



Clan Munro (Association) Australia

Volume 2 Issue 3

August 2004

Clan Munro Interest

In our last newsletter I asked for any suggestions for increasing interest in the Clan in Australia and for any possible future events that we could hold.

Ron Munro from Bendigo responded with two suggestions:

- Increase the amount of local content in our website to make it more relevant to what we are doing in Australia. If you don't know it, the address is <http://geocities.com/clanmunroau/index> I will contact our Webmaster, Peter Tibbett, to organise that
- Ron's second suggestion is to go through the phone book and contact all Munros and let them know about our organisation. Obviously not a job for one person but split up into areas this could be feasible. One problem with this is funding as our Australian branch does not have the cash to fund this venture so it would have to be at a volunteer's own expense. Please contact me if you are interested in this one.

Over in the West, I have joined a combined clans' organisation set up to promote all of the local clan associations and their events. To date I have represented the Munros at an event set up by the Western Australian Genealogical Society and have attended a combined clans picnic. Both events created quite a bit of interest but, unfortunately, no positive results so far. I also attended a "Kirking of the Tartan" Church service and lunch. Check my help message!

Also, once a week in the West Australian Newspaper there is a page on missing people, reunions, etc – and it is free! I have sent a request to try and find some of our missing Munros – no results yet. A similar page may appear in your newspapers, so why not do the same? It will be interesting to see the results.

Please send in your suggestions for members' consideration

My thanks to the Annual members who have renewed their subscriptions, could those of you who have not already done so, please renew as soon as possible.

Thanks also to the life members who have sent in their annual levy. That really helps to keep us afloat – it would be great if a few more could do the same.

In our next Newsletter, we will be continuing the story of Ron Munro's war and we also have a delightful story by Audrey Bailey on the Black Isle in the times of her ancestors.

Good news in that Colin Munro has agreed to have an occasional column in the newsletter.

Don

Welcome To Our New Members

We have six new members to welcome this month.

Kevin Johnson from NSW who traces his mother's side back to Daniel Munro or Munrow and Ann Sedgemouth, whose son Henry was born in Dublin about 1863. On his father's side, Kevin goes back to Samuel Johnson who married Louisa English in 1853 in London.

Natalie Gretton is descended from William Hector Munro who came here from Durness, in Sutherland. He sailed on the "Wanata" in 1852 with his wife, Christina Sutherland.

Nancy McLean and her husband Robert have also joined. Nancy is another of the "Shoalhaven Munros." You may remember that I printed a story about them in our second newsletter. Nancy's ancestor William Munro came out on the James Moran in 1839 and traces back even further to James Munro from Lairg in Scotland, whose son, Donald was born in 1764.

Lizzi Bell has been in touch with me for some time and gave us that excellent story of Darby Munro. Lizzie traces back to John Munro who was born in Golspie? in Sutherland in 1796. His son Joseph came out on the 'James Brown' to Victoria in 1853.

Finally our newest member is Colleen McAllister from SA. Colleen is another member who traces her ancestors to the Isle of Skye, this time to Duncan Munro from Borneskataig, Kilmuir on the Isle of Skye in 1795 and on her grandmother's side back to 1776. Her grandparents arrived in Portland, Vic on the "Arabian" in 1854. Colleen and her husband, William are off to Skye in September to visit the home of her ancestors. I hope they take plenty midge repellent with them!

Flying Officer Ron Munro's War in the Pacific 1941-1945 – Part 1

When Ron Munro sent me his experiences in No 100 Beaufort Squadron during WW2, I tried to cut it down to size for one issue but there is so much there to do so would not do it justice. Instead I will do a series of articles over the next few newsletters. To me, this story typifies the Aussie laricanism and lack of respect for authority that covers up real skill and ingenuity.

After undergoing a stringent medical examination I was accepted for Air Crew and in June 1941 was posted to the Victor Harbour SA Initial Training School. As I had prior experience in morse code was sent to Ballarat wireless school to train as a Wireless Operator. On qualifying I was posted to Evans Head NSW Bombing and Air Gunnery school and on graduation was posted to Richmond NSW in April 1942 to join No 100 Beaufort Squadron. The Beauforts, many of which were built in Australia, were two engine aeroplanes with a crew of four - Pilot, Navigator and two Wireless Operator/Air Gunners. They could carry a load of about 2,500 pounds of bombs but could be quickly converted to carry an aerial torpedo.



Our Commanding Officer was Wing Commander Sam Balmer, a permanent RAAF officer who had some 4,000 hours flying experience whereas most of the other pilots had only about 200 hours. Sam asked me if I would join his crew and as Max Mahoney the other WAG preferred the turret gunner position I was happy to be the Radio Operator.

In May 1942 we flew to Archerfield, Townsville, Cairns, Cooktown, Coen, Horn Island, Groote Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and Millingimbie on the tip of Arnhem Land. This was one of our most Northerly bases and we were surprised to find that it was only a gravel strip with no buildings or personnel and we had no option but to refuel the aircraft by pumping 3,000 gallons of petrol from 44 gallon drums using a hand pump.

In May 1942 the Squadron was moved to Cairns. We were told to sleep in any of the adjacent houses and found that the occupants had fled South by train leaving food still on the table, personal possessions, clothes and furniture still in the houses. There were rumours that the Japanese might land and that no defence would be offered North of Brisbane (The Brisbane line). From there we were transferred to Mareeba to carry out our surveillance flights.

As our ultimate destination was Papua New Guinea, Sam Balmer the C.O., decided to fly to Port Moresby so that we could form an appreciation of the facilities there. As we came in to land at Jackson's Field Port Moresby we experienced hostile anti-aircraft fire and at the same time the turret gunner called on the intercom to say that we were being attacked by a Zero. We soon took a hit on the port motor from AA fire and Sam dived into heavy clouds to avoid the Zero. I called up ground control to say we were friendly. When we landed the American AA gunners ran over and said, "We had never seen a God damn aircraft like that

“...blood was running down my legs into my flying boots.....”

Ours was the first Beaufort to go to New Guinea before, so we opened fire" - not a very nice welcome.

That night I slept in an American transit camp consisting of a large tent and a row of camp stretchers. I was awakened about midnight by the sound of three quick rifle shots which was the signal for an air raid. I was fully clothed except for my flying boots, which I quickly pulled on. The Americans all jumped up and rushed into the bush so I decided to follow. When they came to a big slit trench about six feet deep and covered by coconut palm logs, about 25 Americans got in, with me close behind. Almost immediately bombs began to fall very close which caused the walls of the trench to buckle and the trench to fill with smoke. The American officer who seemed to be in charge went to the end of the trench where I was and partly climbing out. He picked up a handful of dirt and on smelling it yelled "Geraniums" they are dropping mustard gas. In the panic that followed I was virtually pushed out of the trench by 25 screaming Americans who ran off in all directions at the same time donning their gas masks. I had left my gas mask in Mareeba so remembering my boy scout days I thought the best thing to do was to climb up a coconut palm as gas always stays on the ground being heavier than air. I got up several feet and as the bombs fell the tree swayed.

I was soon exhausted and thought that I must have been hit as blood was running down my legs into my flying boots. I could not stay there any longer and slid down to the ground. On closer examination I realised that the bark of the coconut palm was razor sharp and that my legs were badly cut. Just at that moment an Australian soldier came along and I asked him about the mustard gas and he said don't worry it is only cordite fumes you can smell. This was my first experience of an air raid and although it was still in progress I walked back to the transit camp and flung myself on the bed and was soon asleep. I was dead beat!

The following day Sam told us to check all our gear and to take as much ammunition as we could and with a full bomb load, we took off at 0615 hours. We had been airborne a couple of hours when Sam called up Max and I on the intercom to tell us that we were headed for De Boyne Island, a Japanese sea plane base SW of Milne Bay. He said that he did not tell us before as this was our first operation and he did not wish to unduly alarm us.

We reached De Boyne about three hours after take off and saw three seaplanes drawn up on the beach and a number of huts from which the Japs ran out firing at us with rifles. We heavily outgunned them

and having dropped our bombs, Sam came down to about 250 feet and we raked the seaplanes and huts with our machine guns until we were low on ammunition. Sam said, "Let's get to hell out of here as they may be able to call up fighter support." We landed safely at Port Moresby about three hours later feeling very pleased with ourselves.



At night we could see the flashes of gunfire from the Owen Stanley Ranges about 30 miles away - this was the Japanese and Australians fighting on the Kokoda Trail. They were pretty close, we had precious little air defence and Port Moresby Township had virtually been destroyed by bombing. A number of ships had been sunk in the harbour and only their masts were sticking up above the water.

We flew back to Mareeba the next day and found that while we were away, a number of newly trained aircrew had arrived together with new aircraft. Squadron Leader Smoky Douglas, a permanent air force officer with about 3000 flying hours to his credit had just got back from Malaya was among the new arrivals but he did not have a crew. Sam held Smoky in high regard and he asked Max and I if we would mind crewing up with Smoky, as he must have an experienced crew. We agreed and Doug Shetliffe, who had a good reputation, was assigned as navigator.

On the 22nd of June 1942 Sam, Smoky and four other Beauforts flew back to Jackson's Field at Port Moresby where we were mostly engaged in convoy escort work and quite often we did 12 and 14 hours flying a day. The Japanese were sinking a lot of our ships bringing supplies from Australia and food was very scarce and we were frequently issued with a two pound tin of Morrison's fruit cake which was expected to last a crew of four for the whole day

On one occasion we had been escorting a convoy for several hours and we were all starving. We carried a box of emergency rations in case we were shot down and I said, "What the hell, why not break it open?" This was a heinous offence but I assured them that I could replace it from one of the wrecked aircraft back at Port Moresby. We all agreed and were soon tucking in to dehydrated dried fruit etc. Max said he would have the bottle of big white pills. Within a few minutes we were all doubled up in pain, as the dehydrated fruit should have been soaked in water before eating. Max collapsed on the floor of the aircraft with big white bubbles coming out of his mouth. I checked the bottle and found that it contained malted milk tablets and each one was supposed to make a milk shake. Somehow we managed to keep flying but after that we treated the emergency rations with more respect.

On the 25th June 1942 we escorted a large convoy into Milne Bay on the South Eastern tip of New Guinea. The convoy was carrying supplies and equipment to establish a landing strip. Obviously could not land, so as soon as the ships were safely in the port we had to head back to Port Moresby away with nowhere to land in between. Little did we know that we would be coming back to Milne Bay in less than three months for a major battle.

We landed at Port Moresby about dusk and were told that we would be going on a raid that night and had better see that all our equipment was in order. We were also told that 100 flying fortresses would soon be arriving from Townsville and when refueled, would be flying over the Owen Stanley's to attack targets at Lae and Salamaua.

Next Issue.....The Flying Fortresses

Genealogy from Ron's Desk

This month I have started on a different tack with a new section called "WHAT COUNTY DO THEY COME FROM?"

Could the members send a very brief "what County do they come from?" of them own ancestors, to me so that we can include them in our newsletter. We may not be able to make contact with immediately families BUT maybe find a few missing cousins.Ron Munro ----To start the ball rolling, this one is from me.

My Munro's, as I have found in my searchings, come from two counties in Scotland. The first is from St Andrews in Fife, where in 1817, David MUNRO (MONRO) was born to Alexander MONRO and Isabel nee WALKER. I believe Alexander was a Merchant in St. Andrews. My second is David's Family; David was a Congregational Minister in Scotland and finally settled and married Margaret nee STEVENSON (of Lowick, Northumberland, ENG) in Coldingham, Berwickshire. They had 4 girls and 4 boys. Their 2nd son was my ancestor, Robert Stevenson MUNRO who came to South Australia c1890's. I am lead to believe that the eldest son David Alexander Stevenson MUNRO and their younger brother Thomas Murray MUNRO all came to Australia. It is possible that they came at different times.

So, does anyone out there have MUNRO relatives from either of these two areas? Contact Ron at PO Box 322, Salisbury, SA 5108 or on munro5112@iprimus.com.au

Snake Bite

Barry Munro from Queensland was bitten by a brown snake about 3 months and it has taken a long time for his body minerals and nutrients to stabilise. Barry tells me that his knees are not good to, because of differing muscle contractions in his back.

Barry was cutting tree branches and the snake was caught in some nylon mesh in the branches. When he had finished trimming the trees, he picked up the pile of branches, walked about 10 meters and the snake bite him on the thigh.

We wish Barry a speedy recovery.

Ian Munro – Pianist & Composer

Searching the Internet for Munros of note I came across the biography of Ian Munro, the extremely talented Australian pianist & composer with whom I know many of you will already be familiar. I knew that this was just what I wanted for the newsletter and as I always try to do, emailed Ian for permission to use his biography. He immediately replied saying that he would be happy for me to use it and told me that this year he will be playing his piano concerto "Dreams" in Russia at the Hermitage Theatre in May with the St Petersburg Philharmonic and in July he toured through Italy. We should be proud that this outstanding musician is not only an Australian but also a Munro! Ian's website is www.ianmunro.net

Born in Melbourne, Ian Munro completed his early studies in that city under the guidance of Roy Shepherd, a pupil of Alfred Cortot. Furthering his studies in Vienna, London and Italy with Noretta Conci, Guido Agosti and Michele Campanella, he was subsequently awarded important prizes in international piano competitions in Spain, Italy, Portugal and the UK, where his second prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition in 1987 established his solo career. Since then he has performed in over thirty countries in Europe, Asia, North America and Australasia.

In the UK alone he has performed with the Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players, BBC Concert Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and has made a number of broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 and 2. Elsewhere, he has performed with the Gulbenkian, Czech Radio Symphony, Polish Radio Symphony, Christchurch Symphony, Auckland Philharmonic Orchestras and all the major orchestras in Australia in over 40 piano concerti. As a chamber musician he has worked with artists such as Ruggiero Ricci, Erich Gruenberg, Krzysztof Smietana, Leslie Howard, Karina Georgian, Jane Manning, Gerald English, Daniil Shafran, David Pereira and the Medici, Goldner and Belcea String Quartets.

His solo repertoire embraces rare and unusual works of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and displays a special interest in new music. Premieres and commissions to his credit include works by Australian composers Peter Sculthorpe, Carl Vine, Elena Kats-Chernin, Roger Smalley, Andrew Ford and Gordon Kerry. Ian has recorded CDs for ABC Classics, Hyperion, Cala, Naxos, Marco Polo, Tall Poppies and the new UK label Warehouse. Recent discs include Arthur Benjamin's solo and chamber works, Peter Sculthorpe's Piano Concerto on the disc *A Garden of Earthly Delights* (which won the Australian Record of the Year at the 1998 ABC Classic FM Awards) and *The Keating Tangos* with clarinettist Catherine McCorkill.

A commemoration of Gough Whitlam in ragtime style was released by Opus House Press in 2003. Recent commissions include the monumental *Waltz Book* by Andrew Ford, presenter of ABC Radio National's "The Music Show" (funded by the Australia Council and premiered in Tasmania in March 2003), and *Silhouettes* by the extraordinary young Uzbekh

composer Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky (personally commissioned by Munro and premiered at the Adelaide Festival in 2002).

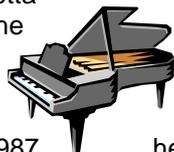
During 1998 Ian joined the Australia Ensemble for their subscription series and for tours of Vietnam and New Zealand. As a result he was invited to become a core member of this acclaimed chamber group from 2000. In addition he played Rachmaninov's third Piano Concerto with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and was invited back to play the second Piano Concerto, one of twelve concerto engagements that season with the Sydney, Western Australian, Tasmanian, Queensland and Canberra orchestras. *Concerto Symphonique*, a set of two CDs for ABC Classics with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, features popular and rare concertante works for piano and orchestra.

For Musica Viva he directed the prestigious Sun Microsystems Yarra Valley Festival at the Domaine Chandon estate and has toured extensively with Yvonne Kenny and colleagues from the Australia Ensemble (2002); with the Australian Youth Orchestra Camerata (2000); with Hector McDonald and John Harding (1999). During this latter tour, Elena Kats-Chernin's horn trio *Velvet Revolution* was premiered, forming the basis of a TV documentary. A further collaboration with Elena resulted in her second Piano Concerto, which was commissioned by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Tall Poppies and was first performed in Cardiff with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales during the Vale of Glamorgan Festival UK in September 2001. In May 2001 he performed Hans Werner

Henze's epic piano concerto *Requiem* with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra directed by Markus Stenz and featuring Håken Hardenberger playing obligato trumpet.

Ian Munro has taught masterclasses in the UK, Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand and Australia. In 1999 he was invited for the eleventh consecutive year to give masterclasses and concerts at the prestigious Dartington International Summer Festival in the UK. He continues his association with the Australia National Academy in Melbourne and Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville as a performer and master teacher. He is currently Conjoint Professor at the University of Newcastle Conservatorium, where he designs innovative performance group projects for the keyboard students.

In 2003 Ian performed concerti with the Queensland, Tasmanian and WA Symphony Orchestras, toured Europe and Central Asia and



"....the piano concerto Dreams won the Premier Grand Prix at the Queen Elisabeth International Competition"

served on the jury of the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition and the Clara Haskil International Piano Competition. Recordings scheduled include the complete Rags for piano by Elena Kats-Chernin, the complete piano music by Peter Sculthorpe and a tribute in music to the poet Judith Wright.

His compositions have received performances in Australia and the UK, in festivals and broadcasts. *Aus tiefer Noth*, a fantasy for viola and piano, was played

by Esther van Stralen in Melbourne (2002). More recently, the piano concerto *Dreams* on the Premier Grand Prix at the Queen Elizabeth International Competition for composers in Brussels, Belgium. It was subsequently performed by the twelve finalists in June 2003, whose performances were broadcast live across Europe by RTBF and VRT radio, television and internet. The CD of Severin von Eckhardstein's winning performance is available through Cypres Records

The Atheist

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when

suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster.

In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!"

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in me!"

"Come on God, give me a break!!," the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"

Help Please!!!

This one is a plea from me. You may have noticed on page 1 that I have attended a few Scottish functions – Clan Picnic, Genealogy, Kirking of the Tartan and you could add our Clan Gathering. At all of them one thing was missing - a kilt!! For my sins, I do not own one. So, if anyone has a Munro kilt, sporrán, etc., just lying there doing nothing, I will happily buy them from you so that I can look the part when I represent you. I am just a wee bloke – 5'4" in my army boots, but everything can be altered! If you can help, please contact me – Don Munro, 18 Salter Road, Mt Nasura, WA 6112 or by email on dmun1249@bigpond.net.au

Coincidence or Highland Magic

*The supernatural, second sight, witches and spirits abound in Scottish folklore tales. Of course we all know that this is all rubbish, don't we!? In this high tech world that we live in there is no place for such nonsense - but how thick is the veneer of civilisation? We see the prophecies of the Brahn Seer coming true and Bet's remembers her Great Granny telling her tales of the weird happenings in the little village in which we lived - and that's not too long ago. Nowadays, such things are put down to coincidence. When something happens once, it could be a coincidence but when it happens twice & even three, four or even five times, then highland magic just could be at work – so let me tell you a story, **a true one of course!***



When our children were young, our son's friend, Marcus used to come and play with Chris. One day he brought a new toy with him and Bet said, "That's nice Marcus, where did it come from?" To which Marcus replied, "From Grandpa Merrylees." An unusual name, you might think but you could have knocked Bet over with a feather for it was her maiden name, not quite the same as Bet's, as hers is spelt Merrilees. Obviously, Bet had to find out more and Marcus's Mum explained that they had come over to the West from NSW and her neighbours on the next property were Merrylees – not relations but very close friends and the kids called them Grandma & Grandpa Merrylees.

Very interesting but end of story – or so you would think. Years later, I was into genealogy and, like the rest of you, trying to trace my elusive Munros while at the same time having a good look at Bet's side of the family. We found that a Merrilees Family Association had been formed and we joined. It is an unusual name and there

are only about 300 families world wide in 33 family groups. A dedicated couple of researchers were looking at these families, bringing together as many as possible and trying to find one family link.

In 1998, the Merrilees Family Association decided to hold its first family gathering with Edinburgh as the venue and we decided to go. This brought back the thoughts of these Merrylees at the other side of the country and we wondered if they would be there. Of course you have guessed it, Ian and Caroline Merrylees were there and we had long and wonderful chats with them. The weekend was soon over and we all went our separate ways, Ian and Caroline were not from the same tree as Bet and we did not keep in touch. So that was that – or once again, was it?

In 2002, Bet & I decided that we would go back home and attend the Clan Munro Gathering, which like everyone else, we enjoyed immensely. What happened of course is history – Isma Munro sweet

talked me into taking on the job of the Representative of the Clan Munro in Australia - and I really thank her for that! When we got back home (this time home is Australia) I read through the membership list and one name leaped out at me – of course you know who it was - Caroline Merrylees! That's right, Caroline's ancestors are Munros and she is one of our members! Of course we corresponded and I found that not only were they Munros but they came from Beaulieu, the village in which I grew up from the age of three - and Bet also lived there for a time. A proper ending to this little tale would be that Caroline & I are related but unfortunately there is no proof of that as our family

were incomers from a bit further North. But in the future, who knows?

Oh yes, one other thing, Caroline writes the Merrilees Newsletter for Australia!!

COINCIDENCE OR HIGHLAND MAGIC? – You can be the judge.

As a postscript to that story, we have just found that DNA tests show that Ian Merrylees and Bet (Merrilees) Munro share a common ancestor probably between 1400 - 1500AD and the present time. You never know, DNA testing may sometime find that Caroline and I are related in some way and that would complete the story

If you have any coincidence/highland magic stories to tell – please send them to me. There must be lots out there – in fact, there is one in the next story.

William Munro & Margaret McFarquhar from the Black Isle

Audrey Bailey from Gympie sent me this nice little bit of family history. Audrey has also sent me a lovely description of the Black Isle in the time of her ancestors, Donald Munro and Ann Cameron and I will feature that in a future newsletter.

Audrey is descended from William Munro & Margaret McFarquhar from the Black Isle. They lived on Teanahaun farm where William was a tacksman (a tenant or lessee). In 1830, their son, Donald Munro 1797-1855 married Ann Cameron 1806-1867 and for the next 25 years, Donald was a grieve or farm manager at Meikle Findon, Braelangwell in Resolis Parish and in Suddie.

Ann Cameron's uncle, Murdoch Cameron was a minister and he married Donald & Ann while a minister at Creich in Sutherland. In the Disruption of 1843, he remained in the established Church while Donald, Ann & family joined the Free Church. They had 11 children in Scotland before emigrating to Australia and they sailed on the John Bell to Hobart and then on the Duncan Hoyle to Launceston, arriving in December 1855.

In Tasmania, Donald was a farmer at Ilfraville and other places in the Tamar valley. Tragically, Ann died in 1867 after a fall from a horse. When Donald retired, he moved to Springfield to live with his daughter, Flora. Flora was Audrey's great grandmother and died in her 92nd year. Most of Donald & Ann's children stayed in Tasmania but a few moved to NSW & Victoria.

A few years back, Audrey joined the Highland History Society in Inverness and put a request in their

magazine for information on descendants of William Munro & Margaret McFarquhar, her gt.gt grandparents. Nothing happened and Audrey dropped out of the Highland History Society but one day, she had a phone call from Malcolm McLennan, who saw her request in an old edition of the magazine that day and just could not wait to phone her. It turned out that his gt.gt grandmother was Mary, a daughter of William Munro & Margaret McFarquhar and, of course, Donald Munro's sister. It would seem that one of Mary's sons had also immigrated to Australia. Just as an aside, Mary had married John McLennan from Maryburgh, the village in which I was born. – *(I just love the coincidences that turn up in these stories – Don).*

In 1985, David Munro & his brother, two of the descendants of Donald Munro & Ann Cameron organised a family reunion. Audrey and her husband attended and they really enjoyed meeting all of their relations and filling in some of the gaps in Audrey's family tree. Audrey's cousins, who up to that time had shown little interest in family history, now want her to write up the family history. A bit of a daunting task and Audrey is still thinking about that one but I am sure our members who have done this, would say "Go for it, Audrey."

These are the children of Donald & Ann Munro, check and see if any of them are in your tree

	Children	Born	Place	Died	Place
1	Murdoch Cameron Munro	28/11/1830	Findon, Scotland	25/6/1892	Launceston, Tasmania
2	Mary Fraser Munro	11/4/1832	Findon, Scotland	22/4/1909	Springfield, Tasmania
3	Margaret Farquhar Munro	26/11/1833	Braelangwell, Scotland	12/10/1886	East Melbourne, Vic
4	William Munro	13/3/1835	Braelangwell, Scotland	Not known	Clunes, Vic
5	Ann Stewart Munro	26/11/1836	Braelangwell, Scotland	Not known	?Springfield, Tas
6	Flora Munro	19/8/1838	Braelangwell, Scotland	6/11/1932	Scottsdale, Tas
7	John Hugh Cameron Munro	2/8/1840	Brae, Scotland	15/1/1911	Launceston, Tas
8	Alexander Munro	15/10/1842	Brae, Scotland	19/8/1915	Wilcannia, NSW
9	Donald Munro	12/11/1844	Brae, Scotland	4/7/1916	Launceston, Tas
10	Charles Munro	12/4/1847	Suddie, Scotland	15/4/1933	Launceston, Tas
11	Isabella Munro	14/9/1849	Findon, Scotland	Not known	East Melbourne, Vic

Munro MacGillivray Family Reunion

The Munro MacGillivray reunion was held on the same day as our gathering and Lily Sims tells me that it was very successful both in numbers as well as financially. Family members traveled from all states and from England and the visitors ranged in age from babies to 95 years.

The beauty of having a one family gathering is that everyone there is related to one another and their name tags can show the different family groups a generations to which they belong. The original Donald Munro and Catherine MacGillivray came out on the "Hercules" and a book has been written about the journey out. The Author, Mr WB Clarke, spoke of the sad stories of many of the passengers on the ship. The Rev Jeff Gray, historian & genealogist was there to talk about the book he has written about the Mortlake area where the pioneers settled.

All in all, it was a great day and a follow up is planned for September 19. Congratulations to Lily and the members of her organizing team.

Another Munro Gathering

Another Munro Gathering, this time a small one but also successful. Sent to me by Helen Munro from South Australia

There were 8 descendants of my Great Grandfather - Alexander Munro, born on 1st Dec, 1857, at Elgin - who gathered together yesterday afternoon – 1st August, 2004. Alexander, and his wife Margaret McRostie, had 8 children, of whom my Grandfather Charles Stuart was the second oldest. My grandfather had one son, Stuart, my father - and I had two brothers, now both sadly deceased, and without having had any children. He also had two brothers and five sisters, so of course, given current protocol regarding surnames being passed down through the male line only, only he, and the descendants of his two brothers could pass on the name. Well one of them, My Great Uncle Harold, had no children, and the other my Great Uncle Jack, had one son. Happily, for the survival of the name, through that line at least, I can now tell you the Uncle Jack's son has 3 sons, so with some good Scottish luck, the survival of the name won't depend on people like me who have decided to resume the use of my patronym in preference to using my husband's family name.

Another interesting piece of information which I learnt, was that Alexander had gone to South Africa after the birth of the first 4 children, and had originally planned to send for his wife to come over to him there. However, happily for me, something intervened and he returned to Australia instead. That explains why there was a great big gap between the first and second set of four children. He was a follower of gold and diamond rushes, and travelled from Moonta, to New Zealand and back to Bendigo and then finally settled in Adelaide. It was the understanding of my cousins that his aim in going to South Africa was to find the ultimate diamond. I wonder what difference it would have made if he had.

Cranachan

When we were back in Scotland on holiday we went for dinner to one of my sisters and our sweet was the delicious one that follows. We had it with the raspberries and you can substitute any light whisky for the Drambuie – and don't take any notice of the (optional) note – should be compulsory! One very well known Scottish restaurant serves this with shortbread biscuits. See Newsletter No 3 for that recipe.

Ingredients:

3 oz (half cup) pinhead or coarse oatmeal

Half pint double cream

1 tablespoon Drambuie (optional)

Method:

Toast the oatmeal in a frying pan on a high heat until lightly brown. Whisk the cream into a soft consistency and mix in the oatmeal and Drambuie (alternatively, use a few drops vanilla essence or other flavouring of your choice). Serve in tall glasses. A popular variation is to mix in 6oz (one and a half cups) of fresh raspberries. Or use vanilla ice cream instead of cream.

Missing

This is the correspondence I do not like receiving – one of the newsletters returned with the words "No longer at this address." I have received one that I had sent to Miss Susan Ross of Morang Road in Hawthorn, Vic. If anyone knows of Susan's whereabouts, could you please let me know?

Vale

We send our sincere condolences to the family of Harold Munro who passed away on Thursday 17th June 2004 at the age of 96 years and 11 months. You will remember that we have had a couple of pieces about Harold in the newsletter. His sons Ian and Bruce are members and Ian's words say it all. *"He was a true Scot and fought to the end to be with us. He died peacefully at Canossa Private Hospital. Not bad for a boy with a very tough start to life."*

Our sincere condolences also go to Gregg & Kathryn Brain. Gregg's mother passed away on the 26th of June after a courageous 5 year battle against cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Can You Help?

Seven requests for you to have a look at and nearly all from non members, so let's see if we can help them – if you are not on email just send what you know to me, Don Munro, 18 Salter Road, Mt Nasura WA 6112.

From Brad Congdon – My g-grandmother was Margaret Munro. She was a daughter of Murdo Munro and Barbara (nee Munro) the couple who were evicted from their croft in Leckmelm (Lochbroom) in 1882 by A C Pirie. Margaret was 10 at the time. She had a sister Euphemia 1860, and two brothers, Thomas b:1875/6 and Donald b:1881 This eviction was a fairly well publicised event that spurred on later land reforms and so I hope that it might be an obvious connection to any other Munro's who maybe researching the same family links. If you are related to these Munros, please contact Brad Congdon on krefti@optusnet.com.au

Mary Lou Bennett from British Columbia in Canada is looking for an elusive relative and this is what she has told me. Family lore is that my grandfather David Munro (Ontario, Canada) had a brother who left the family and was never heard from again. It is said he went to Australia or New Zealand. I hate to be so vague – I don't even know his first name. What might help is that my Munros are all originally from Petty, Inverness. My great grandparents Alexander Munro and Jessie Russell came to Canada (Ontario) from Petty in 1856. Their son David (born 1865) is my grandfather and it is his elusive brother I am trying to find. David's other siblings are Isabella 1856, John 1860, Margaret 1862, William A 1869 James Daniel 1872. Contact Mary Lou at marylouise@telus.net

This one is from David Street – An ancestor of my wife was an Elizabeth Munro, birth date & parents unknown. We know she married a Peter Shepherd at Inverness & died in Edinburgh in 1917. They had 10 children. One of them John Shepherd, born 23rd June 1887, was the grandfather of my wife. He came to Australia & married a woman named Margaret Davidson. The children of Elizabeth Munro & Peter Shepherd were: Helen, Peter, Christina, Dorothy, Lizzie Ann (not sure about the name), David (killed in WW1), Mary Mitchell, Hugh & William. The last 2 were twins. Contact David on dvstreet@ozemail.com.au

Now one from Di Crystal - My ancestors were KEDDIE's who I believe are a sept of the Clan Munro. The first of them came to Australia in the late 1870's from Edinburgh. I would be interested if there are any other descendants of the Keddie's in touch with your Clan. Contact Di on djc47@yahoo.com

A real long shot from Gerry Yerama but we do have some Canadian connections. "I am still looking for a George (Geordie) Munro who wed an Elizabeth Cunningham in Scotland in the 1800.s (place unknown). They had three sons - George, Alexander and James (and perhaps a Margaret). The boys came to Canada In the early 1900s, Alexander seems to have got lost. Any leads would be appreciated – Gerry Yerama gyarema@mb.sympatico.ca

From Narelle Johnston: William Philip MUNRO married Margaret NEWTON 21 June 1883, Taree, NSW. Their son, William R MUNRO born 1892, died 1972, married Anita G FAZIO 1923, Anita died in 1993 Reg, Gloucester, NSW. William & Anita are both buried in Tuncurry General Cemetery. I have been given the names of 9 children (William, Phyllis, Ron, Vincent, Robin, Malcolm, Rodger, Bruce, and Terence) but I do not have any dates or verification as yet. I am seeking information re William and Anita's descendants for my family tree. Any help will be much appreciated. Contact Narelle by email sisana@bigpond.com.au

Colleen McAllister sends this one. My great, great grandparents came to Australia in 1854 from the Isle of Skye. As this is the 150th year since then, we plan to hold a Munro family reunion at the place where they arrived. Their names were Duncan and Katrina Munro and they arrived in Portland, Victoria aboard the ship the *Arabian*. Our Munro reunion is to take place on Saturday 20th November & flowing over to the Sunday for those who want to stay on. We think we've found most of our Tree in Australia, but of course one never knows what skeletons are in the closet. If you are one of the skeletons from that tree, contact Colleen on wilmac@chariot.net.au

What Are They Doing To Us?

Late News

In our first Newsletter I included extracts from the WW1 diary of my grandfather Major Donald Munro of the Seaforth Highlanders. The news from Scotland at the end of July would make poor Danny and so many of our Munro ancestors turn in their graves for, with a stroke of the pen in London, hundreds of years of tradition could be destroyed. It was announced that either two of our Scottish Regiments are to be axed or all of them combined into one regiment. From what I read this has caused consternation throughout Scotland and the army and, although officers have been forbidden to speak about the decision, one has done so.

Brigadier Hughie Monro, the commanding officer of the Highlanders, said in a letter to his troops that he would expect them to be amazed by the decision to scrap an infantry battalion and reorganise the regiments of the Scottish division into one or two "super-regiments".

Brigadier Monro wrote: "The loss of four battalions from the infantry will, no doubt, have caused a degree of amazement. The infantry are as overstretched as ever and the situation in Iraq continues to require significant military support. International terrorism needs to be fought on all fronts; the infantry will be at the forefront of that for years to come....."

Latest news is that one Scottish regiment (possibly the Highlanders) and Fort George will be axed. We can only wait for the next instalment to see what those wise men in power will eventually do.

A big hello from Scotland

I have just received this on an email from Dave McNicoll and thought I would pass it on to you in case it suits your needs for your next holiday in Scotland

My name is Dave McNicoll and I am the owner of a tour company based just outside Edinburgh called 'Scottish Routes', and I hope that what we do will be of interest to the members of your society.

We believe that Scotland is a great country, but it means so much more to those who have a connection whether as ex-pats, those with Scottish ancestry or those who just feel a spiritual link. We recognise that everyone is different so each and every trip we put together is based on the requirements and interests of the individual clients. This makes the trip unique and wholly personal. Please have a look at our website and you will see where we are coming from.

As you will see one of our main areas of expertise lies in putting together ancestral tour packages. Traditionally these tours consisted of taking you to see where granny was born and so on. Well, we thoroughly believe in bringing the past alive, so that the customers get a feel of what life was like in granny's day, and how she would have fitted into the history of her area and of Scotland as a whole. These tours can be very specific to one family and be part of them tracing their family tree, or we can put together trips which are much more generic - Clan history tours if you like.

The trips can either be fully driver-guided, or we can put them together as self-drive packages. Either way we will arrange the accommodation, any entrance fees and set up meetings with genealogists or even Clan Chiefs if possible.

I think that these are services and products that would appeal to members of your society, and I would be very grateful if you could pass this information and our contact details around. If anyone wants to know more, or receive a brochure then please just get in touch.

I look forward to hearing from you

Kind regards and Feasgar Math

Dave McNicoll
Scottish Routes
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++44 1383 428585

RED ALERT FOR THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

I received the following email from Kay MacRae Macleod and promised to include it in the newsletter for your information so that you can decide for your self whether or not you want to do anything about it. Good to see that this has already promoted some healthy debate among our email members. I included information on the DNA project on the same basis.

UK government policies, backed by the Scottish Executive, could spell the end of The Highlands and Islands as millions of Scots around the world know and love them!

Scotland has been pinpointed as a major source of Europe's wind energy. We are all in favour of renewable energy, but not on the scale of the massive windfarm proposed on Lewis, and not in areas of outstanding wild beauty such as Cape Wrath and the Monadhliath Hills.

In the picturesque North West village of Ullapool local people were astounded to learn that the Scottish and Southern Energy Company has well-advanced plans to bring the energy from the Lewis Windfarm ashore at lovely Ardmair Bay and to build a 55 mile line of 160 ft high pylons through Glen Achall, past the Corrieshalloch Gorge and across the Dirrie More to Beauly. It must be stopped!

We have set up an action group HIGHLANDS BEFORE PYLONS and invite your support. Scotland is self sufficient in energy and 30% of the power that will be transported along this line will be lost on its long journey south of the border. Scotland is too precious to

become the industrial backyard of Europe. Power lines should be buried, or undersea cables laid irrespective of cost.

What other part of the world holds such a place in the universal romantic imagination, where landscape and history are entwined, where the aura of remoteness and wilderness brings travellers from all over the globe, and which 50 million Scots worldwide try to visit at least once in a lifetime?

If this wonderful landscape is as dear to you as it is to us, please lobby the decision makers in the UK and let them know your views. The Scottish Executive is planning a mass rally of Scots from round the globe in 5 years' time. Write and tell them that you will not be impressed to find pylons in the glens and wind turbines on the hilltops.

If you have holidayed in Scotland and enjoyed the unspoilt wildness of the land of your ancestors please write and plead with them not to despoil and degrade it. Tourism is our main industry. Please let our decision makers know the value of your ancestral home.

Visit our HIGHLANDS BEFORE PYLONS WEBSITE www.hbp.org.uk for more details and spread the word

WRITE to:

TONY BLAIR, Prime Minister, Direct Communications Unit, 10 Downing Street, LONDON, SW1A 2AA, UK
STEPHEN TIMMS, Minister for Energy, Department of Trade and Industry, 1 Victoria Street, LONDON, SW1H 0ET, UK
CHARLES KENNEDY MP, 1a Montague Road, INVERNESS, 1V3 5DX, UK
JACK McCONNELL, First Minister, Scottish Parliament, EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP, UK
JOHN FARQUHAR MUNRO MSP, 1a Montague Road, INVERNESS, 1V3 5DX, UK
ROSS FINNIE, Minister for Environment and Rural Development, Scottish Parliament, EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP, UK
ALISON MAGEE, Convener, Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, 1V3 5NX, UK

Clan Munro (Association) Australia Newsletter

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The stories printed in this newsletter are as presented by the writers and are accepted by the editor on that basis. Where necessary they have been abridged to fit the newsletter.

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