



Clan Munro (Association) Australia

Volume 1 Issue 3

November 2003

Editorial

It's hard to believe but a year has passed since I accepted this position at last year's Clan Gathering. For me it has been a rewarding year and I thank those of you who have written to me with words of support and encouragement.

This is also the last issue before Christmas and Bet and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

I have received quite a few stories from members but I will need more as my current supply runs out. They are all so interesting and need to be told to keep them in alive.

The genealogy section is still popular and it is so exciting when we actually manage to match people up. I hope when you read your fellow members stories, you rush to your family tree to see if you have a match!

Apologies to Ross Munro – I did not mention his name in relation to the JR Munro Family Group article in newsletter No 2.

In our next newsletter we will feature a true story By Jim Hyslop. Jim was a tug boat skipper and this story of one of the rescues in which he took part is well worth waiting for.

Please let me know if there is anything that you would like to see in the newsletter. I am a learner, so please help.

Don Munro



Clan Gathering



Dear Clan Members

Exciting news - a Clan Munro Gathering is to be held on the evening of March 19, 2004, in Sydney at Clovelly Bowling Club.

Margaret Munro has organised an evening of fun, music, enjoyment and most importantly, Clan Munro fellowship. It will be an evening where we can get to know each other, share stories and enjoy each other's company. Margaret has hired a group of musicians who will keep us entertained with everything from the bagpipes to the Gay Gordons, Dashing White Sergeant, with a few eightsome reels thrown in for good measure. It will be an evening of all things Scottish with maybe a bit of that rare (in Australia) Scottish beastie, the haggis.

This fits in well with our plans as Bet & I will be visiting friends in Queensland in March, so we will travel to the Gathering in Sydney, on to Brisbane and come home by way of South Australia where we have old friends in Adelaide. We are really looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible and it will be so nice to put some faces to names at last.

Please support Margaret as she has put a lot of effort into organising what we hope will be the start of many Munro Gatherings. This is just what we need to breathe life into the Clan Munro in Australia.

Welcome To Our New Members

Pauline Allen from Western Australia has joined since our last newsletter. Pauline was the lucky lady we managed to connect with her Texas relatives.

Helen Munro, from South Australia can trace her Munro line back to Alexander McGregor Munro who was born in Elgin about 1861.

I am told that there are a few more out there just waiting to join but their application forms did not arrive before we went to print. Hopefully we will publish them in the next newsletter.

Family Gathering of the Descendants of Donald Munro & Catherine MacGillivray

In our first newsletter, I advertised a family gathering for descendants of Donald & Catherine. However, this has proved to be a much bigger project than first thought and the date has been changed to March 13, 2004. It will be held at White Hills Gardens, Midland Highway, Bendigo. One of our new members, Lily Sims, is organising the gathering and is trying to get as many of the family together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their arrival. Just in case you are part of this very large family, here is a brief history of the family in Australia as told by Lily Sims. Contact address is Mrs L Sims, 79 Rundle House, J.B.R.V. Eltham, VIC 3095

Donald Munro & Catherine MacGillivray arrived in Port Melbourne on board the "Hercules" on August 3rd 1853. With them were their five children, Donald MacGillivray aged 10, Allan 8, Mary 4, another Donald 1 and Alexander infant. A Mr Marr of Timboon employed them as shepherd & hut keeper. Family folklore has it that they travelled to Timboon by bullock wagon where they were able to acclimatise themselves to life in Australia, so different from whence they had come.

They lived & worked there for a few years and then moved to Mortlake Victoria where they had acquired a property of their own. Sadly, after only 12 years in Australia, Donald died of pneumonia before their twelfth child was born. By this time their eldest child Donald MacGillivray Munro was 23, Allan 21 and Mary 16. The family farmed there for a few years and then moved on up to Laen in the Wimmera. From there, Catherine and the 4 youngest sons and 3 daughters moved to NSW. In the next 10 to 15 years they were mostly all married.

My Grandmother Mary married Hugh MacDonald in 1872 and they had twelve children – 6 boys & 6 girls. The eldest was my father, Norman, born in 1873. Mary's Brother Allan married Margaret MacBeth & also had 12 children, 9 boys and 3 girls. They nearly all stayed in Victoria as did the eldest Donald and Margaret, who married Simon MacDonald. The second Donald did not marry, nor did Flora, the youngest daughter.

Of the rest of the family, Catherine & Christine married and stayed in NSW; Alexander, his wife Jessie MacRae & children moved to Bunbury, WA and they had 7 children.

".....frequent visits from the aborigines"

Lachlan married Elizabeth Cameron and also moved to Bunbury; Duncan married Margaret Caldwell and moved to Perth WA. Recently I had a photo & newspaper cutting sent to me from WA of "Mopsy" Isabel Munro who celebrated her 100th birthday in April 2003.

Catherine (MacGillivray) Munro died at Tenterfield in 1917 aged 93. When my daughter and I visited Skye in 1900, we took photos of the croft that they had left in 1852. She must have been a dear hardy soul to have experienced and lived through so many sad experiences in her life from her infant days on. A story told to me by my grandmother (who lived to be four months short of 100) was that in the early days they had frequent visits from the aborigines with whom they were on good terms. One mother brought in her young baby and laid it in the crib near great grandmother's baby and stood back, clapped her hands and laughed.

My great grandmother had nine grandsons and daughters serving overseas – in Gallipoli, Egypt & France during WW1. Three paid the Supreme Sacrifice. My father, Norman aged 42 sailed away in May 1915 leaving my mother with three young children aged from two to six. Fortunately he returned in 1919 but suffered from the effect of the gas in later life.

Of our grandparents fifty grandchildren, forty of us were reared on Mallee farms in Victoria and have taken our place in the world in many different walks of life.

We are looking forward to a great family reunion and hope that as many as possible will be able to attend. If any of you reading this think you are part of the family, please get in touch with me.

Lily Sims

The Oldest Munro

In our last newsletter we asked the question "Is Harold the oldest Munro?" Lily's article above proves that he is not, as we see that "Mopsy" Isabel Munro was 100 in April. However Harold may still be able to claim that he is oldest Clan Munro (Association) member in Australia. What follows an account of Harold's trip out to Australia in 1912, with his mother, showing the provisions, costs, etc., for the voyage. It is great that such records survive, giving us a comparison with today's prices & values. The story is as told by Harold's son, Ian Munro from Queensland.

Harold came to Australia with his mother in 1912 when he was four and a half years old. They left Invergordon, Scotland and travelled to Tilbury Dock Port of London to board the Orient Line 'ORVIETO' a steamship of 12130 tons. The cost for both of them was 25 pounds and 10 shillings.

This included accommodation, meals, steward service and any landing charges. The journey took 5 weeks and 3 days to Fremantle and a further week to Melbourne via Adelaide (outer harbour) where they disembarked.

An interesting aside is the 'ORVIETO' was fitted out and put into service in WW1 and was sadly lost at sea. Another 'ORVIETO' was built between WW1 and WWII only to have

the same demise during WW11. I don't think this name was used on any further ships in this Line!

Some interesting information on the Steamship ticket (contract)

Provisions Weekly per Statute Adult
Beef or pork or poultry 2lb 4 oz
Preserved meat 1lb 0 oz
Suet 6 oz
Butter 4 oz
Bread or Biscuit not inferior in quality to
Navy biscuit 2lb 8 oz

Wheaten flour not inferior to seconds 3lb 8 oz
 Oatmeal, rice and peas or any two of them 2lb 0 oz
 Potatoes 2lb 0 oz
 Raisins 0lb 6 oz
 Tea 0lb 2 oz
 Sugar 1lb 0 oz
 Salt 0lb 2 oz
 Mustard 0lb 05 oz
 Pepper black or white ground 0lb 025 oz
 Dried or compressed vegetables 0lb 8 oz
 Vinegar or mixed pickles 1 gill

Bill of Fare

Breakfast 8am: Porridge with milk, fish, chops, steaks, sausages, irish stew, curried meats with rice, cold meats (including ham) with French bread, butter, jam, marmalade, tea and coffee

Dinner 1pm: Soup, broth, fish, roasted and boiled meats, fresh vegetables, pudding (various) stewed fruit & bread, biscuits and cheese

Tea 5PM: Cold meats (various) with pickles or salads, cakes, scones, buns & bread, butter jam and marmalade

Supper 8 pm: Bread, butter biscuits and cheese (Lighter food is provided for women and children when necessary)

Hobbies/ Businesses – The interesting things our members do

One of our members, **Jamie Munro Aitken** from Kyneton in Victoria is a marketing consultant but is also extremely interested in cattle breeding and he now spends his time between the two. This story also shows how a chance conversation can change your way of doing business or even your direction in life. What follows is a brief outline of the origins of the **CULLODEN LOWLINE STU**D as told to me by Jamie

A few years ago, Jamie was breeding Simmental and Hereford cattle to produce big animals for the feedlot industry. However, A conversation with Mr Guy Grossi, of the famous Café Florentino in Melbourne, caused him to change direction. Guy told him that his clientele did not want big cuts of beef, so he required his suppliers to provide him with small cuts of juicy, tender beef and he and other restaurateurs were willing to pay a premium for such cuts.

This was precisely the opposite of Jamie's breeding programme at that time!

But it did, of course, get him thinking and he soon found that thirty years ago, the Angus Cattle Breed Society had asked the New South Wales Department of Agriculture to undertake an experiment. This was to establish the most efficient size specification for the Angus breed in Australia. From this experiment a herd of Australian bred Angus cattle was used as the control line and a herd of Angus cattle was brought in from North America. These were cattle to be referred to during the experiment as the high line. Finally, a herd was brought in from Scotland. These Aberdeen Angus cattle displayed those characteristics common in the herds of Angus cattle found today in Scotland.

During the 27 years that this experiment was conducted, each of the three groups, Highline, Middleline and Lowline was mated within their size grouping, without in-line breeding. Agricultural scientists measured everything from the gestation period through birthing weight, milk production, and daily weight gains. At the conclusion of the experiment the Angus Society decided the middle line (the control line) would become their accepted breed criteria.

Of the three groups, the Lowline group was the one that Jamie was interested in. As all the cattle had been single sire served and excellent records had been kept, the

Lowline group is a very fine line of the Scottish Angus cattle.

These animals were sold off to a group of cattle breeders lead by Don Burke of TV fame. Many of you will have seen these small cattle on Burke's Back Yard. The breed was then accepted by all Royal Show Societies around the country, and the Australian Lowline Cattle Breed was formally registered.

After studying the work that had been carried out during the research, Jamie became convinced these cattle would deliver the small cuts of tender, juicy meat that Guy Grossi wanted. PVI Hamilton, an agricultural research station at Hamilton in Victoria had a herd of Lowlines that they wanted to sell to someone who would provide feedback on the commercial value of the animals and their acceptability to the customer.

Jamie & his partners tendered for the herd, and were successful in acquiring 50 females in calf. These animals became the foundation of the Culloden Lowline operation. In the past seven years they have supplied Café Florentino with several hundred animals, at a premium price. Lowline beef from Culloden appears on the menu of this great restaurant. It features sirloin on the bone (a T-bone) grilled, from \$38.50.



As well as supplying meat for the domestic restaurant trade, they breed seed stock cattle at their stud operation 'The Southern Cross Cattle Co' based at 'Lochiel', a property 30 km north of Albury. Here they create embryos for export, and collect semen for use in dairy herds.

They have also established a live cattle export business into Yunan province in China. Here the Chinese are using Lowline bulls over their indigenous cattle which are small Bos Toros Bos Indicas cross cattle. By infusing these animals with Angus bloodlines they will be producing tender, juicy beef in two generations.

World's Best Whiskies

There will always be arguments over what is the best whisky in the world and I am sure that we all have our own favourites. Here, for what it is worth, is what the experts think. There is a lot of snobbery among whisky drinkers (just as you get with wines) and one bloke I know will only drink malt as to him "the rest is rubbish." I will take much pleasure in showing him that a blended whisky got the top prize for the best of all whiskies. I know it will not make any difference, as he knows that he is right!

There is constant argument - and sampling - to decide on what is the best malt whisky. The process is academic, since different people can respond differently to the various varieties and the circumstances in which they are being drunk. But as the annual Whisky Magazine awards are based on independent blind tastings of 40 blended and single malts by 75 experts in three continents, the results are a good indication of quality. A 40-year-old Glenfiddich Rare Collection (which retails at £1,000 a bottle) was

selected as the best single malt as well as the best Speyside whisky. A Highland Park 18-year-old won the category for the best island malt. A specially produced Dalmore whisky was voted as the best whisky to accompany Cuban cigars. A 25-year-old Cutty Sark won the gold for the best blended Scotch - and scooped the top prize as the best of all the whiskies.

Peppino Merinos

This short story is from one of our new members, Sue Reakes

I thought you might be interested in the story about my great grand parents that appears in the historical book SALT BUSH COUNTRY written by John E P Bushby about the Deniliquin area. It is in the part of the history of Wanganella where there was a famous sheep station where the "Peppin" merino sheep was developed. My great grandmother Mary McBrayen (McBrain) was a nanny for the Peppins, from 1860. My great grandfather, Henry Munro was a bricklayer employed by them. They married in 1861. Mary outlived Henry by 25 years and was considered the resident nurse and "mother" for anyone who needed her care. They had 9 children, one of who was my grandfather, Gerald Duncan Munro. He became an overseer at the station, as did his oldest son, Harold. Harold's oldest son also worked there for a long time.

Sue Reakes



Ed's Note – Just a little about the Peppino merinos. Wanganella is the home of the Peppin merino breed, a strain that took Australian fleece production to the highest in the world. It was started by George Peppin, his wife Harriet and son Frederick. They took over the property in 1858 after emigrating from Plymouth in the U.K. Wanganella was stocked with 7,500 ewes from which they selected the best 200, then added another 100 to form a core for stud breeding. They imported expensive rams from all over the world and began a breeding programme which, within 20 years, resulted in their recognition as world quality breeders. A bronze memorial at the gate of Wanganella recalls their achievements, as does an annexe at the Information Centre in the Peppin Heritage Centre.

Alexander Munro Postscript

In our first newsletter, I did an article on Alexander Munro and the part he played in establishing our wine industry. I have since found that there is a lot more to Alexander. Mrs. Jillian Oppenheimer, author of the book "Munro's Luck," sent me a copy and this book is a mine of information about her Munro ancestors. Alexander Munro features there and Mrs. Oppenheimer has given me permission to selectively use stories from the book. It is a great read but unfortunately is now out of print – if you are lucky enough to have a copy, treasure it.

Back to Alexander and we find that by the time he was fourteen, his father was dead, the family had moved from Ardersier to Inverness and was in dire straits. Alexander roamed the streets and with two others, broke into a grocer's shop, was caught and came before the magistrate. Although it was a first offence, he was sentenced to transportation – an extremely harsh sentence. As we know he made good in Australia and he spent much of his life trying to atone for his early mistake. This paragraph from "Munro's Luck" puts Alexander Munro's life and achievements in a nutshell.

"Alexander Munro died in his home, Ardersier House at Singleton on 26 January 1889. He was described as a vigneron, 'a prominent philanthropist and one of nature's gentlemen' and 'the father of Singleton,' in the lengthy obituaries published in the *Maitland Mercury* and *Singleton Argus*. The funeral cortege, which stretched for half a mile, was led by Masons and Oddfellows in their regalia and wound through the streets of Singleton before his burial in

the Glenridding cemetery which he had donated to the town. A tall but simple granite column, which Alexander Munro himself had purchased and imported from Scotland, was erected in his memory, to his wife Sophia, who died later in the same year and to the family of his adopted daughter Harriet. The inscription on the memorial states: 'After life's fitful fever, they sleep well'. Was the reference to 'life's fitful fever' an allusion to their conviction and transportation?"

At the beginning of Jamie Munro Aitken's article on the Culloden Lowline Stud I said, "This story also shows that a chance conversation can change your way of doing business or even your direction in life." To take this one step further, one cannot help but wonder what would have happened to Alexander Munro and so many others like him if they had not been transported to Australia and given a chance that they would never have been given in their native Scotland.

I'll Have Jimmy Woodser

In our last newsletter I acknowledged the passing of some of our members, one of whom was Maxwell Taylor Munro who died in 2001 and I had a lovely letter from his daughter Margaret. In it, Margaret told me that her father always followed the activities of the Clan with great interest and had visited Foulis Castle in 1964. After his war service he had been manager of the Commonwealth Bank in Geelong, Canberra, London and Sydney. He was a well loved man, absolutely charming, with a wonderful sense of humour. By now you may be wondering what the heading has got to do with this item? If you are from Queensland you will very likely know what a "Jimmy Woodser" is but I am from the West and have only been here forty years and for my shame, have never heard of a "Jimmy Woodser!" Now, Angus Patterson from Queensland knew the expression and knew that it meant that you would not join the shout but would have a drink on your own. What he did not know was where the expression originated, so he wrote to The Australian Newspaper in 1986 asking if anyone could help. This is where Maxwell Taylor Munro comes in and this was his reply. "Angus Patterson may be interested in the attached copy of a ballad attributed to one Barcroft H. Boake and dated 1892. I know little about Mr Wood and nothing about Mr Boake, but my late father, himself a Queenslander by birth and a most convivial man, made "Jimmy Woodser" a friendly household expression."

Note: Jimmy might have been ahead of his time. As I write this I hear that there is a proposal in NSW to fine people who buy a round for a friend who has already had too much!

JIMMY WOOD – A Bar Room Ballad

There came a lonely Briton to the town,
a solitary Briton with a mission.
He'd vowed a vow to put all shouting down,
To relegate it to a low position.

Transcendentally Britannic in his dress
His manners were polite and slightly formal
And – this I mention with extreme distress –
His put-away for liquor was abnormal.

He viewed this "shouting" mania with disgust,
As being generosity perverted,
When any of the "boys" went on the bust
He strove his best that they might be converted.

He wouldn't take a liquor with a man,
Not if he was to be hanged, drawn & quartered
And yet he drank – construe it if you can –
Unsweetened gin, most moderately watered.

And when the atmosphere was in a whirl
And language metaphorical ran riot,
He'd calmly tender sixpence to the girl
And drink his poison – solus – nice and quiet.

Whenever he was asked to breast the bar,
He'd answer with a touch of condescension,
"I must regret to disoblige so far
As to refuse your delicate attention.

"That drink's a curse that hangeth like a leach
A sad but most indubitable fact is,
Mankind was made to drink alone, I preach,
And what I preach I invariably practise.

Margaret finished her letter as follows " All the best (a toast, in fact!) to the ongoing success of the newsletter and the sense of solidarity it engenders amongst its members."

"I never pay for others, nor do I
Take drink from them, and never, never would stir,
One man one liquor! Though I have to die
A martyr to my faith, that's Jimmy Wood, sir.

"My friend, it is not a bit of use to raise
A hurricane of bluster and of banter
I preach the humble gospel in the phrase
Simila simbulus curantur;
Which means: by drinking when and how I like
And sticking to one unsweetened sample,
I hope in course of time that it might strike
All men to follow in my good example."

In course of time it struck all men that Jim
Was fast developing to be a soaker
The breath of palsy on every limb,
A bleached face touched up with crimson ochre

Yet firmly stuck he by the sinking ship,
Went down at last with all his colours flying;
No hand but his raised tumbler to his lip,
What time J. Woods, the martyr, lay a-dying.

Misunderstood reformer! Gallant heart!
He now gave his path to Death – the great collector,
Now in Elsyian fields he sits apart
And sips his "Tommy Dodd" of nectar

His signature is on the scroll of fame,
You cannot well forget, although you would, sir,
The man is dead, not so his homely name,
Who drinks alone drinks toast to Tommy Wood, sir.

Five Gold Medals for Meerea Park Winery

Alexander Munro just will not lie down. Since completing the item one page back I found that the Meerea Park Winery just keeps on winning medals for its fine wines. Garth Ether, manager of the winery and his brother Rhys, the wine maker, have just won no less than five gold medals at this year's prestigious Hunter Valley Wine Show, with the Alexander Munro label featuring strongly. The good news is that the Meerea Park wines are still available to Clan Munro members at discount prices. See Newsletter No 1 for details or, if you have lost your copy, let me know.

Can You Help?

Well, we were certainly able to help one of our newest members, Pauline Allen when the first item she read contained the people for whom she had been searching. We also had some success in bringing together another member and one of his first cousins twice removed! If you cannot contact the people in the queries below, please contact me (Don Munro) & I will pass your message on.

In next month's newsletter we will feature a story on one of our First Fleeters, Lydia Munro. All we know is that Lydia was born in London and that her parents were Alexander Monro and Sarah? If any of you out there can give us any more information about Alexander & Sarah, we would be most grateful.

This one is pretty vague but if you don't ask you will never know. Michael Page is looking for Florence Munro, born in Clackmananshire in Scotland in the 1860s. Her uncle, Hector Munro also migrated to Australia, possibly Rochester (I see one in SA). If you can help, contact Michael on jbo90275@yahoo.com

Lydia Batchelder's great grandfather married Helen Bain and they lived in Wardend, Forres, Morayshire in Scotland. Their son William Donald was born in 1837 in Dyke, Morayshire and he married Catherine Cameron. If any of you can add to this, Lydia would be most grateful.

Edgar JW Munro is descended from John Munro & Janet Cunningham from Dornoch. Their son, Alexander Munro married Anne Gray in Tongue, Scotland on 1/10/1838 prior to their departure for Australia. Their children were Joan Mcnee Munro b 1839 & William Campbell Munro b1842 – the family lived in Gundary NSW. Edgar would love to hear from any descendants of John & Janet Munro from Dornoch.

I have published all of the queries sent to me directly, so next month our genealogist, Ron Munro, will be taking over this section. Here is a piece from him to help you along the way if you are new to genealogy.

GENEALOGY Just a few Hints.

Where do you start?

A good place to start is to buy a book of blank lined pages, get lots of pencils or better still get one of those pencils that take refill leads and a big rubber.... Not the tiny little rubber you find in the top of such refill pencils either.

In the front on the first page put your name, address and telephone number (mobile number also if you have one) and a message there to tell any finder to please telephone or message you if this book is found. You are going to be putting a lot of information in this book and you are going to visit lots of places to get that information. You do not want to have to retrace your steps if you loose this book, so make sure it comes home if it should wander. I am sure it will wander at times ... my notes do and I am ever so glad to get them back.

Start with yourself, your spouse and record any children ... trace back your parents (2 persons) and their parents (4 persons) and their parents (8 persons) and their parents (16 persons) and maybe their parents (32 persons). In those 5 generations you have yourself, your spouse and your children (and their spouses and their children) plus 62 others persons you will be seeking information on, then don't for get the other 62 people of your spouses side!!! ... hmmm 62 plus 62 plus you 2 and plus kids and spouses and their families. Will you have enough time to do this??



Genealogy is the fastest growing hobby at the moment. Do join in on the Frustrating Fun!!

There is also a great Australian Genealogy Magazine available – race off to your local newsagent and look for Australian Family Tree Connections. Buy it ... and get a coffee and settle down to have a good read. I subscribe to it and I have found it a most enjoyable magazine. There is even a list where you can place names and areas where you are seeking other lost family members.

I do not by any means claim to be a professional genealogist. I have been playing around with my family tree for over twenty years now and I have done a small course run by a local council near where I live. But if there are any questions you would like to ask me please do. Also say if its OK for the question to be published in our Clan Munro (Association) Newsletters, as I am sure others might come across the same problem and appreciate the sharing.

If you have a computer, access to the Internet is even better and there are three great programs that can be down loaded free. I will tell you more about that in a later newsletter. Regards - Ron Munro, in Salisbury, South Australia. Email address - <munro5112@iprimus.com.au>

Notes From New Zealand



I keep in touch with Margaret Weeden who now runs The Clan Munro (Association) New Zealand. Margaret has had a bit of trouble getting things up and running but is now coping very well. They have just held a very successful Ceilidh, had a great time and as a bonus, gained ten new members. Margaret was very brave as she even made the haggis herself using a recipe from an old Mrs Beaton paperback. There were a few innovations of her own such as using a crock pot and oven bags but every scrap was eaten, so that speaks for itself. I will print the recipe in the next newsletter. Let's hope our Margaret's Gathering is as successful and nets us some new members.

That Levy

This is the only item that has caused me any grief since taking on the role of Australian representative and it is all my own fault, as I did not explain things properly in the first place! Let me try to explain to whom the levy applies and the reasons for applying it and I will not mention it in the newsletter again.

- It applies only to Life Members who paid their membership directly to Scotland - new members have the levy included
- It has been applied because the original Life Membership fees did not include for any costs for in running the Australian branch, it only included Scottish costs. You do not have to pay your membership again.
- The levy covers the cost of producing and posting the newsletter and the cost of envelopes and postage used in replying to those of you who have been kind enough to write to me with questions or words of encouragement and support
- Previous representatives relied on the generous donations of a few to cover the costs of the whole branch, making up any shortfall themselves
- It was thought that a fairer system would be to apply a small levy (\$5.00 per year) to everyone and so spread the costs across the membership
- If there is more than one member at the same address - and quite a few fall into this category, only one levy payment is required – individual newsletters will be put into one envelope if necessary
- If only one newsletter is required at such an address, please let us know
- If you cannot afford the levy, again, please let us know, we will quite understand and you will continue to receive the newsletter
- If you do not want to receive the Australian newsletter and only want to receive information from Scotland, we will understand - but please let us know
- If you have not already done so, please sent the \$5.00 levy for one or as many years as you feel comfortable with

That's it, there is no more – please put me out of my misery!

Missing

The following Life Members' mail has also been returned, so if any of you know of their whereabouts, could you please let me know.

Mrs JP Hubble-Welsh, Port MacQuarrie, NSW
Mrs P Toulouse, Exeter, NSW
Mr I Munro, Boyne Island, QLD
Mr DG Munro, Hawthorne, SA

Dr JAM Gall, Kew VIC
Mr BM Walmsley, Empire Bay, NSW
Mr W Munro, Bussleton, WA

Valz

We pass on our sincere condolences to Graham Gates on the passing of his dear wife Wendy in August. Wendy was a very widely respected and dedicated Christian lady and is sadly missed. Our condolences also to their four sons and seven grandchildren.

What Ships Brought Your Ancestors to Australia?

We would like to create a database of Clan Munro ancestors and the ships on which they travelled to Australia. We already have a few sent in to us so, if you have not sent yours and would like to be included, please forward details. We already have a few members whose ancestors came out on the same boat, some are related some are not but it is all very interesting. We have, in fact, found three families who are related just because we published one boat name and its port and date of arrival.

The Walking Wounded

I had a letter from Hazel Munro along with one of Allan's Books (another great read) and she tells me that she had a fall and is recovering from a fractured shoulder and three operations. Hazel has a wonderful sense of humour. To quote from her letter "I have enough nails keeping me together to hold up a fence"

Mary Lidbetter is back on deck after having treatment in Sydney for over two months. Mary has so many strings to her bow that it will take her quite a while to get rid of the backlog after her time away. Mary gave us the Shoalhaven Munros story for the last newsletter and there are more where that came from.

Marcia Mills has the same trouble as Hazel and to quote from her letter "I had a very severe set back last year fracturing all my spine except for one vertebra and a number of ribs." That does not sound too good to me but Marcia tells me that she is on the road to recovery and she and her husband have retired to the wonderful sounding Rainbow Beach.

Interesting to note that when Marcia read the last newsletter she wrote to tell me that she is also descended from the Shoalhaven Munro family. Mary and Marcia are now in touch and swapping family history and probably medical history stories as well!

Last, but by no means least, is Colin Munro. Colin is our Overseas Member of the Clan Munro Council but you will know him better for his role as head of the ABC's Regional Services and one of the best-known voices of ABC Local Radio. Colin is back at work after three month's illness and I am sure that members in the Eastern States will be glad to hear his voice again.

East Meets West – At Last

Bet & I had our first visitors from the East in October. Margaret Munro, our Gathering organiser, husband Mike and two friends, Graham & Joan Johnston spent a couple of weeks in WA and called in to see us on their way south. The weather was just great and the six of us got on like old friends. It was great to catch up, especially with the amount of correspondence Margaret & I have had over the past few months. I was dying to meet Mike and shake the hand of a husband who had help address and stamp the envelopes sent out to over 300 Munros in the Sydney area. That is over and above the call of duty!

If any of you happen to make it over to the Wild West, please drop in for a cuppa, we would love to see you. At the very least give a call and say hello, I feel very isolated when most of our members are in the East.

Shortbread

Just to finish, here is another recipe that Scotland gave to the world - convert to metric if you must

Ingredients

8 oz butter
9 oz plain flour
3 oz rice flour
3 oz castor Sugar

Method

Melt butter, put flours and sugar into a bowl and add the melted butter.
Mix until combined into a ball and press into a baking

tin to an even thickness. Prick all over with a fork.

Bake at 350 or 175 for 15 minutes, turn heat down to 300 or 150 and bake for a further 30 minutes or until golden brown. Make sure you turn the tin for even baking.

While still hot, cut into fingers and sprinkle with castor sugar.

Allow to cool in the baking tin before placing in an airtight container.

Clan Munro (Association) Australia
Newsletter

Sender

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been contacted by Duncan Chisholm & Sons, Kiltmakers, Inverness asking us to exchange website addresses we have done. Duncan Chisholm & Sons have also offered a 5% discount on any items of Highland Dress you from them. You can contact them on their website www.kilts.co.uk or by mail at Duncan Chisholm & Sons Ltd, Castle Street, Inverness, Scotland IV2 3DU. Just tell them that you are a member of the Clan Munro (Association) and give them your membership number. I can let you know what that is if you have misplaced it.

Has This Happened to you?

A woman, calling a Glasgow hospital, said, "Hello, I'd like to talk with the person who gives the information regarding your patients. I'd like to find out if the patient is getting better, or doing as expected, or is getting worse."

The telephone operator at the hospital said, "What is the patient's name and room number?" The caller said, "Jessie McCotton, in room 302."

"I will connect you with the ward sister."

"Sister Campbell here. How can I help you?"

"I would like to know the condition of Jessie McCotton in room 302."

"Just a moment. Let me look at her records. Oh, yes. Mrs. McCotton is doing very well. In fact, she's had two full meals, her blood pressure is fine, to be taken off the heart monitor in a couple of hours and if she continues this improvement, Dr. McLeod is going to send her home Tuesday at twelve o'clock."

The caller said, "Thank goodness! That's wonderful! Oh, that's fantastic ... that's wonderful news!"

Sister Campbell said, "From your enthusiasm, I take it you must be a close family member or a very close friend?"

"Not exactly, I *am* Jessie McCotton in 302! But nobody here tells me anything