



Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

Volume 10 Issue 3

August 2013

Have you visited our Website at <http://clanmunroaustralia.org>

Chat

This Month

Bet and I have just returned from a wonderful holiday. Bet is a Merrilees & their Clan, like ours has a Gathering every 4 or 5 years. This year it took the form of the inside passage cruise to Alaska & was wonderful. As this was a once in a lifetime chance for us we also visited the Rockies & saw a bit of the USA on an 8 day tour from Los Angeles.

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Next Newsletter
Bill Monroe Father of Blue Grass Music
Convict Ancestors
Traveller Tales

And, hopefully, there will be more!

Don

I received a letter from Isma Munro from Invergordon with a newspaper cutting to tell me Mrs Munro of Foulis, our Chief's mother has received an MBE for her services to charity. She has been helping charities for over 60 years and in the time has been badge secretary of the Girl Guides; ran the Scottish Garden Scheme for Ross-shire for 16 years; over the past 25 years has allowed Foulis Castle to be used for charity projects including daffodil teas. They generally raise about £4,000 each year and in one year raised £12,000. Congratulations to our beloved Timmy, a well deserved honour.

I made a mistake in the previous newsletter but am not allowed correct or even apologise for it. So if you did not notice it, it does not really matter!!

Our Munros pop up everywhere!! In a Lindsay newsletter I found this in a story about their St Andrews Day Celebrations "*Sam piped for a beautiful display of Highland Dancing, involving the youngest pupils from several Highland Dance schools*" - organised by none other than our own Elizabeth Munro. In fact, Elizabeth has just told me that she is off over to Scotland once again, this time to judge British Open Championships of Highland Dancing in Musselburgh.

It is always pleasant to be thanked for our efforts in our "Can We Help" section. I received this from "Darby" Munro's daughter, Leslie Eickart, in Germany. "Spring finally has arrived and the nature is exploding with brilliant hues and vivid colours. All so very beautiful. Just hoping that the weather will hold for the arrival next month of my long lost cousins who are arriving from Perth for a short visit. This certainly would not be possible without your splendid newsletter. Again thank you."

In newsletter 32 I told how Daphne Grinberg is indexing records for the West Indies. As a result of that item, Daphne has received a request for help from America. Who says our newsletter does not span the globe!!

Having a look through the Clan Munro (Association) website I found a "coffee table" book about Scottish Country Houses specially interesting as it contains a 19 page spread of photographs and text on Foulis Castle. I sent off for it and it really is a wonderful book. Those of you who are interested but do not have internet access, contact me and I will send you details. There are other interesting books there with a Munro slant, so check it out

Many of you will remember Gary Munro who was our representative until I took over from him, so it was great to be able to help him find his relations. This is what Gary said "I would like to thank you for sending me the email about helping out Bruce Munro in Canada. As it turns out Bruce is actually my cousin, my dad's brother's son. I was so excited when we made contact to finally find the whereabouts of one of dad's family. All the time I ran the Clan Munro Association in Australia I did not believe that one day this would actually happen. Just goes to show, never give up. The timing was so great that my daughter was going on a trip to America/Canada and she was actually able to catch up Bruce on her trip. My mother and daughter had been trying for many years to research my father's family to no luck. Bruce and I are looking forward to catching up on lost time now we have made contact. I still enjoy reading the news letters from you even though I no longer live in Australia."

Welcome To Our New Members

Welcome to our new members, Amanda Claire Buxton and her 1 year old son, Harrison Munro Buxton. Also Joanna and her new baby Lucinda Claire. Both are daughters & grandchildren of our member Elsa Green whose mother, Joycelyn Munro, is also a member,. They are descended all from Peter Munro & Mary McKenzie from Aberdeen.

Welcome also to Wendy Hoskin who is another member of our Munro family whose ancestors go back Colin Munro I of Drynie, Also of Inverness & Grenada, West Indies who was born in 1756. You might remember that in an earlier newsletter I reviewed Fern Vale or The Queensland Squatter by his descendent, Colin Munro III

REV. COLIN STEWART (1803-1886)

Margaret Neyle works as a volunteer at Society of Austustralian Genealogists in Sydney. Recently she came across a book which had the BDMs of an itinerate Presbyterian minister and found the information in there wonderful as it contains a lot which was not included in BDM certicates. Margaret has kindly offered to do lookups for those of you with Sydney area connections, so if you are interested contact me (Don Munro) and I will put you in contact with Margaret. Margaret also included the story of Rev. Colin Stewart and it follows.

The Rev. Colin Stewart was born in Dingwall Ross & Comarty in 1803 and was ordained in the Established Church of Scotland in 1838. He arrived in the colony in 1839. On his arrival he was commissioned by the government to go to the district of Hartley and itinerant as far westward as circumstances would permit.

He applied for a grant of 130 acres in what is now the Lithgow Valley and built his home "The Hermitage." Many families with Scottish Ancestry whose folk settled in this area will find on baptism and marriage certificates "Place of Birth" or "Place of Marriage" as "The Hermitage"

In 1846 Stewart broke away from the "Established Presbyterian Synod of Australia" and joined the breakaway "Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia". As a result of this he lost his Government subsidy but he was then supported by Andrew Brown a wealthy Scottish land holder of the district. In 1849 he built a beautiful Presbyterian church and it still stands on the Western Highway going towards Lithgow. It is worth a stop and if you are lucky enough to find someone to let you in all the better. The National Trust of Australia considers it the best example of a true Scottish Kirk in Australia. On the opposite side of the road on a little hill is the cemetery with many early Scottish families buried there.

Each year in November Rev. Stewart set off on a journey to carry out his itinerate duties.



Bowenfels Presbyterian Church

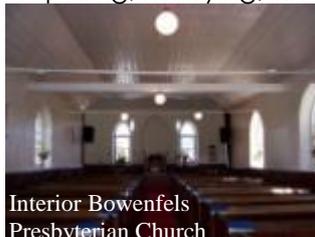
Preacher."

He rode a horse and led a packhorse with his gear, which included a pewter communion set. These vessels are still in the possession of the Bownfels Presbyterian Church. They are very

My great-grandmother Mary Jane Munro's baptism certificate has on it " Rev. Stewart Itinerate Presbyterian

denented and this is probably from a few falls from the packhorse

He traveled as far north as Gulargambone, as far west as Dubbo and as far south as Woodstock and Cowra. He would have faced many dangers on these trips but he continued for many years baptizing, marrying, and burying regardless of



Interior Bowenfels Presbyterian Church

denomination or colour.

In 1850 he married Alexina Mackay, a Scottish lady of aristocratic connections and retired from his ministry duties. He and his wife continued as

simple members of the congregation until they moved to Sydney in 1873 where he died in 1886. In his will he left most of his property which was valued at £10,00 to St Andrews College at Sydney University This was the largest bequest the college had received at this stage of its existence.

I work as a volunteer at the Society of Australian Genealogists in Kent St Sydney. Recently I came across in our collection a copy of the Rev. Colin Stewart's original BDM records. It is an absolute goldmine. Not only does he tell exactly where the father was working when the child was baptised

....You do not get this information on Birth Certificates of this era.....

but he also tells what the father was employed as. You do not get this information on Birth Certificates of this era. In the case of marriages I noticed that there were a number of men marrying aboriginal girls. It usually told you if these girls had been baptised or not. Once more you will not find this on Marriage Certificates.

As an example I found on my great grandmother's entry that her father was employed at Wallerawang as a servant. James Walker owned Wallerawang

Another Scot who had settled very early in the area and had large land holdings reaching up to Mudgee. Her birth certificate just gave me Bowenfels Vale of the Clwyd as her birth place. On the shipping lists it gave her father George Munro coming out as an Ag Labourer like most of the other immigrants on board "The Margaret". I was always intrigued by the fact that the other men had been promised £20 a year while my George Munro was promised £30 per year plus stores. I

found him as a coachmen on the 1841 census in Edinburgh and the fact that this entry had "servant" backs up my idea he was brought out as either a coachman or groom not as an Ag Labourer.

The majority of the people in the register were born in Scotland and if anyone lives out of Sydney and wants me to look up an entry for them or if you live in Sydney and want to visit SAG just look on the catalogue for BDM Bowenfels.....Margaret Neyle

***Major Donald Munro MC Seaforth Highlanders
1897 to 1932***

I used the story of my Grandfather in the very first of our newsletters back in 2003. Having done more research since then, the story has filled out a little more and hopefully, is worth repeating. But the main reason for using it is to encourage you to send me your ancestors' stories as they are always of great interest to our members. They keep the newsletter alive (now that's a contradiction of terms dead people keeping our newsletter alive!!) and you will have something of your family history to pass on to your children and grandchildren.....Ed

Donald Munro was born in Roskeen, as were his father and grandfather before him and probably further back than that but that is as far back as my investigations have gone. Just like many others investigating their family history, I reach a brick wall at about 1800. He was of humble stock; his grandfather was a farm labourer and his father a farm labourer/stone mason depending on which records you are viewing. Mind you it might not always have been that way as DNA testing shows that we, along with two other Munros who have tested, share a common ancestor with Sir Ian Munro but that's a long way back!!

Early in his youth, Donald's family moved to Dingwall and he worked for a time with the firm of Mr William Paterson, corn and coal merchants. On the 8th of February 1898, at the age of 18 he joined the Seaforth Highlanders at Fort George and two days later was posted to Dover in the South of England – he did not get much chance to change his mind! From Dover he sailed (on a cattle boat) with the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders to the South African War. He served throughout that campaign, was at Wittenbergen and took part in the guerrilla warfare in Transvaal and Cape Colony. For his service he received the Queen's Medal with three clasps - Wittenbergen, Transvaal & Cape Colony & the Kings Medal with two clasps 1901 & 1902.



After serving in South Africa, the Battalion left Durban on the 20th January 1903 on the Lake Manitoba bound for Ireland. From a rough diary of his, I know that he was on Ireland in May and August 1903 and there is mention of Dublin and Neane Barracks, Curragh. He was in Edinburgh Castle in 1909 when his son, Donald (my father) was born.

Donald served through WW1 and kept diaries all through that time. His diary for the first year of the war is in the Highlander Museum in Fort George – where the others are, I have no idea. Here are two entries from the first diary. One shows the horror of war and what he and the other soldiers went through. The other is an example of Scottish understatement.



Sept 17 - We are still holding the same position - fighting only on left front. Convoy Park shelled considerably by heavy artillery. Enemy's battery of Long Toms bombarding convoy - 90 pounder shells dropping everywhere. We couldn't get cover anywhere. Houses coming down and breaking into flames - I can't describe the awful scene; men, horses and wagons smashed up and shells finding us always.

3 pm. After short lull the shells are dropping worse than ever and the scene is indescribable. A man came out of a house with awful wounds in head and legs and another man and I carried him away and dressed him. On the way back a shell struck a house about a yard from me and one of the falling

stones knocked me down. My arm and shoulder seemed dead and I was stunned for the moment. Those who witnessed it reported me blown to pieces. Houses falling everywhere and breaking into flames. I'm wondering how we lived through it. After the firing ceased, I saw sights which I hope to God I shall never see again. In one shed I saw six men absolutely smashed to pieces, heads, arms and legs in one awful heap. I helped to get their identity disks from the bodies and seem to have lost all feeling. The village is now one mass of ruins and flames, with wounded and dead being carried to temporary hospital.

6pm. All quiet and I can scarcely believe that I'm alive. Considering the awful shellfire, the casualties are very few.

Another entry shows a bit of Scottish understatement.

Nov 24 - Quiet night but very cold and had small showers of rain. Nothing unusual – my hut burnt down. News of birth of baby. (That would be my Auntie Aisne – named after the battle of the same name)

The diary finished on Dec 15, only 4 months after it started and what a huge amount happened in that time. Donald would surely have kept diaries of the rest of the war and I would dearly like to read them but this one is, to the best of my knowledge, the only one to survive. He rose through the ranks, was commissioned on the field of war on October 9, 1914 and received his Majority in 1929.

Without a doubt, his saddest moment of the war was having to take the body of Captain Charles Seymour Munro MC, from the battlefield just before the end of the war. Captain Munro was the son of the Chief of the Clan Munro, Sir Hector Munro of Foulis. My grandfather brought Captain Munro's belongings home to Sir Hector and was given a silver cigarette case by him in gratitude. That cigarette case has a place of honour in my home along with my grandfather's spurs, sgean dubh, medals and bonnet. Among Captain Munro's belongings were his bonnet and badge which have a place in our Munro Chief's family history. Our Chief, Hector sent me a story about it and I will add that as a postscript to this one.

For his services in WW1, Major Donald Munro was awarded the Military Cross, the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. After the war he was posted to Meerut in India and from there was posted to the Depot at Fort George in December 1921.

But there was a mystery surrounding Major Donald for, when I sent for his service records, I found that he was "Decorated by HRH the Duke of Albany (Regency Duke of Sax Coburg & Gotha) with the decoration "Silberne Medalles des S. Ernest" d. 20.8.10." This is a silver medal and I needed to know just why he received it.

The internet was the obvious place to begin my search and I soon found that the Duke of Albany was the grandson of Queen Victoria & Albert, so my first stop was to contact the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle to see if they could help. I had no luck there but the lady archivist I contacted gave me the address of the Archives in Coburg, so I emailed them. Although very helpful, they did not have records of foreigners like my grandfather who had received the medal but he gave me the website of the Gotha Archives.

I went to their website which, naturally, was in German. However, I did manage to get through to their archivist who very kindly sent me a package with a letter & copies of material that related to my grandfather and the award. Again this was all in German and in fact, in old German, so how was I to get it translated. Our Munro newsletter came to the rescue for through it I was in frequent contact with Leslie Eikert, the daughter of



Darby Munro, Australia's best jockey. Leslie had married Wolfgang Eikert and lives in Germany, so off the information went and was soon returned translated. Now that is networking! One of the records showed that he was awarded a gold (not silver) medal in Fort George on August 15, 1911 for loyal service and they sent me a photo of the medal. The Gotha archives had no record of why he was awarded the medal but said "The loyal services of your Grandfather should evidently relate to services accomplished in military actions as the medal was issued to military personnel only." One of the translated letters said that he received the medal "in regard to the Diplomatic ministry of the State of Gotha as well as the Secret Service Cabinet" My eyes opened wide!! Was grandfather involved on some spying mission? I had to find out but where should I look now? The Royal Archives at Windsor Castle could not help, nor could the archives at Gotha. A flash of inspiration - of course, the Highlanders Museum at Fort George would have the answer; they were bound to have a diary of the day to day events at the Fort. Once again disappointment for they have no record of him having received the medal.

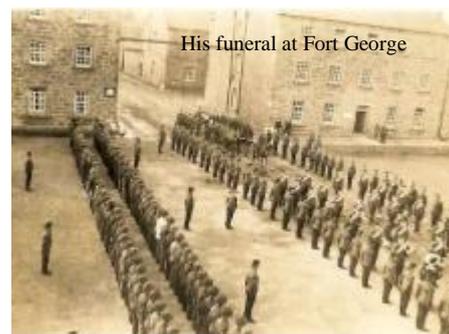
As there was no military action at that time I could only surmise that the medal somehow related to the Boer War and that he was involved in some action with a member of the Duke of Albany's family. My research showed that this could have been Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, who saw service in South Africa, or more likely, his son, Prince Arthur of Connaught who was in the in the Boer War and saw active duty with the 7th Hussars at Krugersdorp and grandfather was also there at that time. But

that was all speculation - I had reached a brick wall and thought that maybe we would never know the real reason.

But I did not give up and four years later made contact with a website which had a section on German medals and from the answers I received, I found that the Gotha Archives had sent me on a wild goose chase!! They had sent me a picture of the wrong medal – the one to the right is the one I should have been looking for & it was not just issued to military personnel. Grandfather had received the medal in 1911 & by that time Carl Eduard was the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha so this would have been his medal he received. In fact it was a gold medal, not silver as stated in his records, the reason for that being that by the time he received the medal he was a sergeant and sergeants and above received gold.



So now the question - Why did he receive this medal? Carl Eduard was the honorary Colonel of the Seaforth Highlanders and one of the replies I received told me that as the award was made in 1911 it would have been in relation to the coronation of King Edward V's Coronation but that is conjecture. The surprising thing is that this was the only medal presented by Carl Eduard to anyone in the Seaforth Highlanders & in fact was only one of two awarded to British subjects. What that correspondent said in his poet to the website was *"That Charles Edward, 2nd Duke of Albany, Colonel in Chief of the Seaforth Highlanders (and since 1905 as Carl Eduard reigning Duke of Sachsen-Coburg and Gotha) should have done so, in obvious connection with King Edward V's coronation (22 June 1911) is not surprising. What IS surprising is that this was the ONLY award made by the "senior" Saxe-Coburg monarch to that regiment! So WHY did Sergeant Munro—and Sergeant Munro ALONE—receive this award from his Colonel-in-Chief? And would it have fallen into the category of an officially recognised, London Gazette approved award, or simply been accepted as a courtesy?"*



I cannot give an exact answer to that question but what this means to me is that Grandfather, then Sergeant Munro, was the soldier who received that medal – for loyal service - and as my grandchildren would say "that's pretty cool!!" For me the mystery was solved at long last, although the correspondent above still wonders why him, what qualities did he possess that picked him out to receive that medal? So there you have it. There was no bravery in battle, no secret spying mission – the award, as I had already found out, was for loyal service & of all the men serving in the Seaforth Highlanders, Grandfather Munro possessed the qualities that made him stand out as the soldier to receive this medal and that is honour enough for me. Carl Eduard is an interesting person but that is another story – you can check him out on the internet.

Donald Munro married Helen Ross from Dingwall in 1907 and they had three children – Chrissie, Donald (my father) and Aisne. He died of pneumonia on the 8th of January 1932 in his 53rd year. It is so sad that he had served through the Boer War & WW1, in Ireland and India only to die at such a young age of a non-military cause. The questions raised above as to the qualities he had are answered in his life as a Seaforth Highlander.

Postscript to the above. At the Clan Gathering, I mentioned to our Chief, Hector that my Grandfather had brought Captain Munro's belongings back home to Sir Hector and he sent me the following extract from his father's diary of WW2 to use with my story.

*"On June 5th 1940 'C' Company, the 4th Battalion the Seaforth Highlanders, part of the 51st Highland Division reached the village of Limeaux in Northern France during its retreat from the Somme. With the enemy very close, Captain Patrick Munro of Foulis, their Company commander had the badly mauled remnants of 'B' Company (which included their only surviving officer, his youngest brother Hector Gascoigne) attached to his Company. Having just lost his driver, Captain Munro put his brother Hector in charge of his truck with orders to withdraw by road whilst he himself led the Company across country. The withdrawal took place without incident and they reached the village of Ramburelles at about 5 a.m. but Hector failed to arrive. Just as they set off to search for him he turned up on foot with a long face and explained that try as he might he couldn't get the truck to start. He knew the Germans were very close and having his own equipment to carry he had no alternative but to abandon everything else in the truck, little realising that it contained all his elder brother possessed except for the clothes he stood up in. One of Captain Munro's greatest losses was his late Uncle *Hector's badge in his Glengarry bonnet, which had been all through WW1." (*Captain Hector C. S. Munro yr. of Foulis MC was killed near Cambrai, N. France on 22 October 1918 aged 23 years. Coincidentally his nephew Hector Gascoigne was exactly the same age in June 1940).*

**Anzac Day – Sydney, 25th April, 2013
Wreath Laying Ceremony**

As usual, we have a report on the Anzac Day wreath laying ceremony from Graham Gates detailing that family's involvement. This year the wreath was laid by Master Charlie Gates and isn't he a handsome young man. Thank you Charlie.

On a bright sunny day Sydneysiders turned out on Anzac Day in their thousands to commemorate the 98th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli Cove.



Charlie Gates

In the early hours of the morning twenty thousand people gathered at the cenotaph in Martin Place to witness the Dawn Service before the main parade of Veterans assembled under their respective banners at 9am to process through the streets of Sydney accompanied by the various participating marching bands. Overall it was estimated that some sixteen thousand marchers took part in the main parade. An added feature, during the morning, was a "fly-over" of two Hawke jet fighters from the Williamstown airbase followed after by a number of older service aircraft that are maintained by the Historical Aircraft Society, Picton passing overhead.

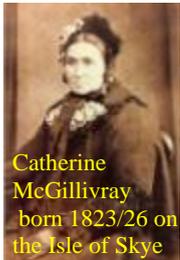
Following the main parade the massed bands of pipes and drums assembled at the Sydney Town Hall to lead the twenty-four wreath layers, acting on behalf of the various clans, to participate in the annual ceremony of The Scottish Act of Remembrance for the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph. The order of the march was headed by the Drum Majors and flag bearers followed by the wreath layers, the massed pipes and drums, representatives of the N.S.W. Scottish Regimental Association and finally

remainder of Clans and Societies not in the wreath laying party.

The parade processes down George Street to Martin place where the wreath laying ceremony took place by the participants representing the various clans, during which time the pipes play to the tune to the "Lament". On this occasion the representative for the Clan Munro Association was Master Charlie Gates, a thirteen year old student attending the Shore School at North Sydney.

Once again it was a solemn and stirring occasion witnessed by a large crowd of on-lookers

Donald Munro & Catherine MacGillivray



Catherine McGillivray
born 1823/26 on
the Isle of Skye

I have already written about the Donald Munro & Catherine McGillivray reunion which was held in 2004 & organised by Lily Sims. Del Smith wrote a poem about the Gathering – appropriately named "Calling The Clan" but I did not know about it at that time, so here it is with a little bit of the family history. I have another of Del's poems & will include it in the December newsletter.



Del Smith on left with cousins Joy, Shirley, Jean & Pat

Donald Munro & Catherine McGillivray arrived in Australia on the HMS Hercules on August 3, 1853 with their children Donald McGillivray, Allan, Mary, Donald & Alexander. They travelled by bullock cart to Timboon to work for a J G Ware for 6 months for £75.00 with keep. Timboon later was known as Camperdown & Rev McKinnon of Portree arranged for was a newspaper proprietor in type of work but once in Australia the land.



HMS Hercules

Mortlake, or as the shipping record states, months for £75.00 with keep. Timboon later Mortlake was known as Mt Shadwell. The the family to leave Scotland as his brother Melbourne & Donald was intereted in that decided to go on



Lily Sims

A further 6 children were born in the area; Margaret, Lachlan, Catherine, Christina, Flora & Duncan. Donald died on July 16, 1865, 3 weeks before the last child Duncan was born. Catherine later moved to Tenterfield NSW in 1882 where she died on August 27, 1917.

Alexander, Lachlan & Duncan moved to Perth with nephew, Donald son of Donald McGillivray Munro. Catherine married Dave Ballard, school teacher in Bryan's Gap, NSW. Catherine taught in Sydney. Flora was a school teacher & Christina married Louis Bregenzer – both School teachers.



Mary (Munro) McDonald died aged 99 yrs & 9 months

Calling of the Clan

The Isle of Skye they called their home
our McGillivray and Munro clan,
I share this love of Scotland too
it's an Aussie though I am

With death and danger all around
they braved the mighty seas.
In 1853 they sailed
on the tall ship "Hercules"

Across Australia went the call
for a meeting of the clan
A heartfelt thanks to Lily Sims
and to those who lent a hand

A venue set in Bendigo
and a perfect setting too,
No flowers blossomed due to drought

but the trees the breeze blew through

Down the track a mile or two
in Sea Lake they staked their claim,
Glen Hope the family home was born
hence from overseas they came

With stories, photos, names to share
between relatives old and new
Our family tree has somewhat grown
and to think once there were two

Our thanks we give to those who came
and the sacrifice they made
With their history safe in caring hands
we'll ensure their past won't fade.

By Del Smith March 2004

Congratulations



Congratulations to Elsa and Chris Green on the birth of two grandchildren Harrison Munro Buxton and Lucy Weber, children of their daughters Amanda and Joanna. Here we see the proud grandparents doing their duty – I wonder if they always dress up in their kilts to change the babies' nappies. One pic is of the two mums with their lovely babies & the other the Buxton family with proud grandparents. Not only that, they are also our four newest members as Elsa and Chris have gifted each of them membership of the Clan Munro.



The Things We Do

As well as writing poetry, Del Smith finds time to make knee rugs – but I will let Del tell the story.



A bed full of knee rugs
& soft toys

"Don, this is how I spent the winter months while Nev got over an operation on his knee. These knee rugs went to the Yemen, a batch of 600. This is a charity run by Rotary here in WA "Wheelchairs for Kids." Each wheelchair has a rug & a soft toy & as I have a very soft spot for soft toys, they also are on my shopping list when I go to the Op shops. The linings are new while the material is as new as I can buy. When I come home with material made in Australia, I find it very hard to cut, wondering all the time, when will I even see another." Note: Del has made 60 knee rugs, including 3 knitted ones....Ed

Vale Ann Munro

I am saddened to report that Anne Munro the daughter of Ron Munro passed away on the 22nd of July after a long battle with cancer. Anne was a member of the Association and in 2007 joined Bet and myself and other members at the 70th Anniversary Munro Clan Gathering in Scotland. May she rest in peace.

Gringo

Would you believe that there were Scots at the famous American Battle of the Alamo & that they were responsible for the term "Gringo"? Certainly I had not heard this but in Alistair Moffat's book "Arthur and the Lost Kingdoms" he was discussing how names evolved and says this.....

"Why do the Mexicans call the Americans Gringos? It is a strange term with an even stranger origin. When Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie and the other heroes of Texas's war against Mexico were besieged in the Alamo, they had a small force of about eighty Scots mercenaries with them. The Scots' marching song was the folk-tune 'Green Grow the Rashes O' and that is why Santa Ana's army and finally the whole of Mexico called the Americans Gringos.

"Historians with an interest in etymology might believe that a recital of a nation's nicknames, or terms of abuse even, would provide a useful gloss to a study of that nation. However the Alamo story illustrates what a risky set of assumptions rumble around inside that way of thinking. The Mexicans believed that they were describing Americans when they were actually describing a band of Scotsmen, and they used an accidental term which says nothing much about any of the groups involved, except perhaps that early nineteenth-century Mexican soldiers had a poor grasp of English and knew nothing at all about traditional Scottish folk-songs."

I had not heard of this Scottish connection before & as I don't like to just accept things when they are new to me, I checked with Mr. Google & found that the above seems to be basically correct. By coincidence, in the latest USA Flyer there is a story about the Battle of the Alamo which states that the defenders of the Alamo included 30 men of Scottish ancestry, four of whom were native Scots. One of those was Piper John MacGregor, who stood on the adobe walls in the midst of the battle to pipe the men on in true Scottish tradition.....Don.

Can We Help?

Remember, if you do contact any of the people in the following queries, please let me know. If you are unable to make contact through the internet, contact me & I will do it for you.

This came from Robert Brown. "I got your address from the Clan Munro Australia website. I am researching an incident in March 1942 in which five Allied airmen(1 Dutch, 2 RAAF, 1 RNZAF & 1 RCAF) escaped the Japanese occupation of Java by flying to Ceylon. One of the airmen was Sgt. Stuart Munro, son of Rae McLeod Munro of Woodford Dale, Clarence River, NSW. I would be interested if there are any relatives who would be willing to share information on Stuart Munro. He was promoted to Pilot Officer and killed in action 27 August 1942 at Milne Bay, New Guinea." If this rings a bell contact Robert Brown at ce195brown@gmail.com

Membership

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	

**Clan Munro (Association) Australia
Newsletter**

Sender
Don Munro
18 Salter Road
Mt Nasura WA 6112
Phone 08 9390 7643
donmunro36@hotmail.com

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