



# Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

Volume 3 Issue 2

August 2005

Have you visited our Website at <http://geocities.com/clanmunroau/index>

## Chat

### From Scotland

Sarah Munro of Foulis fiddle music videos are available, as is the Clan Munro video & a Clan Munro Magazine index - details on page 3.

### New Zealand

Margaret Weeden tells me that they hold a Clan lunch every few months in different parts of the country – perhaps something that our individual states could do.

### Canada

If you are visiting Canada in August or September, let me know as the latest Munro Beacon has a list of the Canadian Highland Games and Celtic festivals

### This Month

We conclude the story of Ron F Munro's War experiences.  
For sale  
The tartan story  
Genealogy  
James Thompson Munro & James Munro  
The things we do  
Can you help?  
Autumn in the Highland Manor  
Missing  
Vale

### Next Newsletter

The story of one of our best known writers, Neil Munro. Another Munro family gathering and history. Illawambra - Colin & Finlay Munros' family's property.

### Don

In the previous issue I suggested that our newsletter should have a name. The response was not what I had hoped but I did receive a number of suggestions. The one I liked best was "The Eagle" but that is already being used so I decided, as one member suggested, to stick with what we had (well almost). My thanks to those who took the trouble to respond.

Family trees - could members who have not already done so, please send me their family trees. It would be good to have a data base showing all our ancestors and maybe even finding those who connect. This we have already started to do, sometimes by chance! This is obviously a long term project for the future & could keep Ron & myself busy when we have the time to get on to it. So start those trees rolling in.

I have started a new section this month called "The Things We Do." The purpose is to let us all know what we do or if we have retired, what we used to do. Have a look on page 7 to see what I mean.

About the "new" tartan, I have had a couple of comments from members questioning the need for a new tartan. My comments stressing its newness were a bit misleading as in fact the tartan is 40 years old but to date has only been worn by the chief & his family. It has only just been produced in commercial quantities for use by clan members and our chief, Hector would like to see it widely worn. Andrew Cave was the first member that I know of to have a kilt made in the Foulis sett. I had hoped to beat him but unfortunately the lady making my one took ill – it has just arrived and I love it!

What a great bunch of members we have out there. I got an email from Canada to tell us that a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin of Bet's (a Porter nee Forbes) is buried in Pinnaroo Cemetery near Brisbane. I immediately sent out an email to our Queensland members to see if any of them lived anywhere near & had three replies with details & photos of what turned out to be a plaque & not a headstone so the information we needed was not there. But the point is we have a network of members all over Australia all willing to help each other out. Why not make use of our organisation – if any of you need information from another state or from your own, let me know & I will put it out by email & in the newsletter. That's Networking!

We have already printed the story of our best known jockeys, Darby Munro but I notice in our "Can You Help" section the name Jane Barbara Scobie Munro. I wonder if we have Munro connection to another of our great jockeys, Arthur "Scobie" Breasley?

## Welcome To Our New Members

Not so much a new member but one who has returned to the fold and that is always welcome. Mrs Cynthia Mooney from Queensland was a member many years ago and is descended from Alexander Munro & Isabella Ross from Elgin. Their son William & his wife Ann (Cynthia's great great grandparents) arrived in Rockhampton in 1875 on the "Sepia" 4 ½ months after they left London. These Munros join quite a few other of our Munros from Elgin.

## Flying Officer Ron F Munro's War in the Pacific 1941-1945 – Part 4

We now come to the final part of Ron's War. Unlike so many of his brave comrades, Ron made it through to the end of the war and we are so pleased about that. Some might call it luck and there certainly had to be a good measure of that but what comes through for me is the discipline, expertise and attention to detail that help men of Ron's calibre make their own luck. In Part 3, we finished with the Battle of Milne Bay and now carry on from there.

Times were not all bad – I remember the occasion when we got a weekend off from the war. We flew to Charleville and on landing we went by truck into town and were told to go into the houses and ask the people to billet us. Max and I went into the fire station and a dear old lady came out and said, "yes boys you are most welcome." She took us upstairs to the spare room and to our amazement there were two single beds with white lace canopies and white bedspreads. The lady asked if this do and we nearly cried as we were filthy and had not seen a bed in months. I mumbled, "thank you but could we have a bath." She took us into the next room and there was a big iron bath there but as there was only one tap so I asked if we could boil up some water. The lady said just turn on the tap. I thought it would be a cold tap but it was steaming hot bore water. We slept for 16 hours and when we woke up she had prepared a lovely meal and she had washed and ironed all our clothes. We flew back to Milne Bay with a new lease of life



Life at Milne Bay continued as usual – mission after mission; trouble with the Japs struggling back after the Battle of Milne Bay; and the ever present threat of malaria.

One day a Flight Lieutenant from Melbourne turned up and asked me how it was that our crew has had such amazing good fortune. I told him that it was experience, teamwork and the fact that I had modified the turret guns to increase their range of fire. I explained that Max had complained that the guns cut out as they were swung towards the wings or the tail and that the Zero pilots were aware of this and attacked accordingly. I told him that I had removed the cutouts but that Max knew to be extra careful not to shoot us down. I thought he was impressed!

About two weeks later Sam told me that we had to fly to Townsville as I was on a court marshal. On the way over I explained what I had done and he told me that the court marshal would consist of himself, the Flight Lieutenant and a Group Captain. He also said that I was to say as little as possible when asked a question.

I was marched into the court marshal and readily admitted that I had taken the cut outs off and the Group Captain started to give me a dressing down. He said, "don't you realise that due to your stupidity the gunner could have shot down your own aircraft and you would have all been killed? I do not think you are fit to go on flying and I don't think I will let you go back to New Guinea etc." To say that I was upset would be an understatement and told him that I did not give a bugger if I did not see that dirty filthy rotten place again and that furthermore we were still alive when many others had been shot down. He instructed the guards to remove me and I went back to my tent and threw myself on the bed. About an hour later Sam came in and I apologised for blowing my top. He just said that we would be leaving for Milne Bay at dawn. I asked him what about the court marshal and he replied, "bugger those shiny bums, I told them I was not going to

break up an experienced crew on the judgement of officers who had not fired a shot!"

One day Sam called me in and told me that I had been flying too many missions and he was going to send me on a course. It was planned to install radar equipment in the Beauforts and I was off to Richmond, NSW to learn all about it. When I got back, I found that using radar, I could pick up a ship at about 40 miles but received confusing signals if it was near land or among small islands. I continued to do attacks with either Sam or Smoky but the inexperienced navigators were having trouble locating allotted targets at night. So, on the 20th February 1943 they installed a "rooster" on our aircraft which was a beacon I could switch on when over the target and the other aircraft could home in on us. A Japanese convoy had been sighted off Gasmata and when we located it, we flew in circles over the convoy with the rooster beacon on and the other aircraft were guided to the target. Needless to say the Japanese soon woke up to us and used every means, including fighters to try and shoot us down. One of our planes did not return from this mission.

As Christmas approached, the Squadron decided that we should all put in as much money as we could afford into a kitty. The C.O. agreed to send an aircraft that was due for a 240 hours overhaul to Townsville so that the crew could buy up hams, turkeys and Christmas fare and fly it back in a new aircraft which had been allocated to the Squadron. We were also told that a quantity of red cross parcels had arrived but they would be held until Christmas day.

To cut a long story short, two planes were to fly back with stores. We had to drop ours at an army base and I almost fell out of the plane – but that is another story! The other plane had all our Christmas stuff packed up in ice and on the way back, developed engine trouble and had to make an emergency landing at Coen. They were stranded there for about a week and after the first day the ice melted and all the food went bad and had to be dumped.

But all was not lost – we still had our Christmas parcels. We eagerly opened them on Christmas morning only to find they contained mouldy cake, melted chocolate bars, thick woollen gloves and woollen balaclavas. There was a note inside each parcel from the ladies who had packed them saying, I hope you boys will be warm and comfortable for Christmas!

**Christmas dinner consisted of bully beef and army biscuits!!**



Sam Balmer told me he was leaving the squadron to go to Bomber Command in England and asked if I wanted to go with him. I decided not to go. Sam became C.O. of Lancaster Squadron 467 in England but was shot down and killed on the night on 12th May 1944 over Belgium. At the time he held the rank of Group Captain and had been awarded the OBE and the DFC. The English papers paid many tributes to Sam. At the time of his death he had been a pilot in the RAAF for 13 years and had over 5000 flying hours to his credit. According to an article in the

London Daily Mail he was as well known in the RAAF as Group Captain Cheshire was in the RAF.

We held him in the highest regard and it was an honour to serve under him and to fly with him. I was eventually posted to Sale Operational Training Unit as a Radar instructor. Many Beauforts were lost at Sale, something that was difficult to understand as no distress signals were received before they crashed into the sea. Eventually one crashed on land and a post-mortem showed that the crew had died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Further investigation revealed that in fitting a modification to the Beauforts, a mistake had been made in assembly, with the result that fumes from the exhaust were seeping into the aircraft which meant that the crew gradually lost consciousness.

In January 1945 I was posted to Laverton to train on a special Liberator which was fitted out with the most advanced radar. We had been told to familiarise ourselves with all aspects of the aircraft. On one occasion, we were flying at about 10,000 feet over Port Phillip Bay and I went down into the bomb bay to have a look around. I was walking along a narrow catwalk, when suddenly the bomb bay doors opened and, in desperation, I grabbed and hung on to a stanchion as the wind from the slipstream threatened to blow me away. Fortunately the bomb bay doors closed and I rushed up to the pilot and abused him. He pointed out he did not know I was there and he and the co-pilot had been trying out all the knobs. When I cooled down we all had a good laugh. Training completed, we were due to leave for Borneo the next day and were given a strict medical check.

I still had tropical sores on my body and skin blemishes and the doctor refused to let me go back to the tropics. I was grounded and classed as permanently medically unfit for flying. As the war was drawing to a close I was happy to be discharged as I felt my luck had just about run out. I was discharged on the 3rd of September 1945.

I have often been asked how we managed to be the only



original 100 Squadron crew to survive intact. I had completed seven torpedo drops against warships as well as numerous strafing and bombing missions and apart from a number of hits on the aircraft we had always managed to get back to base.

There is no doubt in my mind that the reason for this was the expertise of the crew with whom I flew. I was fortunate to fly with either Sam Balmer or Smoky Douglas who had hundreds of hours up when war started and when not flying with them I was in Dave Forest's crew and he was a most competent pilot. Max Mahoney, our gunner was very reliable and Doug Shetliffe, our Navigator was extremely competent. For my part I could always fix the radio if it went on the blink and was an experienced wireless and radar operator. Our crew discipline was such that we never panicked and we worked together well as a team.

Smoky died on the 3rd of August 1988 and Doug Shetliffe the navigator has since passed away. As one veteran said to me the loss of an aircrew member with whom you shared so many experiences is equivalent to losing a brother and I could not agree more.

Max Mahoney the gunner and I are still going strong in the year 2005. We are the only two alive who were in the first Beaufort to fly into New Guinea; to take part in the first strafing run on the seaplane base at De Boyne Island; to go on the first Beaufort bombing mission to Salamaua; and to take part in the first torpedo attack in the South Pacific war - that was on the cruisers at Milne Bay

Shakespeare in Julius Caesar said, "Cowards die many times before their death. The valiant only taste of death but once." I do not consider myself a coward but I am not ashamed to say that during my flying experiences I accepted that death was inevitable on more than one occasion.

Quite frankly, I am a fatalist and firmly believe that what is meant to be will be.

**Ron Munro February 2004**

**For Sale**

*Below I have listed three items for sale that should be of interest to you. What is prohibitive to us is the cost of sending a bank cheque overseas for only one item. If you are interested in a copy or copies of any of these items, let me know and I will send one bank cheque and we can all share the bank charges. When I know how many are required I will let you know what you have to pay. I will have them posted directly to you from Scotland. I have given the addresses in case you want to send direct.*

Clan videos are available from Albavision, 110 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness IV2 3HT or Tel. Alison Wilkie 44 (0)1463 716752 Fax 44(0)1463 710334 or Email [albavision@scotland-info.co.uk](mailto:albavision@scotland-info.co.uk) and can be purchased on line through [www.albavision.co.uk](http://www.albavision.co.uk) **The Clan Munro Highland Homecoming** is just one of the clan videos, and Albavision has a further 18 or so titles which will appeal to anyone interested in Scotland and its history. The cost of the Clan Munro video is £13.50 plus £4 airmail.

At the 2002 Clan gathering we were entertained by the "The Kiltarn Fèis Rois Fiddlers," an extremely talented group led by none other than our Chief's lovely wife, Alpha Munro – and they were excellent. There are two CDs by the Fèis Rois Fiddlers "**Fèis Fiddle Magic**" & "**Earth Wind & Fire**"- they are £8.00 each and Alpha's own CD, "**Stars in the Wave**" is £10.00, Your cheque in pounds sterling should be sent to:- Alpha Munro, c/o Storehouse of Foulis, Foulis Ferry, Evanton, Ross-shire, Scotland, IV16 9UX. Postage cost is £1.80.

Where would organisations such as ours be without volunteers? Malcolm Hamilton from the USA has compiled an **Index for the Clan Munro Magazine, 1939-2005**. That really is a great effort and it is available at cost price of \$US20.00 including postage and payable in US dollars. Postal address is Mr Malcolm Hamilton, 24 Elmore Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02467, USA or email [MCH12938@comcast.net](mailto:MCH12938@comcast.net)

*With our "new" tartan in production I thought it timely to do some research for an article on tartans in general & the Munro tartan in particular and the following is the result. Chief Hector kindly sent me an article from the 1951 Clan Munro Magazine No 3 together with an addendum to that article which appeared two years later in the Clan Munro Magazine No 5 and has given me permission to quote from them. The article is by J MacGregor Hastie, F.S.A. Scot., who had made a special study of tartans for some 25 years. Mr Hastie at that time had one of the most representative collections in the country and had an intimate knowledge of published and unpublished authorities. I have given a brief description of the history of tartan in general before finishing with Mr MacGregor Hastie's comments on our own Munro tartan. The quote attributed to Alastair Campbell of Airds is from an article by Mr Peter M Glendinning on the website The Capital Scot.*

There is so much misinformation about tartan readily available that it is difficult to sort the myth from the truth. What is certain is that although the history of tartan goes back a long way, in the main, the tartans we know today do not – very few clans that can trace their tartan back before the early 1800s and the Clan Munro is no exception. There is even some dispute as to the origin of the word 'Tartan' - the most likely derivation is from the French 'tiretaine' which described a type of material, not a specific colour or pattern. The other view is that it is derived from the Irish 'tarsna' - crosswise or Scottish Gaelic 'tarsuinn' – across, probably unlikely as there already is a Gaelic word for tartan - 'breacan'.

The earliest tartans were of undyed wool from the indigenous Soay sheep; light brown, dark brown and white. The oldest preserved Scottish tartan is a fragment in these colours known as 'the Falkirk tartan'. It was found buried next to the Antonine wall near Falkirk and was used as a stopper in a bottle holding coins dating from the third century AD. The first definitive written reference to tartan is found in the Royal Household accounts for 1538, when three ells of 'Heland tertane' were purchased to be made into trousers for James V.

According to Alastair Campbell of Airds, Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms, *"The general idea of using tartan for identification is of relatively modern origin; it gained ground swiftly in the early 1800's when surviving correspondence shows Chiefs and Chieftains writing to ask the manufacturers what their tartan was. They received a ready response. Prior to this, for centuries, the pattern of a man's plaid depended on what was available locally and which pattern took his fancy. By the end of the 18th century the manufacture of tartan had moved from being a local cottage industry down into the Lowlands and into the hands of such large firms as Wilson's of Bannockburn whose marketing skill was of a high order by the standards of any day or age. The steady production of new patterns for which an attractive name was given coincided with the great growth of romanticisation of all things Highland and the boom in clan tartans was on.*

*People who asked for a particular clan tartan were readily obliged and in the pattern books of the day it is possible to see the change of title as, for instance in the case of Wilson's pattern 'No. 250' which becomes successively 'Argyll' and then 'Campbell of Cawdor.' So, too, the occasions where the attribution was duplicated and a pattern is shown under several different clan names and minute differences in a basic sett sufficed to produce a new clan tartan.*

*Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, there is no legal definition of what is or what is not the tartan of a particular clan. It is now accepted that the arbiter of what the clan should wear is the Chief concerned but his decision has no legal force behind it."*

Although there were very few clan tartans in existence at the time of Culloden, it can be argued that it is because of Culloden we now have what we recognise as our clan tartans. The battle itself was not responsible but the "Proscription"

that followed it was - the government thought tartan to be so relevant to the psyche of the highland clans that it was banned for from 1746-82. This proscription however, applied only to common Highland men; not the upper echelons of Highland society; not to Lowland Scots; not to women; and it did not apply to the Highland regiments that were being formed in the Government army.

This was not the first time that tartan had been banned. Many years before, women had been forbidden from wearing their traditional 'arisaid' (a tartan plaid covering the head and extending to the ankles) in church. Kirk ministers were concerned that women might be sleeping during the sermon under cover of their plaid. *Maybe they should have livened up their sermons a little!* It is also said that some towns (on the East coast) banned women from wearing the arisaid in public, lest they be mistaken for "loose women or suspected persons."

But we have digressed. Roughly speaking, the proscription dividing line was from Dumbarton in the west to Perth in the east and this is important, for just below this line was Bannockburn on the outskirts of Stirling and it was there that William Wilson started his family business unaffected by the Act and he flourished. He quickly cornered the growing market for tartan in southern Scotland and elsewhere, especially for the lucrative supply of cloth to the military and the increasing number of Highland Regiments. The need for mass cloth production to meet large orders such as the military, led to a requirement for standard colours and patterns in order to maintain quality control. These standardised colours and patterns devised by Wilsons were certainly in use by them by the 1780's and their range continued to grow with the increase in the demand for tartan; a trend which continued throughout the 19th century.

By the time the first aniline dye was introduced in 1856 the use of standard colours and colour terminology had been practised by Wilsons for over seventy years and was firmly established. They started to name some of their patterns after towns and districts in the latter half of the 18th century. Towards the end of the century the use of family names for tartans becomes apparent and this practice increased over the next fifty years and in 1819 they compiled their in-house reference manual, the 1819 Key Pattern Book.

Sir Walter Scott has been accused of being responsible for many things including responsibility for the American Civil War – see the Clan Munro (Association) Australia newsletter No 8 – this may or may not have been true but with others, he was certainly responsible for the romanticism of the tartan. With the threat of the barbarous clans from the North eliminated by the equally barbaric ethnic cleansing in the aftermath of Culloden, Scott & his contemporaries combined to make the noble Gael a romantic figure – and what could be more romantic than the sight of a heroic Highland Chief leading his tartan clad clan into battle in support of a lost cause. This was a far cry from a mere seventy six years earlier when the Scots in the South looked upon the Highlanders as

hated savages. George IV's royal visit to Scotland in 1822 was the first by a king for 150 years and was to a large degree stage managed by Sir Walter Scott who urged the Scots to turn out 'plaided and plumed' in their true tartans to meet their King.

Minor panic must have set in, for what was the true tartan of the clan? Very few really knew and in many cases there probably never was one. It is reported that the chief of the Robertsons travelled around Atholl asking the old men of his clan what the true clan pattern was, but no-one could agree. Eventually he sealed as the true Robertson Tartan a piece of what is now called Hunting Robertson or Robertson of Kindeace, which is thought to be the tartan used for kilts by the Loyal Clan Donnachie (Robertson) Volunteers, a sort of home guard, raised in 1803. Like all such variations of the Government tartan, this pattern cannot be dated earlier than the late 18th Century and so it cannot have been the old Robertson clan tartan. Indeed, there are other old patterns associated with the clan which would have a better claim to being the 'clan tartan' had one existed in c.1815. Other stories on a similar vein reported have been reported.

Confidence tricksters are not just a present day phenomenon and the time was right for a pair of them to surface. The Sobieski brothers claimed to be the illegitimate grandsons of Prince Charles Edward Stewart by Louise of Stolberg. The Prince had styled himself 'Count of Albany', and this was the title which the Sobieski Stewarts successively assumed. Both are said to have fought at Waterloo and subsequently to have come to Scotland. Amongst those who listened sympathetically to their tale and indulged their pretensions was Lord Lovat who installed them at Aigas on an island in the Beaulieu River.

They claimed that they had been left a 16th century manuscript, the Douai Manuscript, giving details of many original but previously unknown clan tartans including those long lost by non-Highland families. Their whole story has now been shown to be a fabrication as has their claimed copy of the Douai Manuscript which they called the Cromarty Manuscript. However, this did not prevent their designs from being accepted widely as genuine by a society revelling in all things Scottish. Having said that, their book, the Vestiarum Scoticum (1842) was the first book to be published with tartan plates and this led to a host of other similar books during the second half of the 19th century.

The Foulis Sett with the Dress Munro inset on the left



The Ancient Munro



The Modern Munro



The Muted Munro



The Munro tartan in their book was a red and black design quite unlike the original clan pattern and J MacGregor Hastie had this to say about it. *"This sett had not hitherto been met with in any record or early collection and from the evidence of well informed authorities, can safely be dismissed as a fraud."* He continues *"So at the present time we are confronted with six Munro designs from which to choose, four of these being variations of the same sett. The red and black pattern can safely be dispensed with for clan use. The Black Watch tartan, from tradition and close association, is, I am informed, still in use by some members of the clan who prefer a quieter design than the red sett and with this nobody will quarrel. The remaining four variations can be classified thus:-*

1. *The ancient pattern minus the triple green lines*
2. *The ancient pattern with a double set of triple green lines*
3. *The ancient pattern with a single set of triple green lines*
4. *The ancient pattern with a single set of triple green lines and added crimson*

*On the foregoing evidence, it can be assumed that No. 1 was an incomplete specimen in the collection and No. 4 a composite scheme due to the invention of a pirated design. We are now left with Logan's twin green overline version and the single arrangement as now commonly worn. As to which should be chosen as the authentic clan pattern I would not presume to state. This must be a matter for the Clan Munro to decide."*

Two years later, as a result of having received a copy of Wilson's tartan key book dated 1819, Mr MacGregor Hastie revised his thoughts on No. 4 above, for the tartan key book shows it as a Munro variant, listed as Lochiel. He also had second thoughts about giving his opinion on which is the authentic Munro pattern and states *"if I might be permitted an opinion, it favours the adoption of the Logan pattern, with a double set of green lines."*

Of course as we all know, we now have a new pattern (albeit forty years old) so if you are in the market for a kilt or a skirt, this Foulis set is the one that the Chief would like to see you wearing. Below I have shown a few of the Munro tartans that I have come across. The Foulis sett is shown larger than the others with the older dress tartan sett inset at the left to try & give an indication of the increased size of the new sett.

Genealogy from Ron's Desk

## ClanMunro.AU chatroom

Greetings all ages,

I have been very busy and almost forgot the chatroom I was going to start - until I read the latest magazine from Scotland. If anyone, young or old, is interested please email me at [rdm5108@hotmail.com](mailto:rdm5108@hotmail.com) and we can get a chatroom rolling and meet other clan members on line..... Ron

## James Thomson Munro & Finlay Munro

*I never cease to be amazed at the coincidences that abound in the letters I receive. Here are a few examples of what, to me, is one of the most interesting parts of this job. All of the members mentioned below knew each other in some way but I did not know this until I was able to piece together this family jig-saw from the information that each of them had sent in. I must say that at first I was not looking for family links – I was just happy that members took the time to contact me. It was as more letters rolled in that the family links began to fascinate me as I spotted more of them.*

In May 2003, I received a letter from Marjorie Rowlands, telling me that she noted in my introductory letter that I was born in Maryburgh. She also sent me a copy of a letter sent by the Rev DR Munro to his brother, James Thomson Munro. DR Munro had travelled by steamer from Invergordon to Aberdeen to say goodbye to his brother James † before James and his family left for Australia. The † letter was an account of DR Munro's journey and † also thanks for some mementos that his brother † gave to him and his family. The Rev DR Munro † was the minister of the Free Church in † Maryburgh and Marjorie was checking to see if I knew anything about the church and manse. Unfortunately I did not but I remembered when at the Gathering in 2002, meeting Mhairi Mackenzie the Hon Secretary of the Clan Munro (Association) and Mhairi just happens to live in Maryburgh. To cut a long story short, I contacted Mhairi, who went to a lot of trouble and sent photos, photocopies of relevant information, etc., which I was able to pass onto Marj who was delighted with all of the information she received. We are all very grateful to Mhairi for the time she spent and realise how lucky we are to have this support from Scotland.

The very next day, I received a letter from Janet Moore who told me that her ancestor, David Dewar Munro from Elgin, had come out to Australia on the "Scottish Maid" which arrived in Melbourne on August 23, 1853. Janet said that David travelled to Australia with his uncle, James Thomson. Janet also sent me information about David's father Finlay Munro, who was very well thought of in Elgin as this report of his death says. *"We are very sorry to record today the death of a gentleman whose departure takes away another landmark in Morayshire. Mr Finlay Munro, a household word in Elgin and the neighbourhood has gone 'over to the majority'."* The report goes on to tell of his work as a sheriff-officer and Messenger-at-arms. Later, he was an auctioneer and valuator, a councillor, an elder of the Free Church, a mason and extremely well thought of in Elgin. Finlay was born at Logie Easter in 1811 and died in Elgin in 1883.

When David Dewar Munro came to Australia, he was a clerk with the Bank of NSW in Victoria before turning to gold digging, firstly in Victoria and then in NSW eight years after he arrived in Australia. In 1868, he married Mary Mckinnon in Palmers Oakey and lived there until he died on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 – the day the Anzacs landed at Gallipoli.

I did not connect these two letters. Marjorie had no dates, apart from the letter dated July 1852 - Janet had 1853. Marjorie mentions Maryburgh, Invergordon and Aberdeen – Janet mentions Elgin. Marjorie has James Thomson Munro and Janet has James Thomson. As I say, I did not make a connection and I was not really looking for one at that time.

Enter a new member in November 2003, Nolene Woolcott. On her application form Nolene said that she had heard about the Clan Munro (Association) Australia from a second cousin but did not mention a name. In her little bit of family history, she said that her parents owned a farm at Palmers Oakey and she was descended from David Dewar Munro – there it was, staring me in the face – the first link - to Janet Moore. Janet was the 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin that Nolene had mentioned on her application form. But Nolene also mentioned that David had come out on the boat with his uncle – James Thomson Munro. Once again – there it was – the link this time to Marjorie Rowlands and so to both of them.

Of course I contacted the three ladies and this reply from Nolene explains a lot. *"Yes, you are right - I do indeed know Janet Moore and she is the second cousin who told me about the Clan Munro. To be fair I had also heard about it from Marjorie Rowlands who is descended from the Uncle James Munro that David travels out to Australia with. I am in touch with both of them. The irony of it is that Janet grew up not far from where I did back near Bathurst and I did not know her then. Marjorie lived for some years in Bathurst and our*



*families did not know each other though I actually did know her daughter at school but because of the different surnames there was no question as to us being 'related'."* I wonder how often that happens. - Ed

Janet sent me a copy of a family tree prepared by Marjorie showing the relationship of the three ladies going back to David Munro who was married to Janet Ross & they were the parents of the Rev Daniel Ross Munro, Finlay Munro & James Thompson Munro.

But as they say, there is more. In earlier correspondence with Noel Gates, I had asked about the relationship of their Sydney Munro group and he wrote to me saying that it was best explained by the enclosed family tree. He explained that the tree had been prepared in 1988 by their respected family historian, you guessed it, Marjorie Rowlands, as an introduction to their local family tree. The members of this group are all descended from three of the children of James Thomson Munro and the tree was, of course, the same as the one sent to me by Janet Moore.

So there we have it, our members Marjorie Rowlands and her brother Bruce H Munro, Noel Gates and his brother Graham, Janet Moore and Nolene Woolcott all trace their family trees back to David Munro & Janet Ross

I also found later that James Thomson Munro's wife, Elspet, did not sail with him and left a year later on the steamship Ballarat with their 10 month old son, James Fettes – who, I imagine, was the reason for the separate sailings. They arrived in Port Phillip, Victoria on July 17, 1854.

## The Things We Do

As Ray Munro says “It seems worldwide that a lot of people from a Scottish heritage end up in some form of Engineering. My father & grandfather were both Engineers.” Ray followed that trend, training as a mechanical engineer and has been involved in the shipping industry since 1968. Ray and his wife Helen jointly own the firm of Feliba Pty Ltd, which is engaged in the highly specialised field of Marine Refrigeration. They are contracted to shipping companies to repair and maintain their overseas refrigerated shipping containers.

Feliba had its beginnings in 1986 in a small home in Sydney. From there they moved to an office in the inner city and it was not long before they outgrew this not so conveniently situated location and moved to more spacious office in a more appropriate location, quickly settling in to do what the company does best – *Refrigerated Container Repair*.

Within three years the company had expanded to Brisbane; two years later to Melbourne; five years later to Port Adelaide; and in 1996, incorporated the services (as agents for Feliba) of reputable and experienced technicians in Fremantle. From its inception, Feliba has steadily grown and in using its strengths to provide the best service to the Australian shipping industry, it has gained a far broader and highly skilled technical base. Feliba has always focused these strengths in two primary areas

- Fulfilling their clients’ requirements efficiently, with little fuss
- Training new technicians and furthering the knowledge of our current employees

For more than half the company’s existence, Feliba has been the largest privately owned and operated Container Refrigeration Service Company in Australia.

In 2002, Feliba won the inaugural *Carrier Top Performance Award* for Australia & New Zealand. This was pleasantly followed up in 2003, when Feliba won for the second year in a row. In 2004 they won the award for business planning. Now that sounds like a success story to me. As they say “from little acorns do giant oak trees grow” – Ed

## Welcome to the Clan

Ron (that’s our genealogist) and Carol are ecstatic over the arrival of their second grandchild Rhiannon Daisy GREEN born to their second daughter Shannon and her husband Gary on 3rd June 2005 at 3:27pm. At 18.5 inches long and weighing in at 5lbs 15 oz, Rhiannon is the exact same size as Shannon was when she was born in the same hospital 25 years ago!

## Can You Help?

The following are a few of our member’s ancestors, so if any of the names ring a bell, please let me know.

The tree of Andrea Biddolph & her sister Marcia James starts with Finlay Munro, born in Scotland abt 1780. He married Alexandrina Ross who was born in Kincardine, Ross & Cromarty and they had five children, Alexander (Andrea & Marcia’s great grandfather), William, Anne & James all born in Kincardine & Christian, born in Culrain. The family arrived in Sydney in 1839 on the James Moran. Andrea & Marcia have already made contact with descendants of their grandfather’s brother James.

Just as a coincidence, the ancestors of Mary Lidbetter, Douglas Saunders, Christine Berridge, Bruce & Duncan Munro & Nancy McLean came out on the same boat. They were William Munro & Ann MacKay and their children Donald, Anne, Jane, Angus, Hughina, Catherine & Barbara. These are the Shoalhaven Munros, we had one of their stories in newsletter No 2 – let me know if there are any more of you out there.

Ray Munro is descended from Allan Munro. Allan’s son Henry Albert Munro migrated to Australia in 1831 and he married Isabella Harkness who came to Australia in 1834 on the Othello. They were married in the Presbyterian Church in York Street, Sydney in 1853 and their children were Margaret, Henry, Isabella, Jessie & Henry Allan (Ray’s grandfather).

This next group has been sent in by non members, so let’s see if we can help them.

Jill Ball is looking for Archibald GILLESPIE b. 1824 Islay, Argyle; Occupation Miller and he married Margaret MUNRO 1852. Their children were: Margaret b. Geelong 1856, Agnes b. Ballarat 1857, John b. 1859 Ballarat, George b. 1861 Ballarat. Hopefully someone somewhere may have a link with the family. Contact Jill at [welwel@tpg.com.au](mailto:welwel@tpg.com.au)

Don Tylee is descended from Donald Munro born 1802 in Farr, Sutherland & Georgina Mckay who were married in 1826 in Tongue. They had 7 children – John, Johanna, Alexandrina, Catherine, Jane, James & Janet. Don descends through Jane (Jane Barbara Scobie Munro) who married Andrew Sharp Jack before coming to Australia. Their children were Robert, Georgina, Isabella, Barbara, Ann, Jane, Adrienne, Martha and Andrew. Donald & Georgina arrived in Geelong in October 1854 on the “Hornet.” If any of this rings a bell contact Don at [don.tylee@bigpond.com](mailto:don.tylee@bigpond.com)

Cynthia & Raylee Monro are looking for information about their ancestors. They have traced back to John Monro & Barbara Garner who had a son James Garner Henry Monro. He married Catherine Gertrude Hayward - they lived in Carlton Victoria and had John Hayward Monro born in 1889, Louisa Edith Monro born 1886 in Melbourne, died 1944 in ?Kogarth, Elizabeth Mary Monro born 1884 and Victor James Monro who died in 1984 aged 92. John Hayward Monro had a son John Monro to Annie Phillips and it is believed that he later married Winifred Beryl Hayden & had a son James Hayden Monro. Contact Cynthia at [cynasix@hotmail.com](mailto:cynasix@hotmail.com) or Raylee at [rmonro@melbpc.org.au](mailto:rmonro@melbpc.org.au)

James Andrew Munro is looking for information about Alexander Munro, b 1783 in Redcastle and probably blinded by his blacksmith trade. He married Ann Holm in 1819 & they lived their life out in Agnes Hill. They had 7 children & the 6 who survived were Ann b 1820; John b 1824 who married & farmed at Bog of Cullicdudden; Alexander b 1826; Helen b 1828; Adam b 1835 was James' great grandfather who emigrated to Australia; and Janet b 1838. Alexander's father was John Munro who married Ann Dingwall. If you can help, contact James on [jimmunro@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jimmunro@ozemail.com.au)

## Autumn in the Highland Manor

We were well represented at Government House, Parramatta at the above very successful function. Marj Rowlands headed the family group I wrote about in the story on page 6 and almost all of them were there on the day. They had a very attractive tartan clad table from which they distributed Munro information & this was fronted by a handsome Clan Munro Association banner. In Marjory's words "What a wonderful day, enjoyed by all & the winter sun added to the occasion. It was good to see so many people in the Scottish dress and they mingled well with the colonial garb of the Macquarrie era. No doubt quite a few will be trying their hand at Malt whisky making! Government House was well guarded by a member of the staff wearing the old uniform of 73<sup>rd</sup> Foot Regiment of Foot. He gave us a wonderful description of the regiment's past history which included time in India before being recalled to England"

*Ed's note: The 1st Battalion 73rd Regiment of Foot had a long and illustrious history. It served in many countries around the world and fought in many campaigns The Battalion was originally raised as the 2nd Battalion 42nd Highland Regiment (Black Watch) in 1779 and in 1881 rejoined the 42nd to become The Royal Highland Regiment (Black Watch). The Munros, as we all know, had a long connection with the Black Watch regiment.*

## Missing

I have had two letters returned as "not at this address." The first was to Mrs Janet Annand Williams from Rockhampton and the second was to Mrs Gayle Tear from Sunnybank Hills in Queensland. If any of you know of these ladies whereabouts please let me know.

## Valg

We have had the sad news of the passing of one of our WA members, Ray Munro. We send our sincere condolences to Mrs Munro & her family. Ray was a much loved husband, father & grandfather and is well remembered for his contribution to the meat industry in WA and to the community in general.

The Scottish community in Australia suffered a huge loss with the passing of David Hamilton Scotland OAM, BEM, CyC, PHF and we extend our condolences to Moyna Scotland and family. The major part of David's involvement in Scottish affairs has been through Pipe Bands and he began his piping career with the Lakemba Caledonian Pipe Band before transferring to the Cunningham Pipe Band where he was the Drum Major and married Moyna, a piper in the Band. They two children, Jean Heather and Iain David. David served in many positions in the Australian Federation of Pipe Band Associations and was President for 10 years. The Scottish Australian Heritage Council was established early 1981 and David served as a Vice-Chairman from its inauguration until 1987 and his involvement with Scottish House is legendary. David was a devoted family man, taking great delight in his granddaughters, Nicole Anne, born in 1980, and Anna Isabelle who arrived in 2003.

*Sincere Thanks from the Family of David Hamilton Scotland, OAM, BEM, CyC, PHF.*

*We have been overwhelmed by the number of messages of condolence and support received following David's passing. He was a much-loved husband, father, papa, brother, brother-in-law and uncle and we ask you to accept this message as an expression of our gratitude ..... Moyna, Jean & Nicole, Iain, Rachel & Anna and David's extended family.*

## Clan Munro (Association) Australia Newsletter

### Sender

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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.

Our newsletter is printed by courtesy of AG & CH List

## Membership

As requested, I have included our membership fees in case you would like to upgrade or perhaps give a prospective member an indication of our fees. This is not a request for fees, I will contact you when yours are due.

|  |                      |  |           |
|--|----------------------|--|-----------|
| Annual Membership:   | \$25.00              | Spouse or children of member under 18 years            | \$8.00**  |
| Three Years:   | \$55.00              | Spouse or children of member under 18 years (3 years)  | \$20.00** |
| Ten Years:   | \$160.00             | Spouse or children of member under 18 years (10 years) | \$70.00** |
| Life Membership is calculated according to age as follows: - |                      |  |           |
| Up to Age 40:  | 3 X 10 Year Dues     |  | \$480.00  |
| Age 40 to 50:  | 2 X 10 Year Dues     |  | \$320.00  |
| Age 50 to 60:  | 1½ X 10 Year Dues    |  | \$240.00  |
| Age 60 and over:   | Same as 10 Year Dues |  | \$160.00  |
| Age 80 and over  | Half Ten Year Dues   |  | \$80.00   |

\* The fees charged include membership of our parent organisation in Scotland

\*\* Correspondence from Clan Munro (Association) Australia will only be sent to the full member