



# Clan Macpherson Association (Australian Branch)

Website [www.clan-macpherson.org](http://www.clan-macpherson.org)



## October 2016 Newsletter



### **The 2016 'Platinum' Gathering 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Formation of the CMA at Newtonmore**

*Was a roaring success. Over 350 cousins from 14 countries attended; braved some typical Scottish weather, and generally enjoyed one another's company in a wide range of activities in Edinburgh and Badenoch.*

*The Platinum Dhubh was preceded by the annual Clan Chattan AGM and Dinner held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August at the Lochardil House Hotel in Inverness.*

### **The 2017 CMA Gathering Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

**PLUS**

**on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

join Cluny at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and assist The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs in bringing to life the past and present story of the Scottish Clans and families.

'Clan Macpherson' night is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August following the Gathering.

150 seats have been allocated to Clan Macpherson, and can be booked individually on the Tattoo website in due course. More details will follow.

<http://www.edintattoo.co.uk/the-experience>

## **The Australian Contingent at the Platinum Dhubh**

Possibly the largest ever Australian contingent of 28 attended, and included:

Adam de Totth, (Chapman ACT)

Ailsa McPherson, (Queanbeyan NSW) and her sister Pam and Bill Rhemrev, (Duffy ACT)

Christine Southcombe, (nee Macpherson) and husband Nick (Watsons Bay NSW)

David and Sally McPherson and son David jnr, (Templestowe Vic)

Don, John and Peter McPherson, sisters Dianne and brother in law Danny Cashin, Helen McPherson, and cousin Peggy O'Connor (nee McPherson), (Newcastle NSW)

Graham R McPherson, (Brisbane Qld)

Malcom and Carol Macpherson and Ian & Jillian Wakeman, (nee Macpherson) (Warrnambool Vic)

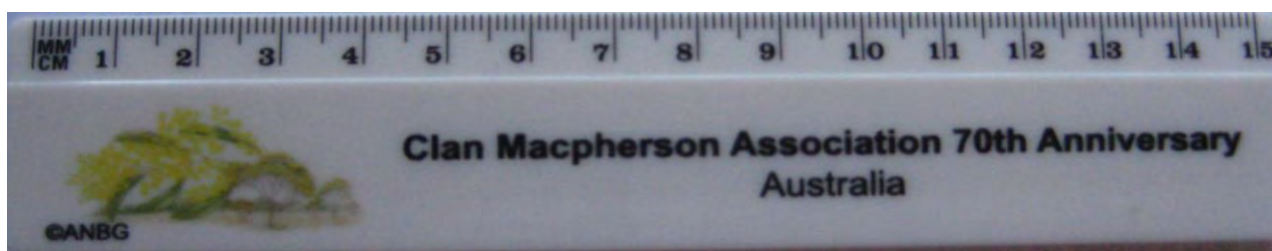
Robert and Eva Macpherson and daughter Skye, (Rangeville Qld), and son Iain and Janelle Macpherson, (Goondiwindi Qld)

Robert Macpherson, (son of John L, from Bern, Switzerland) and

John L Macpherson, (Bowral NSW)

Included in the Gathering Welcome bag was a 15cm ruler adorned with the Australian floral emblem, the Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha*, applied in Edinburgh with the approval of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. More information about our national flower and other emblems can be found at:

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/emblems/aust.emblem.html>



### **From the CMA Chairman; Jean Macpherson Duffy**

‘The season is definitely changing here in northern California. In fact, today we had the first hard rain bringing the hint that winter is around the corner!

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, I will head to Scotland for our Autumn Executive meeting. We will be dissecting the Platinum Dhubh and sharing all the great memories of that wonderful August event.

Because the marquee was such a success, and with the encouragement of all, we have applied for a smaller grant from the government which might allow us to lease a smaller marquee for next year.

We will also be considering the application for a new European Branch. Several who live out with the UK have prepared a constitution that will be discussed. However, the biggest source of excitement is the invitation from the Edinburgh Tattoo to Cluny. We have been invited to partake in the theme of global Scotland for the 2017 Tattoo. Cluny very wisely selected the Tuesday after our 2017 Gathering for our appearance at the Tattoo. This time works perfectly with our ball on August 4<sup>th</sup>, the AGM and march on the 5<sup>th</sup>, church and picnic on the 6<sup>th</sup>, clan walk on the 7<sup>th</sup> and then to Edinburgh for the Tattoo on the 8<sup>th</sup>. What a full and delightful schedule.

As part of the programme the Tattoo and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs have joined together to involve Scottish Clans and Families. Clan Chiefs will attend the Tattoo across the August run and invite clan members to attend on their night wearing their tartan. The 'Macpherson' night is the Tuesday following the Gathering. As part of the show the Tattoo will look to bring to life the past and present story of the Scottish Clans and Families. Their importance as part of Scotland's national heritage and future identity will be on display.

Until next time...

Blessings,' Jean

*“2017 will celebrate our country’s unique history and heritage with a programme of activity aimed at supporting and driving the nation’s tourism and events sector,” claims the Scottish Government. Funds are already being allocated. Supported events will be designed to celebrate the nation’s buildings, visitor attractions, archaeological sites -- as well as Scotland’s diverse stories, traditions and culture, with a focus on engagement and participation. It is anticipated that the year will bring with it a lot of opportunities for Clans to engage with and embrace these themes and we understand that several clan bodies are in receipt of funding which they will use to further the aims of the Year. Supported events this year, 2016, which was the Year of Architecture, have included the Festival of Harris Tweed on Lewis, the Loch Ness International Knitting Festival in Inverness and the Graphic Design Festival in Glasgow.*

## **The Hill Race to Creag Dhubh**

25yr old David McPherson (Junior) from Templestowe (Vic) travelled to Newtonmore with his parents David John and Sally McPherson to attend the Platinum Dhubh. As a health and fitness enthusiast in Australia, David jnr decided that, for the experience, he would like to join the hill race which is held each year at the Newtonmore Highland Games Gathering and entails approximately an 8 kilometre run through the rocky Scottish Highlands in Badenoch and up to the peak of Creag Dhubh. After marching with the Clan Macpherson groups down the hill from Old Ralia, David changed in a car from his kilt and highland gear to appropriate dress to join the hill race. The day was wet with drizzling rain, and the race lived up to its reputation as one of the toughest hill and cross country runs ever, with wet and slippery conditions which

made the going tough and treacherous.

The experienced veteran runners came in almost half an hour before the main field. This was the first hill climb race for David jnr and he said it was a lot tougher than he had expected with numerous ravines, crevices and water crossings, not to mention



steep hill climbing, and precarious conditions during the descent. The winner of the race had won three times before and is a specialist who finished in approximately 25 minutes, well before the main field which was made up of male and female competitors. David said of the run that he would like to try it again, but one would need to be fit and very agile to join a run like this.

## **New Members**

Shirlee McPherson, Jackadgery NSW (Annual)

Christine Lewis, Littlehampton SA (Annual)

Don McPherson, Whitebridge NSW (Life)

Rosemary Howard (nee McPherson), Roseville NSW (Life)

Krille Wandel (Life) and family, Henrietta Birkedal (Assoc Life) and sons

Andreas and Alexander from Denmark.

## Wesley's Poem

Just before dawn on the 25th April, 1915 men from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed on the beaches of the Gallipoli Peninsula as part of the amphibious invasion of the peninsula while British and French forces landed at Cape Helles. The combined Allies attack was meant to capture the forts that guarded the straits of the Dardanelles in anticipation of an advance to Constantinople.

This was the first time that Australians had served as Australians. Previous campaigns in South Africa (Boer War) and the Boxer Rebellion had been fought as a number of separate colonial forces within the British Empire. Writers of the



time penned that Australia had come of age and was able to stand by on its own.

For Australians and New Zealanders 25th April each year is the most sacred of days to all those that hold freedom dear.

For the last 9 years I have driven the tracks and trails of the Victorian high country with the Shoalhaven 4-wheel drive club each November, camping every night under canvas. Every twist and turn in the tracks reveal magnificent views and vistas that are hidden for most of the year, locked away from the public as the area is above the snow line and becomes impassible due to the winter snows.

In the footsteps of great Australian poets, one cannot but be inspired to try and pen a few

words; moved by the views, the experience and the camaraderie of those that share the trip with you. Every year I try and record my time in this unique landscape in words and in rhyme.

As we assembled on Remembrance Day (11th November 2015) in the century of the anniversary of the ANAZC landing I thought I would try to pay homage to the men and women who gave so much.

Just after dawn on 11th November, 2015 our little group gathered at Craig's Hut (made famous in the Banjo Paterson poem and movie "The Man from Snowy River") to commemorate the 97th anniversary of the armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18).

## *Their Mothers' Arms*

They went to foreign lands to fight  
Against the enemy and all his might,  
On the ocean, in the air or face to face  
To put their foe back in his place.

100 years ago our nation stopped and sighed  
To remember sons and daughters who had died  
On Flanders field, the soil turned red  
The life force flowing from the dead.

It is only apt that we stop and pause  
To remember those who gave to the cause,  
Their legacy, this great free land  
Of mountain, river, sea and sand.

On the day we say 'lest we forget'  
And honour them all for this great debt.  
Not to remember all that death  
To pause, reflect and take a breath.

Solider, sailor, airman, nurse  
They fought for country, not for purse,  
To keep this land free of fear  
So we enjoy this trip each year.

On mountain tops we rest a while,  
Some will dwell, and some will smile,  
As we remember those gone before,  
Their lasting gift now set in lore.

The war to end all wars has come and gone  
But mankind's greed brings more along,  
And our soldiers are still going away  
Across the waters, even today.

As we close, look over my shoulder,  
And take a moment for that soldier  
In the desert of Afghanistan,  
And speed God's love o'er the ocean's wide span.

Pray to your God to end this madness  
That brings no joy, but only sadness.  
Take them away from danger and harm;  
Bring them home to their Mothers' Arms.

## **Presentation to Cluny and the Clan Museum**

During the presentation of the Branch report to the Annual General Meeting of the Association (CMA) on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August the opportunity was taken to make presentations to Cluny and the Clan Macpherson Museum. Firstly, to Cluny, a tea towel depicting the three Macphersons (William Macpherson, artist Margaret Preston (nee McPherson) and benefactress Helen Macpherson Smith) and a map of early colonial New South Wales which shows Mount Macpherson near Tilpa on the Darling River. Readers will have seen reference to the tea towels arranged by Heather Smallbone and Helen Johnson during the Scottish Diaspora display. However, it was thought that washing-up at Newton Castle might be made a little easier if Cluny had an extra tea towel. The map showing Mount Macpherson, which is located at -31.018595, 144.01223 reminds us of the naming of that small mountain (260m high) in western New South Wales by the great Scottish explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell who named the mountain after Cluny's great great-great-grandfather William who lived in Australia for some 35 years (1829-1864) having arrived here in 1829 with Governor Darling.

The significance of Mount Macpherson might be remembered by those who travel by international air, and recall that the interactive maps in aircraft which track the route of aircraft invariably show Mount Macpherson near Tilpa on the Darling River. The traveller gains some reassurance from this map that after an extended long journey by air, one is only about an hour and a half out from landing at Kingsford Smith Airport Sydney.

A second presentation was made to the Clan Museum. Ewen MacPherson accepted a copy of the Second Edition of the Official Guide to the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry and two tea towels depicting the Three Macphersons and Waltzing Matilda.

## **Clan Macpherson Museum Report (as at November 2016)**

Museum Advisory Committee (MAC) Chairman Ewen MacPherson reported to the recent CMA Executive that Professor Alan G. MacPherson (Canada) is no longer physically able to be a member of the Advisory Committee. Alan has been our historian and genealogist for many years — his first article appearing in Creag Dhubh in 1953. His generous support and advice will be greatly missed.

Catherine Macpherson stood down as Chairman of the Trustees and being a Trustee will remain on the Advisory Committee. Angus Macpherson is the new Chairman of Trustees. Norman McPherson has resigned as a member of the Advisory Committee and he too was thanked for his work, particularly in respect of Health & Safety matters.

There was no 'At Home' this year in the Clan Museum on the Saturday afternoon. Special ceremonies took place with the unveiling of the 'Gordon Macpherson Niagara Herald Extraordinary Room' and the official opening of the

‘Sir Tommy’ exhibition. Invitations were limited to Guardians, Friends of the Museum, Trustees, Advisory Committee members and members of the Canadian Branch — due to the honour being conferred upon Gordon.

The Museum Monday Talk this year took place in the Duke of Gordon Hotel. Dr Jim Macpherson of the University of the Highlands & Islands spoke on “I Think The Land Should Be Ours Now. The Napier Commission, Land Reform and the Macphersons of Skye during the 1880s.” A large number of Gathering attendees and members of the local public attended.

A Clan Museum Fund Raising event took place in the New Club, Edinburgh on 1st October with Alexander McCall Smith as guest speaker. Zandra Macpherson of Glentruim arranged the event and worked very hard in obtaining sponsorship. She was aided by Angus and Valerie Macpherson and Bruce JS Macpherson. This event raised over £9500, which was supplemented by other donations of approximately £1500.

Ewen further commented on the need to expand the ‘*Friends of the Museum*’ scheme. While ‘The Sheila, Lady Cluny Museum Endowment Fund’ covers the cost of paying for the Curator’s cover and exhibitions, it is a ‘Restricted Fund’ and unable to be used for maintenance of the Museum. The interest only is used from the ‘Clan Macpherson Museum Trust’ which includes the ‘Guardians Fund’ to pay for the actions already described. However, the interest is insufficient and the Treasurer has to budget for a £3,000 loss. This is a huge worry for the Trustees as they have to rely on donations to make up the difference. The Trustees have to find the on-going costs for the rates, insurance, heating oil, electric, fire and intruder alarm systems, IT, general maintenance and equipment. Priorities are decided —whether to repair a leaky gutter or paint the flag pole.

The aim of the ‘*Friends of the Museum*’ scheme is to have an annual sum available which is not invested but available to help pay the bills. The scheme has been successful as it has raised about £700 to £800 annually. However, this is from 12 single/couples out of a total membership of over 2,200. If 200 members became Friends, paying £40 each annually, then £8,000 would be available yearly to pay the bills and make improvements to the building and grounds. Actions such as painting the flag pole, mending the broken and uneven slabs at both entrances. Even small tasks such as flowers being planted in the tubs and larger tasks such as resurfacing the car park could be carried out. These tasks are essential if we are to maintain our accreditation status and a 4-Star VisitScotland grading.

Cluny has asked that his total and full support for the scheme be made known. Several members intimated their intention to become Friends and *Fearn Macpherson Chartered Architects* has become our first Corporate Friend.

Thanks largely to generous donations, mainly in memory of Sir Tommy, a further £2,500 of the short-term loan from the CMA will be paid off.



## Aussies at the Platinum Dhubh



On the March: L to R, David McPherson (Templestowe Vic), Graham McPherson (Brisbane Qld), Don McPherson (Whitebridge NSW), Robert Macpherson (Bern Switzerland) and Adam de Toth (Canberra ACT).



At the Ball: Two old Colonels, Mark Macpherson (Canada) and John L Macpherson (Australia)



David J McPherson, Malcom Macpherson (Warrnambool Vic), Sally McPherson and Carol Macpherson



Pam and Bill Rhemrev (Duffy ACT)



Danny Cashin, Don & John McPherson, Dianne Cashin (nee McPherson) and Peter McPherson



Nick and Christine (nee Macpherson) Southcombe, Iain and Janelle Macpherson and Don McPherson

## Activities 2016/17

### *St Andrew's Day 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016*

#### *New South Wales and ACT*

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November**, SAHC St Andrew's Ceilidh, Uniting Church Hall, 3 Wetherill St Leichardt at 7 for 7.30pm. Details Nea MacCulloch, [treasurer@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](mailto:treasurer@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016**, St Andrew's Day Church Service at St Stephen's Uniting Church Macquarie St Sydney at 9.45am, followed by a Tartan Ramble along Macquarie St to Hyde Park.

St Andrew's Day Kirkin' o' the Tartan at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, State Circle ACT at 9.30am.

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December**, Hogmanay. Go to [www.scotland.org/celebrate-scotland/hogmanay](http://www.scotland.org/celebrate-scotland/hogmanay)

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017**, Australia Day Celtic Festival, Bradfield Park North Sydney. Go to [www.celticcouncil.org.au/cca2.htm](http://www.celticcouncil.org.au/cca2.htm)

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January**, Governor Macquarie's Birthday, The Women's Club Sydney. Go to <http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au/index.htm>

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April**, Bundanoon is Brigadoon. March of the Clans starts at 9.30am. Full details of the day can be found at the Brigadoon website <http://www.brigadoon.net.au/>

#### **Clan Macpherson tent**

**Saturday 14/15<sup>th</sup> April** Maclean Highland Gathering @ Maclean Showgrounds [www.macleanhIGHLANDGATHERING.com.au](http://www.macleanhIGHLANDGATHERING.com.au) or Ph 02 6645 2887

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**, Australian Celtic Festival @ Glen Innes. Go to [www.australiancelticfestival.com](http://www.australiancelticfestival.com) or Ph 02 6730 2400

#### **Queensland**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**, 69<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's Day Men's' Dinner, info at 07 3397 4512 or [www.standrewsociety.com](http://www.standrewsociety.com)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016**, Burns' Supper, United Service Club, 183 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill.

#### **Victoria**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** Daylesford Highland Gathering info 0437 659 148, or [www.daylesfordhighland.com](http://www.daylesfordhighland.com)

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017**, Maryborough Highland Gathering, info 03 5461 1480, [www.maryboroughhighlandsociety.com](http://www.maryboroughhighlandsociety.com)

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**, Bendigo Scots Day Out, Rosalind Park, info [www.scotsdayout.com](http://www.scotsdayout.com) **Clan Macpherson Tent**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March**, Geelong Highland Gathering, NEW VENUE Goldsworthy Oval, Goldsworthy (Corio) info [www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au](http://www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au) **Clan Macpherson Tent**

#### **WA**

**29<sup>th</sup> November**, St Andrew's Day Dinner. Info [www.saintandrew.org.au](http://www.saintandrew.org.au)

**2<sup>nd</sup> December**, WA Police Band, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert. Info [www.wapol.com.au](http://www.wapol.com.au)

## Contact Details CMA (Australia) Committee

<b>Chairman</b> John L Macpherson 1/23 Oxley Drive Bowral NSW 2576	ph 02 4801 0618(h)	<a href="mailto:greymac@acenet.com.au">greymac@acenet.com.au</a>
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## Annual Subs

Included in this mailing are renewal notices for Annual members. Prompt renewals will be appreciated preferably by electronic funds transfer (EFT) to our bank account, the details of which are shown on the renewal notice. Please ensure that you provide your name and CMA on the EFT bank reference.

## Mail returned to Sender

Recent newsletter addressed to Mrs. J Rowlands, Mansfield Qld has been returned. Any advice as to her whereabouts would be appreciated.