
CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION AFRICA BRANCH NEWSLETTER # 2



Entrée

The 29th of February, is a date that comes to pass only once every four years. I sincerely hope that the same will not be said about CMA Africa Branch's newsletters! It is in the singular interest of combatting this fate that I pick up my pen (or tap on my keyboard) today!

I trust that you received the last newsletter - it was not given a number but is de facto # 1 in this series. My thanks go to all who contributed to its contents with their personal histories.

The following few words, I hope, will bring you up to date with the Africa Branch's activities over the last few weeks.

The Platinum Dhubh

As mentioned in our Newsletter # 1, in 2016 the Clan Macpherson Association turns 70 years old. To mark this event a much larger-than-usual Rally in Badenoch is planned for August this year. It has been dubbed "The Platinum Dhubh". It promises to be a spectacular and very well attended event. Shannon and I along with our girls, Morgan and Meren will be taking part. If anyone else is going to be there please would you let me know. It would be fantastic to meet up with you in Scotland.

As the Africa Branch, we are going to contribute to the contents of a "welcome bag" which will be given to each person attending the Platinum Dhubh at registration on Friday 5th of August. After some deliberation it was decided that a keyring will be an appropriate offering. In this case it will be made out of wood in the shape of a circular disc of +/- 5 cm diameter coupled to a metal ring. On one side will be the image of an elephant to represent Africa. The number 70 will be etched into the other side of the disc to represent the number of years our Association has been in existence. Each disc will be made from a tree that goes by the latin name *gmelina arborea* grown on Kanongo Estate, Namitete, Malawi. This land was taken up as virgin bush by David Macpherson in 1929 and represents considerable Macpherson tenure on African soil. Each keyring will be carved by local Malawian carvers under the supervision of a long-time cognoscenti of

African artefacts and family friend, Sally Foster-Brown. As soon as I have a sample back from Sally I will let you know what they look like!

At this point in time It is anticipated that around 350 people will be attending the Rally in August. We estimate a total cost of 700 US dollars for this contribution to the "welcome bag". I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ewen and Jenny Macpherson of Namitete for sponsoring the entire cost of these gifts.

Cluny Turns 90 Years on the 1st of April

On the 1st of April 2016, our Chief, Cluny, turns 90 years old. To my mind this is a most extraordinary accomplishment. His life has been characterised by achievement. In his time he has been an officer in the Scots Guards, the commander of the Territorial Regiment of the Special Air Service, a student at Oxford, a successful barrister, a Queens Council, an eminent High Court Judge, knighted for his service to the Crown, the Laird of Blairgowrie, the chief of a prominent Highland Clan, a husband, a father and a grandfather. And yet, I don't think I have met anyone quite so capable of Kipling's "...Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch..."...my children call him 'Grandpa Bill' despite not having that relationship to him.

By way of tribute to Cluny the Africa Branch of CMA will purchase a bottle of South Africa's first Single Grain Whisky called Bains Cape Whisky. It is made by the James Sedgwick Distillery in the town of Wellington and named for the man who made the first roads in that town. In recent years it has received various distinguished awards.

I have arranged with Annie Le Roy-Lewis, Cluny's daughter, to have the bottle presented to Cluny on his birthday. Annie informs me that there will be quite a gathering at Newton on the day and festivities will take place during a lunch time event. Whether he decides to drink Bain's best without additive or in the form of his preferred aperitif, a Manhattan, is, of course, a choice that only Cluny can make! Certainly I look forward to his opinion of a distinctly Scottish product made in South Africa.

Accompanying the bottle will be a short message to Cluny from the Africa Branch of Clan Macpherson Association. Should any member wish to add to this salutation to Cluny on this very special occasion please would you send me the text and I will include it in the message. Please do this by 15th March to provide time to put it together in cohesive form.

Should you prefer to send him a personal note his address is: Newton Castle, Newton Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6SU, Scotland, United Kingdom.

England Wales Branch Newsletter Attached

Recently I received an England & Wales Branch newsletter from Bruce Macpherson. I have his permission to attach it to the bottom of this letter for your enjoyment. He passes on the message that any Africa Branch member who happens to be in the right place at the right time is welcome to attend the various functions and events that his branch will be organising in the coming weeks and months - for details I refer you the Valentine Edition of the England & Wales Branch Newsletter attached below.

Macpherson Cookery Book in Honour of 70 Years

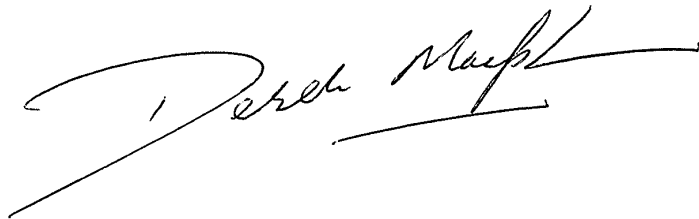
The England & Wales Branch informs us that: "Another of our members, Fiona Macpherson, has determined to produce a *Macpherson Cookery Book* in honour of the occasion (*The 70th anniversary of CMA*). Fiona writes:

We are embarking upon a new adventure to create a cook book compiling all the long trusted recipes of the clan that have kept us strong for hundreds of years and will keep us going for hundreds more. To create this book, we need your help!! Please send any recipes that you think have really kept your family going to fmacpherson@hotmail.co.uk along with any stories that go with them and we will try to get as many as possible published in the book.

Are there any recipes from Africa that we can contribute!!!????

Folks that's all for now. I hope that this has served to keep you informed and I look forward to any contributions that you feel you can make.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Macpherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derek Macpherson

Bruce J S Macpherson

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February 2016

CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION ENGLAND & WALES BRANCH, SPRING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this Valentine edition of the England & Wales Newsletter. We start with New Year greetings to all our members and warm congratulations to two in particular, Philippe and Lindsey Rousseau, each of whom have been honoured. Philippe has been appointed a Chavalier of the French Legion d'Honneur for services to education and Lindsey made an MBE in recognition of her role as Founder and Facilitator of the National Sensory Impairment Partnership. At the first of our first E&W Committee meeting of the new year, members of the committee toasted this wonderful achievement, as no doubt will members across the branch and well beyond.

2016 is an important year for the Clan. In August, we will mark the Association's 70th Annual Gathering in Badenoch. For those who have not yet bought tickets or booked accommodation, we would urge you to do so soon – numbers are mounting and attendance at some events will be capped. Full details are available via <http://ptdhubh.clan-macpherson.org>

I am anticipating that members of the Branch will throw themselves into the merriment of the Platinum Dhubh with their usual sense of bravado and commitment. I have written previously of the E&W Creag Dhubh Hill Race team you will have the chance to sponsor, more of which anon. Another of our members, Fiona Macpherson, has determined to produce a *Macpherson Cookery Book* in honour of the occasion. Fiona writes:

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Members of the Branch wanting to participate in the Gathering's Virtual Pipe Band should drop me a line for a list of tunes.

One of the highlights of the Gathering will be the formal opening of a new exhibit centring on the late Sir Tommy Macpherson's unique collection of medals now held by the Museum. Unlike most other museums, ours does not receive external funding and we would urge all members to consider whether they are in a position to support this important institution <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/supportus.html>

Between now and the Gathering two special occasions will fall, firstly the Macpherson Spring Ball taking place in March. Your Ball Committee has been putting in a power of good work to organize this event and to great effect. Tickets were flying off the shelves within days of the event being launched. Any last minute requests should be addressed Hamish via macphersonballassociation@gmail.com

Old friends of the Macpherson Association, Wimbledon Reels, have kindly offered to run the full Ball programme on two occasions at their regular classes on 16th February and 1st March. Reels evenings are from 7.30 to 10pm. Address and directions can be found on their website www.wimbledonreels.com. A short stroll from Wimbledon station (16 minutes overground from Waterloo or underground District Line), there is a £5 charge, for which you have a glass of wine and a very light bite.

The other important occasion that looms is Cluny's 90th birthday falling on 1st April. For members wishing to mark this special occasion and send Cluny a card, his address is Newton Castle, Newton Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6SU.

All good wishes and all thanks too to our spirited members for their many and varied contributions to the life of the Clan.

Chairman, England & Wales Branch
Clan Macpherson Association