



*Creag  
Dhubh  
2024*

Number 76



*The Annual of  
The Clan Macpherson  
Association*

# CREAG DHUBH

## 2024

NUMBER 76



The Annual of  
**THE CLAN MACPHERSON  
ASSOCIATION**

*Cover tartan: Macpherson Hunting*

*Cover picture: Cluny, courtesy of Annie Macpherson*

*Image of Creag Dhubh, courtesy of Angus Macpherson of Biallid*

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<b>NIALL MACPHERSON</b> Lord Drumalbyn	1987	1952 - 1954
<b>Lt Col ALLAN MACPHERSON</b>	1958	1954 - 1957
<b>Capt HUGH MACPHERSON</b>	1987	1957 - 1960
<b>Hon J GORDON MACPHERSON</b> Lord Macpherson of Drumochter	2000	1960 - 1963
<b>ALLAN G MACPHERSON</b>	1987	1963 - 1966
<b>LLOYD MACPHERSON</b>	1988	1966 - 1969
<b>A I S MACPHERSON</b>	1997	1969 - 1973
<b>RONALD W G MACPHERSON</b>	2002	1973 - 1976
<b>KENNETH McPHERSON</b>	1993	1976 - 1979
<b>J DONALD MacPHERSON</b>	2010	1979 - 1982
<b>JOHN P MACPHERSON</b>		1982 - 1985
<b>MONROE MACPHERSON</b>	1993	1985 - 1988
<b>T A S MACPHERSON</b>		1988 - 1991
<b>R G M MACPHERSON</b>	2023	1991 - 1994
<b>EWEN S L MacPHERSON</b>		1994 - 1997
<b>M ALASTAIR F MACPHERSON OF PITMAIN</b>		1997 - 2000
<b>LARRY LEE McPHERSON</b>	2021	2000 - 2003
<b>CATHERINE M D MACPHERSON</b>		2003 - 2006
<b>WILLIAM R McPHERSON</b>		2006 - 2009
<b>SHELAGH MACPHERSON NOBLE</b>		2009 - 2012
<b>JOHN MACPHERSON</b>		2012 - 2015
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# A NOTE FROM OUR CHIEF



As I reflect on my third year as your Chief, I look back on the Gathering in August with fondness, and, whilst it actually rained on the Clan Macpherson March and the tug-o-war was cancelled, it didn't dampen our Macpherson spirit! It was a fabulous weekend with over a dozen countries represented.

We have a particularly special event planned later this month, arranged by our new European Branch life member, Anthony Roquet Macpherson. He has managed to arrange for a commemorative plaque to Cluny of the '45 to be located in the old Carmelite garden in Dunkirk. This will provide a marker for Macphersons to visit in the years to come.

This coming year the Museum has the difficult job of finding a new curator. I would like to acknowledge all those involved with the Clan Museum for their efforts after the difficult summer/autumn season just past. In addition, we have successfully applied for the re-naming of the "Lady Cluny Endowment Fund" to be called the "Sir William & Lady Sheila Macpherson of Cluny Museum Endowment Fund," allowing those who wish to the

opportunity to donate to the museum through a specific channel and in some cases in memory of our previous Chief.

It was a sad year with the passing of a number of members, stretching across the continents: the shock of losing Jaime Macpherson from Spain in the summer, to George McPherson in Virginia on the eve of the Gathering; then the sad news that Gordon Macpherson, Canada, our heraldic expert and past Chairman of the Association, had passed shortly after. The tragic loss of Chris McCabe, son of Helen Barton and grandson of Sandy and Catherine, both past Chairmen, meant we ended the year on a sadder note than we would have hoped, but they will forever be in our hearts, and our condolences go out to all the families who have lost loved ones this past year.

On a more positive note, I have watched with admiration the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla and their seamless transition into public life as King and Queen. I wrote to His Majesty at the end of last year on behalf of the Clan, praising his dedication and swearing allegiance as Chief of The Clan Macpherson.

Finally, we must continue to acknowledge the hard work of our current Chairman, Bonnie, along with all our office bearers, who work tirelessly on our behalf, as well as all of those who give up their time across the branches

and the world to make the Clan Macpherson Association the envy of many. The branches work so hard on behalf of each and every one of us. I particularly enjoyed the Scottish Branch outing to the Tartan Exhibition at the V&A Museum in Dundee. I heartily encourage everyone to embrace the hard work they all do to foster relations locally, nationally and internationally and support events where you can.

My family and I send much love and warm wishes to you all from Scotland and look forward to seeing and hearing from you in 2024!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

# FROM THE DESK OF THE CMA CHAIRMAN

The Macphersons came together in Badenoch for the 2023 Annual Gathering and Meeting in August. It was a super weekend, despite the rain. We met up with old friends, made new ones, and managed to get some business done too.



2024 will be my last year as Chairman of the Clan Macpherson Association. At the 2024 AGM, during the first weekend in August, I will be handing the Chairmanship over to Angus Macpherson of Biallid. It has been an honour and privilege to serve you in this office. During my tenure changes have been made and this has helped to reduce the costs for our Association.

When faced with the restraints of COVID the CMA Council, Museum Advisory Committee (MAC), and the Museum Trustees utilised an online platform to continue to work and communicate with each other from home.

Years ago, during the Gathering, the Council, MAC and Trustees met separately for many hours on Friday, rotating in and out of the ballroom. This year I requested that the Chairmen of these committees hold their August meeting online, prior to the Gathering, with the result that there

**VIRTUAL  
MEETINGS**

was more time on Friday to socialise. We laughed together as families and friends should and really enjoyed getting to know each other better.

With time freed up on Friday, I decided to hold a social hour for the three committees. The CMA Council, Museum Trustees, and the Museum Advisory Committee sat down together for the first ever in-person joint meeting. Allan Macpherson Fletcher, Bruce Macpherson and I led the meeting together to address the Museum and discussed how we, as a group, are moving forward with the Museum. It was quite a success and will now be an annual meeting.

Members of the European Branch met for an hour. We overcame language barriers and misconceptions. Plans were discussed for future meetings and events for the European Branch. To my knowledge, this was the first in-person annual meeting of the European Branch and the Branch members left feeling encouraged.

The past several years have been financially challenging for the CMA as our costs continue to rise and funds are limited. The Life Membership Fund, along with the annual membership subscriptions, no longer cover the £9000.00 it costs to print and mail the magazine. By going digital with Creag Dhubh we are able to minimise the cost. We hope that many of the Branches will be able



**DIGITAL  
CREAG  
DHUBH**

to produce their newsletters or publications in the same format as we go forward.

We had two vacant positions on the CMA Council after the AGM. These positions have now been filled. The CMA Treasurer position has been filled by Annie Le Roy-Lewis. Annie has recently stepped down as Chairman of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch and has once again volunteered to fill the position of Treasurer. A new member of the US Branch, Robyn Rein, has stepped into the role of the CMA Council Secretary. Both positions are “acting roles” until they are voted in by the CMA Membership at our next AGM. There are still many opportunities for members to volunteer for the CMA. If you are interested, please contact me.

In closing, the programme for the 2024 Gathering and planned events can be found in the back pages of this issue. My wish is that we will arrive in great numbers in Scotland next year for the Gathering.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your Chairman. I look forward to helping our Association continue to grow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie".

# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the online magazine!

## 2024 Number 76

2024 seems to have launched itself on us, whether we are ready for it or not. My hope for us all is that this is a year filled with joy.

I am very excited to present the digital version of the Creag Dhubh. We are hoping that the flipbook is user-friendly, and that you thoroughly enjoy "turning" the pages. Without the constraints of the printed version, I have been able to use a larger font and we can enjoy more photos of Clan members. Please feel free to send me comments on ways you feel we can improve the Creag Dhubh.

We have several articles on the Scottish Wildcat which are enlightening. Shelagh Noble's article on their time in Australia and New Zealand makes for an entertaining read, and John Barton has written an interesting article on the history of Cluny's Cage.

Please send through any articles that you think may be of interest to Clan members to me before the end of November, 2024.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Shannon



# THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Held on 5th  
of August, 2023  
in Newtonmore Village Hall**

## **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

Bonnie McPherson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **ATTENDEES**

Alexander of Pitmain, Lachlan of Glentruim, Ollie of Glentruim, Sandy MacPherson, Bruce Macpherson, Philip Howard, William (Bill) Macpherson (Canada), Denise Lagundzin, Chris Gillies, Margaret Gillies, Anthony Rocquet, Laura Rocquet, RT McPherson, Colleen McPherson, Ewen SL Macpherson, Günter Mascheck, Adam de Totth, William Macpherson, Dorothy Pearson, Mary McPherson, Pauline McGillivray, Iris Macpherson, John Macpherson, Catherine Morag Barr, Alistair Macpherson, William J.S Macpherson, Sandy Macpherson, David McPherson, Alison Christie, Karla Guisan Gonzalez, Nicolas Guisan, Yves Guisan, Kathy McPherson, Robyn Rein, Alexandra Rein, Bodo Schmitz, Dietmar Schmitz, Quentin Winslow, George McPherson, Bonnie McPherson, Gordon Casely, Marion Mackintosh, Elle McPherson-Toin, Lochy Macpherson, Christine Love,

Jim Love, Andrew Macpherson, Katherine Macpherson-Smith, Valerie Macpherson, Jean H Stewart Macpherson, Tom Macpherson, Nicholas Macpherson, Henry Macpherson, Robert Macpherson, TH Macpherson, George Andrew Macpherson, Angus Macpherson, Richard W Ellis, Tina A Ellis, Jolanda v Hinthum,, W Tulling, Alastair Noble, Shelagh Macpherson Noble, Eve Levett, Robert Macpherson, Suzy Macpherson, Ian Macpherson, Torquil Le Roy-Lewis, Eliza Le Roy-Lewis, Jerome Le Roy-Lewis, Annie Le Roy-Lewis, Jamie Macpherson, Annie Macpherson, William Macpherson, Angus Macpherson, Joyce Cattanach, Moray Cattanach,

## **APOLOGIES**

Alastair and Penny Macpherson of Pitmain, Bella Macpherson of Pitmain, Charlie Macpherson of Pitmain, Catherine Macpherson, Zandra Macpherson of Glentruim, Catriona Ward and family, Lindsay and Phillippe Rousseau, Michelle, William and John Macpherson, Ed Smith, RGM Macpherson, Hamish Macpherson (London), William JS Macpherson, Anna MS Macpherson, (Donald Barr), Fiona and Morag Macpherson, Helen M S Macpherson, Mary Macpherson, Sabine Schmitz, Marion Schmitz, Jinty McPherson, Lachie Mackintosh, Donald Mackintosh, Will Macpherson, Fiona Cumming (Orkney), Grant Cumming (Canada), Sean Cumming (England), Euan Noble (Australia), Jeannie Levett (NZ)

## **OBITUARIES**

The following names were read out, followed by a minute's silence: Jennifer Maureen Macpherson (Africa), Rev Ian P MacPherson (Australia), Doreen Macpherson (Australia), Caroline Ansell (Australia), Alix Delahaye (Canada), Edith Higgins (Canada), Judge Hugh J McPherson (Canada), Janet Ann MacPherson (Canada), Lt Col Mark F Macpherson (Canada), Peter Grant Cattanach (E&W), Michael Pulvermacher (E&W), Allan Taylor (E&W), Neil K Macpherson (NZ), John McPherson (S&NI), Margaret Graham Macpherson (S&NI), Alexander Macpherson (S&NI), Iain Middlemass (S&NI), Mrs. I Middlemass (S&NI), Ellen D. Alsdorf (USA), H L Barnes (USA), Dr Richard P Barnes (USA), George Clarkson (USA), Colonel Joseph Thomas Fisher (USA), Thomas Edward Gillespie (USA), Rosemary Golden (USA), Patricia Ann Grimes (USA), Janet Henderson (USA), Lewis R. Hunter (USA), Bruce Lee (USA), Buford C Lemons (USA), Kenneth E MacPherson (USA), Earl Francis McPherson (USA), Jean McPherson (USA), Mary Aldine McPherson (USA), Joann E. Peck (USA), Dr David Lewis Phillips (USA), Miriam Joan Ellis Pierson (USA), George McPherson (USA), Jaime Macpherson (Europe)

## **MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM**

Approved: George McPherson  
Seconded: Denise Lagundzin

(The Chairman noted that last year's Gathering was the 76th and not the 75th as recorded. The present one is therefore the 77th).

### **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **OFFICE BEARERS' REPORTS**

All Office Bearer's reports appear later in the Creag Dhubh.

### **BRANCH REPORTS**

All Branch reports appear later in the Creag Dhubh.

### **CREAG DHUBH**

The Chairman announced the decision to issue the next edition of the magazine in Flip Book form rather than as a hard copy. The reason for the change is primarily to reduce costs - production and shipping charges amounted to around £9000 this year, whereas the cost to produce a Flip Book version will be a lot less. The actual figures have been discussed with the Treasurer. The next issue will simply be issued as a replacement for the current format with the prospect of developing its potential further - for instance by exploring advertising options on a worldwide basis rather than being limited to businesses in Scotland. Concerns have been expressed by some members about

the implications for those who do not have access to the necessary technology. It is hoped that help can be provided where this is the case.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

The Chairman noted that there are two positions to be filled: of Treasurer and Secretary. A job description is available for anyone who may wish to consider offering their services. The election of the remaining office bearers was passed unopposed.

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GATHERING**

These were set out in the Guide issued to everyone at Registration. There were two amendments. The shinty match had been cancelled because of a clash with another event taking place the following day. The walk on Monday was to be in two parts: a tour of Newtonmore and its history, and a walk up to the monument.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

George McPherson informed the meeting that a demonstration of Creag Dhubh on Flip Book would be held later at 5 pm.

## **CLUNY'S CLOSING REMARKS**

So lovely to see you all here, last night was a great start and a very happy one, and as a result I think we must acknowledge Bonnie and George, who I know has also helped behind the scenes, in relation to ensuring this Gathering is a success. There are others too, but Bonnie has worked particularly hard given no secretary, and we pass on our thanks for her tireless efforts for the Clan Macpherson Association.

Whilst I do not wish to dampen the atmosphere, I hope you will allow me to pay personal tributes to all that have passed, but also to the following, for a variety of reasons.

We were devastated to hear on Thursday evening of the passing of George McPherson of Washington DC (husband to Dee and Father to Lara and Courtney) who have been a regular feature of the Gathering these past twenty years. We send our sincere condolences. He was a personal friend as well as a Clan Member, and I am particularly saddened by the news.

Jenny Macpherson of Malawi - married to my cousin, Ewan Macpherson and mother to Derek, our Africa Chairman - again a very personal sadness and we send our best wishes to Derek, Duncan and Douglas.

Jean MacPherson - known to us as Bonnie's Mum and wife of Robert Macpherson, a previous CMA

Chairman. Bonnie, we send much love to all of your family. She will be sadly missed.

Jaime Macpherson of Spain died in a tragic accident in Gibraltar in June, and we know that his extended family are grief stricken, as indeed we are too, given that they represent our European arm of the Clan. Who will forget the flamenco dancing and glamour which they brought to the gathering in 1996, and ten years later. We send much love to his wife Maria and their family and Susanna, with whom I have been communicating.

Dr Jon Winslow, who died two years ago, was a stalwart of the US Branch, and I would like to give a special mention to his daughter Sheila, who has come to the gathering for the first time - and to whom we give a warm welcome.

But in that element of sadness in bidding a fond farewell to those we have lost we also have a lovely surprise for someone. Laura, please join me up here, where I know she would like her husband, Anthony, to join us and receive a very special present of Life Membership of the Clan Macpherson Association. This is a wonderful moment, and hopefully it will cement our continued relationship in the form of the European Branch.

And finally, a warm welcome, too, to Sandy Healy, mother of Ladies Australian Cricket captain Alyssa, who is married to Mitchell Starc the Australian fast bowler - both

of whom have been contesting the Ashes. However it does appear to be our magic moment this weekend in respect of both of my sons, who sense a missed opportunity that they did not come to the Gathering.....imagine if they walked in to the Ball!

Anyway, moving swiftly forwards, I wish you all a very enjoyable second half of the Gathering and look forward to meeting with you all in the events still to come.

Thank you.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday, the 3rd of August, 2024 at 10.30 am in the  
Newtonmore Village Hall.**



# OFFICE BEARER'S REPORTS



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome Cluny, Annie, members and friends from around the world. I am pleased to report that this weekend we have 182 members, family and friends who are here to meet up with old friends as well as to make new ones. We will spend time together and try to manage a little business.

The CMA Council, Museum Trustees, and the Museum Advisory Committee have been meeting separately throughout the year to do business and ensure all is well. Yesterday the CMA Council, Museum Trustees and the MAC sat down together for a first ever joint meeting. Allan Macpherson Fletcher, Bruce Macpherson, and I led the meeting together to address the Museum and how we as a group are going forward.

This year has been very challenging for the CMA as our costs continue to rise and funds are limited. We need to look at our flagship magazine, Creag Dhubh, and how we can produce it at a lower, more manageable cost. The Council has had much discussion regarding how to move forward.

Another concern that we have involves several positions that are still open within the Council and need

immediate attention. We are a team and need to work together on this. First is the CMA Treasurer position. Alison Christie is ready to step down. She has faithfully served the Association extremely well for seven years. We have been looking for the right person to fill this position. If anyone is interested or has a suggestion, please let me know. Second is the CMA Secretary position. Andy Macpherson did a great job for the two years he served. This is a vital position as this person helps with the running of meetings and communications and assists with the planning of the Gathering.

I want to thank Sandy Macpherson for coming today and helping me with the minutes. We all remember how wonderful she was as the CMA Secretary when Bill was Chairman. I was so relieved when she contacted me and asked if she could help by taking the minutes of the AGM. Sandy, thank you so much for doing this.

In closing, I want to thank the membership and those on the CMA Council. My special thanks go to Alison for hanging in there with me.

I look forward to next year, and my last year as your chairman.

Thank you

Bonnie



## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Income and Expenditure report was circulated to the meeting. There were no questions arising.

I have prepared the accounts up to the 31st of December, 2022. As can be seen from the Income and Expense account, we have managed to remain in the black this year. This has been helped by not having to pay the accountant's fee, an error by the publishers and a surplus on the Gathering. We see a drop in the number of term memberships, but this is to be expected as these were only brought in to the equation a couple of years ago. The distribution figure is lower than last year, but this is due to an error by the Publishers who, despite being offered the chance to amend their invoice, honoured their initial charge. This year we have a negative amount in the movement of the Life fund for the year. With the increased fee for life membership and the tightening up of not allowing under 18s to become life members, we have seen a drop in the number of people taking up the option of life membership. I imagine this will take some time to balance itself out, but in the long term, as long as membership fees are reviewed regularly, this should happen. We have enough funds in the bank to cover this current trend. It might be wise at this time to look at increasing the draw down over the next few years to help account for very young life members (often life

membership is taken out at 18). This would help future proof the fund. Meanwhile the term membership has proved to be popular, both for members and financially.

As ever costs are rising, especially those for the printing and distribution of Creag Dhubh. As regards this year's figures, we are looking at a deficit of about £1200. This may change over the next five months when I receive the branch remittances and all the Gathering expenses have come in. On a brighter note, where interest rates are crippling some of us, the rise has benefited the CMA - we are £100 better off after seven months than we were for the year to the 31st of December, 2022. With this rise in rates, I have been trying to keep as little money as possible in our current accounts to maximise the interest.

It has been seven years since I took over the role of Treasurer from my father. My life has gone through many changes over this time, and I am struggling to find the time required to fulfil the role. I am very happy to help and support, for the time being, whoever takes on the role and to prepare the final accounts each year, on the understanding that I am not a professional accountant and not liable in any way for any errors made. This will be done on a voluntary basis with no remuneration of any kind.

**CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

	31.12.22		31.12.21		31.12.20	
<b>Membership</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Life Membership 1/30 <sup>th</sup> of life fund	1185.00		1119.00		1145.00	
Term Membership 1/10 <sup>th</sup> term fund	313.00		247.50		75.00	
Annual Subscriptions	5340.00		4872.00		5602.00	
Other	17.00		163.64		73.00	
		6855.00		6402.14		6895.00
Bank Charges	-5.20		-39.40		-0.88	
Paypal Charges	-40.00		-80.34		-30.29	
Management	-285.00		-205.00		-1541.19	
Other	-104.00		0.00		-318.16	
		-434.20		-324.74		-1890.52
<b>Creag Dhubh</b>						
Printing	-3435.00		-2913.38		-3055.00	

**CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

Distribution	-4906.00		-5443.83		-4763.65	
Income	100.00		500.00		575.00	
		-8241.00		-7857.21		-7243.65
<b>Gathering</b>						
Income	12320.00				0.00	
Paypal Charges	-205.00		4.31		-67.38	
Expenditure	-10303.63				0.00	
		1811.37		4.31		-67.38
<b>Total Profit/Loss</b>		-8.83		-1775.50		-2306.55
<b>Bank account balance</b>						
31.12.22	32160.86					



**REGISTRAR'S  
REPORT**

A breakdown of current membership figures was circulated at the AGM. The current membership can be seen in the table below.

As always, I would like to thank all the branch secretaries for their work and support in keeping our membership information up to date. It has been another busy year during which I have enjoyed corresponding with new and current members alike.

BRANCH	LIFE	TERM	ANNUAL	YOUNG ADULT	JUNIOR	TOTAL	2022	+/-
AFRICA	18	-	-	-	-	18	18	-
AUSTRALIA	110	4	42	1	1	158	161	-3
CANADA	114	2	34	1	-	151	174	-23
ENGLAND AND WALES	263	3	48	1	11	326	330	-4
EUROPE	42	3	6	-	5	56	52	+4
NEW ZEALAND	9	2	6	1	-	18	20	-2
SCOTLAND AND N IRELAND	222	5	27	-	14	268	280	-12
UNITED STATES	461	8	169	2	49	689	719	-30
OTHER LOCATIONS	4	2	1	-	-	7	7	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1691</b>	<b>1761</b>	<b>-70</b>



## EDITOR'S REPORT

As I sit and write this report to be presented at the AGM, I can picture Clan members gathering together over the weekend and enjoying "family time" together. We are sad that we are not with you, and although we are not there physically, we are with you in spirit. I look forward to the reports and photos that will come my way over the next months.

Last year we were uncertain as to how the Creag Dhubh would proceed. I am pleased to say that a decision has been made and that we will proceed with an online version of the magazine. This will be sent to members in the form of a link. The magazine, once accessed on the internet, may then be saved as a PDF and read at your leisure. We are hoping that the financial savings that the online version of the Creag Dhubh offer the Clan far outweigh any negatives associated with it.

I have started to work on the 2024 magazine and I have received a few articles to date. Without the need to go to the printers and the time it takes to get the magazine out to all members, I am able to extend the due date for articles to be included in the magazine to the end of November. I look forward to creating the next Creag Dhubh.





**WEB  
MASTER'S  
REPORT**

The Clan Macpherson Association Website has continued to operate well this year with no outages or major problems. Changes in design and content are in the works for this coming year, including an investigation into possibly using WordPress as our future platform. Our sister website, the Clan Macpherson Museum website, has had a face lift and many updates to its content during the past year. The possible remake of that website using WordPress is under discussion with the Museum Trustees.

Our email system continues to work well, with only a few possible scam attempts. We now have forty-four email accounts, with six accounts remaining unused. Some email accounts have approached or hit their limits recently. Where in the past we could increase the individual account limits, we have now reached the point where increasing one account means decreasing another. All account holders should clean out wherever possible, remembering to delete from the “Sent” folders as well as their “Trash”. Archiving emails in the Zen account is not recommended and could result in loss of emails and attachments. I am exploring archiving options at this time.

The Clan Macpherson Association Facebook page continues well with many participants.



**MUSEUM  
CONVENOR'S  
REPORT**

## Cluny, Madam Chair, Cousins

Prince Philip, the late Duke of Edinburgh, is said to have offered advice to a friend on how to compose and deliver a good speech. He described his technique as the 'ABC, XYZ' approach. The ABC he explained as standing for, 'Always Be Cheerful.' The XYZ he said stood for 'Examine Your Zip.'

Bedecked in a kilt, I don't have to worry about my zip. But I will take heed of the ABC - Always Be Cheerful. And why ever not? There is always much to be cheerful about our Clan Macpherson Museum.

This time last year the Museum was lauded by Cluny as 'one of the jewels in Scotland's crown' - and so it is. It houses a unique collection of artefacts and treasures that continue to delight, inform and educate Macpherson and non-Macpherson visitors alike. Nurtured and cared for by the Trustees, members of the Museum Advisory Committee and now a small band of volunteers local to Badenoch, our collection is in the hands of people who are talented and wholly dedicated to ensuring the preservation of the Museum's content to the highest of standards and ensuring its accessibility to as wide a section of the public as possible.

Over the past eighteen months we have seen many new innovations, ones brought forward to enhance and build on the wonderful work undertaken by Jim and Mairi MacPherson, who led the efforts of many in refurbishing and re-presenting the entire collection. We have seen the in-person and online talks that brought aspects of our story and our collection to increasingly large audiences, local and international, increasing numbers of whom were non-Macphersons. We have seen the introduction of a range of workshops and activities that proved successful in drawing into our midst new visitors, many of whom had never set foot in the Museum before. We have seen the recruitment of a fledgling band of volunteers - everyone from teenagers to pensioners bringing specialist skills, talent and a real passion to the Museum. We have seen the early development of ideas to promote new income streams and the development of a newsletter to keep friends abreast of all that is going on at the Museum.

The Museum is bigger than just one person, but at the heart of many of these innovations was our resident Curator, Aila Schaefer, who galvanised others into presenting an exciting new face to the Museum. I pay tribute to Aila today for all that she brought to the Museum, both within its walls and, most importantly, within the local community, and thank her on your behalf. We were saddened when Aila announced her resignation as

Curator at the end of July. We wish her well on the road that lies ahead of her.

The timing of Aila's departure has proved somewhat challenging, but we are not daunted. The Macphersons have risen to challenges in the past, and we will do so again. As we seek to find a replacement for Aila, our immediate job is to ensure the Museum remains open over the period of the Gathering, and I am very grateful for all those who have volunteered to help out, many of whom are present this morning. This weekend, I would urge you all to visit the Museum and enjoy not just our wonderful collection, but our freshly and imaginatively stocked shop.

Our next task is to ensure the Museum remains open for as long as is possible between now and the end of the season. Again, our thanks go to those who have volunteered to help. My father, who is as old as the hills, has offered to come up from Edinburgh for half a day every week. Others are being equally generous with their time and we are currently recruiting a team of Museum Assistants, who we hope will increase that chances of our museum staying open.

Our most important task is finding someone who is interested in becoming the next Curator. The Trustees and members of the Museum Advisory Committee will be considering the Job Descriptions and Terms & Conditions and will be crafting an affordable remuneration package

that we hope will attract the right candidates. I very much hope to be able to introduce you to our next Curator at next year's Gathering and via social media long before then. If you know of anyone who you think might be interested, please send them our way.

Visitor numbers to the Museum have still not reached pre-pandemic levels, much in common with the sector, but they are looking encouraging, as are donations and shop sales. We are very grateful to all of the very generous souls who contribute in different ways to the Museum - to those in the US branch who have generously contributed funds towards the refurbishment of our bathroom facilities; to one of our Canadian members who asked her friends to send money to the Museum in lieu of birthday presents; to the people who continue to donate artefacts to add to our collection.

I thank Angus, my predecessor as Convenor, for his distinguished service over many years in that role and all of the other office bearers for their hard work, whether as trustees or members of the Advisory Committee that is headed by Allan Macpherson Fletcher. I also thank the Association and members of the CMA Council for their undoubted support. It was good to spend time with the Council Members yesterday morning and brief them on what lies ahead.

It would be invidious to single out any particular person who has contributed perhaps even more to the life of the Museum than others have done. And for that reason I will name not one person but three people - Valerie, Helen and Morrigan - each of whom has gone above and beyond in all that they have done for us. They deserve our enormous thanks.

This afternoon, at 4.30pm (after the Games), the Trustees will be hosting an At Home at the Museum for Friends, Guardians and Volunteers to acknowledge their contribution to the life of the Museum. We wouldn't want to exclude anyone from this special event, and if you are not yet a Friend and would like to join us, can I suggest you speak to Donna or Valerie about how you can become one and lend further support to our special Museum?

Cluny, Madam Chair, Cousins: to you all I say - thank you.



# DUKE OF GORDON HOTEL KINGUSSIE

The Duke has been welcoming Clan Macpherson for their annual gathering since 1949. Set in the heart of the unspoilt landscape of the Cairngorm Mountains the Duke of Gordon has a traditional Scottish welcome for all travellers.



## Clan Macpherson Gathering 2024

**2nd - 5th August**

**£72.50 B&B**

(per person per night based on sharing a twin or double room)

Double room for sole occupancy supplement £30 per person per night.

This exclusive accommodation rate is only available when booking directly with the hotel by telephone or email quoting 'Macpherson Gathering 2024'

Newtonmore Road, Kingussie, Inverness-shire, PH21 1HE

Tel: (01540) 661302

Email: [reception@dukeofgordonhotel.co.uk](mailto:reception@dukeofgordonhotel.co.uk)

# DEREK MACPHERSON

African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org

## AFRICA

Cluny, Annie, Family, Madam Chair, Cousins, and Clansmen. My first duty is to convey warm greetings to all members of our Clan from the Africa Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association!

I start this year's Africa Branch report to the AGM with a memory that is slightly over 22 years old! News that is definitely not hot-off-the-press! Early in 2001, we had the great joy of receiving a visit from Sir William and Lady Sheila, who spent a month in Southern Africa. Their time was shared between Malawi and South Africa. In Malawi, their days were divided between our farm, the lake, Liwonde National Park and Zomba Mountain. There were many meals, accompanied by a glass of wine, and sunsets enjoyed over a dram, during which lively conversation was participated in by all present. Cluny was able to indulge in two of his own favourite pursuits: fishing on Lake Malawi and golfing on the Zomba Gymkhana Club's golf course with my Dad, Ewen. The Malawi part of their tour inevitably







came to an end and they travelled, with my folks, to Johannesburg, South Africa. There they were welcomed by Allan D. Macpherson, Chairman of the then South Africa Branch, who hosted a function in their honour. In a letter dated the 22nd of February, 2001, Cluny relates his unexpected joy in eating haggis and hearing a recitation of Tam O'Shanter on this occasion. Their trip terminated in Cape Town with the magnificent scenery and touring options that the Cape Winelands offer. Further down the page, Cluny wrote: "...how rare and what a delight for cousins to have been able to be so much enriched by our talks and our exchanges of views...." He went on to say, upon their return to Newton "And last night I beat the two Nyasaland [today Malawi] drums in the library and looked with a different eye at the heads in the barn and at the elephant's tail which sits on the bookcase! And I felt again the strong bond of family..." To my mind Cluny's words capture the essence of our Clan and Association: Our history is rich, our opinions may not always align but the bond of family and kin overrides all!



*From left to right - Ewen, Jenny, Jen, Duncan, Iain, Shannon, Derek Lady Sheila and Cluny.*

I am obliged to relate some sombre news. It is with the deepest sadness that I report the loss of my Mum, Jennifer Maureen Macpherson née Ball. Jenny passed away on the 3rd of June, 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa, following complicated surgery to repair a hiatus hernia. We bade Mum a final farewell on Saturday the 29th of July, 2023, during a memorial held at Kumbali Castle Gardens just outside Lilongwe, Malawi. The occasion was well attended, featuring a service, the pipes and even a song that was composed in her honour and sung by our relative, Scott Gray. Mum lived a full life of 80 years and was a profound force in our family.



*Jenny Macpherson 1943 - 2023*

Jenny Macpherson was a Life Member and generous supporter of the Association. Just before she passed away she asked me to facilitate the Life Membership of my nephew Murray William Macpherson on the occasion of his 21st birthday, on the 12th of July, 2023. My thanks are due to Suzy for her assistance in making this happen! So it is that within the space of two months the Africa Branch loses and gains one Life Member, albeit that the gain will be for a very short period of time! Murray lives in Australia so I am expecting a skirmish with John L as he liberates Murray's name from our register and deposits it into his own! I know that Murray will be warmly welcomed into the Australia Branch. Thank you, John L! Once that is

accomplished the Africa Branch's membership roster will number a total of 18 Life Members.

Whilst dwelling on the subject of membership I, by chance, have recently bumped into three people who have Macpherson connections. The first was Kim Landau Macpherson who lives in Fish Hoek, Cape Town and works at the Medicross there. The second was Abigail Macpherson whom we also met by chance in Cape Town. The third, with some irony, is one of our neighbours here in Malawi whom we know very well. Only last weekend Sam Blumrick informed me that her grandfather's surname was McPherson-Alcock, the McPherson being dropped in that generation. It is clear that I have some homework to do concerning new membership!

So, towards concluding, I can report that the skirl of the pipes continues to be heard on African soil, and our Macpherson footprint on the continent, while it may ebb and flow, remains steadfast.

I will end by saying that we are very sad not to have been able to attend the Rally this year. We wish all who are attending a fabulous Gathering, and grateful thanks to whomever was appointed to read my report to the AGM!

**Derek Macpherson**

**African Branch Chairman**

# JOHN L MACPHERSON

Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org



**AUSTRALIA**

Greetings from Australia to all at Newtonmore and to our cousins around the world.

I can report gradual recovery from natural disasters experienced in recent years. Good snowfalls are being experienced in SE Australia, while the national emblem, the wattle, is starting to bloom along the highways and byways of the land down under.

This year saw a gradual re-establishment of major Scottish activities, particularly on the East Coast. After several false starts, Bundanoon is Brigadoon re-emerged from the mist of the NSW Southern Highlands with 25 bands on parade and a sizeable crowd. The re-named and re-located Melbourne Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival, formerly known as the Ringwood Highland Gathering, attracted about 1000 visitors to Eastfield Park, Croydon. The Bonnie Wingham Festival also re-emerged, with Clan Donnachaidh (Robertson) as the Clan of Honour. A local Clan Macpherson team staffed our tent on the day. The Aberdeen Highland Games, in the NSW Hunter Valley, completed a number of activities that formed part of Scottish Week, based in Sydney.



### ***The Bonnie Wingham Festival***

*David B Macpherson (Hillville NSW), Kerriane Cawley, daughter of Ray Robertson (Chieftain of the Day), John McPherson (Wingham) and Darren Macpherson (Waterfall NSW)*

Regrettably the popular and very long-standing Geelong Highland Games have been discontinued. New member, Peta Hay, afforded us a presence at the Glen Innes Scottish Festival.

At the time of writing we have accepted an invitation to mount a tent at the new Kryal Castle Highland Spectacular in Ballarat, Central Victoria, on the weekend of the 19th and 20th of August, 2023, while the Saltire Estate in Lovedale, NSW, will host the fledgling Hunter Valley Highland Games on 26th August 2023.

It was pleasing to have new members involved in Wingham, and at least one new member has been recruited from the tent at Bundanoon.

Our member numbers have declined slightly this year. The decrease is due to the death of several members of long standing and two Annuals not renewing. Among those deceased, the Rev Ian P Macpherson of Baldivis (WA) died late last year. He was a descendant of the Macpherson family, thought to have originated on Skye, who arrived in Australia in October, 1825. Among Ian's older relatives were John Alexander Macpherson (1833 - 1894), who was one of two Macphersons appointed Premier of Victoria, and Helen Macpherson Smith (1874 - 1951), whose generosity established the Helen Macpherson Trust, now a very well-endowed charity that supports needy organisations in Victoria. An obituary for Ian will appear elsewhere.

Congratulations are in order to Maree McPherson, wife of Life Member, Warren McPherson of Traralgon (Victoria) and Life Member, Neil MacPherson of Runaway Bay, on the Queensland Gold Coast. Both were awarded Medals in the Order of Australia (OAM) for outstanding work within their respective communities. Congratulations are also due to Life Member, Sandy Healy, whose daughter, Alyssa, was recently appointed captain of the Australian Women's cricket team.

**VALE:** Our condolences are extended to the families of Caroline Ansell (Karana Downs, Qld) and Reverend Ian P Macpherson (Baldivis, WA).

In conclusion, I extend to the Australian Committee my thanks for their support. To Jamie and his family and the wider Blairgowrie family, I offer our continuing loyalty and the sincere good wishes of the Australian Branch.



*David J McPherson with John Waddell (McCleish) and his two grandchildren, Lexie and Freddie Seamons*

## **Post AGM Report**

The Kryal Castle Highland Spectacular in Ballarat was hampered by pouring rain, a strong cold wind and a cool 4 degrees. Very few visitors attended on the first day. A small number of Clan tents were mounted, but several withdrew because of the

weather. The weather improved on the second day but again, only a small number of visitors.

**John L Macpherson**

**Australian Branch Chairman**



# DENISE C LAGUNDZIN

Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org



**CANADA**

Cluny and family, Madam Chairman, Officers, and members of the Association, it is my great honour and pleasure to bring greetings from all Canadian members.

This has been a wonderful year. With Covid behind us, we have been able to venture outdoors to see our family and friends.

January, 2023, saw 15 members gathered at the Creiff Hill Presbyterian Retreat, Puslinch, Ontario, to celebrate Robbie Burns with a weekend get together. The haggis was prepared by Chef Matthew Cooke, piped in by Ewan Macpherson, and addressed by Bill Macpherson. We enjoyed a wonderful meal in each other's company and look forward to repeating the Burns Weekend in 2024.

Jacqueline Murdoch arranged for a tour of Spadina House in Toronto. There were only three members who attended. However, we enjoyed the tour of this beautiful home. Thank you Jacqueline

The next event on our social calendar was the 74th Gathering in Cobourg, Ontario, from Friday to Sunday, the 16th to 18th June, 2023. This was the second Gathering we have held during the Highland Games. During the Games we were able to support our piper, Ewan

Macpherson, as he participated in the piping competition. Our tent was well supported by 16 members. Although we did not have the numbers for a formal Highland event, we had a great meal together and helped Jessica Macpherson celebrate her 17th birthday! Our new member, Jeff McPherson, and his partner, Nicole Cordeau, joined us for the first time. A special thank you to Bob Macpherson, Janet McCredie, Beverly McPherson Letford, Ewan Macpherson, Bill Macpherson, Ken and Ella Gillis, Chantal McPherson, Bruce McPherson, Jacqueline Murdock, and Ed Smith for all their dedication and hard work in making this a success.

Bruce McPherson, along with his sons, William and James, stopped to help me and my husband, Mike, set up the display for the Kingsville Highland Games. William and James assure me that the cotton candy was top quality!

Bob and Sylvia Macpherson attended the Red Deer Games in Alberta on the 24th of June and met with several Macpherson cousins who are not members of the Association. Thank you Bob and Sylvia.

Our membership numbers stay consistent and annual members are renewing. Two of our members renewed with 10-year annual memberships.

## **Birthday Wishes**

Douglas Malcolm MacPherson of Saint John, NB celebrated his 99th birthday on the 17th of May, 2023.

Jean Macpherson of Saskatoon, SK celebrated her 100th birthday on the 27th of March, 2023.

Our National Treasure, R. Gordon M. Macpherson sends his "best wishes" to everyone along with his regrets for not being able to attend the Gathering. Gordon will be celebrating his 97th birthday on the 15th of November, 2023.

## **Flowers of the Forest**

Professor Emeritus Robert William Archibald, BSc., MBA, PhD, PEng. Bob passed away on Thursday the 22nd of December, 2022. Ewan Macpherson played at the gravesite. Ewan, Bill Macpherson, Ed Smith, and I attended his Celebration of Life.

LCol Mark Francis Macpherson, CD, GCLJ, GOMLJ, MBA, BComm, BSc (EE), Ing. FSAScot. Mark passed away on the 14th of January, 2023. Mark was buried with full Military Honours in National Military Cemetery, Ottawa. Bob and Marlene Archibald, Chantal McPherson, Ed Smith, and I attended the funeral and said goodbye to an old friend. Mark introduced me to the Branch Register position and was always available to answer my questions.

May they rest in peace and let Thy light perpetually shine upon them, Amen.

My fellow Canadian members joining me at this year's Gathering are Ed Smith and Bill Macpherson. My travelling buddy, Louise Quinn, will also be there with us.

The Canadian Branch AGM will be held via a Zoom meeting on Sunday the 15th of October, 2023.

In closing, as Chairman of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association I would like to convey the message of fealty and allegiance to you, Cluny, from myself and all the members in Canada.

**Denise Lagundzin**

**Canadian Branch Chairman**

# WILL MACPHERSON

EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org



ENGLAND  
AND  
WALES

During the past year there have been a few changes in the England and Wales Branch. Ian Macpherson, having been a stalwart of the Committee for many years, has stepped down as Treasurer as he takes on new responsibilities at the museum. Hamish Macpherson will take over in the role as treasurer. Ian will be sorely missed. He has been the architect of much that the England and Wales Branch has done over the last few years, including our long running campaign to have the Clan Macpherson recognised at the new housing development at Clifton.

After a long hiatus, we held our Ball in London in November last year. It was a great success, with the highest number of actual Macphersons in attendance, which was very pleasing. Going forward, we've decided to switch the ball from a 12 month cycle to an 18 month cycle. So the next iteration will be in Spring, 2024. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

We also held a very successful tour of the Battersea Power Station in December for our AGM.

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Enjoy the Gathering!

# WILL TULLING

Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org



## EUROPE

Cluny, Madam Chairman, and Cousins.

After a three year silence and difficult communication, mostly due to the many different languages in Europe, we have decided, in collaboration with our cousins from the Netherlands, Norway, France, and Germany, to resume the festivities.

It has been decided to hold another Gathering in Rotterdam in 2025, as we did in 2018. We are hoping that a large number of the Clan members and family will participate.

We will do everything we can to make it a beautiful and pleasant Gathering.

**Will Tulling**

**European Branch Chairman**

# TONY MCPHERSON

NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org

**NEW  
ZEALAND**

It is great to report that Kiwi Clan members will be representing the New Zealand Branch at this year's Gathering after the interruption caused by Covid and subsequent issues of air travel, availability, and cost of flights from New Zealand.



*Shelagh and Alastair on Cashel Street, Christchurch, New Zealand.*

Eve Levett and her mother, Jeannie, will be representing our Branch. Their family has had a long association and input to the New Zealand Branch.

Membership remains relatively static at around 20 members.

Shelagh and Alastair's visit to New Zealand in early 2023 was most welcome and enjoyable after their absence of 12 years from Christchurch. To experience the change from a devastated blank canvas post-earthquakes to a vibrant city that is being rebuilt was quite a contrast for them both.

During Shelagh and Alastair's extensive travels throughout New Zealand they visited and reconnected with many Clan members, which all assists in strengthening those members' relationship with the Clan Macpherson Association.

As a footnote to Shelagh's comments to the Council meeting on 26th of March, 2023, I did indeed complete the 3000km bike ride of New Zealand, and at that point my major concern was a certain part of my rear anatomy.

**Tony McPherson**

**New Zealand Branch Chairman**



# ANNIE LE ROY-LEWIS

[SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org)

## SCOTLAND AND N IRELAND

The first branch event of 22/23 was our AGM and Social Event, which was held at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow on the 1st of October, 2022. This was the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Scotland Branch (Northern Ireland was added in 2016) and so we had a celebration cake cut by the first branch Chairman, John Macpherson from Montrose. At the meeting were five of the Branches' Chairmen. Following the AGM and lunch, we had a tour of the Centre.

At the AGM, Annie Le Roy-Lewis was re-elected as Chairman, with Moray Cattanach as Vice-Chairman, Chris Gillies as Treasurer, and Joyce Cattanach as Secretary, following Iris Macpherson's retirement from the Committee. We also said a fond farewell to John Macpherson (Montrose) and Christine Love who both retired from the Committee.



*Past Branch Chariman, John Macpherson and retiring Secretary, Iris Macpherson, cutting the silver anniversary cake.*

Our Burns Supper was held on Saturday, the 11th of February at the Huntingtower Hotel in Perth. The event was well attended, but numbers were a little lower than usual. William and John Macpherson piped in the haggis for their grandmother, Catherine Macpherson, to address. Sandy Macpherson gave the Immortal Memory, Ewen MacPherson the toast to the lassies (presented by our Chief, Jamie Macpherson, as Ewen was not able to come at the last minute) and Helen Barton replied on behalf of the lassies. Bill Macpherson (Glenfarg) rounded off the evening with a highly amusing recitation of 'To A Louse'.



*William and John Macpherson with their Grandmother, Catherine.*

Our Summer Picnic was held on Saturday, the 3rd of June, at Craigtoun Country Park, near St Andrews. Members were invited to bring their own picnic. The cost

of the picnic hut (indoor shelter) was paid for from Branch funds to make the event free to our members. Members enjoyed the facilities at the park including a letter treasure hunt. All CMA members are welcome to attend this event if they are in Scotland.



*Sandy Macpherson with daughter, Helen Barton at the Summer picnic.*

We try to move our annual Social Event and AGM around Scotland to make it accessible to members in various parts of the country. In the past few years we have

been to Perth, Falkirk, Dunblane, Edinburgh, Newtonmore, and Glasgow. Our next AGM and Social Event will be held in Dundee in October, with a lunch prior to a visit to the Tartan Exhibition at the V&A Museum.



*Sandi gatecrashing branch member Sarah McCabe's hen do!*

Our Branch Facebook page and Branch page on the Association website continue to publicise our events and share news and photographs. Our Branch mascot, Sandi, has been very busy touring Scotland with various Branch members and has been publicising his antics on Facebook!



Sandi visiting the Lass O' Gowrie cafe, in Errol, owned and run by Ali and Rob Abercrombie, daughter and son-in law of Allan and Meg

The branch committee continues to make use of Zoom for some of its committee meetings, but we recently enjoyed an in-person meeting in Dunkeld. We continue to keep in contact with our members through regular emails and fliers, which also include news of Association events and support for the Clan Macpherson Museum. The branch has also once again enjoyed playing a supporting role in some of the events at the Annual Gathering in 2023.

I would like to thank the committee members for their continued enthusiasm and dedication in organising and running Branch events.

We send our very good wishes to all our Scotland and Northern Ireland branch members and to our fellow Association members worldwide.

**Annie Le Roy-Lewis**  
**Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch Chairman**

# R. T. MCPHERSON

UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org



**UNITED  
STATES**

Following our 2022 Branch AGM and Gathering, 2023 has been very positive. Our Pacific North Region hasn't had a lot of coverage for several years. I am happy to announce that Peggy Brewster of Oregon has asked to be nominated to serve as that region's Commissioner. Soon after that, we received word that Donald Platt, from Connecticut, has offered to take on the New England Region and Bethani Rahrle-White, who is a new member, will take on the Northeast Region. Her family is from Syracuse, New York. We are working on our Gulf Coast Region. Once that position is filled we will have coverage in all our regions.

Overall we have a strong membership despite the loss of 19 life members and 104 annual members that have yet to renew. 2022 ended with a total membership of 719. We have, as of July, 2023, 691 members. Kathy, our Membership Secretary, is sending out a new round of renewal reminders to all who have forgotten to renew their memberships. We have gone to an E-URLAR publication for our membership, which started following our AGM. This has cut down our expenses, allowing us to keep our membership dues as low as possible. We believe these lower costs really help in attracting new members.

Recently, I was contacted by a couple of new members who visited Scotland. In their travels, they stopped in to tour our museum. Jack Miller wrote to me and said Aila Schaefer, who spent a lot of time with them, gave them a fantastic tour. He mentioned that she was “absolutely wonderful”. Others were totally amazed by the Clan's history and are seeking more information. My immediate family recently discovered a hidden secret nobody knew of. My Uncle Robert L. McPherson, after moving to Montana, married and had 4 children before seeking out new adventures. That was 90 years ago. One of his granddaughters, Shannon Barclay and her husband, recently visited Scotland and the Macpherson Museum and was able to spend time with Aila.

We will have our US Branch AGM and Gathering in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from the 6th to the 8th of October, 2023. I sent out personal invitations to all CMA Council Members. Chairman, Bonnie McPherson and Shelagh Macpherson Noble will be joining us.

As with all Chairmen, there comes a time we have to step aside for new leadership. 2023 is my time. We will be voting in a new Chairman at our 2023 AGM and Gathering. It has been a pleasure working with everyone on the CMA Council and I have enjoyed representing the Macphersons and Associated Families.

**R.T. McPherson**

**United States of America Branch Chairman**

**2023**

**THE  
GATHERING**

**PHOTOS  
AND  
ARTICLES**





## REGISTRATION AND WELCOME MEETING

Registration and The Welcome Meeting are the first events of the Gathering and are held on Friday at the Duke of Gordon Hotel. The Welcome Meeting includes valuable information about the Clan and the events of the weekend.

Pictured alongside is Shelagh Macpherson Noble, providing valuable information at the Welcoming Meeting.

Below is a group photo of first-time attendees at the Gathering.



## DANCE PRACTICE

Dance practice occurs on Friday afternoon. This year it was held at the Duke of Gordon Hotel. It is always well attended and provides an opportunity for members to practice some the dances that will be danced on Friday evening at the Formal Ball.



Friday afternoon dance practice, held at the Duke of Gordon.

# CHIEF'S RECEPTION, BANQUET AND BALL

Prior to the start of the Banquet on Friday evening, a reception is held in the ballroom, where attendees get to meet the Chief and his wife, Annie, as well as the Chairman of the Association. The Reception, was followed by a slightly hurried group photo as it started to rain.

## THE RECEPTION

Cluny and Annie at the Chief's Reception.



A group photo of the Macphersons prior to the Ball.



The Banquet is a time where families join together and catch up with friends, who are spread across the globe.

**THE  
BANQUET**



Cluny with  
Sheila Winslow and Brady Brim-DeForest.



The young persons table.

The Ball is a much anticipated event. Kilts and ball-gowns bedeck the dance floor. Members enthusiastically participate in Scottish dancing.

# THE BALL

Right - Shelagh and Evie Levett at the ball.



Below - US meets UK. After only a brief introduction Alexandra Rein (US) had fun dancing with William and Ollie Macpherson (UK).



Below - Cluny with Sabine and Bodo Schmitz



Right - Lochy Macpherson dancing the Dashing White Sergeant.



# THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

During the Annual General Meeting the Officer Bearers for the coming year are elected, reports are given and other important business is conducted. The meeting is held in the Newtonmore Village Hall on Saturday Morning.



Sprigs of white heather and boxwood were given to members to wear.

Below - Cluny gives his closing remarks.



Above - Bruce Macpherson presents the Museum Convenor's Report.

# THE MARCH



Left - Allan Macpherson Fletcher and his family assemble at Old Ralia for the Clan Macpherson March.



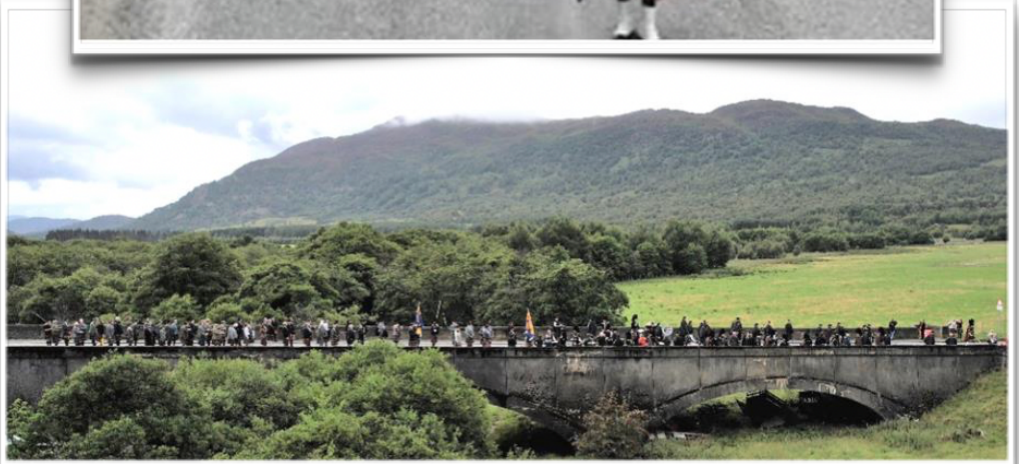
Right - Jamie, our Chief, leading the Clan March.



Left - Bonnie McPherson, the Clan Chairman, at the March.



An aerial view of the Clan March. The Macphersons are led by five massed pipe bands. Aerial photography - courtesy of Jason Rein.





Clan members gather on the Eilan.



Games Chieftan, Angus, welcoming the Clan to the Games.



Above - Torquil  
Le Roy-Lewis carrying  
Cluny's personal  
standard.

Below - Evie  
Levett,  
representing the  
New Zealand  
Branch with her  
sword.



# THE CEILIDH

A traditional Scottish ceilidh is held on Saturday evening after The Highland Games and a game of shinty. A ceilidh is a social event where Scottish folk music and singing, traditional dancing and story telling take place. The Master of Ceremonies this year was Andrew McHugh, who is also a talented musician.

Right - the Mount Dora Pipe Band gathering before the Ceilidh.



Left - Ewen, playing his harmonica.



Above - The Macpherson pipers. From left to right, John Macpherson, Torquil Leroy-Lewis, William Macpherson, Angus Macpherson, William Macpherson Younger Of Cluny, Eve Levett, Gordon Casely, and Jerome Leroy-Lewis.



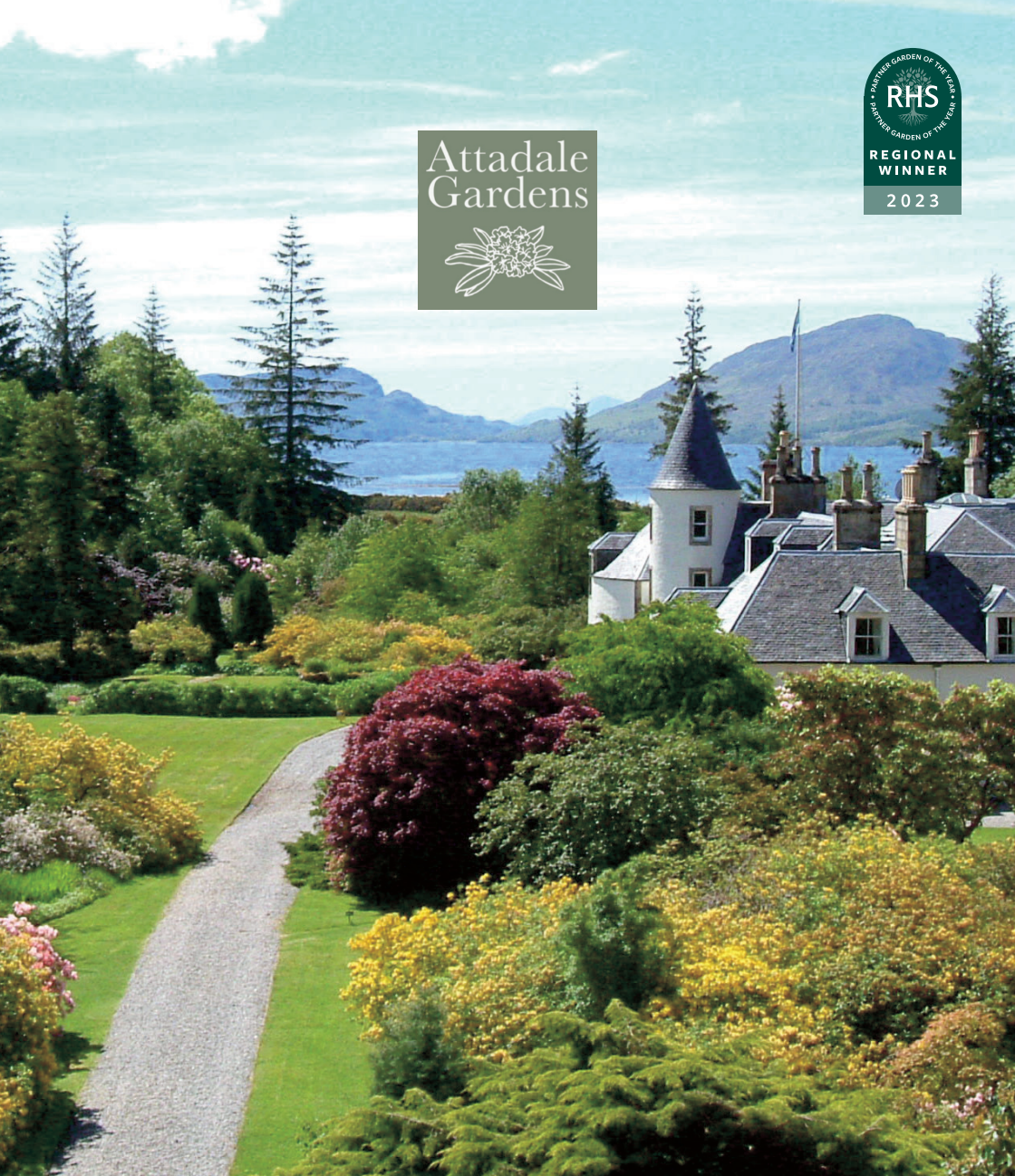
Right - Fitz Korner, reciting a poem that he wrote for the Ceilidh.

# THE SUNDAY PICNIC

Following the Sunday morning church service at St Columba Church in Kingussie, the Macphersons gather near at the Cairn to Cluny Of '45, for an informal picnic.







# Attadale Gardens



Strathcarron, Wester Ross IV54 8YX

April to October  
Open daily 10am - 5:30pm





**A FRIST TIME  
TRAVELER  
TO  
SCOTLAND**

My grandmother started my father on his genealogy travel some 30 plus years ago. It led him to his English Winslow heritage on the paternal side, and his Scottish heritage on his father's maternal side, her maiden name being Clark. He attended many festivals and gatherings before joining the Clan as a life member. I was envious of his travels, especially to Scotland, however, I was fortunate enough to travel last August with his best friends, Bonnie and George McPherson, to the gathering. This is my story of the wonder and awe as a first-time traveler to Scotland.

I have never really traveled outside of the United States. I've lived in California all my life. I was apprehensive planning my first trip to Scotland. I am not a fan of flying and knew that the flight would be a long one. My flight started in California, connecting in Washington, where I met up with Bonnie and George, which made the trip easier and then on to Edinburgh. After our arrival in Edinburg, we headed to the Highlands.

I was overwhelmed by the beauty along the drive and the nostalgic thought of my first stop being at Dalwhinnie, being my father's favourite scotch. The green countryside, sheep, cows, flowers and fresh air reminded me of my younger days growing up in California. We

continued along our way to Kingussie and our stay at the Duke of Gordon for the next 5 days and The Gathering.

After catching up on some much-needed sleep we headed off on a day of adventure. This included a trip up to Glen Banchor, a breathtaking view, where I was able to pick some heather for pressing in my journal. On the way back to the Duke, we quickly stopped in Newtonmore and I was able to visit the Clan Macpherson Museum. There is so much history in this small building and town. That evening was spent in Inverness at the Kingsmill Hotel attending the Clan Chatten AGM, a most wonderful dinner and gathering.

I spent the next day walking about town and spent time in two cemeteries that I found. The remarkable history and beauty here is mind-boggling. I did, however, miss dance practice because of this. That turned out to be a mistake when later that evening Cluny asked me to dance at the Highland Ball. Once again, Jamie, I apologise for stepping on your feet and trying to lead.

Saturday, and we were off to the AGM in Newtonmore. I felt extremely welcome and moved to tears by the



sincerity of my cousins, whom I had just met. The AGM was followed by the March and Highland Games! This is the only time that we had rain during our entire stay. I was told that it was the first time it has rained in 30 years during the Games. The bagpipes played and no one worried or seemed to be bothered. Personally, I found it quite refreshing and not at all cold. There were plenty of tents and drams to keep us warm. Later that evening there was more fun at the Ceilidh.

We attended church in Kingussie on Sunday morning, and later headed up to the Cairn for the Macpherson picnic. It was here that someone snapped a photo of me. When I arrived home, I realised that a similar photo is hanging in the hallway of my father taken in that same spot. The unchanging beauty of the landscape cannot be put into words. I have since then been able to identify many photos in the house. Another stop being Clava Cairns where I carried on my dad's tradition of leaving offerings, little trinkets, in the stones of the cairns.



After attending Pipes Galore in Newtonmore, we drove on to Forres, stopping for dinner and to see the Forres and Mount Dora Pipe bands perform in the park. We headed on to Elgin, where we stayed at Mansion House Hotel.

Only in Scotland does one get to sleep in a castle. It was a little girl's dreams came true! I was able to walk through ruins of churches from the 1300s and castle ruins even older. I visited several castles, Ballindalloch, Balmoral, Dunnottar and was impressed with the Grant-Macpherson castle and grounds. Another stop along the way, which I highly recommend is the Church of Inveraven and the Pictish stones. We headed to Burghead on the coast, which reminded me so much of my beloved north coast of California. We drove through Duffus, on to a little seaside village with streets named McPherson and Clark and finally to Stonehaven. We ended our travels in Edinburgh where we drank a toast to my dad at "Dirty Dick's"



My first trip to Scotland was incredible and I cannot wait to return again to see even more of the countryside and rich history along with all my cousins again.

**Sheila Winslow**



## HOLIDAY IN THE HIGHLANDS

I became a member of Clan Macpherson 9 years ago at the Central Florida Highland games in Winter Springs, Florida. Every year since our introduction to George and Bonnie, they have encouraged my husband, daughter, and me to attend the AGM. Finally at their marvellous Christmas party in 2022, Bonnie talked my husband into making the journey. This was a much anticipated vacation since we hadn't travelled much since covid and we had heard many entertaining stories about previous gatherings. After all the expectations, the 2023 AGM did not disappoint us. Each day of the gathering provided us with entertainment and fun for the whole family.

On Friday afternoon, practice dance lessons were held. My daughter decided to attend and definitely made use of the instruction at the ball later that evening. She wound up dancing all night. My husband enjoyed Saturday afternoon's activities and was able to use his new drone to photograph the Clan March and Highland Games. We were delighted by the ceilidh on Saturday evening. We loved watching the Clan Pipers perform their tribute and the Mount Dora Piping Band perform "We will rock you." My daughter and I especially enjoyed the after ceilidh ceilidh, where we were first introduced to "Climbing Sunshine Mountain." Everyone in attendance seemed to

enjoy it as well. As I looked around the room, it was so great to see so many smiling faces and everyone singing along. The Sunday picnic was a lovely way to wrap up the weekend's bustling festivities. The weather was on our side, the scenery beautiful and you could not beat the company.

After the Gathering, we had a lovely time visiting castles, distilleries, and seaside towns in the Speyside Region. Not to mention the purchase of quite a few bottles of whisky. The photo alongside is of our daughter, Alexandra, exploring a castle ruin. This is one of our favourite memories of our post-Gathering activities in Scotland.

I encourage all to attend a future AGM. There is something for everyone to enjoy. The AGM is a great time to meet some fabulous people, learn some history at the Clan Museum, walkabout in the gorgeous Highlands, eat some good Scottish food, and make many memories. My family is looking forward to attending the 2024 AGM. We hope to see you there!



# THE AT HOME

After a rather damp afternoon at the Games, the Convenor, Trustees and Officers of the Museum hosted an At Home for Friends and Guardians. After a warm (and dry) welcome and with a glass in hand, guests were able to browse the fabulous new exhibition, designed and implemented by Jim and Mairie. It was also a very social occasion, and the Museum buzzed with discussions on the exhibits and layouts, which received many compliments. Younger Clan members did a great job assisting with merchandising and serving customers in the Museum shop. All in all, it was a busy, very enjoyable and successful event.



Our Clan Museum.

MAJOR ROBERT MACPHERSON AND  
THE MUGAL EMPEROR'S SWORD

Robert Macpherson of Benchar (now spelt Banchor) was born in 1774, youngest son of Andrew Macpherson of Benchar and his wife, Isabel ('Tibbie'), Macpherson of Invereshie (1). His older brothers, John, Evan and Graeme all served in the military in India. John had died in London in 1791, Graeme at Tanjore (now Thanjavur) in 1797, of 'sunstroke on the brain', and Evan at the siege of Seringapatam (now Srirangapatna) in 1799, leaving Robert as the last surviving son (2). Though a rather curious story, Robert Macpherson's sword perfectly highlights the importance of India to the Highland gentry.

Young Robert seems to have been a bit of a problem in the early days. His uncle, Captain John Macpherson of Invereshie, normally a model of moderation and kindness, did not hold back on his nephew. In a letter of 1793, John rather devastatingly described how *'Robert had been for half a year at Perth Academy - doing no good - he is called home ... and we propose sending him ... as a Volunteer to the Netherlands - either to have*



*his Brains (if he has any) knocked out by Demourier (a French general) - or to be in the way of making bread for himself (earning his own living) - we wish to be free of an Eyesore and a dead weight - which while he remains in this Country he will always be - My God - what an unfortunate turn that family has taken - The females, as well as the males - are more thoughtless and extravagant than could be wished or expected*'. A few months later he followed up in similar manner: *'Robert continues an Eyesore at home - he is fit for no place but Botany Bay'*, and again the following year, Robert *'is yet at home a burthen on his Mother, and an Eyesore to everybody'* (3). There is no detail of what the problem was - whether he was just not very bright or a bit of a waster, or why he had only been sent to Perth Academy in his late teens. The 'eyesore' comment may possibly suggest some physical deformity or prominent birthmark, but could just be John's go-to term for his apparently useless nephew. He was, however, a real life *'Prodigal Son'*, though one who, for understandable reasons, never returned home.



**INDIA**

Robert's fate, however, was neither Botany Bay nor the French Wars but, like his brothers, he was enrolled as a cadet in the East India Company in 1794. The Reverend John Anderson, minister of Kingussie, who was a close family friend of both the Benchar and Invereshie Macphersons and

indeed factor to both of those estates, wrote more positively of the young man in 1795. Robert had *'already embarked, strongly recommended to those of highest Trust and Authority in India ... a Strange mixed Boy; But with all his giddiness He had a good Heart, and a dash of Genius.'* Significantly, he also mentioned that General James Grant of Ballindalloch, Robert's grand-uncle, had been asked if he could find a situation where *'He [Robert] can make the Rupees'* (4). Whether through General Grant's intervention or Robert's own talents, he was promoted to lieutenant in 1797 and then captain in 1805.

By 1811 he was in the employment of Mughal emperor, Akbar II, King of Delhi, as deputy constable of the Tower of Delhi, or as he put it himself, *'Jailor to the Great Mogul'*. In 1815 he was appointed commandant of the Royal Guard of Akbar, being promoted to major in the 17th Bengal Native Infantry in 1817. He remained as commandant of the Royal Guard till his death in 1823 (5).



**ROBERT'S  
LETTERS**

Unfortunately, just two of Robert's letters home seem to have survived (6).

***10 December 1811, Major Robert Macpherson from the Royal Palace of Dhelie to his sister, Isabella.***

He had financed a trip for Isabella to London, had already sent her £500, and would send more if needed. He had also paid for his niece, Grace (later Clark), daughter of another sister, Annie, to come out to India, including 'Grace's outfit passage' - presumably a whole new wardrobe suitable for high society life in India. The second letter mentioned that Grace's passage and outfit, had cost him £800. As Grace was born in 1794, she would have been just 17 when he brought her out. He wrote how *'Grace is universally admired in Calcutta and from being in the first circles there I have no doubt but she will form an advantageous connection in Marriage.'* He also offered to bring Grace's younger sister, Isabella, out to India as well, *'but I should wish her previous to her departure for the Torrid regions of Hindostan to have a twelve months polish at an Edinburgh boarding school & which I much regret Grace had not'*, and obviously offering to pay for that education if she took up the offer. No information has as yet been found regarding either of the nieces and whether they fulfilled their uncle's hopes.

Of his own future he continued, *'I am resolved never to leave the service till I can do it with the pension of a full Colonel and by that time I shall be too far advanced in life to think of ever giving up my liberty by entering into a matrimonial connexion [sic]'*. He also commented on how Grace's arrival had changed his life for the better: *'You cannot conceive to yourself the very great saving I have*

*effected in my monthly expenditure since I finally determined to bring out Grace', and because he had had to improve his behaviour and act more responsibly, 'I have found it a great advantage and it has gained me many friends particularly among the ladys – A couple of thousand pounds would not induce me to leave India a day sooner ... To India I am very much attached'. He was unlikely to return, 'whatever my fortune might be', the reason being, 'The day Benchar was sold did away with every inducement, with the exception of our dear Mother for me ever to return to my native land. In India I have every comfort and luxury that I can desire and feel happy & comfortable on my present situation as Deputy Constable of the Tower of Dhelie or in other words as Jailor to the Great Mogul ... for which I have very handsome allowances'.*

Benchar estate had indeed been lost due to the family's bankruptcy, almost totally a result of the outrageous extravagance of his older brothers, John and Evan, during their short time as lairds following the death of their father. A small portion of the estate had been sold in 1792 to Cluny Macpherson, the clan chief, and the rest in 1795 to James 'Ossian' Macpherson of Belleville. His mother and sisters had subsequently moved to Forres, unable to bear staying on in Badenoch after the loss of their beloved *Duthchas* (7).

**14 September 1812**  
**Major Robert to his Mother.**

Robert wrote to his mother, clearly angered by recent letters from his sisters Isabella and Maddie (Magdalena): *'the indelicacy of their attempting to dictate to me in regard to my private concerns'* – apparently prying into the contents of their 'eyesore' brother's will now that he had turned out a success! He then explained the will to his mother, referring to Maddie and Isabella's share, *'which they ought to have received with gratitude'*. He was under no obligation to leave anything to relatives, and was certainly not going to let them know how much. His intention was to honour his late brother Evan's, intentions, using money left over from the sale of Benchar plus his own resources to *'make the best of it for the purpose of fulfilling what I knew to be his wish. Tis true the family Estate has been alienated [sold] but still there is a prospect of someone of the family being able some day or other to acquire another'* - i.e. he hoped to be able to buy his mother another small estate before she died and to entail it so that the family descendants could never sell it.

In this letter (and other documents) Maddie comes across as a rather unpleasant person. But he wrote of his other sister, Annie, that she *'has never in her letters given*

*me one single hint or once seemed jealous of any attentions I shewed them.*' He promised to his mother that he would look after all his nephews and nieces, *'from the most disinterested motives'*.

He finished with a lovely ironic touch regarding the success of *'a son who was considered at one time as incapable of providing even for himself'* - his mother perhaps the one person who had believed in him.



## THE SWORD

In 1817, the Mughal emperor had presented Robert with an inscribed sword thanking him for his service. The Persian inscription, in gold on both sides of the blade, translates as, *'Sword of Akbar, presented to Major Robert McPherson by the King of Delhi for his dedicated service to His Majesty Akbar 1817'* (8). Photographs of the sword are appended (9).

In his will Robert specifically stated that he left *'my Gold watch, all my Seals, and the Sword with the Persian inscription on the Blade of it presented to me by the Royal Family of Delhi, as also the Firmann\* Presented to me by His Majesty Ackbar the Second, King of Delhi, be sent to England to my Dear Mother, Mrs Isabella Macpherson.'* Interesting that even a Gaelic-speaking Highlander was slipping into the general usage of England for Britain.

\*A firman was a Persian royal decree recording important laws and transactions, so this one must have been Robert's appointment to his post as commandant. In the valuation of his estate there is reference to the sale of a gold watch, so that item perhaps never reached home, unless, of course, he had another one.



## THE WILL

Robert's estate was valued at 128,867 rupees. Early exchange rates are difficult to calculate, but this might have been around £27,000 then, nearly £3 million today. The entirety was initially left to his mother, with annuities to his sisters and after their decease to his nephews. Provision was also made for the purchase of an estate, though as yet no evidence has emerged that this actually happened. He stipulated that the sword and other items he left to his mother were to remain within the family *'in perpetuity'* - an indication of how important it was to him as a physical symbol of his personal triumph over adversity (10)



## THE GLENTRUIM CONNECTION

Robert's sister, Grace, had much earlier married Lachlan Macpherson of Ralia. Their son was Major Ewen Macpherson, who purchased Glentruim estate in 1830 - another who made his fortune in India. He presumably inherited the sword at some point after Robert's mother and unmarried sisters had died.

*The sword was sold by auction in 2017. If anyone knows its current whereabouts I would be really interested to get in touch and provide the owner with more of its intriguing history. It would also be nice to get some higher resolution close-up photographs of the sword blade, inscription and scabbard.*

*I wondered if any of Robert's other possessions had survived? If anyone seeing this can add any further documentary detail to the story of Major Robert Macpherson, I would be grateful if he/she could get in touch.*

David Taylor

[cnocard@aol.com](mailto:cnocard@aol.com)





## Footnotes

1. The Turnbull and Lyon website referred to states that Robert was the third son - this is incorrect. The Benchar sons were twins, John and George, (the latter probably dying young) b 1756, Evan 1761, Graeme 1763, and Robert 1774, The girls were Grace 1767, Magdalena (Maddie) 1769, Isabel 1770 and Ann 1772. Thanks to Jay McCutcheon of the family dates.
2. NRAS, 771/574 (the Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch records), John Macpherson to William Macpherson (his older brother and absentee laird of Invereshie), 17 February 1798; NRAS, 771/668, John Anderson to William Macpherson.
3. NRAS, 771/574, John Macpherson to William Macpherson, 3 April 1793, 22 December 1793, and 14 November 1794.
4. NRAS, 771/667, John Anderson to William Macpherson of Invereshie, 3 May 1795.
5. The Lyon & Turnbull website offers a brief summary of Robert's military career: <https://www.lyonandturnbull.com/auction/lot/274-RARE-PRESENTATION-INDIAN-TULWAR-OF-MAJOR-ROBERT-MACPHERSON-THE-YOUNGER-OF-BANCHOR/?lot=180131&sd=1>.

6. NRAS, 771/510, Robert Macpherson to Isabella, 10 December 1811, and to his mother, 14 September 1812. Unfortunately, time did not permit a full transcription, but some of the most significant content is given here.
7. For details of the demise of Benchar estate, see David Taylor, *The Wild Black Region: Badenoch 1750-1800*, pp. 222-3.
8. A technical description of the sword can be found at <https://www.lyonandturnbull.com/auction/lot/274-RARE-PRESENTATION-INDIAN-TULWAR-OF-MAJOR-ROBERT-MACPHERSON-THE-YOUNGER-OF-BANCHOR/?lot=180131&sd=1>.
9. Photographs courtesy of Lyon & Turnbull.
10. British Library, British India Office Wills and Administrations, IOR/L/AG/34/29/35, Bengal Wills, 1823, pp. 241-2, Will of Robert Macpherson.

# CATCHING UP WITH FRIENDS DOWN UNDER

**SHELAGH  
MACPHERSON  
NOBLE**

In 2022 my husband, Alastair, and I decided to escape the Scottish winter and planned a five month stay in Australia and New Zealand, exploring new places and re-visiting ones we had discovered previously. Our schedule included 3 stays with our Australian family, Euan, Christie, and Ruby, along with time spent with our Clan Macpherson friends.

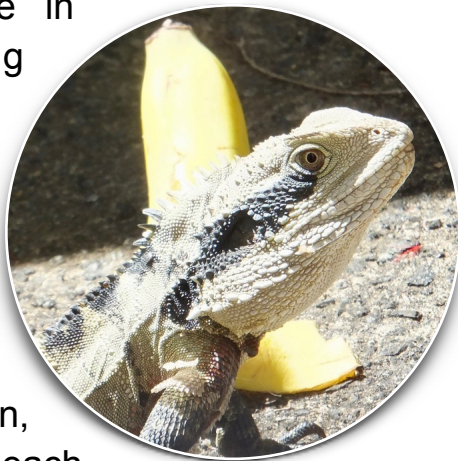
Although Australian visas are valid for one year, staying in the country must be for no more than 3 months at any one time, so we included a 6 week visit to New Zealand, half-way through.

Our son, Euan, had his life membership of the CMA transferred to the Australian branch when he emigrated in 2016 and is kept up to date with Aussie activities by John L. Macpherson, the Clan's representative in Australia.



*Euan with Ruby & Christie.*

Euan and his family live in Sydney and have interesting outdoor creatures in their garden and roof-space. The Moreton Bay Fig Tree overhanging their pool accommodates hundreds of fruit bats at dusk. Channel-billed cuckoos are also partial to the figs. Billy, the water dragon, and their small dog challenge each other in the garden, and there is a large possum living in their roof-space.



After leaving the family in Sydney, we spent over 6 weeks exploring New South Wales and Queensland.



One of our late Clan Macpherson friends, Edna Sabato Macpherson, had lived in Maryborough. We decided to visit the town and found it a mix of old and new. There are old colonial buildings alongside shops where you can have a “comfortably numb” tattoo. The author of the Mary Poppins book was born in the town, and she has been honoured by having her image on the pedestrian crossings.



On our drive back south, we decided to revisit the town of Maclean, where the lampposts are painted tartan, 3 of them boasting the hunting, dress, and red Macpherson tartan. On our previous visit to the town in

2010, we enjoyed wonderful hospitality from Bob Macpherson. We were surprised and delighted to find Bob exactly where we left him 12 years ago - in the Scottish shop in the centre of Maclean. It was lovely to catch up with him.

Being down under in the run up to Christmas took a lot of getting used to. I am still not sure that my brain accepted that: although the sun was shining and the temperatures were high, the canned music in the supermarkets was Christmas Carols and songs with lyrics of “let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!”

Between Christmas and New Year, we had lunch with John L. Macpherson and his family. Our two families have been good friends for many years and we had a lot of reminiscing to do.



On the 4th of January we flew to Christchurch. We had last been there in 2012, one year after the devastating earthquake. The city has been rebuilt, but the cathedral still has some way to go. Tony Macpherson (pictured right), the New Zealand Branch Chairman, met us for lunch and spent the afternoon showing us the area outside the city, which has some glorious scenery and fascinating history. We enjoyed his company and continued our day with him, his partner joining us for dinner.



Our stay in Dunedin was not such a happy one, as we were involved in a car accident. We had been on our way to see the albatrosses, when a large 4x4 ran into the driver's side of our car. We were uninjured, but shaken by the experience.

We continued south and met up with more Macpherson friends, Lesley & Colin Gray, in Invercargill. Lesley had been the New Zealand Branch Secretary when we visited in 2012, when she had arranged an excellent lunch for us at Colac Bay. Forty-five Macphersons turned up to meet us on that occasion.



*Alastair & I with Lesley & Colin Gray in Invercargill.*

In that group of forty-five were the Levett family, who also have remained good friends. On this visit, we were staying at Riverton, and we were surprised when Jeannie Levett appeared at our door with a welcome bag of wine,

biscuits, etc. She invited us to brunch with the family at their Queenstown home, where we were introduced to one of her grandchildren.



*With some of the Levett family in Queenstown.*

In mid-January we visited my great grand uncle's grave in Greymouth cemetery. Alexander Macpherson was one of the few survivors of the ill-fated Burke & Wills Exploration Expedition in Australia in 1860. He eventually moved to New Zealand in search of gold, but died from tuberculosis and was buried in an unmarked grave. While in Greymouth this time, I arranged for a stone to be put on his grave, marking his achievements.



We took the ferry across to the North Island where we experienced flooding and poor weather in New Plymouth. Mt Taranaki could rarely be seen, being blanketed beneath clouds for almost a week.

Macpherson hospitality shone through again when we stayed with Cluny and Sisi Macpherson in Mahurangi, near Warkworth. Cluny and Sisi have a small orchard of Feijoa trees on their property, a fruit we had never heard of. Originating in South America, they grow well in New Zealand and are a cross between a guava and a kiwi fruit.





As with all our Macpherson friends, Cluny and Sisi (pictured left) looked after us very well. Cluny was an excellent guide, and we took a ride on the mail boat, which delivers mail and other essentials to the small islands off the coast.

We left Mahurangi and headed north to Keri Keri, and it was there we were caught in the middle of a cyclone. It was an interesting experience for us and a dangerous one for the people who lived in its path. In the aftermath, we experienced flooding, fallen trees, and landslides, which blocked roads. However we made it back to Auckland where we met up again with Jeannie and Evie Levett, who were in the city at the time.

After ten days in Tasmania, we flew to Adelaide and headed for Hawker in the Flinders mountains. This was real outback country, and on our daily sojourns we didn't leave home without a tank full of petrol



and a case of water. We had some real adventures there, driving through dried up river beds and mountain gorges, battling the incessant flies, and avoiding emus. They had absolutely no road sense whatsoever.

One of the Hawker inhabitants told us that all we had to look out for were the snakes. She went on to explain that she kept a shovel at her door, one in the boot of her car, and another in the yard as protection.

After the arid landscape of the outback we spent a week staying in a friend's house on Kangaroo Island. The countryside was totally different, but the island had had its fair share of wildfires in 2019. A large number of the koala population lost their lives and many were seriously burned. The island now has a rehabilitation centre for all wildlife there. Some animals were so badly injured they cannot be returned to the wild.

Pearl, the koala pictured alongside Shelagh, had her ears and paws so badly damaged that her permanent home is now in the sanctuary where she raises funds by having her photo taken with the tourists.



Australian weather can be as fickle as anywhere else. In Mildura we experienced the highest temperatures of our trip when it reached 43° one day. A few weeks earlier, the Murray river had flooded, and the surrounding area had depths of 7ft of water, leaving dead fish lying around when the water subsided.

Wagga, Wagga was our last stopping off place before we headed back to Sydney for our final few days. Here, Alastair could indulge himself in his favourite hobby of flight. We spent some time in the aircraft museum near Wagga Wagga - or Wogga as the locals call it. This was our third aircraft museum of the trip.



On the drive back to Sydney, we met up with more Clan Macpherson friends, Adam & Liz De Totth in Yass. After lunch we drove to an eclectic ice cream parlour where we enjoyed a selection of dairy and non-dairy ices.

Our five months down under gave us a plethora of experiences. We learned so much about the history, culture, and people, both indigenous and settlers, in Australia and New Zealand. Everyone we met was welcoming. We were given tremendous hospitality by all our Macpherson friends, which was much appreciated.

We experienced some extreme weather conditions, from just 5° at Tamworth in New South Wales at the beginning of November to 43° at Mildura in Victoria towards the end of March. We were caught up in Cyclone Gabrielle in the North Island of New Zealand and saw the devastation it caused. When the furniture started shaking in the North Island we quickly realised it was a tiny earthquake. It happened two days in a row.

Our accommodation was mixed. Other than staying with friends and relatives, we spent most of the time in Airbnb's. These proved interesting and for the most part very good, although there was the one in Tasmania which was already occupied when we arrived. Occasionally the photographs on the website had been cleverly taken and things were not all that they seemed, for example, the one where the toilet, shower and laundry were in a rusty tin

shed out at the back of the building, not the impression given on the site.



*The outside toilet/shower/laundry.*

We visited cities, rural towns, and tiny villages. We reached mountain tops and walked on many beautiful beaches, visited a gold mine, and lived in the outback and in the bush.



The wildlife was fantastic. Kangaroos, wallabies, emus, wombats, echidnas, kookaburras, rainbow lorikeets, galahs, cockatoos, eagles, blue tongued lizards,

water dragons, fruit bats, bush turkeys, swamp hens, possums, koalas, dolphins, dingos, a Rozenberg's goanna, spiders, feral goats, wild horses, and one brown snake.



*Pukekos or swamp hens in  
New Zealand*

# THE WILD CAT

**JOHN  
BARTON**

The early history of the Clan Macpherson provides a clue to the eventual adoption of the “cat” as the symbol of the Clan. This is the “wild cat” *felis silvestris*. It is larger than the domestic cat, and the wild cat is easily distinguished by its bushy tail with three to five black rings and a blunt black tip.

Significantly, the word “cat” or “chat” appears in each of the legendary origins of the Clan. The earliest reference is to the Chatti, a war-like tribe that inhabited lands to the east of the Rhine in Roman times. It is said that they were driven out of their homeland and settled in the far north of Scotland, where they were known as the “Catti”. The Clan Keith also claims descent from this tribe, and they have a story that, when the leader of the tribe first reached the shore, he was set upon but managed to escape from a pack of wildcats that roamed the land. The Catti gave their name to “Caithness”.

Saint Catan (or Cathan) was one of the many missionaries who came from Ireland in the footsteps of St Columba, initially settling on the Island of Bute - with the name “Kilchattan Bay” continuing today. Other places bearing his name are St Cathan’s Chapel on Colonsay, Kilchattan Chapel on Gigha, and Kilchattan Church on

Luing. Ardchattan Priory (on the north side of Loch Etive - near Oban) was consecrated in honour of the Saint and was under the authority and protection of his family and their descendants - this being possible as the clergy of the Celtic Church were free to marry. St Chatan's descendants were known as Catanaich and by the beginning of the 12th Century had spread into Lochaber, to Loch Arkaig and Glen Roy.

Gillie Chattan Mor (the "great servant of St Catan) is generally regarded as the patriarch of the early Clan Chattan Confederation which flourished into the 14th Century - before breaking up into a number of individual clans (including the Clan Macpherson) - who all claim kinship with the great Gillie Chattan Mor.

Heraldry had its origins on the continent of Europe and came to England with the Norman Conquest. By the time of Robert the Bruce, Norman influences had reached lowland Scotland, but the Highlands were largely unaffected. The principles governing the structure of a Coat of Arms are universal, but the regulation is administered on a national basis with the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, one of the Great Officers of State, being responsible for the matriculation of Arms in Scotland.

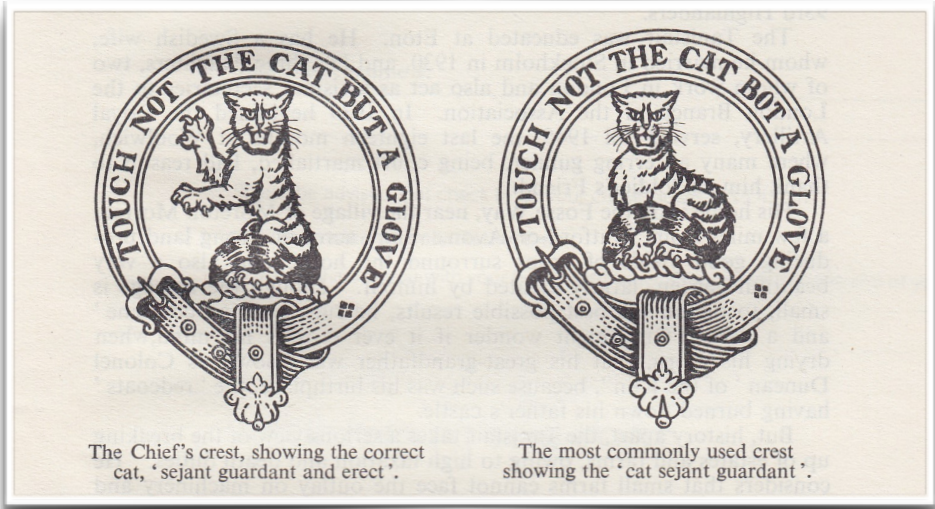
The wild cat is native to the Highlands with a reputation for being an aggressive and fearless fighter, but there is no direct evidence to indicate that any of those

early clans had adopted the “cat” as a symbol to rally round or follow. However, there was - particularly over the 14th to 16th centuries - frequent use of the “heraldic pun”, described by Sir George Mackenzie in *The Science of Heraldry* (1680) as “Arma Cantantia” and Francis J. Grant in his *Manual of Heraldry* (1948) as “Armes Parlantes” or “Canting Arms”. \*

Our cat first comes to life with the grant of Arms to the chiefs of several of the Clans that had been members of the Clan Chattan Confederation, namely Macpherson of Cluny, Mackintosh, and MacBean in 1672. In each case the cat appears on the Crest of the Arms. Additionally the Macintosh matriculation showed two cats as “Supporters”. The Arms of Farquharson of Invercauld also display two cats as Supporters. Other Clan chiefs have incorporated animals into their respective Arms, most commonly the lion, but also, deer, dogs, eagles, and the mythical griffen, and it may be significant that the Earls of Sutherland, the only other ancient family to display a cat, occupied the same lands as the tribe of the Catti.

There is much variation in the form in which our cat appears, and this is particularly demonstrated from the following illustration which is taken from an article by the late R.G.M. (Gordon) Macpherson, Niagara Herald Extraordinary, in the 1958 *Creag Dhubh*.





Gordon took the trouble to visit H. M. Register House in Edinburgh to examine the *Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland* at the Court of the Lord Lyon to confirm that the form of the cat on the left - with two extended paws - corresponds to the original illustration which accompanied the 1672 registration and the subsequent matriculations in 1873, 1948, and 1957.

However, the 1958 article hinted at a possible controversy as in each case the blazon ("narrative") describes the cat as "sejant" (i.e. sitting - with all four feet on the ground). From a further article in the 1962 *Creag Dhubh*, it would appear that Gordon had consulted Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, the then Lord Lyon, whose opinion was that the correct interpretation of the "cat sejant" is a cat with three feet on the ground and its left paw horizontally forward! For more than 250 years

successive Macpherson Chiefs had displayed the cat with two paws forward, and, notwithstanding Sir Thomas Innes' opinion, this practice continues, the only exception being the *Bratach Uaine* (The Green Banner), which only displays one paw in the air.

Our interest in the cat extends to the motto "Touch not the cat but a glove", or as it appears in Gaelic - "*Na bean don chat gun lamhainn*". The old Scots word "but" means "without" or "except". In the same article, Gordon noted that the alternative spelling "bot" is frequently adopted. However, it is "but" which appears in the earliest matriculation and in subsequent matriculations of the Chief's Arms. This is in contrast to the Macintosh and MacBean Arms where "bot" is used. In recent times, a number of Macpherson clansmen have also preferred the "bot" variation in registering their Arms.

Taking it further, what does the motto signify? It seems to imply a challenge, and in this context there comes to mind the expression of "throwing down the gauntlet", which had its origin in the days of chivalry, when one knight might challenge another by throwing his gauntlet (glove) to the ground, and the challenge was accepted if the other person picked it up. Every cat has retractable claws which become prominent and dangerous if the cat is aroused. An alternative interpretation is that one should not handle a wild cat without wearing a glove.

However, the interpretation that is generally preferred reflects the fact that the soft pad on a cat's paw is known as the "glove", and when the cat is challenged and the claws come out, the paws are described as "ungloved".

The motto "Touch not the cat but a glove" has long been associated with the Clan Chattan, but within this Confederation, successive Lords Lyon have only sanctioned the precise words in the Arms which have been matriculated in relation to the Clan Macpherson and Clan Macintosh. Accordingly, the mottos associated with other Clans in the Confederation have been "differenced", resulting in a variation of the particular words but conveying the same message. The motto associated with the Clan MacBain is "Touch not a catt bot a targe" and the Clan Macgillivray is simply "Touch not this cat". The Clan Shaw war cry is "*Na bean ris a chat*" (Touch not the cat).

Many members of the Clan have matriculated their personal Arms, and there is a great variety in the differencing of the motto. Some are simple "Touch not" or "touch not the cat", whereas others reflect the chosen interpretation of the original words "Not this but a glove" and "Dare not touch the ungloved cat" or simply "Touch not ungloved", and there are also some Gaelic equivalents "*Na bean*" or "*Na bean don chat*". The variety is endless!

The cat has also been adopted in the Clan country of Badenoch. In 1893, two cats appeared on the burgh

seal of Kingussie, and although Kingussie lost its administrative status as a burgh in 1974, a tiled panel depicting the Arms of the burgh can still be seen high up on a wall in King Street at its junction with Spey Street. The “Wildcat Trail” is a walking route around Newtonmore. As part of the “Wildcat Experience” over 130 lifesize model cats are scattered around gardens, windows and rooftops of the village. The cats are all painted in bizarre colours, and, appropriately, the cat in the Museum garden displays the hunting Macpherson tartan.



*Cluny the cat, pictured above was killed on the A9 near Balavil in October, 2009.*

There are three specimens of wildcat on display within the Museum, the earliest, “Sandy”, having originally been on display in Cluny Castle.

At one time, Scotland had a healthy population of wildcats, but upon the introduction of game bird shooting in the 19th century, the wildcat was persecuted as vermin, and this practice continued until 1988, when the animal was given “protected” status. Sadly as a result of illegal trapping and road deaths, the population has

continued to decrease. The Scottish population may no longer be viable and could be on the verge of extinction. The situation is confused, as wildcats are known to interbreed with domestic animals. How extensive this might be is not known. In his “Ring of Bright Water” (1960), Gavin Maxwell confirmed that a male wildcat might mate with his domestic cousin, but he claimed that the offspring rarely survive, as the sire returns to kill the kittens as soon as they are born.

The Clan Association sponsors a family of live animals that can be seen at the Highland Wildlife Park, located on the Dunachton Estate between Kingussie and Kincaig. The Wildlife Park is one of the centres for the captive breeding of the animal, resulting in about 20 being released into the wild in June, 2023. Appropriately some of these cats have been located in Badenoch, the traditional home of the Clan.

**Footnote** \* Mackenzie gives examples where the crest of Arms might be derived from the name of the bearer, with the Arms of the “Peacock” family bearing a bird of that name, and the Cockburn family displaying a Cock. Cyril Davenport, in his *British Heraldry* (1921), provides some more subtle examples, with a *fraise*, or strawberry leaf, being the badge of a Fraser family, and John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, having a boar - this animal being called a “verre” in heraldic language.

# NO AXES IN HAND LUGGAGE, PLEASE!

## GUENTER MASCHECK

Another Clan Gathering in Badenoch had come to an end, and some wonderful days in Edinburgh were the icing on the cake.

Unfortunately, there always comes a time when you have to say goodbye. Time to go home where everyday life awaits you, and where, sadly, no one wears a kilt or plays the bagpipes.

When we arrived at Edinburgh airport, we found out that our flight had been delayed. We saw it as a bonus. One more hour on Scottish soil! We now had more than enough time to check in, finish our water bottles, and head to the security check.

As requested, I put everything in the plastic tray. My watch, a few coins from my trouser pocket, mobile phone, belt, my jacket, and my daypack. That should have been all. The items on the tray were x-rayed and I was scanned. All ok. However, my daypack was directed to the inspection area. This had never happened to me before. My brain began to work frantically. What could be in there that would warrant this? I came up with absolutely nothing!

After a short while, the owner of the grey daypack was asked to come forward. A friendly young lady very

politely asked me if she could open the daypack and look inside. I agreed and she began to check the contents. Inside were many uninteresting items, a torn open bag of fruit jelly, biscuits, a magazine, a jumper, all sorts of things. She searched very carefully and opened all the side pockets on and in the daypack but did not find what she seemed to be looking for. After a while she looked at me, turned the screen in my direction and asked me, still friendly but a little stressed, "What is this?" She tapped on a strange, brightly glowing yellow/orange, sharp-looking object. A murderous-looking object indeed. A deadly weapon that could be used for attacks of all kinds and whose presence in an aircraft would pose a deadly danger to flight safety. Such a thing was in my hand luggage! However, apart from the colour, the object looked very familiar to me. "That's a Lochaber axe," I replied amiably. "Excuse me? What?" she said a little irritated, her voice a little sharper and higher pitched than before. "It is my kilt pin in the shape of a Lochaber axe," I replied, admittedly a little amused. "Please take the object out and show it to me," she instructed me.

Why wasn't the kilt pin in the suitcase like the rest of my Highland outfit? Right, I had almost left it on the bedside table in the hotel and then quickly put it in a wallet and into the daypack. Of course, by the time we arrived in Edinburgh, I had long forgotten that fact.



*Guenter's Lochaber Axe*

So, I handed her the “axe” and she examined it meticulously. “No, the blade is not sharp, maybe a bit pointy at the ends, but that long pin to fix it to my kilt may be dangerous.” She asked another officer to join her. Thankfully, no deterrent and heavily armed anti-terrorist unit appeared but another very polite and kind security guard. He, too, examined the kilt pin from all sides. He seemed to like it and for a moment I thought he would confiscate it for himself. After a short while he classified it as “harmless”.

“No problem, thank you for your patience, sir.” I left the security checkpoint with a smile on my face.



# FROM SCOTT TO STEVENSON - THE STORY OF CLUNY'S CAGE

**JOHN  
BARTON**

Cluny of the 'Forty-five is usually celebrated for his exploits in hiding for nine long years after the battle of Culloden in 1746 and, in particular, his place of refuge known as "Cluny's Cage" on Ben Alder.

Between 1827 and 1830, Sir Walter Scott published his "Tales of a Grandfather". This was a concise history of Scotland, written for the benefit of his grandson, John Hugh Lockhart. In the third volume there was the following description of the Cage:

*"After many difficulties, he (the Prince) effected a junction with his faithful adherents, Cluny and Lochiel, though not without great risk on both sides. They took up for a time their residence in a hut called the Cage, curiously constructed in a deep thicket on the side of a mountain called Benalder, under which name is included a great forest or chase, the property of Cluny. Here they lived in tolerable security, and enjoyed a rude plenty, which the Prince had not hitherto known during his wandering."*

The source of this account is likely to have been a manuscript known as the "Lyon in Mourning", comprising

ten volumes compiled by Bishop Robert Forbes (1708 -1775). Robert Forbes was ordained as a priest in the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1735 and was appointed as a minister in Leith. A life-long Jacobite, he was one of three episcopal clergymen arrested in September 1745, suspected of having intentions of joining the rebels. Forbes was imprisoned in Stirling Castle, and thereafter in Edinburgh Castle, and he was not released until after Culloden in 1746. Shortly after he was released, he began collecting material relating to the “Forty-five” and continued with this work until his death in 1775. In 1762, Forbes was consecrated as Bishop of Ross and Caithness but continued to reside in Leith as a “Nonjuror”, declining to swear an oath of allegiance to George III.

In the course of collecting material for his "Lyon in Mourning", Forbes received a letter dated the 1st of May, 1750, from John McPherson of Strathmashie enclosing a 12 page document written by “a friend” whose identity is not disclosed. The Cage is referred to as a “very romantic comical habitation” and a “curiosity”.

*“The habitation called the “Cage”....was within a small thick bush of wood. There were first some rows of trees laid down in order to level a floor for the habitation, and as the place was steep this raised the lower side to equal height with the other; and these trees, in the way of joists or planks, were entirely well levelled with earth*

*and gravel. There were betwixt the trees, growing naturally on their own roots, some stakes fixed in the earth, which with the trees were interwoven with ropes made of heath and birch twigs all to the top of the Cage, it being of a round or rather oval shape, and the whole thatched and covered over with moss. This whole fabric hung as it were by a large tree, which reclined from the one end all along the roof to the other, and which gave it the name of the Cage; and by chance there happened to be two stones at a small distance from other in the side next the precipice resembling the pillars of a bosom chimney (chimney breast), and here was the fire placed. The smoke had its vent out there, all along a very stony part of the rock, which and the smoke were altogether so much of a colour that anyone could make no difference in the clearest day, the smoke and stones by and through which it passed being of such true and real resemblance. The Cage was no larger than to contain six or seven persons, four of which number were frequently employed in playing at cards, one idle looking on, one baking, and another firing bread and cooking.”*

It was also recorded in the document from John McPherson of Strathmashie that when the Prince came to the Cage he did not have one shirt to put on his back except that which he then wore, until three sisters from Breakachy made some for him in haste. It is said that *“he sat and drank all the time pretty well and hearty”*,

with the provisions being sent from Breakachy by the same ladies.

John Home (1722 - 1808) was a contemporary of Forbes. In 1745, he was licensed to preach as a presbyterian minister. As a volunteer in the Hanoverian army, he was captured by the Jacobites at the battle of Falkirk. He escaped and sought refuge in his father's house in Leith. Many years later, he met Duncan Macpherson (the son of Cluny of the '45). He was shown and transcribed a copy of John McPherson's letter and incorporated the text in his "History of the Rebellion of 1745", which was published in 1802. This would appear to be the earliest printed account of the Cage. Significantly, Home had difficulty in deciphering the handwriting and omitted particular words, which he was unable to read (for example, the word "bosom" in the description of the chimney).

Presumably Sir Walter Scott was familiar with John Home's "History". However, when Scott published that part of his "Tales of a Grandfather" in 1829, it is likely that he also had the opportunity to see the whole text of the "Lyon in Mourning" as Bishop Forbes' manuscript of the Lyon in Mourning had been deposited in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh after his death and Scott had access to that library.

At about the same time Robert Chambers was compiling his own "History of the Rebellion of 1745", which was to become the authoritative account of the Jacobite Rising. In 1834, Chambers was given access to Bishop Forbes' manuscript and in his extended fifth edition, published in 1840, Chambers published a full description of the Cage - as set out above. Chambers' History was extensively read, and the story of Cluny's Cage soon became widely known, with a description of the hide-out appearing in diverse publications such as the Manchester Examiner of the 18th of September, 1848 and the Liverpool Mail of the 21st of October, 1848; also the Sobieski Stuarts' "Lays of the Deer Forest".

With this background, it is not surprising that Robert Louis Stevenson chose the Cage as one of the historical events which he incorporated in his novel "Kidnapped". The other historical event which he used was the Appin Murder in 1752, when Colin Roy Campbell, a Government factor, was assassinated. Alan Breck Stewart, a Jacobite, was the chief suspect. In Stevenson's narrative, his principal character - David Balfour - went on the run with Alan Breck, and together they supposedly spent forty-eight hours with Cluny in the famous Cage. Stevenson's account of the Cage closely followed the description which Chambers had taken from the "Lyon in Mourning", and the card-playing reference was exploited by Stevenson, with Alan Breck playing

cards with Cluny and losing all his money and the money which he had borrowed from David.

The “Lyon in Mourning” was eventually transcribed and published by the Scottish Historical Society in three volumes between 1895 and 1896.

The precise location of the Cage remains a mystery. In 1783, James Stobie, Factor to the Duke of Atholl, published a map of Perthshire. At a location on the east side of Loch Ericht, opposite Ben Alder, there appears the following: “Place where C.S. hid himself 1746”. It is to be presumed that the initials “C.S.” refer to the Prince Charles (Edward) Stuart. Some of the possibilities were discussed in my article in the 1965 *Creag Dhubh*, and Alan G Macpherson added to the controversy in his “A day’s March to Ruin”(1996) when he suggested that the Cage was located above Loch a’ Bhealach Bheithe, but perhaps the most convincing case was set out by Affleck Gray in his “Legends of the Cairngorms” (1957), with the Cage being located on the west side of Ben Alder, high up above the Alder Burn.

# GATHERING CLUNY OF THE '45

## 260th Anniversary Dunkirk

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the occasion of the 260th anniversary of the death of Ewan Macpherson of Cluny, here is a Gathering proposal to commemorate him.

The purpose of this gathering is not to commemorate a cause or the Jacobite era but to commemorate our chief who sacrificed everything.

It has been 260 years since he was buried, in anonymity, far from his Highlands, his family, and his clan.

I propose to meet in Dunkirk, on the weekend of the 27th of January, 2024, for a clan commemoration. It will begin with a clan march towards his final resting place.

On the site of the former garden of the Carmelite convent, we will carry out a commemoration, with a speech, bagpipes if we

can, and a tribute to the White Rose. In respect of his wife's, Jeanet Macpherson, wishes, there will be no military honour.

Following this tribute, a dinner will be organised in a restaurant to be determined, for a friendly moment between clansmen.

All proposals are welcome in order to immortalise this day.

I hope this proposal interests you as much as it does me. I remain at your disposal for any questions, or we could discuss it at the Newtonmore gathering.

Best wishes.

Anthony R. Macpherson





# AN UPDATE FROM BODO

First of all, I would like to pass on greetings to our Clan Chief and our Clan sisters and brothers from our members from Germany, who were not able to visit Newtonmore this year.

Bonnie asked me to present something about our activities in Germany, which I would like to do.

The interest in Highland Games in Germany is growing, and in many places the Games are held based on the Scottish model. We take part in many events with our clan tent to represent our Clan and present its project "Saving the Wildcats". A special highlight will be to participate in the largest Scottish event in Trebsen, Germany, in September, 2023. At this event all clans active in Germany are introduced to the British ambassador and a large audience.

We have put a lot of energy into our project "Protection and Preservation of the European wildcat". Just like the organization "Saving Wildcats" in Scotland, we are active in the forests in Germany. The activities of the wild cats are observed with the help of wildlife cameras, and protected areas are set up in cooperation with forest workers.

In addition, we have sponsored the wild cats in the wildlife park in Reuschenberg near Cologne. Donations received during our presentation to the Clan at the Highland Games are used here for the wildcats.

Another project we run is to introduce the wild cat to children in schools, where the difference between domestic cats and wild cats is explained in an entertaining way.

We have big plans for the coming years. Next year my son and daughter will be part of a team for the Highland Games in Germany. Of course they will represent the Clan Macpherson as the "Highland Tigers".

There is also cooperation with "Saving Wildcats" in Scotland. Our ambition is to reintroduce young wildcats from Germany to the Scottish forests. We have already made contact with the BUND Wild Cat Station in Germany.

There is a lot to be done!

Bodo Schmitdz

# NEWS FROM GERMANY

The Schmitz and Schmidt families are members of the Clan Macpherson European Branch and are very active German members. These families are sponsors of the wildcats in the Reuschenberg Wildlife Park near Cologne. They are not only present at many Highland Games in Germany, representing Clan Macpherson, but they also collect donations for the wildcats in the Reuschenberg Wildlife Park.



These donations have financed the redesign of the wildcat enclosure. This will, hopefully, provide an environment for the wildcat pair that is conducive to producing offspring.



Another goal is that newborn wildcat kittens from the Wildlife Park are not released into the forests in Germany, but are released back in Scotland. Corresponding contacts have already been made with “Saving Wildcats” in Scotland.



# MEETING HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

Macpherson tartan was prominent in Glasgow City Chambers in November, when two Clan Macpherson members were among those present at an evening attended by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.



Angus Macpherson (below) and Shelagh Macpherson Noble, (left) both council members of the Royal Celtic Society, attended a musical

reception to celebrate the inauguration of a musical bursary to the Royal Conservatoire of Glasgow.



# HAVING FUN WITH THE MACPHERSONS IN THE USA

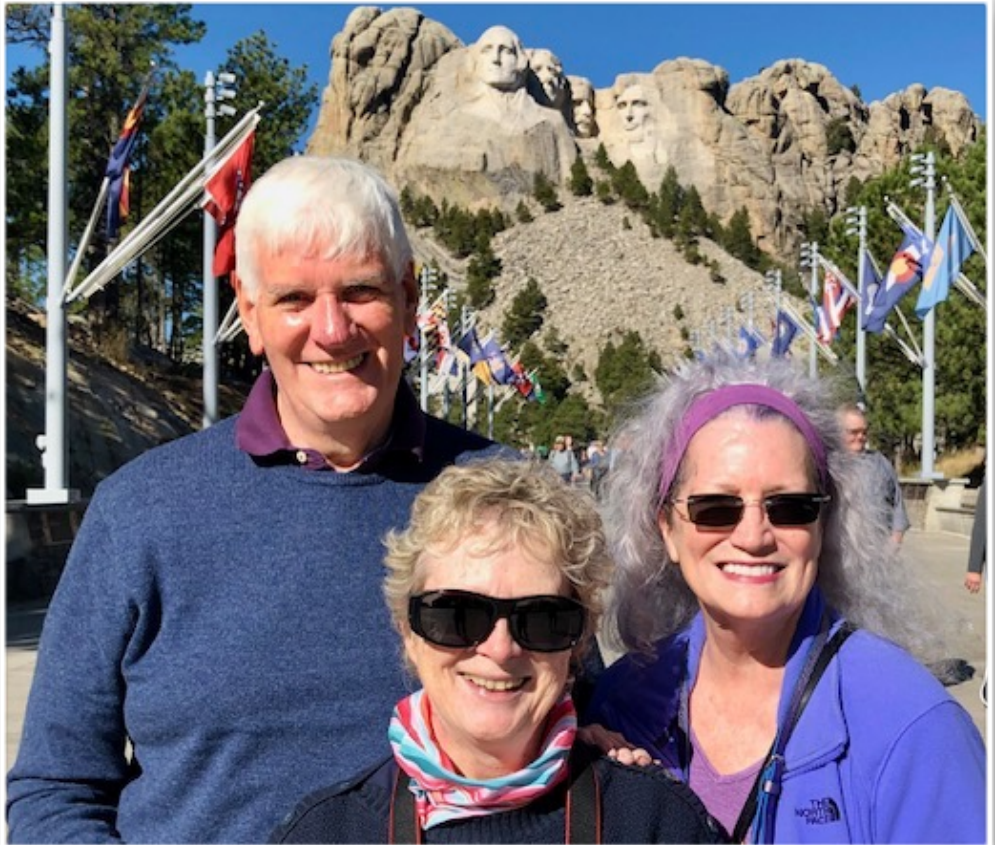


*From left to right: Jerry Gamblin, Jack Raines, Alan Donnan, Kathy Sterba, Bruce Sterba, Mike Miller, Shelagh & Alastair*

During the autumn of 2023, and continuing with their travels to catch up with Macpherson friends on the other side of the world, Shelagh and Alastair were delighted to meet up with CMA members in Dallas, Oklahoma City and Rapid City in the Black Hills, South Dakota.



*Shelagh with John & Norma Bierens in Oklahoma City.*



*With Donna Rucks at Mount Rushmore.*

**CHRIS  
McCABE**

**1991- 2023**

**“Lives are like rivers -  
eventually they go where they  
must. Not where we want”.**

Chris passed away suddenly on 8th of August, 2023. He was the beloved son of Helen Barton and Derek McCabe and stepson of Douglas Barton, brother to Sarah Innes, grandson of Sandy and Catherine Macpherson, nephew of Bruce Macpherson and Alison Simpson, cousin to Charlie, Louise, William and John, stepbrother to Graham and Jenny and a good friend to many people.

As a young boy he had a passion for Lego and playmobil, building many intricate structures. As a slightly older boy, he loved walks with his grandad, for whom he had so much respect. During these walks Chris learnt about history and wildlife, while listening to the stories his grandad would weave.

Chris’s sister, Sarah, and he had many adventures together many of which I never knew of! They shared so much love and laughter together. He also had great fun with his cousins, who thought that he was such a “cool dude”.



Chris was an accomplished unicyclist, stilt walker and loved his skateboards, which led to his keen interest in snowboarding, working and enjoying the snow up in the Cairngorms.

Chris studied music at school and college and had a drum kit set up in his bedroom and went on to play in a band. He played the military snare drum and famously led the Clan Macpherson on a March from Ruthven Barracks to Kingussie as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations. Chris played his bagpipes when he was younger and his bodhran at the after ceilidh and loved playing the guitar and singing with Sarah.

Chris was passionately proud to be Scottish and to belong to the Clan Macpherson. He attended almost every Clan gathering and made an impression on everyone he met. His heart was truly in the highlands. He wore his kilt whenever he could, working in bars, walking the hills, travelling, in clubs, and at festival gigs and parties. Many people I have spoken with remember Chris with his tattoos and piercings, swaggering down the street, long ginger beard streaming over his shoulder and his kilt swinging. He had a colourful and unique style, loved perfection and precision. He was a very proud man. He worked and played extremely hard in bars and restaurants and had brilliant reviews and compliments from everyone he served.

He then turned his hand to outdoor work. He worked for a ground maintenance and tree service company. Chris loved to help Dougie, my husband, and I building walls, strimming the grass, cutting down trees, stacking logs in our garden.

He loved dogs, in particular golden retrievers. His best childhood furry friend was the family dog, was Ben. Chris was a dog magnet and all three of our dogs were passionate about him and went nuts whenever they saw him. He would bring them treats and they would all sleep in bed with him.



Chris will be remembered as a good, caring and loving person with a heart of gold and a kind manner. He had a quiet disposition but loved to party and as one of his friends said “he was as mad as a bag of cats”. He had a huge impact on everyone who knew him. He was loved by so many people and will be missed by everyone.

Chris has left a huge hole in our lives. We cherish the wonderful memories of him and he will live on in our hearts and actions forever



**GORDON  
MACPHERSON**

**1926 - 2023**

**GORDON MACPHERSON**, late of the City of Burlington, passed away on the 1st of September, 2023. He was the son of Reverend Dr. A. Gordon Macpherson and Mary Strathcona Macpherson (MacBeth).

Gordon was predeceased by his wife, Nancy (nee Chart 2017), and his brother, Colonel Bruce Macpherson (2001). Survived by his sister Betty (Mrs. Lawrie Taylor). Cherished father of Alexander (Sandy) Macpherson and Pamela Macpherson (Kirk). He was the proud grandfather of Heather, Colin, Andrew, and James, and of four great-grandchildren.

Gordon had a distinguished career in the investment business, retiring as Vice President of RBC Dominion Securities in 1987.

In his "spare" time, he painted coats of arms and made heraldic bookplates. When he stopped a few years ago, he had received numerous accolades, culminating in being named a member of the Order of Canada in 2008. Prior to that, he was appointed Niagara Herald Extraordinary by the Governor General in 1999.

He was also a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (FSAScot), the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (FRHSC), the Knights of Justice of the Most Venerable Order of the

Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (KStJ), the Silver Jubilee Medal of 2002, and the Diamond Jubilee Medal of 2012.

Gordon was also passionate about the Clan Macpherson, serving as Canadian Branch Chairman and then as International Chairman. Special thanks to the staff at Brant Centre Aldershot Wing for their love and care over the last two years.

Above all, Gordon loved his Lord, loved his family, and was the kindest person to be around. He will be missed on Earth, but he will no doubt be thrilled to join his wife and family members in heaven. A private funeral has taken place, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.




**REVEREND  
JAMES  
MACPHERSON  
SMALL  
1934 - 2021**

**THE REVEREND JAMES SMALL**, 86, of Falmouth, Hants County, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, the 6th of April, 2021, in the Q.E.II Infirmary Site. Born on September 3, 1934, in Montreal, he was the son of the late Richard and Mary (Martin) Small.

James was ordained as an Anglican priest at the age of thirty and served in many parishes in both Ontario and Nova Scotia. He was active in Scouts Canada for many years. He enjoyed woodworking and his special dogs, German Shepherds.

He is survived by his wife, the former Joan Blackwell, sons, Gordon and Keith, and grandson, Mathieu, his brother, Richard, niece, Virginia (Greg) Galipeau, and nephew, Dr. Dave (Diane) Small. Cremation has taken place.





**JOSEPH  
WILLIAM  
HOSCH**

**1930 - 2022**

**JOSEPH WILLIAM HOSCH**, born on the 8th of June, 1930, in Cameron, Texas, passed away on the 12th of December, 2022, in Loma Linda, California.

Joe, as he was known, lived all of his civilian life in several parts of Southern California. He attended local schools in the area and graduated with a B.A. degree from Cal State Los Angeles in California in June of 1959. On completing high school, he joined the United States Navy in 1948, where he attended a diesel mechanic course. Soon after he was sent to Guam M.I. where he spent a year working on small, inner-island ships. He transferred to a Navy fire station, Company #3 in Guam. While at the fire station, the Korean War broke out, and he received orders to attend an advanced diesel mechanic course in Great Lake, Illinois. While attending the course he was told to report to the U.S.S. George C. Clymer APA-27. After thirteen months after on board the Clymer, hauling troops in and out of Korea, his time in the Navy was up. Joe spent four and a half years in the U.S. Navy and twenty-eight years with the Navy reserves.

After leaving the Navy, Joe had to find a job. He married and had two sons, Daniel and David. Joe divorced, went to college, met and married his second

wife, Marjorie. Both of her grandparents were servants of the Macphersons in Scotland and wore the Macpherson Tartan. They had the honour of meeting Sir William and his wife, Sheila, at their home on one of their several trips to Scotland and again in Las Vegas at the annual general meeting.

Joe was the Drum Major for the Macpherson Highlanders Pipe Band based out of San Bernardino and lead the L.A. Scots and several other Scottish pipe bands in California. He was very well known in the Scottish band scene. Joe lost his wife, Marjorie, in 2015, his son, Daniel, in 2016, and his dog, Lilly, that he loved so much in 2021. He leaves behind his only surviving son David, who is 63, a retired Fire Department Captain.

God Bless You Dad!

**David Hosch**





**REVEREND  
IAN P.  
MACPHERSON**

**1935 - 2022**

**REVEREND IAN P. MACPHERSON,**  
a long serving Western Australian  
member, died in November, 2022.  
Ian was born in Sydney and  
attended Sydney Grammar School  
before becoming a Civil Engineer  
with the NSW Public Works

Department. He and his beloved wife, Judi,  
married in 1958 and raised two children, Janine and Bill.

In his twenties, Ian dedicated his life to the service of the Lord. Ordained in 1966, he served in the ministry for over fifty-five years, studying at home and abroad for his Master of Theology. He served the church in various places across the country, and as a Chaplain with the Royal Australian Navy. In the early nineties Ian and his wife moved to Western Australia, where he was with the Rockingham Uniting Church until his retirement in 2000. After retirement he supported the church in the pulpit once a month.

Ian was a bright, warm and humble person, who was always keen to share his passion for travel and the enrichment one can get from broadening their horizons. He was a proud MacPherson and is survived by his two children, four grandchildren, six great-grandsons, one great-granddaughter, and at the time of his passing had a great-great-grandson on the way.

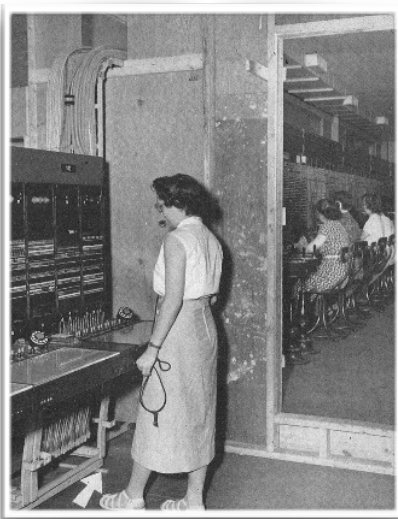


**OLIVE JEAN  
WRIGHT  
MACPHERSON**

**1930 - 2023**

We are sad to announce the death of **OLIVE JEAN WRIGHT MACPHERSON**, who peacefully went to heaven on Monday, the 10th of April, 2023, at her home at Oakmonte Village in Lake Mary, Florida. She was affectionately known as Jean to her friends and family.

Jean was born on the 14th of May, 1930, in Greenwood, Indiana. She graduated from Whiteland High School in Whiteland, Indiana.



Jean worked for Indiana Bell Telephone Co. in Indianapolis for many years. In the modern era of I-phones on everyone's wrist or and cell phones in their hand; it is hard to imagine the beginning of the telephone industry when there were party lines and all calls had to be "patched in". This was the world that Jean worked in.

She lived a life of service and volunteerism and encouraged her children and grandchildren to look for ways to make a difference in the world. Her first volunteer work was with the Riley Cheer Guild, an auxiliary organization that provided comfort to patients and caregivers at the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. She continued her path of helping others, shepherding Brownie and Girl Scout troops of the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana and PTA leadership at Indianapolis' Public School No. 88.

After moving to Central Florida in 1970 she served on various PTA committees at English Estates Elementary in Fern Park, FL. She was active in community organisations and supported projects of the Bahia Shriners fraternal organization. Her hobbies included gardening, collecting seashells, and crafting. She loved watching the Indianapolis 500, cheering for the Orlando Magic and her children's college football teams, University of Tennessee and the University of Florida and the Purdue Boilermakers. She was an avid basketball fan and would love to watch professional basketball games.

She and her husband Robert were life members of the Clan Macpherson Association. They made all of their children life members of the Clan Macpherson Association, and made their children and grandchildren Guardians Of Clan Macpherson Museum.

She is preceded in death by her husband Robert G. McPherson, brothers, Dale and James Wright, sister Betty Yatsko, and parents Roy and Mamie Wright.

She is survived by her three children, Heather McPherson of Mount Dora, FL, Scott (Jo Ellen) McPherson of Orlando, FL, and Bonnie (George) McPherson of Umatilla, FL; and grandchildren Cori



McPherson of Arlington, VA, Kyle McPherson of Orlando, FL; and step grandchildren (by marriage of Bonnie to George) Jeremy McPherson of Lancaster, CA, Carolyn Williams-Cottman of Palm Bay, FL, and Nicholas McPherson of Keene, NH; five step-grandchildren, and beloved nieces and nephews.



**JENNIFER  
MAUREEN  
MACPHERSON**  
**1943 - 2023**

## **JENNY MACPHERSON NÉE BALL**

was born to WWII RAF bomber pilot, John Ball and his wife, Win, on the 4th of March, 1943, in Bulawayo in what was then Southern Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe.

She spent her formative years in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa and Northern Rhodesia - now Zambia. She met her future husband Ewen F. W. Macpherson (first cousin to the Late Sir William Macpherson of Blairgowrie) in the early 1960's, whom she married in 1966. She spent the rest of her adult life living on the family farm in Namitete, Malawi. Jenny had three sons, Duncan, Douglas and Derek, all of whom have families of their own.

At different times in her life Jenny was a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a great aunt and a sister-in-law. She was a student, a teacher, an accountant, a landlady, a confidant, a helper, an organiser, a benefactor, and friend to many. Her influence had a profound effect on innumerable people. Jenny Macpherson was loyal, principled, brave, held strong opinions, did not avoid confrontation, did not suffer fools gladly...and so much more!

On hearing the news of Jenny's departure one of the family's friends sent a message that said simply "a big tree has fallen". The analogy is profound. Trees live in forests - in communities. They provide shade, cover and protection. They provide sustenance and warmth. Jenny personified all of these things at various times in her life.

She was a powerful force in the lives of the Namitete Macphersons and is missed with heartfelt sadness. We are, however, grateful for Jenny's abiding faith in the Almighty and His promise that at "the trumpet call of God, the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thes 4:16).





On the 3rd of August, 2023, **GEORGE JOSEPH MACPHERSON JR** (86) of McLean, Virginia, a dedicated engineer, innovative thinker, and beloved family man, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at his home. Born on the 16th of June, 1937, in Brooklyn, NY, George's journey from humble beginnings to influential innovator speaks volumes about his perseverance, intelligence, and commitment.

George graduated from the University of Denver in 1959, earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. His remarkable career journey began at Martin Marietta Corporation. It then evolved through significant stints at Bellcomm and The Aerospace Corporation, culminating in over 40 years of dedicated service at MITRE, from which he only recently retired in May, 2023. During these pivotal years, George was integral to groundbreaking projects, including the development of the Enterprise Space Shuttle and the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), more popularly known as the Star Wars Program.

One of the most profound episodes in George's life was his survival of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, an

event that imprinted upon him the fragility of life and the imperative of living purposefully.

Beyond his professional achievements, George's greatest pride and joy was his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Anita McPherson. Their bond of mutual respect and love gave life to two wonderful daughters, Lara McPherson and Courtney Gwinup, the latter married to John C. Gwinup.

His legacy is further enshrined in the memories of his four adored grandchildren: Brandon Gwinup, Ashleigh Gwinup, Brittany Gwinup, and Caitlin Gwinup; four great grandchildren: Eveline Gwinup, Scarlett Gwinup, Hunter Gwinup, and Kash Knight; and a sister Carol Stamm.

George was an avid traveller, particularly enamoured with the enchanting charm of Europe. He relished the art, history, and culture that the continent had to offer. Among his cherished adventures were the annual pilgrimages



he made to the breathtaking landscapes of the Scottish Highlands. The serene beauty of the Highlands held a special place in his heart, and he treasured every moment spent amidst its majestic scenery. George's passion for travel enriched his life and left a lasting impression on all who knew him.



George's legacy is not just in the innovations he brought to his field but in the wisdom, warmth, and values he instilled in his family. He lived a life of purpose, and his impact, both professionally and personally, will be felt for generations.

Rest in peace, George. Your legacy of love, innovation, and wisdom will forever remain in our hearts.



**JEANNETTE  
EDIE LEVETT**

**1963 - 2023**

### **Forget Me Not**

**'No earthly change shall alter me,  
whate'er may be my lot.**

**My heart will still be true to thee,  
Then Oh, forget me not'**

"Touch not a cat but a glove", Jeannie, our Mum, would often say, relating the Clan Macpherson motto to many situations including the naming of one Levett family cat. Macpherson was discovered purely by chance down a drain pipe, hissing and scratching his way into my mother's arms. Renowned for her kind and nurturing nature, this wee puss was one of the many animals to have been nursed back to health by Jeannie.

Daughter of George and Pauline Edie (nee' Macpherson) Jeannie joined the Clan Macpherson Association New Zealand Southland Branch back in 1992. Jeannie had a natural interest in the history of the Clan and enjoyed organising and participating in many Clan activities including becoming Chairperson of the Southland Branch for a period of time.



Growing up, my siblings and I would perform our highland dancing or play our pipes at many clan occasions. I truly appreciate the genuine interest in tradition our mum instilled in us from a young age.

Many a Macpherson, local or not so local, has enjoyed Jeannie's hospitality. This hospitality was so kindly returned ten-fold when Mum and I ventured to the gathering at Newtonmore in August, 2023. "Flying by the seat of our pants", as Jeannie would say, we flew to Scotland, landing in Edinburgh, to meet Shelagh and Alastair. Though suffering from a terminal illness, this did not hinder Jeannie's spirit. It was a true thrill attending the Gathering, Mum only wished she had travelled sooner.

On the 30th of September, 2023, Jeannie lost her battle with cancer. She was incredibly brave, having endured a multitude of treatments and surgeries over the past two years, sacrificing all to preserve her life.

Known by many for her heart of gold, Jeannie had a relentlessly thoughtful nature and has enriched the lives of not only her family but all those around her. Jeannie is much loved and so dearly missed.



**Evie Levett - Jeannie's Daughter**

**ANN  
MARGARET  
MACPHERSON  
1942 - 2023**

**ANN MACPHERSON, NÉE HILLS**, of Aberfeldy, Scotland and formerly of Cluny House, Fleet, Hampshire, England, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on the 5th of June, 2023, after a brief illness. Ann was born on the 30th of

December, 1942, in Southend-on-Sea, England to Douglas and Agnes Hills. She married Colin James Macpherson in 1960 in Kitwe, Zambia, who predeceased her in 2006. They settled in Hampshire where they raised their three children, Gillian, Carol, and Robert. The Macpherson family, through Colin's parents, James Cruickshank Macpherson and Cecille (Betty) Macpherson, lovingly cared for Shanvaal in Glentruim for over 35 years, a historic house and croft nestled in the valley below the Clan Macpherson Cairn on the Glentruim Estate, Newtonmore. Many wonderful family holidays were spent at Shanvaal, a place where Ann loved and treasured her time with her beloved husband Colin and their growing young family. She is remembered for her dedication and loyalty throughout her life, having worked at Bramshill Police College, Hampshire, for over 20 years and serving as



church warden and choir member at St Mary's Church, Winchfield, and at St. Andrew's Church, Strathtay. Ann also served in the British Red Cross Society, together with her husband, Colin. Her love for horticulture created a beautiful garden at her home in Aberfeldy. Ann is survived by her children Gillian (Keith) from England, Carol (Ruaraidh) from Canada, Robert (Sarah) from Scotland and Australia, her grandchildren Stephen, Paul, Laura, Holly, David, John, Sophie, and Breagh, together with her great-grandchildren Jessica, Thea, Elijah, Lilian, Everlea, Montana, Mcaleigh, Luna, and Rowan. She is also survived by brothers, Colin (Margaret) and Peter (Sandy) Hills and by her nephew, Peter Youngblood-Hills. The funeral was held on the 15th of June, 2023, at St. Andrew's Church, Strathtay, Scotland, and a service of Thanksgiving was held on the 23rd of September, 2023, at St. Mary's Church, Winchfield, where she was laid to rest with her beloved husband, Colin. A Macpherson family bench with a plaque engraved in memory of Ann, Colin and family, sits beside the Clan Macpherson Cairn. Ann is fondly remembered and dearly missed by her family and all who knew her.



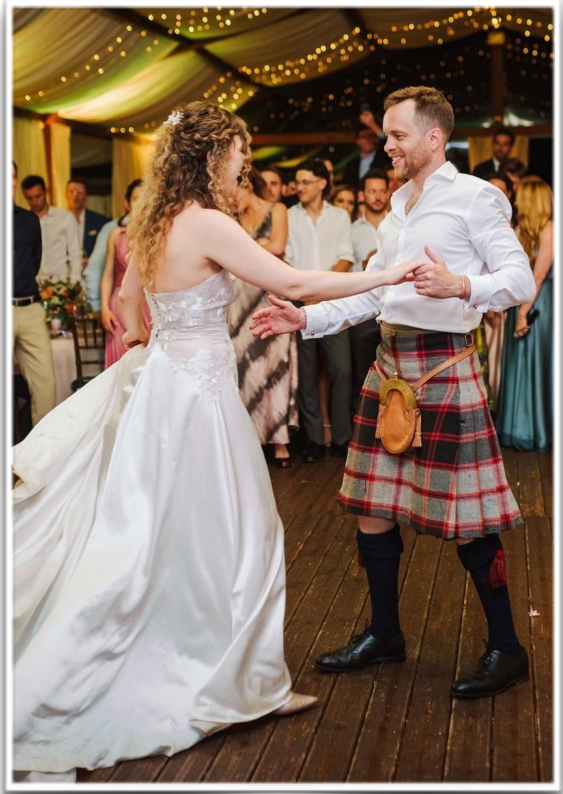
# CONGRATULATIONS

Former Museum Curator, Ruis Alcorn and his wife, Ceit, would like to announce the marriage of their daughter, Morrigan, to Mr Nathan Mcllwraith of Denny, Stirlingshire. The happy couple tied the knot on the 18th of July, 2023, in bright sunshine on the shores of Loch Venachar, Callander. Morrigan is the current Social Media Manager for the Clan Macpherson Museum.



*Nathan Mcllwraith and Morrigan.*

Will Macpherson of the England and Wales Branch, and Antonia Mihaylova were married in Sofia, Bulgaria, on the 10th of June, 2023.



*Will Macpherson and Antonia.*



Ruis and Ceit Alcorn are very happy to announce the safe arrival of their first great grandchild, Ares Lee Clowting, on the 22nd of June, 2023, in Perth, Western Australia.



### Four Generations

Clockwise from bottom left - Jean Macpherson, Alex Macpherson (née Burke-Smith), Tom Macpherson, Francesca Macpherson, Valerie Macpherson (née MacRae), Angus Macpherson and Marigold MacRae.

# KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 12th JUNE

Neil McPherson, a long-serving member of the CMA who lives on Australia's famed Gold Coast, was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia in the first Birthday Honours list in the reign of King Charles III.

A brief summary of Neil's citation which appeared in the Gold Coast Bulletin, read:

*"Mr Neil Athol McPherson. This Runaway Bay resident has been recognised for his service to the community through many organisations. Mr McPherson founded the Rotary Club of Ashmore in 1990 and was an active member until 2015, serving as president from 1997 to 1998. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise for a number of years and was named life member of the Surfers Paradise Apex Club in 1982.*

*Mr McPherson was admitted as solicitor of the Queensland Supreme Court in 1967 and later to the NSW Supreme Court and the High Court of Australia".*





Attached to Neil's citation was a comprehensive list of organisations in which he was involved, including Rotary membership and President of the Rotary Clubs of Surfers Paradise and Ashmore, membership and holder of several offices in Apex Australia. Other community involvement comprised active involvement in the Scouting movement, the Australian Citizen Military Force (CMF), and the role of Secretary of the Residents' Committee, TriCare Runaway Bay Complex, where he and his wife Lynn reside. Neil was also selected as a member of a Rotary Group Study Exchange team that visited India and Sri Lanka in 1967.

Neil's professional career included admission as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1967 and later to the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia. He has been a Notary Public since 1979 and President of the Society of Notaries, Queensland, in 1995/1996 and 2008/2009, commissioner of Oaths, and former Ambassador to the Library of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lambeth Palace, London to research the early history of Notaries Public in Queensland.

On a lighter note, Neil was Chairman and Secretary of Australian Bartenders Guild, from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, and was made a Life Trustee of the Guild.



**AUSTRALIA  
DAY  
2023  
HONOURS**

Maree McPherson, wife of CMA member, Warren McPherson of Traralgon (Victoria), business woman, executive, leader and author, received a Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2023 Australia Day Honours.

Philip Hopkins, writing in the *Latrobe Valley Express*, said that Maree, 57, had a plethora of roles in the Traralgon and Gippsland community and deserved her award for service to the community through a range of organisations. These included leadership positions and senior executive roles in local and Gippsland government and the Rotary Club of Traralgon Central, often with an emphasis on helping women. Maree said she was obviously happy to receive the award, but when told of it, “I was so stunned. I’ve spent a lot of time nominating other women for awards,” she said. This time it was her turn.

Maree's emphasis on supporting women in different ways had its beginnings in her first job as a young welfare worker. She grew up in Traralgon, attending Kosciuszko Street Primary School and the then Traralgon High School, before doing welfare studies at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education. She later did a graduate



business diploma in labour and management relations at Monash University, and post-graduate studies at Swinburne University in organisational development and coaching.

Maree has been Chair of Gippsland Regional Partnership from 2016 through to 2020, a regional manager at Gipps Dairy, a regional manager for Gippsland Anglicare, and has had senior roles with the Gippsland Community Leadership Program and the Gippsland Area Consultative Committee.


She is currently ambassador for Gippslandia and author of two publications – *Cutting Through the Glass*

*Ceiling – Women Creating Possibility in Regional Australia* (2017) and *Worthy* (2021). A professional certified coach and member of the International Coach Federation, Maree has run her own leadership consultancy since 2014, and is an approved provider for Femeconomy, where she has been a member since 2017.

Other executive roles include being a member of the Community and Further Education Board Victoria, and a regional co-ordinator with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and Chief Executive of the Victorian Local Governance Association from 2009 to 2013. Other managerial roles include being a Fellow of the Australian New Zealand Institute of Managers and Leaders and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Institute of Public Administration Australia.

In her home base, Maree has been a member of the Rotary Club of Traralgon Central since 2006. She was the first woman president from 2009 to 2010, also serving as club president in 2016/17 and 2019/20 and is a Double Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow.

Maree's husband Warren said, "I'm being biased, but Maree has done some amazing work during her working life and carried the McPherson name with pride.'



**GRANT OF  
ARMS TO  
JOHN L.  
MACPHERSON**

**Letters Patent presented by the Lord Lyon on the 3rd of August, 2023, describe the Grant of Arms to Branch Chairman and CMA Vice-President John L. Macpherson.**

The Arms are described thus: *Parted per fess embattled Or and Azure, two cannon barrels in saltire Sable between a dexter hand holding in pale and a cross crosslet fitchée Gules in chief, a galley Or mast, oars in action and sails furled Proper flagged in base. Above the shield is placed an Helm befitting his degree with a Mantling Azure doubled Or, and on a Wreath of the liveries is set for Crest a demi wild cat affrontée Proper holding in its dexter paw a broadsword Or and resting its sinister paw on a seven-pointed star Argent, and in an Escrol over the same this Motto 'Gu Bràth Furachail'.*

*"Gu Bràth Furachail"* translates to 'Forever Vigilant', a response to the Chief's Motto, 'Touch Not the Cat But a Glove'.

Credit for the design of the Arms is, in large part, due to the late R. Gordon Macpherson, whose great expertise in Heraldic matters is well known. E.g. the sword

held by the wild cat recognises John L.'s and his family's military history. The seven-pointed star Argent (silver) signifies Australia's Commonwealth star as seen on the national flag. The crenelation (embattled) on the shield recognises Cawdor Castle and Fort George, from where his ancestral families originated, while the two cannon barrels in saltire Sable represent 28 years' service in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

The Lord Lyon, Dr Joe Morrow presented the Letters Patent to John L.'s son Robert near Perth en route to the CMA Gathering.



## A NEW MEMBER

Carly MacPherson (5), daughter of Dr Mairi and Dr Seamus MacPherson of Hill of Fearn, Scottish Highlands, attended her first Clan Gathering in 2023, and recently received her CMA membership certificate.



"I is cat now", she exclaimed when she saw the certificate - and it now hangs framed in our hallway. Carly arrived in Fearn fully-formed in 2022, and has been enjoying getting to know lots of cousins over the past 18 months.



# SIR WILLIAM AND LADY SHEILA MACPHERSON OF CLUNY MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND

EWEN S. L.  
MACPHERSON

**Registered  
Scottish  
Charity  
Number  
SC035718**



SIR WILLIAM  
& LADY SHEILA  
MACPHERSON  
OF CLUNY

MUSEUM  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND

ESTD 2004



I am writing this annual report on the 30th of October 2023, the 20th anniversary of the unexpected and untimely death of Sheila, Lady Cluny, the beloved wife of Sir William Macpherson of Cluny. The Sheila, Lady Cluny Museum Endowment Fund was set up in early 2004 by Sir William with an initial generous donation. Since that time the income from the portfolio has proved to be an essential part of the financial running of the museum. - particularly so with respect to the Endowment's objective



of providing professional cover for the curator on their days off duty during the season and thus allowing the museum to remain open.

However, in recent years, donations to the Endowment Fund have been much reduced—understandably so, as the emphasis on fund-raising has been on the fabric and refurbishment of the building. The capital sum invested has remained unchanged for the past three years at £107,200, and in 2023 enabled £3,384 to be donated to the Clan Macpherson Museum Trust for the specific objectives of the Endowment Fund.

After twenty years, it is appreciated that fewer CMA members will now recall Lady Cluny. She was a warm, gracious and caring person who did so much for the life of the Clan Association and Clan Museum with her support for Sir William Macpherson of Cluny. Members of the Clan Association will recall Sir William as our highly respected and loved Clan Chief of over 50 years and who died on the 14th of February, 2021. At the Annual General Meeting of the Endowment Fund, held during the Clan Gathering in August, 2023, it was proposed by Annie Le Roy-Lewis, daughter of Sir William and Sheila, Lady Cluny, that the name of the Endowment Fund should be changed to include her father. She said that this had the full support of her family, including the present Cluny. The proposal was unanimously approved by those present.

With the backing of John Barton's legal support, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) approved the application for the Endowment Fund name to be changed to Sir William & Lady Sheila Macpherson of Cluny Museum Endowment Fund.

It is hoped that members of the Clan Association will remember Sir William and Lady Cluny by supporting the renamed Endowment Fund. All donations, large and small, will be most welcome and should be sent to the

Honorary Treasurer, Mrs Valerie Macpherson,  
c/o Clan Macpherson Museum, Main Street, Newtonmore,  
Inverness-shire, PH20 1DE.

**Email: [museum.treasurer@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:museum.treasurer@clan-macpherson.org)**

**Donations are eligible for Gift Aid in the UK, and USA members may be able to claim a deduction from US taxes. All donations will be acknowledged.**

# THE CMA GATHERING 2024

## **KINGUSSIE AND NEWTONMORE - SCOTLAND**

**FRIDAY 2nd of AUGUST - MONDAY 5th of AUGUST**

The Gathering this year will follow the traditional format. We shall be using the Duke of Gordon Hotel located in Kingussie for the Ball, the Supper, and the Ceilidh, which means there is a very firm limit on numbers attending these events. Surprisingly the Gathering takes quite a bit of time and effort to organise; please be kind to us and book early.

## **CMA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024**

CMA meetings for Trustees, MAC, and Council Members will take place prior to the Gathering via on-line conference. Check with your Committee Chairman for the scheduled details. A time has been set aside for these committees to meet in person as an informal gathering on Friday.

## **DRESS CODE**

Most events at the Gathering do not have a dress code - just wear what you feel comfortable in for the occasion - the exceptions being the Dinner and Ball, and the Saturday March. The Dinner and Ball is Highland Dress /

Black Tie, and the March on Saturday afternoon is Smart Day Wear (kilt with jacket and tie for men; smart tartan knee-length, or slightly longer, skirt for women). If headgear is worn, please ensure it is Highland. Remember that this is a formal march supporting our Chief, and attracts attention from local people and visitors, so please, neither mini nor full length skirts, no trainers/sneakers, sandals, baseball caps or other casual items, and no pets.

## **ACCOMMODATION AT THE DUKE OF GORDON**

The Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie, has kindly offered us a preferential rate of £72.50 pp bed & breakfast and a rate of £30.00 single supplement pp bed & Breakfast for the Gathering weekend.

For further information: Tel: +44 (0)1540 661302 or E-mail: [reception@dukeofgordonhotel.co.uk](mailto:reception@dukeofgordonhotel.co.uk). Booking via their website will not give you the special Macpherson price. Please book your hotel room by the 1st of June, 2024. The room block we have at the Duke of Gordon will be released on the 1st of June, 2024, and the remaining rooms will be opened to the public for booking.

## **PAID EVENTS**

Numbers are limited for the paid events and tickets will be supplied on a first come, first served basis. If fully subscribed a waiting list will operate. Members may have

up to two guests, and any guest over that number will be put on a waiting list and spaces allocated shortly before the event. If you should have a change of plans, please notify the Secretary by email on the following address: [CMA.Secretary@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:CMA.Secretary@clan-macpherson.org) as soon as possible if booking tickets are not required, to allow for speedy re-allocation.

**Please, we ask that those living in the UK pay by cheque or bank transfer.** If you live in the UK please complete the online booking form and select “pay by bank transfer”. You will receive an e-mail acknowledging your booking and giving the account details and a reference number to send to your bank. Payment will not be taken until you do that. If you like the convenience of online booking but do not want to use bank transfer, simply follow the instructions above, but ignore the email when it comes in and send a cheque, with your name and address, to the address below.

## **BOOKINGS**

**Bookings have commenced:** Online application is preferable. You can find more details on the Clan website - [www.clan-macpherson.org/gathering/](http://www.clan-macpherson.org/gathering/). More information regarding events can be found on the website or please email the Secretary, Mrs. Robyn McPherson Rein with your questions - [CMA.Secretary@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:CMA.Secretary@clan-macpherson.org).

**Postal bookings:** Please complete the Ticket Application form (or print the online printable form) and send it, with a cheque payable to the Clan Macpherson Association, to the **Treasurer**, Mrs. Annie Le Roy-Lewis, at The Old Manse, Trochry, PH8 0DY, Perthshire, Scotland or by email to - [CMA.treasurer@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:CMA.treasurer@clan-macpherson.org).

**Cancellations:** To secure a **full refund**, you **must cancel** your booking before the **1st of July, 2024**. Any cancellations after that date will be handled on an individual basis. Your tickets will be put on a list for last minute bookings. If the tickets are not used, no refunds will be given. **After the 12th of July, 2024, the banquet numbers will be finalised, and no refunds will be given.**

**Programme:** The programme is subject to change. The final Programme will be provided to you at registration. We look forward to seeing you in Scotland for the 2024 Gathering!

## **TICKETS FOR THE GATHERING**

Tickets will be available for collection at the registration table on Friday in the lobby at the Duke of Gordon, Kingussie. A table plan will be drawn up for the Friday Dinner & Ball and displayed in the lobby as well. Please note, in the appropriate place on the booking form, any people you would like to sit with. We will do our best to accommodate your wishes, sadly it may not always be

possible. Your party, i.e. the people named on your booking form, will be seated together unless you request otherwise. If you have any young people (early teens to 20-ish and approximately 20 - 30) who may prefer to sit with similarly aged people, please indicate both their wish and age. The Reception, Ball and Dinner on Friday night is not normally suitable for children under 10 years of age.

## **TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**

The distance between Kingussie and Newtonmore is three miles. There is a very limited number of taxis and no Ubers. You are encouraged to rent a car or share-a-ride. There will be a sheet of those who have a car and are willing to share-a-ride to various events during the Gathering weekend as parking can be limited. The sheet will be found at the Registration Desk. No rides are guaranteed. Please check personally with those who are offering the ride and arrange a pickup location.

**Please tick as applicable**

I am a CMA Member

I am a guest of a CMA member

# PROGRAMME

## Clan Macpherson Association 2024 Gathering

Thursday	<b>Clan Chattan AGM &amp; Dinner- Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness</b> - Evening optional for members of Clan Chattan RSVP - online <a href="http://www.clanchattan.org.uk">www.clanchattan.org.uk</a>
Friday	<b>Registration - Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie</b> 08:00 - 15:00
	<b>Welcome Meeting for Newcomers - Duke of Gordon Hotel Ball Room</b> - 09:00 - 10:00
	<b>Officer's Council &amp; MAC Get-together - Duke of Gordon Hotel Ball Room</b> - 10:15 - 11:45
	<b>Duke of Gordon Ballroom opened as casual seating for Gathering</b> - 12:00 -14:00
	<b>Dance Practice - Duke of Gordon Hotel Ball Room</b> 14:00 - 15:30
	<b>Shinty Home and Away! - Hugh Dan MacLennan BBC Broadcaster and Author.</b> Location - Talla Nan Ros Center (Across from the Duke of Gordon) 16:00 - 17:30
	<b>Sir Tommy Macpherson's Memorial Shinty Match</b> - The Dell - Starts at 18:00
	<b>Chief's Reception, Group Photo, Dinner, and Highland Ball - Duke of Gordon Hotel</b> - Reception 19:00 - Group Photo Front of the Duke of Gordon (weather permitting) 19:45 - Dinner will be served at 20:00 - Dancing until 01:00



Saturday	<b>AGM of the Clan Macpherson Association -</b> Village Hall, Newtonmore - 10:30
	<b>Newtonmore Highland Games -</b> Held at the Eilan 10:30 - Pay at the gate
	<b>Clan March from Old Ralia to The Eilan -</b> Marchers to meet at Old Ralia at 13:45. The step off is 14:00. Games entry fee will be collected here prior to the march. The March will be followed by convivialty in the Clan Tent.
	<b>Stovies Supper -</b> Duke of Gordon Hotel, Ballroom 18:00
	<b>Ceilidh -</b> Duke of Gordon Hotel, Ballroom 19:30
Sunday	<b>Church Service -</b> Kingussie Parish Church 10:30
	<b>Informal Picnic -</b> Cairn Site, Glentruim -12:30
	<b>Walk and Talk -</b> From the Cairn 14:00 - 16:00
	<b>Dinner -</b> by personal arrangement
Mon	<b>Talk about Ewan Macpherson "Cluny of the '45"</b> <b>Clan Macpherson Museum -</b> Newtonmore - 9:30

## TICKET APPLICATION FORM 2024 GATHERING

Name	
Address	
Telephone	Mobile:
	Tel:
E-mail	
Total No. in Party	

## COST OF EVENTS

Event	Price Adult	Price Child	No. of Adults	No. of Children	£
Chief's Reception, Dinner and Highland Ball (Children 10 - 16)	£57.00	£33.00			£
Stovies Supper and Ceilidh (Children 5 - 16)	£15.00	£12.00			£
Ceilidh Only	£5.00	£3.50			
				Total	£

## MEAL CHOICE FOR THE DINNER AND HIGHLAND BALL

	A	B	C	D (Vegetarian)
Starter	<b>Crab and Smoked Haddock Risotto</b> with piccalilli puree and spiced onion crisps	<b>Pulled Pork Croquette</b> with pork granola and cider jus	<b>Carrot and Ginger Velouté</b> with ginger crème fraiche and carrot crisps	<b>Cheese Souffle</b> with pickled fennel salad
Main Course	<b>Pressed Lamb Shoulder</b> with panisse, cavolo nero chips and parmesan crust	<b>Garlic and Thyme Stuffed Chicken Supreme</b> with celeriac puree, potato fondant and red wine jus	<b>Grilled Salmon</b> with potato gratin, broccoli puree, red pesto and caramelised shallots	<b>Celeriac Turnover</b> with remoulade, burnt apple puree and parsley and hazelnut pesto
Dessert	<b>Dark Chocolate Tart</b> with lime and ginger butterscotch and chocolate shard	<b>Passion Fruit Vacherin</b> with passion fruit curd and French meringue	<b>Pineapple Tarte Tatin</b> with pineapple crisp and black coconut ice cream	<b>Cheese Selection</b> with chutney, fruit and crackers

**Please Insert Appropriate Letter from the Meal Choice for the Dinner and Highland Ball.**

Name as you want it to appear on your badge (for everyone please, not just those attending the Ball)	Age of Child	Meal Choice			1st Gathering Please tick
		Starter	Main	Dessert	

**If possible I/we would like to sit with the following people of Friday night.**

**Mobility / Access / Dietary requirements - please note below.**

# SUPPER BUFFET MENU FOR SATURDAY NIGHT

## **Venison Casserole**

With Mini Savory Scone, Carrots and Green Beans

## **Stovies**

With Beetroot & Oakcakes

## **Vegetarian Haggis**

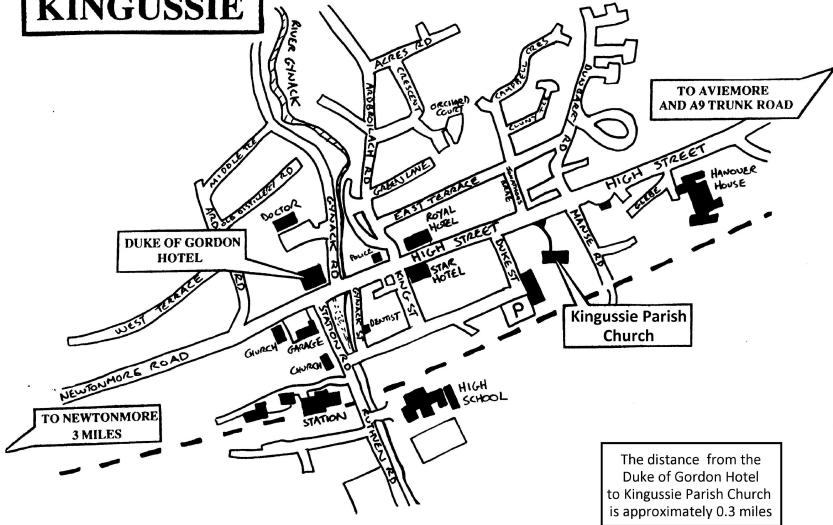
With Neeps & Tatties

Please indicate likely attendance for events not requiring payment. This is for planning purposes only.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>No.</b>
Friday	Welcome Meeting for Newcomers	
	The Officers, Council, and MAC Get Together	
	Dance Practice	
	Shinty - Home and Away	
Saturday	Annual General Meeting of Clan Macpherson Association	
	Clan Macpherson March	
Sunday	Church Service - Kingussie Parish Church	
	Informal Picnic at Cairn Site	
Monday	Talk about Ewan Macpherson "Cluny of the '45" Clan Macpherson Museum	

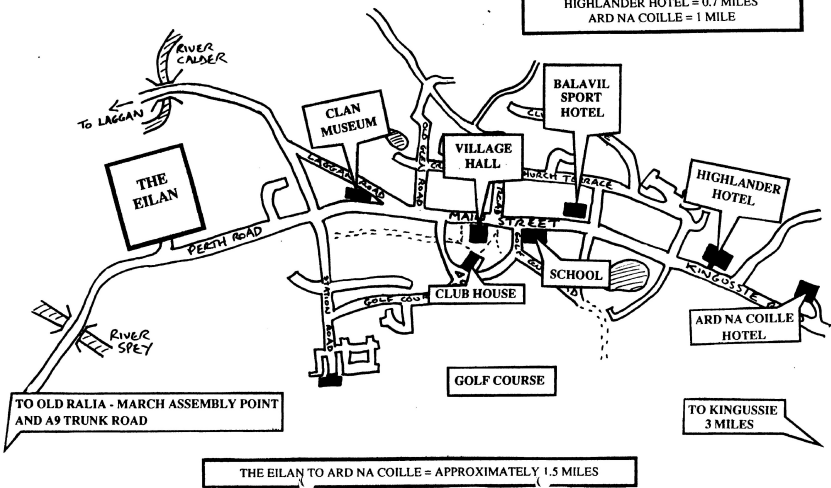
# A MAP OF KINGUSSIE AND NEWTONMORE

## KINGUSSIE



The distance from the Duke of Gordon Hotel to Kingussie Parish Church is approximately 0.3 miles

## NEWTONMORE



**DISTANCES FROM CLAN MUSEUM**  
 OLD RALIA = 0.8 MILES  
 THE EILAN = 0.5 MILES  
 VILLAGE HALL = 0.3 MILES  
 BALAVIL SPORT HOTEL = 0.4 MILES  
 HIGHLANDER HOTEL = 0.7 MILES  
 ARD NA COILLE = 1 MILE

THE EILAN TO ARD NA COILLE = APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES

Please be mindful that the distance between Kingussie and Newtonmore is three miles.

Directions to the Cairn will be included in your registration packet.

## **CHANGE OF MEMBER DETAILS**

Notification of death and change of name and/or address should be sent to the Registrar and, if resident outside the UK, to your Branch's Membership Secretary/Registrar. Notice of death may also be sent to the Secretary for inclusion in the obituaries for the AGM, and to the Editor with an obituary for inclusion in Creag Dhubh.

## **DATA PROTECTION ACT**

Personal data provided by a member to the Clan Macpherson Association (CMA) will be used solely for the purpose of communicating with the member about information and events relevant to the membership and matters related to the organisation of the CMA. It will not be passed to any third party for any other purpose unless this is required by law. Any member may apply to the Registrar at any time to ascertain the accuracy and content of data held. Any information found to be incorrect will be corrected as quickly as possible.

We hold and process members' data based on our legitimate interest to serve the objectives as set out in our constitution where such interests are not overridden by your interests or fundamental rights and freedoms, and we will protect the data we hold from unauthorised use by any third party. We also process information where this is necessary for compliance with our legal obligations.

You have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office about anything relating to the processing of your personal information by the CMA. You can contact the ICO via its website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

## **ADVERTISING**

Please contact the editor  
Mrs Shannon Macpherson  
at [cma.editor@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:cma.editor@clan-macpherson.org)  
or the Treasurer,  
Mrs Annie Le Roy-Lewis  
at [cma.treasurer@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:cma.treasurer@clan-macpherson.org)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Africa, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, UK, US and 'other location' members can now renew online.

A spouse/partner of a member or duly qualified applicant for membership is eligible for full Life, Term or Annual Membership. For further information please contact the Registrar. Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st of January, and should be remitted to their local Branch by members in the US, Canada, and Australia or to the Registrar.



## **EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Shannon Macpherson (Editor), Ewen S.L. MacPherson, Annie Le Roy-Lewis, TAS Macpherson, Sandy Macpherson, Shelagh Macpherson Noble, Suzy Macpherson, John Barton and Bill Macpherson.

## **CLAN MACPHERSON MUSEUM TRUST**

**Registered Scottish Charity Number SC020005**

**Trustees** Bruce JS Macpherson (Convenor), Angus CS Macpherson, Annie Le Roy-Lewis, Donna 'Dee McPherson' Rucks, Ewen SL MacPherson, Ian Macpherson, Alexander Macpherson Yr of Pitmain, CMA Chairman ex officio.

## **MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

All Trustees plus Allan Macpherson Fletcher (Chairman), Adam de Totth (Secretary) Valerie Macpherson (Treasurer), Bo Gillie, Chris Gillies, George McPherson, Gunter Mascheck, Helen Barton, Mary Mackenzie, Morrigan Alcorn.

## **CLAN MACPHERSON TRUST**

**Registered Scottish Charity Number SC010820**

**Trustees** Alastair Macpherson of Pitmain and CMA Chairman, ex-officio.

# **SIR WILLIAM AND LADY SHEILA MACPHERSON OF CLUNY MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND**

**Registered Scottish Charity Number SC035718**

**Trustees** Ewen SL MacPherson (Chairman), Annie Le Roy-Lewis, and CMA Chairman, ex-officio.

## **ALL TRUSTS AND MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Honorary Secretary**

Adam de Toth

Museum.Secretary@clan-macpherson.org

### **Honorary Treasurer**

Valerie Macpherson

Museum.Treasurer@clan-macpherson.org

## **ACCREDITATION MENTOR**

Daniel Cottam of Grantown Museum

## **THE CLAN CHATTAN ASSOCIATION**

### **Correspondence Secretary**

Margaret MacBain

association@clanchattan.org.uk

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