



Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

Volume 3 Issue 3

December 2005

Bet & I thank you for another terrific year and wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year

News

Margaret Weeden who runs our NZ Munros has her new Foulis set skirt ready for the 2007 Gathering. She also tells me that the NZ Munros are basking in the glory of the film about Burt Munro, the world champion motor cyclist. I have not noticed anything about it over here as yet but no doubt we will, so keep your eyes peeled for "The World's Fastest Indian." In case you are wondering, that's the name of the Motor cycle.

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Next Newsletter

We will have an article on the life of Neil Munro, probably the best known of the Munro writers.

We will also have the first of a series about a Queensland Munro family.

And lots more.

Don

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



Through Lily Sims in Victoria, I discovered a wonderful Munro lady in Perth who has reached the remarkable age of 102 years. Her name is Miss Isabell Mary Munro (Mopsy to her friends and family) and she is descended from Donald Munro & Catherine MacGillivray who came here from the Isle of Skye in 1853. See Newsletter No 7 for their story. I mentioned this to our chief, Hector Munro and he sent me the following terrific letter to present to her.

Dear Isabell Mary,

Blessings and congratulations from the heart of the old Clan Country, Ferindonald, Ross-shire, Scotland on the occasion last April of your remarkable anniversary.

What a truly wonderful achievement. Your forebears who took that huge step into the unknown and left their home in Skye all those years ago would be truly proud that one of their descendants has proven what hardy stock they came from and has achieved such a wonderfully great age.

Please accept as a small token honorary membership of the Clan Munro (Association) and this book which tells the story of our little Clan whose pioneering spirit took your ancestors to Australia so long ago. I hope you had a wonderful day surrounded by the love and warmth of your friends, your family and be assured that in a small area of Scotland we are still very proud of our sons and daughters who had the tenacity and courage to forge for themselves new lives throughout the world.

Yours sincerely

Hector W Munro of Foulis

Clan Munro (Association) 70th Anniversary

I have received the following email from Ian Munro, the Clan Munro Webmaster.

*"It has been decided to have the Gathering to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Clan Munro (Association) on Saturday and Sunday 28th and 29th July 2007, **please note** the Saturday will be an evening event only and the main events will be on the Sunday, the venues have still to be worked out but will include the Castle.*

The reason for starting on Saturday evening is that there are other events that you may wish to visit, 2007 being 'Highland Year of Culture 2007' see www.hie.co.uk/highland-2007-culture-year.html "

Besides Bet & myself, one other member has so far indicated that she thinking about attending. She also wondered about the possibility of group booking if a good number of us were going. If any of you have experience in that sort of thing, let me know and we will see what we can do. Could you also let me know if you intend making the trip so that we can get the numbers together.

Welcome

We give a warm welcome to our newest member Michelle Gunn who is descended from Alexander Munro and Anne MacKenzie her Gt Gt Gt Grandparents from Dornoch. Michelle is hoping that we will be able to help with her family tree, so please check out our "Can You Help" section.

Gracemere, 24th April 2005

Cynthia Mooney sent me this report on yet another well attended Munro Family Gathering

On Sunday, 24th April 2005, the Masonic Homes at Gracemere, Central Queensland, was the centre for a large family gathering. Charlie and Iris Munro, residents at the Masonic Homes, hosted a gathering for the descendents of Charlie's grandparents, William and Mary Ann Munro.

Towards the end of 2004, a local Councillor, Sandra O'Brien had organised a bus trip to Marmor, a small town south of Gracemere. On this day, those on the trip,



including Charlie and Iris, met up with locals and visited the cemetery which is being restored. Charlie met cousins he hadn't seen since their teenage years, and some he'd not met before. This gave him and his wife the idea to have a family

Get-together. It was always referred to as a "get-together" as this Munro family had never before had a large scale get-together for there to be a "re-union". The next one, already being talked about, will be the "re-union".

Soon after Christmas, Charlie and Iris sent out invitations addressed to "You and your family" to family members all around the Central Queensland area. The invitations requested that this invitation be forwarded on to other family members.

The invitations were posted and reached all over Queensland. Gracemere was considered reasonably central and the facilities of the Masonic Community Hall ideal for such a family get-together. As no RSVP had been requested, it was quite hard to estimate how many were going to attend. Though no catering was required, space was a limited commodity. A commitment had been made to keep all memorabilia supplied for the day, safe and inside the small hall. The Community Hall was filled with memories and information about the immigrant couple and their families. There were newspaper cuttings, scrapbooks, photos and photo albums, plus letters written by family members who were unable to attend.

As the day could still have been quite hot, (this is central Queensland, after all) the hall and existing awning and rotundas were augmented by a large tarp and two marquees.

William and Mary Ann Munro emigrated from Scotland, arriving in Rockhampton in 1875 and later moved west to Emerald. Over the years, they were joined by more family from Scotland. William and Mary Ann had nine children and about 130 of their descendants turned up on the Sunday. The marquees and rotundas were soon filled with family members catching up with others they hadn't seen in years, and

introducing new family members. Large family group charts were displayed for each of William and Mary Ann's children, to which each visitor could make additions and corrections. There are only four grandchildren of the original couple still living and two were at the gathering.

As each family arrived, they were given a "stick-on" name badge, with their name and a colour spot. Each of the original 9 children who had married and had family had been allocated a colour, and it was this colour that was on each name badge, to indicate which line the visitor descended from. It helped strangers identify quickly how closely related they could be. As well, displayed for all to use, was a "relationship chart" from which they could determine what their relationships were. Great fun was had working out if they were first cousins once removed or third cousins twice removed! There were a number of those in attendance who previously hadn't been interested in "family history" but meeting others and seeing what had already been obtained sparked interest. Lots of commitments to share were made.

The MC for the day was Shane Bailey, a great great grandson of William and Mary Ann. The formalities of the day consisted of an introduction

from the MC and a short address from local councillor, Sandra O'Brien. Sandra was happy to "take the blame" for the day. After Sandra had spoken, a representative of each of the children of William and Mary Ann made a short speech about their own family. There was a cake, decorated with the phrase, "Munro Family - Celebrating 130 years in Queensland". This cake was cut by the two grandchildren - Charlie Munro & Mabel Morgan - and shared with all who attended. There was a piper playing intermittently to add to the festive nature of the day.

To make it easier on the organisers, each invitation had requested the families bring their own picnic lunch. It had mentioned that urns and tea and coffee would be available, along with a photocopier that had been donated for the day. With each visitor bringing their own picnic lunch and smoko, plus lots bringing their own chairs and picnic tables, lunch time was made easy. Lots of phone numbers and addresses were swapped, along with promises to see more of each other. Those who were particularly interested in collecting family history made commitments to share what history and photos they had.

A most wonderful day of family, fellowship and fun was had by all.

....The invitations were posted and reached all over Queensland....



Natalie Gretton and her husband Mike have a love affair with Vietnam and have Mike, would you believe, sixteen times! years lecturer in charge of the Vietnamese department at the ADF School of Languages at Laverton Vic, so you can see the connection there. In September they took a group of 9 friends on a 16 day visit and had a ball. The scenery beautiful & breathtaking; the people warm & friendly; the food delicious; & the shopping – to die for! Natalie kindly put me on their email list so I had a running commentary of their trip. Great stuff – thanks Natalie.

Emails from Vietnam

can be described as “Vietnamophiles”; they visited many times. Natalie four times & Mind you, Mike has been for the last 18

News From Gallipoli

Lily Sim's family still has the letters

served in WW1. This is what Lily wrote to me. If any others have similar pieces that they would like me to include, I would love to have them.

written by her father, uncle & Aunt who

Our family is fortunate to have numerous letters written by my father, Norman MacDonald, his sister Effie and brother Hughie to their mother, Mary MacDonald (nee Munro) during the years they were overseas in the First World War. My father was within 2–3 weeks of his 42nd birthday when he sailed away to continue training in Egypt before going on to Gallipoli. He wrote of the young men's enthusiasm as they were leaving Egypt for Gallipoli. “*You would never think, Mother, that there was anything so serious doing, all hands behave as if they were going on a picnic. They call it ‘the weekend trip to Gallipoli - free passage.’ Some of course, were only there a few hours then sent back to hospital. Many of course dear fellows never returned*” Dad fortunately returned after 4 years away, to his wife and 3 young children, I and my sister Effie were born after his return. Auntie Effie nursed in tough conditions in army hospitals in France and Uncle Hughie was killed in Belgium on September 26, 1915.

In Dad's letter dated October 23, 1917 from Gallipoli, he wrote “*Things are very quiet here lately but our new Commander in Chief, who by the way is a namesake of your own, may make a move shortly*”. Of course he was not able to name names but a brief statement dated October 15, 1915 said “*General Hamilton relieved by General Monro, who favours withdrawal.*” Then on December 20, the words “*Last Australian troops withdr awn from Gallipoli.*”

William & Mary Anne Munro

This is the story of William and Mary Anne Munro (see Gracemere 2005 on page 2) as remembered by their grandson Charlie Munro and granddaughters Jean Carrington, Mabel Morgan and Flo Staunton and updated from existing records by Cynthia Mooney. By the way, if any of you have any idea of the location of Lochie Luff, mentioned below, please let me know as I have searched everywhere for it!

William and Mary Anne Munro were married in Lochie Luff on 4th January, 1875 just before coming to Australia. They departed London soon after, for a journey that was to take them 5 months. They arrived in Rockhampton on the ship “Sepia”, on 18th June, 1875. The ship's Captain was a Munro and there was a William Munro who was very prominent in the business community, in Rockhampton when they arrived. This William Munro was one of the trio of businessmen who won the tender to construct the first bridge over the Fitzroy, the abutments for which were hewn by Grandfather William. We don't know if this is purely coincidence, or whether the ship and/or the destination were chosen because of some connection.



Grandma was a great singer. She sang on the ship coming over, raising funds to add to what we presume were meagre resources. She won a singing competition held on board and the prize was 10 shillings – a considerable sum at the time. A lovely singing voice, or at least a love of music has been passed down the generations. Grandma was still singing beautifully up to the time she passed away.

She won a singing competition held on board and the prize was 10 shillings

Grandma Mary Ann has said that when they arrived,

the only way across the Fitzroy River was by jumping from stone to stone at low tide. Having said that, research would indicate that there was a punt or barge that crossed the Fitzroy River in operation during the years our Munro's lived in Rockhampton. However, there was a toll for everyone except school children to cross on the barge. So maybe Grandma meant that there was no “free” way to cross the river at that time. Could this have been her Scots blood showing through?

The township was mainly timber and there was no work at that time for a stonemason but a Mr William Black gave William work at the lime kilns at Glenmore and he worked there for 6 months. For the following 12 months, he worked on the bridge at Alligator Creek, Yaamba. Then a bridge over the Fitzroy was begun, so he and another man, a Mr Kennedy hewed the stone for the abutments. After that, he got similar work on the construction of the North Street Goal, which at that time was a mile from the town.

By the time his younger brother John had joined them from Scotland arriving on the ship “Strathern”, on 3rd May, 1876, William was working on the construction of the western railway. John joined him, but sadly he was killed in an accident at Comet (6/11/1878), and William was injured so badly that he spent the next 3 months in hospital. In spite of these events, they must have written favourably about their

new home for it appears that the rest of the family emigrated as well. In 1881, Alexander and Isabella Munro, with their children Ann, Catherine and Isabella, along with Alexander and Margery Findlay (Mary Ann's parents), Alexander, Duncan and James (her brothers), with Jessie, and a child Margaret Findlay, all came out to Rockhampton on the "Famenoth". The "Famenoth" berthed in Rockhampton on 30/7/1881. We presume they then went on to Emerald as Alexander, William's father, died there on 6/4/1909 and Isabella, his mother, died in Rockhampton on 23/3/1916. Alexander Findlay, Mary Ann's father, died in Springsure, aged 76 on 2/7/1908 and her mother, Margery, in Emerald in 1887. It seems that the Ann, recorded as an immigrant on the ship "Famenoth" is thereafter known as Mary Ann, went on to marry a Hargreaves. Mary Ann, the daughter of William and Mary Ann married a Kirby. Isabella, the sister of the immigrant William, married a Fred Walker, and they lived in Maryborough

When he recovered from his accident, William returned to working on the construction of the Western Line and was put on "light duties" – shovelling coal! He continued working with the railway until it reached Emerald. His wife joined him there; he was the fireman and she was a passenger on the first train to cross the Nogo River. Grandfather, with a mate, had to work on the train to Bluff, change trains to return on the Emerald train, so that the whole family was on the first passenger train into Emerald.



By this time, they had two children, Isabella Marjeri (born 14/10/1875) and Alexander (born 8/8/1878). Sadly, Isabella Marjeri died on 15/10/1881, so when William and Mary Anne's next child was a girl, born 3/1/1882, she was also named Isabella Marjeri. She is believed to have been the second white child born in Emerald. She is also believed to be the first born to a resident, the other child being born to drovers moving through. They went on to have Jane, William (born 11/9/1886 and died 15/10/1888) Mary Anne, William (the second), John and Lillie Bethel. All these children were born and raised in Emerald.

In the Nogo River, the area known as "the Big Hole" was where the railway put their large steam engine, to pump water for the trains. Grandfather William was offered the job of running the engines for the pumps as he had a steam ticket but told the Railways that he wanted to continue on west with the rail line. He was given the job of pumper as a "temporary" measure until a suitable replacement could be found. He retired from his position of pumper about forty years later! Some time after he retired, he and his wife moved to Park Avenue, Rockhampton. Later, they returned to Gindie and lived with their daughter Mabel Daniels, until their deaths - hers in 1935, and his in 1941.

Grandfather William was always on good terms with the aboriginals in the area, and at that time there were at least three tribes based around what became the township of Emerald. He was in the habit of allowing the men to visit him at the pump station, even allowing them inside. Considering the heat generated by the big pumps, he was particularly favoured with their company in winter. It is believed that he was the only one who was this friendly with the natives, and no one else would allow them close, let alone inside the pump house. It was probably just as well that he was on such good

terms with them, as his duties required him to walk a couple of kilometres from home to the pump in the river each day. This walk was usually through grass higher than he was.



At one time, when he was relieving another pumper at some other station, there was a relief pumper filling in for him in Emerald. This man evidently didn't have such a good relationship with the aboriginals in the area. On returning to his own pump duties, William was walking along early one morning, in this very high dense grass, when something caught his attention and he turned sharply around. Behind him, about to clobber him with a nulla nulla was a native man of the area. On realising it was Grandfather, the native apologised and indicated that he thought he was the relieving pumper. As the nulla nullas of the time were studded with things like rusty nails and pieces of broken glass, there is a good chance that the relieving man just escaped some fatal attention from the locals.

There is another yarn involving natives in the area. At another time, the local police had had enough from the local natives and were going to pull them into line. During the day, they told the whites not to worry if they heard some shooting down river at the Blacks camp, as the police were going to shoot over the camp to scare them. Grandma acted as the local midwife to a lot of confinements but for her own, Grandfather William stepped into the breach. Grandma went into labour this day (with Mary Ann) and Grandfather was engaged in the preparations for delivery. Later that evening, when he was in the kitchen, he heard some noise and on investigating, found a young black woman, in labour, under their table. She had been in the camp when the police were shooting and fear had brought on her labour, but she was too afraid to stay in camp and have the native women attend her. On this occasion,



Grandfather delivered two babies. Many years later, the native baby who was born that night, spied Grandma Mary Ann with her daughter Jean, sitting on the front steps of Jean's house (near what is now the Plaza Shopping Centre) and made herself known by asking "You no remember me, Missy Munro? How old is your Mary Ann? I be same age your Mary Ann".

At one stage, Grandfather William and a mate took up a large parcel of land, south/east of Emerald towards Yamala. It would appear they took up the land simply by right of use at the time, with no deeds and no improvements done. They ran cattle, which they'd muster once or twice a year and bring into Emerald. They'd brand the cleanskins and send all the fats off to Lakes Creek. What was left were taken back across the river and let go. All the cattle would be back along Sandhurst Creek in no time. About 1901, all this land was surveyed into 2,500 acre blocks and then, in a drought in 1902, all the water dried up. With no way of getting water to their stock, all the stock died and that put an end to Grandfather's grazing exploits.

Grandfather William continued to be "the pumper" and Grandmother Mary Ann was midwife to many, delivering all but one of her daughter Mabel's children. They continued to live in Emerald and raise their family. Though they may not have been a very dramatic family, nor particularly successful if measured in monetary terms, they did raise a large, close family of good

citizens and appear to have lived a life of peace and respect. That is no mean epitaph for anyone.

Genealogy from Ron's Desk

Ron's experience shows that it can happen to you!! On reading it, I immediately backed my Munro files and all of my other important stuff!!

!@#\$% !@#\$!!!!!!!

Ever wanted to say a few short words sometimes to express how you feel! Well it happened to me a few weeks ago. All thanks to the modern technology of computers. **TOMORROW NEVER COMES** .. But a **CRASH** will. It finally happened - a crash greater than Wall Street of the 1920's... (A bit of history there!).

My main drive AND horror of horrors my FILE drive took a wobble too. All my files - gone!! Nothing came up so I was resolved to start all over again so I reformatted both drives (YES reformatted - wiped every thing out!!) and settled down to re key everything into my genealogy again.

Now it was a stroke of luck that at the pre-crash time I was hot on the trail of my MEAD side of the family - a family who came out to Australia from England in 1855. One contact I had made emailed me after the crash and I had to ask her nicely to send my GEDCOM file back to me so that I had something to start with. Now this lady is married to a wiz of a bloke who works part time in a computer shop along and the rest of the time at university. He told me to stop using the file drive "right now" remove it and give it to him to see what he could do with it.

Well he managed to lift many files off the drive.... enough to fill 2 DVD discs (not your normal CD Discs which hold mess information). My genealogy file and all the stuff I really wanted..... LOST! (Grown man here almost cried). But in my perusal I noticed a BK zip fileand low and behold it was a back up of Brothers Keeper I had made when I recorded the loss of Troy Broadbridge (tsunami?) and the two little children Star and Jack Borlase who lost their lives in the SA Bushfires Jan this year. All I had to enter was the birth of my grandchild in June and I have all my information.

NOW I know what it feels like when they say back up.... on a disc somewhere away from the computer.

Have you backed up your files today??? **NO!! - Do it NOW!!!!**Ron Munro

Can You Help?

Remember if you are not on the internet, just get in touch with me (Don Munro – my address is on page 8) if you can help any of the following.

Bronwyn Howell can trace back to David Munro and Christina/Christiana nee Evans. Their son Alexander Munro born c1796 married Jane Ross Fraser, born c1807, daughter of William Fraser and Christiana nee Ross. Alexander and Jane were married in Rosskeen in 1825. They had a family of six - Christiana b:1826, David b:1828, William b:1831, James b:1832, Jane b:1834 and Margaret b:1836.

The family emigrated to Australia on the "Lady McNaughton," arriving in Sydney in 1839. They settled in Singleton N.S.W. where Alexander died about four years later. Jane remarried in 1844 to Englishman Richard Nichols. She died in 1877, also at Singleton.

Christiana Munro married Francis Belfield in 1845, William married Lucy Ann Warren in 1855, then Emma Lovatt in 1893; Jane married George Joss in 1855 then John Cooper in 1878. Marriages of the other children are not known at this stage. If you have any information on this family email Bronwyn at brhowell@bigpond.com or write to her at 9 Gwendale Crescent, Eastwood, N.S.W. 2122.

Debby Dunbar Ortman can trace back to William Munro who was born about 1798 in Kincardine, Ross & Cromarty and married Janet MacDonald. They had five children Johanna, William, George, Euphemia & Jessie. Jessie Munro was born between 1835-1850 in Scotland & married Duncan Campbell. They moved to Tasmania and had three children – Jessie, Annie and Duncan who drowned as a young child. Annie Campbell married an Abbott in Tasmania and they had two sons who died young and a daughter. Debby is looking for descendents who may still be living in Tasmania or any information about this family while they were living there. Please contact Debby at ddo@mchsi.com if you have information about this family.

Chris Farrow's ancestors come from Dingwall – this is what he told me: I have Donald Munro (son of Hugh Munro and Mary McGregor) Born in Dingwall Scotland in ABT 1791. He married Elizabeth Macrae in 1812 in Dingwall and had a large family. Names include Isabella, Mary, Colin, Elizabeth, John, David, Alice, Hugh, George, James. I have them in Sydney in the 1830's. Elizabeth died in Parramatta in 1880. Isabella marries Robert Bassett from London in 1854 and goes to Shepherd's Flat, Daylesford area in Victoria. Alice marries John Crawford in 1846 and John marries Georgina Fennell in 1839. I have information to share and would love to know more about this family. You can contact Chris on kcfarrow@bigpond.net.au

Our Webmaster Peter Tibbett I looking for two lots of Munro ancestors. First - Mary MUNRO who married Donald FRASER on the 25 DEC 1829 at Alness RoC. Mary's parents were Alexander MUNRO & Mary ROSS? Then he has Hellen Munro whose parents were George MUNRO and Elizabeth MUNRO who were married on 9 Dec 1815 at Kiltearn RoC Scotland. George MUNRO was a Crofter (joint tenant of Scottish farm). Their daughter Hellen was born at Assynt, Ross & Cromarty in 1835. Hellen and James FRASER were first married by Scottish Law (or

Practice) and later had the church ceremony at Alness on the 25 August 1864.

Their children were Mary (Stuart) MUNRO Chr. 5 DEC 1816 Alness: Ann MUNRO Chr. 5 OCT 1828 Alness: Elizabeth MUNRO Chr. 24 SEP 1830 Alness: Donald MUNRO Born 21 APR 1831 Alness: Ellen MUNRO Born 28 JAN 1835 Alness and 3 still missing as yet. Alness is of course the centre of registration not necessarily the actual place of birth. Contact Peter on tibbs@bigpond.net.au if any of this rings a bell.

Wendy Vertigan traces her tree back to George Munro from Ord (no D.O.B.) He married Catherine and they had 4 children may have been more, of which the eldest was James born 1788. He married Ann Wallace and they had 11 children. The 7th was Donald (1834) a labourer, who emigrated to Australia (probably Melbourne) about 1862. In 1873 he married Sarah Purchase and they had 13 children, of which the 8th was my Grandfather (1884). He married Martha in 1905 and they had 8 children. The eldest was my father George b 1905 and there are only 2 of us so the tradition of large families was broken. Wendy has most of the names of the children of the original George and their D.O.B. if any one would be interested. Get in touch with me, Don Munro if you would like contact Wendy.

We have a few Skye Munros in our membership & I am looking for another. His name is George Munro from the Isle of Skye and he came to Australia about 1855 but nothing is known of him after he came here. His parents were Dr James Munro and Annabella Macleod and Dr James' parents were George Munro, the miller in Strath and Janet MacQueen. Please get in touch with me, Don Munro, if you can help solve this mystery.

Bill Bell traces his family back to Alexander Munro & Barbara Mackay who moved from Ross-shire to Armadale in Sutherland about 1784. One of their sons was Donald who was born in 1802 and he married Georgina Scobie Mackay. They emigrated to Melbourne in 1854 on the Hornet with all but one of their seven children – John, Barbara Jane Scobie & her husband Andrew Jack, Johan Mackenzie & her husband Norman Hume MacDonald, Catherine, Janet Mackay Gordon and Alexandrina. Bill is descended from Johan & Norman and James was the son who did not travel with the family. He came out with his wife in 1858 on the Champion of the Seas and was to become James Munro, Premier of Victoria in 1890. If you know anything about this family, contact Bill at wombatultima@optusnet.com.au

This one is a long shot. Nelson Poole is looking for descendants of Donald Munro & Margaret MacKinnon from the Isle of Skye. They came to Australia about 1840 so if this rings a bell contact Nelson on nelson.poole@ns.sympatico.ca

Last but not least, our newest member, Michelle Gunn is looking for information about her Gt Gt Gt Grandfather Alexander Munro, a carpenter who married Anne MacKenzie & they had a daughter Elizabeth (Betsey) Munro who was born/ christened on July 1, 1831 in Dornoch. She married George Gunn and they emigrated to Australia in 1854. Their first daughter, Isabella was born in 1885. Contact Michelle at boudecia@bigpond.com.au

Edgar Munro sent in these websites which could be of interest to you –

<http://www.scotsfind.org/> this one has a huge amount of genealogical information

<http://archive.scotsman.com/> here you can search every issue of the Scotsman from 1817 to 1950

<http://www.192.com/> in this one you can search the electoral rolls 2002-2005

Illawambra

A familiar voice is missing from Rural Radio in the Eastern States. Colin (CAP) Munro retired last year from the ABC where he was the Manager Regional Liaison. Colin is also President of the Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists; Deputy Chairman of the NSW Branch of the Stockman's Hall of Fame, Longreach, Queensland; Ambassador the Year of the Outback 2006; Member of the Board of Australia's Open Garden Scheme; Vice President of the NSW Farmwriters; & judges Country Music at Tamworth. If that were not enough, Colin is also our Overseas Member of Council for the Clan Munro. Colin's brother, Finlay (Jock) Munro, is also one of members. This is a short history of what was their family's property, Illawambra.



Illawambra was one of the original farms in the Cobargo area on the South coast on New South Wales and was first settled around middle last century by a gentleman named Whitehead. About 1900 it was acquired by Colin & Jock's Gt Gt Grandfather, Magnus Jackson Peden, an original member of the Sydney Stock Exchange who and acquired large parcels of land in the Bega area.

Peden Street in Bega is named after him. The main farm house on Illawambra dates to about 1860 and is constructed of vertical slabs hand hewn from hardwood grown on the property. The oldest of the farm outbuildings, a two-story feed shed, was constructed in a similar manner and it also has a hewn slab upper floor.

The original dairy of pole construction with a flagstone floor was demolished in the 1940's and a concrete walk-through dairy built on the same site. Originally cheese was made and transported to Sydney but later, when the Cobargo Co-operative was formed, cream was separated and sent by cart to Cobargo where butter was produced for the Sydney Market. Pigs became the main sideline on Illawambra and these were also shipped to Sydney from Bermagui. Concrete silos and feed sheds were built to enhance this sideline.



In the twenties the property passed to Magnus's son, Hon Sir John Peden K.C.M.G., K.C., Challis Professor of Law & Dean of the Faculty of Law, Sydney University. He was also MLC President of the Legislative Council NSW. There is a bust of him in Macquarie Street on a wooden plinth taken from Illawambra. Sir John loved Illawambra and was a very modest man and despite his honours and positions, when travelling in Australia and overseas and asked to sign visitors' books, simply put J B Peden Farmer Cobargo NSW. The Pedens did not farm the property but had a series of share farmers managing Illawambra. With the advent of the motor vehicle Sir John added the holiday cottage, which he called Bunnerong. Previously the Pedens had travelled by steamer to Bermagui and thence to Cobargo and Illawambra.

“..... More than sixty 80 year old walnut trees are still on the property”

A local, Bill Henry was employed to build the cottage. Bill was already living at Illawambra in some quarters that he had built which went on to become the shearers' quarters and now the bunkhouse. His job was to look after the Peden interests and care for the walnut trees and other plantings. More than sixty 80 year old walnut trees are still on the property today. Sir John had a close connection with the Department of Agriculture so apart from a range of exotic cypresses,

experiments were done on pasture. Illawambra is the first farm on the south coast to plant Kikuyu and it is from here that other farms took their cuttings.

With the death of Sir John Peden the farm passed to his daughters Margaret and Barbara who continued to run it as a share farm (dairy) bringing their children down to Bunnerong Cottage during school holidays. Interestingly, Margaret was captain of the first ladies cricket team to tour overseas and Barbara was also a member. There is a slab of concrete on the farm's old tennis court on which they used to practice.

Both Margaret and Barbara had distinguished sons. Margaret's son John Peden became the youngest Professor of Law in Australian history at the University of NSW, sadly he died suddenly at the age of 48. Barbara's eldest son is Colin Munro and her other son is Finlay (Jock) who manages his family's medical practice at Narooma, north of Cobargo.

In 1980 the farm was sold to Jim and Ruth Walker, friends of Colin, who operated a beef cattle enterprise up until 2001. They had printing interests and so a number of Croft Press books for collectors were printed at Illawambra. The Croft Press is represented in the rare book collections of the National and most State Libraries. The Press was one of the few letterpress printing operations functioning in Australia at the time. In 2002 the property sold to its present owners, Jenny and Paul Stock, who breed palomino warm blood horses.



Footnote: Colin tells me that David Samuel Peden, the first of their family to own Illawambra, arrived in Sydney from Scotland in 1832 and opened a bookshop in Hunter Street. Sir John Peden's wife was the Gt Granddaughter of Ellen Amos who arrived on the East coast of Tasmania from Scotland in 1824. The Amos family still holds its original farming country at Swansea, Tasmania.

Valg

It is with much regret that I have to report that four of our Munro family members have passed on this year

Donald Munro from Parkinson in Queensland was a much loved great grandfather, grandfather, father & father-in-law. We send our sincere condolences to Mrs Gayle Tear, one of our members and to the rest of the family.

Bryce Munro Walmsley passed away in May and is sadly missed. We send our sincere condolences to Mrs Walmsley and family.

Daphne Grinberg's Dad, Stewart Munro was born 1909 in Glencolumbkille (Donegal) and died on August 30, 2005. He had a very peaceful passing, for which the family was grateful. Stewart was 96 – and had a wonderfully long and interesting life and in the midst of their sadness the family rejoiced in that blessing.

John Locke Munro Hull, one of our Tasmanian members passed away on September 6. John was 92 and those of you who were at our Sydney Gathering will remember him well for he made the journey across the Tasman to be with us. John's carer, Peter Roach sent me this note. *“Throughout our association, until his last days, John maintained a keen interest in genealogy - especially with reference to Clan Munro. Reading Clan newsletters to him in his latter years as his eyesight failed was always a high priority. Your efforts for the Association brought him great pleasure Don. On his behalf I thank you for that.”*

Scottish Events

Marj Rowlands went along to show the Munro Banner at the Castlehills Games, Sydney. Unfortunately, it just poured and although not washed out, the weather made it really unpleasant for all concerned, which was a pity after effort that had been put into the games. Marj tells me that the pipe bands from all over the State braved the weather and were excellent.

Over in the West where the weather is great, we had the Armadale Gathering and everything was of the highest order. The organisation by the City Council with their team led by Melanie Green who not only brought the Gathering together but provided the Clans' Tent free of charge; the pipe bands; the highland dancing; the games competition; the Scottish music; the Scottish stalls and of course the weather, could not have been better. In the Clan Tent were the Donnachaidhs (Robertsons), Keiths, Mackays, McLeans, Munros and also the Cornish Society. The Mcleods were not in the tent but did take part in the March of the Clans. We did not get any new members but it was a good day out.

All of the Clans were in the tent were covered by the Scottish House insurance. We are members of Scotland House, and for a nominal fee of \$20.00 for each gathering, we are covered by their insurance, which is a terrific deal. So if you would like to take part in any Highland Gathering in your area and fly the Munro flag just let me know and I will organise the insurance and let you know what you have to do.

Graham Gates sent me this report. A service of Kirking of the Tartan was held at St Stephens Uniting Church, MacQuarie Street, Sydney on Sunday 4th December 2005. The Munro Banner, carried by Andrew Gates, was among many tartans presented during the service. Seven of the Munro Clan attended and following the service, marchers assembled in Martin Place. Accompanied by many Scottish bands, they proceeded down MacQuarie Street to Hyde Park to join a highland Gathering of dancing and pipe bands displays during the afternoon. It was a perfect day, the sun shone and the performers attracted large crowds of Sydney Siders.



Andrew Gates with Marj Rowlands & the Munro Banner

Congratulations!!

We are so happy to spread the news that Graham Munro Gates is engaged to his dear friend of many years, Marguerite Moyes and they will be married on January 7, 2006 in the Holy Trinity Mowbray Chapel, West Chatswood. We wish them a long and happy married life and of course we welcome Marguerite as a new member to our family.

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

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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