MacMillan International Centre for many years after that. Our sympathies to her children, Andrew, Philip, Jenny, Peter and Alister, their families and friends. May she rest in Peace.



Dr June Danks. 1931-2026



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# Victoria News

## Recent Events



Our joint activities following the AGM were our attendance at the The Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival in Croydon on the 29<sup>th</sup> March. The event was well attended and we welcomed members and visitors to our information tent. Joshua McMullen, Rachael Helyer and Ms. Cutler signed up as new members and we had Ted McMillan and Gary McMillan visit in their very smart Kilts. We also had a visit from the Chieftain of the Day the Rt Hon Lord Strathspey, Sir Michael Grant of Grant Bt. 34 Chief of Clan Grant and his entourage. Many visitors took our information brochure and we hope to see you all again next year. The date for 2027 is 21<sup>st</sup> March, lock it in now.



A visitor to the Clan MacMillan tent was Lord Strathspey, Sir Michael Grant, Chief of Clan Grant



As in previous years, Jan Brooks and I were at the Kirkin' of the tartan at Scots Church in June. We missed being in the Tartan' Parade by a few minutes due to Train timetables. We did enjoy lunch after though and would welcome members who attend next year to join us. We meet outside the church before the service and can be recognised by our Clan Scarves.

Kaye O'Reilly



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# Victoria News

## Upcoming Events



The Geelong Highland Games & Celtic Festival is scheduled for Saturday, 24 October 2026.

Be at the Golden Plains Soccer Club in Bannockburn. General admission tickets are \$15.00 for adults (16+), \$10.00 for concessions/parents of performers, and free for children under 16.

Most of the committee are unavailable to attend on this date so we won't have our information tent this year. That doesn't mean you can't turn up in our colours and enjoy a great day out. Jan Brooks hopes to be there so if you want to catch up contact me for her phone number.



**2026 AGM: Save the date!**

20<sup>th</sup> September, the venue to be decided. We are looking for a more central venue in the City so hopefully more members can attend. The venue will be published on our Facebook page but also emailed out for those who don't "Do" Facebook.



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# Join The Clan!

We invite you to become part of Clan MacMillan in Australia. Whether you are in Victoria or New South Wales or further afield, please consider joining us to strengthen links and add to the history, genealogy and comraderie of this old and esteemed Clan.

Go to [www.clanmacmillan.au](http://www.clanmacmillan.au)

and click on your state for details of joining



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# MacMillans Around The Globe

## Clan MacMillan HQ

The official page of Clan MacMillan International

**[www.clanmacmillan.org](http://www.clanmacmillan.org)**

The website of Clan MacMillan International will give you all the links and information you need to visit the world-wide Clan Societies. From the USA, Canada, to New Zealand and France, all MacMillans are found here.



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