



Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

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

Chat

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Next Newsletter

Been in Scotland for two months so have a lot of catching up to do but I know we will have the story of our member, Wendy Borchers' New Zealand tour. We will also have a piece about Sir Ronald Crauford Munro Ferguson

Don

I am a wee bit late with this newsletter but Bet and I have just returned from our very enjoyable two month holiday in Scotland and the internet has been down since we got back. One of the highlights was meeting Colin Munro, our dna expert who travelled from Glasgow to Ayr to meet me. Lots of interest but what did come from our conversation was that not enough Munros are having their dna tested, so if you are interested, now is the time. Contact me & I will point you in the right direction. If you happen to go over there, watch out for the Turkish barbers, they are everywhere. I went in for a trim and I reckon it will be three months before I need another!!

In our previous newsletter I told you that Finian and Ohma Munro of Foulis had named their son Ulysses John Robert. You might wonder if there is a Munro connection to the name and this is what I have been told. *"The only Munro connection with the name Ulysses is that of the supposed progenitor of the French branch of the Clan whose existence has never been proven by contemporary records but is said by one of their early family historians to have fled C17th Scotland for Ireland at the time of the Civil War."*

I hope you have made a note in your diary for the next Clan Gathering in Scotland which will be held on 9,10,11 August, 2019.

This month we have a couple of stories from our members. The first is Beverly Munro-Kyter's family story and the other is the story

of Ross and Robyn Lambert's tour of Mongolia and Israel. We also have the completion of Jeff Munro's historic motor cycle ride round Australia.

If you are thinking about visiting Foulis Castle here is an update about what you must do. Tours of the castle are conducted on Tuesdays and could you give at least three weeks notice of your intended visit. Times are either 10.30am or 3.00pm. There is no charge for your visit but a donation put in the Clan Munro Association box for the castle restoration fund is appreciated. An appointment to visit the outside and the grounds is not required but please let the Castle know when you intend to visit.

Contact our webmaster Ian Munro at info@clanmunro.org.uk and he will arrange your visit.

Visit the clan Munro website at www.clanmunro.org.uk where you will find lots of interesting information about the happenings at Foulis.

Welcome

Lots of mail waiting for us on our return from Scotland but the one of most interest was from Wayne Munro, our newest member, from Victoria. As yet I don't know Wayne's descent but will have it for our next newsletter

When we left Jeff Munro in the April Newsletter, he had crawled to the Maranboy Inland Mission where he spent a week in sick bay. So let's see how he fares on the rest of this epic journey.

Along the Overland Telegraph Line



It was a short ride to Katherine where the locals urged Munro to take the weekly train to Darwin as the track formed during construction of the Overland Telegraph had not been used for over a decade – and was only first surveyed by Jack Bowers and Frank Smith the following year. Munro would have none of it – after all he'd endured on the Barkly, what could be easier than following the Telegraph lines to Darwin. But soon after setting off he found the thick mallee scrub and long spear grass disorienting, the cattle pads less defined and the dry creeks harder to negotiate. He soon lost sight of the low slung telegraph wires and spent most of the day totally bushwhacked, foolishly following the least course of resistance. By dusk he was relieved to sight civilisation and pulled up the first abo he came across *"Hey Jackie this Pine Creek?" "No Boss. This Katherine."* Even without a compass Munro's ill health had obviously demolished his sense of direction.

The second attempt to follow the ill defined track north proved more successful however the ratio of 'get offs' to distance covered increased in the long speargrass. A final fall rendered Munro unconscious and he was eventually – and somewhat unceremoniously – accompanied into Darwin by an elderly Chinese market gardener.

Munro's delight in reaching this important waypoint was tempered by his disappointment at finding the settlement largely populated by Chinese and aboriginals totally unimpressed by his arrival. To cap it off the publican at the only 'white' pub was taken to hospital then immediately to the morgue after suffering dengue fever; the same ailment now affecting Munro. Contrary to expectations Munro survived his month long spell in hospital.

Rest and Reflection

Thus far Munro's ride had consisted of throwing himself at whatever terra firma offered – rocks, sand, mud, bulldust, blacksoil, termite mounds and tree stumps. The balance of his time had been spent acquiring an intimate knowledge of every medical facility in northern Australia. His immediate future promised only more of the same – without the medical facilities. Disconsolately lying in his hospital bed he must have been able to accurately predict the quantum of falls he'd suffer on the return to Katherine, but beyond that was truly 'no man's land'.

Munro returned to Katherine without serious mishap and, now experienced as to how the ungainly Ariel would handle the coarse red sand of the Northern Tanami Desert set out for Wave Hill, arriving in relatively good shape. The next stage to Halls Creek was undoubtedly the most dangerous stretch of country Munro yet faced. Country where, only three years before, Arthur Grady had almost perished. Munro soon became adept at following the Afghan camel trails and digging for water in the soaks of the deep ravines carved through the rocky hills. Halls Creek marked the halfway point of his journey but there was no cause for celebration as ahead of him lay the Fitzroy Crossing. Arriving before the first big flood, Munro, aided by the local black fellas, was able to push his machine through the heavy sand and continue towards Derby.

It was the following 'tidal' crossing of the mighty Fitzroy at Yeeda – only negotiable in the dry season and then only at low tide – that caused Munro the most grief. He'd managed the first hundred yards of the rough crossing when the Ariel lodged itself firmly between two boulders forcing him to unload and partially dismantle the machine. This necessitated several trips and Munro found it increasingly difficult to focus on the task with one eye on the lurking saltwater crocodiles, the other on the incoming tide.

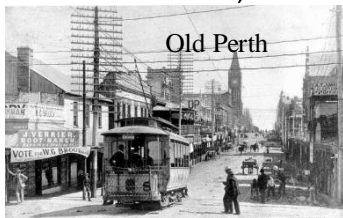


Reassembling his machine Munro pressed on into the dreaded 'pindan' a region of deep sand, thick spinifex and impenetrable turpentine bush; the intense heat and energy sapping humidity adding to his woes. Barely twenty miles from Roebuck Munro had run out of fuel. Also out of water, he set out on foot but was soon stricken by dehydration. He made a further attempt at sundown but got nowhere, resorting to firing rounds from his revolver to attract attention. A final effort at dawn saw him within sight of the Roebuck bore camp before he collapsed with exhaustion.

Maddened by thirst Munro had torn off all his clothes and was completely starkers when he was discovered later that day. The end result was a week spent checking out the medical facilities in Broome.

Leaving the Dengue Behind

Much hardened by his experiences and now moving to more temperate climes Munro made exceptionally short work of the 'madmans track', along which scores of would be prospectors had perished, then believing the worst behind him, took to the well established – if not well formed – bullock tracks across our vast western state.

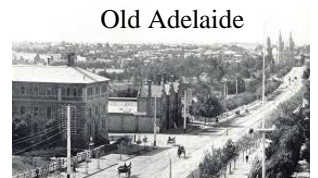


Marble Bar, Meekatharra and Mount Magnet were quickly left in his dust and, in little more than a week, Munro rode triumphantly into our most remote capital; without the need to visit Perth Royal Hospital. And whilst he enjoyed a week of celebration courtesy of the Ariel distributors the local mechanics set about refettling his machine only to discover that *'very few adjustments and minor parts were required'*; proof that the art of 'spin doctoring' had reached the furthest outposts of civilisation.

Mid November was hardly the ideal time to be tackling the longest leg of his journey, particularly the dreaded Madura Pass or Yardea sand dunes, but Munro was on a roll and mum's Christmas Dinner beckoned. Beside the 'Eyre Highway' now boasted over a hundred



travellers yearly and Norman 'Wizard' Smith had just set a Perth to Adelaide record of less than three days. Maybe Munro had 'Wizard's' record in mind as it was on this stretch he suffered a crash that almost caused a premature end to his historic circumnavigation. However, nothing would stop him now and on November 28 he



rolled up to Geo. Bolton's in Adelaide where *'everything possible was done to make his stay enjoyable'*. These possibilities may have stretched a little as it was a full nine days later that Munro's A.C.U. Card was stamped in Melbourne – where he enjoyed another 'short' stay as the celebrated guest of Milledge Motors. It appears Munro's tenacity across the top of the continent reaped its just rewards across the bottom.

Victorious Homecoming

Despite suffering an inordinate number of punctures between Melbourne and Sydney Munro arrived at the GPO on December 15 to be met by a large crowd of wellwishers. Certainly, the city's entire Ariel contingent was in attendance along with Mr. A. Anderson of Ariel Distributors Limited. It undoubtedly *was* an outstanding achievement, however no specific records were claimed for Munro's five month odyssey beyond being the first single cylinder machine to lap Australia. In any case, the following year Bowers and Smith would lay waste to any and all previous records with a three month dash on their Harley Davidson outfit.



Old Sydney

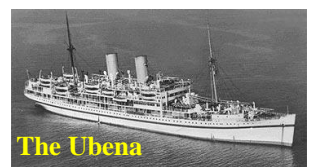
Though Jeff Munro toured England in 1929 as a guest of Ariel he made no claims on the Maudes Trophy and by 1930 he'd returned to his old haunts and winning ways on the east coast speedways. The Ariel was last said to be on display at the now defunct Fremantle Motorcycle Museum.....Peter Whitaker 18 July 2010

Unfortunately I have not been able to locate Jeff's Ariel here in Perth.....Don

Beverly Munro-Kyter

This is the family story of our newest member Beverly Munro-Kyter.

This is a brief summary of my family's arrival in South Africa and, although I've checked with my sister - the self-appointed family historian, it's as accurate as we're both aware. My grandfather, Robert Munro, was born in 1918 and was listed on the passenger lists from Southampton to Durban on 25 March 1933 on the ship "Ubena". He was from Dalkeith, Midlothian, Scotland and was 15 years old with no occupation listed when he left for South Africa. He secured a jockey's apprenticeship at my great-grandfather's racing stables where he met my grandmother, Fanny Tayfield. They eloped. When my great-grandfather, Emmanuel Tayfield, discovered this, he had the marriage annulled as they were both underage and had Robert sent back to Scotland. But, by this time, my grandmother was expecting my father, Albert Robert, but she had no way of contacting grandpa Bert to let him know. Many years passed, with my gran marrying a Mr Joe Malone, who raised my father as his own along with the two sons my gran bore him. Apparently, grandpa Bert also married in Scotland and had a daughter.



The Ubena

But he missed my grandmother and vowed that he'd return to South Africa and meet up with her again. Many years later they did meet, they married and had two sons - who also became jockeys. They were married until grandpa Bert died in Durban. He worked for many years as a stevedore on the docks in Durban.



My dad Albert, became the pipe major for the 1st Transvaal Scottish Regiment and later, the Natal Mounted Rifles. There are four Munro off-spring, Heather - the oldest, now living in Brisbane, myself, now living in Melbourne, Gavin, living in South Padre Island, Corpus Christi, Texas and Brett, living in the Natal Midlands. All of us have visited Foulis Castle. Gavin made a name for himself as the first appointed captain of the Junior Springbok golf team and later became a pro golfer in the States.

I studied to be a teacher at the University of Natal, in South Africa, and taught from 1979 until 2001 when I moved to Australia. I paint, garden and photograph in my spare time. I left South Africa in 2001 to work in the UK as a teacher, and from there to Muscat, in the Sultanate of Oman, where I worked as an Information Technology teacher at the Royal Guard of the Sultan of Oman. Later, I transferred, at his majesty's request, to the Royal Omani Symphony Orchestra, a project that was very close to his heart. I met Joe, my husband, in Oman, and we eloped to Las Vegas. Then, after seven very happy years living like Bedouin and travelling the deserts and oases of Arabia, we decided to settle in Australia in 2016.

Ross & Robyn Lambert's tours of Mongolia and Israel

From way back in the 70s, and probably even earlier, my wife Robyn and I have had a fascination with Central Asia and the Silk Road. It may have been tales of Marco Polo's adventures to the Orient, which excited our interest in this part of the world. This fascination led to us undertaking, in 1976, a three months overland camping trip from London to Kathmandu via such places as Afghanistan, the Khyber Pass, Pakistan and Kashmir in northern India.

Mongolia

So, as you can see, we've always liked adventure travel and the nomadic way of life. Although it is quite some time since those days back in the 70s, we always intended to revisit central Asia, and last year in September we got the opportunity to go to Mongolia. Well, what a trip of a lifetime it was!

We flew with Cathay Pacific to Beijing via Hong Kong and on to Ulaanbaatar with Air China. After getting to meet our fellow travellers, we flew down to the south Gobi Desert for a week. Here we experienced incredible landscapes, as well as the day to day work of horse breeders, together with camel, sheep and goat, and yak



herders. Indeed, we soaked up the lifestyle of the nomads of the Gobi, which has not changed since Bible times. Our accommodation was in

Gers, sometimes in camps, and more interestingly in home stays, living alongside nomadic families and enjoying their hospitality. Their home cooking was delicious with yoghurt and butter to die for. Travelling in Mongolia is quite an adventure as there are very few paved roads, and the majority of the time we were "off roading", wandering for hundreds of kilometres through the wide open steppe.

In the Heartland we visited the ancient capital of Karakorum with its amazing temple complex and enjoyed the lush green Orkhon Valley.



Then we headed west, flying two hours to the city of Ulgii in the Kazakh region of Mongolia, to attend the fabulous Altai Eagle Festival. We stayed in a Kazakh Ger, close to an eagle hunter family, and were surrounded by the stunning scenery of the Altai Mountains. Our group had the pleasure of riding to the festival on horseback, and were enthralled as we watched eagle calling, camel racing, the interesting game of husband whipping, and the rugged sport of buzkashi, to name a few. And at the festival, we were privileged to meet Aisholpan, *The Eagle Huntress*, the first girl





to learn the art of eagle hunting. She has become quite famous by starring in the recent film of that name. At lunch we were entertained by a Mongolian throat singer and later, at dinner, by a local family with traditional Kazakh songs. After quite a surreal experience out west, it was sad to return to the capital.

Our final interesting encounter was to visit the gigantic stainless steel statue of Genghis Khan, just east of Ulaanbaatar. Mongolia is a fascinating country where you can have a unique experience in a very safe environment.



The Battle of Beersheba

Robyn and I were only home for three weeks, when we took off for a not so safe environment, namely, that of the State of Israel. We were there principally for the centenary commemorations of the Battle of Beersheba on 31 October, the last great cavalry charge in history. It was especially poignant for me, as I had an uncle and a great uncle who served in the Australian Light Horse regiments. We did, however, take in some of the other important military sites, where our ANZAC forces had



remarkable victories such as Jaffa, the Jordan Valley and the famous light horse charge (at night) on the heavily fortified Turkish railway station at Semakh. There were short remembrance services at Jaffa, Haifa and Semakh. In Jerusalem one night, at the Tower of David Citadel, there was a stirring re-enactment of General Allenby accepting the surrender of the city. All these events were accompanied by our own instrumental band of young, very versatile players.



Arriving in Israel early on the 19th October, we travelled the short way across the country to the Allenby Bridge, to meet up with the rest of our tired, but elated, touring party who had been in Turkey, Egypt and Jordan. The journey took us on the road of the Good Samaritan down to Jericho, where the ANZAC forces spent a long hot summer. We then went back again, past Jerusalem, to our first scheduled stop (for lunch) at another ANZAC site at Rishon le Zion, where our diggers once enjoyed some R&R.



Of course, being in the Holy Land you are surrounded by Biblical places, and we relished the chance to see Caesarea, Megiddo, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Masada and of course Beersheba, named by Abraham, the great ancestor of the Jewish people.



In Beersheba, the riders in our group (some 100 people), all in WW1 Light Horse uniforms, started their three day trek on horseback, following the ANZAC Trail. They stopped for a ceremony at Tel es Saba (Abraham's Tel Beersheba), where the New Zealanders' heroic efforts (back in October 1917) cleared the way for the Charge, later that day.

Then came the "big day", Beersheba Day, 31st October, when the city of Beer Sheva put on a fantastic show. Special commemoration ceremonies attended by the Prime Ministers of

Australia and Israel, and the Governor-General of New Zealand were followed by a street parade of our mounted Light Horsemen to the acclaim of the thousands of Israelis lining the route. Without the EEF and our Light Horse victories over the Ottoman forces, the modern State of Israel could never have been formed.

At the exact same time of 4:50 in the afternoon, the re-enactment of the last part of the great Charge of Beersheba took place over the same sacred ground. Again, it was watched by hundreds of local people, political dignitaries and visitors from around the world. It was a wonderful experience to be part of history, something that can never be repeated. I think our ancestors would have been proud we made the effort to remember their achievements and their sacrifice.



Family Tree Research

One of our members, Daphne Grinberg, is a family history consultant for her church and in a recent email to me, told me of the difficulty she encountered when researching her Norwegian ancestors. Thank goodness this does not happen in the country of my ancestors!

This is what Daphne said. "An interesting note for anyone chasing family in Norway. If a man had a farm and his son grew up and had another farm, the son had to change his surname by one letter so people didn't mix him up with his father. Hence our difficulties in tracing Kildahls, Kildals, Kildales etc."

While we are talking about family trees, let me clear up a point from my dna article in our previous newsletter. In the dna lines I mentioned Marilyn Monroe. Many people have asked, quite reasonably, how can we include her when we all know that her real name is not Monroe? She was born Norma Jeane Mortenson and later baptised as Norma Jeane Baker.

The answer is in our chromosomes. Humans have 23 different pairs of chromosomes giving us a total of 46. Scientists number these pairs from 1 to 22 and then an extra pair called the "X/Y" pair, or the sex chromosome because it determines whether you are male or female. Females have two X chromosomes called the XX, while males have an X and a Y chromosome called the XY. One chromosome comes from their mother and the other from their father. Men receive a Y chromosome from their father and an X chromosome from their mother. Women receive an X chromosome from each parent. Only men inherit their father's Y chromosome.

Because of this Y chromosome, men can trace back in a straight line to their earliest ancestor and this is the reason that projects such as the Munro dna project use only the male dna to trace back to that earliest ancestor, they are Y dna projects. So why do we have a Marilyn Monroe dna line? The answer – because of her name - her dna was not tested but her name is so well known that it is remembered. Her grandfather was Otis Elmer Monroe and a male descendant of his was traced and he was tested. His dna showed that he was descended from a Scottish soldier, John Munro, banished to America after the battle of Worcester. He was a Highlander whose family came from Aldie, near Tain, in the Munro clan's Easter Ross stronghold. If Marilyn Monroe's grandfather is a descendant of a Munro from Tain then so is she.

The Australian Red Cross

We all know that the Red Cross does a tremendous job specially during time of war and this article taken from The Maitland Weekly Mercury Saturday 16 March 1918 in Trove, brings this home to us. It is very relevant to the Munros as the appeal was by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson president and founder of the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society. She was the wife of Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson (1860-1934), Governor-General of Australia 1914-1920. I had never heard of a Netley hut mentioned below, so I looked it up and you can see that it is a bit more than a hut – in fact a small hospital with a verandah large enough to take the patients beds. Little did Lady Munro Ferguson know when she made the appeal that the war would be over in a few months – 11/11/1918.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS DAY - LADY HELEN MUNRO FERGUSON'S APPEAL.

The following appeal on behalf of the Australian Red Cross Society is made by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson:- The fine response made by the people of Australia to the original Red Cross Appeal published in August 1914, encourages me to believe that the one I have again to make on behalf of the Council of the Australian Red Cross will bring in sufficient funds to finance the Society during the remaining period of the war, or until the closing of the Military Hospitals puts an end to the need for Red Cross activities.

In 1914 subscriptions were invited for purposes yet undefined. Now, the Council seeks support for schemes tested by time, and adjusted by experience to the exact needs of the soldier, be he sick, wounded, convalescent, or a prisoner.

During the past three and a half years the Society has continually increased its responsibilities and expanded its organisation, until now its alleviating and consoling work is carried right on from the foremost Dressing Station on each Fighting Front to the Base Hospital or Convalescent Camp in Australia. Red Cross Gifts find their way to many hundreds of hospitals and ambulances in France, England, Egypt, Palestine, and Macedonia.

They are also distributed to every sick Australian soldier in Basra, Bombay, Ceylon, Capetown and Sierra Leone. No transport afloat is without them, and tri-fortnightly Red Cross parcels keep the prisoner in Germany from want and despair.

Since the inception of the Society, the following amounts have been expended: —

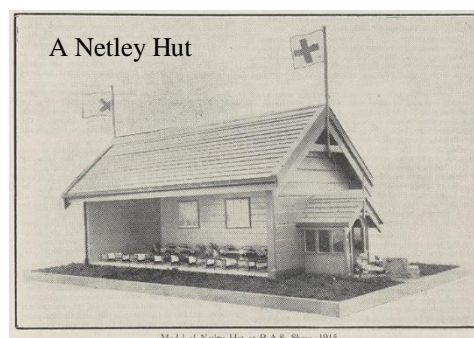
£244,209 Remitted to London for general purposes of the Society in France, England, and Egypt.

£75,000 Remitted to Egypt for general purposes.

£23,328 Remitted to London for motor ambulances.

£101,660 Remitted to London, Egypt, Bombay, Colombo, Capetown, etc., for hospitals, maintenance of **Netley huts**, Southall workshops and various other special purposes as requested by donors; also for foodstuffs, clothing, and Christmas presents.

£98,344 given to parent and sister societies of Allied countries (exclusive of £125,000 for the British Red Cross Society from Victorian division, and £90,000 first instalment from New South Wales division).



A Finance Committee, sitting in London, and consisting of the Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher, Surgeon-General Sir Neville Howse, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Campion, and Lieut. Colonels Hayward and Murdoch (Australian Red Cross Commissioners), is responsible for the financial operations in the Western and Egyptian areas. The monthly outgoings in these spheres have amounted during the past half-year to £19,000. Of this sum, £900 a month has been expended upon prisoners of war, and the balance on purchase of goods; rent of stores and offices in London, France, and Egypt, grants to hospitals in all spheres; equipment of recreation rooms; freight, insurance, and wages.

The cost of maintaining Prisoners of War has increased, and now stands at £50 a head per annum, inclusive of value of foods and clothing received from Australia. The Commissioners estimate that £200,000 will be needed during the coming year for prisoners of war alone.

Goods to the value of £355,856 were shipped last year to the Red Cross (Commissioners from Central Depots throughout the Commonwealth. During the same period, £47,501 worth of comforts was placed on outgoing transports for the use of invalids.

The expenditure on Red Cross work, in Australia varies in the different States, and its cost is not included in the figures given. This work comprises the running of convalescent homes and kitchens; the erection of recreation rooms, baths, stores, etc., gifts of equipment, clothing, furniture, billiard tables, etc., to Base and Camp Hospitals; and issues of clothing to men on discharge. Money has also been devoted to such purposes as the entertainment of hospital patients, the training of blind and limbless men, and the reeducation of returned soldiers.

The total expenditure is great, but every witness - whether patient, surgeon, nurse, or commanding officer - agrees that the benefits conferred, the relief given, the multitudinous services rendered by our great organisation, are correspondingly immense, and have become quite indispensable.

It is imperative that these activities should be carried on to the very end. This can only be made possible by a generous response to this appeal, which, as president of the Australian Red Cross Society, I have the honour to address to the people of the Commonwealth.

(Signed) HELEN MUNRO FERGUSON.

Anzac Day Sydney 2018

Once again Graham Gates has provided us with a report on the Sydney Anzac Day parade and this time we have a new wreath layer in Hamish Munro Rae Gates and we thank them both for their efforts in recording this very important parade and ceremony



In accord with the long standing tradition, the ceremony of the Scottish Act of Remembrance was enacted at the cenotaph in Martin Place on Anzac Day by the laying of wreaths. This year there were twenty representatives from the various clans taking part and who were accompanied by members of their families and friends. The Clan Munro, this year, was represented by

Hamish Munro Rae Gates, whose photograph appears in this article.

The party was led by The Sydney Pipe Band who processed down Pitt Street into Martin Place to encircle the Cenotaph and lay their wreaths upon the order, whilst the band played the lament "When the Pipers Play"

The ceremony was conducted at midday and commemorates those of our Scottish ancestry who have served our country in years past and to pay tribute and honour their services.

Following the ceremony, the wreath laying party are invited to join the numerous pipe bands that have taken part in the Anzac Day march to parade down the city streets from Park to Hunter streets in a mass pipes and drums display as a final gesture to the Sydney Anzac Day parade.



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 to 80	Same as 10 Year Dues		\$160.00
Age 80 and over:	Half Ten Year Dues		\$80.00

*Clan Munro (Association) Australia
Newsletter*

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