



AUSTRALIA

# Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

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Volume 19 Issue 1

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## Blether

### This Month

Blether	Page 1
From the Eagles Nest	Page 2
William Hector Munro & Christina Sutherland	Page 2
Major Donald Munro MC	Page 4
Famous Scottish Women	Page 5
Granny's Apron	Page 8
Membership	Page 8

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Another New Year and Ray Munro is in charge, I am sure he will have fresh ideas to liven us up. I will be carrying on as Newsletter Editor.

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to check out the website when it was being revised. Many helpful suggestions were made and the content was praised as was our our webmaster for the excellent job he has done. If you haven't visited it for a while, why don't you have look, the address is just above.

Had a phone call from John Munro to tell me that the flour mill mentioned in the first paragraph of the article in the Hugh Robert Munro story in the December newsletter is still there. However, it is no longer a flour mill, has been converted into a Community College with a plaque reading Munro's Flour Mill.

You will notice that in this month's issue I have the story of David Munro's great grandfather. This will be followed up by his grandfather's story in the following issue. Many thanks to David for that. It would be great if more members could do the same thing as our newsletter is all the better for member's stories.

Ann Munro from New Zealand sent this to me. "The flag designed by the young Munro for the Isle of Skye reminded me of the following story. My husband George's uncle was born on the Isle of Skye, after he died in NZ, a son took his ashes back to be buried there, plus money for a headstone. When another son visited a few years later there was no headstone. No one expected any family to return!!! Fortunately, a headstone was duly erected as all three sons have visited more than once, also grandchildren."

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 when you intend to visit.

Contact our webmaster Ian Munro at [info@clanmunro.org.uk](mailto:info@clanmunro.org.uk) and he will arrange your visit.

Visit the clan Munro website at [www.clanmunro.org.uk](http://www.clanmunro.org.uk) where you will find lots of interesting information about the happenings at Foulis and the Clan in general.

## Welcome

We have one new member, Deborah Walker from New South Wales. We don't have Deborah's ancestry yet but we will have it for the next newsletter.

## *From the Eagles Nest*

You may have read in the previous newsletter that from the 1<sup>st</sup>. January I have taken on the duties of the Clan Munro Australia representative. The changeover period has been difficult because of the restrictions imposed by Covid-19.

I am a retired Mechanical Engineer from a long line of Engineers in our family. We owned a Marine Refrigeration Engineering business based in Sydney with branches in Brisbane, Melbourne, Devonport, Adelaide and Fremantle. Initially, my wife and I visited Foulis Castle in July, 1995 and were shown around by the wonderful mother of our chief, Hector. On returning home I immediately joined Clan Munro Australia. I have attended every Clan Gathering in Scotland since 1997 and will endeavour to attend many more. The Gathering in 2019 was very special for me, not only did it celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Glenshiel, but because my eldest son and youngest grandson were present. Three generations of my family.

I haven't mentioned a great deal about the pandemic as I feel that we all have been through enough and we should be, particularly here in Australia, looking toward a brighter future. Hopefully, this will mean more contact amongst Clan members.

On a more mundane note I am awaiting to hear from several members whose membership fees are due.

Over the course of time I look forward to hearing from all members. I shall in future newsletters let you know important information when it comes to hand and some history of my family in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Ray Munro.

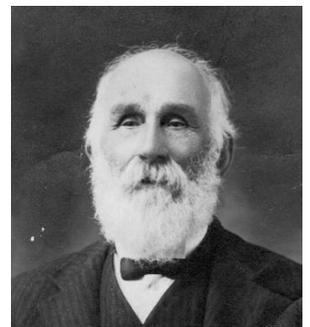
Chief Officer, Clan Munro Australia.

## *William Hector Munro & Christina Sutherland*

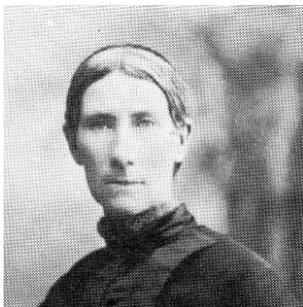
*This is the first part of the story of David Munro's Ancestors. Interesting that my wife, Bet, also has ancestors from that area, Janet Sutherland from Durness, born in 1868*

**William Hector Munro** was the sixth child of John and Barbara Munro of Ceannabeinne, Scotland. Ceannabeinne was a group of up to 10 crofts (houses and small plots of land) rented from the owner landlord, Lord Reay, on which the occupants grew their own food. The tenants were evicted during the era known as the "clearances" so that sheep could be grazed on the land. The family moved to the Durness area.

John and Barbara's son William Hector was born in the parish of Durness, Scotland and was baptised on 7 February 1826. Little is known of his early life in Scotland or why he chose to immigrate to Australia.



William Hector Munro aged 85



Christina Munro  
(nee Sutherland)

At the age of 26 he left Scotland, bound for Victoria aboard the schooner "Wanata" on 10 June 1852. The voyage was both good and disastrous. During the voyage the schooner lost two masts during a storm and was becalmed for several days at the Equator. The voyage lasted 116 days. On board were 820 government funded immigrants. However, 39 passengers (33 children and 6 adults) died from diseases such as typhoid fever, apoplexy and consumption. On arrival in Melbourne the ship was put into quarantine near Williamstown. Another ship, the "Apollo", was stationed nearby to ensure that Wanata immigrants did not try to get ashore. The Wanata was released from quarantine on 4 October 1852.

On the brighter side of the voyage, William met Christina Sutherland, the eldest of three daughters of John Angus and Mary Ann Sutherland, fellow immigrants from Scotland. She was fifteen years and three months old. A ship board romance developed between Christina and William but because of her age, William was persuaded to wait another year before marriage.

On the Wanata voyage there were 14 Sutherland passengers registered. William was the only Munro listed aboard the Wanata. In later years his sisters Frances and Mary Ann also immigrated to Victoria.

In Melbourne William commenced work at Fulton's Foundry. Five months later he headed for the Bendigo goldfields, where he remained for the next eighteen months.

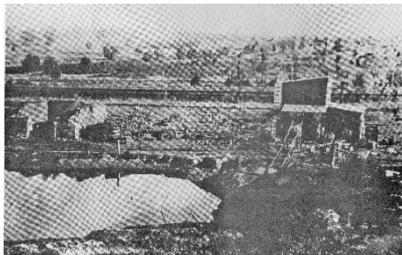
On 28 June 1853, a few days after Christina's sixteenth birthday, Christina and William were married at the John Knox Church, Swanston Street, Melbourne. They lived their early married life in the goldfields. William had some success as he discovered gold at the Victoria Reef, which he later sold for £40. During late 1854, he bought 10 acres of land at Beveridge, situated by the old Sydney Road near Round Swamp, Wallan, Victoria. This land was close to where Christina's parents later bought land in 1858. William commenced a blacksmith's business which he conducted for 16 years. The exact location of this business is unknown. He set up a forge making agricultural implements, some of which received prizes at agricultural shows.

The roads around the property were only tracks, and often they were the only cleared areas available to erect a clothes line. One evening a loud yell was heard and Christina ran outside to find that she had forgotten to disassemble the clothesline and the mailman had been caught in the line and knocked off his horse as he travelled in the dark.

Bush ranger Ned Kelly was born at Beveridge. He, with his brothers and uncles often had their horses shod by William. They would arrive at any hour of the night and demand that he did the work. William was afraid to refuse their demands as they were already notorious. However, they always treated William well.

Around 1870 William moved to Wallan in Victoria during the construction of the north-eastern railway line and completed several contracts over two years. For a while William moved to Melbourne where he opened a wood yard, but before doing so he purchased 207 acres of land at Lightwood Flat at Wallan. He returned to Wallan around 1874 leaving his eldest son John to run the wood business in Melbourne.

The land William purchased in Wallan, was allotments 154 and 154A consisting of 207 acres. The railway ran through the eastern side of the property. There were large deposits of clay on the land and during the construction of the railway, two kilns were set up to supply bricks to the railway. He also conducted a saw mill operation and a brick making business on the land.



Munro brickworks, Lightwood Flat

He named the property "*Durness*" after his birthplace in Scotland. By 1874 William had erected a four-roomed residence on the property made from timber and bricks from the trees and kilns on the property. William received a Crown Grant for this property on 8 August 1877. A siding was later added to the railway with loops to both kilns.

The brickworks operated until around the late 1890's. Younger members of the family revived the kilns for a year or two prior to World War I until the kilns were dismantled. Later clay was quarried and railed to Brunswick potteries. The saw mill continued to supply wood until 1936 when the farm was sold.

Christina and William had six sons and two daughters. They were:

- John Hector, b. (Unknown)
- William, B.1856, D.1857
- Hugh, B. 1858, D.1943
- William James, B. 1896, D.1962
- Christina Margaret McNicol, B. 1868, D.1944
- Charles, (my grandfather), B.1871, D.1969
- George Alexander, B.1873, D.1963
- Mary Ann, B.1875, D.1968



The Munro home "*Durness*" at Lightwood Flat, Wallan

The Church occupied a huge part of Christina's life. The family attended St Mark's Church of England at the Wallan Railway Station and the Wallan and Wandong Presbyterian Churches.

Christina died at her home on 7 May 1907 at almost 70 years of age. She had lived 53 of her 55 years in Australia in the Wallan area and is buried in the Wallan Cemetery. William Hector Munro took a great interest in world affairs

and was keen to learn about the latest developments. He died at his residence "Durness" on 22 August 1914 aged 88 years. He is also buried in Wallan Cemetery. William had been a colonist for 62 years, having lived in the Wallan area for 60 years.

## **Major Donald Munro MC**

*We find out a lot from our ancestor's obituaries, so I thought I would use my grandfather's one, hope you don't mind. It is from the Ross-shire Journal in 1932. You will see that he died of pneumonia when only 52. I suspect that he may have been gassed during WW1 as took part in the second battle of Ypres, which was when gas was first used by the Germans. Major Donald served in the Boer War, right through WW1, in India, Ireland as well as the UK.*



### **Obituary, Ross-shire Journal, 1932**

Many old and young Seaforths, not only in Ross-shire and the Highlands generally, but practically in every British Colony, will regret to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Major Donald Munro, M.C., Depot Seaforth Highlanders, Fort George, where he had been stationed since 1921. Following a cold, Major Munro developed pneumonia and death intervened after three days' illness, on the morning of Friday, 8th December. Major Munro, who was in his 53rd year, is survived by his widow, a daughter of the late Mr Malcolm Ross, and Mrs Ross, Hill Terrace, Dingwall, and one son and two daughters, the younger one having been born during the war and christened Aisne, where her father's Regiment was in action at the time. To these and other surviving relatives, deep and

widespread sympathy is extended.

A native of the Ardross district, deceased came to Dingwall early in his youth and for a time served on the clerical staff of the late Mr William Paterson, corn and coal merchant, Dingwall. From there, he enlisted in The Seaforth Highlanders at Fort George on 8th February 1898, and he served with his regiment for exactly one month short of 34 years.

Major Munro had a very distinguished military career, starting as a private, rising through all the grades, was commissioned on the field of war, until in December 1929, he received his majority. The details of his career make interesting reading.

Enlisting at Fort George on 8th February 1898, he was posted to and joined the 2nd Battalion at Dover two days later. He served with the 2nd Battalion through the South African War, being present at the action at Wittebergen. He also took part in the guerrilla warfare towards the close of hostilities in the Transvaal and Cape Colony. He received the Queen's Medal with three clasps, and the King's Medal, with two clasps. Appointed Lance Corporal in 1899, he was promoted Corporal in August 1903, and Sergeant in 1907. Whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion he was promoted Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant just prior to the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. He proceeded with the 2nd Battalion to France in 1914 and obtained a regular commission as Lieutenant on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1914. On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1915, he was appointed Lieutenant and quartermaster and was promoted to Captain and Quartermaster on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1917, receiving his majority on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1929. For his services in the war, he received the Military Cross, as well as the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In December 1921, was posted from the 2nd Battalion at Meerut, India, to the Depot.

As private, N.C.O., and officer, Major Munro was ever popular in his regiment, his chubby, round, smiling face being a source of happiness to his companions, to the men under him and to his fellow officers. He was recognised for his ability as a statistician, his integrity and perfect fairness, his courtesy and willingness to serve others, and above all his love of his regiment, the history and traditions of which he knew, chapter and verse.

While in France he had a very strenuous time. On several occasions while in charge of the

commissariat, he had associated with him officers and men of the 1/4th Seaforth Highlanders. Many times his "Stores" were bombed by aeroplanes as well as being under heavy fire by long range guns, yet he and his men and his "stores" came safely through. He was never downhearted. His was a personality that will be greatly missed by comrades far and near.

The funeral took place on Monday from Fort George, to Ardersier Cemetery with Military and Masonic honours. The gathering of mourners was large, and was representative of the military life of the Highlands. The numerous beautiful wreaths bore ample testimony to the respect and popularity in which the late officer was held. A short service at the house was followed by an impressive service in the Garrison Church, conducted by the Rev. Wm. Graham, Ardersier, who also officiated at the service at the graveside. The chief mourners were Mr Donald Munro (son), Colonel Stewart, D.S.O., 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders; Captain H. W. Houldsworth M.C., representing Major General Sir A. B. Ritchie; Major Mackenzie of Farr; Colonel J. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.C., late Colonel of the 2nd Battalion Seaforths; Colonel George Mackintosh, C.B., Balvraid, late Seaforths; Colonel G. W. Fraser and Major W. S. Dewar, 4/5th b Seaforths, Dingwall; Officers representing the King's Own Scottish Borderers, the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Engineers. Among the pallbearers were Major J. E. Laurie, D.S.O., Commanding Depot Seaforths; Major Ian. Thompson, 6th Battalion Seaforths; Captain R. K. Mackenzie, Adjutant of the 5th Battalion Seaforths; Captain Walford, Adjutant of the 1st Battalion Seaforths; Lieut. Whyte and Captain Williamson of the 6th Battalion Seaforth and Lieut. Macrae of the Depot Seaforths



***Famous Scottish Women***

*As we had the International Women's Day last month, I thought I should find one to write about and who better than Flora MacDonald who we are justifiably proud of as she helped Bonnie Prince Charlie even though her MacDonalds were on the opposite side. This story is from Wikipedia.*

**Brief Synopsis. Flora MacDonald** (Gaelic: *Fionnghal nic Dhòmhnaill*); (1722 – 5 March 1790) was a member of the Macdonalds of Sleat, who helped Charles Edward Stuart evade government troops after the Battle of Culloden in April 1746. Her family supported the government during the 1745 Rising and Flora later claimed to have assisted Charles out of sympathy for his situation. She was arrested and held in the Tower of London but released under a general amnesty in June 1747. She later married Allan MacDonald and the couple emigrated to North Carolina in 1773. Their support for the British government during the American War of Independence meant the loss of their American estates and they returned to Scotland, where Flora died in 1790.



Flora was born in 1722 at Milton on the island of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides, third and last child of Ranald MacDonald (d. 1723) and his second wife Marion. Her father was a member of the minor gentry, being tacksman and leaseholder of Milton and Balivanich; she had two brothers, Angus, who later inherited the Milton tack and Ronald, who died young.<sup>[1]</sup>

Her father died soon after her birth and in 1728, her mother remarried Hugh MacDonald of Armadale, Skye. Flora was brought up by her father's cousin, Sir

Flora Macdonald by [Allan Ramsay](#) c. 1749–1750; the roses are a Jacobite symbol. [Ashmolean Museum](#), Oxford

Alexander MacDonald of Sleat; suggestions that she was educated in Edinburgh have not been confirmed. While some MacDonalds remained Catholic, particularly in the Islands, her family was part of the Presbyterian majority.

Flora was visiting Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides when Prince Charles and a small group of aides took refuge there after the Battle of Culloden in June 1746. One of his



companions, Captain Conn O'Neill from County Antrim, was distantly related to Flora and asked for her help.

MacDonald of Sleat had not joined the Rebellion and Benbecula was controlled by a pro-government militia commanded by Flora's step-father, Hugh MacDonald. This connection allowed her to obtain the necessary permits but she apparently hesitated, fearing the consequences for her family if they were caught. She may have been taking less of a risk than it appears; witnesses later claimed Hugh advised the Prince where to hide from his search parties.

Passes were issued allowing passage to the mainland for Flora, a boat's crew of six men and two personal servants, including Charles disguised as an Irish maid called Betty Burke. On 27 June, they landed near Sir Alexander's house at Monkstadt, near Kilbride, Skye. In his absence, his wife Lady Margaret arranged lodging with her steward, MacDonald of Kingsburgh, who told Charles to remove his disguise, as it simply made him more conspicuous. The next day, Charles was taken from Portree to the island of Raasay; Flora remained on Skye and they never met again.

Two weeks later, the boatmen were detained and confessed; Flora and Kingsburgh were arrested and taken to the Tower of London. After Lady Margaret interceded on her behalf with the chief Scottish legal officer, Duncan Forbes of Culloden, she was allowed to live outside the Tower under the supervision of a "King's Messenger" and released after the June 1747 Act of Indemnity. Aristocratic sympathisers collected over £1,500 for her, one of the contributors being Frederick, Prince of Wales, heir to the throne; Flora allegedly told him she helped Charles out of charity and would have done the same for him.



Portree harbour front where Flora & Charles parted company on 28 June 1746

On 6 November 1750, at the age of 28, she married Allen MacDonald, a captain in the British Army and Kingsburgh's eldest son. The couple first lived at Flodigarry, Skye and inherited the family estate after Kingsburgh died in 1772. The writer Samuel Johnson, who met her in 1773 during his visit to the island, described her as "a woman of soft features, gentle manners, kind soul and elegant presence". He was also author of the inscription on her memorial at Kilmuir: "a name that will be mentioned in history, and if courage and fidelity be virtues, mentioned with honour".

Allan MacDonald served in the 114th and 62nd Regiments of Foot during the 1756–1763 Seven Years' War but was a poor businessman. After quarrelling with his clan chief over rent, he and Flora emigrated to Anson County, North Carolina in 1774 where they settled on an estate near Mountain Creek, named 'Killegray'. When the American War of Independence began in 1775, Allan raised the Anson Battalion of the Loyalist North Carolina Militia, a total of around 1,000 men, including his sons Alexander and James. En route to the coast for collection by British transports, they were attacked by an American force at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on 28 February 1776 and Allan was taken prisoner.

In April 1777, the North Carolina Provincial Congress confiscated Loyalist-owned property and Flora was evicted from Killegray, with the loss of all her possessions. After 18 months in captivity, Allan was released in September 1777; he was posted to Fort Edward, Nova Scotia as commander of the 84th Regiment of Foot where Flora joined him in August 1778.

After a harsh winter in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in September 1779 Flora took passage for London in the *Dunmore*, a British privateer; during the voyage, she broke her arm and ill-health delayed her return to Scotland until spring 1780.

She spent the next few years living with various family members, including Dunvegan, home of her son-in-law Major General Alexander Macleod, the largest landowner in Skye after the MacDonalds. The compensation received for the loss of their North Carolina estates was insufficient to allow them to settle in Nova Scotia and Allan returned to Scotland in 1784. Since Kingsburgh was now occupied by Flora's half-sister and her husband, Flora and Allan settled on the nearby tack of Penduin.

She died in 1790 at the age of 68 and was buried in Kilmuir Cemetery, her husband following in September 1792. They had seven surviving children, two daughters and five sons, two of whom were lost at sea in 1781 and



Flora's grave in Kilmuir Cemetery, Skye

1782; a third son John made his fortune in India, enabling his parents to spend their last years in some comfort.



Flora's Statue at Inverness Castle

Traditional portrayals of the escape focus on Charles, Flora being relegated to a secondary role and receiving less credit than is her due. She rarely spoke of the episode and her last contact with Charles was when they parted ways at Portree; it appears at least one motive was that his presence endangered her family.

The Victorians created a Scottish cultural identity expressed through tartans, the late 19th-century inventions of Burns Suppers and Highland Games, and the co-option of romantic icons like Mary, Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie. In 1878, Flora took her place in this pantheon with the publication of an alleged 'Autobiography'; ghost-written by her granddaughter Flora Frances Wylde, this contains so many errors it could not have been written by her. Repeated by Charles Ewald in his 1886 book *The Life and Times of Prince Charles Edward*, it remains the basis for many popular perspectives on her life and motivations.

In 1884, Sir Harold Boulton wrote an adaptation of an existing melody which he named 'The Skye Boat Song'. This was soon followed by the first performance of the Scottish highland dance "Flora MacDonald's Fancy", while a bronze statue was erected at Inverness Castle in 1896. The Flora MacDonald Academy, formerly Flora Macdonald College, in Red Springs, North Carolina is named after her and two of her children are interred on the campus; until 2009, it was also the site of the Flora Macdonald Highland Games.

Flora was painted several times by Scottish portrait artist Allan Ramsay (1713–1784), the majority of which were destroyed. The one used in this article was done after her release from the Tower in 1749–1750; in 2015, a previously unrecorded painting, allegedly also by Ramsay, was discovered in Florida.

*This time a lady you may not have heard of but certainly a very determined and resourceful lady* and once again a Jacobite connection but this time to the Old Pretender and the 1715 rebellion.

**Winifred Maxwell, Countess of Nithsdale** (née **Lady Winifred Herbert**; c. 1680–1749), is best known for arranging the daring escape of her husband from the Tower of London in 1716.

Her father was the 1st Marquess of Powis, and on 2 March 1699 she married the 5th Earl of Nithsdale, a Catholic nobleman. The couple had met at the French court, where Lady Winifred's father was in exile, while Nithsdale was paying his respects to the former King James II of England (James VII of Scotland). While resident at Terregles, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, the couple had five children.

In 1715, Nithsdale joined the Jacobite rebellion, but he was captured at the Battle of Preston and sent to the Tower of London. Having been tried for treason, he was sentenced to death. Winifred, who was at Terregles when she heard of the capture of her husband, followed him to London, making part of the journey on horseback in bitter winter weather. She presented a petition to George I which he refused to receive, and when she knelt before him and took hold of his coat he dragged her half across the room before he could break away. Knowing that there would be no pardon, the countess laid a meticulous plan to rescue her husband from the Tower of London.

The night before the day appointed for William's execution (24 February 1716), with the help of two other Jacobite ladies, Winifred effected his escape from the Tower. She had been admitted to his room, and by exchanging clothes with her maid (including the "Nithsdale Cloak", which is still held by the family), he escaped the attention of his guards. He fled to France, while the countess returned to Scotland to ensure the transfer of the estate to their son. She joined him in to France, and they went from there to Rome in the retinue of the Old Pretender. In Rome, she survived her husband by about five years.

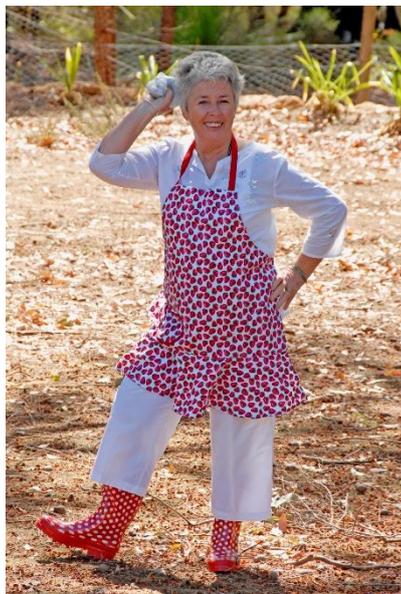
### *Granny's Apron*

*Did your mother or granny wear an apron, mine did and Bet's mum was never without one!!*

I wonder if today's kids know what an apron is? The principle use of Granny's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material.

But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and ...on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.



Bet in her Apron & Boots to Match

There was always a lolly in the pocket for the grandchildren.  
 When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.  
 Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.  
 Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.  
 From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.  
 In the autumn, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.  
 When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.  
 It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.  
 Granny used to set her hot baked apple pies on the windowsill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the windowsill to thaw.  
 They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think we would ever catch anything from an apron - except love...❤️

### *Membership*

Annual:	\$25.00	Spouse or children of member under 18 years	\$8.00
Three Years:	\$55.00	Spouse or children of member under 18 years	\$20.00

## *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