



Clan Macpherson Association

(Australian Branch)

Website www.clan-macpherson.org

April 2017 Newsletter



Bundanoon is Brigadoon Notwithstanding the very wet weather in New South Wales in late March, a Clan Macpherson tent was mounted at Bundanoon on Saturday 1st April. By a happy coincidence this year, Cluny celebrated his birthday on the same day with his family at Newton Castle, Blairgowrie. But not before telling me of his memories of the same day in 2000 when he, accompanied by the late Lady Cluny was Chieftain of the Day, supported by a large retinue of clansmen and women. He said; *Sheila and I loved our day there---warmest of memories.* Notwithstanding the prior wet weather, closure of the adjoining car parks, and an early start, a large crowd assembled with several clan groups joining the March of the Clans and Bands. Of the latter 25 attended this year, and included two bands wearing the red Macpherson tartan; Launceston (Tasmania) City Pipes and Drums and the Knox Grammar School Old Boys Pipe Band.



L to R, Jimmy Barnes, Chieftain of the Day,
John L Macpherson and Euan Noble at Bundanoon.

Visitors to the Clan Macpherson tent included several potential members from across New South Wales and Victoria. We were also pleased to have Euan Noble, the son of former CMA Chairman Shelagh Macpherson-Noble, join us for day. Euan is now working in Australia and has joined us from the Scottish and Northern Ireland Branch.

The Clan Macpherson Gathering 2017 You will find details of this year's Gathering in Creag Dhubh, or on the CMA website www.clan-macpherson.org/gathering. Registrations can be made on the website or by copying and posting the form to Scotland. Note that there is a limit of 150 places this year. A waiting list will be created.

The CMA Chairman reported recently that the first task for the 2017 Gathering Committee was to apply to Event Scotland for another grant, albeit smaller to that received in 2016. With the cost of renting a smaller marquee and the Duke of Gordon increase in food prices, work was cut out for the organizing group. On advice, the group succeeded in lowering the dinner cost without substituting inferior choices. One criterion added by Event Scotland was to include the public in a few of our events. This always causes trepidation as many members want the Gathering to be just for Macphersons and cousins while Event Scotland wants to open it to others because we are using public money. Two new ideas were presented which met the conditions of the grant of £4300.

A junior tug-of-war at the Newtonmore Highland Games, between Macphersons and locals is being planned as will a Pipe Off in the Marquee on Sunday afternoon after the picnic at the Cairn. Both local pipers and Macpherson pipers are invited.

The traditional Monday afternoon talk will be given by Maureen Hammond, a mature PhD student who is supervised by Dr. Jim MacPherson. The subject is "Badenoch textiles and tartans of the 18th century." Maureen has Macpherson connections.

The Royal Military Edinburgh Tattoo and the Clan Macpherson Night By now the special arrangements for clansmen and clanswomen to book tickets in the Clan Macpherson group have closed. However, should you plan on attending the Tattoo the facility remains for you to book tickets on-line and join the 115 members of the CMA who will support Cluny on 8th August. General admission tickets can still be ordered through the Tattoo website.

Two clans will be featured each night and the Macphersons will be accompanied by Clan Ewing. The CMA is third in overall booking numbers of the 57 clans participating in the Tattoo evenings. (Clan Carmichael has 136 bookings, and Clan Bruce 126). Cluny will choose 50 Macphersons to form up behind him on the Esplanade. Cluny will share a wee dram with the pipe major, after which members will find their seats. Please note that NO weapons will be allowed into the Tattoo, including sgian dhubhs. The only flag carried will be Cluny's personal standard. As to gathering for the march on the Esplanade, participants may be mustered in the Castle before moving onto the Esplanade. More information will be distributed nearer the time.

The Clan Chattan AGM and Dinner On the Thursday evening preceding the Clan Macpherson Gathering, the Clan Chattan Association (CCA) holds its AGM and Annual dinner at the Lochardil Hotel in Inverness. This year the two events will be held on Thursday 3rd August. At 4.00pm light refreshments are served, at 5.00pm the AGM of the CCA is held, and at 7.00pm the Annual Dinner is served. All members of the Clan Macpherson Association are welcome to attend. Bookings and payment, £30 per head can be made on the CCA website shop. Go to www.clan-chattan.org.uk Applications before 20th June would be appreciated.

2017 Creag Dhubh In an Interim Newsletter (February 2017) all Australian members were advised that they should have received their copy by direct mail from Scotland. Regrettably, several members did not receive their copy. If this remains the case, or your copy has arrived and been damaged in transit, and you have not notified me, please do so by phone (02 4801 0618) or e-mail greymac@acenet.com.au. There have been instances of incorrect machine addressing, two address labels inserted in one copy, and some damage to the plastic envelopes.

Clan Macpherson Museum The recent Museum Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting was convened with a short period of reflection on the lives of Rod Clarke (see Vale p13), and Nancy, wife of R Gordon Macpherson (Canada). Both Rod and Gordon were Vice Presidents of the CMA and members of the MAC through the years. Rod and Nancy had done so much over many years for both the Museum and the Clan Macpherson Association.

A fundraising event is being organised in the home of Gordon Macpherson, Coates Crescent, Edinburgh. Entertainment will be provided by Bill Wyllie Macpherson, MBE. Bill is professionally known as Bill Martin and is a songwriter of some repute whose hits include "Puppet on a String" and "Congratulations." The event will be publicized soon.

Appreciation - David J McPherson (now of Kingston ACT) At the AGM of the NSW Branch held in December 2016, Treasurer David McPherson (then of Queanbeyan NSW) tendered his resignation after fifteen years' sterling service. The meeting resolved to express its appreciation to David and thank him for his contribution to the financial and governance affairs of the Branch which has the corporate responsibility for Australian Branch matters, and financial reporting to Scotland.

In David's place, Adam de Toth, (Chapman ACT) was elected Treasurer, while Ailsa McPherson (Queanbeyan NSW) was elected as Secretary.

DNA and Genealogy

From Which Mac Mhuirich Do You Think You Are? (by Athol McDonald)

It is now a decade since Emeritus Professor Alan G. Macpherson approached the Clan Macpherson Association Council with a proposal to establish a Y chromosome DNA project to test the validity of Sir Aeneas Macpherson's *Genealogies of the McPhersons of Badenoch*. This work, among others, is considered in Alan's own contribution to *The Posterity of the Three Brethren, A Short History of Clan Macpherson*.

Most Clan members will of course be familiar with the fact that the name Macpherson comes from the Gaelic Mac a' Phearsain and means literally Son of the Parson. The Macphersons of Badenoch were also known among other Highlanders by the synonym Mac Mhuirich.¹ Male Clan members with known pedigrees stretching back centuries were selectively recruited to participate in the project.² The Y chromosome code is passed from father to son, so successive generations of males in any family are likely to match exactly. However occasionally mutations occur, which will be passed on to later generations, so distant cousins will be a close Y chromosome match, but not exact. Alan's project certainly validated the use of the Y DNA test to confirm known family relationships (such as those between Cluny and the cadets of Glentruim and Banchor) and to unearth previously unknown connections. He also speculated that the project may also validate the independent origins of two other Macpherson lines, the *Clann a Phearsain* of Glassarie of Argyll, an early branch of the Campbells of Lochow, and *Clann a Phearsain Ruaidh* of Skye and North Uist. The latter was later confirmed and reported in his third and final report on the DNA project in Creag Dhubh.³

Since the publication of his final report it seems possible that the project may have indeed unearthed a descendant of *Clann a Phearsain of Glassarie*. In 2012 Ed McPherson of Pompano Beach, Florida, submitted a sample to Family Tree DNA for analysis. His results produced not a single viable MacPherson match, but literally dozens within the Campbell surname project, including the chiefly reference line. It is quite clear that genetically he is a Campbell, with his roots in Argyll. At this stage, it is pure speculation to suggest that he may be a descendant of *Clann a Phearsain* of Glassarie, but a tantalising possibility none the less. Alan concluded that there was evidence to suggest the name MacMhuirich /

¹ The Posterity of the Three Brethren, A Short History of Clan Macpherson, By Alan G. Macpherson, The Clan Macpherson Association, Canadian Branch, 1993.

² MacPherson Clan Genealogy and the y-Chromosome : A DNA Enquiry, By Alan G Macpherson. Creag Dhubh No 61, 2009

³ Clan Genealogy and the Y-chromosome, A Third and Final Report, Alan G. Macpherson, Creag Dhubh, No 65, 2013

Macpherson was adopted at times by other Highland Clans and indeed drew the conclusion the surname had many different origins across the Scottish Highlands. This proposition has certainly been further supported as more Macphersons join the DNA project.

During Allene Goforth's time as administrator of the Macpherson DNA project she unearthed another interesting Macpherson line with no connection to the Badenoch families. Descendants of this Macpherson family still live on the island of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides. It is reputed that their ancestors were hereditary bards to MacDonald of Clanranald, and prior to that the Lords of the Isles. Three family members of this Macpherson family are now participants in the DNA project; the only close matches that they have within the FTDNA database are to men with the surname Morrison.

Angus MacMillan provides the following comment. - *Perhaps the most famous of these were the MacMhuirich bards. Their claim was that, originating with Muredach Albanach, they had supplied the bards and oral historians, first to the Lords of the Isles and then, with a slight overlap in the late 15th Century, to Clanranald, for about fifteen generations. The bard in each generation up to and including the last to be fully trained, Niall MacMhuirich, who died in 1726, was educated in Ireland.*

*There was a group of Morrisons who acted as briefs or lawmen in the North West of Scotland. It is suggested that some MacPhersons were or are rightly descendants of the MacMhuirich bards. MacPherson in this case bears no relationship to the principal mainland clan of the name. It is simply that both that clan and the bardic MacMhuirichs derive from an individual named Muredach, later Muireadhach or Muireach.*⁴

In summary, these men are genetically Morrisons, with their Macpherson surname derived from the patronym *MacMhuirich*.

Much has happened in the field of DNA testing for genealogical and anthropologic purposes since Alan first mooted this project a decade ago. The Y37 test has been superseded by the Y67 as the suggested minimum number of alleles to be tested for a meaningful result, at times it may be worthwhile going to Y111. The testing of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs, pronounced Snips) and more recently Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) testing such as the Big Y test has led to rapid advancements in understanding the Y chromosome tree. NGS testing is expensive and beyond the reach of many. However, the emergence of SNP panels, which test

⁴ MacMhuirich as MacPherson in Benbecula, by Angus McMillan, BA (Hons), Adv.Dip. Loc. Hist.

many SNPs, provides some of the benefits at a more reasonable cost and has made this type of testing affordable for many project members. These advancements will in time allow us to better understand how we are related to each other and enable a much better understanding of the Clan history. Almost one third of the members of the Macpherson DNA project, including the Chiefly line, are positive to the SNP known as L1335. It is likely that the first man to carry this mutation lived over 4,000 years ago and it is now carried by a fair percentage of men of Scots descent. Some academics have suggested that it is a Pictish marker, while others have derided this speculation, claiming that it is more likely to be Dalriadic. What is clear is that while L1335 may appear elsewhere in the UK, it is distinctively Scottish. Even more Scottish is the SNP L1065 which branched off from L1335 about 3,700 years ago. DNA testing has identified that many of the Scottish Chiefs are descended from the first L1065 man, including the Macphersons, MacGregors, Buchanans, MacRaes and MacKinnons. Clan Gregor and Clan MacKinnon are members of the Siol Alpin confederation of seven Clans who claim descent from the Kenneth MacAlpin the first King of Scots. Sir Aeneas Macpherson's version of the origins of Clan Macpherson suggests that in the ninth century Clan Chattan was led by the Chief *Gillicatton-moir*, in 843 one of his sons was forcibly resettled in the Western Highlands (in the district of Lochaber) by Kenneth MacAlpin. It is from this line that *Muriach* the twelfth century Parson of Kingussie (and thereby Clan Macpherson) is said to have descended.

Alan has suggested that Sir Aeneas's *Gillicatton-moir* may indeed be "an echo of the genealogical tradition" around 1400 and espoused in the manuscript known as MS 1467. This document records the Genealogy of Clan Gillacatan and claims descent through five generations from Fearchar fada, the King of Dalriada who died in 697.⁵

The DNA evidence certainly suggests that the Clans of the Siol Alpin confederation and the core Macpherson families share a common ancestor, probably well before the time of Kenneth MacAlpin. If the confederation's claim of descent from the Kings of Dalriada is valid then the same may be said of the Macphersons, thus providing a measure of support for the validity of the genealogies contained in MS 1467 and the similar assertions contained in Sir Aeneas's more recent work.

The Macpherson DNA project has identified two SNPs that are at this stage are unique to the Clan. The first is FGC32902, it branched off the L1065 tree about

⁵ The Posterity of the Three Brethren, by Alan G Macpherson, page 12.

1,350 years ago, so somewhere around 700 AD. Four members have tested positive for this SNP, including Cluny, Lachlan of Glentruim and A. F. (Sandy) Macpherson whose family had a long association with Drumgask farm in Laggan. The second SNP is A861 which branched off from FGC32902 about 850 years ago, meaning that the first A861 man lived in the thirteenth century. Cluny and Lachlan of Glentruim have both tested positive to A861 (but not Sandy who is negative) so it seems likely that this SNP defines the core Badenoch family. What can one expect from the findings of a Y DNA test? The short answer is that there are no guarantees. Perhaps the best way to offer an opinion is to summarize the experience of those involved with the Macpherson project. For many their results have confirmed long held or recently discovered family genealogies, perhaps finding a few new cousins. For others, it has been an absolute revelation, opening doors and establishing relationships within the Clan that would not have been dreamt of previously. Some have found that they have no matches at all with other Macphersons, but many within other Clan projects. This suggests a name change at some stage, or perhaps it was as a result of the use of the patronymic Mac a' Phearson, as discussed above. The reverse is true for a number of men who have surnames other than Macpherson and are now members of our project.

The Macpherson DNA Project now numbers 150 males who have taken a Y DNA test. The more who take part, the more we will learn of our ancestors. Anyone wishing to learn a little more is welcome to contact the volunteer administrator Athol McDonald, at macdon@iinet.net.au

Family History and Heraldry

Graham Ross McPherson & Family (Queensland)

Graham started work, aged 15 years in a Chartered Accountants office. He worked for five firms and advanced to the position of Senior Manager. After qualifying, he purchased the practice from his previous employers in 1970, developed the practice and added ten (10) additional partners. He changed the name of the firm from Edwin Holloway & Sons to Duesburys, Johnston & Marks and then to Duesburys, who later joined with other state practices and became part of the International firm of Spicer and Oppenheim, with the head office in London. He resigned as Chairman of the Queensland practice, retired from the firm in 1990, then started a small practice with one employee and a group of clients including the Queensland State Government Audit Office. As part of the Spicer & Oppenheim Group the chances to travel to many countries offered. When the S & O Group considered appointing a new practice in another country, for example Argentina, the trip would be organized for a representative from Australia to attend

the new practice and see that their standards were satisfactory with some reasonably large clients, good computer skills and a business-like operation.

In 1976 Graham purchased a farm in Donnybrook and proceeded to clear and fence the property and build three sheds. He bought and sold cattle and registered the property as a Poll Hereford Stud. As the farm had a one kilometre boundary to Bullet Creek three one hectare prawn ponds were built in which *Penaeus Monodon* Prawns were grown and sold locally, and to the Sydney Fish Market.

During his years in practice he was involved in a partnership building houses in the Strathpine area. With Mack Read we acquired the franchise for the McCullough Chainsaw business in Queensland for six years. Graham was also interested in rope and with a partner started a rope supply business buying product from Korea, Japan, China and Singapore. Some of the rope made was used to tow oil rigs in the South China Sea.

At age twelve years with the help of my parents I started to play tennis. After six years or so playing competition with the Queensland Lawn Tennis Association I changed over to play squash with a club at Kangaroo Point with my good friend Ron Buckland.

In 1958 Graham joined the Burleigh Heads Mowbray Park Surf Club and was immediately appointed Club Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee, later to become Club Chief Instructor. At the same time in winter he played field hockey with Commercial Club and it was always difficult to change from the Surf Club in the summer to hockey in the winter. Each club drank a different type of beer.

In 1973 he bought the yacht 'Gold Rush' and learned how to sail, somewhat! With a good crew the boat was club champion for three years and so decided to buy a faster sail boat. Along came 'Incredible'. Again, with a good crew we won the Brisbane/Gladstone yacht race in 1979 and came second to 'Diamond Cutter' in the Trans-Tasman Series in the next year. 'Incredible' was a good quick yacht and won many races and line honours.

As my eyes were not as good as they used to be at sighting marks at night during the races I thought it was about time to change sport. As a marksman in National Service in 1955 and selected to shoot for the National Serviceman against the Australian Regular Army I knew I would enjoy competitive shooting. I built a 6mm PPC rifle with a 45 power Scope and shot in competition in the Bench rest Section. I travelled on some good trips including Adelaide and Sydney and other rifle ranges to try to shoot five shots through the one hole in the target. At the time it had never been done anywhere in the world and I was also unable to do it.

When my son Gregory started at University he came home one day and said he needed something else to do other than University. He knew I once owned an MGA motor car and he saw there was one for sale in Kelvin Grove. The price was right and we drove it home; and stripped it down. Rebuilding the car was a different matter. After delivery to an MGA specialist the car was rebuilt. That car has since been sold. To have an MGA is fine, but if you buy a second MGA you can cannibalize the parts from one car to repair the other. After the MGA's were running in good order I realized I enjoyed working on the old cars and restoring them.

During National Service in 1955 I was selected as the driver of the one Jeep in the platoon. Very lucky. The Jeep was great and the Lieutenant Snowy Boyd would have me drive him home to Toowong from Wacol. After that I had a leave pass until midnight and go and visit a friend's place at Coorparoo.

Greg and I bought a World War II Jeep in Sydney and drove it back to Brisbane and the farm where it would be parked and we could start the restoration. On the way back we found another Jeep for sale so we bought that one also.

During some time in China, a very interesting place to visit, several trips eventuated between Kuming in the south and Shenyang in the north. When in Hong Kong during some of these trips I worked for 500 hours as a volunteer with a Charity called Crossroads. My job was to dismantle all types of computers. This required testing component parts on a bank of eight computers. Useable parts were indexed and stored making them available for the truly brilliant experts who would select the parts, rebuild computers and in time send them to third world countries for no charge.

My interest in repairing and rebuilding cars was allied to driving. In 1983 I read of a Round Australia Rally organized by the Mobil Oil Company; 20,000 kms to be completed in 21 days. I bought an old Rally car and redesigned the motor and updated its performance. With two friends we drove in the Rally in 1985 and in 1987. We travelled an average of 1,000 km each day. The car travelled a total distance of 40,000 kms over the two events. The length of the Equator so I have been told, is 40,000 kms around the world.

As an armiger, Graham traced the history of his ancestors. His great grandfather James, came to Australia on the SS Great Britain leaving Liverpool for Melbourne on 15th October 1863. It is assumed he came out to try his hand at gold mining in the Victorian gold fields. His wife Ann Cruden and three (3) children joined him later in Sydney. James and his family worked in the Gourock Rope Works and others in the ship yards on the River Clyde. Each of the male McPhersons since 1791 were all tradesmen as rope spinners, and on searching the trade directory in the James Watt Library in Port Glasgow, James was listed in most years. The

Librarian suggested that as a rope spinner the years he missed were probably because he would have worked on sailing ships between Glasgow and Hong Kong or Australia.

When James came to Australia he started a business in Redfern in Sydney manufacturing rope on machines imported from Scotland.

James had a son George Ross, my grandfather, who worked in the business but after learning the trade he came to Queensland, and started his own business manufacturing fishing lines in 1887. His brand was “Mac’s Platypus”. This brand is still on the market in Australia today.

Graham’s motivation for seeking a Grant of Arms was kindled by his aunt who was the family McPherson historian. She put the thought in his mind to investigate his ancestors and their background. After doing extensive research over several years in Scotland, particularly in the Gourock area, he realized he may be able to make application for a Grant of Arms with the documentation on the family background. This was done and in due course Ensigns Armorial were obtained.

In 1982 R. Gordon McPherson of Canada assisted Graham with the design of his Coat of Arms. Two (2) items were imperative; a five star (five mullets in the form of the Southern Cross) and a figure of eight knot between a hand holding a dagger erect and sinister a cross crosslet.

Arms of Graham Ross MacPherson - Queensland Australia



The five silver stars on a blue field represent the Southern Cross and the figure eight knot commemorates ancestors who were rope manufacturers. Lyon Register Volume 65 Page 34

More Family History

An Obituary for a distinguished Macpherson who claimed fame when he ran up his red uniform jacket on a flag pole in the absence the Union Jack (See Creag Dhubh 2015 *Badajoz Day – 6th April* pp 44-46)

In the Galle Face Burial Ground (formerly Ceylon, now Sri Lanka) the headstone for James Macpherson reads: ‘Sacred to the memory of James Macpherson, Esqr., late Lieut.-Col. of the Ceylon Rifles, and of Ralia, N.B., who died on the 16th Oct., 1844.’

His obituary published in a ‘*List of Inscriptions on Tombstones and Monuments in Ceylon, of historical or local interest, with an obituary of persons uncommemorated*’ (1913) by John Penry Lewis (18545-1923) reads;

"Lieutenant Colonel MacPherson of the Ceylon Rifles was an old officer of long service and strange experiences.

He was the first who came under the fire of the French at the battle of Busaco. Napier tells how he and another officer had descended a hill where the British were posted over-night on purpose to watch the advance of the enemy. They lay down and slept amongst the fern and furze bushes, and were roused before daybreak by the near tramp of the French *tirailleurs*.

MacPherson and his companion thought discretion the better part of valour and took to their heels up the steep hillside, the French following in crowds, and blazing away at them whenever the detached masses of misty clouds, which hung over the mountains, moved aside and exposed the panting young fellows to the view of their pursuers.

Singular to relate, neither was touched by the French fire, and MacPherson served through the remainder of the Peninsular war. He afterwards served through the first Burmese war, in one of the actions of which he was wounded on the head. He was subsequently promoted to the command of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment.” [William Boyd 1889] *Ceylon Literary Register*. vol. III. pp.273-274.

He was brought into the Ceylon Rifles as Lieutenant Colonel, and appointed Commandant of Kandy, March 27, 1835, and of Trincomalee, April 14, 1840, but he had not been a year at the latter place before his behaviour was such that it involved a trial by court-martial, which took place at Colombo in 1841, the trial being continued by adjournments from July 5 to August 9.

The account of the proceedings reads like a page from "Charles O'Malley" or "Harry Lorrequet". Among the charges were, that while Commandant he had, in a state of intoxication and improperly dressed, on the night of March 28, 1841, ordered the sentry of the 90th Light Infantry at the main guard to run him through

with his bayonet, and that he had placed a native armed with a broomstick as sentry instead, and that he had threatened the lives of Major Horace Suckling, 90th (see No. 144), the next senior officer of the Garrison, and Lieutenant Alfred Thomas Heyland, 95th, Staff Officer of Trincomalee, on several occasions, by, in the first place, declaring to Lieutenant Nicholas Fenwick of the Ceylon Rifles, that if Major Suckling and Lieutenant Heyland hurt him by court-martial, he would rip their guts out, and they should die the death of a dog.

He was also charged with declaring to Assistant Surgeon Luke Helly, M.D., that he would take the lives of these officers, and with declaring in the presence of a lance-corporal and a private of the 90th that he would send a party of Malay soldiers of the Ceylon Rifles, take these two officers, murder them, and wash his feet in their blood.

He was further charged with having, while in a disreputable state of intoxication, sent for a sergeant of the 90th to his quarters and made him take off his jacket and stock, handed him a chair, and insisted on his drinking wine.

He was found guilty of some of the milder of the charges and sentenced to be cashiered, but at the same time it was brought to the notice of the Horse Guards that the medical opinion was that "he was liable to fits of excitement by the wounds he had received and by the results of a malignant jungle fever contracted during a dangerous inland journey on public duty to Trincomalee, under which he is still labouring."

The authorities accepted this view, and he was pardoned, in order that he might retire and receive the value of his commission (February 26, 1842). This he did. He appears to have been subsequently engaged in coffee planting, and to have purchased Helboda Estate, Pussellawa. The late Mr. A.M. Ferguson CMG refers to "Colonel' MacPherson of Helbodde, known in the Peninsular wars as 'Fighting MacPherson'. Lieutenant-Colonel MacPherson and Lieutenant Fenwick came out in the ship Tigris which arrived at Colombo on January 21, 1836.

The Skye Macphersons *Calling Macphersons whose ancestry may originate from the Isle of Skye.* Please look at the following website where you will find considerable information regarding your possible family roots. skymacphersons.co.uk Should you wish to enquire further you can make contact by filling in the feedback form at the bottom of the opening page of the website.

Outings in Melbourne and Bundanoon You can find some photos of recent Clan Macpherson involvement in Scottish activities in Melbourne and Bundanoon on the Official Clan Macpherson Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/The-Official-Clan-Macpherson-Association-101140893306676/>

Personal Notes

New Members

We welcome new members;

Mr Peter J Shine, Ballarat Vic, (Annual)

Mr Euan Noble (transfer from Scotland & Northern Ireland Branch), (Life) and Master Luke McPherson, Monash ACT, (Life); a gift from his grandfather.

Vale

We extend our condolences to the families of;

Mrs Maureen Macpherson, of Lithgow NSW,

Mrs Marie Epstein, of Brighton Vic, and

Mr TCJ (Jock) Macpherson, Mandurah WA.

Colonel Rod Clarke, US Air Force (Retired). In February, Barbara Clarke, the daughter of long standing CMA stalwart Rod Clarke informed the Association that he had passed away. She said in an e-mail to Ewen MacPherson, Chairman of the Museum Advisory Committee, that *'the last five years have been very rewarding in that I got to know my dad a lot better. My mother's death was very hard on him and his decline was precipitous. He was an amazing guy and I'll miss him.'*

Barbara went on to say to Ewen, *'He held you both in high esteem and considered you amongst his closest friends. ... He will be buried with full military honours at Arlington cemetery this spring or early summer.'*

Those of us who knew Rod, endorse Ewen's response; viz *'Rod was a very dear and close friend who did so much for the Clan Association and our Clan Museum. He was the driving force behind the Guardians Fund (Na Dionadairean) formed to pay off the mortgage and give us capital for the fabric in the future; the 2K2 Project (boiler room, archives centre, etc.), the Electronic Museum and the updating of all the exhibitions to name just four. Rod was a Vice-President of the CMA, Past Chairman of the US Branch, editor of The Urlar (US Branch Newsletter) and author of many articles in Creag Dhubh - several of them about the clan hikes.'*

Mail Returned to Sender

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mr EM Macpherson, of Hawthorn SA is asked to notify the Secretary. (See Committee List)

AT BUNDANOON 1ST APRIL 2017



L to R, David J McPherson (Templestowe Vic), Ailsa McPherson (Queanbeyan NSW), Pam and Bill Rhemrev (Duffy ACT), Gwen and John L Macpherson (Bowral NSW)

Euan Noble (centre), with members of the Launceston City Pipe Band



William Lincoln, John L and Julie Sleigh (Bargo NSW). (Julie is researching her possible descent from Alexander Macpherson, a passenger on the St George)

The Pipe-Off A Call To Pipes

a short poem
by Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks

Come all ye pipers,
Harken to the call!
Ready the pipes,
The Great and the Small.

Prep a set or a medley,
A five-minute brawl.
Stand before us, fire it up,
Give it your all.

Prep another, be ready,
The Pipe-Off begun.
Pipe on through the night,
Til the battle be won.

Pipe all the next day,
It's all in great fun.
Let them know who's the best,
It's Macpherson, bar none!

Join us for the Pipe-Off
Clan Macpherson Association invites you
All pipers are welcome, local and World-Wide
Sunday, 4pm 6th August, 2017
Duke of Gordon
contact donnarucks@att.net for details

Activities across the Country

27th May Berry Celtic Festival, Berry, NSW. Pipe bands, Celtic Clans, Scottish Terrier dogs, vintage cars and more at Berry Showground. Info: www.berryrotary.org.au/celtic-festival

27th May Scottish Ceilidh, Warnbro, WA. A Cancer Council Relay for Life fundraiser. Live band, The Jarrah Celts, dancing, raffles, food for sale, best dressed, games, prizes, tickets to Bay City Rollers in Perth. All money raised goes to Cancer Council through Relay for Life South Metro. Book online at www.trybooking.com/OUXN or check the Facebook page www.facebook.com/teambloomingbright

27th May Queensland Highland Pipers Society Patrons Trophy, Wynnum, QLD. At Wynnum RSL, Tingal Rd. Info: 07 3397 4512 or www.qhps.org

27th May Inglewood, WA. Scottish dancing and social event at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 891 Beafort St. Info: John 0427 990 754.

28th May – 4th June, Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival, Wingham, NSW. Scottish singing, dancing, Highland games, genealogy fair and a traditional Scottish Ball. The Clan of Honour this year is Clan Cameron. Info: www.manninghistorical.org

2nd June Come Back to the BBC Pipe Band, Brisbane, QLD. An event for anyone who has ever played with the BBC Pipe Band, reconnect with former members and hear about the band's trip to play at the 2018 Edinburgh Tattoo, includes band performances. Info: bbcpipebandevents@gmail.com

3rd June Toowoomba Caledonian Society Ceilidh, Toowoomba, QLD. A night of Scottish entertainment at Drayton Hall. Info: margbond@bigpond.net.au

5th June Adelaide Pipers Evening, Adelaide, SA. Info: Jack Brennan brennanjack@optusnet.com.au

9th -12th June National Celtic Festival, Portarlinton, VIC. A long weekend of Celtic music, relax and experience the depth of Celtic culture through the festival's cultural diverse arts program. Info: www.nationalcelticfestival.com

10th-12th June Highland Cattle Show Mount Pleasant, SA. Highland cattle and Highland dancers, Clan tents and more. Free entry at Mount Pleasant Oval. Info: www.australianhighlandcattle.org

10th June Ipswich Highland Gathering of the Clans, Ipswich QLD. Scottish stalls, pipe band, solo and drumming competitions at Bill Paterson Oval, Limestone Park. Info: 0411 892 810 or www.ipswichthistle.com

17th June Townsville Clansmen's Ceilidh, Townsville, QLD. Celebrate Scotland on the eve of the Townsville Tartan Day events. Info: Marie Gibson 0413 456 542 or mlg7@optusnet.com.au

17th – 18th June, Boonah, QLD. A celebration of Scottish arts and culture with a particular focus on celebrating the Scottish heritage of the Fassifern at Boonah Showgrounds. Info: clydiespectacular@hotmail.com or 0407 960 029

17th June Rugby Scotland v Australia. Sydney, NSW. International rugby as the Aussies and Scots play at Allianz Stadium at 3pm. Info: www.rugby.com.au

18th June Townsville Tartan Day, Townsville, QLD. In the Cotters Market, Flinders Street with street parade of Clan Banners and bagpipes. Info: Marie Gibson mlg7@optusnet.com.au or 0413 456 542.

22nd June – 1st July Scottish Week in Sydney and surrounds. Includes:

22nd June Guided tour of Victoria Barracks, & Macquarie Medal Dinner, Parliament House Sydney

23rd June Informal reception for Scottish Week Guests, Castlereagh Hotel, Sydney

25th June Kirkin' o the Tartan, Hunter Baillie Church Annandale

26th June Inspection of the Scotland Australia Cairn, Mosman

27th June Parliamentary Luncheon @ Parliament House

Info: Susan Cooke 0411 097 724 or info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

24th June Scottish Dancing Association of Australia's Ceilidh Debutante Ball, Newtown NSW. Ceilidh dancing, Scottish Highland dancing performances by SDAA Dancers, live pipe band music and prizes at The Great Dining Hall, St Andrews College, University of Sydney, 19 Carillon Ave.

Info: Alison Hughes 0404 145 622 or sdaball2017@gmail.com

25th June Scotland in the Park, Greenbank, QLD. A full day of Scottish events including pipe bands, entertainment, Scottish stalls and more at Middle Green Sports Complex, 720 Middle Rd.

Info: Neil Macdonald 0412 090 990 or www.scottishclans.org.au

29th June – 21st July, The Bay City Rollers Australian Tour. Nationwide. Rollermania with the greatest hits tour featuring Les McKeown with a new energy for all the classic hits.

Info: www.metropolistouring.com/baycityrollers

30th June & 2nd July, Scotland the Brave, Melbourne, VIC. The international smash hit features over 100 choral singers, dancers, pipe-band and drum corps, soloists, Highland dancers and electric Celtic fiddlers at Arts Centre Melbourne, 8:00pm. Info: www.scotlandthebrave.com.au or bookings: www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2017/world-jazz-folk/scotland-the-brave

1st July Aberdeen Highland Games, Aberdeen, NSW. Fun for all the family with Clans, Highland and country dancing, pipe bands, Tartan Warriors, Kilted Dash and more. Jefferson Park.

Info: 02 6540 1300 or www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com

1st July International Tartan Day Ball, Fremantle, WA. Presented by The Scottish Masonic Charitable Foundation of WA Inc. Enjoy some Scottish traditions, with Heel 'n' Toe band, Perth Metro Pipe band, and an Address to the Haggis, raffles and prizes to be won at the Esplanade Hotel.

Info: Peta McLean 0433 707 716 or www.smcfwa.com.au

2nd July 60th Diamond Grand Australasian Championships and Annual Festival of Highland Dancing, Knox College Warrawee, NSW. Presented by the National Dancing Association of Australia.

Info: lyn_keating@hotmail.com or 0410 646 253.

3rd July Adelaide Pipers' Gathering, Adelaide, SA. Piping event in Adelaide.

Info: Jack Brennan brennanjack@optusnet.com.au

9th -16th July 42nd Australian Scottish Country Dancing Winter, QLD. Scottish country dance classes, dances and events in the Adelaide Hills. Info: ws2017@rscdsadelaide.org.au

15th July Townsville Celtic Festival. QLD Celebrating the cultural diversity of the seven Celtic nations of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany and Galicia at Jezzine Barracks.

Info: www.townsvilcelticfestival.org.au

15th July, 21st Annual Tartan Day, Brisbane, QLD. At King George Square with Scottish entertainment, stalls, pipe bands. A free event presented by the Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

Info: Ian Campbell 07 3359 8195 or www.aussie-scots.org.au

28th – 31st July, International Highland Dancing Festival of Australia, Gosford NSW. A spectacular 4 day event on the NSW Central Coast. Champion Challenges, Pre-Champs, 10 age Championships. Info: 0437 677 166 or

www.cchdi.org.au.

11th August Spirit of Scotland, Hobart, TAS. Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt, a celebration of Scottish music with fiddle and piano at St George's Anglican Church, 30 Cromwell St, Battery Point.

Info: 03 6231 6585 or ord.sally@gmail.com

12th August Winter Ball, Hobart, TAS. A night of Scottish country dancing and musicians at Hobart Town Hall, Macquarie St. Info: 03 6231 6585 or ord.sally@gmail.com

13th August Richmond Picnic, TAS. A day of food, fun and dance at Richmond Village Green. Scottish fiddle and piano. Info: 03 6231 6585 or ord.sally@gmail.com

17th – 20th August, Scots in the Bush, Boondooma, QLD. Celebrating the contribution of the Scottish people in opening up much of Australia at Boondooma Homestead.

Info: 07 4168 0159 or www.boondoomahomestead.org.au

26th August Scotland the Brave, Sydney, NSW. The international smash hit features over 100 choral singers, dancers, pipe-band and drum corps, soloists, Highland dancers and electric Celtic fiddlers at Sydney Opera House, 1:30pm.

Info: www.scotlandthebrave.com.au or

bookings: www.sydneypoperahouse.com/whatson/scotland_the_brave_2017.aspx

10th September Highland Gathering and Kilt Run, Armadale, WA. WA's largest Scottish event which features pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Clans, stalls and the Perth Kilt Run, a free community event at Minnowarra Park presented by the City of Armadale.

Info: 08 9394 5000, www.armadale.wa.gov.au or www.perthkiltrun.com.au

16th September Clans on the Coast, Nelson Bay, NSW. Scottish pipe bands, Celtic band, Celtic stalls, caber toss, Celtic dancers & Choir and more at Tomaree Sports Complex, No. 1 Oval.

Info: Ron Swan on 0418 495 336 or www.clansonthecoast.com

7th October A Capital Jig Canberra Ball, Canberra, ACT. Scottish Country Dancing at Albert Hall with music by Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt. Info: www.rscds-canberra.org

7th October Canberra Burns Club Highland Gathering, Kambah ACT. **Clan Macpherson Tent.**



At Bundanoon, Sally McPherson with her niece Nicole, husband Adri and the family at the Clan Macpherson tent

Also at Bundanoon, Melanie Hawksworth from Myrtleford (Victoria) in full dress! (Melanie's mother was a Goudie)





David J, with Julie Hopkins (mother was a Gillespie), with Tahlia (left centre) and Kaleb at Geelong

From left, Geelong Highland Games Chieftain Dr Maurice Marshall with Sally McPherson (Templestowe), Dorothy McPherson (Leopold) and new member Peter Shine (Ballarat)



David Austen McPherson (Templestowe, Vic) with Rob McIntosh (Croydon, Vic) representative of the Clan Chattan Association in Australia at Ringwood.



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