
CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION AFRICA BRANCH NEWSLETTER # 5



Dear Member,

As Christmas fast approaches I take this opportunity to wish you a fabulous festive season and may your 2017 be filled joy, peace and prosperity!

This newsletter should have reached you in October. The reason it didn't is that while conducting an aerial surveillance patrol searching for poached elephants in Thuma Forest Reserve, Malawi on 30th September the motor of our gyrocopter failed. I was forced to land the aircraft in inhospitable, wooded terrain. In the process I shattered both of my heel bones and have spent ten weeks in hospital in Johannesburg. I was discharged from hospital on Friday 9th December and am now on the mend.

Much has happened in CMA since I last wrote on 29th September. I hope that the following content will keep you abreast of significant happenings in our Association over the last few months.

Membership

It is with great pleasure that I have the honour of welcoming three new Life Members to the Association. They are Shannon, Morgan and Meren Macpherson. They became members early in August 2016, following the Rally.

The Africa Branch now has 18 Life Members and 1 Associate Life Member who are listed as "Current".

It is with regret that I report that no Annual Membership subscriptions were renewed this year.

I have received one inquiry from Cape Town concerning new membership to the Africa Branch of CMA. I am waiting for confirmation.

I attach a list of members and their contact details to this newsletter in the event that any member would like to contact another. Should anyone see any errors in the list or know of potential new members please would you let me know.

Further to that to ensure the safe delivery of the Clan Annual, Creag Dhubh please would you confirm your contact details and postal address with me.

The Platinum Dhubh

The Clan Macpherson Association Annual Rally that took place in August this year celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Association and was dubbed The Platinum Dhubh. It was attended by over 360 Clansmen. The list of events was longer than usual and diverse in nature capturing the interest of all who attended. Every aspect of this Gathering was exceptionally well organised by a group of extremely dedicated people who went to great lengths to make the celebration an enormous success.

Please refer to the attached Welcome Card for the program of the Platinum Dhubh, a brief history of the Clan and our Association followed by personal messages from Cluny and Jean Macpherson Duffy our Association Chairman.

The Africa Branch was represented by Shannon, Morgan, Meren and myself. We enjoyed every minute renewing old acquaintances and making new ones! I would like to mention that we spent some time with Ewen and Margaret Macpherson, cousin to African Member Eric McPherson of Dalview, South Africa. Ewen has been a key figure in the management of the Clan Museum for some years.



Derek, Margaret and Ewen at the Platinum Dhubh - Ewen is Eric McPherson's cousin

At registration to the Rally each person attending was given a gift bag containing a variety of gifts from different branches. The Africa Branch contributed an individually hand carved key ring to each bag. They were very well received. The carving was organized by long time family friend Sally Foster-Brown in Limbe, Malawi and packaged by Shannon in Namitete, Malawi. Ewen and Jenny Macpherson of Namitete ensured the financial part of the equation was not a burden to the Branch. Please refer to the attachments below for a photograph of the key rings and the associated symbolism. My sincere thanks to all who contributed.

For much more information concerning the Platinum Dhubh please refer to the relevant newsletters from the American Branch (The Urlar) and the Canadian Branch (The Green Banner) on the Clan Macpherson Association website (clan-macpherson.org). For your enjoyment and more news of the Rally I have also attached the Australian Branch's last newsletter which I cannot find on the website.

The Africa Branch Annual Report

At the AGM of the Clan Macpherson Association the Africa Branch Annual Report was delivered on 6th August. I have copied the report into the attachments of this newsletter much as it will appear in Creag Dhubh.

Ewen & Jenny Macpherson's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations are due to Ewen and Jenny Macpherson of Namitete who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 6th August 2016. On that day they were in Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve witnessing the historic move of 500 elephants from Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. The massive translocation is being conducted by the African Parks Network who are also responsible for the management of these protected areas. The move is taking place over two years. In 2016, 261 elephants were moved in less than three months with only one fatality directly related to the translocation effort. On the morning of the 6th of August my parents witnessed the arrival of nine elephants to the offloading Boma in Nkhotakota. The photograph of Ewen and Jenny that appears in the Annual Report below was taken by Ted Woods, board member of the African Parks Network who was in Nkhotakota at the time of this extraordinary wildlife translocation. The remainder of the elephants will be moved during next year's dry season

Shannon, our girls and I returned home from the Rally on the 18th of August. Shortly after that the Namitete Macphersons and friends gathered on the river of that name to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary. It was an informal occasion consisting of a picnic lunch overlooking the water of Kakuyu Dam on Agra Estate. Duncan and Jen's young ridgeback called Nthunzi (meaning "Shade" in our vernacular, Chichewa) played a major role in the department of entertainment with his antics at the water's edge! Ewen and Jenny were piped into the first part of the second half-century of marriage to the notes of Amazing Grace. It was a joyous occasion and fun was had by all!



From L - R: Iain, Craig, Duncan, Jen, Morgan, Shannon, Meren, Derek, Jenny & Ewen Macpherson at the celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ewen and Jenny, August 2016

The evening with Alexander McCall Smith in Support of the Clan Macpherson Museum & other Fund Raising Initiatives

The Clan Macpherson Museum is a vital receptacle of tangible Macpherson History. The maintenance and expansion of this unique asset is costly and requires an enormous effort from those that have undertaken to look after it of the benefit of all Clansmen. Having alerted you to the fund raising effort of the evening with Alexander McCall Smith that was conducted on 1st October in the last Africa Branch Notice, I repeat verbatim the report concerning fundraising for the museum from the Council Meeting held on 5th November given our request for assistance to the Museum:

“..... on the 1st October at the prestigious New Club in Princes Street, Edinburgh was a truly marvellous occasion and the first Fund Raising event of its kind in aid of the Clan Museum. Zandra worked for months on securing the best possible deal from the New Club, the guest speaker, professional auctioneer, entertainment, prizes for the auction and raffle, many of the guests and much more. It was a huge success and so far has raised a total of £9,500. Thank you to all who supported the occasion and helped behind the scenes, particularly Valerie and also Angus who acted as compere for the evening. Many gave generously to the auction and raffle in the way of prizes, purchases and donations including some from people who did not attend the actual event. Our thanks to the Australian Branch who gifted 10 bottles of McPherson wine for the occasion.

“The US Branch also held a successful auction on the same weekend during their AGM with George acting as the auctioneer and raised \$1,315. They also advertised the Friends scheme and were successful in signing up nine new Friends. Our congratulations and thanks to the US Branch.

“Further good news regarding the Friends scheme is that the number has increased to about 30. Those who are not already Friends are requested to consider becoming one. The Canadian Branch are publishing an article in their next issue of the Green Banner. Our ambition is to achieve 200 Friends as this will provide a reasonable annual income to carry out general maintenance on the building and grounds

“Congratulations to the Creag Dhubh Wildcats of the England & Wales Branch who took part in the hill race at the Newtonmore Highland Games and raised £600 for the museum. The Scottish & N.I. Branch announced at their recent AGM that the collection from the Burns Supper raffle to be held on 4th February in Perth will be donated to the Clan Museum. Robert has donated a laptop which is working extremely well.

“The remaining outstanding loan of £2,500 to the CMA is being repaid thus clearing the short-term loan.

“Chantal McPherson of the Canadian Branch is a new Guardian and her plaque has been mounted.

“Robert in his Fabric report has said that the museum extension roof requires replacing in the next 5 years and will cost in the region of £30,000. This will be reported on in Creag Dhubh.”

Invitation to Participate in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2017

Embracing Scotland's Year of Heritage, History and Archeology in 2017, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, through the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs has invited individual clans and families to participate in the Tattoo program. The Macpherson Clan will be attending on Tuesday 8th August just after the 2017 Rally. Should you consider attending the Gathering next year this is an event not to miss! Please refer to the attached article on the same subject for more details.

Request for News for the Next Africa Branch Newsletter

I am always interested in hearing news from Africa Branch members of CMA. Should anyone have any news that they would like to share in the next edition of the Africa Branch Newsletter please contact me!

That's all from me for now.

Best wishes & Merry Christmas!



Derek Macpherson

CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION AFRICA BRANCH LIST OF MEMBERS									
Current Members									
SN	Title	Surname	Christian Name	Residential Address	Postal Address	Email Address	Tel #	Tel #	Type of Membership
1	Mrs.	Cattanach	Audrey	17 Wilro Park Retirement Village Wilropark Gauteng 1724	Private Bag X42 Wilropark Gauteng 1731 South Africa	james.cattanach@gauteng.gov.za	+27 11 768 4838	+27 82 601 2148	Life
2	Mr.	Cattanach	James	2 Wildesring Street, Weltevreden Park, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa, 1710	P.O. Box 6731, Weltevreden Park, South Africa, 1709	james.cattanach@gauteng.gov.za	+27 11 3555255	+27 82 5706052	Life
3	Mr.	MacPherson	Huntly		P.O. Box 2128 Lonehill Johannesburg 2062 South Africa	mactu@absamail.co.za			Life
4	Mrs.	MacPherson	Avril		P.O. Box 2128 Lonehill Johannesburg 2062 South Africa	mactu@absamail.co.za			Life
5	Mr.	Macpherson	Stuart	7 Simon's Way, De Wijnlanden, Stellenbosch 7600	PO Box 866 Somerset Mall 7137 South Africa	macphersons@telkomsa.net			Life
6	Mrs.	Macpherson	Jane A.	7 Simon's Way, De Wijnlanden, Stellenbosch 7600	PO Box 866 Somerset Mall 7137 South Africa	macphersons@telkomsa.net			Associate Life
7	Mr.	McPherson	Ian D.	448 Pearl Valley Golf Estate Paarl 7646		imcpherson@mweb.co.za	+27218671105	+27836760215	Life
8	Mr.	McPherson	Eric		PO Box 3384 Dalview 1544		+27 117421614		Life
9	Mr.	Ostrosky	Edward (Ed)	11 York Road Howick 3290		ostroskye@telkomsa.net	+2733304298	+27827700483	Life
10	Mrs.	Ostrosky	Trelda	11 York Road Howick 3290		ostroskye@telkomsa.net			Life
11	Mr.	Pearson	G.J.		c/o Panner & Co P.O. Box 3635 Monrovia Liberia				Life
12	Mr.	Gillies	Rob W.	23 Brigadier ATIF Road Mount Pleasant Harare Zimbabwe					Life
13	Mr.	Macpherson	Ewen F. W.	Kanongo Estate Namitete Malawi	P.O. Box 45 Namitete Malawi	jennymacmalawi@gmail.com	+265 999 965247		Life
14	Mrs.	Macpherson	Jenny M.	Kanongo Estate Namitete Malawi	P.O. Box 45 Namitete Malawi	jennymacmalawi@gmail.com	+265 999 965248		Life
15	Mr.	Macpherson	Duncan F.	Kanongo Estate Namitete Malawi	P.O. Box 15 Namitete Malawi	dwkmac@gmail.com	+265 999 965 244		Life
16	Mr.	Macpherson	Derek B.	Kanongo Estate Namitete Malawi	P. O. Box 250 Namitete Malawi	clunyafrica@gmail.com	+265 999 512620		Life
17	Mrs.	Macpherson	Shannon B.	Kanongo Estate Namitete Malawi	P. O. Box 250 Namitete Malawi	clunyafrica@gmail.com	+265 999 971948		Life
18	Miss	Macpherson	Morgan E.	Kanongo Estate Namitete Malawi	P. O. Box 250 Namitete Malawi	clunyafrica@gmail.com			Life
19	Miss	Macpherson	Meren B.	Kanongo Estate Namitete Malawi	P. O. Box 250 Namitete Malawi	clunyafrica@gmail.com			Life

Programme

August 2016	Wednesday 3 rd	10.30	Royal Mile Walk, Edinburgh
		15.00	Afternoon Tea
	Thursday 4 th	11.30	Claire Charles Designs, Pitlochry
		15.00	A walking tour of historic Kingussie
	Friday 5 th	08.00	First tee-off in the Golf Tournament
		14.00	Dance practice in the Marquee
		16.30	Welcome Meeting for First Timers
		18.30	Chief's Reception, Dinner and Highland Ball
	Saturday 6 th	10.30	The Clan Macpherson Association AGM
		14.00	Kilted Clan March
14.00		The Newtonmore Highland Games	
19.30		Ceilidh	
Sunday 7 th	11.00	Church Service	
	13.30	Informal Picnic at the Cairn	
	16.00	Whisky Tasting	
	18.30	Hog Roast	
	20.00	Ruthven Ceilidh	
Monday 8 th	09.30	The Monday Walk	
	14.00	Talk by Dr Jim Macpherson	
Tuesday 9 th	10.00	Visit to Highland Folk Park	

Branch Contributions

Africa	Carved keyring
Australia	Rulers
Canada	Souvenir Badges
England & Wales	Souvenir Brochure
New Zealand	Raffle Prizes
Scotland & Northern Ireland	Whisky Tasting
USA	Welcome Bags

Sponsors

Baxters	Kerr's Imports
Cairngorm Brewery	Macpherson Property
Culloden	Purely Scottish
Diageo	St Andrew Square Mgmt
Duke of Gordon Hotel	Tesco
Global Scotcrest Ltd	Tunnocks
Heathergems	Tustain Motors
J Thomson Printers	Walkers
The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland	

A special thanks to all CMA members who have individually contributed to the Platinum Dhubh



The Clan Macpherson Association



*Platinum Dhubh
2016*

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Creag Dhubh



Welcome to the
70th Anniversary of the Clan Macpherson Association

A 70th anniversary is celebrated as the Platinum anniversary and we have made it our

PLATINUM DHUBH



The word 'clan' is the Gaelic word for children, and the name Macpherson means 'son of the parson'. The story of our Clan is a long one. Back in the mists of time it is said that the Clan Mhuirich (Macpherson) fell naturally into three main divisions or lineages, called sliochdan in Gaelic. Each of these was descended from one of three sons of Ewan Ban, the Chief or head of the clan, and each retained its identity until the end of the 18th century. These lineages were the Sliochd Choinnich (Kenneth), the Sliochd Iain (John) and the Sliochd Gill-iosa (Gillies). Each sliochd would have its own head of family, known as the Chieftain.

In 1946, a group of Macphersons gathered together and discussed the forming of an association to keep alive the principles of the Scottish Clan system, with its heritage of mutual support and kinship. From that meeting the CMA was born and has now grown to have a worldwide membership of over 2000 people with its traditional heartland being Badenoch in Scotland.

This year, 2016, we will celebrate the seventieth anniversary of our Association's formation at our Gathering: the Platinum Dhubh!



It gives me great pleasure to add my personal welcome and greeting to our Chairman's message.

I have enjoyed the single honour of being the hereditary Chief of Clan Macpherson since the death of my father in 1969, and through all these years our Macpherson Clan Association has maintained the high standards and principles which our founders laid down 70 years ago.

Our Annual Rally in Badenoch, centred round our splendid Clan Museum is a highlight of our year, and allows us to make, and to renew our close family ties with our Clansfolk from all over the World. On this auspicious occasion, now formally known as the "Platinum Dhubh", both I and all my family wish you all a happy and successful long weekend in the lands from which we all stem.

Creag Dhubh!

William Macpherson of Cluny

Platinum has many characteristics of our clan members, being described in the periodic table of elements as soft, thick, and very resistant to corrosion! It is also widely used as a catalyst. I think that we are soft, when needed, but very determined and resistant to corrosion too. We have suffered through monetary struggles, worldwide disasters and have come through it all as a stronger organization. Our branches cover the world and we welcome all to this wonderful event of the next six days.

We celebrate our 70th anniversary at the same time as such worldwide organizations as UNESCO and the United Nations. I like to envision us as similar; although we come from different places in the world, we are all united as cousins in the Clan Macpherson!

Jean Macpherson Duffy - Chairman

Africa Branch's Keyring Contribution to the Welcome Bags for the Platinum Dhubh, August 2016

The Tale Behind the Keyring



This keyring is made out of wood from the Gmalina Tree (*Gmalina arborea*). While this specie is found naturally in the forests of India and Nepal, it grows well in Malawi. Ewen Macpherson planted thousands of these trees on Kanongo and Agra Estates in Namitete, Malawi, in the 1970's as windbreaks (ref.photo). For years they have also provided a source of fuel and building material. The wood of your keyring comes from one of those trees that he planted on a farm that has been in Macpherson hands since 1929. This represents significant Macpherson tenure on African soil.

Into one side of each key ring is carved a stylised elephant, which represents Africa itself and the Africa Branch of the Association. Into the other side of the disc is carved the number 70, which represents the jubilee celebration of 70 years of existence of the Clan Macpherson Association.

Each item has been hand-carved by a rural African villager in Southern Malawi and therefore no two are alike. Perhaps this represents the diverse nature of Macphersons across the globe!



CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION AFRICA BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT



It is an enormous joy for me and my family to attend the Macpherson Rally of 2016 that celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Clan Macpherson Association. It is also an honour to represent our African members on this occasion. My first duty is to convey very warm greetings to all family, cousins and clansmen from the Africa Branch of the Association.

During the last year the South Africa Branch of CMA has morphed officially into the Africa Branch. I can confirm that we have seventeen active members who are stretched between Monrovia in Liberia and Cape Town in South Africa. This constitutes a latitudinal range of well over 40 degrees that straddles the equator! Therefore, at this moment in time, some members are enjoying an equatorial summer and others are facing a particularly cold and wet winter at the southern extremity of the continent!

Due to these vast geographical distances personal meetings are rare. Instead we have focussed on keeping in touch by means of the internet. A system of Newsletters and Notices has been put in place to keep members abreast of happenings within the Branch and also the greater Association. In the last year a total of 4 Newsletters and 3 Notices have been produced by the Africa Branch. One of the themes in our Newsletters has been to ask members to write down the history of how their particular families found themselves on African soil. I think that this has made for some stimulating reading! We have taken advantage of the excellent team who run the official Association website to have these posted on the Africa Branch page for posterity and any wider audience who might be interested in reading about our activities. My thanks are due to Andrea Macpherson-Mesa in particular for her help.

I would like to make mention of a number of Africa Branch members and events that have taken place during the last year:

Our oldest member, Mrs. Audrey Cattanach, turned 94 years of age on the 16th of May 2016. She lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, in close proximity to her son, James, who is also a member of our Branch.

Audrey is an avid supporter of the Clan and particularly enjoys the Clan Annual, Creag Dhubh. I take this opportunity to salute her and thank her for her support to our Branch.

Congratulations are due to Ewen and Jenny Macpherson of Namitete who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary today (6th of August 2016). At this moment in time they are in Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve witnessing the historic move of 500 elephants from Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. The massive translocation is being conducted by the African Parks Network who are also responsible for the management of these protected areas. Just this morning my parents witnessed the arrival of nine elephants to the offloading Boma in Nkhotakota. Being otherwise occupied on the day, I am looking forward to celebrating the occasion of this 50th wedding anniversary on the Namitete River in Malawi upon our return home from this gathering.

I think it is also pertinent to report that the skirl of the pipes has been heard on Central African soil in the past year. Loch Rannoch accompanied, former resident of Laggan and employee of Ardverikie Estate, Tim O'Neill and his bride, Liz, to the alter on the Maleri Islands of Lake Malawi. The pipes were also heard on Mwanda Peak in the Mafinga Hills, the highest point in Zambia (7674 ft above sea level) on the Nyika Plateau. Of necessity, transport to the peak was by helicopter! So it can be said that Scottish tradition pervades both the highlands and lowlands of Central Africa!

We have had the pleasure of Bruce Macpherson, the chairman of the England and Branch, on African soil on numerous occasions in the last year. It has always been a joy to receive an email from him letting me know that he is in one or other troubled part of our continent. In fact he is so often in Africa we are considering offering him palaeartic migrant membership to the Africa Branch of CMA!

Clearly this Gathering commemorating the 70th anniversary of our clan is already a huge success. There is absolutely no question that an enormous effort has been made to make it into the special occasion that it is. I would like to congratulate and thank all those who have been part of the organisation of this very extraordinary Platinum Dhubh.

Finally, I would like to thank our incumbent international Association chair, Mrs. Jean Macpherson Duffy and secretary Ms. Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks for their support to the Africa Branch during the last year. I am also indebted to Mr. & Mrs. Bill and Jan Macpherson of Glenfarg for their endless advice and help concerning clan matters.

Thank you!



The skirl of the pipes being unleashed on Mwanda Peak Zambia, November 2015



Jenny & Ewen Macpherson on the day of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 6th August 2016, at Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve

Royal Military Tattoo – Edinburgh 2017



Each year, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo looks to establish a core theme which embraces, draws strength from – and adds weight to – major national anniversaries and other initiatives.

2017 is Scotland's 'Year of Heritage, History and Archaeology', and the Tattoo has chosen to support this through the theme 'Splash of Tartan', playing host to a stunning array of performers from all points of the compass. In a Royal Navy led year, the Tattoo will set sail with the Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines to celebrate the heritage, colour and diversity of Scotland's global family both near and far. As well as seeing a spectacular show the audience will be invited to come dressed in their Clan, Family or group tartan or just one that they like wearing.

As part of the programme the Tattoo and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs have joined together to involve Scottish Clans and Families. Clan Chiefs will attend the show across the August run and invite supporters to attend on their night wearing their tartan, and the 'Macpherson' night is 8th August, the Tuesday following the Gathering. Well done Cluny! As part of the show the Tattoo will look to bring to life the past and present story of the Scottish Clans and Families and their importance as part of Scotland's national heritage and future identity.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is delighted to have the support of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and welcome the Scottish Clans and Families from home and abroad. The Tattoo should be another reason to travel to Edinburgh in 2017, even if you can't make the Gathering.

So if you plan to attend the Gathering next year, make sure you add a night in Edinburgh on the Tuesday so you can follow your Chief at the Tattoo!

One hundred and fifty seats have been reserved for the Macphersons on 'our' night and are available to be booked from a password protected section of the Tattoo's main ticket site (NB there are a number of sites that sell tickets; our tickets can only be bought from the official site). To order your tickets (a maximum of 8 per application) send an e-mail to 'tattoo@clan-macpherson.org' and you will be sent the web address and the password required. Your e-mail must include member's name, address and Branch. Sale of tickets will start on 15th December.



Clan Macpherson Association (Australian Branch)

Website www.clan-macpherson.org



October 2016 Newsletter



The 2016 'Platinum' Gathering 70th Anniversary of the Formation of the CMA at Newtonmore

Was a roaring success. Over 350 cousins from 14 countries attended; braved some typical Scottish weather, and generally enjoyed one another's company in a wide range of activities in Edinburgh and Badenoch.

The Platinum Dhubh was preceded by the annual Clan Chattan AGM and Dinner held on Thursday 4th August at the Lochardil House Hotel in Inverness.

The 2017 CMA Gathering Friday 4th August to Monday 7th August 2017

PLUS

on Tuesday 8th August 2017

join Cluny at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and assist The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs in bringing to life the past and present story of the Scottish Clans and families.

'Clan Macpherson' night is Tuesday 8th August following the Gathering.

150 seats have been allocated to Clan Macpherson, and can be booked individually on the Tattoo website in due course. More details will follow.

<http://www.edintattoo.co.uk/the-experience>

The Australian Contingent at the Platinum Dhubh

Possibly the largest ever Australian contingent of 28 attended, and included:

Adam de Totth, (Chapman ACT)

Ailsa McPherson, (Queanbeyan NSW) and her sister Pam and Bill Rhemrev, (Duffy ACT)

Christine Southcombe, (nee Macpherson) and husband Nick (Watsons Bay NSW)

David and Sally McPherson and son David jnr, (Templestowe Vic)

Don, John and Peter McPherson, sisters Dianne and brother in law Danny Cashin, Helen McPherson, and cousin Peggy O'Connor (nee McPherson), (Newcastle NSW)

Graham R McPherson, (Brisbane Qld)

Malcom and Carol Macpherson and Ian & Jillian Wakeman, (nee Macpherson) (Warrnambool Vic)

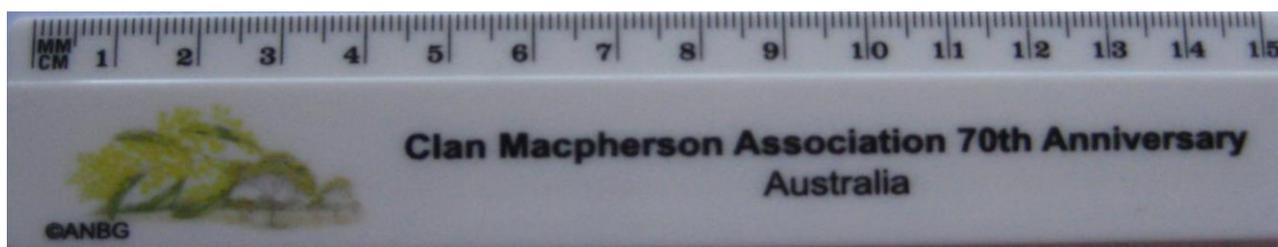
Robert and Eva Macpherson and daughter Skye, (Rangeville Qld), and son Iain and Janelle Macpherson, (Goondiwindi Qld)

Robert Macpherson, (son of John L, from Bern, Switzerland) and

John L Macpherson, (Bowral NSW)

Included in the Gathering Welcome bag was a 15cm ruler adorned with the Australian floral emblem, the Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha*, applied in Edinburgh with the approval of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. More information about our national flower and other emblems can be found at:

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/emblems/aust.emblem.html>



From the CMA Chairman; Jean Macpherson Duffy

‘The season is definitely changing here in northern California. In fact, today we had the first hard rain bringing the hint that winter is around the corner!

On November 1st, I will head to Scotland for our Autumn Executive meeting. We will be dissecting the Platinum Dhubh and sharing all the great memories of that wonderful August event.

Because the marquee was such a success, and with the encouragement of all, we have applied for a smaller grant from the government which might allow us to lease a smaller marquee for next year.

We will also be considering the application for a new European Branch. Several who live out with the UK have prepared a constitution that will be discussed. However, the biggest source of excitement is the invitation from the Edinburgh Tattoo to Cluny. We have been invited to partake in the theme of global Scotland for the 2017 Tattoo. Cluny very wisely selected the Tuesday after our 2017 Gathering for our appearance at the Tattoo. This time works perfectly with our ball on August 4th, the AGM and march on the 5th, church and picnic on the 6th, clan walk on the 7th and then to Edinburgh for the Tattoo on the 8th. What a full and delightful schedule.

As part of the programme the Tattoo and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs have joined together to involve Scottish Clans and Families. Clan Chiefs will attend the Tattoo across the August run and invite clan members to attend on their night wearing their tartan. The 'Macpherson' night is the Tuesday following the Gathering. As part of the show the Tattoo will look to bring to life the past and present story of the Scottish Clans and Families. Their importance as part of Scotland's national heritage and future identity will be on display.

Until next time...

Blessings,' Jean

“2017 will celebrate our country’s unique history and heritage with a programme of activity aimed at supporting and driving the nation’s tourism and events sector,” claims the Scottish Government. Funds are already being allocated. Supported events will be designed to celebrate the nation’s buildings, visitor attractions, archaeological sites -- as well as Scotland’s diverse stories, traditions and culture, with a focus on engagement and participation. It is anticipated that the year will bring with it a lot of opportunities for Clans to engage with and embrace these themes and we understand that several clan bodies are in receipt of funding which they will use to further the aims of the Year. Supported events this year, 2016, which was the Year of Architecture, have included the Festival of Harris Tweed on Lewis, the Loch Ness International Knitting Festival in Inverness and the Graphic Design Festival in Glasgow.

The Hill Race to Creag Dhubh

25yr old David McPherson (Junior) from Templestowe (Vic) travelled to Newtonmore with his parents David John and Sally McPherson to attend the Platinum Dhubh. As a health and fitness enthusiast in Australia, David jnr decided that, for the experience, he would like to join the hill race which is held each year at the Newtonmore Highland Games Gathering and entails approximately an 8 kilometre run through the rocky Scottish Highlands in Badenoch and up to the peak of Creag Dhubh. After marching with the Clan Macpherson groups down the hill from Old Ralia, David changed in a car from his kilt and highland gear to appropriate dress to join the hill race. The day was wet with drizzling rain, and the race lived up to its reputation as one of the toughest hill and cross country runs ever, with wet and slippery conditions which

made the going tough and treacherous.

The experienced veteran runners came in almost half an hour before the main field. This was the first hill climb race for David jnr and he said it was a lot tougher than he had expected with numerous ravines, crevices and water crossings, not to mention



steep hill climbing, and precarious conditions during the descent. The winner of the race had won three times before and is a specialist who finished in approximately 25 minutes, well before the main field which was made up of male and female competitors. David said of the run that he would like to try it again, but one would need to be fit and very agile to join a run like this.

New Members

Shirlee McPherson, Jackadgery NSW (Annual)

Christine Lewis, Littlehampton SA (Annual)

Don McPherson, Whitebridge NSW (Life)

Rosemary Howard (nee McPherson), Roseville NSW (Life)

Krille Wandel (Life) and family, Henrietta Birkedal (Assoc Life) and sons

Andreas and Alexander from Denmark.

Wesley's Poem

Just before dawn on the 25th April, 1915 men from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed on the beaches of the Gallipoli Peninsula as part of the amphibious invasion of the peninsula while British and French forces landed at Cape Helles. The combined Allies attack was meant to capture the forts that guarded the straits of the Dardanelles in anticipation of an advance to Constantinople.

This was the first time that Australians had served as Australians. Previous campaigns in South Africa (Boer War) and the Boxer Rebellion had been fought as a number of separate colonial forces within the British Empire. Writers of the



time penned that Australia had come of age and was able to stand by on its own.

For Australians and New Zealanders 25th April each year is the most sacred of days to all those that hold freedom dear.

For the last 9 years I have driven the tracks and trails of the Victorian high country with the Shoalhaven 4-wheel drive club each November, camping every night under canvas. Every twist and turn in the tracks reveal magnificent views and vistas that are hidden for most of the year, locked away from the public as the area is above the snow line and becomes impassible due to the winter snows.

In the footsteps of great Australian poets, one cannot but be inspired to try and pen a few

words; moved by the views, the experience and the camaraderie of those that share the trip with you. Every year I try and record my time in this unique landscape in words and in rhyme.

As we assembled on Remembrance Day (11th November 2015) in the century of the anniversary of the ANAZC landing I thought I would try to pay homage to the men and women who gave so much.

Just after dawn on 11th November, 2015 our little group gathered at Craig's Hut (made famous in the Banjo Paterson poem and movie "The Man from Snowy River") to commemorate the 97th anniversary of the armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18).

Their Mothers' Arms

They went to foreign lands to fight
Against the enemy and all his might,
On the ocean, in the air or face to face
To put their foe back in his place.

100 years ago our nation stopped and sighed
To remember sons and daughters who had died
On Flanders field, the soil turned red
The life force flowing from the dead.

It is only apt that we stop and pause
To remember those who gave to the cause,
Their legacy, this great free land
Of mountain, river, sea and sand.

On the day we say 'lest we forget'
And honour them all for this great debt.
Not to remember all that death
To pause, reflect and take a breath.

Solider, sailor, airman, nurse
They fought for country, not for purse,
To keep this land free of fear
So we enjoy this trip each year.

On mountain tops we rest a while,
Some will dwell, and some will smile,
As we remember those gone before,
Their lasting gift now set in lore.

The war to end all wars has come and gone
But mankind's greed brings more along,
And our soldiers are still going away
Across the waters, even today.

As we close, look over my shoulder,
And take a moment for that soldier
In the desert of Afghanistan,
And speed God's love o'er the ocean's wide span.

Pray to your God to end this madness
That brings no joy, but only sadness.
Take them away from danger and harm;
Bring them home to their Mothers' Arms.

Presentation to Cluny and the Clan Museum

During the presentation of the Branch report to the Annual General Meeting of the Association (CMA) on Saturday 6th August the opportunity was taken to make presentations to Cluny and the Clan Macpherson Museum. Firstly, to Cluny, a tea towel depicting the three Macphersons (William Macpherson, artist Margaret Preston (nee McPherson) and benefactress Helen Macpherson Smith) and a map of early colonial New South Wales which shows Mount Macpherson near Tilpa on the Darling River. Readers will have seen reference to the tea towels arranged by Heather Smallbone and Helen Johnson during the Scottish Diaspora display. However, it was thought that washing-up at Newton Castle might be made a little easier if Cluny had an extra tea towel. The map showing Mount Macpherson, which is located at -31.018595, 144.01223 reminds us of the naming of that small mountain (260m high) in western New South Wales by the great Scottish explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell who named the mountain after Cluny's great great-great-grandfather William who lived in Australia for some 35 years (1829-1864) having arrived here in 1829 with Governor Darling.

The significance of Mount Macpherson might be remembered by those who travel by international air, and recall that the interactive maps in aircraft which track the route of aircraft invariably show Mount Macpherson near Tilpa on the Darling River. The traveller gains some reassurance from this map that after an extended long journey by air, one is only about an hour and a half out from landing at Kingsford Smith Airport Sydney.

A second presentation was made to the Clan Museum. Ewen MacPherson accepted a copy of the Second Edition of the Official Guide to the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry and two tea towels depicting the Three Macphersons and Waltzing Matilda.

Clan Macpherson Museum Report (as at November 2016)

Museum Advisory Committee (MAC) Chairman Ewen MacPherson reported to the recent CMA Executive that Professor Alan G. MacPherson (Canada) is no longer physically able to be a member of the Advisory Committee. Alan has been our historian and genealogist for many years — his first article appearing in Creag Dhubh in 1953. His generous support and advice will be greatly missed.

Catherine Macpherson stood down as Chairman of the Trustees and being a Trustee will remain on the Advisory Committee. Angus Macpherson is the new Chairman of Trustees. Norman McPherson has resigned as a member of the Advisory Committee and he too was thanked for his work, particularly in respect of Health & Safety matters.

There was no 'At Home' this year in the Clan Museum on the Saturday afternoon. Special ceremonies took place with the unveiling of the 'Gordon Macpherson Niagara Herald Extraordinary Room' and the official opening of the

‘Sir Tommy’ exhibition. Invitations were limited to Guardians, Friends of the Museum, Trustees, Advisory Committee members and members of the Canadian Branch — due to the honour being conferred upon Gordon.

The Museum Monday Talk this year took place in the Duke of Gordon Hotel. Dr Jim Macpherson of the University of the Highlands & Islands spoke on “I Think The Land Should Be Ours Now. The Napier Commission, Land Reform and the Macphersons of Skye during the 1880s.” A large number of Gathering attendees and members of the local public attended.

A Clan Museum Fund Raising event took place in the New Club, Edinburgh on 1st October with Alexander McCall Smith as guest speaker. Zandra Macpherson of Glentruim arranged the event and worked very hard in obtaining sponsorship. She was aided by Angus and Valerie Macpherson and Bruce JS Macpherson. This event raised over £9500, which was supplemented by other donations of approximately £1500.

Ewen further commented on the need to expand the ‘*Friends of the Museum*’ scheme. While ‘The Sheila, Lady Cluny Museum Endowment Fund’ covers the cost of paying for the Curator’s cover and exhibitions, it is a ‘Restricted Fund’ and unable to be used for maintenance of the Museum. The interest only is used from the ‘Clan Macpherson Museum Trust’ which includes the ‘Guardians Fund’ to pay for the actions already described. However, the interest is insufficient and the Treasurer has to budget for a £3,000 loss. This is a huge worry for the Trustees as they have to rely on donations to make up the difference. The Trustees have to find the on-going costs for the rates, insurance, heating oil, electric, fire and intruder alarm systems, IT, general maintenance and equipment. Priorities are decided —whether to repair a leaky gutter or paint the flag pole.

The aim of the ‘*Friends of the Museum*’ scheme is to have an annual sum available which is not invested but available to help pay the bills. The scheme has been successful as it has raised about £700 to £800 annually. However, this is from 12 single/couples out of a total membership of over 2,200. If 200 members became Friends, paying £40 each annually, then £8,000 would be available yearly to pay the bills and make improvements to the building and grounds. Actions such as painting the flag pole, mending the broken and uneven slabs at both entrances. Even small tasks such as flowers being planted in the tubs and larger tasks such as resurfacing the car park could be carried out. These tasks are essential if we are to maintain our accreditation status and a 4-Star VisitScotland grading.

Cluny has asked that his total and full support for the scheme be made known. Several members intimated their intention to become Friends and *Fearn Macpherson Chartered Architects* has become our first Corporate Friend.

Thanks largely to generous donations, mainly in memory of Sir Tommy, a further £2,500 of the short-term loan from the CMA will be paid off.

Aussies at the Platinum Dhubh



On the March: L to R, David McPherson (Templestowe Vic), Graham McPherson (Brisbane Qld), Don McPherson (Whitebridge NSW), Robert Macpherson (Bern Switzerland) and Adam de Toth (Canberra ACT).



At the Ball: Two old Colonels, Mark Macpherson (Canada) and John L Macpherson (Australia)



David J McPherson, Malcom Macpherson (Warrnambool Vic), Sally McPherson and Carol Macpherson



Pam and Bill Rhemrev (Duffy ACT)



Danny Cashin, Don & John McPherson, Dianne Cashin (nee McPherson) and Peter McPherson



Nick and Christine (nee Macpherson) Southcombe, Iain and Janelle Macpherson and Don McPherson

Activities 2016/17

St Andrew's Day 28th November 2016

New South Wales and ACT

Saturday 26th November, SAHC St Andrew's Ceilidh, Uniting Church Hall, 3 Wetherill St Leichardt at 7 for 7.30pm. Details Nea MacCulloch, treasurer@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Sunday 27th November 2016, St Andrew's Day Church Service at St Stephen's Uniting Church Macquarie St Sydney at 9.45am, followed by a Tartan Ramble along Macquarie St to Hyde Park.

St Andrew's Day Kirkin' o' the Tartan at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, State Circle ACT at 9.30am.

Saturday 31st December, Hogmanay. Go to www.scotland.org/celebrate-scotland/hogmanay

Tuesday 26th January 2017, Australia Day Celtic Festival, Bradfield Park North Sydney. Go to www.celticcouncil.org.au/cca2.htm

Saturday 30th January, Governor Macquarie's Birthday, The Women's Club Sydney. Go to <http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au/index.htm>

Saturday 1st April, Bundanoon is Brigadoon. March of the Clans starts at 9.30am. Full details of the day can be found at the Brigadoon website <http://www.brigadoon.net.au/>

Clan Macpherson tent

Saturday 14/15th April Maclean Highland Gathering @ Maclean Showgrounds www.macleanhIGHLANDGATHERING.com.au or Ph 02 6645 2887

Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th May, Australian Celtic Festival @ Glen Innes. Go to www.australiancelticfestival.com or Ph 02 6730 2400

Queensland

Friday 25th November, 69th St Andrew's Day Men's' Dinner, info at 07 3397 4512 or www.standrewsociety.com

Friday 22nd January 2016, Burns' Supper, United Service Club, 183 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill.

Victoria

Saturday 3rd December Daylesford Highland Gathering info 0437 659 148, or www.daylesfordhighland.com

Sunday 1st January 2017, Maryborough Highland Gathering, info 03 5461 1480, www.maryboroughhighlandsociety.com

Saturday 11th February, Bendigo Scots Day Out, Rosalind Park, info www.scotsdayout.com **Clan Macpherson Tent**

Sunday 19th March, Geelong Highland Gathering, NEW VENUE Goldsworthy Oval, Goldsworthy (Corio) info www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au **Clan Macpherson Tent**

WA

29th November, St Andrew's Day Dinner. Info www.saintandrew.org.au

2nd December, WA Police Band, 50th Anniversary Concert. Info www.wapol.com.au

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Annual Subs

Included in this mailing are renewal notices for Annual members. Prompt renewals will be appreciated preferably by electronic funds transfer (EFT) to our bank account, the details of which are shown on the renewal notice. Please ensure that you provide your name and CMA on the EFT bank reference.

Mail returned to Sender

Recent newsletter addressed to Mrs. J Rowlands, Mansfield Qld has been returned. Any advice as to her whereabouts would be appreciated.